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UPCOMING EVENTS

HKCBA Ottawa Spring Gala

To celebrate the Hong Kong-Canada Business Association's (HKCBA) 40th year of serving the Hong Kong-Canada business community, HKCBA (Ottawa Section) will host a Spring Gala 2024 on May 29 (Wednesday). Prominent HKCBA Ottawa members will be invited to share in the festive event. A pre-gala seminar will also be held with presentation by Mr Mark Kruger, former senior policy director of the Bank of Canada and currently opinion editor at Yicai Global in Shanghai, to talk about Sino-Canada business opportunities.

Details are as follows:

Date: May 29, 2024 (Wednesday)

Time: 4:30 - 5:15 Pre-Gala Seminar

5:30pm to 9:30pm Spring Gala

Venue: Shanghai One Fine Dining (1872 Merivale Rd Unit C Ottawa)

For details, please visit: <https://ottawa.hkcba.com/events/hkcba-ottawa-spring-gala-2024>

2024 Canada Spring Economic and Trade Summit

The 2024 Canada Spring Economic and Trade Summit, organised by Canada Xinflix Entrepreneur Chamber of Commerce with the support of Destination Markham and the Markham Board of Trade, is being held from May 8 to 10. A Hong Kong segment supported by the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (Toronto) (HKETO) and Invest Hong Kong in Canada (InvestHK) will be held on May 9 (Thursday) at 2PM.

For details, please visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/economic-and-trade-summit-how-to-invest-in-canada-tickets-895479813227>

RECENT ACTIVITY

HKETO Director promotes Hong Kong's career opportunities

Director of the HKETO, Ms Emily Mo, promoted Hong Kong's career opportunities for university graduates at a student session held by the University of British Columbia (UBC) on April 24.

Delivering an opening address, Ms Mo highlighted the vast opportunities, favourable tax environment and vibrant lifestyle that the city offers to students and young talents alike.

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Ms Mo said that Hong Kong being part of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA), its special status allows it to be the super connector between the other countries and the mainland of China, as well as the stepping stone to other Asian countries and the international arena. She encouraged those interested in exploring opportunities in Hong Kong not to miss the chance.

Joined by students in-person and online, the hybrid student session was organised by UBC's Faculty of Creative and Critical Studies (Okanagan Campus) in partnership with the Department of Asian Studies.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.hketotoronto.gov.hk/newsroom/hketo-director-promotes-hong-kongs-career-opportunities.html>

HKETO Director promotes Hong Kong's strengths as international green finance hub

Director of the HKETO, Ms Emily Mo, promoted Hong Kong's strengths as an international green finance hub at the seminar titled "Get to Know More about Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Issues" on May 2. The seminar was organised by the HKCBA (Toronto Section) in partnership with accounting firm MNP LLP, and supported by the HKETO, InvestHK and the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC) in Canada.

In her opening address, Ms Mo highlighted the collaborative efforts between Hong Kong and Canada towards achieving carbon neutrality by 2050. Hong Kong took an exemplary leadership in promoting ESG principles, from implementing regulatory frameworks to issuing green bonds, which has created vast opportunities for Canadian enterprises and professionals.

Ms Mo added that the increasing demand for green projects and financing in Mainland China, particularly within the GBA, presented significant prospects for global investors seeking ESG-related ventures and green investment opportunities. She invited companies and talents in the field to embrace the immense opportunities presented by Hong Kong.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.hketotoronto.gov.hk/newsroom/hketo-director-promotes-hong-kongs-strengths-as-international-green-finance-hub.html>

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HONG KONG NEWS

Global Talent Summit - Hong Kong gives full play to power of global talent and promotes Hong Kong as talent hub

Hong Kong Talent Engage (HKTE) on May 7 hosted the two-day Global Talent Summit - Hong Kong as the first talent-themed international forum and exhibition of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government.

The Summit brought together over 1 200 international and Mainland leaders from political, academic, business and other sectors to exchange trends and experiences in talent development, with a view to promoting Hong Kong's dual role and advantages as an international talent hub and the country's gateway for talent.

The Chief Executive of the HKSAR, Mr John Lee, officiated at the Summit. In his welcoming remarks, he noted that talent is the prime resource and driving force that boosts economic development and competitiveness. Under "one country, two systems", Hong Kong is bestowed with institutional strengths. Hong Kong is also one of Asia's most liveable cities, with a mix of Eastern and Western cultures, natural beauty, and high-quality, efficient and reliable healthcare services. Hong Kong is also among the world's safest cities. All these are key factors that attract talent to get both world-class work opportunities and a satisfying life in Hong Kong.

Mr Lee highlighted the Government's heavy investment in attracting, developing and retaining talent. The launch of a series of talent admission programmes from end-2022 has attracted more than 120 000 talents from around the world to Hong Kong. He underscored the importance of cross-sector collaboration in attracting talent and strengthening the talent base.

A panel discussion was jointly hosted by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Strategy and Planning of the University of Cambridge in the United Kingdom, Professor David Cardwell; the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences of City University of Hong Kong, Professor Alfred Ho; and the Managing Director of Asia Pacific of LinkedIn, Ms Feon Ang. They examined the factors and strategies necessary for building and maintaining an international talent hub as well as how Hong Kong should leverage the distinctive advantages of enjoying the strong support of the motherland and being closely connected to the world.

In addition, global leaders from the business and financial sectors looked into the

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cultivation of corporate cultures to attract and retain talent around the world, contributing to Hong Kong's position as a vibrant, diverse and inclusive talent hub.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202405/07/P2024050700285.htm>

Second 2024 ABAC Meeting concludes successfully in Hong Kong

The second 2024 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Business Advisory Council (ABAC) Meeting (the second Meeting) successfully concluded in Hong Kong on April 25. Co-organised by ABAC Hong Kong, China and the HKTDC, the second Meeting was attended by over 200 ABAC delegates and staffers from all 21 APEC member economies.

Under the theme "People. Business. Prosperity" and led by the Chair from ABAC Peru, Mrs Julia Torreblanca, the four-day meeting focused its discussions on business sector priorities in the key areas of trade and investment facilitation, digital transformation, sustainability and inclusion. ABAC delegates deliberated on emerging challenges to free trade and their potential impact on undermining economic progress, and put forward a set of recommendations to APEC ministers to address these urgent issues.

Set up in 1989, APEC currently comprises 21 member economies. ABAC was established in 1996 as a permanent business advisory body to provide advice to APEC on business sector priorities.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202404/25/P2024042500489.htm>

HKMA Launches Inaugural FiNETech to Promote Fintech Adoption

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) launched on April 26 the FiNETech series, gathering around 100 banks, securities and insurance companies as well as technology firms to explore next-level collaboration in the areas of Wealthtech, Insurtech, Greentech, Artificial Intelligence (AI), and Distributed Ledger Technology.

Building on the Tech Baseline Assessment under its "Fintech 2025" strategy, the HKMA aims to capitalise the vast growth opportunities in five Fintech business areas and technology types, as well as the substantial benefits that the wider financial services sector can derive from an expanded network of local Fintech solutions. Through FiNETech, financial institutions will have one-stop access to the latest information about sourcing options provided collectively by the technology community.

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In the next six to twelve months, the HKMA will expand the joint efforts in Fintech areas through FiNETech series:

- to zoom into the themes of AI through further FiNETech sessions, and in collaboration with the supporting organisations, industry associations and market experts;
- to make tangible progress in Fintech adoption by banks and other financial institutions;
- to follow up on innovative cases and share good industry practices; and
- to issue further practical guidance for the priority themes.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202404/26/P2024042600394.htm>

Hong Kong Taxonomy for Sustainable Finance

The HKMA published on May 3 the Hong Kong Taxonomy for Sustainable Finance (Hong Kong Taxonomy) to enable informed decision making on green and sustainable finance and facilitate relevant finance flows.

The HKMA has been developing a green classification framework for adoption in the local market. A discussion paper was released in May 2023 to gather feedback from stakeholders on a prototype of the framework. Respondents welcome the development of the prototype and consider that it could provide a clearer definition of green products, enhance interoperability and help reduce greenwashing risks.

Based on consultation feedback, the prototype was fine-tuned and published as the Hong Kong Taxonomy. Currently, it encompasses 12 economic activities under four sectors namely power generation, transportation, construction, and water and waste management.

A consultation report was also published to summarise the feedback received, together with responses and recommendations on future work. In addition, to facilitate users to understand and apply the Hong Kong Taxonomy, a supplemental guidance was prepared to provide background information, illustrative use cases, and responses to frequently asked questions.

The consultation report, Hong Kong Taxonomy and supplemental guidance are available on the HKMA website.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202405/03/P2024050300438.htm>

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Article on Hong Kong Talent Engage

Xinhua News Agency, in partnership with the Information Services Department of the HKSAR Government, has produced an advertorial on Hong Kong Talent Engage and the inaugural "Global Talent Summit - Hong Kong". The advertorial is published in the Xinhua Daily Telegraph.

Link: <http://mrdx.cn/content/20240430/Page05DK.htm>

Join Hong Kong Customs and strive for commitment and excellence Hong Kong

The new round of Inspector of Customs and Excise recruitment in Hong Kong will be held from May 16 to June 5. The job duties of the position include border enforcement, combating smuggling activities and trade facilitation, and attending various international conference. The officer may also be seconded to international customs organisation.

Students studying abroad are encouraged to submit their job application. For details, please visit <https://bit.ly/3w6ux4h>.

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

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

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