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HAPPY NEW YEAR!

As we bid farewell to 2025 and welcome the year ahead, the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (Toronto) (HKETO) would like to extend our warmest wishes to you and your family for a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year!

UPCOMING EVENTS

12th TransPacific Entrepreneurial Conference

The 12th TransPacific Entrepreneurial Conference, themed “TransPacific Economic Diversification: New Investment Opportunities”, will be held in a hybrid in-person and virtual format in Hong Kong, across Asia and Canada on January 28, 2026 (Hong Kong time) to promote trade and investment between Asia and Canada. Hosted by the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong and jointly presented with the Hong Kong-Canada Business Association (HKCBA), the Conference will demonstrate how Hong Kong serves as the best platform for growth-seeking Canadian companies, entrepreneurs, start-ups and industries of different types and sizes wishing to develop the Asian market. For details, please visit:

<https://canchamhk.glueup.com/event/12th-transpacific-entrepreneurial-conference-147762/>

HKCBA Annual Lunar New Year Galas 2025

The HKCBA (Toronto Section) will organise the 2026 annual Lunar New Year Gala to celebrate the Year of the Horse on February 21. Activities include traditional Chinese games, lion dance, live entertainment, silent auction, photo booth and lucky draw, etc. The HKETO is a sponsor of the event. For details, please visit:

<https://toronto.hkcba.com/cpages/home>

In addition, the HKCBA's Calgary and Vancouver Sections will host the 2026 annual Lunar New Year galas on February 6 and 26 respectively, featuring lively performances such as lion dance. The event in Calgary will also host an award ceremony honouring HKCBA Calgary Scholarship winners. The HKETO is a sponsor of the galas. For details, please visit:

<https://calgary.hkcba.com/events/hkcba-lunar-new-year-gala-2026>

<https://vancouver.hkcba.com/events/hkcba-vancouvers-40th-annual-spring-gala>

Fête Chinoise to celebrate the Lunar New Year at its 2026 Signature Event

Aptly themed “Bold New Beginnings,” the 2026 edition of the annual Signature Event by Fête Chinoise will return on February 7, 2026 to celebrate Chinese heritage and foster

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community connections. Blending design, live performances, culinary artistry and cultural activations, the evening will showcase an exceptional lineup of performers, including Leslie Chiang, a Hong Kong-Canadian singer-songwriter now based in Los Angeles, and Zoe Siu, an acclaimed Hong Kong-based knot artist and designer. The HKETO is a sponsor of the event. For details, please visit www.fetechinoise.ca.

HONG KONG NEWS

Government launches further enhancement measures to Technology Talent Admission Scheme

The Innovation and Technology Commission of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government on December 24 launched further enhancement measures to the Technology Talent Admission Scheme (TechTAS) with a view to expediting the admission of innovation and technology (I&T) talent from around the world to facilitate their technology-related research and development (R&D) activities in Hong Kong, thereby enlarging the I&T talent pool and contributing to Hong Kong's I&T development.

The enhancement measures comprise:

- (1) streamlining application procedures to allow technology companies and eligible talent to submit applications for quotas and visas/entry permits in parallel;
- (2) lifting the requirement of engaging in R&D in 14 designated technology areas to better address ever-changing I&T development; and
- (3) launching a new dedicated application channel for the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Park to provide one-stop assistance to their tenants and incubatees in application and subsequent follow-up action.

Launched in June 2018, TechTAS provides a fast-track arrangement for admitting overseas and Mainland technology talent. Successful companies will be given quotas for bringing in such people for undertaking R&D work. More information is available on the TechTAS website (techtas.itc.gov.hk).

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202512/24/P2025122300482.htm>

HKTE organises seminars and career fairs to connect employers with talent

Hong Kong Talent Engage (HKTE) on December 18 held a job-seeking themed seminar to help incoming talent gain insights into salary trends and understand keys aspects of recruitment and selection criteria. It is the 16th themed seminars held by HKTE in 2025 covering job-seeking, employment and entrepreneurship.

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In addition, HKTE has co-organised 12 online and physical career fairs with industry partners to help incoming talent secure employment and settle in Hong Kong. The 12 career fairs focused on Hong Kong's key development areas, including I&T, finance, maritime and trade. Attracting over 200 000 participants, the fairs effectively facilitated career matching between global talent and local employers, assisting them in developing their careers in Hong Kong smoothly. Participating talent mainly came from the Chinese Mainland, Canada, the United Kingdom, Germany, Switzerland, the United States, Singapore, Malaysia and Australia.

HKTE will organise the Global Talent Summit Week in March 2026 to further foster global talent exchanges, with a view to proactively building Hong Kong into an international hub for high-calibre talent.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202512/18/P2025121600688.htm>

Financing sandbox launched with opening of Hong Kong Technology and Innovation Support Centre

The HKSAR Government announced on December 22 the official launch of the intellectual property (IP) financing sandbox and the opening of the Hong Kong Technology and Innovation Support Centre (HKTISC), marking key milestones in promoting IP financing and further developing Hong Kong's IP trading ecosystem while fostering innovation.

The Sandbox serves to provide a collaborative and risk-controlled environment for banks, IP valuation firms, legal practitioners and other relevant professions to test the full lifecycle of IP financing arrangements that are based on IP assets such as patents, trademarks and copyrights.

Three major banks in Hong Kong have joined the Sandbox as inaugural participants, and have solicited interests from clients from the biotechnology, electronics and technology sectors to conduct pilot trials of IP financing through the Sandbox. Nearly 30 professional firms from the legal and valuation sectors have indicated keen interest in participating.

In addition, the full operation of the HKTISC is another key complementary initiative in promoting IP financing. With the support of the Intellectual Property Department, the HKTISC will closely engage small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the I&T sector and provide a qualitative patent evaluation service to assess, based on national standards, the quality of their patents from legal, technological and economic perspectives. The HKSAR Government will also launch a support scheme through the HKTISC in 2026 to

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financially assist SMEs in engaging professional service providers for valuation of their whole IP portfolios in monetary terms.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202512/22/P2025122200461.htm>

Middle Eastern jewellery brand Amaar Jewels opens new Hong Kong store

Invest Hong Kong on December 17 announced that Middle Eastern jewellery brand Amaar Jewels, founded in the United Arab Emirates, is expanding its business in Hong Kong. Following the opening of its first Hong Kong store at Harbour City in August this year, the brand has launched a new store at Festival Walk. The brand aims to leverage Hong Kong's advantages as an international retail hub and a multicultural metropolis, using the city as its first destination in Asia to tap into new markets across the region.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202512/17/P2025121600559.htm>

UNIDROIT's Asia-Pacific Liaison Office to be established at Hong Kong Legal Hub

The General Assembly of the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT), at its 85th session, decided on the establishment of the UNIDROIT Asia-Pacific Liaison Office in the HKSAR. The Office is expected to open at the Hong Kong Legal Hub in the second half of 2026, as part of UNIDROIT's centenary celebration next year.

Hosting UNIDROIT's first overseas office in the HKSAR marks a significant milestone for the city's development as a legal hub. It reflects the international community's continued confidence in the HKSAR's legal system and reinforces its position as a leading international legal centre. The Office will establish UNIDROIT's stable physical presence in the Asia-Pacific region, enabling it to support its regional work more efficiently and effectively.

[UNIDROIT](#) is an independent intergovernmental organisation with its seat in Rome. Currently, UNIDROIT has 65 member states from five continents.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202512/17/P2025121700254.htm>

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Enhanced e-Channel service arrangements for visitors

The Immigration Department (ImmD) of the HKSAR Government announced that, with effect from December 22, the eligible age for using the self-service immigration clearance (e-Channel) service by holders of the Electronic Exit-Entry Permit for Travelling to and from Hong Kong and Macao (e-EEP), People's Republic of China passport holders, and departing visitors using "Smart Departure" has been lowered to seven years old or above, from the previous threshold of 11. The adjustment aims to further enhance clearance efficiency at control points and allow more eligible visitors to Hong Kong to benefit from the fast and convenient e-Channel service.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202512/19/P2025121900361.htm>

Import of poultry meat and products from areas in Canada suspended

The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department announced on December 23 and December 30 respectively that, in view of notifications from the World Organisation for Animal Health about outbreaks of highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza in the Rural Municipality of Vanscoy No. 345 of the Province of Saskatchewan, and Perth County of the Province of Ontario in Canada, the CFS has instructed the trade to suspend the import of poultry meat and products (including poultry eggs) from the areas with immediate effect to protect public health. In the first nine months of 2025, no poultry meat or eggs were imported into Hong Kong from Canada.

Click the following links for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202512/23/P2025122300587.htm>

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202512/30/P2025123000568.htm>

Mirs Bay in Hong Kong selected as Outstanding Example in fourth batch of national Beautiful Bays

Hong Kong's Mirs Bay has been selected by the nation's Ministry of Ecology and Environment (MEE) as an "Outstanding Example of Beautiful Bays" at the fourth batch of national "Beautiful Bays", achieving an excellent overall score. This marks the first time the HKSAR has received this commendation, highlighting the efforts of the HKSAR Government in protecting the marine ecological environment.

Located in the northeastern waters of Hong Kong, Mirs Bay presents a beautiful scene of clear water and clean beaches, thriving marine life, and harmonious coexistence between humans and the sea. Its overall Water Quality Objectives compliance rate has reached 100 per cent, achieving Class I of the National Seawater Quality Standard.

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The bay's rich and diverse ecosystems are important habitats for various nationally protected wild animals. The bay area also features the Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark, Yan Chau Tong and Tung Ping Chau Marine Parks, etc, allowing the public to appreciate diverse ecological and geological wonders in the bay at close range.

The “Outstanding Examples of Beautiful Bays” is a campaign launched by the MEE to identify exemplary cases in the field of marine ecological environment protection. This round of the campaign received a total of 72 applications nationwide, of which 12 were selected.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202512/26/P2025122400635.htm>

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

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

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