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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 (Toronto) (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/>

Imperial Ball 2024

Imperial Ball 2024 hosted by the Chinese Cultural Centre of Greater Toronto will be held on September 28. Under the theme of “Connected: We Soar”, the ball raises funds to organize a diverse array of cultural and educational activities to facilitate bilateral cultural exchanges between the East and the West, and celebrate Chinese heritage and culture in the Greater Toronto Area. HKETO is a supporter of the event. For details, please visit

<https://www.cccgt.org/imperialball/>

Hong Kong-Toronto art project “Dim Sum without Distance” at Nuit Blanche Toronto

Internationally renowned digital media artist, Dr. Hung Keung from Hong Kong will collaborate with Canadian artist Lauren Runions at this year’s Nuit Blanche Toronto themed “Bridging Distance”. Nuit Blanche is the largest contemporary art festival organized by the City of Toronto. Dr Hung’s project, “Dim Sum without Distance”, seeks to bridge cultural and geographical divides through the lens of traditional Chinese landscape painting theory, new media, and the culinary art of Dim Sum. The installation located at Love Park in Toronto invites audience to explore the profound connections between Hong Kong and Toronto.

Dr. Hung will give a talk at York University on October 2. Details can be found here:

AMPD Artist Talk with Dr. Hung: Creative Collaboration: From Research to Artistic Practice

<https://events.yorku.ca/events/ampd-artist-talk-with-dr-hung/>

For details of the Nuit Blanche project, please visit the City of Toronto’s event page at:

https://www.toronto.ca/explore-enjoy/festivals-events/nuitblanche/all-art-projects/?project_id=10d3b950-790a-4f3e-aad0-fa65b4edb791#location=&lat=&lng=&zoom=

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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 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@hketoronto.gov.hk.

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

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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-Canada Business Association (Montreal) Fall Networking Session

The Hong Kong-Canada Business Association (HKCBA) (Montreal) will organise a fall networking session on October 3 for the international business community interested in Asian trade and Hong Kong to network over drinks and dim sum to discover opportunities and share success stories. HKETO is a supporter for the event. More information can be found at:

<https://montreal.hkcba.com/events/hkcba-montreal-fall-networking-cocktail>

Hong Kong-Canada Business Association National Conference in Vancouver

The HKCBA will host its annual National Conference on October 25 in Vancouver. Entitled “Canada-Hong Kong: Forging a Bright Shared Future”, the event provides a valuable platform for exploring innovation, partnerships, and new opportunities in Hong Kong and the Asian markets. For details, please visit

<https://vancouver.hkcba.com/events/hkcba-national-conference-4>

HONG KONG NEWS

Hong Kong rose to third place globally in Global Financial Centres Index

Hong Kong ranked third globally in the Global Financial Centres Index (GFCI) 36 Report published on September 24 by Z/Yen from the United Kingdom and the China Development Institute from Shenzhen, moving up one place from the March issue of the index this year. Hong Kong also ranked first in the Asia-Pacific region. The overall rating increased by eight points, the largest improvement among the top five financial centres.

The report affirms Hong Kong’s status and strengths as a leading global financial centre. Hong Kong’s scores were rated among the top in various areas of competitiveness, including “business environment”, “human capital”, “infrastructure”, and “reputational and general”. Hong Kong’s rankings in various financial industry sectors also rose significantly, including “investment management”, “insurance”, “banking” and “professional services”. Among them, the ranking in “investment management” advanced to first globally. In addition, the report assessed the financial centres’ fintech offerings, and Hong Kong’s ranking rose five places to ninth, making it among the top 10 fintech hubs.

The GFCI Report is released in March and September every year since 2007. In GFCI

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36, 121 financial centres were assessed, and Hong Kong ranked third globally with an overall rating of 749.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202409/24/P2024092400300.htm>

Hong Kong soars in World Talent Ranking 2024

The International Institute for Management Development (IMD) published the World Talent Ranking 2024 on September 19. Hong Kong's ranking rose visibly to nine, from 16 last year, returning to the top 10 for the first time since 2016.

Hong Kong improved across all three talent competitiveness factors in the Ranking as compared to last year. Its position rose from six to four in "readiness", and from 15 to 13 in "investment and development". Hong Kong's ranking in "appeal" also rose from 32 to 28. Among the indicators, Hong Kong topped the ranking in the percentage of graduates in sciences, and was among the global top five in the availability of finance skills, effectiveness of management education and remuneration of management.

A spokesperson of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government noted that at end-August this year, over 360 000 applications were received under various talent admission schemes, with nearly 230 000 applications approved. During the same period, over 150 000 people of talent arrived in Hong Kong through various talent admission schemes. The arrivals of outside quality talent and their family members boost Hong Kong's labour force and inject new momentum into Hong Kong's local economy. The HKSAR Government established the Hong Kong Talent Engage in end-October 2023 to provide one-stop support services to incoming talent to enable their settlement in Hong Kong.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202409/19/P2024091900285.htm>

SFC-HKMA joint survey shows strong rebound in sales of investment products in 2023

A joint survey by the Securities and Futures Commission (SFC) and the Hong Kong Monetary Authority on the sales of non-exchange-traded investment products by licensed corporations and registered institutions showed a 14 per cent increase in total transaction to HK\$4,338 billion in 2023 from HK\$3,799 billion in 2022.

Respondent firms saw an improvement in overall market sentiment in 2023 amid market recovery from the pandemic, easing of inflationary pressures and anticipation of the end

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of the monetary tightening cycle in major economies. Against this backdrop, the number of firms engaged in the sale of investment products grew to 380 in 2023 from 371 in 2022. About 68 per cent of these firms reported year-on-year increases in transaction amount, and about 29 per cent of them expanded their sales force by 50 per cent or more to meet growing business needs. The number of participating clients also grew by 15 per cent to over 940 000.

The solid sales growth of investment products was fuelled largely by an increase in the sales of collective investment schemes, debt securities and structured products.

The SFC's Executive Director of Intermediaries, Dr Eric Yip, remarked that the survey findings reflect a notable recovery in Hong Kong's investment market, demonstrating the resilience of the securities sector, and the growth across various product segments has highlighted the industry's adaptability and commitment to meeting investor needs.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202409/20/P2024091900238.htm>

HKSAR Government releases Green Bond Report 2024

The HKSAR Government released on September 13 the Green Bond Report 2024, which sets out, among others, the allocation of the proceeds raised from green bond issuances and the expected environmental benefits of the projects financed. The Government has thus far issued green bonds totaling close to an equivalent of HK\$220 billion, funding various green projects in Hong Kong and providing important benchmarks for potential issuers.

The Report provides comprehensive information on the green projects funded by the Government Sustainable Bond Programme, demonstrating to investors the actual contributions brought by their investments in green bonds to sustainable development.

The Green Bond Report 2024 is available at the Government Bonds website at www.hkqb.gov.hk/en/greenbond/greenbondreport.html.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202409/13/P2024091300461.htm>

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New Capital Investment Entrant Scheme releases online application platform, reports promising increase in application figures

InvestHK announced on September 16 that the applicants of the New Capital Investment Entrant Scheme (the New CIES) can now submit application forms for Net Asset Assessment and Assessment on Investment Requirements online.

In addition, InvestHK has continuously seen a strong response since the launch of the New CIES on March 1, and here are the key numbers of the New CIES as of September 13.

- Number of enquiries: Over 5 000
- Number of applications: Over 500
- Applications verified as having fulfilled the Net Asset Requirement (i.e. applicant has net assets of not less than HK\$30 million in the two years preceding his/her application): 448
- Applications verified as having fulfilled the Investment Requirements (i.e. applicant has already made investment of HK\$30 million in Hong Kong within the six-month time limit): 47
- Expected investment amount to be brought into Hong Kong: Over HK\$15 billion

For more information on the eligibility criteria and relevant details, please visit the New CIES website (www.newcies.gov.hk).

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202409/16/P2024091600161.htm>

SCED attends 8th ASEAN Economic Ministers - Hong Kong, China Consultation

The Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development of the HKSAR Government, Mr Algernon Yau, and the Minister of Industry and Commerce of Laos, Mr Malaithong Kommasith, co-chaired the 8th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Economic Ministers - Hong Kong, China (HKC) Consultation in Vientiane, Laos on September 20 to discuss issues relating to the implementation of the ASEAN-HKC Free Trade Agreement (AHKFTA) and the Investment Agreement (IA), and exchange views on recent regional and global economic developments.

Speaking at the meeting, Mr Yau highlighted the long-term close relationship between Hong Kong and ASEAN. He noted that ASEAN is Hong Kong's second-largest partner in trade in goods, the third-largest destination of outward direct investment and the fourth-largest partner in services trade.

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Meanwhile, Mr Yau announced at the meeting Hong Kong's support for the continuation of the Economic and Technical Cooperation (ECOTECH) Work Programme under the AHKFTA for another five years, with an enhanced contribution by 20 per cent to HK\$6 million a year from 2025.

The ECOTECH Work Programme aims to build the capacities of the parties of the AHKFTA through technical assistance, knowledge transfer and information-sharing activities. So far, 35 projects have been approved covering different areas of trade and investment. Thirteen of them have been completed up to end-2023, benefitting more than 5 600 participants from both Hong Kong and ASEAN.

Mr Yau also took the opportunity to reiterate Hong Kong's keen interest and readiness for accession to the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). He thanked ASEAN for the staunch and continued support to Hong Kong's accession bid.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202409/20/P2024092000184.htm>

Japanese restaurant group opens first GATTEN SUSHI conveyor belt restaurant in Hong Kong

InvestHK announced that RDC Group from Japan officially opened its first GATTEN SUSHI conveyor belt restaurant in Hong Kong on September 12, offering a wide range of affordable sushi freshly made in-store by skilled sushi chefs.

The new restaurant, which spans over 3 000 square feet and has 77 seats, is located in Quarry Bay, providing authentic Edo-style sushi that sushi chefs will showcase their sushi-making skills in front of customers.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202409/12/P2024091100378.htm>

Recruitment for four civil service graduate grades

The HKSAR Government launched a joint recruitment exercise for the appointment as Administrative Officer (AO), Executive Officer II, Assistant Trade Officer II and Transport Officer II in 2024-25 on September 14. Applicants must submit their applications through the online application system on the Civil Service Bureau (CSB) website. The deadline for submitting applications is 11.59PM on October 4 (Hong Kong time).

The recruitment is open to all permanent residents of the HKSAR who meet the relevant entry requirements. Students pursuing a bachelor's degree or equivalent and graduating

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in the years of 2025 or 2026 may also apply. The respective posts with recruitment targets are set out below:

- Administrative Officer: 50
- Executive Officer II: 200
- Assistant Trade Officer II: 3
- Transport Officer II: 10

Arrangements will be made for eligible applicants to take the Joint Recruitment Examination (JRE) tentatively scheduled to be held on December 7 in Hong Kong.

Applicants could also choose to attend the JRE in one of the seven cities outside Hong Kong including Toronto and Vancouver. In addition, the CRE and BLNST (degree / professional grades) are also tentatively scheduled to be held on December 7 in these seven cities.

Details of the joint recruitment exercise has been uploaded to the CSB's website at www.csb.gov.hk. For the recruitment of AO, relevant information is available on a dedicated website at www.ao-recruitment.gov.hk.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202409/11/P2024091100245.htm>

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

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

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

Brand Hong Kong Instagram page www.instagram.com/brandhongkong/

Brand Hong Kong X page https://twitter.com/Brand_HK

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

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