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HKETO JOB VACANCY

Applications are invited for the post of Chauffeur/ Office Assistant at the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office. The suitable applicant should be a high school graduate with valid Ontario Full G driver's license with at least 5 years of safe driving record in Canada. The applicant must be available to work flexible hours, including evenings, weekends, and holidays. They should also be fluent in spoken English and Cantonese.

The successful applicant will be appointed on a one-year contract initially. Contract gratuity will be granted upon satisfactory completion of the contract. Applications should be submitted by e-mail, with a cover letter and resume, to info@hketotoronto.gov.hk on or before October 17, 2025.

For details, please visit: https://www.hketotoronto.gov.hk/assets/pdf/jd/jd_20250929.pdf

UPCOMING EVENTS

Toronto Chinese Canadian Film Festival

The second annual Toronto Chinese Canadian Film Festival will be held from October 18 to 24. Supported by the HKETO, the film festival will bring three Hong Kong movies to Canadian audience to showcase Hong Kong's creative industry. For details, please visit: <https://www.tccff.ca/featurefilms2025>.

Cathay Ball 2025

The Cathay Ball 2025 entitled "One Thousand and One Nights", hosted by the Mon Sheong Foundation, will be held on November 1 in Markham. This year, HKETO is proud to be the Social Photo Sponsor of the Cathay Ball. Guests can enjoy photo-taking with Hong Kong-themed props such as iconic Hong Kong street signs at the backdrop showing the magnificent Victoria Harbour and the dazzling cityscape at the venue. For details of the event, please visit <https://cathayball.monsheong.org/>

RECENT ACTIVITIES

Hong Kong art shines at Nuit Blanche Toronto

With the support from the HKETO and the Hong Kong Tourism Board, the City of Toronto presented "the Eye of Wisdom", a large video projection of animation by renowned Hong Kong artist Ms Ellen Pau and curated by Canadian curator Charlene K Lau, at Nuit Blanche Toronto 2025 overnight from October 4 to 5.

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Presented under this year's theme "Translate the City through Art," "The Eye of Wisdom" was projected onto the wall of Toronto City Hall, near Chinatown, reflecting the rich cultural history and connections to early Chinese-Canadian communities. The visually stunning installations integrated sign language from the Heart Sūtra, AI-generated models and light-reactive animation. As one of the event's highlight exhibitions showcasing Hong Kong's vibrant creativity and artistic innovation on an international stage, the video project will remain in view until October 13. Speaking at the event, the Acting Director of HKETO reaffirmed the commitment to promoting Hong Kong's status as an East-meets-West centre for international cultural exchanges.

Nuit Blanche is Toronto's annual all-night celebration of contemporary art, produced by the City of Toronto in collaboration with Toronto's arts community.

Click the following links for details:

<https://www.hketotoronto.gov.hk/newsroom/hketo-brings-hong-kong-media-art-to-nuit-blanche-2025.html>

<https://www.hketotoronto.gov.hk/newsroom/hong-kong-art-shines-at-nuit-blanche-toronto.html>

HKETO encourages young Canadian entrepreneurs to grasp development opportunities in Hong Kong

The "PowerUp Pitch Competition: Gateway to Asia via Hong Kong" hosted by PULSE committee of the Hong Kong-Canada Business Association (Toronto Chapter) and supported by the HKETO, the Hong Kong Trade Development Council and InvestHK in Canada, was held on October 3. The competition served as a platform for Canadian startups to showcase their innovative business ideas, competing for valuable prizes and growth opportunities in Hong Kong and beyond.

In his welcome remarks, the Acting Director of the HKETO, Gavin Yeung, highlighted Hong Kong's continued global leadership in education, innovation and technology, and talent attraction, as reflected in the World Talent Ranking 2025 and the Global Innovation Index 2025.

The Pitch Competition featured over ten startups from Toronto in sectors including HealthTech, FinTech and GreenTech. The winning team received a prize package comprising a round-trip ticket to Hong Kong sponsored by Cathay Pacific, as well as nominations to the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Incubation Programme and the Hong Kong Cyberport Incubation Programme.

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Click the following link for details:

<https://www.hketotoronto.gov.hk/newsroom/hketo-encourages-young-canadian-entrepreneurs-to-grasp-development-opportunities-in-hong-kong.html>

Hong Kong-Markham Tech Exchange 2025 promotes innovation in AI, robotics, and PropTech

The HKETO co-organised the Hong Kong-Markham Tech Exchange 2025 together with the City of Markham, and the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong and InvestHK in Canada on September 24 to foster international collaboration in innovation technology between Hong Kong and Markham.

Featuring panel discussions, a mini-trade show, and business networking sessions, the event drew over 100 participants across the globe who connected with industry leaders, entrepreneurs and tech pioneers from both regions.

The Acting Director of the HKETO, Gavin Yeung, highlighted Hong Kong's vibrant innovation and technology ecosystem, which is driven by a wealth of talent, world-class infrastructure and strong government commitment.

The event also featured insights from Alan Ho, City Councillor of Markham; Charles E. Reeves, the Consul General of Canada to Hong Kong and Macau; and Christopher Chen, Head of Business and Talent Attraction at InvestHK in Canada.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.hketotoronto.gov.hk/newsroom/hong-kong-markham-tech-exchange-2025-promotes-innovation-in-ai-robotics-and-proptech.html>

HONG KONG NEWS

Hong Kong once again ranks as the world's freest economy

In the Economic Freedom of the World 2025 Annual Report (2025 Report) released on September 25 by the Fraser Institute, Hong Kong has once again been ranked as the world's freest economy. Among the five areas of assessment, Hong Kong retains the top position in "Freedom to trade internationally", while securing the third position in "Sound money" and "Regulation".

A spokesman for the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government noted that Hong Kong will maintain free trade policies and a simple, low tax regime, while ensuring the free flow of capital, information, goods and talent, fully leveraging Hong Kong's role as a "super connector" and "super value-adder". As of 2024, nearly 10 000

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companies with overseas and Mainland parent companies have established a presence in Hong Kong, marking a historic high.

The spokesman added that in the first eight months of this year, InvestHK supported more than 440 enterprises in establishing or expanding their businesses in Hong Kong, representing a 14 per cent increase compared to the same period last year. Various talent admission schemes received nearly 530 000 applications since 2022, with over 350 000 approvals.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202509/25/P2025092501234.htm>

Hong Kong ranks third globally in Global Financial Centres Index, closing rating gaps with first and second places

The Global Financial Centres Index (GFCI) 38 Report, published on September 25 by Z/Yen from the United Kingdom and the China Development Institute from Shenzhen, revealed that Hong Kong maintained third place globally and first place in Asia Pacific, with an overall rating increased by four points to 764 and closing the rating gaps with first place and second place to two points and one point respectively.

Hong Kong's ranking in fintech offerings leapt from fourth place to first in the world, and those in the areas of "business environment", "infrastructure", and "reputational and general" also rose further to first globally, while ranking second and third globally in "human capital" and "financial sector development" respectively. In addition, Hong Kong ranked among the top in the assessments by practitioners in various financial industry sectors, among which it maintained the top three positions globally in the "banking", "investment management", "insurance" and "finance" sectors.

A spokesman for the HKSAR Government said that the report fully recognises Hong Kong's leading status, strengths and competitiveness as an international financial centre.

The GFCI Report has been released every March and September since 2007. In GFCI 38, 120 financial centres were assessed, and Hong Kong ranked third globally with an overall rating of 764.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202509/25/P2025092500970.htm>

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Government launches \$3 billion Frontier Technology Research Support Scheme to attract international top-notch talent and foster research in frontier technologies

The Innovation and Technology Commission on September 26 launched the Frontier Technology Research Support Scheme (FTRSS).

Under the FTRSS, the Government will provide funding support, on a matching basis, to the eight universities funded by the University Grants Committee in attracting international top-notch researchers to Hong Kong and procuring facilities to conduct research projects in frontier technology fields. Each successful application may receive funding support of an amount between \$100 million and \$300 million. Assessment criteria include academic achievements of the leading talent and the extent of their commitment to participating in the research projects, as well as the technical excellence, originality and potential of the research projects for scientific breakthroughs in frontier technology fields.

The Commission expects the application results to be announced in the first half of 2026 after assessment of applications. Details are available on the FTRSS website (www.itc.gov.hk/en/fund_app/ftss/index.html).

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202509/26/P2025092500877.htm>

Old form smart identity cards bearing year of birth in or before 1969 to be invalid from October 12

In accordance with the Registration of Persons (Invalidation of Identity Cards) Order 2024, all old forms of smart identity cards (old ID cards), issued between June 23, 2003 and November 25, 2018 and bearing a year of birth in or before 1969, will become invalid on October 12 (Sunday) this year. Old ID cards bearing a year of birth in or after 1970 have already become invalid since May 12 this year. In other words, starting from October 12, 2025, all old ID cards will become invalid. The Immigration Department (ImmD) appeals to residents still holding an old ID card to replace it with a new smart identity card as soon as possible.

Once all old ID cards become invalid on October 12, holders of an old ID card should make an appointment at any of the six other ROP Offices to apply for a replacement ID card. They may make an appointment by scanning the QR codes to download the ImmD mobile application or visit the website (www.gov.hk/icbooking), and fill in the application form in advance when making the appointment for a faster and more convenient application process.

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Persons born in or before 1969 who are holding a locally issued old ID card may also use the Personal Documentation Submission Kiosks located at the Immigration Headquarters in Tseung Kwan O, which do not require an appointment, to apply for a replacement card in a self-service manner before their old ID cards become invalid on 12 October this year.

The invalidation of old ID cards will not affect the right of abode in Hong Kong of the holders of old ID cards unless they have 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 under the Territory-wide Identity Card Replacement Exercise 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 ROP services, invalidation of old ID cards and the replacement arrangements, please visit the ImmD website (www.immd.gov.hk).

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202509/30/P2025093000197.htm>

Air Passenger Departure Tax Exemption

The Airport Authority Hong Kong launched a new Refund Application Platform for the air passenger departure tax (APDT) on 1 October 2025. Eligible passengers who have paid the APDT at the time of purchasing the air tickets may easily apply for tax refunds by simply uploading supporting documents to the platform. For more details, please visit the website www.APDTrefund.hk.

Click the following link for details:

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

Free Layover Tours in Hong Kong

Travellers transiting in Hong Kong with more than 7 hours between flights are invited to join a guided adventure beyond the terminal and explore Hong Kong's stunning skyline, cultural attractions and iconic landmarks, all in a few hours and free of charge.

Travellers are eligible for the free layover tour if:

- They are a transit passenger at Hong Kong International Airport,
- Their layover is more than 7 hours, and
- They meet Hong Kong's entry requirements (e.g. valid visa or travel document).

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Travellers are reminded to make sure travel schedule allows sufficient time for transfer and related procedure so the onward flight will not be affected.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.hongkongairport.com/en/free-layover-tour.page>

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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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://x.com/Brand_HK

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

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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:

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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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