

July 17, 2024



## **HKETO JOB VACANCY**

### **Principal Consultant (Western Canada)**

Applications are invited for the post of Principal Consultant (Western Canada) to serve in the Vancouver Liaison Office of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (Toronto) (HKETO). The Principal Consultant will be responsible for promoting the Hong Kong-Canada bi-lateral trade and investment relations, as well as the cultural exchanges in Western Canada. Details can be found at <https://www.hketotoronto.gov.hk/employment.html#hketo>.

Applications should be submitted by e-mail, with a cover letter and resume, to [info@hketotoronto.gov.hk](mailto:info@hketotoronto.gov.hk) on or before August 2, 2024.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **Fantasia International Film Festival 2024**

The Fantasia international Film Festival 2024 will run from July 18 to August 4. HKETO will co-present the screenings of six Hong Kong films at the festival, namely:

- Twilight of the Warriors: Walled In 九龍城寨·圍城
- Out of the Shadow 臥底的退隱生活
- A Legend 傳說
- Killer Constable 萬人斬
- A Chinese Ghost Story II 倩女幽魂II 人間道
- The Avenging Eagle 冷血十三鷹

For details of the festival and the films, please visit: <https://fantasiafestival.com/en/festival-2024/program>

### **Fête Chinoise' "Love at Mid-Autumn" Charity Campaign**

Fête Chinoise's annual "Love at Mid-Autumn" charity campaign, supported by the 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. Please visit [www.loveatmidautumn.ca](http://www.loveatmidautumn.ca) for more information.

July 17, 2024



## **HONG KONG NEWS**

### **First batch of visa applications approved under the New Capital Investment Entrant Scheme**

In June, the Immigration Department (ImmD) of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government approved the first batch of visa applications under the New Capital Investment Entrant Scheme (CIES).

The ImmD and Invest Hong Kong (InvestHK) have worked closely together on the New CIES, and both noted that the New CIES will bring new vitality, opportunities and a vast pool of talents to Hong Kong, attracting successful businessmen and innovative entrepreneurs, and enhancing the developmental strengths of Hong Kong's asset and wealth management industry.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202407/03/P2024070300172.htm>

### **Mainland Travel Permit for Non-Chinese Hong Kong permanent residents**

Non-Chinese Hong Kong permanent residents are now eligible for a card-type document to enhance convenience of clearance at control points of the Mainland China. Under this new measure, cardholders will be able to travel to the Mainland China multiple times within five-year validity period, without the need to apply for a separate visa. They will also be able to enjoy self-service clearance at control points of the Mainland China, significantly enhancing clearance efficiency. Please refer to the China Travel Service Entry Permit Service Hong Kong Limited's website (<https://www.ctshk.com/mep/zh/>) for more information.

Click the following link for details:

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

### **Visa-free period for holders of HKSAR passports to Thailand extended**

The period of visa-free entry for holders of HKSAR passports to Thailand has been extended from up to 30 days to 60 days.

Under the Belt and Road Initiative, this extension of the period of visa-free entry will bring greater travel convenience to holders of HKSAR passports and strengthen the tourism, cultural and economic ties between the two places.

July 17, 2024



As of today, 172 countries and territories have granted visa-free access or visa-on-arrival to holders of HKSAR passports.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202407/16/P2024071600633.htm>

### **Hong Kong signs MOU with Abu Dhabi on investment promotion**

InvestHK announced on July 16 that it had signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), pledging mutual co-operation on investment promotion exchanges and support.

The MOU focuses on sharing information on business environments and investment opportunities with a view to promoting investment between the two sides and sharing experiences in attracting foreign investment as well as best practices regarding investment promotion. It also encourages interested local companies in setting up or expanding their businesses within the area of the other jurisdiction and provides support to facilitate inward investment between both Abu Dhabi and Hong Kong.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202407/16/P2024071600386.htm>

### **HKMA and SFC welcome PBoC's new measure on Northbound Swap Connect margin collateral arrangement**

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) and the Securities and Futures Commission (SFC) welcome the announcement of the People's Bank of China on July 9 to support offshore investors to use onshore bonds issued by the Ministry of Finance and policy banks on the Mainland and held under Northbound Bond Connect as margin collateral for Northbound Swap Connect transactions.

This measure will provide Northbound Swap Connect investors with the additional choice of non-cash collateral, reducing their liquidity cost and improving capital efficiency. It will also help vitalise offshore investors' onshore bond holdings and further enhance the attractiveness of onshore bonds.

The HKMA and the SFC will provide guidance to the financial infrastructure institutions to take forward the preparatory work in due course.

July 17, 2024



Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202407/09/P2024070800588.htm>

### **APEC holds Workshop on Promoting Digital Solar Resources Maps and Management Technologies in Hong Kong**

The Workshop on Promoting Digital Solar Resources Maps and Management Technologies of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Energy Working Group (EWG) was held on July 8 with 30 experts and delegates from eight APEC economies gathering in Hong Kong to exchange valuable experiences, technical knowledge and share insights on solar technologies.

Delivering a welcoming speech at the meeting, the Secretary for Environment and Ecology of the HKSAR Government, Mr Tse Chin-wan, emphasised that the development and deployment of renewable energy are crucial to driving renewable power generation and increasing the share of renewable energy in the energy mix. According to Hong Kong's Climate Action Plan 2050, the city is striving to achieve carbon neutrality before 2050, as well as reduce carbon emissions by half from the 2005 level before 2035, adding that net-zero electricity generation is one of the decarbonisation strategies and measures.

The APEC's EWG aims to further APEC goals to facilitate energy trade and investment so as to ensure that energy contributes to the enhancement of economic, social and environmental conditions of APEC economies. The EWG consists of members from 21 APEC economies and convenes twice a year.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202407/08/P2024070800499.htm>

### **International experts and delegations from Belt and Road Initiative and ASEAN member states attend Fire Asia 2024**

About 600 experts and delegates from 19 countries and regions took part in the Fire Asia 2024 international conference held in Hong Kong from July 10 to 12. The conference, which themed "Collaboration and Technology - Better Prepare the Community for Emergency", has brought together global fire and emergency professionals to gain invaluable insights into fire safety and groundbreaking research from eminent speakers worldwide, striving to promote the development and international co-operation of the industry.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202407/10/P2024071000235.htm>

July 17, 2024



## **Hong Kong students win medals at International Biology Olympiad**

A team of four students representing Hong Kong achieved excellent results at the 35<sup>th</sup> International Biology Olympiad (IBO), winning two gold medals and two bronze medals.

The IBO is an international competition for secondary students with emphasis on both theory and practice. Students are required to apply analytical skills and conduct experiments to tackle challenging problems in biology. The 35<sup>th</sup> IBO was held from July 7 to 14 in Astana, Kazakhstan, with 290 contestants from 75 countries/regions participating in the competition.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202407/15/P2024071500618.htm>

## **Government launches public consultation for 2024 Policy Address**

The HKSAR Government on July 16 launched a public consultation for the Chief Executive's 2024 Policy Address. The Chief Executive of the HKSAR, Mr John Lee, will deliver his third Policy Address this October. The HKSAR Government will hold more than 40 consultation sessions to receive views and suggestions.

Members of the public can offer their views through the Policy Address website ([www.policyaddress.gov.hk](http://www.policyaddress.gov.hk)), via the dedicated Facebook page for the Policy Address public consultation ([www.facebook.com/PolicyAddressConsultation](https://www.facebook.com/PolicyAddressConsultation)), or by email ([policyaddress@cepu.gov.hk](mailto:policyaddress@cepu.gov.hk)), phone (2432 1899) or fax (2537 9083).

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202407/16/P2024071200538.htm>

## **HKSAR Government endeavours to make good preparations to welcome giant pandas**

The Central Government will gift another pair of giant pandas to Hong Kong. The Chief Executive Mr John Lee expressed his sincere gratitude to the Central Government for its care and support for the city. He visited the Dujiangyan Base of the China Conservation and Research Centre for the Giant Panda in Sichuan from July 8 to 9 to deliberate on and understand the overall arrival arrangements of the pair of giant pandas.

Click the following links for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202407/08/P2024070800805.htm>

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202407/09/P2024070900419.htm>

July 17, 2024



## **ICAC safeguards anti-corruption achievements, advances towards new milestone in year of fruitful endeavours and accomplishments**

The Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) of the HKSAR issued its latest annual report on July 10 noting that 2023 was “a year of fruitful endeavours and accomplishments” as the Commission advanced towards its golden jubilee.

According to the 2023 ICAC Annual Survey, members of the public continued to show zero tolerance to corruption. 98.9 per cent of respondents said they had not personally encountered corruption in the past year. Similar findings were recorded in the past ten years, reflecting that Hong Kong was a very clean society.

On the international front, Hong Kong ranked 14<sup>th</sup> out of 180 countries and territories rated in the Corruption Perceptions Index 2023 released by the Transparency International. In the World Justice Project’s 2023 Rule of Law Index, Hong Kong ranked 9<sup>th</sup> under the factor of “absence of corruption” out of 142 countries and territories. These rankings not only reflected Hong Kong’s effective anti-corruption work, but also the city’s sound rule of law.

The 2023 ICAC Annual Report is available at [www.icac.org.hk/icac/annual-report/2023/](http://www.icac.org.hk/icac/annual-report/2023/)  
<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202407/10/P2024071000357.htm>

## **Fraudulent social media account and phishing instant messages related to Royal Bank of Canada**

The HKMA alerts members of the public to a press release issued by Royal Bank of Canada relating to a fraudulent social media account and phishing instant messages, which have been reported to the HKMA. A hyperlink to the press release is available on the HKMA website at

<https://www.hkma.gov.hk/eng/smart-consumers/beware-of-fraudsters/#fraudulent-bank-websites-phishing-emails-and-similar-scams>

The public is reminded that banks will not send SMS or emails with embedded hyperlinks which direct them to the banks’ websites to carry out transactions. They will not ask customers for sensitive personal information.

Anyone who has provided personal information, or who has conducted any financial transactions, through or in response to the social media account or instant messages concerned, should contact the bank and report the matter to the Police.

July 17, 2024



Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202407/02/P2024070200417.htm>

### **WeBank establishes technology company headquarters in Hong Kong**

The HKSAR Government on July 10 welcomed WeBank Co, Ltd (WeBank), a world leading digital bank founded in Shenzhen, to establish its technology company headquarters in Hong Kong. WeBank plans to invest up to US\$150 million and create high-skilled technology jobs in the city.

WeBank's technology company headquarters will serve as a base for its R&D activities and provide commercialising technology solutions for global markets. WeBank is well known for bringing inclusive financial services to over 4.5 million micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, and nearly 400 million individuals in Mainland China. As at today, WeBank has filed over 3 800 patent applications.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202407/10/P2024070900443.htm>

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Brand Hong Kong X page [https://twitter.com/Brand\\_HK](https://twitter.com/Brand_HK)

Brand Hong Kong LinkedIn page <https://www.linkedin.com/company/brand-hong-kong/>

July 17, 2024



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