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RECENT ACTIVITY

Hong Kong's Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry visits Canada

The Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government, Professor Sun Dong, visited Canada from November 4 to 6 to enhance ties and cooperation between Hong Kong and Canada in the fields of innovation and technology (I&T). His visit included stops in Toronto, Ottawa and Waterloo where he engaged with local leaders, entrepreneurs, and academic institutions to explore opportunities for collaboration.

During his stay in Toronto, Professor Sun visited the MaRS Discovery District as well as the Centre for Analytics & Artificial Intelligence Engineering of the Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering at the University of Toronto. He also met with leaders of the local I&T industry including a start-up that provides storage and delivery services in North America.

In the evening, Professor Sun attended a networking dinner and had an exchange with the youth members of the Hong Kong-Canada Business Association (HKCBA) (Toronto Section) and Hong Kong young people studying in Toronto. He encouraged them to consider Hong Kong as an ideal destination for career development.

The following day, Professor Sun was in Ottawa to attend and deliver a keynote speech at the Seminar on Life Science and Global Health themed "Innovation · Inclusion · Impact" organised by the HKCBA (Ottawa Section) and Invest Hong Kong (InvestHK). He highlighted Hong Kong's strategic advantages in the development of life and health technologies, particularly the flagship InnoHK initiative which has built collaboration with more than 30 world-renowned universities and research institutes, including those in Canada, further positioning Hong Kong as a hub for cutting-edge research and innovation.

Professor Sun also met with the members of the Canada-Hong Kong Parliamentary Friendship Group, and Members of Parliament at the Parliament Building, as well as calling on the Chinese Ambassador to Canada, Mr Wang Di, discussing areas of mutual interests.

Professor Sun's trip culminated with a visit to the University of Waterloo, where he met with the President and other members of the university. He also toured the Institute for Quantum Computing and the School of Optometry and Vision Science, which has partnered with the Hong Kong Polytechnic University to set up a Centre for Eye and Vision Research in the Hong Kong Science and Technology Park under the HKSAR Government's InnoHK initiative.

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Professor Sun's visits highlighted the ongoing collaboration between Hong Kong and Canadian institutions in advancing research and transforming innovations.

Click the following links for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202411/05/P2024110500202.htm>

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202411/06/P2024110600228.htm>

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202411/07/P2024110700264.htm>

HKETO Director visits Vancouver to promote Hong Kong as an international financial centre and global hub for talents

The Director of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (Toronto) (HKETO), Ms Emily Mo, visited Vancouver from October 23 to 26 to promote Hong Kong's status as an international financial, shipping and trade centre, as well as a global hub for high-calibre talents.

In delivering the welcome address at the National Conference jointly hosted by the HKETO and the HKCBA on October 25, Ms Mo updated guests on the latest developments of Hong Kong and noted that the Fraser Institute of Canada recently ranked Hong Kong as the world's freest economy, surpassing over 160 other economies.

Ms Mo also highlighted that the Chief Executive of the HKSAR released his Policy Address 2024 announcing new measures to inject vitality into the city's economy and is exploring new growth areas. A reduction in import tax on liquor is expected to boost trade and foster the growth of high-value industries.

The HKCBA's National Conference, titled "Canada-Hong Kong: Forging a Bright Shared Future", aims to provide a valuable platform for exploring innovation, partnerships, and new opportunities in Hong Kong and the Asian markets. The event was attended by over 200 guests, with panelists coming from Hong Kong and various parts of Canada. Ms Mo also attended the HKCBA Reception in celebration of its 40th anniversary.

Earlier upon her arrival in Vancouver on October 23, Ms Mo attended and spoke at a themed seminar titled "Unlock Your Future: Career Opportunities in Hong Kong" co-hosted by the HKCBA (Vancouver Section) and the University of British Columbia (UBC)'s Sauder School of Business. The seminar was joined by a delegation from the Hong Kong Talent Engage, an office set up by the HKSAR Government to provide comprehensive one-stop support services for incoming talent to settle in and integrate into Hong Kong for long-term development.

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During her four-day visit, Ms Mo also met with members from the business sector and academia to exchange views on issues of mutual interest.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.hketotoronto.gov.hk/newsroom/hketo-director-visits-vancouver-to-promote-hong-kong-as-an-international-financial-centre-and-global-hub-for-talents.html>

Hong Kong movies and talent take centre stage in Montreal

Six Hong Kong movies were showcased in the “Making Waves - Navigators of Hong Kong Cinema” touring film programme in Montreal from October 24 to 26. The film festival was presented by the Hong Kong International Film Festival Society and supported by the Cultural and Creative Industries Development Agency and HKETO.

With the presence of Hong Kong actors Gordon Lam and Tai Bo as well as actresses Kuku So and Yoyo Tse, the HKETO hosted a reception on the opening night before the screening of “Rob N Roll” to kick off the programme on October 24. The reception was attended by about 100 guests from the local film, cultural and business sectors.

The three-day programme presented six Hong Kog productions, namely “Rob N Roll”, “Love Lies”, “Time Still Turns The Pages”, “All Shall Be Well”, “Fly Me To The Moon” and “For Alice”.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.hketotoronto.gov.hk/newsroom/hong-kong-movies-and-talent-take-centre-stage-in-montreal.html>

HONG KONG NEWS

Measures launched to enhance Top Talent Pass Scheme and Quality Migrant Admission Scheme

The HKSAR Government on November 1 launched three measures to enhance the Top Talent Pass Scheme (TTPS) and the Quality Migrant Admission Scheme (QMAS), including:

- (1) The expansion of the list of eligible universities under the TTPS to further broaden the network for attracting more top talent worldwide - 13 top Mainland and overseas universities/institutions are added to the list of eligible universities under the TTPS, making a total of 198 eligible schools.
- (2) The extension of the validity period of the first visas of Category A applications under the TTPS (those with an annual income reaching HK\$2.5 million or above)

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to three years - For the validity period of the applicants with approval given from October 16, their first visa has been extended from two years to three years to facilitate their early planning to move to Hong Kong with their families.

- (3) The enhancement of the assessment criteria and arrangements of the General Points Test under the QMAS - the HKSAR Government has enhanced the General Points Test under the QMAS by adopting a more objective and clear scoring criteria, and streamlining the application and selection process.

Since the implementation of the new talent admission regime at the end of 2022, over 380 000 applications have been received, with nearly 240 000 applications approved. Around 160 000 people of talent have arrived in Hong Kong with their families.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202411/01/P2024110100288.htm>

StartmeupHK Festival 2024

The StartmeupHK Festival 2024 was successfully concluded on October 25, following an exciting week filled with engaging events, networking opportunities, and pitch competitions. Under the theme “A Future Unlimited”, the Festival featured a range of hot topics in the tech sector in particular, including artificial intelligence (AI), web3, GameFi, responsible tech, healthtech, sustainability, and more.

The Festival also showcased innovative pitching formats that connected startups with investors, and a wide range of community events that fostered meaningful discussions among investors and startup founders.

The flagship startup event set the stage for over 200 visionary speakers and attracted over 3 400 participants, including industry leaders, entrepreneurs, investors, tech enthusiasts, and government officials from 49 territories. The Festival also welcomed six delegations from Canada, Mainland China, India, the Philippines, Thailand and the United Kingdom, highlighting the diversity of Hong Kong’s international start-up ecosystem.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202411/05/P2024110500528.htm>

Hong Kong FinTech Week 2024

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) on October 28 co-organised Hong Kong FinTech Week 2024 with InvestHK. The ninth edition of the city's flagship fintech event has attracted global participants to share innovative ideas, exchange fintech experiences and forge valuable business partnerships.

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In his opening keynote, the Chief Executive of the HKMA, Mr Eddie Yue, highlighted the importance of embracing the digital frontier to drive the next phase of financial innovation. The HKMA also announced the initiatives to spearhead the journey of fintech development in Hong Kong, including:

- accelerating asset tokenisation
- breaking down boundaries for payment
- unlocking data potential
- empowering banks to go fintech

Mr Yue said that Hong Kong’s ecosystem has experienced remarkable growth and development in various aspects, with ongoing innovation consistently reshaping the fintech landscape. HKMA is committed to fully unlocking the potential of fintech and leveraging its power to drive sustainable growth within the ecosystem.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202410/28/P2024102800291.htm>

InnoCarnival 2024 showcases I&T achievements to propel future development

Organised by the Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC), InnoCarnival 2024 (IC 2024) was held from October 26 to November 3 at the Hong Kong Science Park. Under the theme “Let’s Sail with Innovation and Technology”, this year’s carnival features a number of exhibits of local innovation and technology (I&T) achievements.

The Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups and the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation are campaign partners of IC 2024. The event received support from over 75 programme partners, including local universities, R&D centres and platforms, government departments and other organisations, which have set up booths at the Hong Kong Science Park, showcasing a series of I&T achievements and interactive games. Also, a diverse line-up of about 150 workshops and webinars across various subjects will be available during the carnival, with the aim of showing the public the importance of I&T in people’s daily lives.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202410/26/P2024102600495.htm>

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Preview of Hong Kong Fashion Fest

The Hong Kong Fashion Fest Preview took place at Asia Society Hong Kong Center on October 24 to raise the curtain on the inaugural Hong Kong Fashion Design Week set to take place between November 20 and December 4 in venues spanning various cultural landmarks and iconic design and fashion locations in Hong Kong.

It is anticipated that the Fest will attract over 150 000 participants from the fashion design industries and the public, representing more than 15 countries and regions, to foster collaboration between Hong Kong's fashion design sector and the global market.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202410/24/P2024102400189.htm>

Mainland and Japanese companies expand businesses in Hong Kong

InvestHK announced on October 28 that DeepTrin, an artificial intelligence (AI) cloud graphics processing unit (GPU) platform from the Mainland China, has established its regional headquarters in Hong Kong, aiming to leverage the city's advantages to build a core research and development (R&D) team and raise the brand's influence in the Asia-Pacific market.

DeepTrin is an AI cloud GPU platform with a globally distributed GPU network. Customers can access usage-based computing services tailored to their business needs for tasks such as large model training for generative AI.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202410/28/P2024102500310.htm>

In addition, Japanese doughnut chain Mister Donut officially opened its first store in Hong Kong on October 26, bringing the popular donut brand to the city as part of its overseas expansion plan in the region.

The new store is located in an art shopping mall in Tsim Sha Tsui, offering a wide range of popular donuts made with the same quality ingredients as in Japan. Its signature donut is the Pon de Ring which is loved both in Japan and abroad for its soft, airy and chewy texture.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202410/26/P2024102300453.htm>

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Hong Kong and Mainland experts jointly study first discovery of dinosaur fossils in Hong Kong

The Development Bureau (DEVB) of the HKSAR Government and the Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology (IVPP) of the Chinese Academy of Sciences on October 23 signed the Framework Agreement on Deepening Exchange and Collaboration regarding Stratigraphy, Palaeontology and Prehistoric Sites. The study of dinosaur fossils discovered on Port Island in the Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark is the inaugural project under the Framework Agreement.

Dinosaur fossils were discovered for the first time in Hong Kong. The discovery is of great significance and provides new evidence for research on paleoecology in Hong Kong. It was initially confirmed that the fossils dated to the Cretaceous period (about 145 million to 66 million years ago). Further studies will have to be conducted to confirm the species of the dinosaur.

The Antiquities and Monuments Office of the DEVB and the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, together with the IVPP, will jointly take forward the study of dinosaur fossils, including excavation of the fossils on Port Island and preparation of the fossils. They will also collaborate with universities in Hong Kong and other places to conduct scientific research, and construct the story of dinosaurs in Hong Kong.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202410/23/P2024102300491.htm>

Import of poultry meat and products from areas in Canada suspended

The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department of the HKSAR Government announced on November 5 that in view of notifications from the World Organisation for Animal Health about outbreaks of highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza in Rural Municipality of Willner No. 253 of Saskatchewan Province in Canada, the CFS has instructed the trade to suspend the import of poultry meat and products (including poultry eggs) from the area with immediate effect to protect public health in Hong Kong.

According to the Census and Statistics Department, Hong Kong imported about 370 tonnes of frozen poultry meat from Canada in the first nine months of this year.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202411/05/P2024110500357.htm>

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