

July 3, 2024



## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **2024 Brampton Carabram Festival**

The Brampton Chinese Business Association, in collaboration with the City of Brampton, will organize the 2024 Brampton Carabram Festival China Pavilion from July 12 to 14 at the Earnscliffe Recreation Centre in Brampton. The festival will showcase an enticing mix of artistic performances and cultural events blending the classic Chinese art forms with Asian Food. The event will also feature an exhibition to overview the business, art and cultural scenes in Hong Kong. For details about the event, please visit:

<https://www.carabram.org/cultures/china>

### **Fête Chinoise’s “Love at Mid-Autumn” Charity Campaign**

Fête Chinoise’s annual “Love at Mid-Autumn” charity campaign, supported by the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (Toronto) (HKETO), has returned to celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival which symbolises family unity and reunion. The 2024 design of the campaign is inspired by the fascinating neon lights in Hong Kong. HKETO is a sponsor of the campaign. For more information, visit

<https://www.fetechinoise.ca/loveatmidautumn>

## **RECENT ACTIVITY**

### **HKETO promotes Hong Kong’s start-up ecosystem and opportunities at Collision 2024**

The HKETO, Invest Hong Kong (InvestHK) and StartmeupHK (SMUHK) promoted Hong Kong’s edge as a leading hub and perfect platform for the development of the global start-up ecosystem during the technology conference Collision 2024 held in Toronto from June 17 to 20.

At a Masterclass titled “Hong Kong opportunities: Fintech/Crypto/Web3 and beyond” at Collision 2024 hosted by InvestHK and SMUHK with the support of HKETO on June 19, the Director of the HKETO, Ms Emily Mo delivered the welcoming remarks highlighting Hong Kong’s super-connector role to link Canadian companies with partners from mainland China and other parts of world. She also promoted that Hong Kong provides numerous public funding and talent admission schemes supporting technology companies and professionals to Hong Kong.

Speakers at the Masterclass included the Head of Startups at InvestHK, Ms Jayne Chan who also emceed the Money Conference Stage of Collision; Co-Founder of

July 3, 2024



AllStarsWomen DAO, Ms Akina Ho; and Chief Representative (New York & London Office) of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA), Mr Anson Law. They gave an insightful review about monetary regulations, start-up funding and opportunities in Hong Kong at this powerhouse session.

InvestHK also set up an information booth, supported by the HKETO, the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, Hong Kong Tourism Board and Cathay Pacific Airways, at the conference attracting esteemed entrepreneurs and investors of different sectors to get information about business opportunities in Hong Kong.

In addition, Acesocial, the HKETO and InvestHK hosted a special networking event titled “Hong Kong Fireside Chat@Collision Mixer” for founders, investors and partners. Moderated by Mr Casey Lau of HKG DAO, a fireside chat with Ms Chan, Ms Ho and Mr Law was held on what Hong Kong has to offer on fintech, Web3, blockchain, cryptocurrency, virtual assets and more.

The Collision 2024 conference in Toronto is North America’s fastest-growing I&T conference which welcomed over 37 000 participants, including entrepreneurs, investors, start-ups and I&T professionals from around the world this year.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.hketotoronto.gov.hk/newsroom/hketo-promotes-hong-kongs-start-up-ecosystem-and-opportunities-at-collision-2024.html>

## **HONG KONG NEWS**

### **Mainland’s issuance of card-type document to non-Chinese Hong Kong permanent residents to enhance convenience of immigration clearance**

The People’s Republic of China announced on July 1 that non-Chinese Hong Kong permanent residents, including the foreign talent working in Hong Kong, will soon be eligible for a card-type document (Mainland Travel Permits for Hong Kong and Macao Residents (non-Chinese Citizens)) to enhance convenience of clearance at control points of the Mainland, facilitating their visit to the Mainland for business, travelling, and visiting relatives. The Exit and Entry Administration of the country will start issuing the card on July 10.

Under the new measure, all non-Chinese Hong Kong permanent residents will be able to make applications to the China Travel Service (Hong Kong) Limited entrusted by the Exit and Entry Administration of the country for travelling to the Mainland multiple times within a five-year validity period (with a stay not exceeding 90 days for each visit),

July 3, 2024



without the need to apply for a separate visa to enter the Mainland. The application, approval, and issuance of this card fall within the remit of the Mainland authorities.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202407/01/P2024070100182.htm>

### **HKSAR Government welcomes substantial conclusion of consultations for further liberalisation of trade in services under CEPA**

The Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), Mr John Lee, on July 1 welcomed the substantial conclusion of the consultations between the Ministry of Commerce and the HKSAR Government for further liberalisation of trade in services under the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA).

The new liberalisation measures target service sectors that Hong Kong enjoys competitive advantages and expand the Mainland's liberalisation to Hong Kong, giving Hong Kong enterprises and professionals more preferential treatment to explore the Mainland market.

Under the current framework of the CEPA Agreement on Trade in Services, the Mainland fully or partially opens up 153 service sectors to Hong Kong's service industry, enabling Hong Kong enterprises and professionals to enjoy preferential treatment in developing their business in the Mainland. Details of the measures will be announced later.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202407/01/P2024070100277.htm>

### **Invest Hong Kong reports good increase in number of companies assisted for first six months of year**

InvestHK on July 2 announced that the department had assisted 322 Mainland and overseas companies from 33 economies to set up or expand their business in Hong Kong during the first six months of the year.

The Director-General of Investment Promotion, Ms Alpha Lau, noted that the number represents a year-on-year rise of 43 per cent. The total investment brought to Hong Kong's economy has reached HK\$38.3 billion and created more than 3 500 job opportunities, up 6 per cent and 44 per cent respectively on a year-on-year basis. Ms

July 3, 2024



Lau added that financial services, innovation and technology and family offices are among some of the priority sectors.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202407/02/P2024062800639.htm>

### **Chief Executive thanks Mainland and foreign investors for setting up businesses in Hong Kong**

The Chief Executive, Mr John Lee, on June 20 welcomed over 400 senior representatives from Mainland and foreign companies at an InvestHK reception, thanking them for their lasting confidence in Hong Kong’s business environment and calling upon them to continue using the city’s global advantages to expand their business worldwide.

Speaking at the reception, Mr Lee said that under the “one country, two systems” principle, Hong Kong has the distinctive advantage of enjoying strong support of the country and being closely connected to the world. The city is one of the most liberal and easiest places to do business in the world.

In the latest World Competitiveness Yearbook 2024, Hong Kong’s ranking jumped two places to fifth globally, and topped the world in “international trade” and “business legislation”.

Noting that Hong Kong plays important roles as a “super-connector” and a “super value-adder” between the Mainland and the rest of the world, and serves as a two-way springboard for attracting overseas enterprises and for Mainland enterprises to “go global”, Mr Lee stressed that Hong Kong warmly welcomes enterprises, talent, and investment to seize the unlimited opportunities offered by this vibrant international city.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202406/20/P2024062000508.htm>

### **Overseas and mainland enterprises establish foothold in Hong Kong**

InvestHK announced on June 27 that Gift Holdings Inc from Japan opened its first “Machida Shoten” ramen store in Hong Kong, bringing authentic Yokohama style ramen to the city.

The company will use some of the food ingredients delivered from Japan directly and

July 3, 2024



follow the Japanese store's operational know-how under its business concept of “To make Ramen as a gift to the world”.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202406/27/P2024062600291.htm>

In addition, mainland company TOJOY Shared Smart Enterprise Services officially opened its international headquarters in Hong Kong leveraging the city’s unique position as a gateway between the Mainland and the world.

Established in 2011, TOJOY has been providing precise resource matching for innovative enterprises and offering solutions for business expansion and marketing promotion over the years.

The company has a widespread business presence across multiple regions, including Beijing, Shanghai, and Shenzhen.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202406/28/P2024062500526.htm>

### **Seminar on banking sector’s support measures for small and medium-sized enterprises**

The HKMA, the Hong Kong Association of Banks and the Chinese Banking Association of Hong Kong co-organised a seminar on the banking sector’s support measures for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) on June 24.

The seminar brought together 200 representatives from the banking sector, trade associations and chambers and SME operators to actively exchange views on the banking sector’s support measures as well as diverse services for SMEs.

The panel discussions covered topics including how banks leverage financial technology to help SMEs obtain bank financing in an easier and faster manner, and how banks support the business transformation of SMEs.

Several SME operators also shared experiences and success stories of how they have benefitted from the banks’ support in branching out into other markets and expanding their business to different regions.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202406/24/P2024062400454.htm>

July 3, 2024



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This message was sent from the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Toronto, 174 St. George Street, Toronto, ON M5R 2M7.

For enquiries, please contact:

[info@hketotoronto.gov.hk](mailto:info@hketotoronto.gov.hk) or 416-924-5544.

For help setting up your business in Hong Kong, please contact:

Mr. Christopher Chen, Head of Business and Talent Attraction / Investment Promotion at [christopher\\_chen@hketotoronto.gov.hk](mailto:christopher_chen@hketotoronto.gov.hk) or visit [www.InvestHK.gov.hk](http://www.InvestHK.gov.hk)

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