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UPCOMING EVENTS

Vancouver International Film Festival 2024

The Vancouver International Film Festival 2024 will run from September 26 to October 6. Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (HKETO) will sponsor and co-present the screenings of two Hong Kong films at the festival, namely “Fly Me to the Moon” (但願人長久) directed by Sasha Chuk, and “Love Lies” (我談的那場戀愛) directed by Mui Ho. For details of the festival and the films, please visit:

<https://viff.org/festival/films/>

StartmeupHK Festival and Fintech Week in Hong Kong

Invest Hong Kong (InvestHK) will organize two flagship international events, StartmeupHK Festival and Fintech Week, this fall in Hong Kong for entrepreneurs, investors and business partners to experience the vibrant startup and fintech ecosystem in the city. Details are as follows:

A) StartmeupHK Festival (October 21 to 25)

As Asia’s most dynamic annual startup celebration, the Startmeup Festival is curated by InvestHK in collaboration with leading organizations. The festival features a series of major events focusing on hot topics such as Web3, HealthTech, PropTech, and sustainability. Attendees can also enjoy engaging activities like pitching competitions, startup-investor matchings, and more.

For more information and the program schedule, please visit:

<https://www.startmeup.hk/startmeuphk-festival-2024/>

B) Hong Kong Fintech Week (October 28 to November 1)

Hong Kong FinTech Week is one of Hong Kong’s largest and most influential gatherings of international leaders, regulators, investors, and entrepreneurs. It offers a platform to discuss the latest trends and innovations in financial technology. The event includes a variety of activities such as exhibitions, keynotes, panel discussions, networking sessions, and business matchmaking.

For details on the program schedule, ticketing, and exhibitions, please visit

<https://www.fintechweek.hk>

InvestHK is partnering with the Canadian Trade Commissioner Service (TCS) to bring a Canadian delegation to Hong Kong FinTech Week. Successful applicants will receive a

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complimentary conference pass and the opportunity to showcase their products and solutions to thousands of investors, founders, and partners at the Canadian Pavilion hosted by TCS. If you wish to join the Canadian delegation or have any inquiries, please contact investhk@hketotoronto.gov.hk.

In addition, a special initiative, the “Global Fast Track (GFT)” program, is in place to help FinTech companies expand and grow in Asia through Hong Kong. The GFT program provides direct access to pitch on international stages, participate in impactful business matchmaking, receive mentorship, and form strategic partnerships with over 35,000 FinTech leaders. For more information, please visit <https://www.globalfasttrack.hk/>. The online application deadline is September 20 (Hong Kong time).

Fête Chinoise’s “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 <https://www.fetechinoise.ca/loveatmidautumn> for more information.

2024 Moon Festival Celebration in Richmond Hill

The 2024 Moon Festival Celebration organized by the office of MPP Daisy Wai will be held at the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts on the Mid-autumn Festival on September 17. Programs and activities include dancing with lanterns, Chinese Opera, storytelling, lucky draw and riddles. The HKETO is a supporter of the event.

2024 ACCE West Coast Gala

The Association of Chinese Canadian Entrepreneurs (ACCE) will host the 2024 ACCE West Coast Gala on October 3 in Vancouver. The event serves to foster the spirit of entrepreneurship, innovation and corporate citizenship. ACCE has made continual effort to recognize the achievements of outstanding Chinese Canadian entrepreneurs and to promote the spirit of entrepreneurship among the Chinese Canadian community. HKETO is the supporter of the event. For details, please visit: <https://www.acce.ca/new/2024-acce-west-coast-gala/>.

HONG KONG NEWS

HKMA launches Project Ensemble Sandbox to accelerate adoption of tokenisation

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) hosted on August 28 the launch ceremony

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for Project Ensemble Sandbox (the Sandbox) and introduced four main themes of asset tokenisation use cases for the initial round of experimentation, marking a significant step forward in the advancement of tokenisation in real-world application within the financial sector.

The Sandbox is designed to facilitate interbank settlement using experimental tokenised money, focusing on transactions involving tokenised assets. The initial round of experimentation will cover tokenisation of both traditional financial assets and real-world assets, focusing on four main themes: fixed income and investment funds, liquidity management, green and sustainable finance, and trade and supply chain finance.

On the international front, the HKMA will also explore collaborating with the Bank for International Settlements Innovation Hub Hong Kong Centre across one or more themes, and engage the central bank digital currency (CBDC) Expert Group to leverage their subject matter expertise to further advance the Sandbox.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202408/28/P2024082800268.htm>

Government launches new batch of Silver Bond

The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government announced on September 10 the launch of a new batch of Silver Bond for subscription by eligible Hong Kong residents.

The target issuance size of the Silver Bond is HK\$50 billion, with each unit offered at HK\$10,000 and a tenor of three years. Interest will be paid semi-annually at a rate linked to inflation in Hong Kong, subject to a minimum of 4 per cent. Hong Kong residents who turn 60 in or before 2025 holding a valid Hong Kong identity card will be eligible for subscription.

The bonds are the retail part of the Infrastructure Bond Programme. Proceeds will be credited to the Capital Works Reserve Fund for investment in infrastructure projects in accordance with the Programme framework. The Government will publish information on the allocation of the proceeds on an annual basis.

The subscription period of the Silver Bond will start from 9am on September 30 and end at 2pm on October 14 (Hong Kong time). The bonds will be issued on October 23. Eligible Hong Kong residents may apply for the bonds through one of the placing banks and designated securities brokers. For details, please visit www.hkqb.gov.hk.

Click the following link for details:

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<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202409/10/P2024091000337.htm>

Leading Mainland service providers establish footprints in Hong Kong

InvestHK announced on August 28 that a leading Mainland digital intelligence solutions provider, Hi-Think Technology Corporation, has established its regional headquarters, Hi-Think Technology International Limited (Hi-Think International), in Hong Kong.

Hi-Think Technology Corporation is one of China's top 100 software companies and ranks second in China's international software services exports. Hi-Think International provides software solutions and digital technologies to overseas corporate users, with business operations covering Japan and Southeast Asia. It has subsidiaries in Tokyo, Kyoto and Okinawa in Japan, as well as in Dalian, Jinan, and Suzhou on the Mainland.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202408/28/P2024082800263.htm>

In addition, Mainland Green Tea Restaurant officially opened its first outlet in Causeway Bay on September 10, and a second one is slated for opening in Tai Wai soon. The Green Tea Restaurant's signature Zhejiang fusion cuisine sets itself apart from peers. The Restaurant has more than 420 directly managed stores on the Mainland and is planning to list in Hong Kong.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202409/10/P2024091000309.htm>

CE congratulates Hong Kong, China Delegation on remarkable achievements at Paris Paralympics

The Chief Executive of the HKSAR, Mr John Lee, on September 8 expressed his congratulations to the Hong Kong, China Delegation on its outstanding achievements at the 2024 Paris Paralympic Games. He praised the athletes for giving their utmost in the competitions, and showcasing to the world the indomitable Hong Kong spirit and the extraordinary capabilities of Hong Kong athletes with disabilities.

The Hong Kong, China Delegation captured three gold medals, four silver medals and one bronze medal in this year's Paralympic Games.

Mr Lee remarked that the HKSAR Government fully supports the development of sports for persons with disabilities, noting that the estimated expenditure for the purpose amounts to over HK\$130 million in the current financial year, representing a growth of over 40 per cent compared to that of five years ago.

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Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202409/08/P2024090800420.htm>

Hong Kong students triumph at 36th International Olympiad in Informatics

A team of four students representing Hong Kong achieved excellent results in the International Olympiad in Informatics (IOI) 2024, winning one gold medal, two silver medals and one honourable mention. Representatives from 96 countries or regions from all over the world participated in this year's IOI, which was the 36th event and was held in Egypt.

The IOI under the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization is for secondary school students under the age of 20. It aims to promote coding education, nurture students' computational thinking and problem-solving skills, and is the most recognised worldwide computer science competition for secondary school students.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202409/09/P2024090900506.htm>

Immigration Department implements Advance Passenger Information System

The Immigration Department (ImmD) of the HKSAR Government announced that the Advance Passenger Information (API) System was implemented on September 3.

To meet the aviation security requirements set by the Convention on International Civil Aviation and align Hong Kong with other aviation hubs worldwide, the ImmD has implemented the API System which requires aircraft operators to comply with the Immigration (Advance Passenger Information) Regulation (Cap. 115Q) by transmitting advance information about flights and passengers arriving in Hong Kong. This measure aims to enhance passenger clearance and ImmD's enforcement capabilities.

During check-in for a flight heading to Hong Kong, the aircraft operator will capture the required API data from a traveller's travel document and transmit the API data of each traveller and the aircraft information to the API System, which will instantly process the information and provide a response message. The aircraft operator shall act upon the direction given through the API System to allow or not allow specific travellers to board the aircraft heading to Hong Kong.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202409/03/P2024090300314.htm>

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Recruitment of non-locally trained dentists

Following the passage of the Dentists Registration (Amendment) Bill 2024 by the Legislative Council, the Department of Health (DH) of the HKSAR formally commenced the recruitment of non-locally trained dentists.

With the phased implementation of the amended provisions starting from 2025, qualified non-locally trained dentists will be allowed to practise in Hong Kong. Dentists who are interested in practising in Hong Kong and granted a conditional offer after the interview may submit a limited registration or special registration application to the Dental Council of Hong Kong, and upon approval directly practise at the DH.

The deadline of submitting application for the Contract Dentist position is September 23, 2024 at 23:59 (Hong Kong time). For more details, please visit www.dh.gov.hk/english/main/main_ds/main_co.html

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202407/23/P2024072300506.htm>

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Brand Hong Kong Facebook page www.facebook.com/brandhk.isd

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

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