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UPCOMING EVENTS

Chinese Arts & Literary Festival by CCC

The Chinese Arts and Literary Festival, organized by the Chinese Cultural Centre of Greater Toronto, is being 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 Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (Toronto) (HKETO) is one of the sponsors. The Awards Ceremony will be held on May 31. For details, please visit:

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

RECENT ACTIVITIES

HKETO presents Best Asia Pacific Business Award at 2025 ACCE Awards Gala

The Acting Director of the HKETO, Mr Gavin Yeung, spoke at the 2025 Association of Chinese Canadian Entrepreneurs (ACCE) Awards Gala held in Toronto on April 12 and presented the Best Asia Pacific Business Award.

Mr Yeung remarked that Hong Kong demonstrated resilience amid global uncertainties. He noted Hong Kong's unique advantages under the "one country, two systems" framework, and its strategic role in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. These edges provide Canadian businesses with an unparalleled platform to diversify and expand into the Mainland market. He encouraged Canadian entrepreneurs to explore the vast opportunities Hong Kong offers and use the city as a launchpad into the rapidly growing market in the East.

The Best Asia-Pacific Business Award sponsored by HKETO is to recognise entrepreneurs who have made a business success by using Hong Kong as a platform for their business expansion to the Asia Pacific region. The 2025 Award was given to Mr Wilson Kam, Founder of MTI, a Vancouver company engaging in food and grocery distribution business in North America. Using Hong Kong as a platform, the company is planning to further expand its business in other Asia Pacific regions.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.hketotoronto.gov.hk/newsroom/hketo-presents-best-asia-pacific-business-award-at-2025-acce-awards-gala.html>

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HONG KONG NEWS

Government steps up support for enterprises in coping with US tariffs

The Commerce and Economic Development Bureau of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government announced on April 10 that in view of the tariff imposition by the US, the Hong Kong Export Credit Insurance Corporation (ECIC) will introduce a new round of enhanced measures to support the export trade in Hong Kong and help enterprises in expediting expansion into new markets.

To support Hong Kong enterprises, especially small and medium enterprises (SMEs), in coping with the current challenges, the ECIC introduced three enhanced measures, including:

- (1) extend the free pre-shipment cover for holders of the Small Business Policy (SBP) which is tailor-made for the SMEs until June 30, 2026;
- (2) offer a 50 per cent discount on pre-shipment risks to cover premiums for non-SBP holders; and
- (3) reduce the premium rates for new markets to be in line with those for traditional major markets to reduce the costs and support exporters in tapping into the ASEAN market.

Since the announcement of the US tariffs, the Secretary of the Commerce and Economic Development, Mr Algernon Yau, has separately met with the representatives of major local chambers of commerce, SME associations, and representatives of industries affected by the tariffs (including jewellery, textiles and garment, food and aluminium industries) to discuss measures to support enterprises.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202504/10/P2025041000263.htm>

Joint Meeting of Four Expert Groups of APEC Energy Working Group and associated workshops held in Hong Kong for first time

The Joint Meeting of Four Expert Groups of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Energy Working Group and associated workshops were held in Hong Kong for the first time from April 8 to 11.

Over 100 experts and delegates from 18 APEC member economies as well as three international organisations have gathered to share and exchange experiences on topics such as energy security, clean energy, renewable energy, energy efficiency, energy data and analysis, and sustainable development.

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The Secretary for Environment and Ecology of the HKSAR Government, Mr Tse Chin-wan, said in his welcome remarks that APEC economies consume approximately 60 per cent of the world’s energy. Hong Kong is striving to achieve carbon neutrality before 2050, and will cease using coal for electricity generation by 2035. He remarked that Hong Kong is actively implementing various decarbonisation measures, including planning infrastructure to import more zero-carbon electricity from neighbouring regions, enhancing energy efficiency in buildings, developing green transportation and promoting hydrogen energy development for achieving a green and sustainable future.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202504/09/P2025040900267.htm>

Business of Innovation and Technology Week showcases Hong Kong’s innovation and technology strengths

The Business of Innovation and Technology Week (BIT Week), organised by the Innovation, Technology and Industry Bureau (ITIB) of the HKSAR Government, has made a grand return at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre in April. A series of mega innovation and technology (I&T) events were held, including the government-funded flagship event, *InnoEX*, the highly anticipated second edition of the *Hong Kong World Youth Science Conference*, and the *World Internet Conference Asia-Pacific Summit*.

The third *InnoEX*, co-organised by the ITIB and the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC), was held from April 13 to 16. This annual event brought together I&T elites, enterprises and buyers from the Mainland and overseas to jointly promote I&T advancements and applications and explore global collaboration opportunities. Themed “Innovation • Automate • Elevate”, the *InnoEX* showcased cutting-edge technology solutions across five key areas: low-altitude economy, artificial intelligence (AI), robotics, cybersecurity and smart mobility. A highlight of the event was the Smart Hong Kong Pavilion set up by the Digital Policy Office, which featured over 100 I&T solutions in relation to people’s daily lives as well as award-winning I&T projects by local innovators and students.

The second *Hong Kong World Youth Science Conference* and the *Xiangjiang Nobel Forum 2025* were also taken place from April 13 to 16. Organised by the Hong Kong Alumni Association of Beijing Universities with the full support of the ITIB, the event gathered top-notch I&T talent and renowned scientists, including laureates of the Nobel Prize and Turing Award, in Hong Kong. Through keynote speeches, roundtable forums and other formats, participants tapped into global wisdom on cutting-edge topics in the areas of big data, AI, biotechnology, new materials and large models, thereby enhancing Hong Kong’s status in the international scientific arena.

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Another major I&T highlighted in April was the *World Internet Conference Asia-Pacific Summit*, a high-level global Internet conference taken place on April 14 and 15. Themed “Integration of AI and Digital Technologies Shaping the Future - Jointly Building a Community with a Shared Future in Cyberspace”, the Summit focussed on forward-looking discussions in large AI models, digital finance, and digital government and smart life, attracting around 1 000 local and overseas participants from governments, enterprises and international organisations.

Other major industry events during the BIT Week include the HKTDC’s Hong Kong Electronics Fair (Spring Edition) and Smart Lighting Expo, as well as the Hong Kong Web3 Festival cohosted by Wanxiang Blockchain Labs and HashKey Group and organised by W3ME, all contributing to the prosperous development of Hong Kong’s I&T ecosystem and greater synergies.

Click the following links for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202504/13/P2025041300322.htm>

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202504/14/P2025041400504.htm>

OASES announces new batch of strategic enterprises establishing or expanding in Hong Kong

The Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises (OASES) held the OASES Enterprises Signing Ceremony on April 8 to welcome a new batch of strategic enterprises establishing or expanding their operations in Hong Kong.

The new batch includes 18 strategic enterprises from high-tech industries such as advanced manufacturing and new energy technology, AI and data science, fintech, and life and health technology. All have committed to establishing their global or regional headquarters, or research and development centres, in Hong Kong.

Together with the 66 strategic enterprises previously attracted, they will invest about HK\$50 billion in total in the years to come, creating over 20 000 jobs.

Going forward, OASES will broaden its scope to also attract cultural and creative enterprises that can fuse I&T with artistry. Through Hong Kong’s platform, these enterprises can expand their businesses to various new markets.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202504/08/P2025040800596.htm>

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SFST welcomes London Metal Exchange’s approval of first batch of approved warehouses in Hong Kong

The Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury of the HKSAR Government, Mr Christopher Hui, welcomed on April 15 the approval by the London Metal Exchange (LME), a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited, of the first three applications to establish approved warehouses in Hong Kong. These applications involve four warehouse facilities.

Mr Hui noted that the establishment of LME-approved warehouses in Hong Kong will provide convenient, cost-effective and safe delivery channels for metals trading in the region. This will not only attract relevant enterprises to establish a presence in Hong Kong, turning the city into an operation centre for international commodity trading, storage and delivery, shipping and logistics, risk management, but also promote the development of related financial transactions such as futures, thereby injecting new impetus into consolidating Hong Kong’s status as an international financial centre.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202504/15/P2025041500306.htm>

Hong Kong Immigration Department wins 2025 Skytrax Award for Best Airport Immigration Service

The Hong Kong Immigration Department (ImmD) of the HKSAR Government won the 2025 Skytrax Award for Best Airport Immigration Service in the World Passenger Survey commissioned by Skytrax, an international specialist research agent of the air transport industry. This is the fifth time for the ImmD to receive the award since 2015.

Skytrax, a world-renowned specialist research agent and advisor of the air transport industry, mainly undertakes qualitative audits and research studies for airports and airlines services across the globe. The survey was conducted between August 2024 and February 2025, covering over 600 airports worldwide, and the survey questionnaires were collected from over 13 million air passengers of more than 100 nationalities on their ratings of airport service.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202504/10/P2025041000309.htm>

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Awards at the 50th International Exhibition of Inventions of Geneva

Various departments of the HKSAR Government received international recognition at the 50th International Exhibition of Inventions of Geneva held from April 9 to 13 in Geneva, Switzerland.

The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) won a total of 12 awards for 10 invention projects. Among the accolades was the prestigious Prize of the Republic and Canton of Geneva, awarded for a two-phase immersion cooling system for a high-performance computer workstation. It is a project jointly developed by the Civil Aviation Department and the EMSD. This marks the first time departments of the HKSAR Government have received this distinguished award, which is presented by the Government of the Canton of Geneva to honour exceptional governmental-level innovation.

In addition, the Hong Kong Police Force earned five international awards, including the “International Press Prize” and the “Gold Medal with the Congratulations of the Jury.” These accolades highlight the Force’s dedication to leveraging innovative technologies to enhance smart policing and operational efficiency and its effective efforts to deploy AI to assist the public in combating fraud and to strengthen law enforcement, particularly in addressing emerging forms of crime, such as those involving virtual assets.

The International Exhibition of Inventions of Geneva is one of the most significant global annual events on inventions and innovation. This year, around 1 050 inventions from 35 countries and regions were evaluated by the international jury of specialists.

Click the following links for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202504/13/P2025041300748.htm>

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202504/14/P2025041400724.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 April 9 that in view of notification from the World Organisation for Animal Health about an outbreak of highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza in the Lambton County 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.

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Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202504/09/P2025040900523.htm>

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