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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.

Prior to the performance in Toronto, two lectures 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 the Canadian community's appreciation of Dunhuang's timeless legacy.

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 Director promotes Hong Kong-Canada business ties during visit to Vancouver and Ottawa

The Director of HKETO, Mr Bill Wong, visited Vancouver and Ottawa from September 19 to 24 to promote Hong Kong's business opportunities and strengthen economic ties with Canada.

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Speaking at the networking reception organised by the Hong Kong-Canada Business Association (HKCBA) (Vancouver Section) on September 21 in welcoming delegates from the Chinese Mainland and Hong Kong representing the green technology, sustainability, and life and health sciences sectors, Mr Wong updated participants on the First Five-Year Plan for Economic and Social Development of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) recently announced by the Chief Executive.

Mr Wong remarked that the Plan reflects Hong Kong's firm commitment to capturing national development opportunities, leveraging its unique advantages, and maintaining a competitive business environment for enterprises from around the world. He particularly pointed out that the GoGlobal Task Force, established in October 2025, has already assisted more than 340 Chinese Mainland enterprises in setting up or expanding their businesses in Hong Kong. He encouraged Canadian enterprises to consider allocating more assets to Hong Kong.

On September 22, Mr Wong attended the "Discover Hong Kong through stories" luncheon organised by the Vancouver Chinatown Foundation at the Chinatown Storytelling Centre Learning Lab. He shared the latest developments of Hong Kong and Hong Kong's advantages as one of the world's most popular regions for family offices.

During his visit in Vancouver, Mr Wong also met with representatives from the Chinese community and academia to explore collaboration opportunities.

In the second leg of his visit, Mr Wong travelled to Ottawa to attend the "Mid-Autumn Review: Canada-China Roundtable" organised by the HKCBA (Ottawa Section) on September 23. At the meeting, Mr Wong reiterated the deep-rooted bilateral ties between Canada and Hong Kong. Senator Yuen Pau Woo, as well as Members of the Parliament Yasir Naqvi, Michael Ma and Zoe Royer also attended and spoke at the meeting.

For details, please visit:

<https://www.hketotoronto.gov.hk/newsroom/hketo-director-promotes-hong-kong--canada-business-ties-during-visit-to-vancouver-and-ottawa.html>

HONG KONG NEWS

Hong Kong continues to be world's freest economy

Hong Kong continues to be rated as the world's freest economy in the Economic Freedom of the World 2026 Annual Report released by the Fraser Institute on October 6. Among the five areas of assessment, Hong Kong again ranks first in "Freedom to trade internationally" and remains second globally in "Regulation".

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The report once again affirms Hong Kong's strengths as a free-market economy and its open, efficient and fair business environment. Amid increasing global economic uncertainties and rising trade protectionism, Hong Kong remains firmly committed to maintaining its free port status, zero-tariff policy, and simple and low tax regime, providing a secure, stable, fair, predictable and internationalised business and investment environment for investors and entrepreneurs from around the world.

For details, please visit:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202610/06/P2026100600632.htm>

Hong Kong's ranking in Global Innovation Index rises further

In the Global Innovation Index (GII) 2026 released on September 29 by the World Intellectual Property Organization, Hong Kong's ranking rose further by one place to 14th globally among 139 economies, and remained fifth in Asia.

As regards the two sub-indices under the GI, Hong Kong's ranking with respect to the "Innovation Input" sub-index remained at eighth globally, and its ranking in the "Innovation Output" sub-index rose by one place to 21st.

Hong Kong's scores in all five pillars under the "Innovation Input" sub-index were higher than the averages of the high-income group, with "Market Sophistication" ranking second globally, and "Human Capital and Research", "Institutions" and "Infrastructure" rising to rank sixth, seventh and 11th globally respectively. Data also showed that Hong Kong's gross expenditure on research and development and the number of researchers continued to rise.

For details, please visit:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202609/29/P2026092900317.htm>

First batch of successful IP Financing Sandbox pilot cases and the launch of Pilot Patent Valuation Support Scheme

The HKSAR Government announced on September 30 that a first batch of seven pilot cases of the Intellectual Property Financing Sandbox (Sandbox) have successfully completed credit approval. The Government also launched the Pilot Patent Valuation Support Scheme (Pilot Scheme) to strengthen support for enterprises in valuation of their intellectual property (IP) assets.

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The two complementary measures not only signify an important step forward for Hong Kong in promoting enterprises' use of IP assets as a financing tool, but also help accumulate practical experience and enhance the relevant support measures for the further local development of IP financing.

The seven pilot cases that have successfully completed credit approval cover the electronics, construction, toy manufacturing and medical device sectors, involving IP assets comprising patents and trademarks, with loan amounts ranging from HK\$1 million to HK\$39 million.

In addition, the HKSAR Government launched the two-year Pilot Scheme to facilitate the advancement of the next phase of the Sandbox, strengthen relevant support measures, and enhance the local IP financing ecosystem. The Pilot Scheme provides each enterprise of an approved application with a one-off funding capped at HK\$80,000 to support its commissioning of a qualified service provider (mainly accountants, financial analysts and surveyors) to conduct valuation of its patents and other IP assets.

The Pilot Scheme is open for applications, and details of the eligibility requirements and application procedures of the Pilot Scheme are available at:

www.ip.gov.hk/en/home/index.html

For details, please visit:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202609/30/P2026092900626.htm>

Bakai Bank obtains Hong Kong banking license

Invest Hong Kong (InvestHK) on October 5 announced that Bakai Bank has obtained a Hong Kong banking license from the Hong Kong Monetary Authority, making it the first bank from Central Asia to have a presence in the Asia-Pacific region.

As a leading commercial bank in the Kyrgyz Republic, the institution will establish a Restricted Licence Bank branch in Hong Kong under Bakai Bank Open Joint-Stock Company (Hong Kong Branch) to capture growing trade, investment and capital demand along the Central Asia-Asia-Pacific region economic corridor under the Belt and Road Initiative.

For details, please visit:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202610/05/P2026100500449.htm>

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Five Hong Kong universities continue to rank among global top 100

The rankings of Hong Kong's universities in the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2027 continue to be highly commended, fully demonstrating the robust strength of Hong Kong's higher education system and its world-class levels in teaching, research, and international outlook. Five universities rank among the global top 100, including the University of Hong Kong (ranks globally at 33rd), the Chinese University of Hong Kong (42nd), the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (58th), the City University of Hong Kong (70th) and the Hong Kong Polytechnic University (79th).

For details, please visit:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202609/30/P2026093000158.htm>

Outstanding achievements of Hong Kong, China athletes at 20th Asian Games

The Chief Executive of the HKSAR, Mr John Lee, on October 4 congratulated the Hong Kong, China delegation on their outstanding achievements at the 20th Asian Games, and commended the athletes for demonstrating their perseverance and exceptional prowess in the competitions.

The delegation of some 580 athletes competed in 38 events at this Asian Games, winning a total of 54 medals including 11 gold medals, 19 silver medals and 24 bronze medals in wushu, swimming, rowing, squash, sailing, tennis, windsurfing, and rugby sevens. The total number of medals surpassed the previous record of the most gold medals ever.

For details, please visit:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202610/04/P2026100400327.htm>

SCST congratulates Michelle Yeoh and Ann Hui on winning awards at Busan International Film Festival

The Secretary for Culture, Sports and Tourism of the HKSAR, Miss Rosanna Law, on October 6 congratulated veteran actress Michelle Yeoh and veteran director Ann Hui on receiving the Asian Filmmaker of the Year award and the Camellia Award respectively at the 31st Busan International Film Festival.

Miss Law noted that Yeoh and Hui's influence on the Hong Kong and international film landscapes has been profound and enduring. She thanked them for their remarkable contributions to Hong Kong cinema over their decades-long careers, which have helped bring Hong Kong cinema to the global stage.

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The Asian Filmmaker of the Year award honours filmmakers who have made exceptional contributions to the advancement of the Asian film industry and culture, while the Camellia Award is granted to filmmakers who have made significant contributions to advancing women's roles in the Asian film industry.

For details, please visit:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202610/06/P2026100600442.htm>

Expansion of Immigration Facilitation Scheme for Visitors Participating in Short-term Activities in Designated Sectors

With effect from October 1, the HKSAR Government has expanded the Immigration Facilitation Scheme for Visitors Participating in Short-term Activities in Designated Sectors (STV Scheme), enabling more non-local talent to participate in specified short-term activities as visitors without the need to apply for employment visas/entry permits.

In addition to the original 17 designated sectors, the STV Scheme has expanded to cover the Social Welfare sector, with the addition of more authorised organisations and specified short-term activities including symposiums, workshops, research, etc.

As of end-June 2026, the Pilot Scheme/STV Scheme had benefited over 56 000 non-local talent, enabling their entry into Hong Kong as visitors to participate in over 9 500 short-term activities, including the International Chinese New Year Night Parade, the Asian Financial Forum, the Hong Kong Sevens, the Hong Kong Performing Arts Expo and other major events.

For more information on the STV Scheme, please visit:

www.immd.gov.hk/eng/services/visas/stv.html

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202609/24/P2026092300488.htm>

Enhanced enrolment arrangements of Pilot Seamless e-Channel service for Hong Kong residents

Effective from September 24, the Immigration Department (ImmD) of the HKSAR Government has relaxed the eligibility criteria for enrolment in the Pilot Seamless e-Channel service. Under the new arrangements, 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 Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (HZMB) Hong Kong Port six times or more in the past 90 days are eligible to enrol for the service.

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Moreover, eligible Hong Kong residents aged 18 or above, in addition to enrolling via the ImmD's Contactless e-Channel mobile application, with immediate effect can also enrol via the designated e-Channels installed at the HZMB Hong Kong Port.

The Seamless e-Channel adopts an open-gate design and utilises AI and facial recognition technology to verify users' identities. Since the service was launched in June 2026, approximately 14,000 eligible Hong Kong permanent residents have enrolled in the service and over 100,000 passengers have passed through Seamless e-Channels.

For details, please visit:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202609/24/P2026092400452.htm>

In addition, the "Go Hong Kong" mobile application enables eligible frequent visitors to Hong Kong to complete enrolment for the e-Channel service on their smartphones equipped with a camera, Near-Field Communication 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.

Visitors meeting the following criteria may enroll for the e-Channel service via the mobile application:

- Aged 18 or above;
- Hold a valid electronic travel document designated by the ImmD and, where applicable, a multiple visit visa;
- Have no adverse record in the HKSAR; and
- Have visited Hong Kong via Hong Kong International Airport two times or more in the past 24 months at the time of enrolment.

Eligible visitors can complete the submission of enrolment for the e-Channel service by using the "Go Hong Kong" mobile application. Once the enrolment is approved, visitors only need to enter Hong Kong on or before the submitted expected date of arrival to activate the e-Channel service.

For details, please visit:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202609/16/P2026091600601.htm>

The Financial Secretary's blog: Seizing Opportunities to Deepen International Ties and Co-operation

The Financial Secretary of the HKSAR, Mr Paul Chan, wrote in his blog on October 4 highlighting that Hong Kong's financial markets have remained active. In the first nine

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months of this year, average daily turnover in the stock market reached HK\$272.9 billion, up 6.4% from the same period last year. The initial public offering market has also been vibrant, with 116 companies listing in Hong Kong and raising more than HK\$388 billion—more than double the amount raised during the same period last year and already exceeding the full-year total for last year.

Meanwhile, Middle Eastern economies are pursuing diversification through major investments in infrastructure and non-energy industries, while their sovereign wealth funds are broadening their portfolios. Investment priorities such as infrastructure, artificial intelligence and digitalisation, healthcare, industrial automation and robotics, new consumption models, renewable energy and new materials align closely with Hong Kong's I&T development priorities.

In the coming months, Hong Kong will host a series of major international financial events. In October 2026, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Finance Ministers' Meeting will be held in Hong Kong for the first time, bringing together finance ministers from across the region. In November 2026, the Global Financial Leaders' Investment Summit will bring together more than 100 chairmen and chief executive officers of leading global financial institutions. The Asian Financial Forum, to be held in January 2027, will be even larger in scale and further reinforce its position as one of the region's most important annual financial events. These gatherings will provide valuable opportunities to engage directly with political and business leaders from around the world, showcase Hong Kong's strengths and business environment, deepen relationships and translate dialogue into practical co-operation.

For details, please visit:

<https://www.fso.gov.hk/eng/blog/blog20261004.htm>

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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.

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For help setting up your business in Hong Kong, please contact:

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