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UPCOMING EVENTS

Dragon boat festival in Ottawa

The Ottawa Dragon Boat Festival will return to the Mooney's Bay Park from June 19 to 21. Onsite activities include boat racing, free concerts, family fun events, silent auction, and a wide variety of displays including an exhibition about Hong Kong's dragon boat history. The Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (Toronto) (HKETO) is one of the sponsors of the event. For details, please visit: <https://dragonboat.net/>.

Hong Kong Showcase@Lavazza IncluCity Festival 2026

Presented as part of the Lavazza IncluCity Festival, an immersive exhibition, AiRTIFICIAL VISIONS, will bring together a select group of internationally acclaimed AI-driven artists, including Bianca Tse from Hong Kong from June 25 to July 25 at the Illuminarium in the Distillery Historic District. HKETO is proud to be one of the community partners supporting the event. For details, please visit: <https://icff.ca/>.

RECENT ACTIVITIES

HKETO celebrates dragon boat race festival in Toronto

HKETO joined community leaders, athletes, and thousands of spectators at the 38th Toronto International Dragon Boat Race Festival hosted by the Toronto Chinese Business Association on Toronto Centre Island, celebrating the global appeal of dragon boat racing and the strong cultural ties between Hong Kong and Canada.

Speaking at the opening ceremony on June 13, the Director of HKETO, Mr Bill Wong, said that exactly 50 years ago, the first international dragon boat race took place in Hong Kong, transforming a traditional Chinese cultural activity into a modern international sport that later expanded to Canada.

On both days of the Festival, HKETO's Hong Kong Pavilion introduced the dragon boat history. The commemorative Hong Kong Cup, sponsored by HKETO, was presented to a winning team on June 14.

Separately, the annual Hong Kong International Dragon Boat Festival with teams from Canada participating will take place in two weeks. Mr Wong invited friends in Canada to visit Hong Kong this summer to experience the rich culture and vibrancy of the city.

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For details, please visit:

<https://www.hketotoronto.gov.hk/newsroom/hketo-celebrates-dragon-boat-racing-festivals-in-toronto-and-ottawa.html>

HONG KONG NEWS

HKSAR Government launches public consultation on The First Five-Year Plan for Economic and Social Development of the HKSAR (2026-2030)

The public consultation on The First Five-Year Plan for Economic and Social Development of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) (2026-2030) was launched on June 15.

Hong Kong's First Five-Year Plan will provide a forward-looking, strategic and operable guiding document for Hong Kong's development during the next five years, enabling Hong Kong to proactively align with the National 15th Five-Year Plan and supporting Hong Kong's high-quality development.

The public consultation will run until August 14. The HKSAR Government will organise multiple consultation sessions to listen to views and suggestions from different stakeholders and the general public.

For details, please visit:

www.HK5YPlan.gov.hk,
<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202606/15/P2026061500227.htm>

Action Plan to Promote Development of Corporate Treasury Centres in Hong Kong announced

The Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau (FSTB) on June 9 unveiled the Action Plan to Promote the Development of Corporate Treasury Centres in Hong Kong (Action Plan) at the Corporate Treasury Centre Forum. The Action Plan sets out targeted strategies to strengthen Hong Kong as a premier hub for multinational corporate treasury centres (CTCs), elevating Hong Kong as a major base for CTCs and reinforcing its role as a platform for "bringing in and going global".

Jointly formulated by the FSTB, the Inland Revenue Department, the Hong Kong Monetary Authority and Invest Hong Kong, the Action Plan has the major objectives of attracting more multinational corporations to establish CTCs in Hong Kong, and enabling existing CTCs operating in Hong Kong to scale up their operations and fully leverage the city's comprehensive financial ecosystem.

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Key highlights include:

Tax revamp: To revamp the existing tax concession regime applicable to corporate treasury activities and introduce a more competitive tiered system.

Tax agreements: To continue to expand the network of Comprehensive Avoidance of Double Taxation Agreements with other economies.

Talent and dialogue: To work with the industry to strengthen the training of professional talent, as well as build a high-quality talent pool.

The Forum attracted about 150 representatives from enterprises, chambers of commerce and government agencies from around the world to explore together the development trends of CTCs and share success stories of multinational corporations establishing CTCs in Hong Kong.

For details, please visit:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202606/09/P2026060900365.htm>

Implementation of regulatory enhancements for mediation profession to solidify HK's status as capital of mediation

The Department of Justice (DoJ) of the HKSAR announced on June 16 that its Working Group on Mediation Regulatory System has completed its review of Hong Kong's mediation regulatory system and made seven recommendations to enhance the relevant regulatory system, strengthening the professionalism and competitiveness of Hong Kong's mediation services.

The recommendations are as follows:

- (1) Mediation in Hong Kong should remain as a non-licensed activity with no mandatory licensing or accreditation regime for practising as a mediator.
- (2) The Hong Kong Mediation Accreditation Association Limited (HKMAAL) should remain as a private company limited by guarantee to perform its role as an industry-led mediation accreditation and regulatory body, with an enhanced role and expanded functions.
- (3) The HKMAAL should be granted statutory mediator-appointing power in the absence of an agreed choice by the parties through legislative amendments.

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- (4) The HKMAAL should complete the review of the Hong Kong Mediation Code (Mediation Code) and going forward, take ownership and responsibility of reviewing, managing and administering the Mediation Code to provide a consistent professional standard.
- (5) Promotional efforts should be made to encourage parties to adopt the Mediation Code.
- (6) The HKMAAL should finalise and implement a robust complaint-handling and disciplinary framework to enforce the Mediation Code, and should take steps to publicise a database of its disciplinary findings on its website.
- (7) The HKMAAL should actively participate in global discussions on dispute resolution as a representative of the Hong Kong mediation industry and foster partnerships with mediation institutions worldwide.

For details, please visit:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202606/16/P2026061500677.htm>

Immigration Department to introduce Seamless e-Channel service

The Immigration Department (ImmD) of the HKSAR announced on June 11 that a Seamless e-Channel service would be launched on June 25. From that date, enrolled eligible Hong Kong permanent residents will be able to enjoy “on-the-move” self-service departure clearance seamlessly by employing artificial intelligence and facial recognition technology at the departure hall of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (HZMB) Hong Kong Port without the need to present a Hong Kong identity card or an e-Channel QR code.

Hong Kong permanent residents aged 11 or above holding a valid smart identity card and have arrived in or departed from Hong Kong via the Passenger Clearance Building of the HZMB Hong Kong Port 10 times or more in the past 90 days are eligible to enrol in the Seamless e-Channel service.

The ImmD reminds that enrolled Hong Kong permanent residents must still carry a valid Hong Kong identity card when using the Seamless e-Channel Service. Moreover, residents can continue to use other e-Channels or traditional counters for immigration clearance.

For details, please visit:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202606/11/P2026061100230.htm>

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WHO holds expert meeting on International Herbal Pharmacopoeia in Hong Kong

The World Health Organization (WHO) on June 16 convened the fifth WHO Expert Meeting on the Development of the International Herbal Pharmacopoeia (IHP) in Hong Kong for three days. The meeting brought together experts from six WHO regions to discuss and advance internationally harmonised quality standards for selected herbal medicines.

The WHO recognises the important role of traditional medicine in healthcare systems worldwide and the need for its evidence-based integration. The development of the IHP aims to support harmonised quality standards for herbal medicines, strengthen regulatory capacity and help ensure the quality and safety of traditional medicine products. This work aligns with Strategic Objective 2 of the WHO Global Traditional Medicine Strategy 2025-2034.

For details, please visit:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202606/16/P2026061600249.htm>

Dogs allowed to enter permitted food premises

Dogs will be allowed to enter permitted food premises starting from July 9. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) of the HKSAR on June 12 allocated the 1 000 quotas for allowing dogs to enter food premises according to open ballot.

The successful food premises which have completed the procedures and obtained formal approval will be given designated A3-sized signages for display at the main entrances of the food premises to facilitate identification by the general public. The FEHD will launch a series of publicity campaigns to publicise the arrangements for allowing dogs to enter permitted food premises.

For details, please visit:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202606/12/P2026061200552.htm>

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HKETO Toronto Facebook Page www.facebook.com/TorontoHKETO

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

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

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

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