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HONG KONG NEWS

11th Transpacific Entrepreneurial Conference

Presented jointly by the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong and the Hong Kong-Canada Business Association (HKCBA), the 11th Transpacific Entrepreneurial Conference, will be held on January 15 (HKT) in hybrid in-person and virtual mode. Themed “The Pursuit of the Next Decade: TransPacific Collaboration - Hong Kong SuperConnecting Asia and Canada”, the conference will center on new growth strategies in various industries including Sustainability, Renewable Energy, Transition, Infrastructure and Finance, Health Care, Wealth management and Clean Tech. It will also feature success stories of innovative solutions, best practices, and support for businesses, focusing on advanced technology, new investment, wealth planning, and healthy living in Hong Kong. The Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (Toronto) (HKETO) is a sponsor of the event. For further details, please visit:

<https://canchamhk.glueup.com/event/11th-transpacific-entrepreneurial-conference-117468/>

HKCBA Annual Lunar New Year Galas 2025

The HKCBA (Toronto Section) will organize the 2025 annual Lunar New Year Gala on February 15. Activities include traditional Chinese games, lion dance, band performance, silent auction, etc. Grand prize draw is two round trip premium economy tickets between Toronto and Hong Kong donated by Cathay Pacific Airways. The HKETO is a sponsor of the event. For details, please visit:

<https://toronto.hkcba.com/cpages/home>

In addition, the HKCBA’s Montreal, Vancouver and Calgary Sections will also host the 2025 annual Lunar New Year galas on February 5-7 respectively. Participants can enjoy a festive meal and be dazzled by performances and guest speakers. The event in Calgary will also host an award ceremony honouring HKCBA Calgary Scholarship winners. The HKETO is a major sponsor of the galas. For details, please visit:

https://www.hkcba.com/event_list?current_page=1&sort_type=upcoming&filter%5Bperiod%5D=all&display_type=default

HONG KONG NEWS

Resumption of postal services to Canada

Hongkong Post announced on December 18 that, as advised by the postal administration of Canada, acceptance of mail items to Canada will resume from December 23. Hongkong Post will resume all postal services to Canada on the same day. However,

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serious delays can be expected due to a mail backlog arising from a previous postal workers' strike.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202412/18/P2024121800219.htm>

Record high numbers of companies and start-ups affirm Hong Kong's increasing attractiveness to businesses

According to the results of the 2024 Annual Survey of Companies in Hong Kong with Parent Companies Located outside Hong Kong (2024 Annual Survey) and the 2024 Startup Survey, released by the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government on December 17, the number of companies in Hong Kong with overseas or Mainland parent companies, as well as start-ups, reached record highs.

According to the 2024 Annual Survey jointly conducted by Invest Hong Kong (InvestHK) and the Census and Statistics Department (CSD) of the HKSAR Government, there were 9 960 companies in Hong Kong with parent companies located outside Hong Kong in 2024, representing an increase of 10 per cent when compared with that of last year. The number of people employed reached 493 000, recording an increase of five per cent year on year.

Analysed by major line of business in Hong Kong in 2024, among those 9 960 companies, the import/export trade, wholesale and retail sector topped the list, followed by the financing and banking sector and the professional, business and education services sectors.

In addition, according to the results of InvestHK's 2024 Startup Survey, start-ups in Hong Kong continued to flourish with a record high number of 4 694, up by 10 per cent from last year, fully illustrating the attractiveness of Hong Kong to start-up founders. These start-ups spanned across different sectors, such as financial technology; information, computer and technology; electronic commerce; education and learning; and data analytics, etc. Notably, the number of start-ups in the health and medical sector as well as the sustainable technology/green technology sector recorded significant year-on-year increases of 54 per cent and 82 per cent respectively.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202412/17/P2024121700178.htm>

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Expansion of one-stop dataset of physical banking facilities of retail banks in Hong Kong

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) announced on December 9 that an additional spatial dataset is made available via Open Application Programming Interface (API) for public use. The relevant datasets are available for download from the HKMA's Open API portal.

The new dataset provides information on five types of self-service banking machines of 20 retail banks in Hong Kong, covering cash deposit machines, cheque deposit machines, integrated cash and cheque deposit machines, passbook update machines, as well as video teller machines. Together with the two datasets launched last year, the HKMA's website now provides a total of three one-stop datasets of physical banking facilities of retail banks.

Furthermore, the two existing datasets of physical branches and Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) have also been enriched with more information to make the database more comprehensive, such as the availability of barrier-free measures at branches as well as the currencies available for deposit and withdrawal through the ATMs.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202412/09/P2024120900191.htm>

Immigration Department introduces self-application services for Hong Kong identity cards

The Immigration Department of the HKSAR Government on December 12 announced that the services of the Personal Documentation Submission Kiosks (PDSKs) have been enhanced by introducing self-application services for Hong Kong identity cards (HKICs).

Eligible applicants can complete the HKIC application procedures in a self-service manner and can apply for HKICs and HKSAR passports in one go through the PDSKs. The new services will further automate and digitalise the application and collection procedures for personal documentation, thereby providing more convenient services to members of the public.

The PDSKs are set up at the Immigration Headquarters in Tseung Kwan O. Eligible applicants can complete the application procedures, including electronic form filling and signing, photo taking, fingerprints taking and application submission, at the PDSKs in a self-service manner. The services provided by the PDSKs are appointment-free.

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Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202412/12/P2024121200559.htm>

Philippine Kho family establishes family office in Hong Kong

InvestHK announced on December 10 that the Kho family from the Philippines, who established The Kho Group (TKG), has set up a family office in Hong Kong. This demonstrates Hong Kong's position as the leading hub for family offices.

Since its establishment by the Kho family in 1983, TKG has accumulated more than 40 years of diversified investment experience in Mainland China and Southeast Asia and has become one of the early overseas Chinese companies to make overseas investments. TKG mainly covers five businesses, namely the supply of natural resources, shipping business, land and property development, high-end retail, and investment management.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202412/10/P2024121000224.htm>

Mainland beef hotpot chain raises brand awareness via Hong Kong

InvestHK announced on December 5 that the Mainland hotpot chain Baheli Beef Hotpot has opened its first store in Hong Kong, leveraging the city's status as an international business hub to raise its brand awareness globally.

Baheli Beef Hotpot, which originated in Shantou, currently operates over 200 stores across Mainland China. The group has established its own supply chain management system to maintain high-quality standards in beef processing. The Hong Kong office will handle daily operations and supply chain management for the stores in Hong Kong.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202412/05/P2024120500409.htm>

The West Kowloon Cultural District Christmas Market fully opens in Hong Kong

As the festive season approaches, the West Kowloon Cultural District (WestK) Christmas Market fully opens for visitors to explore the diverse and delectable festive foods and holiday gifts at Hong Kong's largest and most diverse Christmas celebration at the [WestK Christmas Fest](#).

The WestK Christmas Market is extended to around 30 specialty stalls across Harbourside East Lawn and Harbourside Deck outside M+ in the Art Park. The market offers a delightful array of international culinary treats, festive delicacies, and a wide

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selection of holiday gifts. Surrounded by the stunning views of the WestK Art Park's picturesque Victoria Harbour view and lush lawn, visitors can immerse themselves into the dazzling display of lights and enjoy live music and performances in the holiday season.

In addition to the market, the Art Park becomes the highlight of WestK's celebration with the unmissable [Hong Kong WinterFest](#) presented by Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTB) at Harbourside West Lawn of the Art Park until January 1, 2025. HKTB's bigger-than-ever Christmas Town features a 20-metre giant sparkling Christmas tree with a debut of a giant canvas, beaming out light projections of seasonal festivities. From 24 to 26 December 2024, spectacular Winter Harbourfront Pyrotechnics displays ignite festive spirit with dazzling celebrations in the sky bursting with joy. For highlights of the WestK Christmas Fest, please visit

https://www.westk.hk/en/events/hong-kong-winterfest-christmas-town?promotion_id=whats_on&item_id=hong-kong-winterfest-christmas-town&index=1&tab=overview

HKSAR delegation wins record-breaking eight Winners Awards at APICTA Awards 2024

The HKSAR delegation achieved remarkable results at the Asia Pacific Information and Communications Technology Alliance (APICTA) Awards 2024, held in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei from December 4 to 7. The delegation once again ranked first among the 15 participating economies, bagging a total of eight Winner Awards, four First Runner-up Awards, three Second Runner-up Awards and three Merit Awards.

The annual APICTA Awards is hosted in rotation by member economies, with the goal of identifying and recognising ICT innovations, promoting the development of ICT talents, products and solutions, as well as technology and knowledge sharing among the member economies.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202412/08/P2024120800602.htm>

SCST congratulates Siobhan Bernadette Haughey on winning gold medal

The Secretary for Culture, Sports and Tourism of the HKSAR Government, Miss Rosanna Law, on December 16 extended her congratulations to Hong Kong, China swimming athlete Siobhan Bernadette Haughey on winning a gold medal in the Women's 200m Freestyle at the World Aquatics Swimming Championships (25m) Budapest 2024.

Ms Haughey once again triumphed in an international competition following her outstanding performance at the Paris Olympic Games this year. Not only did she display

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her extraordinary capabilities, but she also let Hong Kong athletes come into the world's spotlight.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202412/16/P2024121600064.htm>

International study shows Hong Kong students' outstanding performance in mathematics and science

The results of the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) 2023 were announced on December 4. The overall performance of Hong Kong students far exceeded the international average, showcasing their outstanding achievements.

Hong Kong students maintained a consistently high level of performance in mathematics. The Primary Four (P4) students ranked fourth with a score of 594, which significantly surpassed the international average of 503. The Secondary Two (S2) students maintained the fifth place with a score of 575, notably exceeding the international average of 478.

Significant progress was also seen among Hong Kong students in science, with P4 and S2 students showing a marked rise from 15th and 17th in the previous cycle to ninth and eighth in this cycle, scoring 545 and 528 respectively, significantly surpassing the international average of 494 and 478.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202412/04/P2024120400235.htm>

Hong Kong team achieves excellent results at International Junior Science Olympiad

A team of six students representing Hong Kong achieved outstanding results in the 21st International Junior Science Olympiad (IJSO 2024), winning a total of two gold and four silver medals.

The IJSO is a science competition for secondary students aged 15 or below. The competition, covering physics, chemistry and biology up to the senior secondary level, comprises written assessments and science experiments that require students to analyse and solve unfamiliar problems. The IJSO 2024 was held in Romania from December 2 to 12 with the participation of around 300 contestants from 52 countries or regions.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202412/13/P2024121300183.htm>

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Import of poultry meat and products from Rural Municipality of Portage la Prairie of Manitoba Province in Canada suspended

The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department of the HKSAR Government announced on December 9 that in view of a notification from the World Organisation for Animal Health about an outbreak of highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza in the Rural Municipality of Portage la Prairie of Manitoba 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.

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/202412/09/P2024120900403.htm>

Media partnership to promote Hong Kong as the global sports event hub

In partnership with the Information Services Department of the HKSAR Government, Euronews has produced a five-minute TV segment to highlight Hong Kong's role as a major global and regional sports event hub.

Title: How Hong Kong's Kai Tak Sports Park is transforming the city into a global entertainment hub

English version: <https://www.euronews.com/2024/12/03/how-hong-kongs-kai-tak-sports-park-is-transforming-the-city-into-a-global-entertainment-hu>

French version: <https://fr.euronews.com/2024/12/03/comment-kai-tak-sports-park-a-hong-kong-transforme-la-ville-en-un-centre-mondial-du-divert>

Interviewees:

Ms Chong Ka Yan, Rugby player, Hong Kong Women's Rugby Team

Mr John Sharkey, Project Director, Kai Tak Sports Park

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