

February 14, 2024

Happy Lunar New Year! The Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (Toronto) (HKETO) wish you a healthy and prosperous Year of the Dragon!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sharing session on international career development by Langara College

Langara College in Vancouver will hold an informative and engaging sharing session on February 14, 3:45pm - 6:30pm (PST) exploring the exciting career opportunities in Hong Kong and Shenzhen which are two major cities in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area (GBA). Expert speakers with working experience in Canada and Hong Kong will shed light on why the GBA should be the first choice for international career development. The event will also introduce to the audience the fun and interactive “Hong Kong-Canada Talent Metaverse” platform which helps Canadians seek for diverse internships and job opportunities in Hong Kong. The event is co-organised by Langara College, The Hong Kong-Canada Business Association (HKCBA)’s Vancouver Section, the HKETO, and Invest Hong Kong (InvestHK). For details, please visit

<https://vancouver.hkcba.com/events/langara-international-career-development>

HKCBA Annual Lunar New Year Galas 2024

The 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>

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

HKCBA Webinar on CanExport Programme

The HKCBA will organize a webinar titled “Leveraging the CanExport Programme to Think Asia, Think Hong Kong” on Wednesday, March 6, 12 Noon - 1:30PM (EST). The event

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will highlight business opportunities in Asia for Canadian companies in the new normal, and share “think Asia, think Hong Kong” initiatives to the participants. The webinar is supported by the HKETO, InvestHK, Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC) and Global Affairs Canada. Registration is complimentary at <https://bit.ly/4bpqtzY>. Advance reservation is required.

RECENT ACTIVITY

HKETO presenting Mahjong tile making exhibition to celebrate the Year of the Dragon

The HKETO presents an exhibition on the Mahjong Tile Making Technique to celebrate the Year of the Dragon at the annual Fete Chinoise Signature Event 2024 held on February 3 in Toronto.

Mr Cheung Shun-king from Hong Kong, known as Uncle King, was invited to demonstrate this traditional craftsmanship. His exquisite skills and the hand-carving of Chinese characters on the tiny mahjong tiles astonished hundreds of guests at the gala.

The Director of the HKETO, Ms Emily Mo, welcomed Uncle King to show his skills at the remarkably curated exhibition booth. Hand-crafting Mahjong tiles has been inscribed onto the ‘Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity’ by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 2014 for it holds a significant cultural importance.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.hketotoronto.gov.hk/newsroom/hketo-presented-mahjong-tile-making-exhibition-to-celebrate-the-year-of-the-dragon.html>

HKETO celebrates Year of the Dragon at joint receptions with HKTB

The HKETO welcomed more than 200 guests and friends to celebrate the Year of the Dragon at the spring receptions jointly hosted with the Hong Kong Tourism Board (Canada) (HKTB) in Toronto and Vancouver on February 8 and 13 respectively. Business, cultural, academia and community partners came together and learned about the latest developments of Hong Kong on its economic and cultural fronts.

In her welcoming speech, the Director of the HKETO, Ms Emily Mo, shared pleasing economic-related figures of Hong Kong with the guests. She remarked that with the institutional advantages of Hong Kong under “one country, two systems”, Hong Kong is

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prepared and inspired to create and present opportunities for the city and everyone who sees it as their destination for business, career or personal growth.

Ms Mo also pointed out that international major events bearing strategic significance for Hong Kong all returned to Hong Kong, and some even grew in scale. In anticipating the full recovery of its flight connection capacity this year, Hong Kong will stage over 80 mega events in the city in the first half of this year.

At the receptions, the Director for Americas of the HKTb, Mr Michael Lim, also shared with participants the HKTb's tourism marketing initiatives and an action-packed calendar of events and festivals in 2024.

This year, the HKETO invited an award-winning team of kendama players from Hong Kong to perform in Canada at its spring receptions to celebrate the Lunar New Year. Guests enjoyed the eye-opening tricks, the energetic power and the fun and joy brought by the young performers.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.hketotoronto.gov.hk/newsroom/hketo-celebrates-year-of-dragon-at-joint-reception-with-hktb.html>

HKETO supports Dragon Ball 2024 immersed with Hong Kong themes

Director of the HKETO, Ms Emily Mo, joined the 35th Dragon Ball held on the first day of the Chinese New Year on February 10 to celebrate the Year of the Dragon.

Hosted by Yee Hong Community Wellness Foundation and supported by the HKETO, the annual event showcased Hong Kong-themed cuisines, performances and exhibitions to allow over 1,000 guests from the business, political and community sectors in Canada immersed within the rich atmosphere of the Chinese New Year culture with a unique favour of Hong Kong.

Speaking at the event, Ms Mo was pleased to share the many Hong Kong-favoured experiences at the Dragon Ball, including the wonderful performance by a young, energetic team of award-winning kendama players from Hong Kong. In addition, guests were treated with a wide array of Hong Kong-themed snacks such as Hong Kong milk tea, wonton, traditional Chinese sweet soups, plant-based meat from Hong Kong and so on.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.hketotoronto.gov.hk/newsroom/hketo-supports-dragon-ball-2024-immersed-with-hong-kong-themes.html>

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HONG KONG NEWS

CE delivers Lunar New Year message

Following is the Lunar New Year message delivered by the Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), Mr John Lee, on February 9:

The Lunar New Year is a time for reunions, a time for families and friends to get together and cherish the joy and warmth of the festive season. We share our wishes for children to grow strong and healthy and for grown-ups to be blessed with good fortune.

The dragon is an auspicious symbol signifying nobility and good luck. As we welcome the Year of the Dragon, Hong Kong is nurturing fresh vitality and prosperity. We will seize each and every new opportunity, showcase the charm of our city, and write a bright new chapter for Hong Kong.

My wife and I wish the people of Hong Kong a full house of happiness and harmony in the Year of the Dragon. May all your wishes come true and may good health be with you. We wish you all the best in the Year of the Dragon!

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202402/09/P2024020900310.htm>

For Mr Lee's speech at the 2024 International Chinese New Year Night Parade on February 10, please visit:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202402/10/P2024021000519.htm>

Number of Mainland and overseas companies assisted increased in 2023

InvestHK on February 2 announced that the department had assisted 382 Mainland and overseas companies from 45 economies to set up or expand their business in Hong Kong in 2023.

The number represents a year-on-year increase of about 27 per cent. The total investment thereby brought to Hong Kong's economy has reached HK\$61.6 billion and created more than 4 100 job opportunities during their first-year of operation.

In terms of sectors, the portfolio covered a broad spectrum ranging from financial services and fintech, followed by innovation and technology, business and professional services, tourism and hospitality and consumer products.

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InvestHK's annual report 2023 is available at:

www.investhk.gov.hk/en/resource-centre/?tab=&type=Annual%20Report

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202402/02/P2024012900624.htm>

Hong Kong attracts licensed fintech company to set up global headquarters

InvestHK announced on February 5 that it has assisted a licensed fintech company, EVIDENT Platform Services Limited (EVIDENT), to set up its global headquarters in Hong Kong, offering the world's first tokenised private limited partnership fund investing in the aviation sector, in partnership with Anisos Capital Group.

EVIDENT operates a digital investment platform for alternative assets and is licensed by the Securities and Futures Commission to carry out Type 1 (dealing in securities) regulated activities.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202402/05/P2024020200399.htm>

Government reminds public not to bring endangered species into Hong Kong or import regulated food illegally

A HKSAR Government spokesman on February 1 reminded members of the public not to bring endangered species into Hong Kong without a required licence and not to import regulated food illegally when returning from visits to other places.

Under the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance, the import, export, re-export or possession of endangered animals and plants, including their parts and/or derivatives, is subject to control under a licensing system. More than 400 seizures were made in 2023. The specimens involved include American ginseng, orchids (including artificially propagated species such as moth orchid), gastrodia, dendrobium, dried seahorses, and scheduled shark species (including shark fins).

During the Lunar New Year holidays, the Centre for Food Safety of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department will step up the publicity of the relevant regulations to remind members of the public not to contravene the law.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202402/01/P2024020100599.htm>

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The Economist content partnership: Green finance

In partnership with the Information Services Department of the HKSAR Government, the Economist has produced an article and an infographic exploring how Hong Kong's strengths as an international financial centre make the city well-positioned to capitalise on green finance opportunities in Mainland China and the region.

Title: Hong Kong pioneers new era of green finance

Link:

<https://impact.economist.com/projects/hk-a-premier-hub/article/hong-kong-pioneers-new-era-of-green-finance/>

Title: Hong Kong's green finance ecosystem blossoms (infographic)

Link:

<https://impact.economist.com/projects/hk-a-premier-hub/infographic/hong-kongs-green-finance-ecosystem-blossoms/>

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

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Brand Hong Kong Facebook page www.facebook.com/brandhk.isd or

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