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UPCOMING EVENTS

PowerUp Pitch Competition hosted by PULSE@HKCBA

The PowerUp Pitch Competition hosted by the PULSE committee of the Hong Kong-Canada Business Association (HKCBA) (Toronto Chapter) will be held on October 3. Supported by the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (Toronto) (HKETO), Invest Hong Kong (InvestHK) and the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC) in Canada, the competition serves as a platform for Canadian startups to showcase their innovative business ideas, competing for valuable prizes and seizing growth opportunities in Hong Kong and beyond. For details, please visit:

<https://toronto.hkcba.com/events/powerup-pitch-competition>

Hong Kong artist Ellen Pau's artwork to showcase at Nuit Blanche Toronto 2025

With the support from the HKETO and the Hong Kong Tourism Board, the City of Toronto will present "the Eye of Wisdom", a large video projection of animation by renowned Hong Kong artist Ms Ellen Pau, at Nuit Blanche Toronto 2025. Held overnight from October 4 to 5, "the Eye of Wisdom" will be one of the event's highlight exhibitions showcasing Hong Kong's vibrant creativity and artistic innovation on an international stage. Nuit Blanche is Toronto's annual all-night celebration of contemporary art, produced by the City of Toronto in collaboration with the local arts community. For details, please visit:

<https://www.toronto.ca/explore-enjoy/festivals-events/nuitblanche/>

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-Autumn Art and Colouring contest. 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>

RECENT ACTIVITIES

HKETO supports 2025 National Conference in Ottawa to strengthen Hong Kong-Canada business ties

The 2025 National Conference, hosted by the HKCBA and sponsored by the HKETO, was held in Ottawa on September 12. The event brought together business leaders, entrepreneurs, and stakeholders from across Canada and Hong Kong to exchange

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insights on the latest market trends, business outlooks, and opportunities in bilateral trade and investment.

In his welcome remarks, the Acting Director of the HKETO, Gavin Yeung, highlighted Hong Kong's strategic position, robust legal system, transparent regulatory environment and world-class infrastructure as key advantages for Canadian companies seeking expansion.

The 2025 National Conference, themed "Think Diversification. Think Asia. Think Hong Kong", featured two panel discussions on market developments, innovation strategies, and sector-specific growth opportunities, along with a keynote address by Martin Cauchon, Vice-Chairman of the Canada China Business Council and former Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, on "Reset and Diversify: Unlocking Asia Through Hong Kong for Canadian Enterprises".

The event attracted around 150 participants, fostering valuable exchanges and strengthening business partnerships between Canada and Hong Kong.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.hketotoronto.gov.hk/newsroom/hketo-supports-2025-national-conference-in-ottawa-to-strengthen-hong-kong-canada-business-ties.html>

Canadian businesses encouraged to think Hong Kong for business diversification at roundtable discussion

The HKETO co-organised a roundtable discussion together with the HKCBA, the HKTDC and InvestHK in Canada on September 10 on opportunities for business diversification into Hong Kong for Canadian companies.

Entitled "Business Diversification beyond the US: Think Asia, WHY HONG KONG", the event brought together Canadian business leaders, policymakers and trade experts to explore the vast opportunities Hong Kong offered for overseas business to tap into Asian markets.

The Acting Director of the HKETO, Gavin Yeung, gave an opening remark at the event. He reaffirmed that Hong Kong remains firmly committed to open markets and free trade, with one of the simplest tax regimes in the world and no trade barrier imposed.

The event also featured insights from Callan Anderson, Chief Executive Officer, the Hong Kong Corporate Services Group; and Christopher Chen, Head of Business and Talent Attraction at InvestHK in Canada. They shared Hong Kong and mainland China's unique

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value proposition for Canadian businesses, including market diversification, investment opportunities and trade expansion.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.hketoronto.gov.hk/newsroom/canadian-businesses-encouraged-to-think-hong-kong-for-business-diversification-at-roundtable-discussion.html>

HKETO promotes Hong Kong's strategic role in unlocking Greater Bay Area business opportunities

Business leaders and stakeholders gathered on September 9 at a business seminar hosted by the Canada China Business Council in Toronto and supported by the HKETO to explore the vast commercial potential of the Greater Bay Area (GBA). The event, titled "Unlocking Greater Bay Area Business Opportunities", featured expert insights on market access, infrastructure, and cross-border collaboration.

In his remarks, the Acting Director of the HKETO, Gavin Yeung, emphasised Hong Kong's pivotal role in the GBA's development. He also highlighted the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government's commitment to enhancing regional integration, supporting cross-boundary business initiatives, and creating favourable conditions for international investment and entrepreneurship.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.hketoronto.gov.hk/newsroom/hketo-promotes-hong-kongs-strategic-role-in-unlocking-greater-bay-area-business-opportunities.html>

"Making Waves - Navigators of Hong Kong Cinema" returns to Montreal to showcase creativity of Hong Kong cinema

"Making Waves - Navigators of Hong Kong Cinema", running from September 18 to 20, spotlighted the evolution and creativity of Hong Kong cinema through a curated selection of six contemporary works by both emerging and established filmmakers.

At the opening reception on September 18, the Acting Director of the HKETO, Gavin Yeung, remarked that the programme highlights the strong cultural connections between Hong Kong and Montreal and promotes international appreciation for Hong Kong's cinema. He invited audiences to discover Hong Kong firsthand: to explore the city's iconic film sites and immerse themselves in its vibrant energy and cinematic spirit.

Also present at the networking reception and the Q&A sessions following the screenings was a delegation of creative talent from Hong Kong, including actress Michelle Wai and actor Dylan So, as well as director Chan Tai-lee.

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Launched in 2022, “Making Waves - Navigators of Hong Kong Cinema” is sponsored by Cultural and Creative Industries Development Agency, presented by the Hong Kong International Film Festival Society and supported by the HKETO. The Montreal stop this year featured a diverse lineup of films, namely “Last Dance” (Extended Version), “Papa”, “Last Song for You”, “Behind the Shadows”, “Fight for Tomorrow” and “My First of May”.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.hketotoronto.gov.hk/newsroom/making-waves---navigators-of-hong-kong-cinema-returns-to-montreal-to-showcase-creativity-of-hong-kong-cinema.html>

HONG KONG NEWS

Policy Address: Deepening Reforms for Our People and Leveraging Our Strengths for a Brighter Future

The Chief Executive of the HKSAR, John Lee, on September 17 announced his fourth Policy Address entitled “Deepening Reforms for Our People and Leveraging Our Strengths for a Brighter Future”, setting out a range of initiatives anchored in two pillars - the economy and people’s livelihood, enabling citizens to enjoy better quality of life.

He remarked that this Policy Address served as a roadmap for Hong Kong to strive for a vibrant economy, pursue development, and improve people’s livelihood - accelerating Hong Kong’s advancement from stability to prosperity. It also outlined a strategic plan for Hong Kong to proactively align with national development strategies and achieve breakthroughs in forging a new landscape. Key areas include the following:

- Strengthening governance systems
- Deepening reform and developing industries
- Integrating into overall national development and consolidating Hong Kong’s status as an international hub
- Facilitating stable living in a caring and inclusive society

For related information and key initiatives of the Policy Address, please visit www.policyaddress.gov.hk.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202509/17/P2025091700750.htm>

Hong Kong’s ranking in Global Innovation Index rises

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In the Global Innovation Index (GII) 2025 released on September 16 by the World Intellectual Property Organization, Hong Kong's ranking rose by three places to 15th globally among 139 economies, and remained 5th in Asia.

As regards the two sub-indices under the GI, Hong Kong's ranking with respect to the "Innovation Input" sub-index rose to 8th globally, and its ranking in the "Innovation Output" sub-index leapt by nine places to 22nd.

Hong Kong's scores in all five pillars under the "Innovation Input" sub-index were higher than the high-income group averages, with "Market Sophistication" ranking 2nd globally and "Institutions" ranking 8th globally. As for sub-pillars, Hong Kong topped the ranking in "Credit", and ranked among the global top 10 in many areas, including "Tertiary Education" (3rd), "Knowledge Absorption" (5th), "Information and Communication Technology (ICT)" (6th), "Institutional Environment" (9th) and "Investment" (9th). Data also showed that Hong Kong's gross expenditure on research and development (R&D) and the number of researchers continued to rise.

As for the "Innovation Output" sub-index, Hong Kong's ranking in the "Knowledge and Technology Outputs" pillar jumped notably by 28 places to 30th. It ranked 17th globally in the "Creative Outputs" pillar, with the "Creative Goods and Services" (7th) sub-pillar also ranking among the global leading positions. Data also showed that Hong Kong's number of patents and high-tech manufacturing output continued to increase.

The GI is a ranking of the innovation capabilities and achievements of economies around the world. Its evaluation criteria cover multiple aspects, including institutions, human capital and research infrastructure, credit, investment, collaboration, knowledge creation, absorption and diffusion, and creative outputs.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202509/16/P2025091600631.htm>

Belt and Road Summit explores new opportunities and drives collaboration for a shared future

The 10th Belt and Road Summit running from September 10 to 11 brought together over 6 000 participants, including more than 90 government and business speakers, as well as over 100 delegations, to explore the opportunities arising from areas such as trade and commerce, investment, innovation and technology and green development, and yielded a record high of about 50 government and enterprise memorandums of understanding (MOUs), highlighting Hong Kong's role as the functional platform for the Belt and Road Initiative (B&RI).

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Hosted by the HKSAR Government, the Summit featured new elements such as market spotlights, signature projects and collaborative capacity for sustainable development, exploring further collaboration opportunities for enterprises, the local professional services sectors and people-to-people exchanges.

Themed “ASEAN: Unveiling new opportunities for growth and collaboration” and “Exploring frontiers in new markets and industries”, the plenary sessions gathered business leaders to discuss Hong Kong’s role in facilitating trade and business co-operation under the B&RI. A number of thematic breakout sessions covering areas such as legal services, trade and commerce, insurance, architecture, green finance and logistics were also held to focus on fostering a more prosperous, green and interconnected future for B&RI countries and regions.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202509/10/P2025091000749.htm>

HKMA hosts 2025 Green Fintech Symposium and announces results of 2025 Green Fintech Competition

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority and the Hong Kong Institute of Bankers co-hosted the 2025 Green Fintech Symposium and announced the results of the 2025 Green Fintech Competition on September 12. Both the Symposium and the Competition are supported by the Institute of Sustainability and Technology, the Hong Kong Cyberport Management Company Limited, the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation, and InvestHK.

A highlight of the event was the announcement of the results of the 2025 Green Fintech Competition. The Competition attracted over 140 entries from 26 jurisdictions this year, marking over 60 per cent increase from the inaugural event in 2023. At the Symposium, the winners under the five competition themes presented and showcased their innovative solutions and had the opportunity to network with key players in the local green and sustainable finance ecosystem.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202509/12/P2025091100652.htm>

Over 200 family offices attracted to Hong Kong to set up operations or expand businesses

The Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau of the HKSAR Government announced on September 15 that under the vigorous promotion by the HKSAR Government, over

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200 family offices have set up operations or expanded their business in Hong Kong with the facilitation of InvestHK.

This marks an achievement of early completion of the key performance indicator set in the 2022 Policy Address well ahead of schedule, signalling that Hong Kong's standing as Asia's leading cross-border private wealth management centre and hub for global family offices is firmly anchored to a greater extent.

In addition, it is noted that as the largest cross-border wealth management centre in Asia, Hong Kong's total assets under management have surpassed HK\$35 trillion as of end-2024, a year-on-year increase of 13 per cent, with net fund inflows surging by over 80 per cent to HK\$705 billion, reflecting the growing appeal of Hong Kong as an international asset allocation hub.

Moving forward, the HKSAR Government will enhance the preferential tax regimes for funds, single family offices and carried interest. Meanwhile, InvestHK will keep up its work with chambers of commerce, industry associations, and the Network of Family Office Service Providers to deepen international collaboration, as well as expanding outreach to raise global awareness of Hong Kong as a leading family office hub.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202509/15/P2025091500314.htm>

International financial and investment institutions establish offices in Hong Kong

InvestHK announced on September 11 that Canadia Bank, one of Cambodia's leading financial conglomerates, has established a representative office in Hong Kong. It marks a significant step in strengthening the economic ties between Hong Kong and Cambodia, as well as between the city and the broader Association of Southeast Asian Nations region. With total assets of US\$8.6 billion, Canadia Bank Plc currently has 69 operating branches and 430 self-service digital devices in Cambodia, as well as a subsidiary in Laos.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202509/11/P2025091100285.htm>

In addition, Asia Partners IFBD Limited (Asia Partners), the operation arm of global sports investment firm Svenska Capital, has chosen Hong Kong as its strategic gateway to drive expansion of its sports intellectual property (IP) across Asia. Asia Partners is the sole IP owner of CR7® LIFE Museum in Asia and CR7® LIFE Merchandise and stores worldwide, and will launch several iconic initiatives that will redefine sports engagement in Hong Kong. Organised by Asia Partners, World Football Summit Hong Kong 2025 debuted in

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Hong Kong on September 3 and 4, bringing together the most influential figures in global football.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202509/22/P2025091700599.htm>

HKUST and French companies sign MOU to collaborate on low-carbon retrofit pilot project

InvestHK announced on September 12 the signing of a MOU between the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) and a consortium of French companies, including Schneider Electric, Veolia, Bouygues-Drageages, Egis, and Saint-Gobain. This partnership will launch a pioneering low carbon retrofit pilot project, marking a pivotal step toward achieving Hong Kong's carbon neutrality goal by 2050. The pilot project represents a concrete outcome of the Team France Green Paper focusing on the energy efficiency retrofitting of an existing building at the HKUST, serving as a demonstration of how public-private partnerships can drive sustainable urban development.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202509/12/P2025091200234.htm>

Import of poultry meat and products from Minburn County No. 27 of Alberta Province in Canada suspended

The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department of the HKSAR Government announced on September 19 that in view of a notification from the World Organisation for Animal Health about an outbreak of highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza in Minburn County No. 27 of Alberta 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, no poultry meat or eggs were imported into Hong Kong from Canada in the first six months of this year.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202509/19/P2025091900610.htm>

New Air Passenger Departure Tax exemptions take effect from October 1

The HKSAR Government will increase the new Air Passenger Departure Tax (APDT) from HK\$120 to \$200 per passengers with effect from 1 October 2025. At the same time,

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the Government will expand the scope of passengers to be exempted from APDT to include:

- passengers arriving at Hong Kong by aircraft and departing by aircraft on the following day; and
- passengers arriving at Hong Kong by land or sea and departing by aircraft on the same day or on the following day, except those who have left Hong Kong by land or sea on the day or the preceding day of their departure flights.

The new arrangement will benefit visitors transiting in Hong Kong and encourage them to have a short stay in Hong Kong. The Government has also engaged the Airport Authority Hong Kong to develop a refund system and the link of the system will be announced later.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202506/11/P2025061100324.htm>

Recruitment for five civil service graduate grades starts

The HKSAR Government is launching the 2025-26 joint recruitment exercise for Administrative Officer (AO), Executive Officer II, Assistant Labour Officer II, Assistant Trade Officer II and Management Services Officer II from September 13 to October 3 (Hong Kong time). Applicants must submit their applications through the online application system on the Civil Service Bureau website.

The recruitment is open to all permanent residents of the HKSAR who meet the relevant entry requirements. Students pursuing a bachelor's degree or equivalent and graduating in the years of 2025-26 or 2026-27 academic years may also apply. Arrangements will be made for eligible applicants to take the Joint Recruitment Examination (JRE) scheduled to be held on November 29 in Hong Kong.

Applicants may also choose to attend the JRE, the Common Recruitment Examination (CRE) and the paper-based Basic Law and National Security Law Test (BLNST) on November 29 in one of the seven cities outside Hong Kong including Toronto and Vancouver. The application period for the CRE and BLNST outside Hong Kong is the same as that of the joint recruitment exercise.

Details of the joint recruitment exercise are available on the CSB website (www.csb.gov.hk). For the recruitment of AO, relevant information will also be available on a dedicated website at www.ao-recruitment.gov.hk.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202509/10/P2025091000244.htm>

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Recruitment exercise for the Department of Health

The Department of Health of the HKSAR Government is inviting applications for the position of Controller, Hong Kong Centre for Medical Products Regulation. The recruitment period is from September 18 to October 17, 2025. For details of the position, please visit:

https://www.dh.gov.hk/english/vacancies/files/20251017_CMPR_en.pdf

https://www.dh.gov.hk/tc_chi/vacancies/files/20251017_CMPR_tc.pdf

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

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

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

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

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