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UPCOMING EVENTS

2025 HKCBA National Conference to discover new business horizons in Hong Kong

The 2025 National Conference, hosted by the Hong Kong-Canada Business Association (HKCBA) Ottawa Chapter, will take place in Ottawa on September 12. This year's programme includes two interactive panels on the market trends, business outlooks, and emerging opportunities. The event will bring together business leaders, entrepreneurs, and stakeholders from across Canada and Hong Kong to explore the latest trends in Hong Kong-Canada trade and investment. The Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (Toronto) (HKETO) is one of the sponsors. For details, please visit:

<https://ottawa.hkcba.com/events/2025-hkcba-national-conference>

“Making Waves” to showcase the creativity of Hong Kong cinema in Montreal

“Making Waves – Navigators of Hong Kong Cinema” returns to Montreal this summer. The touring film programme will highlight six Hong Kong movies from September 18 to 20, opening with the “Last Dance” (Extended Version). Presented by the Hong Kong International Film Festival Society in collaboration with Chicago Asian Pop-Up Cinema, the event is sponsored by the Cultural and Creative Industries Development Agency of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government and supported by the HKETO to highlight a new generation of award-winning and talented filmmakers with distinct voices. For event updates, please visit:

<https://www.asianpopupcinema.org/mwm25>

Hong Kong-Markham Tech Exchange 2025

Co-organised by the HKETO, Invest Hong Kong (InvestHK) (Canada), the City of Markham, and the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong, the Hong Kong-Markham Tech Exchange 2025 will be held on September 24 at York University's Markham Campus in a hybrid format. Bringing together over 100 participants worldwide, the event will explore the latest advancements in Artificial Intelligence (AI), Robotics, and Property Technology, highlighting the market opportunities and innovation strategies in both Hong Kong and Canada. Admission is free. RSVP is required at:

<https://hongkongmarkham2025.blogspot.com/>

Fête Chinoise's “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 as well as a Mid-

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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. For more information, please visit:

<https://www.fetechinoise.ca/loveatmidautumn>

HONG KONG NEWS

Hong Kong leaps to fourth place and ranks first in Asia in World Talent Ranking 2025

The International Institute for Management Development (IMD) published the World Talent Ranking 2025 on September 9. Hong Kong's ranking leapt markedly to fourth globally from ninth last year, marking the highest-ever ranking and ranking first in Asia.

For the second consecutive year, Hong Kong improved across all three ranked talent competitiveness factors. Hong Kong's ranking rose by eight places to 20th in "Appeal", and by one place for both "Readiness" and "Investment and Development" to third and 12th respectively. Among the indicators, Hong Kong continued to top the ranking in the percentage of graduates in sciences. The city rose to third in the availability of finance skills, and ranked fifth in the remuneration of management as well as effectiveness of management education.

A Government spokesman said that Hong Kong ranking first in Asia in the IMD's World Talent Ranking is clear evidence that the policies and measures of the HKSAR Government in education, innovation and technology, and talent admission have found the right direction and are getting results.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202509/09/P2025090800827.htm>

World Intellectual Property Organization ranks Shenzhen-Hong Kong-Guangzhou innovation cluster first globally

The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) published the Global Innovation Index (GII) 2025 top 100 innovation clusters on September 1, among which the Shenzhen-Hong Kong-Guangzhou cluster ranks first globally.

The HKSAR Government welcomed this high international recognition. It noted that with Hong Kong as an international financial centre, and the Mainland and Hong Kong ranking first and second respectively in Asia's venture capital and private equity fund

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management, the Shenzhen-Hong Kong-Guangzhou cluster has excelled at channelling capital to support the translation of innovative ideas into material outcomes.

For this year's ranking, the Shenzhen-Hong Kong-Guangzhou cluster ranked first, filed 2 292 Patent Cooperation Treaty applications, published 3 775 scientific articles, and had 135 venture capital deals per 1 million inhabitants over the last five years.

The GII Cluster ranking identifies local concentrations of world-class innovation activity using three key metrics: international patent filings via WIPO's Patent Cooperation Treaty, scientific publications, and the number of venture capital deals. In previous editions of the GII Cluster ranking, the Shenzhen-Hong Kong-Guangzhou cluster held the second spot for five years in a row.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202509/01/P2025090100586.htm>

Hong Kong and WIPO sign MOU on WIPO Lex-Judgments database

The HKSAR Government on September 1 signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the WIPO on co-operation with regard to the WIPO Lex-Judgments database to strengthen information sharing, with a view to jointly building a more connected and informative global intellectual property (IP) community.

The WIPO Lex-Judgments database provides free, open access to leading judicial decisions relating to IP from around the world. Under the MOU, Hong Kong will contribute leading IP judgments from the Judiciary to the database, facilitating the international IP community's access to such judgments, while at the same time showcasing the quality of Hong Kong's IP-related judicial judgments.

The Financial Secretary of the HKSAR Government, Mr Paul Chan, noted that Hong Kong's strengthened collaboration with WIPO would not only enhance its role in the international exchange of jurisprudence, but also strengthen Hong Kong's standing as a leading regional hub for IP trading and legal services.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202509/01/P2025090100454.htm>

Record investment product sales and market participation in Hong Kong

The Securities and Futures Commission and the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) on September 4 published the findings of their annual joint survey on the distribution of

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non-exchange-traded investment products, showing record sales and level of market participation for these products during 2024.

The findings showed that total transaction amount of non-exchange-traded investment products by licensed corporations and registered institutions surged 40 per cent year-on-year to a record HK\$6,073 billion in 2024. Market participation also witnessed broad-based growth last year. The number of firms engaged in the sale of investment products grew by 9 per cent to a new high of 414, with an overwhelming 46 per cent more than doubling their sales year-on-year. The number of large firms saw a 12 per cent increase to 101.

Also setting new record highs are the manpower deployed to distribute investment products, which rose by 4 per cent to more than 19 000, and the number of clients completing at least one transaction, which increased by 28 per cent to over 1.2 million.

All major investment product types recorded significant sales growth in 2024. Sales of authorised collective investment schemes (CIS) grew 96 per cent to HK\$1,400 billion and unauthorised CIS grew 50 per cent to HK\$844 billion. Sales of structured products and debt securities increased by 30 per cent and 29 per cent year-on-year, respectively. Respondent firms generally observed stronger investor sentiment compared with the previous year as investors actively pursued products that suit their risk appetites and investment goals.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202509/04/P2025090300533.htm>

Government launches new batch of Silver Bond

The HKSAR Government announced on August 29 the launch of a new batch of Silver Bond for subscription by eligible Hong Kong residents.

The target issuance size of this batch of Silver Bond is HK\$50 billion, with each unit offered at HK\$10,000 and a tenor of three years. Interest will be paid semi-annually at a rate linked to inflation in Hong Kong, subject to a minimum of 3.85 per cent. The Government may exercise discretion to increase the target issuance size to a maximum of HK\$55 billion from HK\$50 billion, subject to market response. Hong Kong residents who turn 60 in or before 2026 (i.e. those born in 1966 or before) holding a valid Hong Kong Identity Card will be eligible for subscription.

The bonds are the retail part of the Infrastructure Bond Programme. Proceeds will be credited to the Capital Works Reserve Fund for investment in infrastructure projects in

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accordance with the Programme Framework. The Government will publish information on the allocation of the proceeds on an annual basis.

The subscription period of Silver Bond will start from 9am on September 15 and end at 2pm on September 29 (Hong Kong time). The bonds will be issued on October 10. Eligible Hong Kong residents may apply for the bonds through one of the placing banks and designated securities brokers. The offering terms and subscription arrangements of Silver Bond will be available on the Hong Kong Government Bonds website (www.hkgb.gov.hk).

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202508/29/P2025082900724.htm>

Mainland perfume brand establishes foothold in Hong Kong

InvestHK announced that Mainland perfume brand, *To Summer*, officially opened its first store in Hong Kong on September 5, marking a pivotal moment in the brand's global expansion strategy, leveraging Hong Kong's unique position as an international hub for culture, art, and commerce. Founded in Beijing in 2018, *To Summer*, known for its modern interpretation of Eastern aesthetics, offers an immersive brand experience showcasing its full range of products, including art perfumes, home fragrances, and body care items.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202509/05/P2025090200591.htm>

Hong Kong Performing Arts Expo 2026

The second edition of the Hong Kong Performing Arts Expo (HKPAX), organised by the Hong Kong Art Development Council and funded by the Culture, Sports, and Tourism Bureau of the HKSAR Government, will take place from October 9 to 13, 2026.

HKPAX aims to boost the development of the arts, strengthen global networks among arts institutions and practitioners, and foster the creation of global collaborative projects.

HKPAX's inaugural edition last year was well-received by global & local participants attracting more than 32,000 attendees and welcoming over 1,600 arts leaders and practitioners from 60 countries and regions. It featured a diverse programme of more than 150 performances including networking events that facilitated peer-to-peer exchanges and inspired new artistic collaborations.

This year, artists and arts groups in Canada are invited to submit proposals for two highlighted programmes, namely "International Showcases" and "Pitching Works". The

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applications are open until October 12, 2025. For submission guidelines and details, please visit: <https://www.hkpax.org.hk>

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

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