

October 9, 2024



UPCOMING EVENTS

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)

The ninth edition of Hong Kong Fintech Week, themed "Illuminating New Pathways in Fintech" will take place from October 28 to November 1. This flagship event stands at the forefront of the global fintech evolution. Aligned with Hong Kong's vision, the event aims to steer the future of financial services and beyond. The event is expected to draw over 30 000 attendees from more than 100 economies with hundreds of distinguished speakers and numerous sponsors and exhibitors.

This year, Hong Kong Fintech Week places a significant emphasis on cutting-edge technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI). The main conference will feature eight themed forums on the latest technologies and cross-industry connections. These forums include the Global Forum, AI & Advanced Tech Forum, Blockchain & Digital Assets Forum, Payments & Other FinTech Forum, InsurTech Forum, Green FinTech & Impact Forum, WealthTech & InvestTech Forum, and Hong Kong Connect Forum, offering participants a comprehensive view of the ever-evolving fintech landscape.

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

<https://www.fintechweek.hk>

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202410/08/P2024100700253.htm>

October 9, 2024

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@hketotoronto.gov.hk.

Hong Kong-Canada Business Association National Conference in Vancouver

The Hong Kong-Canada Business Association (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>

Making Waves in Montreal 2024 Festival: Navigators of Hong Kong Cinema

Making Waves in Montreal 2024 Festival, presented by the Hong Kong International Film Festival Society in collaboration with Chicago Asian Pop-Up Cinema, will present another slate of Hong Kong films in Montreal from October 24 to 26, most of them directed by a new generation of talented, committed and award-winning Hong Kong filmmakers. Sponsored by the Cultural and Creative Industries Development Agency of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government and supported by the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Toronto (HKETO), the film festival will feature six Hong Kong films:

- Rob & Roll (臨時劫案)
- Love Lies (我談的那場戀愛)
- Time Still Turns the Page (年少日記)
- All Shall be Well (從今以後)
- Fly Me to the Moon (但願人長久)
- For Alice (給愛麗絲)

For details, please visit

<https://www.asianpopupcinema.org/mwm24>

Cathay Ball 2024

The Cathay Ball 2024 entitled “Shining 60 Years and Beyond”, hosted by the Mon Sheong Foundation in celebration of its 60th anniversary, will be held on November 2. The Mon

October 9, 2024

Sheong Foundation has deep roots connected to Hong Kong. This year, HKETO is proud to be the Photo Booth Sponsor of the Cathay Ball. A backdrop featuring Hong Kong's iconic Victoria Harbour and its dazzling cityscape will be displayed at the venue, allowing guests to take pictures and experience the energy and vibrancy of the city. For details of the event, please visit <https://cathayball.monsheong.org/>

“The Prop Master’s Dream”: a fusion Cantonese Opera to perform in Vancouver

A fusion Cantonese opera, “The Prop Master’s Dream” (道具大師的尋根夢), will be performed at the Vancouver Playhouse on November 2. Presented in both Cantonese and English with subtitles, “The Prop Master’s Dream” tells the life story of Wah-Kwan Gwan (1929-2000), a prop master born to a Chinese father and an Indigenous mother in British Columbia, Canada. This two-hour performance explores Gwan’s journey as he returns to Canada, faces identity challenges, and uncovers the cultural legacy of Vancouver’s Chinese community through opera, Indigenous drumming and modern jazz. HKETO is proud to be the sponsor. For details, please visit <https://vancouveropera.com/production/the-prop-master-dream-2024>

RECENT ACTIVITY

Renowned Hong Kong new media artist enriches artistic scene in collaborative project that transcends distance between Hong Kong and Canada

Internationally renowned digital media artist Dr Hung Keung from Hong Kong joined Nuit Blanche, Toronto’s largest contemporary art festival, and presented a cross-cultural collaboration project with Canadian dance artist Lauren Runions at Love Park of Toronto on the night of October 5, creating a unique cultural dialogue that transcends geographical boundaries.

Titled “Dim Sum without Distance”, the art project gave visitors a taste of the new realm of digital media art through the lens of traditional Chinese landscape painting theory, new media and the culinary art of dim sum, a term that may also be interpreted as “to touch the heart”. The art installation aligned with the theme of this year’s Nuit Blanche, “Bridging Distance”.

Dr Hung is a digital media artist and a professor at the Education University of Hong Kong. He blends Chinese philosophy with digital media in an innovative artistic practice exploring interactive performance and experimental art. This installation was one of the highlights of Nuit Blanche this year.

Nuit Blanche is Toronto’s annual all-night celebration of contemporary art, produced by the City of Toronto in collaboration with Toronto’s arts community. The “Dim Sum without

October 9, 2024

Distance” project was sponsored by the HKETO and the Hong Kong Tourism Board, with the support of Hong Kong Arts Centre.

Earlier, Dr Hung shared his insights about Hong Kong’s art scene with Canadian artists and students during a talk themed “Creative Collaboration: From Research to Artistic Practice” at York University on October 2. He discussed his artistic process and the significance of cross-cultural dialogue in contemporary art. Delivering a welcome message at the talk, Director of the HKETO, Ms Emily Mo, remarked that “Dim Sum Without Distance” is not only an art project but also a celebration of cultural exchange and collaboration, reflecting the HKSAR Government’s vision to position Hong Kong into an East-meets-West centre for international cultural exchange.

Click the following links for details:

<https://www.hketotoronto.gov.hk/newsroom/dim-sum-without-distance-a-cultural-journey-unveiled-at-nuit-blanche-in-toronto.html>

<https://www.hketotoronto.gov.hk/newsroom/renowned-hong-kong-new-media-artist-enriches-artistic-scene-in-collaborative-project-that-transcends-distance.html>

HKETO Director joins networking reception in Montreal to promote Hong Kong’s economy

Director of the HKETO, Ms Emily Mo, promoted Hong Kong’s edges at the Fall Networking Reception organized by the HKCBA (Montreal Section) on October 3. The networking session, brought together the international business community interested in Asian trade and Hong Kong, provided an opportunity to network and share success stories.

In her opening remarks delivered via a video, Ms. Mo highlighted Hong Kong’s status as a leading global financial centre. She stressed that Hong Kong, as a global offshore wealth management centre, is ranked second worldwide, following Switzerland.

Ms Mo noted that more than 2 700 single-family offices are thriving in Hong Kong. About 50 strategic enterprises have chosen to set up in Hong Kong in the past year. It is also exciting to see major Canadian financial institutions’ expansion and new partnership deals made in Hong Kong, alongside the interest of Canadian fintech companies in expansion into the city.

Ms Mo further remarked that Hong Kong’s open economy offers global talents a promising future. Since the launch of the Top Talent Pass Scheme in 2022, Canada has remained the second largest source of talent for Hong Kong.

October 9, 2024



Click the following link for details:

<https://www.hketoronto.gov.hk/newsroom/hketo-director-joins-networking-reception-in-montreal-to-promote-hong-kongs-economy.html>

HONG KONG NEWS

Business Ready 2024 Report recognised Hong Kong as one of top places to do business

The World Bank Group published the first Business Ready 2024 Report (Report) on October 3. The Report is pilot in nature. Hong Kong is among the top ten performers among 50 economies covered in the Report.

The Report compares the overall performance of economies in terms of their business environment under ten topics and three pillars. For Hong Kong, among the ten topics, the three topics with the highest score are namely “International Trade” (90.77 points), “Business Entry” (85.49 points) and “Utility Services” (77.71 points). Among the three pillars, Hong Kong ranks fifth in “Operational Efficiency” with a score of 78.52 points.

A spokesman of the HKSAR Government noted that the Report had given recognition to Hong Kong as an international trading centre with simple and clear regulations in business entry, and also stable and efficient utility infrastructure. Among others, the Report highlights that Hong Kong has few restrictions on international trade in services and implements good practices in terms of information provision and regulations relating to company registration.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202410/03/P2024100300657.htm>

A Japanese restaurant and a Mainland Chinese tea store open their first locations in Hong Kong

InvestHK announced that Japanese restaurant chain operator Monogatari Corporation officially opened its first Japanese-style beef burger restaurant, Niku Niku Oh! Kome, in Hong Kong on October 3 as part of its overseas expansion plan in the Asia region.

The new restaurant is located in Sha Tin and provides around 40 bar seats with an open kitchen. It offers wagyu hamburgers made from a blend of Kyushu black wagyu beef and US beef. The rice served is “Niji no Kirameki” from Tohoku. Established in 1949, Monogatari Corporation has more than 700 restaurants in Japan and overseas with 15 restaurant brands, including yakiniku, ramen, okonomiyaki, sushi and shabu-shabu.

October 9, 2024

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202410/03/P2024100200258.htm>

In addition, the Chinese tea chain Chagee officially opened its first store in Hong Kong on September 28. Located in an art shopping mall in Tsim Sha Tsui, the new store offers Chagee's original milk tea products with raw-leaf tea and fresh milk. One of its signature products is Jasmine green milk tea with accumulated sales exceeding 600 million cups worldwide.

Chagee opened its first store in Yunnan, the hometown of tea leaves, in 2017. Since then, it has expanded into Southeast Asia with stores in Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and more. Currently, it has over 5 000 stores globally.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202409/28/P2024092700373.htm>

EMSD receives grand award in openBIM Awards 2024

The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) of the HKSAR Government received the grand award under the “Handover” category of the openBIM Awards 2024 at an award presentation ceremony held in Marrakesh, Morocco, on October 3.

The EMSD's award-winning submission is about developing procedural guidelines and software tools for electrical and mechanical systems to simplify the conversion to openBIM. As a groundbreaking digitalisation technology, openBIM enables different engineering teams to use a common language and protocol for information exchange. This facilitates co-ordination among teams, tools and processes across various stages of design, construction, handover and maintenance, ultimately promoting construction digitalisation.

The organiser, buildingSMART International, received over 160 submissions from universities and organisations worldwide this year, shortlisting 22 finalists and awarding grand awards to nine teams in their respective categories.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202410/04/P2024100400530.htm>

October 9, 2024



Implementation of first phase of enhancement measures of Deposit Protection Scheme

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority announced that the first phase of the enhancement measures of the Deposit Protection Scheme (DPS) came into effect on October 1. The enhancement measures that come into effect include:

- raising the deposit protection limit from HK\$500,000 to HK\$800,000 per depositor per bank;
- refining the levy system to enable the DPS Fund underpinning the DPS to reach the target fund size within a reasonable timeframe under the increased protection limit; and
- streamlining the negative disclosure requirement on non-protected deposit transactions for private banking customers.

The second phase of the enhancement measures will come into effect on January 1, 2025. The measures include providing enhanced coverage to affected depositors upon a bank merger or acquisition and requiring Scheme members to display the DPS membership sign on their electronic banking platforms.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202410/01/P2024092600533.htm>

Adaptation period for new regulation on disposable plastic products to end in two weeks

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) of the HKSAR Government noted on October 7 that the six-month adaptation period for the new regulation on disposable plastic products will conclude on October 21.

During the past five months of the adaptation period, the new regulation has successfully initiated a trend of waste reduction across various sectors including the catering sector, the retail and services sectors, and the hotel sector.

Hong Kong has implemented the new regulation since April 22 this year, aiming to reduce the use of disposable plastic tableware and other single-use plastic products at the source. This initiative seeks to mitigate the impact of plastic pollution on marine ecology and human health with a view to establishing a plastic-free culture and habit within society.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202410/07/P2024100700350.htm>

October 9, 2024



Giant panda naming and painting competitions launched

The two giant pandas nicknamed “An An” and “Ke Ke”, gifted by the Central Government to the HKSAR, arrived smoothly in Hong Kong on September 26 from Dujiangyan, Sichuan.

To welcome these two giant pandas to the Hong Kong family, the Culture, Sports and Tourism Bureau of the HKSAR Government and the Ocean Park Corporation co-organised the citywide Giant Panda Naming Competition, inviting all Hong Kong citizens to exercise creativity and suggest meaningful new names for the giant pandas that highlight their characteristics.

Besides, a large-scale painting competition was also launched inviting all citizens to vividly depict the adorable nature of the giant pandas through their artwork.

The two giant pandas are now undergoing a one-month quarantine period in Ocean Park, after which they will need approximately one month to adapt to their new environment, before meeting the public.

Click the following links for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202409/26/P2024092600435.htm>

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202410/02/P2024100200392.htm>

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HKETO Toronto Facebook Page www.facebook.com/TorontoHKETO

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/>

October 9, 2024



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