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UPCOMING EVENTS

10th Annual Transpacific Entrepreneurial Conference

Presented jointly by the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong and the Hong Kong-Canada Business Association (HKCBA), the 10th Transpacific Entrepreneurial Conference to be held on January 23 (HKT) will delve into Hong Kong's role as a Super Connector, with the theme of "Building the Next 10". Join the conference to explore innovative ideas, biotech start-ups and business opportunities, strengthening commercial relationships between Canada, Hong Kong, and other Asian economies. The Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (Toronto) (HKETO) is a sponsor of the event. Free registration for online participants: <https://www.cancham.org/event/?eid=3241>

Following to the conference, a virtual networking session will be held to facilitate the exchange of ideas and updates between participants from 7pm to 8pm (EST), January 25. Free registration at: <https://www.cancham.org/event/?eid=3356>

Fête Chinoise 2024 Lunar New Year Event

Capturing tradition in a refreshing light, the annual Fête Chinoise Lunar New Year cocktail party and gala will be held in Toronto and Vancouver on February 3 and 17 respectively. This signature event stands as the most coveted gathering celebrating Chinese culture in the Canadian community to showcase the essence of Chinese culture and heritage. The HKETO is a special sponsor of the Toronto event. For details, please visit: <https://www.fetechinoise.ca/gala-2024>

HKCBA Annual Lunar New Year Galas 2024

The HKCBA (Toronto Section) will organize the 2024 annual Lunar New Year Gala on February 24. Activities include traditional Chinese games, lion dance, band performance, silent auction, etc. Grand prize draw is two round trip premium economy tickets between Toronto and Hong Kong donated by Cathay Pacific Airways. The HKETO is a sponsor of the event. For details, please visit: <https://toronto.hkcba.com/cpages/home>

In addition, the HKCBA's Vancouver Section and Calgary Section will organize the 2024 annual Spring dinners on February 29 and March 1 respectively. Participants can enjoy a festive meal and be dazzled by performances and guest speakers. The event in Calgary will also host an award ceremony honouring HKCBA Calgary Scholarship winners. The HKETO is a major sponsor of both galas. For details, please visit: <https://vancouver.hkcba.com/events/38th-hkcba-vancouver-spring-gala>

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<https://calgary.hkcba.com/events/hkcba-chinese-new-year-gala-2024>

HONG KONG NEWS

FS attends World Economic Forum Annual Meeting in Switzerland

The Financial Secretary of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government, Mr Paul Chan, departed for Davos in Switzerland on January 14 to attend the World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting taking place from January 15 to 19.

The WEF Annual Meeting 2024, themed "Rebuilding Trust", engages in in-depth discussions around four areas: achieving security and co-operation for the world, creating growth and jobs, artificial intelligence as a driving force for the economy and society, and long-term strategies for combating climate change and achieving carbon neutrality.

Leaders of governments, representatives of major international organisations and senior management of enterprises from over 100 countries and regions attended the Meeting.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202401/13/P2024011300219.htm>

Hong Kong signs first protocol to amend ASEAN - Hong Kong, China free trade agreement

The Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development of the HKSAR Government, Mr Algernon Yau, signed on January 9 the First Protocol to Amend the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and Hong Kong (the Protocol).

The Protocol is to update the Product Specific Rules (PSR) of origin under the FTA, enhancing the coverage of the PSR from more than 200 categories of products to almost 600, and enabling Hong Kong businesses to more easily and effectively gain Hong Kong-originating status for an increased number of specified products, and thus enjoy preferential tariff treatment when expanding into the growing ASEAN market.

The specified products incorporated into the FTA through the Protocol include various categories of products, such as jewellery, medicaments, food products and textile products.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202401/09/P2024010900389.htm>

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Tender for re-opening of 15-year Government Bonds under Institutional Bond Issuance Programme

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority, as representative of the HKSAR Government, announced on January 8 that a tender of 10-year Government Bonds (Bonds) through the re-opening of existing 15-year Government Bond issue 15GB3403 under the Institutional Bond Issuance Programme will be held on January 17 (HKT), for settlement on January 18.

An additional amount of HK\$1.5 billion of the outstanding 15-year Bonds will be on offer. The Bonds will mature on March 7, 2034 and carry interest at the rate of 2.02 per cent per annum payable semi-annually in arrears. The Indicative Pricings of the Bonds on January 8, 2024 was 87.83 with an annualised yield of 3.481 per cent.

For details, please visit the Hong Kong Government Bonds website at www.hkgb.gov.hk.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202401/08/P2024010800489.htm>

Caritas Institute of Higher Education acquires university title

Subsequent to the approval by the Chief Executive-in-Council on January 9, the HKSAR Government has approved the change of the name of the Caritas Institute of Higher Education (CIHE) to "Saint Francis University" in accordance with the Post Secondary Colleges Ordinance (Cap. 320).

The granting of a university title not only represents a milestone for the CIHE but also bears testimony to the Government's commitment to promoting the parallel development of the publicly funded and self-financing post-secondary education sectors to provide young people in Hong Kong with quality, flexible and diversified study pathways.

The CIHE is the fourth self-financing post-secondary education institution granted a university title.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202401/09/P2024010900358.htm>

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SCST congratulates Hong Kong karate athlete Grace Lau on achieving top world ranking

The Secretary for Culture, Sports and Tourism of the HKSAR Government, Mr Kevin Yeung, on January 3 congratulated Hong Kong karate athlete Grace Lau on rising to the world's number one position in female kata.

Mr Yeung said that Grace Lau wrote a glorious page in Hong Kong's karate history by taking top spot in the world ranking. It is very exciting to see Hong Kong's homegrown athletes ranking among the best in the world again.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202401/03/P2024010300260.htm>

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