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## **HONG KONG NEWS**

### **Update on postal services to Canada**

Hongkong Post announced on November 27 that the postal administration of Canada requested to stop sending all mail items to Canada due to postal workers' strike. Hongkong Post has suspended all postal services to Canada with immediate effect until further notice.

Hongkong Post will continue to work closely with the postal administration of Canada for resumption of services as soon as possible.

For enquiries, please contact Hongkong Post at (852) 2921 2222.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202411/27/P2024112700163.htm>

### **First International Ombudsman Summit successfully convened in Hong Kong**

The inaugural International Ombudsman Summit 2024 with the theme of "Ombudsman in a Changing World: Learning from the Past; Preparing for the Future" hosted by the Office of the Ombudsman of Hong Kong officially opened in the Hong Kong Palace Museum, West Kowloon Cultural District on December 3. The Summit aims to foster meaningful discussions, closer international co-operation and exchange of insights at global level.

Speaking at the Anniversary Reception, the Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) John Lee commended the Office of the Ombudsman of Hong Kong for working tirelessly to ensure a fair, efficient and accountable public administration in Hong Kong. Furthermore, Mr Lee was pleased to see the Office's global presence.

The Summit has received an overwhelming response from ombudsmen and institutions worldwide and representatives from international bodies. Around 140 overseas and Mainland participants from about 40 countries and regions across six continents attended the event. The International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, the Office of European Union to Hong Kong and Macao, the Badan Arbitrase Nasional Indonesia Arbitration Centre and the Institution of the Mediator of the Kingdom of Morocco are among those international bodies.

On the day following the Summit and the 35th Anniversary Reception, overseas guests joined an array of social and cultural programmes arranged by the Office. These activities

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provide excellent opportunities for them to experience the exceptional charm of Hong Kong and its vitality and vibrancy as a dynamic city.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202412/03/P2024120300280.htm>

### **11<sup>th</sup> Asia and Pacific Regional Conference of the International Association of Prosecutors commences in Hong Kong**

The 11<sup>th</sup> Asia and Pacific Regional Conference of the International Association of Prosecutors (IAP), co-hosted by the IAP and the Department of Justice of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), officially commenced on November 28 in Hong Kong, gathering around 240 participants, including local and overseas esteemed guests, senior government officials, legal professionals and experts, for the opening ceremony.

The conference themed “Effective Prosecution Service in the Technological Age” covered a range of pertinent topics, including the challenges posed by decentralisation in the technological age, the handling of digital evidence, and the impact of technological advancements on criminal evidence and procedure. Prosecutors at home and abroad had the opportunity to exchange views and best practices, fostering a united and determined front against technology crime.

The three-day conference has drawn about 140 participants from around 30 jurisdictions, underscoring the global commitment to combating technology crimes. The conference aims to address the challenges posed by the rapid evolution of technology in criminal activities and to enhance the ability of prosecutors to advance evidence against such criminals.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202411/28/P2024112800393.htm>

### **HKSARG warmly welcomes Central Government’s resumption and expansion of multiple-entry Individual Visit Scheme for Shenzhen**

The HKSAR Government on November 29 warmly welcomes the Central Government’s support in resuming the multiple-entry Individual Visit Scheme (IVS) for Shenzhen permanent residents and implementing a new arrangement to expand the multiple-entry IVS to Shenzhen residence permit holders.

Starting from December 1, eligible individuals will be expanded from Shenzhen permanent residents to Shenzhen non-permanent residents holding residence permits. According to published statistics, the resumption and expansion of the multiple-entry IVS

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for Shenzhen residents will increase the number of Shenzhen residents eligible for the multiple-entry IVS to over 10 million, enabling them to visit Hong Kong more conveniently and freely and experience Hong Kong's diverse and vibrant tourism activities throughout the year, benefitting various tourism-related industries such as retail and catering.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202411/29/P2024112900305.htm>

### **CSTB announces series of giant panda promotion activities**

Since the arrival of another pair of giant pandas, An An and Ke Ke (their current names), gifted by the Central Government to the HKSAR, a craze for giant pandas has sparked across the city.

In order to create a joyful atmosphere for welcoming the giant pandas, the Culture, Sports and Tourism Bureau (CSTB) of the HKSAR Government, jointly with the Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTB) and Ocean Park Hong Kong, will collaborate with various sectors in Hong Kong to organise a series of promotional activities themed "Come and Enjoy a Pandastic Hong Kong". The new Hong Kong giant panda family will serve as Hong Kong's tourism ambassadors in promoting local tourism experiences in Hong Kong, attracting visitors from all over the world to Hong Kong and driving tourism development.

One of the key events is the HELLO PANDAS Carnival to be held from December 11 to 21 at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre Piazzas. Another large-scale event PANDA GO! FEST HK, a giant panda roving exhibition, will be staged starting from December 7. In addition, the CSTB and the HKTB will also produce a new television promotional video, in which the giant panda family and their friends will experience four unique tours in Hong Kong.

In addition, the CSTB and Ocean Park will hold on December 7 a greeting ceremony for the two giant pandas, An An and Ke Ke, who will also meet and greet the public on the following day at Hong Kong Jockey Club Sichuan Treasures in Ocean Park.

Click the following links for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202411/23/P2024112300242.htm>

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202411/27/P2024112700466.htm>

### **Japanese stores open in Hong Kong**

Invest Hong Kong announced that Japanese handcrafted eyewear brand, Kaneko Optical, has opened its first directly managed store in Hong Kong on November 30, offering high-end Japanese craftsmanship and genuine handmade eyewear to customers in the city.

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Founded in 1958 as an eyeglass wholesaler, Kaneko Optical has become a recognised trendsetter in the Japanese eyewear industry. With its own planning, design, and sales of eyewear brands, it actively collaborates with major collections and apparel manufacturers to create original brands.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202411/29/P2024112700528.htm>

In addition, the renowned Japanese unagi (eel) specialty restaurant, Unagi Yondaime Kikukawa, has officially launched its first store in Causeway Bay. The restaurant aims to leverage Hong Kong as part of its Asia expansion plan to promote Japanese culinary culture.

Established in 1932, Unagi Yondaime Kikukawa boasts a rich history in eel wholesaling and cuisine. The chain gained fame for its signature dish of freshly grilled eel, perfectly paired with rice and a signature sauce. The brand has opened locations in Taiwan, Thailand, South Korea, and other regions, with its Hong Kong office serving as the regional headquarters for East Asia.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202412/02/P2024120100587.htm>

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

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