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## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **Fête Chinoise 2024 Lunar New Year Event**

Capturing tradition in a refreshing light, the annual Fête Chinoise Lunar New Year Gala will be held in Toronto and Vancouver on February 3 and 17 respectively. The signature event stands as the most coveted gathering celebrating Chinese culture in the Canadian community to showcase the essence of Chinese culture and heritage. Uncle King of Biu Kee Mahjong from Hong Kong will demonstrate the traditional mahjong tile making technique, one of the Hong Kong's intangible cultural heritages, at this special event. The Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (Toronto) (HKETO) is a special sponsor of the Toronto event. For details, please visit:

<https://www.fetechinoise.ca/gala-2024>

### **Dragon Ball 2024**

The Dragon Ball 2024 hosted by the Yee Hong Community Wellness Foundation will be held on February 10. HKETO is honored to support the event as one of the major sponsors to highlight Hong Kong as the Asia's Cultural Metropolis. This year, the special offerings include a Kendama performance by an award-winning group of professional players from Hong Kong; a special information booth showcasing the sports of Kendama by the Hong Kong Freestyle Kendama Association; and many Hong Kong-style food curated from selected restaurants and chefs with Hong Kong background. For details, please visit: <https://www.yeehongdragonball.org/>

### **HKCBA Annual Lunar New Year Galas 2024**

The Hong Kong-Canada Business Association (HKCBA)'s Toronto Section will organize its 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 their 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, who have created the best showcases on reasons to study or work in Hong Kong. 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>

## **RECENT ACTIVITY**

### **10<sup>th</sup> Transpacific Entrepreneurial Conference to delve into Hong Kong's role as a Super Connector**

The HKETO and Invest Hong Kong (InvestHK) supported the 10<sup>th</sup> Transpacific Entrepreneurial Conference jointly hosted by the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong and the HKCBA on January 22. This annual rendezvous focussed on exploring innovative ideas, biotech start-ups and business opportunities, and strengthening commercial relationships between Canada, Hong Kong, and other Asian economies.

In delivering opening remarks at the hybrid conference to delve into Hong Kong's role as a Super Connector, Director of HKETO, Ms Emily Mo, shared with participants that Hong Kong has been bouncing back over the past year as travel between Canada and Hong Kong resumed. Noting that more than 9,000 companies with mainland China or foreign head offices had chosen to set foot in Hong Kong, she said that Hong Kong got a new record of numbers of startups and their staff employed in 2023.

Looking forward, Ms Mo stressed that with the institutional advantages of Hong Kong under the "one country, two systems", Hong Kong is inspired to create new opportunities for the city and everyone who sees it as their destination for business, career or personal growth.

The 10<sup>th</sup> Transpacific Entrepreneurial Conference included six panel discussions with over 30 speakers from leading companies in different sectors. Head of Business and Talent Attraction of InvestHK Canada, Mr Christopher Chen, shared insights at the second panel themed "Trade & Investment Expansion Strategies into Hong Kong and Asia".

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.hketotoronto.gov.hk/newsroom/10th-transpacific-entrepreneurial-conference-to-delve-into-hong-kongs-role-as-a-super-connector.html>

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## **HONG KONG NEWS**

### **Government announces a range of measures to promote mega event economy**

The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government announced a range of measures to promote mega event economy, with a view to strengthening the co-ordination mechanism and the effectiveness of publicity for mega events in Hong Kong.

The Deputy Financial Secretary of the HKSAR, Mr Michael Wong, said that the HKSAR Government will reach out proactively and attract more world-class mega events to be staged in Hong Kong. Amongst others, the Hong Kong Tourism Board will also leverage on its existing network, together with the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC) and the overseas Economic and Trade Offices of the Government, to scout for suitable events worldwide.

Looking ahead in 2024, there will be over 80 mega events just in the first half of the year: Inter Miami CF is visiting Hong Kong on February 4, Cathay International Chinese New Year Night Parade on the first day of Lunar New Year, the first ever LIV Golf, Art March, Hong Kong Sevens Pop Culture Festival and a wave of other happenings. The public can browse the latest updates on the website for Brand Hong Kong ([www.brandhk.gov.hk](http://www.brandhk.gov.hk)).

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202401/26/P2024012600739.htm>

### **Asian Financial Forum explores strategies on sustainable economic development and opportunities of multilateral co-operation**

The 17<sup>th</sup> Asian Financial Forum, co-organised by the HKSAR Government and the HKTDC, was held on January 24 and 25. Themed “Multilateral Cooperation for a Shared Tomorrow” and in line with the national initiative to promote global development for mutual benefits, this year’s forum aimed to encourage different quarters from around the world to join hands in exploring strategies on sustainable economic development and opportunities of multilateral co-operation.

Addressing the opening session, the Chief Executive of the HKSAR, Mr John Lee, remarked that “one country, two systems”, and the far-reaching opportunities it brings to Hong Kong, has enabled the city’s financial sector to thrive. Mr Lee invited participants from around the world to see for themselves Hong Kong’s new development opportunities and enjoy the experiential activities around town specially provided by the forum.

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In the forum, the HKSAR Government and the Government of the Republic of Croatia signed the Comprehensive Avoidance of Double Taxation Agreement, which will further promote economic and trade ties between Hong Kong and Croatia, and bring the bilateral relations to a new level.

The Financial Services Development Council of Hong Kong and the Financial Sector Development Program of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia also signed a memorandum of understanding to strengthen collaboration and enhance connectivity between the financial markets in the two places.

The two-day forum staged a number of discussion sessions in multiple format, including the Global Spectrum series, Fireside Chat series, Dialogues for Tomorrow series and thematic workshops. It assembled more than 3,000 financial officials, representatives of central banks and regulators, senior executives from international financial and multilateral organisations, financial and business leaders and leading economists from over 40 countries or regions.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202401/24/P2024012400767.htm>

### **35<sup>th</sup> Meeting of APEC Expert Group on Energy Data and Analysis held in Hong Kong**

The 35<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Expert Group on Energy Data and Analysis (EGEDA35) of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) was held in Hong Kong on January 17 and 18.

The Secretary for Environment and Ecology of the HKSAR Government, Mr Tse Chin-wan, delivered a welcoming speech at the meeting, noting that Hong Kong is striving to achieve carbon neutrality before 2050 and pursue the reduction of Hong Kong's carbon emissions by 50 per cent before 2035 from the 2005 level. In this connection, Hong Kong is actively engaging new energy technologies in accordance with the major decarbonisation strategies outlining in the Climate Action Plan.

The EGEDA is an expert group under the APEC Energy Working Group. It comprises members from the 21 APEC economies and meets once a year. This year, over 40 experts and delegates from nine APEC member economies as well as two international organisations gathered to share insights and exchange experiences on energy data and analysis with their counterparts.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202401/17/P2024011700283.htm>

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## **HKSAR Government welcomes announcement by People's Bank of China on measures deepening Mainland-Hong Kong financial co-operation**

The HKSAR Government welcomes the announcement by the People's Bank of China on January 24 on a series of measures which deepen the financial co-operation between the Mainland and Hong Kong.

The announcement covers six new measures, including:

- (1) promoting use of Mainland bonds as eligible collaterals;
- (2) allowing foreign investors to participate in the Mainland bond repurchase business;
- (3) promulgating the implementation arrangements of the enhanced Cross-boundary Wealth Management Connect Scheme;
- (4) introducing facilitative payment arrangements for Hong Kong and Macao residents purchasing properties in the Mainland cities of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA);
- (5) expanding the scope of Shenzhen-Hong Kong co-operation on cross-boundary credit referencing pilots; and
- (6) further expanding the cross-boundary e-CNY pilots in Hong Kong.

The Chief Executive, Mr John Lee, said that the new measures meet the demands for cross-boundary financial services of the residents and businesses of the Mainland and Hong Kong by providing innovative payment services for cross-boundary retail consumption by residents of the two places, facilitating Hong Kong residents purchasing properties in the Mainland cities of the GBA, and providing more convenient services to businesses of the two places seeking cross-boundary financing.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202401/24/P2024012400722.htm>

## **UK-based destination display supplier setting up regional headquarters in Hong Kong**

InvestHK announced on January 26 that it has assisted Hanover Displays, a UK-based company designing and manufacturing passenger information systems for the public transport industry, to open a regional headquarters in Hong Kong.

Founded in 1985 in the UK, Hanover Displays has been active in the Hong Kong market for 25 years. Now the company will have its new regional headquarters in Hong Kong which encompasses sales, service support and parts warehousing operation. The company is committed to innovation and customer satisfaction, constantly rolling out new

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products ranging from high-resolution LED destination displays to advanced destination controllers and multimedia passenger information screens, to cater to the evolving needs of clients.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202401/26/P2024012400525.htm>

### **Public consultation on Basic Law Article 23 legislation commences**

The Security Bureau (SB) of the HKSAR Government commenced the public consultation on the Basic Law Article 23 legislation on January 30 and invites public views in this regard.

A spokesman for the SB said that the HKSAR has a constitutional duty, as well as a genuine practical need, to legislate for Article 23 of the Basic Law, with a view to improving the legal system and enforcement mechanisms for safeguarding national security in the HKSAR.

It is proposed in the consultation paper that a new Safeguarding National Security Ordinance be enacted to comprehensively address the national security risks at present and those that may emerge in the future in the HKSAR. The consultation document has been uploaded to the thematic website ([www.sb.gov.hk/eng/bl23/consultation.html](http://www.sb.gov.hk/eng/bl23/consultation.html)). The consultation period will end on February 28, 2024.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202401/30/P2024013000296.htm>

### **Recruitment of qualified doctors outside Hong Kong**

The Department of Health of the HKSAR Government is recruiting qualified doctors outside Hong Kong for the positions of Non-civil Service Contract Doctor and Contract Doctor (Child Assessment). Applications for the above two posts are accepted all year round. Eligibility requirements are set out in the recruitment notices of the Department of Health below.

[https://www.dh.gov.hk/english/vacancies/files/Eng\\_Ad\\_of\\_Contract\\_Doctor\\_\(NCS\)\\_darwin.pdf](https://www.dh.gov.hk/english/vacancies/files/Eng_Ad_of_Contract_Doctor_(NCS)_darwin.pdf)

[https://www.dh.gov.hk/english/vacancies/files/Contract\\_Doctor\\_CAS\\_en.pdf](https://www.dh.gov.hk/english/vacancies/files/Contract_Doctor_CAS_en.pdf)

Enquiries can be made to the Department of Health at [appts\\_registry1@dh.gov.hk](mailto:appts_registry1@dh.gov.hk) and online application can be made through the Civil Service Bureau's website at <http://www.csb.gov.hk>.

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HKETO Toronto Twitter Page <https://twitter.com/TorontoHKETO>

HKETO Toronto LinkedIn Page <https://www.linkedin.com/company/hketotoronto>

Brand Hong Kong Facebook page [www.facebook.com/brandhk.isd](http://www.facebook.com/brandhk.isd) or

Brand Hong Kong Instagram page [www.instagram.com/brandhongkong/](http://www.instagram.com/brandhongkong/)

Brand Hong Kong Twitter page [https://twitter.com/Brand\\_HK](https://twitter.com/Brand_HK)

Brand Hong Kong LinkedIn page <https://www.linkedin.com/company/brand-hong-kong/>

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