

April 8, 2026



UPCOMING EVENTS

2026 HKCBA National Conference in Edmonton

The Hong Kong-Canada Business Association will host the 2026 National Conference in Edmonton, Alberta, from May 7 to 8. Titled “Global Growth Starts Here: Leveraging Hong Kong for Canadian Success”, the conference will provide 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 share valuable perspectives and strategic insights on business growth and expansion leveraging the Hong Kong platform. The Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (Toronto) (HKETO) is one of the major sponsors.

For details and registration, please visit:

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

RECENT ACTIVITIES

HKETO Director pays business visit to British Columbia

The Director of HKETO, Mr Bill Wong, paid a business visit to British Columbia in March, promoting deeper collaboration between Hong Kong and Canada in innovation and technology, business development as well as academic exchanges.

Mr Wong participated in the “Hong Kong–Metro Vancouver Innovation Exchange 2026” co-hosted by HKETO, Invest Hong Kong in Canada and Invest Vancouver. Speaking at the hybrid event which attracted some 200 entrepreneurs, investors and ecosystem partners, Mr Wong highlighted Hong Kong’s role as a global business hub and a gateway to Asia. He noted that the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks, the Cyberport, and the newly opened Hong Kong-Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Park offer comprehensive support to start-ups.

Mr Wong also visited the University of British Columbia Okanagan Campus to deepen higher education collaboration and promote the “Study in Hong Kong” brand. He joined a seminar titled “The Okanagan – Hong Kong Innovation Corridor: A Dialogue on Opportunity and Collaboration”, where he introduced the flagship InnoHK Clusters which aim at attracting global top institutions to collaborate with Hong Kong universities to set up research centres. The visit also included a business networking session with the Kelowna Chamber of Commerce, providing an opportunity for local business leaders to learn more about Hong Kong’s business environment.

April 8, 2026



Click the following link for details:

<https://www.hketotoronto.gov.hk/newsroom/hketo-director-concludes-business-visit-to-british-columbia.html>

HKETO presents Best Asia Pacific Business Award at 2026 ACCE Awards Gala

The Director of HKETO, Mr Bill Wong, attended the 2026 Association of Chinese Canadian Entrepreneurs (ACCE) Awards Gala in Toronto on March 28 and presented the Best Asia Pacific Business Award. The award recognises those entrepreneurs who have made a business success by using Hong Kong as a platform for their business expansion to the Asia Pacific region.

Speaking at the event, Mr Wong highlighted that the Chinese Mainland and Hong Kong present enormous opportunities to Canadian businesses in Asia, and the new development brought about by technological transformation creates more opportunities. Hong Kong is actively integrating artificial intelligence (AI) across every sector of the economy, enabling a high-growth environment for technology companies and start-ups.

Frobisher International Enterprise, a Vancouver-based company engaging in seafood distribution business, received the 2026 Best Asia-Pacific Business Award sponsored by HKETO.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.hketotoronto.gov.hk/newsroom/hketo-presents-best-asia-pacific-business-award-at-2026-acce-awards-gala.html>

HKETO showcases thriving professional prospects in Hong Kong's infrastructure works

HKETO highlighted Hong Kong's Northern Metropolis development and strengthened Canada–Hong Kong engineering collaboration at a reception hosted by the visiting Hong Kong Institution of Engineers (HKIE) delegation in Toronto on March 30.

Addressing nearly 100 professional engineers and HKIE members, the Director of HKETO, Mr Bill Wong, highlighted that the Northern Metropolis is projected to generate significant long-term economic value and high-quality employment while strengthening global talent development and innovation capacity. He emphasised the opportunities for Canadian participation in the development, particularly for construction, architecture and engineering firms, supported by policy incentives aimed at attracting global expertise.

April 8, 2026



Click the following link for details:

<https://www.hketotoronto.gov.hk/newsroom/hketo-showcases-thriving-professional-prospects-in-hong-kongs-infrastructure-works.html>

HONG KONG NEWS

Hong Kong records higher rating in Global Financial Centres Index and maintains third place globally

In the Global Financial Centres Index (GFCI) 39 Report published by Z/Yen from the United Kingdom and the China Development Institute from Shenzhen, Hong Kong's overall rating increased further by one point to 765, maintaining third place globally and first place in Asia Pacific. The rating gaps with first place (New York) and second place (London) were only two points and one point respectively.

The report reaffirms Hong Kong's leading position as an international financial centre. Hong Kong continued to rank first globally in fintech offerings. Hong Kong's rankings in the "banking" and "finance" sectors leapt to first place worldwide. Hong Kong continued to top the global ranking in the "insurance" sector, while the ranking in the "investment management" sector rose to second place globally.

In addition, Hong Kong's rankings in the five areas of competitiveness, namely "business environment", "human capital", "infrastructure", "financial sector development" and "reputational and general", also stay among the global top three positions.

The GFCI Report has been released every March and September since 2007. In GFCI 39 published on March 26, 120 financial centres were assessed.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202603/26/P2026032600501.htm>

Hong Kong rises to world's fifth-largest trading entity in merchandise trade

Hong Kong ranked as the world's fifth-largest trading entity in merchandise trade in 2025, two places up from 2024, according to the report "Global Trade Outlook and Statistics" published by World Trade Organization (WTO). The total merchandise trade recorded a year-on-year increase of 17.5 per cent to US\$1,585 billion, accounting for 3 per cent of the world's total.

The WTO report fully demonstrated that despite the challenges brought about by geopolitics and trade protectionism in the past year, Hong Kong's external trade remained resilient and achieved an encouraging result, making the city the world's fifth-largest

April 8, 2026



trading entity in merchandise trade after the Chinese Mainland, the United States, Germany and the Netherlands.

Riding on the good performance last year, merchandise exports continued to show strong performance in early 2026. In February 2026, the values of Hong Kong's total exports and imports of goods both recorded year-on-year increases, at 24.7 per cent and 29.9 per cent respectively. Taking January and February of 2026 together, the value of total exports of goods increased by 29.6 per cent over the same period in 2025. Concurrently, the value of imports of goods increased by 34.1 per cent.

For commercial service trading, Hong Kong was the world's 22nd-largest commercial service trading entity in 2025. Hong Kong's total trade in commercial services amounted to US\$211 billion in 2025, accounting for 1.2 per cent of the world's total and representing a 6.6 per cent increase from 2024.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202604/02/P2026040200335.htm>

Eight proposals approved for admission to the third InnoHK research cluster

The Innovation and Technology Commission of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government announced on March 26 that eight proposals have been approved for admission to the third InnoHK research cluster, SEAM@InnoHK, with total funding support of around HK\$2.5 billion.

These approved proposals span a range of innovation and technology (I&T) fields, including sustainable development, energy, advanced manufacturing and materials. The research and development (R&D) laboratories to be funded will be carried out in collaboration with world-renowned universities and research institutions. Their setting up will not only demonstrate Hong Kong's robust R&D capabilities and international collaboration network, but also bring tangible benefits to society.

InnoHK is a major I&T initiative of the HKSAR Government to attract institutions that are among the global top echelon to collaborate with local universities/institutions to set up research centres/laboratories in Hong Kong. Two InnoHK research clusters have already been established, namely Health@InnoHK focusing on healthcare technology, and AIR@InnoHK focusing on AI and robotics technologies. The third cluster, namely SEAM@InnoHK, will focus on sustainable development, energy, advanced manufacturing and materials.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202603/26/P2026032500539.htm>

April 8, 2026

New round of applications for Common Recruitment Examination opens

A new round of the Common Recruitment Examination (CRE) has opened for application with deadline on April 10, 11.59 pm (Hong Kong time). Prospective applicants for civil service posts at the degree or professional level should apply through the online application system on the Civil Service Bureau (CSB) webpage at www.csb.gov.hk/eng/cre.html.

Persons planning to apply for civil service posts at the degree or professional level should first obtain valid CRE results. Those who plan to apply for these jobs in the near future should make use of the opportunity to take part in this round of examination, tentatively scheduled for June 6.

Applicants are also reminded that attaining a pass result in the Basic Law and National Security Law Test is an entry requirement for all civil service jobs.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202603/27/P2026032700201.htm>

Application procedure for Certificate of No Criminal Conviction further enhanced

The issuance service of the Certificate of No Criminal Conviction (CNCC) by the Hong Kong Police Force has been further enhanced. Eligible applicants may complete the application procedure without the need to submit fingerprints.

The issuance of the CNCC is a charged service provided by the Hong Kong Police Force, solely for the purpose of applications for various types of visas (such as visit, student or resident visas) or for adoption of children. Following the implementation of the new measure, the processing time for applications meeting the required conditions will be reduced from 28 days to 15 days.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202603/29/P2026032900275.htm?fontSize=1>

New regulations on air passengers carrying and using lithium battery power banks on board with immediate effect

In view of the latest requirements announced by the International Civil Aviation Organization regarding the carriage and in flight use of lithium battery power banks by air passengers, the Civil Aviation Department of the HKSAR Government on March 28 issued an advisory circular to update that airlines can allow each passenger departing

April 8, 2026



from the Hong Kong International Airport to carry on board a maximum of two power banks, and recharging these devices during the flight is strictly prohibited. Passengers are advised to check with the relevant airlines for the latest regulations before their flight.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202603/28/P2026032800787.htm>

Five-year collaboration arrangement with Art Basel

The Culture, Sports and Tourism Bureau of the HKSAR Government announced on March 25 that it has reached an agreement with Art Basel to deepen collaboration, designating Hong Kong as the renowned art fair's exclusive host city in the region over the coming five years. Under this partnership, the HKSAR Government and Art Basel will work closely to elevate Hong Kong's position as a leading global hub for high-end arts trading, while showcasing the brilliance of local and Asian artists to a global audience.

Since its debut in Hong Kong in 2013, Art Basel Hong Kong has attracted hundreds of international galleries and tens of thousands of collectors and industry professionals each year.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202603/25/P2026032500255.htm>

Hong Kong Museum of History launches "Hong Kong Story" permanent exhibition

The Hong Kong Museum of History, starting from April 1, is staging the revamped permanent exhibition "Hong Kong Story" which is a milestone in the second phase of the renovation of the permanent exhibition of the museum. Admission is free.

Framed around four core themes as curation context, namely "Roots of Culture", "East Meets West", "Coalition against Japanese Aggression", and "Hong Kong as a Global Metropolis", the exhibition traces Hong Kong's development from prehistoric times to the present, showcasing over 2 800 precious exhibits, including artefacts, historic photos, videos and interactive multimedia installations.

At the conclusion of the exhibition, the "Walking with the Motherland" gallery features a "Moments in Focus" immersive presentation, allowing visitors to witness Hong Kong's return to the motherland, the implementation of "one country, two systems", and a new chapter in its integration into the nation's overall development.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202603/31/P2026033100465.htm>

April 8, 2026



“Great Music 2026” gathers international top-notch orchestra and acclaimed musicians

The Piano Recital by Canadian pianist Jan Lisiecki is one of the highlights in the “Great Music 2026” programme, presented by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department of the HKSAR Government to bring world-renowned orchestra and musicians to Hong Kong.

Transitioned from a piano prodigy to an internationally acclaimed musician, Mr Lisiecki works closely with the foremost conductors and orchestras of his time, and his albums have garnered numerous prestigious awards. After an eight-year absence, he will return to Hong Kong City Hall on December 6 to present a dance-themed solo recital programme for music lovers.

For details of the programmes, please visit

www.lcsd.gov.hk/CE/CulturalService/Programme/en/music/groups_1946.html

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202603/27/P2026032600518.htm>

To stay tuned to updates on HKETO and Hong Kong, please follow us at

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

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.

For enquiries, please contact:

info@hketotoronto.gov.hk or 416-924-5544.

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

You are receiving this e-mail for information only. You may at any time unsubscribe from receiving our communications by contacting us at info@hketotoronto.gov.hk; or, simply click [here](#) to unsubscribe.