Hong Kong e-News Bulletin

September 23, 2026

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

The First Five-Year Plan for Economic and Social Development announced

The Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), Mr John Lee, announced on September 16 the inaugural Five-Year Plan for Economic and Social Development of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (2026-2030) (First Five-Year Plan).

The First Five-Year Plan represents a major initiative improve the efficacy of the governance of the HKSAR, and addresses the strategic planning need for Hong Kong to proactively align with national development strategies, so as to better integrate into and serve the national development.

In the coming five years, Hong Kong will continue to consolidate and enhance “four centres and one hub”, that is to strengthen its status as an international financial, maritime, and trade centre, and an international aviation hub, while expediting the city’s development into an international innovation and technology (I&T) centre and building an international hub for high-calibre talent, attracting global capital, talent, and financial enterprises. In addition, Hong Kong will deepen the efforts to develop the city into a centre for international legal and dispute resolution services, as well as to develop a regional intellectual property trading centre and an East-meets-West centre for international cultural exchange.

The Northern Metropolis is a new engine for Hong Kong to develop new quality productive forces. The Government will develop three University Towns, with each one comprising a campus area, a technology area, an industry area, and a living community area, forming a hub for talent development.

It also sets out the strategic direction in livelihood-related areas such as education, youth and women's development, a harmonious and inclusive society, health care, housing, strengthened support for the disadvantaged groups, labour protection, elderly care, green transformation, etc, so as to continuously strengthen the sense of fulfilment, happiness, and security in the community, enabling the citizens to benefit from the high-quality development of the country and the city.

For the full document of Hong Kong's First Five-Year Plan, please visit:
www.hk5yplan.gov.hk

For more information, please visit:
https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202609/16/P2026091600338.htm

Policy Address: A Strategic Vision for a Bright New Era, Driving Reform and Boosting Development, Unleashing Opportunities and Enhancing Livelihood

Mr Lee also announced his fifth Policy Address entitled “A Strategic Vision for a Bright New Era, Driving Reform and Boosting Development, Unleashing Opportunities and Enhancing Livelihood” on September 16. Taking the First Five-Year Plan as its blueprint, the Policy Address puts forward a series of measures to create development opportunities and enhance the well-being of the people.

The Policy Address proposes numerous key measures focusing on five major development opportunities, namely talent development, industry development, business investment, institutional safeguards and international co-operation. It also introduces multiple measures across 25 areas, including youth employment, education, promoting fertility, housing, healthcare, community services, elderly care, support for small and medium-sized enterprises, and labour protection, to enhance the well-being of the public.

For the full text of the Policy Address, please visit:
https://www.policyaddress.gov.hk/2026/en/policy.html

For more information, please visit:
https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202609/16/P2026091600573.htm

UPCOMING EVENTS

Hong Kong Gaudeamus Dunhuang Ensemble performs in Canada

The Hong Kong Gaudeamus Dunhuang Ensemble (香港天籟敦煌樂團) will perform Chinese music concert *“Resonance of Dunhuang”* in Toronto and Ottawa on October 9 and 10 respectively to present to the Canadian audience the rich visual and cultural heritage of the UNESCO-listed Mogao Caves into a contemporary musical experience. The performances are sponsored by the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Toronto (HKETO) and supported by the Chinese Embassy in Canada to promote bilateral cultural exchanges between Hong Kong, China and Canada.

For ticketing, please visit:
Toronto: https://www.ticketmaster.ca/resonance-of-dunhuang-toronto-ontario-10-09-2026/event/10006507077D1356
Ottawa: https://www.ticketmaster.ca/event/3100651ADA797E27

Prior to the performance in Toronto, a lecture entitled *“Dunhuang of the World”* by Dr Zhao Shengliang, renowned arts scholar and former Director of the Dunhuang Academy,

will be held on the Mogao Caves' cultural heritage with a view to enriching the concert experience and deepening the audience's appreciation of Dunhuang's timeless resonance. Admission to the lecture is free. For registration, please visit:
https://forms.gle/ebz3KP9H8ynMPMX88

For details of the performances and the lecture, please visit:
https://www.facebook.com/share/v/186twH8GJY/

2026 ACCE West Coast Gala

The Association of Chinese Canadian Entrepreneurs (ACCE) will host the 2026 West Coast Gala on October 7 in Vancouver. ACCE recognises the achievements of outstanding Chinese Canadian entrepreneurs and promotes the spirit of entrepreneurship. The event serves to foster the spirit of entrepreneurship, innovation and corporate citizenship among the Chinese Canadian community. HKETO is a supporter of the event.

For details, please visit:
https://www.acce.ca/new/2026-acce-west-coast-gala/.

RECENT ACTIVITY

HKETO supports Hong Kong movies at TIFF

HKETO supported the participation of Hong Kong films at the 51st Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) held between September 10 and 20 in Toronto.

Three Hong Kong productions, namely "We Are Born Good", "Intermission" and "The Road Not Taken", are featured at TIFF. The film "We Are Born Good" is a winner at the 8th First Feature Film Initiative (Higher Education Institution Group), which is supported by the Film Development Fund under the Cultural and Creative Industries Development Agency (CCIDA) of the Culture, Sports and Tourism Bureau.

CCIDA led an industry delegation to participate in TIFF, and hosted a "Hong Kong Night" networking reception on September 13 (Toronto time), which attracted an attendance of nearly 400 industry representatives, filmmakers and cultural sector professionals from around the world. The reception provided a platform for emerging Hong Kong filmmakers to develop industry networks and build global connections.

Director Yeung Leung-chuen and leading actress Chung Suet-ying of "We Are Born Good" also attended the premiere and engaged with the audience during a post-screening session, receiving an enthusiastic response.

The Director of HKETO, Mr Bill Wong, said that the HKSAR Government is committed to expanding overseas markets for Hong Kong films. HKETO will continue to collaborate with local film institutions and festivals, fostering the long-term development of the Hong Kong film industry.

For details, please visit:
https://www.hketotoronto.gov.hk/newsroom/hketo-supports-hong-kong-movies-at-tiff.html
https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202609/14/P2026091400367.htm

GoGlobal Task Force visits Canada to support Mainland enterprises in expanding their global business

Invest Hong Kong (InvestHK), a member of the Task Force on Supporting Mainland Enterprises in Going Global (GoGlobal Task Force), is leading a delegation on a seven-day visit to Canada starting September 20 to support Chinese Mainland enterprises in expanding their global business.

Associate Director-General of Investment Promotion of InvestHK, Ms Loretta Lee, led the delegation comprising companies in sustainability and life and health sciences on a visit to Vancouver, Calgary and Edmonton. The visit aims to help Chinese Mainland enterprises understand the ecosystems of these Canadian citieis and precisely align their go-global needs, while attracting Canadian businesses in these strategic sectors to invest in Hong Kong, thereby driving new growth impetus.

During the visit, the delegation met with local institutions, chambers of commerce, and industry associations. They also held targeted discussions with leading Canadian green tech and healthcare enterprises, visited universities and research parks, and took part in sector-specific roundtables and business networking sessions.

For details, please visit:
https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202609/18/P2026091800350.htm

HONG KONG NEWS

Hong Kong maintains third place globally in Global Financial Centres Index

Z/Yen from the United Kingdom and the China Development Institute from Shenzhen published the Global Financial Centres Index (GFCI) 40 Report on September 16. Hong Kong's overall rank maintained third place globally and first place in Asia Pacific.

The report strongly reaffirms Hong Kong's leading position and strengths as an international financial centre. Hong Kong continued to rank first globally in fintech offerings. The city also ranked high in the five areas of competitiveness. Among them, Hong Kong's ranking in "financial sector development" rose to first place worldwide. While remaining second in rank for the area of "human capital", Hong Kong's ranking in "business environment" and "infrastructure" also rose to second place.

In addition, in the assessment by practitioners in various financial industry sectors, Hong Kong continued to achieve outstanding performance. In particular, Hong Kong's ranking in the "investment management" sector rose to first place worldwide. Hong Kong continued to top the global ranking in the "insurance" and "finance" sectors.

The GFCI Report has been released every March and September since 2007. In GFCI 40, 117 financial centres were assessed.

For details, please visit:
https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202609/16/P2026091500441.htm

Government announces subscription and allocation results of Silver Bond

The HKSAR Government announced on September 11 the subscription and allocation results of the new batch of Silver Bond.

According to the subscription information submitted by the Placing Banks and the Designated Securities Brokers, as at the close of the subscription period on September 4, 2026, a total of 476,703 valid applications were received by the HKSAR Government for a total of HK$119,306,240,000 in principal amount of bonds.

The final issuance amount of the Silver Bond will be HK$55 billion, higher than the target issuance amount of HK$50 billion. Allocation is conducted by the Government in accordance with the mechanism set out in the Issue Circular.

The number of applicants and the subscription amount for this batch of Silver Bond have reached new record highs again, demonstrating that Silver Bond continues to be widely welcomed by senior citizens as a safe and steady investment option.

For details, please visit:
https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202609/11/P2026091100567.htm

2026 Green Fintech Symposium promotes smarter finance for net-zero transition

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority encouraged the financial sector to harness technology and data in channelling capital more effectively toward the low-carbon transition at the 2026 Green Fintech Symposium, the grand finale of Hong Kong Green Week on September 11.

The Symposium drew over 450 in-person and online participants, echoing the theme "Smarter Finance for a Greener Transition." Through a fireside chat and panel discussions at the Symposium, policymakers, global investors and financiers, and technology leaders exchanged insights on the evolving green fintech landscape. Topics included smart transition infrastructure, AI-driven sustainable finance, as well as success stories and real-world implementation.

A highlight of the Symposium was the solution showcase, which spotlighted outstanding home-grown green fintech solutions through on-stage presentations and exhibition booths.

For details, please visit:
https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202609/11/P2026091000685.htm

Recruitment for six civil service grades starts

The HKSAR Government is launching the 2026-27 joint recruitment exercise for Administrative Officer (AO), Executive Officer II, Assistant Information Officer (General), Assistant Trade Officer II, Management Services Officer II, and Transport Officer II from September 12 to October 2 (Hong Kong time). Applicants must submit their applications through the online application system.

The recruitment is open to all permanent residents of the HKSAR who meet the relevant entry requirements. Students pursuing a bachelor's degree or equivalent and graduating in the academic years of 2026-27 or 2027-28 may also apply. Arrangements will be made for the eligible applicants to take the Joint Recruitment Examination (JRE) scheduled to be held on December 5 in Hong Kong.

Applicants may also choose to attend the JRE, the Common Recruitment Examination (CRE) and paper-based Basic Law and National Security Law Test (BLNST) on December 5 in one of the seven cities outside Hong Kong including Toronto and Vancouver. The application period for the CRE and BLNST outside Hong Kong is the same as that of the joint recruitment exercise.

Details of the joint recruitment exercise and the online application system are available on the website of the Civil Service Bureau (www.csb.gov.hk). For the recruitment of AO, relevant information is also available on a dedicated website at www.ao-recruitment.gov.hk.

For details, please visit:
https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202609/10/P2026090900437.htm

The launch of "Go Hong Kong" mobile application

The Immigration Department (ImmD) of the HKSAR Government announced on September 16 the launch of the "Go Hong Kong" mobile application, enabling eligible frequent visitors to Hong Kong to complete enrolment for the e-Channel service on their smartphones equipped with a camera, Near-Field Communication (i.e. NFC) functionality and internet connectivity prior to arrival in Hong Kong. Upon successful enrolment, visitors can use the e-Channel service upon arrival in Hong Kong.

For details, please visit:
https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202609/16/P2026091600601.htm

Media partnership to promote Hong Kong's First Five-Year Plan and being a welcoming global metropolis

In collaboration with the Information Services Department (ISD) of the HKSAR Government, South China Morning Post is producing a series of factsheets on the Hong Kong's First Five-Year Plan and Chief Executive's 2026 Policy Address. The first two factsheets are as follows:

Factsheet 1: *Hong Kong's New Chapter*
Link: https://sc.mp/icn21?utm_source=copy-link&utm_campaign=3367923&utm_medium=share_widget

Factsheet 2: *The Story Begins*
Link: https://sc.mp/o2dkr?utm_source=copy-link&utm_campaign=3367925&utm_medium=share_widget

In addition, ISD partnering with TV5Monde has broadcast a documentary on Hong Kong's attractions and appeal, uncovering different facets of the city through authentic neighbourhood experiences and showcasing Hong Kong as a welcoming global metropolis open to people from around the world.

Video: *Embarquement: Hong Kong, a mosaic of vibrant neighbourhoods*
Link (English version):
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bwnRiG1mfZs
Link (French version):
https://www.tv5mondeplus.com/en/documentaires/evasion/embarquement-s-2-e8

The Financial Secretary's blog:

With a Blueprint, Let's Work Together for the Future

The Financial Secretary of the HKSAR, Mr Paul Chan, wrote in his blog on September 20 highlighting Hong Kong's inaugural First Five-Year Plan released last week, and the Chief Executive's latest Policy Address.

Mr Chan stressed the importance of nurturing emerging industries while consolidating Hong Kong's traditional strengths in finance, shipping and trade. He noted that upgrading traditional industries along the value chain would provide a solid foundation for emerging industries to grow.

The National 15th Five-Year Plan calls for accelerating the country's development into a financial powerhouse, with Hong Kong playing a clear and distinctive role as a safe and reliable offshore platform fully aligned with international rules. Hong Kong will further expand the dim sum bond market and develop RMB-denominated gold and commodities markets. The country's high-quality development is both Hong Kong's greatest opportunity for growth and its strongest source of confidence.

Mr Chan remarked that seizing opportunities and overcoming challenges requires long-term strategic vision and sustained effort. As Hong Kong reaches another critical juncture with immense potential for development, he concluded that "the blueprint has been drawn up; we must now turn it into reality, step by step, with even greater confidence and perseverance."

For details, please visit:
https://www.fso.gov.hk/eng/blog/blog20260920.htm

Connecting with Global South to Advance High-quality Development

In his blog on September 13, Mr Chan highlighted the expanding cross-regional partnerships and co-operation between Hong Kong and the Middle East and Central Asia, extending beyond finance into I&T, trade and investment.

Hong Kong strengthened financial connectivity with the Middle East through a newly established strategic working group involving the Hong Kong Monetary Authority, Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited, the Dubai Financial Services Authority and

Nasdaq Dubai. Meanwhile, Hong Kong and Uzbekistan signed a memorandum of understanding to explore co-operation between their gold markets. These initiatives reflect Hong Kong's efforts to develop more structured and interconnected partnerships with Belt and Road economies.

Mr Chan also mentioned Hong Kong's solid research and innovation capabilities and its links with the technology and industrial chains of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. Hong Kong's own I&T foundations continue to strengthen. The number of start-ups grew from over 1,500 in 2015 to more than 5,200 in 2025, while Hong Kong Science Park and Cyberport have together nurtured around 20 unicorns to date.

Green development is another area of expanding co-operation. Mr Chan noted that green and sustainable bonds arranged in Hong Kong in the first half of this year totalled US$20.2 billion, with Hong Kong retaining its position as Asia's leading market for the eighth consecutive year. Capital needs investment opportunities, and technology needs real-world applications. Rules and standards are essential to bringing the two together. This is another important contribution Hong Kong can make to the Global South.

For details, please visit:
https://www.fso.gov.hk/eng/blog/blog20260913.htm