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UPCOMING EVENTS

2026 iPitch Competition in Montreal

On March 13, the Junior Hong Kong-Canada Business Association (HKCBA) in Montreal will hold the 2026 iPitch Competition with the support of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (Toronto) (HKETO) and Invest Hong Kong (InvestHK) in Canada. Participating teams of university students will pitch their business ideas for the prize.

For event details, please visit:

<https://www.instagram.com/p/DVbXWhCDqZ9/>

Hong Kong – Metro Vancouver Innovation Exchange 2026

Co-hosted by Invest Vancouver, HKETO and InvestHK, 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

2026 HKCBA National Conference in Edmonton

The HKCBA will host the 2026 National Conference in Edmonton, Alberta, from May 7 to 8. This dynamic, high-impact conference will provide fresh insights into the latest Hong Kong-Canada business developments and opportunities for accessing the global marketplace. The conference will also feature an exceptional lineup of expert speakers, including senior executives, industry leaders and government representatives, who will

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share valuable perspectives and strategic insights on business growth and expansion leveraging the Hong Kong platform.

For details and registration, please visit:

<https://edmonton.hkcba.com/events/hkcba-annual-national-conference-and-luncheon-2026>

HONG KONG NEWS

New Capital Investment Entrant Scheme attracts global high-net-worth individuals and capital inflows to Hong Kong

The New Capital Investment Entrant Scheme (New CIES) has steadily attracted global high-net-worth individuals and capital inflows to Hong Kong since its launch in 2024. As of February 28, InvestHK has received nearly 3 200 applications, representing an anticipated investment value of about HK\$95 billion, further reinforcing Hong Kong's leading position as an international wealth management centre.

The investment capital has been allocated across several asset classes, including Securities and Futures Commission-authorized funds (38.6%), equities (29%), investment-linked assurance schemes (9.9%), CIES Investment Portfolio (9.9%), debt securities (9.5%) and other investments (3.2%).

In response to market demand, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government continues to enhance the arrangements under the New CIES which has updated the conditions of a private holding company. Starting from March 1, an applicant is allowed to use an eligible private holding company which has been set up in less than six months for his/her application for assessment on investment requirements without a minimum incorporation period. This measure offers investors greater flexibility in asset allocation.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202603/02/P2026022700711.htm>

Report on “Beyond Wealth: Advancing Hong Kong’s Family Office Ecosystem Through Philanthropy, Impact Investing, and Risk Management”

The Hong Kong Institute for Monetary and Financial Research, the research arm of the Hong Kong Academy of Finance, released a new Applied Research report on March 10, titled “Beyond Wealth: Advancing Hong Kong’s Family Office Ecosystem Through Philanthropy, Impact Investing, and Risk Management”.

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The family office (FO) sector in Hong Kong exhibits strong growth momentum. In addition to traditional wealth management, the increasing demand for philanthropy, impact investing, and risk management strategies has become the main growth area for the future.

The majority (91 per cent) of survey respondents had already invested in Hong Kong having regard to its favourable regulatory framework, free flow of capital, deep capital markets, and competitive tax regime. FOs are planning to deepen their involvement in philanthropy and impact investing over the next few years. Philanthropic participation is projected to increase from 45 per cent to 64 per cent, and impact investing from 30 per cent to 43 per cent - levels that align with global trends. Meanwhile, FOs' demand for risk management products and services is expected to continue to increase.

Building on these findings, the report outlines considerations to further enhance Hong Kong's FO ecosystem, including leveraging the cross-industry support network within the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA), advancing the development of Private Social Investments to enable FOs to achieve sustainable financial returns alongside meaningful environmental and social impact, and promoting talent developments.

Please visit the link below for details of the report:

<https://www.aof.org.hk/docs/default-source/hkimr/applied-research-report/forep.pdf>

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202603/10/P2026031000267.htm>

Regulators launch GenA.I. Sandbox++ to foster AI innovation across financial services

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority, the Securities and Futures Commission, the Insurance Authority, and the Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes Authority, in collaboration with the Hong Kong Cyberport Management Company Limited, announced on March 5 the launch of the Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenA.I.) Sandbox++ initiative.

The initiative maintains its focus on three high-impact areas - risk management, anti-fraud, and customer experience - while continuing to advance "AI vs AI" strategies by leveraging AI to manage the risks associated with AI adoption. By fostering collaboration among regulators, financial institutions, and technology firms, the initiative aims to spark new ideas and cultivate deeper cross-sector and cross-boundary partnerships.

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Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202603/05/P2026030500251.htm>

Global Talent Summit Week to spotlight integration of education, technology and talent featuring nine satellite events with partners

The Hong Kong Talent Engage on March 2 announced details of the upcoming Global Talent Summit Week which consists of the International Talent Forum and the CareerConnect Expo to be held on March 18 to 19, alongside nine satellite events running over about a week. With a focus on the integration of education, technology and talent, the Summit Week strives to further highlight Hong Kong's role and advantages as an international talent hub and the gateway for talent to the Chinese Mainland.

The Forum, under the theme "Connecting Global Minds", will bring together top leaders from government, business and academia from Hong Kong and abroad to discuss future trends and strategies in the manpower landscape. The Forum will feature a keynote speech by Professor Christopher A Pissarides, the 2010 Nobel Laureate in Economic Sciences, followed by plenary sessions and dynamic panel discussions with global industry leaders and renowned scholars.

The two-day Expo will feature thematic zones and bring together about 70 large enterprises, education and technology institutions, and government departments. It will provide participants with the latest industry insights and diversified support services, showcasing the boundless opportunities in Hong Kong and the rest of the GBA.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202603/02/P2026030200521.htm>

Singapore heritage-inspired bakery brand opens first overseas store in Hong Kong

InvestHK announced on March 10 that Singapore's heritage-inspired bakery brand, Old Seng Choong, has opened its first overseas store in Central. The new store is co-launched by the brand and OCBC Bank (Hong Kong) with a "Bank x Retail" concept, marking a significant milestone in the brand's global expansion and reinforcing Hong Kong's appeal as a launchpad for Asian consumer brands seeking regional growth.

Founded by renowned Singaporean pastry chef Daniel Tay, Old Seng Choong offers modern interpretations of traditional flavours and currently operates five outlets in Singapore. The Hong Kong store introduces a curated selection of the brand's signature offerings, including Singapore Pandan Chiffon Cake, Traditional Kueh Lapis, and Premium Heritage-inspired Cookie Collections.

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Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202603/10/P2026030300447.htm>

Immigration Department relaxes eligibility criteria for e-Channel service to enhance clearance efficiency

The Immigration Department of the HKSAR Government announced that, with effect from February 27, the eligibility criteria for the self-service immigration clearance (e-Channel) service for frequent visitors will be relaxed, and the enrolment procedure for the e-Channel service will be simplified.

Under the new arrangement, frequent visitors, including those holding valid travel documents and multiple visit visas, who have visited Hong Kong via Hong Kong International Airport two or more times in the past 24 months and who meet the relevant criteria, may enrol for the e-Channel service free of charge. This enables them to enjoy a more convenient and efficient travel experience with self-service immigration clearance at all Hong Kong control points using the e-Channel. In addition, the enrolment procedure for the e-Channel services has also been simplified.

For details on the locations and opening hours of the enrolment offices and the e-Channel service for visitors, please visit the ImmD website (www.immd.gov.hk/eng/services/echannel_visitors.html).

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202602/26/P2026022600617.htm>

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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.

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For help setting up your business in Hong Kong, please contact:

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