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UPCOMING EVENTS

Collision 2024

The Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Toronto (HKETO), Invest Hong Kong (InvestHK) in Canada, and StartmeupHK take part in Collision 2024, North America's fast-growing technology conference, in hosting a Masterclass entitled "Hong Kong opportunities: Fintech/Crypto/Web3 and beyond" at Enercare Centre, Toronto on June 19. Featured speakers include the Head of Startups at InvestHK, Ms Jayne Chan; Co-Founder of AllStarsWomen DAO, Ms Akina Ho; and Chief Representative (New York and London Representative Office) of Hong Kong Monetary Authority, Mr Anson Law. They will give an insightful review about the monetary regulations, startup funding and opportunities in Hong Kong at this powerhouse session. The InvestHK also sets up a booth (E-152) to engage various parties who are interested in the Hong Kong market. For details, please visit:

<https://collisionconf.com/schedule/cc24/timeslot/hong-kong-opportunities-fintech-crypto-web3-and-beyond-hosted-by-investhk-startmeuphk>

Dragon boat festivals in Ottawa and Vancouver

The Ottawa Dragon Boat Festival returns with free concerts to take place at the Mooney's Bay Park from June 21 to 23. On site activities include boat racing, free concerts, family fun, fantastic food, a wide variety of exhibitors including an exhibition about Hong Kong dragon boat history, and so much more. Check out the detailed schedule at <https://dragonboat.net/>.

The Vancouver Dragon Boat Festival, North America's flagship dragon boat event, will kick off the summer at the intersection of sport and culture at Concord Pacific Place, Creekside Park, and False Creek in Vancouver on June 22 and 23. The festival will be packed with the continent's biggest dragon boat race, the main stage's local lineup, cultural pavilions, local marketplace and food vendors, and the new Community Zone with family friendly programming. Admission is free. For details, please visit <https://concorddragonboatfestival.ca/>

The HKETO is one of the sponsors of both dragon boat festivals in Ottawa and Vancouver.

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RECENT ACTIVITY

HKETO Director promotes Greater Bay Area at 2024 MRVCBA Outstanding Women Awards Gala

Director of the HKETO, Ms Emily Mo, promoted the enormous development opportunities of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA) at the 2024 Markham, Richmond Hill & Vaughan Chinese Business Association (MRVCBA) Outstanding Women Awards Gala on June 15.

Speaking at the ceremony, Ms Mo said that the GBA is the engine of economic development in China and the world. Hong Kong played an influential role in connecting the GBA with other parts of the world, helping businesses and individuals to connect and excel in this new global economic zone.

Ms Mo invited Canadian companies and global talents to grasp the enormous opportunities presented by Hong Kong for business development and personal advancement.

The Outstanding Canada/Greater Bay Area Communion Award, sponsored by HKETO, was presented to the Founder and Director of Decomomo, Ms Jess Mok, who founded the household storage product company in Canada in 2016 and is exploring opportunities to enhance its international presence in the markets in the United States, Europe and Asia.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.hketotoronto.gov.hk/newsroom/hketo-director-promotes-greater-bay-area-at-2024-mrvcba-outstanding-women-awards-gala.html>

HKETO supports 36th Toronto International Dragon Boat Race Festival

The 36th Toronto International Dragon Boat Race Festival, organised by Toronto Chinese Business Association and supported by the HKETO, was held on the Centre Island in Toronto on June 15 and 16 attracting thousands of people to enjoy this annual event.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, the Director of the HKETO, Ms Emily Mo, remarked that Dragon boat race signifies the strong and close ties between Hong Kong and Canada because this modernized water sport was brought from Hong Kong to Canada.

Ms Mo also shared with the audience that over 200 exciting mega events is being held in Hong Kong throughout 2024, spanning through cultural, arts, music, sports events,

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conventions and exhibitions on different sectors, as well as traditional festivals, celebrations, galas and carnivals. She encouraged Canadians to visit the events calendar of Hong Kong when planning their itinerary there.

A mini-exhibition was set up at the festival to showcase the history of dragon boating in Hong Kong. The Hong Kong Cup was also presented to one of the dragon boat race winning teams on June 16.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.hketoronto.gov.hk/newsroom/hketo-supports-36th-toronto-international-dragon-boat-race-festival.html>

HONG KONG NEWS

Hong Kong rose to rank fifth in World Competitiveness Yearbook 2024

In the latest World Competitiveness Yearbook (WCY) 2024 published by the International Institute for Management Development (IMD), Hong Kong's ranking improved by two places to fifth globally.

Among the four competitiveness factors in the WCY 2024, Hong Kong's rankings in "Business efficiency" and "Infrastructure" rose notably and came within the top 10 globally. The ranking in "Government efficiency" also stayed high among the top three. The ranking in "Economic performance" saw significant improvement, reflecting the economic recovery in 2023.

As regards the sub-factors, Hong Kong topped the rankings in "International trade" and "Business legislation", and was among the global top five in "Tax policy", "International investment", "Basic infrastructure", "Finance" and "Education".

A spokesperson of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government noted on June 18 that the IMD's WCY 2024 continued to recognise Hong Kong as one of the most competitive economies in the world. The HKSAR Government has launched an array of measures to bolster market confidence and has organised mega events to bolster tourism and consumption, with a view to consolidating the momentum of economic recovery.

He further remarked that Hong Kong is vigorously attracting enterprises, capital and talent from around the world to Hong Kong, proactively driving the development of areas including financial services, innovation and technology, and trading where Hong Kong enjoys an edge, and embracing green transformation and digital economy development.

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Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202406/18/P2024061800226.htm>

Hong Kong's UGC-funded universities highly rated in QS World University Rankings 2025

The World University Rankings 2025 published by Quacquarelli Symonds (QS), an international higher education organisation, highly rated Hong Kong's University Grants Committee (UGC)-funded universities. The rankings of six universities have risen, with five of them staying in the world's top 100.

The Education Bureau of the HKSAR Government remarked on June 5 that the ranking results highlight that Hong Kong's universities are highly reputable in the global academic community, with excellent performances in terms of quality of teaching and research, and internationalisation. The results also add confidence and cohesion to the Government's commitment to developing Hong Kong into an international education hub and a cradle of future talent.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202406/05/P2024060500480.htm>

International study shows Hong Kong students' creative thinking on par with international standards

The results on creative thinking in the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) 2022 announced on June 18 showed that the performance of 15-year-old Hong Kong students was on par with the international average.

The results of this study also showed that Hong Kong students had displayed better performance in evaluating and improving ideas, and relatively stronger capabilities in social problem solving. The results once again demonstrated Hong Kong's remarkable performance in terms of education equity, ranking first among countries or economies with high academic achievements.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202406/18/P2024061800383.htm>

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International and mainland companies leverage Hong Kong's international hub status in their global branding strategy

InvestHK announced that The Macallan from Scotland on June 3 officially opened its new premium flagship retail concept store, The Macallan House, in the city's Central district as a long-term investment, recognising Hong Kong as an ultimate luxury destination in Asia.

Located on Stanley Street, The Macallan House Hong Kong occupies 6 000 square feet of retail space across three floors. The store blends nature and culture, offering guests an exceptional experience within an exclusive ambience of sight, scent, touch, taste, and sound for people to discover whisky expressions. The flagship store is the first of a series of 22 new openings scheduled through 2024 across the globe.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202406/04/P2024053100444.htm>

In addition, Rime Capital Limited, with strong resource support and financial backing from the Mainland, has built a regional base in Hong Kong as part of its global strategy, InvestHK announced on June 18.

Rime Capital Limited is an asset management company licensed by the Hong Kong Securities and Futures Commission, with assets under management amounting US\$350 million at its early establishment. Its partners include Shenzhen-listed Leo Group, and various investors and asset management veterans. The company has a team of experienced investment professionals to manage portfolios for clients, with a series of funds in place covering investments in bonds, quantitative equity funds, commodities futures, CTA (commodity trading advisor) funds and more.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202406/18/P2024061300416.htm>

Hong Kong team achieves excellent results at Asian Physics Olympiad

A team of eight students representing Hong Kong achieved excellent results in the 24th Asian Physics Olympiad (APhO 2024), winning one gold medal, three silver medals, two bronze medals and two honourable mentions.

The Secretary for Education, Dr Choi Yuk-lin, congratulated the Hong Kong team on June 11 on their outstanding performance. She remarked that the Education Bureau of the HKSAR Government will continue to step up the promotion of STEAM (science,

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technology, engineering, arts and mathematics) education in primary and secondary schools to identify and nurture more STEAM talent.

The APhO aims to promote physics education as well as nurture and inspire students who are highly talented in physics. The APhO 2024 was held in Malaysia from June 3 to 10. Over 200 contestants from 27 countries or cities participated in the competition.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202406/11/P2024061100474.htm>

Hong Kong payload specialist candidate selected at fourth batch of preparatory astronauts

The China Manned Space Agency announced on June 11 the completion of the recruitment of the fourth batch of preparatory astronauts. One of the selected preparatory astronauts is a payload specialist from Hong Kong.

The Chief Executive of the HKSAR, Mr John Lee, remarked that this is the first time that a HKSAR citizen has been selected as a preparatory astronaut, specifically a payload specialist, under the National Manned Space Programme after an extremely rigorous selection process. The payload specialist may have the opportunity to conduct scientific research in space and contribute to the country's aerospace development. This writes glorious history for the HKSAR and makes the whole of Hong Kong proud.

The fourth batch of preparatory astronauts will later receive training at the China Astronaut Research and Training Center.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202406/11/P2024061100507.htm>

HKSAR Government launches new TV announcements to invite global talent to settle in Hong Kong

The HKSAR Government on June 5 launched a new set of TV Announcements in the Public Interest (APIs) to appeal to talent across professions on the Mainland and overseas to settle in the city.

A spokesman for Hong Kong Talent Engage (HKTE) said that the new APIs feature the city's vibrant and colourful lifestyle, followed by nine arriving talents of different

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professions and backgrounds from around the world to share their reasons why they came to Hong Kong.

Among them are former National Basketball Association (NBA) of the United States and Chinese Basketball Association (CBA) player Stephon Marbury who said that Hong Kong, as an international cultural melting pot, is a “slam dunk” for new opportunities without language barriers. Hong Kong is also a “gourmet paradise” featuring culinary delights from all over the globe.

The API episodes, broadcasting in phases, are showcasing the unique strengths, advantages and development opportunities of Hong Kong as an international financial centre, an international shipping centre, an international innovation and technology centre, a regional intellectual property trading centre, a core city of the GBA, a mega-events capital and a liveable city, as well as its dual role as an international talent hub and the country’s gateway for talent.

The first episode can be found at HKTE’s website
www.hkengage.gov.hk/en/media/category/stories/.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202406/05/P2024060500198.htm>

Old identity cards to be invalidated in phases in 2025

Following the conclusion of the Territory-wide Identity Card Replacement Exercise on March 3 2023, the HKSAR Government announced on June 18 that the old form of smart identity cards issued before November 26, 2018 (old ID cards), will be invalidated in two phases in 2025.

Phase I of the invalidation exercise will cover holders of old ID cards born in 1970 or after, whose old cards will become invalid on May 12, 2025. Phase II of the invalidation exercise will cover holders of old ID cards born in 1969 or before, whose old cards will become invalid on October 12, 2025.

A spokesman for the Immigration Department (ImmD) of the HKSAR Government reminded that residents still holding old ID cards should make appointments for replacement as soon as possible. For those who are unable to have their ID cards replaced during the specified call-up periods due to being absent from Hong Kong, they should replace their ID cards within 30 days of their return to Hong Kong.

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The spokesman further stressed that the invalidation of old ID cards will not affect the right of abode in Hong Kong of the holders of old ID cards unless he or she has lost permanent resident status under the Immigration Ordinance.

For details of the relevant arrangements, please visit the ImmD website (www.immd.gov.hk).

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202406/18/P2024061800509.htm>

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