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UPCOMING EVENTS

Hong Kong Showcase@Lavazza IncluCity Festival 2026

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

Fantasia International Film Festival 2026

The Fantasia international Film Festival 2026 will run from July 16 to August 2. HKETO will co-present the screenings of five Hong Kong films at the festival, namely:

- *Unidentified Murder UFO* 離奇命案 (2025)
- *Blades of the Guardian* 鏢人: 風起大漠 (2026)
- *The Delinquent* 憤怒青年 (1973)
- *Hong Kong Godfather* 尖東梟雄 (1985)
- *City War* 義胆紅唇 (1988) - new 4k restoration

For details, please visit:

<https://fantasiafestival.com/en>

HONG KONG NEWS

Hong Kong rises to rank second globally in World Competitiveness Yearbook 2026

Hong Kong jumped one place to become the world's second most competitive economy, according to the 2026 World Competitiveness Yearbook (WCY) published on June 18 by the Swiss-based International Institute for Management Development. It is Hong Kong's highest ranking since 2019, and builds on three consecutive years of improvement.

Among the four competitiveness factors in the WCY 2026, Hong Kong ranks second globally in "Government efficiency" and third in "Business efficiency". Hong Kong ranks eighth and 11th globally in "Infrastructure" and "Economic performance" respectively.

As regards the various competitiveness sub-factors, Hong Kong tops the rankings in "Tax policy" and "Business legislation"; ranks second globally in "Finance"; third globally in

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“International trade”, “International investment”, “Management practices” and “Education”; and fourth globally in “Public finance” and “Basic infrastructure”.

The ranking reflects the ongoing efforts of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government in promoting free and open, stable, predictable and business-friendly economic policies, as well as the international community’s trust in Hong Kong’s legal and regulatory environment.

For details, please visit:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202606/18/P2026061800331.htm>

InvestHK attracts over HK\$53 billion in investment as businesses expand into Hong Kong in the first half of 2026

Officiated by the Chief Executive of the HKSAR, Mr John Lee, Invest Hong Kong (InvestHK) on June 25 held its annual International and Mainland Businesses Welcome Reception attended by more than 380 representatives of global enterprises.

From January to June, InvestHK has assisted 413 overseas and Mainland enterprises in setting up or expanding their businesses in Hong Kong, expected to bring in over HK\$53 billion in foreign direct investment, up 36 per cent year on year, and to create more than 8 600 new jobs.

In terms of place of origin, among the 413 enterprises, 60 per cent came from the Chinese Mainland with other major sources spanning various markets, including Europe, Asia and beyond.

The top five sectors are: (i) innovation and technology, (ii) financial services and fintech, (iii) tourism and hospitality, (iv) transport, logistics and industrials, and (v) business and professional services. These sectors span the key areas of Hong Kong’s strategic economic development.

For details, please visit:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202606/25/P2026062500366.htm>

Launch of Chinese Mainland government bond futures in Hong Kong

The Securities and Futures Commission of Hong Kong issued an announcement on June 18 that Chinese Mainland government bond futures will be launched in Hong Kong.

Since the launch of Bond Connect in 2017, the scale of Chinese bond assets held by

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overseas investors has steadily increased from around RMB0.8 trillion in June 2017 to over RMB3 trillion in April 2026. With growing demand for RMB-denominated products and related hedging instruments, the introduction of Chinese Mainland government bond futures in Hong Kong provides an effective offshore risk management tool for investors, and further attracts international investors to participate in the Chinese Mainland bond market and to hold RMB treasury bonds on a long-term basis.

According to the announcement, a five-year Chinese Mainland government bond futures contract will be launched in Hong Kong. Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited (HKEX) is undertaking the necessary preparatory work, including proposed amendments to relevant rules, and will announce further details of the contract.

For details, please visit:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202606/18/P2026061800336.htm>

Joint pilot project to enable digital payment solution for derivatives After-Hours Trading

HKEX and the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) announced on June 18 a joint pilot project to explore a new digital payment solution for the After-Hours Trading (AHT) session in the derivatives market.

This initiative aims to enhance Hong Kong's capital market and meet the growing market demand for AHT. In this connection, HKEX and HKMA are exploring the use of e-HKD - a wholesale central bank digital currency operating on a 24/7 basis - for advance margin payments in the AHT session, enhancing the risk management capabilities of the derivatives market outside regular banking hours, whilst maintaining the existing operational workflows.

For details, please visit:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202606/18/P2026061800728.htm>

Hong Kong's higher education system consolidates its position as international education hub

Hong Kong's higher education system continues to excel on the international stage with five institutions ranked among the world's top 100 and, for the first time, two in the top 20 of the 2027 World University Rankings published by Quacquarelli Symonds (QS), an international higher education institution.

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According to the latest 2027 World University Rankings published by QS, the eight universities funded by the University Grants Committee (UGC) have achieved outstanding results, with five of them maintaining their positions among the world's top 100.

While the University of Hong Kong has continued to hold its position at 11th in the world, the overall rankings of the other seven UGC-funded universities have all risen significantly. Notably, the Chinese University of Hong Kong rose 14 places to 18th. This represents that for the first time two Hong Kong universities rank in the global top 20. In addition, the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology rose 11 places to 33rd, and the Hong Kong Polytechnic University climbed four places to 50th, both entering the world's top 50 for the first time.

The significant rise in the overall rankings of these institutions further validates Hong Kong's strong appeal as a premier hub for international high-end talent.

For details, please visit:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202606/18/P2026061800119.htm>

Announcement of seventh batch of recognised medical qualifications under Medical Registration Ordinance

In accordance with the Medical Registration Ordinance, the Registrar of Medical Practitioners announced on June 17 the seventh batch of 16 medical qualifications recognised under the Medical Council of Hong Kong. The new batch includes four medical qualifications from the following two Canadian universities:

1) McMaster University

- Doctor of Medicine (3-year medical programme)
- Doctor of Medicine and Doctor of Philosophy (7-year medical programme)

2) University of Calgary

- Doctor of Medicine (3-year medical programme)
- Doctor of Medicine and Doctor of Philosophy (7-year to 8-year medical programme)

Together with those announced in the first six batches, the Special Registration Committee has so far recognised a total of 166 medical qualifications.

Under the Ordinance, non-locally trained doctors who possess the recognised medical qualifications may apply for special registration to practise in the public healthcare institutions in Hong Kong. After serving for a certain period, obtaining recognised

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specialist qualifications and passing the assessment, they will be granted full registration to practise in Hong Kong.

For details, please visit:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202606/17/P2026061700379.htm>

Government launches public consultation for 2026 Policy Address

The HKSAR Government launched a public consultation for the Chief Executive's 2026 Policy Address on June 29.

During the consultation period, the Chief Executive and the Principal Officials will attend a number of online and face-to-face consultation sessions, and will also engage the community to extensively gather the views from all walks of life.

Starting from June 29, members of the public can also offer their views through the Policy Address website (www.policyaddress.gov.hk), via the dedicated Facebook page for the Policy Address public consultation (www.facebook.com/PolicyAddressConsultation), and by email (policyaddress@cepu.gov.hk).

For details, please visit:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202606/25/P2026062500814.htm>

Media partnership promoting "HK bridges Canada and Asia-Pacific"

In partnership with the Information Services Department of the HKSAR Government, *The Standard* has published an interview with Chairman of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong, Mr Alex Tam, highlighting Hong Kong's unique international character and its close ties with Canada, rooted in mutual understanding and affinity. *Sing Tao Daily* has also published a Chinese translation of the article.

Article: "*HK Bridges Canada and Asia-Pacific*"

Link:

<https://www.thestandard.com.hk/finance/article/335792/Hong-Kong-bridges-Canada-and-Asia-Pacific>

(Translation) <https://www.stheadline.com/society/3588584/>

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

Brand Hong Kong Facebook page www.facebook.com/brandhk.isd

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