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UPCOMING EVENTS

Blockchain Futurist Conference in Toronto

Invest Hong Kong (InvestHK) will host a workshop titled “*Hong Kong: Becoming a Fintech Superpower*” at Blockchain Futurist Conference at Design Exchange on May 13. Join the workshop to learn how Hong Kong is fostering a stable, forward-thinking environment for blockchain, Web3 and crypto through smart regulation and strategic incentives.

Speakers:

Mr Christopher Chen, Head of InvestHK (Canada)

Mr Anson Law, Chief Representative (New York & London Office), Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA)

Time: 10:00 am – 10:30 am

Location: Upper Stage, Design Exchange, Toronto

Mr Law will also join the Panel “*The Future of Global Regulation: A Cross Boarder Web3 Conversation*” at 9:10 am on Main Stage.

General Pass is FREE. Get 25% off the VIP ticket with the promo code: INVESTHK25
Registration: <https://www.futuristconference.com/toronto/ticket>

For the full conference schedule, please visit:

<https://www.futuristconference.com/schedule>

Chinese Arts & Literary Festival by CCC

The Chinese Cultural Centre of Greater Toronto will host the Awards Ceremony of the Chinese Arts and Literary Festival on May 31. 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. For details, please visit:

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

HONG KONG NEWS

HKMA and Cyberport launch second cohort of GenA.I. Sandbox to accelerate AI innovation in financial sector

The HKMA, in collaboration with the Hong Kong Cyberport Management Company Limited (Cyberport), announced on April 28 the launch of the second cohort of the

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Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenA.I.) Sandbox initiative. The GenA.I. Sandbox aims to provide a risk-controlled environment for banks to develop and test innovative solutions using artificial intelligence, further advancing the adoption of AI technology in the financial sector.

Following the positive responses received in the inaugural cohort in January this year, the second cohort will continue to focus on use cases that further enhance risk management, anti-fraud measures and customer experience.

A key addition to the second cohort is the introduction of the GenA.I. Sandbox Collaboratory, a platform comprising a series of practical workshops that facilitates early engagements between banks and technology providers. These workshops are designed to drive the conversion of problem statements into practical use cases, which can then be trialled in the GenA.I. Sandbox.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202504/28/P2025042800361.htm>

HKMA establishes Expert Panel on Project CargoX to support digital trade finance ecosystem

The HKMA announced on April 28 the establishment of an Expert Panel on Project CargoX (the Expert Panel) to enhance the digital ecosystem for trade finance by harnessing the power of cargo data.

Riding on the HKMA's Commercial Data Interchange (CDI), Project CargoX is a multi-year, public-private collaboration, focusing on three key areas:

- leveraging cargo data to streamline and enhance trade finance processes;
- developing digital solutions to improve accessibility to trade finance for small and medium-sized enterprises; and
- exploring connections with international data partners to facilitate the trade financing use case for banks in Hong Kong.

To achieve these objectives, the HKMA has established an Expert Panel comprising industry experts and key stakeholders from cargo data providers, trade associations, banks, credit reference agencies and government agencies. The Expert Panel will formulate a roadmap for digitising cargo data (encompassing sea, road and air transportation data), and integrating relevant cargo data sources across jurisdictions with CDI, by the end of 2025.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202504/28/P2025042800304.htm>

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InvestHK unveils application details for Global Fast Track 2025

InvestHK announced that the eighth edition of the Global Fast Track (GFT) 2025 is now open for applications until September 21. This year's programme will expand to include other verticals in addition to fintech, unleashing business opportunities for more technology companies in Hong Kong and worldwide.

The year-long hybrid programme provides participants with one-on-one meetings, live pitching opportunities, mentorship, and tailored business matching with corporate clients, investors and service providers. A separate competition track will select semi-finalists from each vertical to pitch in person during the Hong Kong FinTech Week x StartmeupHK Festival 2025 in November, with the grand finale taking place at the main conference. Shortlisted companies will also have access to exclusive networking events during the week for potential partnerships.

The GFT 2025 includes seven key verticals, covering a broader range of categories than ever before:

- FinTech;
- Artificial Intelligence;
- GreenTech;
- Blockchain & Digital Assets;
- InsurTech & HealthTech;
- Innovation & Technology; and
- Mainland China Track (in Mandarin).

The GFT 2025 is an unparalleled opportunity for qualified innovators to showcase their profile in front of thousands of attendees and key corporates and investors looking for solutions and investment opportunities. Previous finalists have come from around the world, including Canada, France, Israel, Mainland China, Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States.

For details of the entire programme of the GFT 2025 and the application process, please visit <https://www.globalfasttrack.hk/>.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202504/28/P2025042500442.htm>

Mainland enterprises choose Hong Kong for business expansion

InvestHK announced on April 29 that the Mainland cybersecurity company, *RankEZ*, has opened its regional headquarters in Hong Kong, leveraging the city's robust business

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infrastructure, highly skilled workforce, supportive regulatory framework and strategic position as a gateway to expand in the region. Founded in 2021 in Shanghai, *RankEZ*'s Hong Kong office will play a pivotal role in overseeing its operations in the Asia-Pacific region, facilitating strategic initiatives and co-ordinating efforts between its various offices and partners in neighbouring countries.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202504/29/P2025042800472.htm>

In addition, *More Mushroom Feast*, a brand under the Mainland's More Mushroom Company, has officially opened in Hong Kong as its first branch outside Mainland China on April 17. The new restaurant is the company's regional headquarters, aiming to promote its wild mushrooms and free range chicken stone pot cuisine to the world. *More Mushroom Feast* offers an unprecedented experience for health-conscious customers with its natural, healthy, delicious and sustainable dishes and products.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202504/17/P2025041700258.htm>

Conference on Simplification of Procedures and Best Practices for E-commerce concludes

Hong Kong Customs, in the capacity of the World Customs Organization (WCO) Vice-Chairperson for the Asia/Pacific (A/P) Region, and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Secretariat, hosted the three-day Conference on Simplification of Procedures and Best Practices for E-commerce from April 15 to 17. This marks the first time for Hong Kong Customs to organise a large-scale A/P regional conference focusing on e-commerce, bringing together more than 200 representatives from the WCO, A/P Customs administrations, ASEAN members, and international and local industries.

The Conference, supported by the Economic and Technical Co-operation Work Programme under the ASEAN-Hong Kong, China Free Trade Agreement, aimed to strengthen partnerships within the e-commerce ecosystem and to explore and promote the future developments of e-commerce in the A/P region.

It covered a series of presentations and panel discussions addressing the challenges and opportunities present in e-commerce. A Joint Statement was issued at the closing, reaffirming the commitment to strengthening mutual collaboration between Customs administrations and e-commerce stakeholders to foster the growth and development of e-commerce across the A/P region.

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<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202504/17/P2025041700548.htm>

Asia Cultural Co-operation Forum+ 2025 promotes cultural co-operation

The Asia Cultural Co-operation Forum+ 2025 organised by the Culture, Sports and Tourism Bureau of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government was successfully concluded on April 23. Themed “Connect, Create, Engage: Bridging Cultures for All”, the forum gathered cultural ministers and senior officials from a record-high number of 17 countries to exchange views on strategies in promoting arts and cultural development.

In the forum, the participating delegations shared at the plenary session on how the establishment of platforms and promotion of community engagement facilitated the development of arts and cultural scene and ecology. The delegations also visited the Hong Kong Museum of Art and Oil Street Art Space (Oi!), and the Hong Kong Palace Museum at the West Kowloon Cultural District.

The Asia Cultural Co-operation Forum has been held since 2003 with the aim of promoting cultural co-operation and exchanges among regions.

Click the following links for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202504/22/P2025042200618.htm>

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202504/23/P2025042300426.htm>

Old form smart identity cards will be invalid

In accordance with the Registration of Persons (Invalidation of Identity Cards) Order 2024, all old forms of smart identity cards (old ID cards) bearing a year of birth in or after 1970 will become invalid on May 12 this year. Old ID cards bearing a year of birth in or before 1969 will become invalid on October 12 this year. The Immigration Department of the HKSAR Government appeals to residents still holding an old ID card to replace it with a new smart identity card as soon as possible.

Persons still holding an old ID card should make an appointment at the Registration of Persons - Kwun Tong (Temporary) Office for replacement with a new ID card. Persons aged 18 or above holding a valid old ID card issued locally could also use the Personal Documentation Submission Kiosks located at the Immigration Headquarters in Tseung Kwan O to apply for a replacement card in a self-service manner, which does not require an appointment.

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The invalidation of old ID cards will not affect the right of abode in Hong Kong of the holders of old ID cards unless he or she has lost permanent resident status under the Immigration Ordinance.

For those who are unable to have their ID cards replaced during the specified call-up periods due to being absent from Hong Kong, they should replace their ID cards within 30 days of their return to Hong Kong.

For details of the relevant arrangements, please visit www.immd.gov.hk.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202504/28/P2025042500653.htm>

Police University Recruitment Express - Overseas

To facilitate and expedite the process for high-caliber Hong Kong students from overseas universities to join the Police Force, the “Police University Recruitment Express – Overseas” (PURE O) will be held in Hong Kong in late June. PURE O is a streamlined and intensive “5 days in 3 weeks” Probationary Inspector (PI) and “3 days in 2 weeks” Police Constable (PC) selection process, where applicants can participate in the following activities within just two-three weeks during their summer vacation in Hong Kong:

- 1) Physical Fitness Test;
- 2) PC Interviews;
- 3) PI Written Examination;
- 4) PI Extended Interview;
- 5) Psychometric Test; and
- 6) Final Interview Board.

For the recruitment details, please visit:

https://www.police.gov.hk/ppp_en/15_recruit/pure_main_o.html

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HKETO Toronto Facebook Page www.facebook.com/TorontoHKETO

HKETO Toronto X Page <https://x.com/TorontoHKETO>

HKETO Toronto LinkedIn Page <https://www.linkedin.com/company/hketotoronto>

Brand Hong Kong Facebook page www.facebook.com/brandhk.isd

Brand Hong Kong Instagram page www.instagram.com/brandhongkong/

Brand Hong Kong X page https://twitter.com/Brand_HK

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

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