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UPCOMING EVENTS

Starlight Chinese Opera celebrates its 25 years of legacy in Toronto

To celebrate its 25th anniversary, the Starlight Chinese Opera Performing Arts Centre will present two performances at the Flato Markham Theatre on July 19 and 20. The programmes include the classic repertoire of “Romance of the Phoenix Tower” (鳳閣恩仇未了情), and the “Little Starlets Shine with Starlight 2025” (聲輝戲曲耀梨園2025). Four professional artists from Hong Kong will participate in the performances, offering a valuable opportunity for cultural exchange. The Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (Toronto) (HKETO) is one of the sponsors of the event.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.starlightopera.com/en/event/202504>

Fantasia International Film Festival 2025

The Fantasia international Film Festival 2025 will run from July 16 to August 3. HKETO will co-present the screenings of five Hong Kong films at the festival, namely:

- Good Game 《觸電》
- Stuntman 《武替道》
- A Chinese Ghost Story III 《倩女幽魂III：道道道》
- Battle Wizard 《天龍八部》
- Bullet in the Head 《喋血街頭》

For details of the festival and the films, please visit:

<https://fantasiafestival.com/en/festival-2025>

Fête Chinoise’ “Love at Mid-Autumn” Charity Campaign 2025

Fête Chinoise’s annual “Love at Mid-Autumn” charity campaign has returned to celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival, a cherished tradition symbolising family unity and reunion. This year’s campaign features a unique collector’s edition mooncake tin. In addition, the organizer is launching a Mid-Autumn Art and Colouring contest. Kids of all ages across Canada are invited to participate with entries accepted until September 20. All eligible submissions will be exhibited online, and winning entries will be displayed at the finale event on September 27. The campaign is supported by the HKETO. Please visit <https://www.fetechinoise.ca/loveatmidautumn> for more information.

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HONG KONG NEWS

Invest Hong Kong surpasses performance indicators

Invest Hong Kong (InvestHK) on July 7 announced that it had assisted over 1 300 overseas and Mainland companies to set up or expand their business in Hong Kong from January 2023 to the first six months of 2025, bringing in foreign direct investment of more than HK\$160 billion and creating over 19 000 jobs within the first year of operation or expansion, contributing to the local job market and reaffirming Hong Kong's position as a leading business hub in Asia.

These results demonstrate that InvestHK has achieved ahead of schedule its performance indicators as set out in the 2022 Policy Address. The top five locations of origin among the companies assisted span markets in Asia, Europe and North America, including Canada.

Among the companies assisted, the top five sectors were:

- Financial services and fintech
- Innovation and technology
- Family offices
- Tourism and hospitality
- Business and professional services

In addition, since the launch of the New Capital Investment Entrant Scheme in March 2024, a total of 1 548 applications have been received and 1 188 approvals-in-principle granted as of June 2025. The verified investment amount has exceeded HK\$21 billion, and the total investment expected to be brought into Hong Kong is projected to reach over HK\$46 billion.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202507/07/P2025070400590.htm>

Invest Hong Kong seminar promotes in-depth exchanges between fintech enterprises and investment community

The InvestHK seminar themed “Meeting Our Leading VCs in Hong Kong” concluded on July 10, gathering over 200 fintech enterprise founders, venture capital (VC) leaders and industry experts to help inject new vitality into the future prosperity of Hong Kong's fintech ecosystem.

At the seminar, experienced investors shared market patterns and trends in Hong Kong, Southeast Asia, the Middle East and other markets. For VCs, through the Global Fast

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Track programme and the invitation-only online business matching platform Fast-Track Connect, they have accelerated access to high-quality deal flows and strengthened strategic investment networks.

Hong Kong's capital environment has shown strong vitality and new opportunities recently. The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government is providing public funding support and introducing measures to accelerate the development of fintech and related areas such as Web3 and AI.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202507/10/P2025071000421.htm>

HKTE hosts career fairs to attract global talent dovetailing Hong Kong's I&T development

To support Hong Kong's development as an international innovation and technology (I&T) hub, Hong Kong Talent Engage (HKTE) organised three career fairs, both online and in person, in June and July to proactively attract global I&T talent to pursue development in Hong Kong.

At the online career fairs on July 10 and 11, HKTE featured 47 renowned enterprises and organizations which offer nearly 2 000 quality job vacancies across sectors such as data centre operations, cyber security and business analysis.

The career fair recorded nearly 33 000 visits with job-seeking talent mainly from 14 countries or regions, including the Mainland, Singapore, Malaysia, the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Germany, France, Switzerland and Australia. To facilitate connections between job-seeking talent and employers, a one-to-one online meeting session was set up specifically at the career fair, resulting in nearly 5 000 direct dialogues.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202507/15/P2025071500503.htm>

Mainland restaurants establish regional headquarters in Hong Kong to drive overseas expansion

Mainland Shunde cuisine chain brand "Under Big Banyan" opened its first restaurant in Hong Kong. The city will serve as the brand's regional headquarters and an international gateway for its expansion into Southeast Asian, European and American markets. "Under Big Banyan", founded in 2019, currently operates over 50 directly managed stores across various cities in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, and the brand has received numerous industry accolades.

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Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202507/11/P2025070900339.htm>

In addition, Guangzhou Fung Yuen Cantonese-style chicken pot brand also opens its first restaurant in Hong Kong with a plan to use the city as a testbed to explore new dining models and take the Fung Yuen brand into the international market. Founded in 2013, Fung Yuen has more than 20 branches in Guangzhou, Zhuhai, Chengdu, Shanghai and Xiamen.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202507/14/P2025071100531.htm>

Hong Kong, China achieves outstanding results in International Maritime Organization Member State Audit Scheme

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) conducted an audit on Hong Kong, China under the IMO Member State Audit Scheme (IMSAS) to examine the relevant obligations fulfilled by Hong Kong, China in relation to the mandatory IMO instruments. The recently published results showed the outstanding performance by Hong Kong, China in multiple audit areas.

One of the highlights of the audit results is Hong Kong's shipping registry. The Hong Kong Shipping Registry ranks fourth in the world in terms of gross tonnage, and the fleet of Hong Kong-registered ships is renowned globally for its good quality. The consistently low detention rate of Hong Kong-registered ships under worldwide Port State Control inspections at 0.69 per cent is significantly lower than the global average of 3.30 per cent, reflecting the government's constant effort in maintaining and enhancing the safety, reliability and credibility of the fleet.

The audit, which was carried out from November 4 to 13, 2023, scrutinised Hong Kong, China in fulfilling its flag, coastal and port obligations. The Audit Team appreciated that Hong Kong, China had well-documented procedures on fulfilling its obligations related to the mandatory IMO instruments, and implemented the relevant requirements through local legislation and guidance dissemination in a timely manner.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202507/10/P2025071000351.htm>

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Media partnership to promote green maritime in Hong Kong

In partnership with the Information Services Department of the HKSAR Government, South China Morning Post has produced a video exploring the strategic plan for developing Hong Kong as a green shipping hub. The video features insights from stakeholders and experts on the significance, benefits, and comprehensive impact of the strategy on the city's transformation into a leading maritime industry hub.

Video: Navigating towards a green and smart shipping hub

Link:

<https://www.scmp.com/native/business/topics/hong-kong-city-strengths/article/3317415/hong-kong-charts-sustainable-and-smart-future-shipping>

Interviewees:

- Group Managing Director of Modern Terminals, Horace Lo
- CEO of OnePort, Philip Ho
- Technical Director of Hong Kong Shipowners Association, Martin Cresswell
- CEO of Anglo-Eastern Univan Group, Bjorn Hojgaard

Third Asia+ Festival convenes stellar line-up of artists showcasing artistic gems around world

The Asia+ Festival, presented by the Culture, Sports and Tourism Bureau and organised by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department of the HKSAR Government, is held annually from September to November with an aim to create a sustainable platform for arts and cultural exchange. In its third edition, the Asia+ Festival will feature over 100 performances and activities, with an encouraging growth in the number of participating countries and regions to more than 30.

This year's Asia+ Festival offers an extraordinary line-up, from theatre production casting Korean stars and captivating dance and music performances by world-class artists, to a carnival highlighting distinctive cultural traditions.

Tickets of most of the programmes will be available from July 23. For programme enquiries and other discount schemes, please visit www.asiaplus.gov.hk.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202507/14/P2025071400324.htm>

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

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This message was sent from the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Toronto, 174 St. George Street, Toronto, ON M5R 2M7.

For enquiries, please contact:

info@hketotoronto.gov.hk or 416-924-5544.

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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