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UPCOMING EVENTS

HKCBA Annual Lunar New Year Gala in Vancouver

The Hong Kong-Canada Business Association (HKCBA) (Vancouver Section) will organise the 2026 annual Lunar New Year Gala on February 26 to celebrate the Year of the Horse. Activities include lion dance, live entertainment, and other performances. The Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Toronto (HKETO) is a sponsor of the event. For details, please visit:

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

Hong Kong – Metro Vancouver Innovation Exchange 2026

Co-hosted by Invest Vancouver, the HKETO and Invest Hong Kong, an inaugural hybrid event, Hong Kong – Metro Vancouver Innovation Exchange 2026 entitled “Sparking Growth Beyond Borders”, will bring together innovative companies and forward-looking entrepreneurs from Hong Kong, Asia, and Metro Vancouver to explore emerging technologies, cross-border growth strategies, and how governments in both cities support innovation through funding and essential initiatives. Live streaming session will be held for virtual attendees around the world to take part in conversation shaping growth beyond borders. Admission is free.

Date: Tuesday, March 24

In-person: 5:00 – 8:00 PM (PT) (including a networking session)

Virtual: 5:30 – 7:00 PM (PT) / 8:30 – 10:00 PM (ET)

In-person spots – RSVP confirmation required

<https://luma.com/fb61xpfq>

Virtual attendance available via Zoom

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_UuhyCi24TGmGUEMY6Vn00g#/registration

RECENT ACTIVITIES

HKETO and HKTBC celebrate the Lunar New Year at joint receptions

The HKETO welcomed over 300 guests to spring receptions jointly hosted with the Hong Kong Tourism Board (Canada) (HKTBC) on February 12 and 18 in Toronto and Vancouver respectively to celebrate the Lunar New Year. Guests from the business, cultural, academic and community sectors gathered to learn more about the latest developments on the economic and cultural fronts as well as tourist attractions of Hong Kong.

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In his welcoming remarks, the Director of the HKETO, Mr Bill Wong, said that Hong Kong achieved a series of encouraging results in 2025, reflecting the city's strong momentum in economic development. Looking ahead, Hong Kong will continue to build on its strengths, seize new opportunities, and deepen engagement with various sectors in Canada, reinforcing its role as a global business and cultural hub. The HKTb also shared with participants the upcoming events and festivals in Hong Kong.

To add a cultural dimension to the celebration, the HKETO invited a Hong Kong a cappella group, Brio Singers, to present a series of Hong Kong-themed songs, showcasing the creativity and dynamism of Hong Kong's performing arts scene as an East-meets-West Centre for International Cultural Exchange.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.hketotoronto.gov.hk/newsroom/hketo-celebrates-year-of-the-horse-at-joint-reception-with-hktb.html>

HKETO greets the Year of the Horse across Canada

The HKETO greeted the Year of the Horse in various cities across Canada by supporting Lunar New Year gala dinners hosted by different sections of the HKCBA and community partners. During these gatherings, the Director of the HKETO, Mr Bill Wong, highlighted Hong Kong's dynamic business environment, economic strengths, and its continued role as a global financial powerhouse.

On February 14, Mr Wong joined the 37th Dragon Ball hosted by Yee Hong Community Wellness Foundation. The annual event showcased Hong Kong-themed cuisines and performances to allow over 1 000 guests from the business, political and community sectors in Canada to be immersed within the rich atmosphere of the Lunar New Year culture, enhanced with the unique flavour of Hong Kong.

Mr Wong attended the Lunar New Year celebrations held by the respective chapters of the HKCBA in Edmonton, Calgary, Winnipeg, Montreal and Toronto, where he shared with participants the latest developments of Hong Kong, highlighting the investment opportunities in the areas of finance and innovation and technology, as well as the city's vibrant ecosystem for impact investing and family offices.

As part of its youth engagement initiatives, the HKETO hosted a Lunar New Year reception for students from Hong Kong pursuing education at different universities in Ontario on February 13. Mr Wong shared details about Hong Kong's competitive advantages as Asia's world city. In Calgary, Mr Wong also presented the 2026 HKCBA Calgary Scholarship to award recipients at a student reception on February 6. The

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scholarship, sponsored by the HKETO, is awarded to Calgary university or college students who demonstrate a strong interest in Hong Kong. Mr Wong encouraged the students to consider pursuing further studies or career development in Hong Kong.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.hketotoronto.gov.hk/newsroom/hketo-greets-lunar-new-year-across-canada.html>

HONG KONG NEWS

Budget: Driving High-Quality, Inclusive Growth with Innovation and Finance

The Financial Secretary of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government, Mr Paul Chan, unveiled the 2026-27 Budget themed “Driving High-quality, Inclusive Growth with Innovation and Finance” on February 25 with a range of initiatives to support and diversify Hong Kong’s economic growth, boost innovation and technology (I&T), speed up development of the Northern Metropolis and proactively align with the Chinese Mainland’s National 15th Five-Year Plan. The Hong Kong economy is expected to grow between 2.5% and 3.5% for 2026.

Mr Chan proposed a series of measures to drive I&T development, including establishing the Committee on AI+ and Industry Development Strategy; taking forward the Sandy Ridge data facility cluster project; promoting AI training; and accelerating digital intelligence transformation of the HKSAR Government. Moreover, the International Clinical Trial Academy will also be established to help enable the Chinese Mainland’s biomedicine technology to go global, attract foreign investment, and help develop Hong Kong into an international health and medical innovation hub.

On financial services, Hong Kong will advance the internationalisation of Renminbi and reform the securities market. The HKSAR Government will enhance tax regimes for family offices and funds, as well as establish licensing regimes for digital asset dealing and custodian service providers.

To facilitate the development of new industrialisation, the Budget has earmarked resources for establishing in Hong Kong the first national manufacturing innovation centre outside the Chinese Mainland, and a New Industrialisation Elite Enterprises Nurturing Scheme will be launched. The HKSAR Government will promote the full integration of technological innovation and industrial innovation through key infrastructure, including the Hong Kong Park of the Hetao Shenzhen-Hong Kong Science and Technology Innovation Co-operation Zone and San Tin Technopole.

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To support “tourism is everywhere” and promote “urban-rural integration”, the HKSAR Government will launch the Northern Metropolis Urban-rural Integration Fund as a pilot scheme to encourage the introduction of rural tourism projects. To further promote sports development in Hong Kong, a sum of HK\$1.2 billion (US\$154 million) will be injected into the Arts and Sports Development Fund.

In conclusion, Mr Chan remarked that technological innovation, in particular the development of AI, has brought Hong Kong a mix of opportunities and challenges, and Hong Kong must make full use of its strengths and leverage the resolute support of the country to speed up and scale up economic development sustainably.

For more details on the 2026-27 Budget, please visit <https://www.budget.gov.hk/2026/eng/index.html>

Click the following links for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202602/25/P2026022500335.htm>

<https://www.media-outreach.com/news/hong-kong/2026/02/25/451165/hong-kong-2026-27-budget-driving-high-quality-inclusive-growth-with-innovation-and-finance/>

Pilot Scheme on Sports Dispute Resolution opens for online applications

The Department of Justice of the HKSAR Government announced on February 13 that the designated online platform for sports dispute resolution under the Pilot Scheme on Sports Dispute Resolution is now open for applications.

Targeted to run for two years, the Pilot Scheme aims to provide the sports sector with a fair, efficient and convenient mechanism for resolving sports disputes through mediation and arbitration. The panels of mediators and arbitrators established under the Pilot Scheme comprise a diverse pool of international dispute resolution talent, and will help Hong Kong develop into a regional and international sports dispute resolution hub, reinforcing Hong Kong’s position as a leading centre for international legal and dispute resolution services.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202602/13/P2026021300522.htm>

SED officiates at opening ceremony of APAIE 2026 Conference and Exhibition

The Secretary for Education of the HKSAR Government, Dr Choi Yuk-lin, officiated at the opening ceremony of the Asia-Pacific Association for International Education (APAIE) 2026 Conference and Exhibition on February 24, where she exchanged views with

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education officials and representatives from various regions on international education development trends and co-operation.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Dr Choi noted that Hong Kong possesses advantages in global connectivity, world-class infrastructure, and rich cultural experiences that attract outstanding talent. Five of the universities funded by the University Grants Committee (UGC) are ranked among the world's top 100.

To further strengthen Hong Kong's role as an international education hub, and promote the "Study in Hong Kong" brand globally, the HKSAR Government has designated the period from February 23 to March 1, 2026 as Study in Hong Kong Week, during which UGC-funded universities will host campus tours and organise student exchange activities.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202602/24/P2026022400235.htm>

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HKETO Toronto Facebook Page www.facebook.com/TorontoHKETO

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

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