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UPCOMING EVENTS

2025 ACCE Chinese Canadian Entrepreneur Awards Gala

Hosted by the Association of Chinese Canadian Entrepreneurs (ACCE), the annual ACCE Awards Gala will be held on April 12. The event not only provides a platform to recognize Chinese Canadian entrepreneurs who have made contribution to Canada, but also serves to foster the spirit of entrepreneurship, innovation and corporate citizenship. The Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (Toronto) (HKETO) is the sponsor of ACCE's Best Asia Pacific Business Award, which acknowledges the accomplishments of the Chinese Canadian entrepreneurs who have developed their businesses successfully in the Asia Pacific region through Hong Kong. For details, please visit:

<https://www.acce.ca/new/2025-acce-chinese-canadian-entrepreneur-awards/>

Chinese Arts & Literary Festival by CCC

The Chinese Arts and Literary Festival, organized by the Chinese Cultural Centre of Greater Toronto with HKETO as one of the sponsors, will be held from April 5 to 20. The festival aims to deepen participating students' understanding of Chinese cultural heritage, promote appreciation and respect for cultural diversity. There are four categories of competitions, namely recital, painting, calligraphy and Chinese musical instruments. The Awards Ceremony will be hosted on May 31. For details, please visit:

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

RECENT ACTIVITIES

Canadian businesses encouraged to “Think Asia, Think Hong Kong” at roundtable discussion

The HKETO co-organized a roundtable discussion entitled “Think Asia, Think Hong Kong” with the Hong Kong-Canada Business Association (HKCBA) (Toronto Section), the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC) and Invest Hong Kong (InvestHK) in Canada on March 27. The event brought together Canadian business leaders, policymakers and trade experts to explore the vast opportunities Hong Kong offers for overseas businesses to tap into Asian markets.

In delivering opening remarks at the event, the Acting Director of the HKETO, Mr Gavin Yeung, highlighted Hong Kong's economic strength as one of the most open and competitive economies in the world, adding that the Global Financial Centres Index recently reaffirmed Hong Kong's standing as the third top financial center globally and first in the Asia-Pacific region.

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He also shared about Hong Kong's unique role in the region including the strong economic ties with Mainland China as well as the ASEAN region. He also stressed that Hong Kong's unique role in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area further solidifies its position as a vital hub for trade and investment.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.hketotoronto.gov.hk/newsroom/canadian-businesses-encouraged-to-think-asia-think-hong-kong-at-roundtable-discussion.html>

HKETO Acting Director promotes Hong Kong's strengths in healthcare development

Acting Director of the HKETO, Mr Gavin Yeung, briefed Canadian healthcare professionals and investors on Hong Kong's strengths and latest developments in healthcare infrastructure at a webinar co-organised by HKTDC in Canada, InvestHK in Canada, and HKCBA (Ottawa Section) on March 20.

In his opening remarks, Mr Yeung highlighted Hong Kong's rapid development and advantages in the field of innovation and technology. He said that Hong Kong is the only city in Asia with five "Top 100 universities". Together with two of the world's top 40 medical schools, Hong Kong boasts world-leading research and development capabilities, offering the city significant advantages in developing life and health technologies.

Looking ahead, Hong Kong will continue to leverage its unique advantages under the "one country, two systems" and develop into an international innovation and technology centre, as well as a health and medical innovation hub in the Asia-Pacific region. Participants were encouraged to join a Canadian healthcare delegation to Hong Kong for the Asia Summit on Global Health and the Hong Kong International Medical and Healthcare Fair in May.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.hketotoronto.gov.hk/newsroom/hketo-acting-director-promotes-hong-kongs-strengths-in-healthcare-development.html>

HONG KONG NEWS

Hong Kong maintains third place globally with higher rating in Global Financial Centres Index

The Global Financial Centres Index (GFCI) 37 Report, published on March 20 by Z/Yen from the United Kingdom and the China Development Institute from Shenzhen, revealed that Hong Kong maintained third place globally, with the overall rating increasing by 11

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points to 760, slightly closing the gap in rating with first place. Hong Kong also continued to rank first in the Asia Pacific.

Hong Kong's rankings in the areas of "human capital", "infrastructure", and "financial sector development" rose to second in the world, while rankings in "business environment" and "reputational and general" rose to third globally. The city also ranked among the top in various financial industry sectors. Among these, Hong Kong ranked first globally in "investment management", "insurance" and "finance", and ranked third globally in "banking". In addition, the report assessed the financial centres' fintech offering, and Hong Kong's ranking leapt further by five places to fourth in the world.

A spokesman for the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government said that the report fully recognises Hong Kong's leading status and strengths as an international financial centre.

The GFCI Report has been released every March and September since 2007. In GFCI 37, 119 financial centres were assessed, and Hong Kong ranked third globally with an overall rating of 760.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202503/20/P2025032000391.htm>

CE attends Boao Forum annual conference in Hainan

The Chief Executive of the HKSAR, Mr John Lee, attended the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2025 themed "Asia in the Changing World: Towards a Shared Future" in Hainan from March 25 to 27.

Addressing the Global Free Trade Port Development Forum on March 25 and the Opening Plenary on March 27 at the Boao Forum, Mr Lee said that Hong Kong, as an international financial, shipping, and trade centre, enjoys a strategic location and world-class connectivity, championing free and multilateral trade. Under the principle of "one country, two systems", Hong Kong is the only world city that combines the China advantage with the global advantage. It boasts a long tradition of the rule of law and has an established common law regime that aligns with major global financial hubs.

During his visit, Mr Lee also witnessed the signing of the Memoranda of Cooperation between the HKSAR Government and the People's Government of Hainan Province on March 26 on deepening co-operation in five areas, namely trade and investment, finance, safe flow of data, tourism, and talent exchanges.

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Click the following links for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202503/25/P2025032500500.htm>

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202503/26/P2025032600554.htm>

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202503/26/P2025032600555.htm>

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202503/27/P2025032700491.htm>

Wealth for Good in Hong Kong Summit 2025 reinforces city's role as global family office hub

The Wealth for Good in Hong Kong Summit (WGHK), which has brought to Hong Kong some 360 influential global family office principals, visionary leaders and industry pioneers, concluded on March 26. Themed “Hong Kong of the World, for the World”, the event demonstrated Hong Kong’s unparalleled strengths as a bridge between East and West, where innovation, investment, and cross-cultural collaboration flourish.

Co-organised by the Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau (FSTB) of the HKSAR Government and InvestHK, the third edition of the Summit delivered an influential platform for collaboration and innovation and drew global decision-makers from regions including Asia, Europe, the Americas, the Middle East and Africa to engage in interactive discussions exploring how wealth can drive social progress and sustainable impact.

The WGHK featured a distinguished lineup of international speakers who shared insights on the transformative power of wealth. Through insightful sharing of speakers on three sub-themes at panel discussions, participants delved into the evolving landscape of art, culture and luxury, the strategic delivery of impact philanthropy, and the expanding role of technology and artificial intelligence in driving sustainable wealth creation. There was also a fireside chat discussing on the theme “Crafting Success Across Continents and Industries”.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202503/26/P2025032600606.htm>

Hong Kong Family Office Nexus Digital Knowledge Hub launched to foster growth and success of family offices in Hong Kong

The Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury of the HKSAR Government, Mr Christopher Hui, launched at the inaugural Bloomberg Family Office Summit on March 27 the Hong Kong Family Office Nexus Digital Knowledge Hub for family offices as part of the Hong Kong Family Office Nexus initiative. Mr Hui said that this new digital platform helps family offices remain at the forefront of wealth management innovation, and enables them to thrive in Hong Kong, where private wealth meets opportunities in Asia.

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The Hong Kong Family Office Nexus is an initiative announced last October. The FSTB, InvestHK, the Hong Kong Academy for Wealth Legacy and Bloomberg LP have joined forces to deliver a series of projects and resources to support Hong Kong's family office sector. The Digital Knowledge Hub is a go-to resource dedicated for family offices in Hong Kong and around the world, bringing them the latest information covering community building, knowledge sharing, technology support and philanthropic collaboration.

At the same summit, Mr Hui also joined an exclusive discussion for leading family offices to present to them how they can leverage Hong Kong's professional services and philanthropy network to bring social impacts.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202503/27/P2025032700227.htm>

Jadewell Family Office uses Hong Kong as headquarters to offer wealth management services

InvestHK announced on March 27 that an independent wealth management advisor, Jadewell Family Office, has officially opened its headquarters in Hong Kong, leveraging the city's robust financial ecosystem and dynamic growth of the family office sector to offer one-stop-shop financial advice to its clients.

Founded in 2024, Jadewell Family Office aims to address the significant needs of affluent clients seeking comprehensive and conflict-free investment advisory services. It is a licensed corporation under the Hong Kong Securities and Futures Commission, holding Type 4 (Advising on Securities) and Type 9 (Asset Management) licenses, dedicated to serving professional investors.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202503/27/P2025032500429.htm>

International companies set up or expand operation in Hong Kong

A leading France-based professional aeronautic services company, Elior Group SA, announced on March 21 its intention to strengthen presence in Hong Kong. It had signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Airport Authority Hong Kong, as an important step in expanding its business in Asia.

Elior Group SA is a leading overseas professional aeronautic services company operating a wide range of businesses across 11 countries with industries including aviation, construction and food contracting services.

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Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202503/21/P2025032000507.htm>

In addition, InvestHK announced on March 24 that a leading supply chain solutions and logistics service provider from Mainland China, JD Logistics (also known as JINGDONG Logistics), has opened a new operations centre in Hong Kong, spanning over 10 000 square feet, to further expand in the city and meet the growing demand for logistics services in the region.

Since its service upgrade in Hong Kong, JD Logistics has established its fifth operations centre in Chai Wan, with an area of over 10 000 sq ft. Equipped with automated sorting equipment, the efficiency of the operations centre is expected to double.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202503/24/P2025032100402.htm>

Hong Kong Environmental Database wins international innovation award

The Hong Kong Environmental Database (HKED), developed by the Environmental Protection Department of the HKSAR Government, has been awarded the International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA) 2025 “Corporate Initiative Award”. The recognition highlights the Government’s efforts and achievements in leveraging innovative technology to support the environmental impact assessment (EIA) process.

The HKED utilises geographic information system and three dimensional mapping platforms to integrate over 100 types of environmental baseline survey data, significantly reducing the data collection time for preparing EIA reports. Since its launch, more than 100 EIA and planning projects have benefited from the application of the HKED.

The IAIA’s Corporate Initiative Award honours outstanding individuals or institutions that have made significant contributions to EIA, management or policy practice. The award ceremony will be held on May 1 at the 44th IAIA’s Annual Conference in Bologna, Italy.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202503/26/P2025032500468.htm>

Enhanced e-Channel service arrangements for Hong Kong residents

The Immigration Department (ImmD) of the HKSAR Government announced that, with effect from March 31, the eligible age for Hong Kong permanent residents holding a smart identity card to use the e-Channel service has been adjusted to seven years old or above.

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The ImmD has been making good use of technology and adopting various measures to optimise the service quality and enhance the handling capacity of control points. Eligible Hong Kong permanent residents aged seven to ten years old, who are at least 1.1 metres tall and hold a smart identity card and a valid HKSAR Passport, can use the e-Channels without prior enrolment for self-service immigration clearance via face recognition technology at all control points.

For details of the e-Channel service, please visit www.immd.gov.hk/eng/mec.html.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202503/27/P2025032700354.htm>

Import of poultry meat and products from an area in Canada suspended

The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department of the HKSAR Government announced on March 25 that in view of a notification from the World Organisation for Animal Health about an outbreak of highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza in the Township of Enniskillen of Ontario 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.

A CFS spokesman said that according to the Census and Statistics Department, Hong Kong imported about 400 tonnes of frozen poultry meat from Canada last year.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202503/25/P2025032500295.htm>

New round of applications for Common Recruitment Examination opens

A new round of the Common Recruitment Examination (CRE) has opened for application. Prospective applicants for civil service posts at the degree or professional level should apply through the online application system on the Civil Service Bureau (CSB) webpage before the deadline of 11.59pm on April 11 (Hong Kong time).

Persons planning to apply for civil service posts at the degree or professional level in the near future are required to have valid CRE results and should make use of the opportunity to take part in this round of examination, tentatively scheduled to be held on June 7.

The pool of eligible candidates for civil service jobs requiring an undergraduate degree has been expanded to students in their third year of undergraduate studies (in a four-year curriculum).

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The CSB will soon launch a digitalised Basic Law and National Security Law Test (Degree/Professional Grades) (BLNST) providing a digitalised examination service at a fixed test centre so that candidates can take the test throughout the year rather than on designated test dates. Details of the implementation of the digitalised BLNST will be announced in the second quarter of 2025.

The application details about the new round of the CRE can be found at www.csb.gov.hk/eng/cre.html.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202503/28/P2025032800245.htm>

Special business and culture guide to Hong Kong: Monocle

In partnership with the Information Services Department of the HKSAR Government, Monocle has published a special business and culture guide to Hong Kong in its March issue.

Title: Come together - Hong Kong: the world's hub for culture and commerce

Interviewees:

- Richard Breslin, Design Lead, Populous
- Elaine Ng, Founder, The Fabrick Lab
- Girish Jhunjhunwala, Chief Executive Officer, Ovolo Hotels
- Daisy Wang, Deputy Director of Curatorial, Collection and Programming, Hong Kong Palace Museum
- Pi Li, Head of Art, Tai Kwun
- Maria Mok, Museum Director, Hong Kong Museum of Art
- Suhanya Raffel, Museum Director, M+
- Wai Yue Loh, Partner, DAC Beachcroft
- Julia Hu, Managing Director, Bonhams Asia
- Francis Geeseok OH, Chief operating officer, Qraft Technologies

Click the following link for details:

<https://monocle.com/magazine/brand-hong-kong/2025/>

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For help setting up your business in Hong Kong, please contact:
Mr. Christopher Chen, Head of Business and Talent Attraction /
Investment Promotion at christopher_chen@hketotoronto.gov.hk or
visit www.InvestHK.gov.hk

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