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## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **2024 iPitch Competition in Montreal**

The Junior Hong Kong Canada Business Association (HKCBA) in Montreal will hold the 2024 iPitch Competition on March 15. Through this annual competition supported by the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (HKETO) and Invest Hong Kong (Canada) (Invest HK), participating university students pitch their business ideas in teams to win a prize. For event details, please visit: <https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=921472986351525&set=a.590229792809181>

### **Fireside Chat on The Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area: Where Innovation & Entrepreneurs Can Excel organised by Invest HK**

InvestHK will organise a fireside chat on “The Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area: Where Innovation & Entrepreneurs Can Excel” on March 27 at CIX Summit. The Fireside Chat will focus on the thriving Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA), its latest developments and how innovation and technology companies can leverage Hong Kong’s unique position to translate the market and financing opportunities in the GBA into real business growth. For details, please visit <https://cixsummit.com/tickets/>.

## **RECENT ACTIVITY**

### **HKETO Director presents HKCBA Calgary Scholarship to winning students**

Director of the HKETO, Ms Emily Mo, shared the opportunities to pursue higher education in Hong Kong and work in Hong Kong at a student reception co-organized by the HKCBA Calgary Section, HKETO and InvestHK in Calgary on March 1. She also presented the 2024 HKCBA Calgary Scholarship to the award recipients.

Speaking at the reception, Ms Mo said that Hong Kong is a place full of opportunities and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government has introduced various measures to attract and facilitate talents from all over the world to work and live in Hong Kong.

HKETO is the sponsor of the 2024 HKCBA Calgary Scholarship, which is awarded to Calgary university or college students who demonstrate a strong interest in Hong Kong and a clear motivation to pursue an exchange programme or work experience in the city. This year a total of four students from the University of Calgary and Mount Royal University received the scholarship.

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Click the following link for details:

<https://www.hketoronto.gov.hk/newsroom/hketo-director-presents-hkcba-calgary-scholarship-to-winning-students.html>

### **HKETO Director greets Lunar New Year across Canada**

Director of the HKETO, Ms Emily Mo, greeted the Year of the Dragon by attending Lunar New Year gala dinners hosted by different sections of the HKCBA across Canada in February and March respectively, during which she promoted the edges and vibrancy of Hong Kong.

On February 24, Ms Mo attended the Lunar New Year Gala held by the HKCBA Toronto Section. The gala was graced by the presence of around 500 dignitaries from the government and business sectors. On February 29 and March 1, Ms Mo attended the 2024 annual spring receptions organized by the HKCBA's Vancouver Section and Calgary Section respectively. Noting that Hong Kong is prepared and inspired to create and present opportunities as people's destination for business, career or personal growth, Ms Mo encouraged Canadian companies to expand their businesses and seek new opportunities in Mainland China and the rest of Asia through Hong Kong.

Earlier, Ms Mo also attended the Lunar New Year celebration held by the Mississauga Chinese Business Association on February 12. She shared with the guests on Hong Kong's role as a Super Connector, the world's top international financial centre, and a global offshore wealth management centre, as well as her charm as Asia's Events Capital to the world.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.hketoronto.gov.hk/newsroom/hketo-director-greets-lunar-new-year-across-canada.html>

### **HKETO Director joins webinar to promote business opportunities in Hong Kong**

Director of the HKETO, Ms Emily Mo, joined the "Leveraging the CanExport Programme to Think Asia, Think Hong Kong" webinar co-hosted by the HKETO, Hong Kong Trade Development Council (Toronto) (HKTDC), InvestHK and HKCBA on March 6.

In delivering opening remarks at the webinar, Ms Mo said that Hong Kong's unique advantages as a gateway to Mainland China for overseas investors and as a platform for Mainland enterprises to expand or trade globally will continue to unlock enormous development potential for its economy, including the creation of the Guangdong-Hong

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Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, a new economic cluster composing of nine cities of Guangdong, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and Macao Special Administrative Region, with an economic size similar to Canada's.

The event, supported by Global Affairs Canada (GAC), aimed to highlight business opportunities in Asia for Canadian companies in the new normal, and share “think Asia, think Hong Kong” initiatives to the participants. Other speakers at the event included Tom Cumming, Deputy Director (High Intensity Services) at Toronto Regional Office of the Trade Commissioner Service of GAC; Ms Rachael Bedlington, Consul General of Canada in Hong Kong and Macao; and Ms June Fontaine, Trade Commissioner of GAC.

Click the following link for more details:

<https://www.hketotoronto.gov.hk/newsroom/hketo-director-joins-webinar-to-promote-business-opportunities-in-hong-kong.html>

## **HONG KONG NEWS**

### **"M" Mark status awarded to LIV Golf Hong Kong 2024, 2024 Tissot UCI Track Nations Cup - Hong Kong, China and 2024 World Triathlon Cup - Hong Kong**

Major Sports Events Committee of the HKSAR Government has awarded “M” Mark status to three major international events to be held in March this year, namely the LIV Golf Hong Kong 2024 (March 8 to 10), 2024 Tissot UCI Track Nations Cup - Hong Kong, China (March 15 to 17) and 2024 World Triathlon Cup - Hong Kong (March 23 and 24).

The “M” Mark events showcase Hong Kong’s capability to host world-class events and enhance Hong Kong’s position as a centre for major international sports events. These events will not only add colour and vibrancy to Hong Kong, but also provide an unforgettable experience for all those involved, allowing them to experience the city’s charm as an events capital.

Click the following link for more details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202403/01/P2024030100319.htm>

### **Tender for re-opening of 20-year Government Bonds under Institutional Bond Issuance Programme to be held on March 13**

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA), as representative of the HKSAR Government, announced on March 4 that a tender of 20-year Government Bonds (Bonds) through the re-opening of existing 20-year Government Bond issue 20GB4205 under the

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Institutional Bond Issuance Programme will be held on March 13 (HKT), for settlement on March 14.

An additional amount of HK\$0.5 billion of the outstanding 20-year Bonds will be on offer. The Bonds will mature on May 26, 2042, and will carry interest at the rate of 3.30 per cent per annum payable semi-annually in arrears. The Indicative Pricings of the Bonds on March 4, 2024 was 87.77 with an annualised yield of 4.320 per cent.

For details, please visit the Hong Kong Government Bonds website at [www.hkgb.gov.hk](http://www.hkgb.gov.hk).

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202403/04/P2024030400516.htm>

### **Financial Mega Event Week to showcase Hong Kong's glamour**

The Government announced on March 7 that the Financial Mega Event Week will be held in the last week of March, with a series of top-tier international conferences and exhibitions taking place in Hong Kong. These include the highly acclaimed Wealth for Good in Hong Kong Summit (WGHK) exclusively for family offices; the inaugural One Earth Summit organised by the Institute of Sustainability and Technology (IST) and co-organised by the Giving to Amplify Earth Action (GAEA), a World Economic Forum initiative, on global climate and the green economy; and the Global Investors' Symposium organised by the Milken Institute, the first large-scale summit held in Hong Kong by the Institute since 1998.

During the Financial Mega Event Week, three world-class financial summits will be held. Among them is the second edition of WGHK, a top-level exclusive event for global family offices, organised by the Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau and InvestHK, which will be held on March 27. Themed "Growing with Certainty Amid Growing Uncertainty", the summit will focus on Hong Kong's steady development in the face of external economic challenges, by firmly leveraging its diverse talent and innovative thinking to promote the continued growth of the market and wealth.

In addition, the One Earth Summit, the first major convention for influential and reputable global leaders from the sustainability field, is scheduled for March 25. The summit aims to discuss climate issues of high importance to the financial sector, particularly on achieving net-zero emissions and creating a transformation blueprint for the good of nature.

The third mega event is the Global Investors' Symposium organised by the Milken Institute, a US-based non-profit think tank, to be held on March 26 with the theme of

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"Thriving Together, Bridging Global Market", marking its inaugural presence in Hong Kong. The conference aims to bring together thought leaders and experts from a wide range of sectors to discuss how to tackle the most pressing global challenges.

More international mega events will come to Hong Kong, including ComplexCon Hong Kong, America's largest festival and exhibition, from March 22 to 24; the annual Art Basel Hong Kong Show from March 28 to 30; and Hong Kong Rugby Sevens from April 5 to 7. Driven by the mega event economy, the series of events during the Financial Mega Event Week are expected to generate strong synergy effects and attract people from all over the world to Hong Kong, for their experience of the excitement and dynamism of the city.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202403/07/P2024030700478.htm>

### **HKMA launches stablecoin issuer sandbox arrangement**

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) announced on March 12 the launch of the stablecoin issuer sandbox arrangement. Tying in with the consultation on the legislative proposal for implementing the regulatory regime for stablecoin issuers, the HKMA wishes to leverage the sandbox arrangement to communicate supervisory expectations to parties interested in issuing fiat-referenced stablecoins in Hong Kong, as well as to obtain feedback from participants on the proposed regulatory requirements. The sandbox arrangement serves as an effective channel for the HKMA and the industry to exchange views on the proposed regulatory regime, and will facilitate the formulation of fit-for-purpose and risk-based regulatory requirements, which is key to promoting the sustainable and responsible development of the stablecoin issuance business.

Applicants should have genuine interest in developing a stablecoin issuance business in Hong Kong with a reasonable business plan, and their proposed operations under the sandbox arrangement will be conducted within a limited scope and in a risk-controllable manner.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202403/12/P2024031100521.htm>

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