Hong Kong e-News Bulletin

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Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (Toronto)
We work across Canada

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 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's gold central clearing and settlement system commences trial operation

The Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau (FSTB) of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government announced on July 7 the commencement of the trial operation of Hong Kong's new central clearing and settlement system for gold, together with a suite of targeted initiatives aiming to build a modern and full-chain gold trading ecosystem.

The initiatives include rolling out the initial phase of Delivery Connect with the Shanghai Gold Exchange, launching a new HAU price ticker, expanding storage capacity and refining capability, diversifying gold investment products, exploring tax incentives, coordinating insurance arrangements, enhancing flexibility of Mandatory Provident Fund investments in gold exchange-traded funds, and establishing an industry-led trade association. These measures will collectively bolster Hong Kong's role as a trusted international gold trading, clearing, and reserve hub.

In tandem with the commencement of the trial operation, the first batch of gold has been successfully deposited into the designated vault, and the first batch of trading and settlement activities has also been completed.

Operating under the governance of the Hong Kong Precious Metals Central Clearing Company Limited (HKPMCC), a wholly government-owned entity, the system provides efficient and reliable clearing and settlement services for bilateral and over-the-counter gold transactions. The Board of Directors of the HKPMCC comprises the HKSAR Government, the Shanghai Gold Exchange, regulators, and 11 banks to fully incorporate market feedback.

For details, please visit:
https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202607/07/P2026070700223.htm

New Measures to support development of fixed income and currency market and offshore Renminbi business

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA), the People's Bank of China and the Securities and Futures Commission announced on July 7 a series of new measures to deepen the financial co-operation between Hong Kong and the Chinese Mainland, support the development of Hong Kong's fixed income and currency (FIC) market and offshore Renminbi (RMB) business, and reinforce Hong Kong's position as an international financial centre. These measures include:

- supporting the collaboration of financial infrastructure institutions in Hong Kong and Chinese Mainland to develop a Hong Kong FIC electronic trading platform;
- further enhancing and expanding the Southbound Bond Connect;
- supporting the inclusion of onshore bonds issued by the Ministry of Finance and Mainland policy banks;
- enhancing the Northbound Bond Connect operational arrangement to extend the settlement time and improve efficiency;
- further enhancing the Swap Connect to include the interbank Seven-Day Fixing Depository-Institutions Repo Rate (FDR007) as a reference rate; and
- supporting the launch of Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited Five-Year China Government Bond Futures in Hong Kong on August 3.

Building on this, the HKMA also announced five measures to support the development of the offshore RMB market and strengthen Hong Kong's role as a leading offshore RMB business hub. These include:

- increasing the size of the HKMA's RMB Business Facility from RMB200 billion to RMB500 billion and extending tenors to include nine-month, two-year and three-year, effective on July 10;
- exploring to introduce a tendering mechanism of seven-day offshore RMB liquidity;
- exploring the issuance of offshore RMB short-term debt instruments to support the building of the offshore RMB yield curve;
- promoting the development of a bilateral currency transaction framework between Indonesian Rupiah and offshore RMB; and
- issuing good practices to banks to promote RMB adoption.

For details, please visit:
https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202607/07/P2026070700530.htm

FSTB welcomes two new captive insurers as market remains vibrant

The FSTB of the HKSAR Government on July 8 welcomed the authorisation by the Insurance Authority (IA) of two new captive insurers established by The Hongkong and Shanghai Hotels, Limited and SF Holding Co Ltd, respectively, bringing the total number of captives in Hong Kong to nine.

In recent years, the Government has proactively introduced a series of incentives, including the reduction of the profits tax rate by 50 per cent for captive insurance business, making Hong Kong more competitive than other Asian markets in terms of tax concessions. The IA has also provided captive insurers with various regulatory facilitation measures, including simplified capital requirements, exemption from the appointment of a certifying actuary, and exemption from the requirement to maintain assets in Hong Kong.

For details, please visit:
https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202607/08/P2026070700568.htm

International corporations expand in Hong Kong

Invest Hong Kong (InvestHK) announced on July 3 that leading Thai energy group Bangchak Corporation Public Company Limited commenced its Hong Kong fuels business, marking a significant long-term commitment to the city and positioning Hong Kong as its regional commercial and trading hub.

Bangchak earlier announced the full acquisition of Chevron Hong Kong Limited at US$270 million. Under this completed deal with effect on June 30, the company renamed Bangchak Hong Kong is now the fuels licensee of Caltex in Hong Kong and operates 31 service stations in Hong Kong under the Caltex brand, alongside oil storage terminals, and industrial, marine and commercial fuel operations, running as “Caltex licensed by Bangchak”.

Bangchak, a leading Thai energy group established in 1984, operates in about 10 countries with a diversified portfolio spanning petroleum refining, fuel marketing and service stations, oil trading, upstream energy, power and infrastructure, and new businesses. Listed on the Stock Exchange of Thailand, the group runs two world-class refineries with a combined capacity of approximately 300 000 barrels per day.

For details, please visit:
https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202607/03/P2026070300827.htm

In addition, global transport and logistics leader DSV has completed the expansion of its Greater China and Asia-Pacific regional headquarters in Hong Kong. Marking its 50th anniversary, the Danish company’s expanded operations, bolstered by its acquisition of DB Schenker in 2025, feature a scaled-up workforce of over 1 000 employees across 14 operating locations in the city.

DSV is a global leader in transport and logistics, moving millions of shipments each year by air, sea, road and rail. It has close to 160 000 employees over 90 countries/regions, with a clear commitment to achieving net-zero emissions by 2050.

For details, please visit:
https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202607/10/P2026070900400.htm

International Dragon Boat Federation makes homecoming to Hong Kong

InvestHK announced on July 8 that the International Dragon Boat Federation (IDBF) officially opened its new global headquarters in Hong Kong, marking a significant milestone for the city’s sports economy. This also represents a homecoming for the IDBF, returning to the city where it was first established 35 years ago.

Having relocated its headquarters from London, the IDBF has established its global operations in Hong Kong under the HKSAR Government’s initiative to position the city as a world-class sports hub. The IDBF’s decision to choose Hong Kong as its global home was driven by a combination of strategic heritage and tangible business advantages.

The IDBF World Dragon Boat Racing Championships are set to return to Hong Kong next year for the first time since 1997, and are expected to attract over 5 000 athletes from across the globe and generate notable economic, tourism, and sporting benefits for the city. With around 80 member federations worldwide, the IDBF's return reinforces Hong Kong's position as the global hub of this time-honoured sport, and marks an important step in IDBF's long-term pursuit of Olympic recognition.

For details, please visit:
https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202607/08/P2026070700673.htm

Media partnership promoting Hong Kong as a connector and a hub for diverse exchange

In partnership with the Information Services Department of the HKSAR Government, *The Standard* has published an interview with Chairman of the European Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong, Mr Johannes Hack, on why Hong Kong works as a connector and a hub for diverse exchange. *Sing Tao Daily* has also published a Chinese version of the article.

Article: *Connector' city: HK's edge not just access to China*
Link: https://www.thestandard.com.hk/people/article/337024/
(Chinese version) https://www.stheadline.com/society/3593265/

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