

RECENT ACTIVITIES

HKETO and HKTB hosts Lunar New Year receptions in Toronto and Vancouver

The Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (Toronto) (HKETO) and the Hong Kong Tourism Board (Canada) jointly held Lunar New Year receptions in Toronto and Vancouver on 16 and 23 February respectively to celebrate the Year of the Rooster. The reception in Toronto was hosted by the Director of the HKETO Miss Kathy Chan. In her welcoming remarks, she told the guests that in the past year, Hong Kong continued to prosper under the “one country, two systems” principle. She also gave a review of the development of the Hong Kong-Canada relations and the work of the HKETO in the past year. She also mentioned that the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government would organise a wide variety of events in Hong Kong, including mega cultural and sports programmes, in the year ahead to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the establishment of HKSAR.

[Click here to read the details.](#)

The reception in Vancouver was hosted by the HKETO’s Acting Director Mr Nick Choi.

[Click here to read the details.](#)

HKETO organises gathering with Hong Kong university students in Toronto

The HKETO hosted a gathering for Hong Kong students studying at different universities in Toronto on 17 February. In her welcoming remarks, Director of the HKETO Miss Kathy Chan gave a brief introduction of the HKETO’s role and services. She told the students that Hong Kong is a place full of opportunities and encouraged the students to return to Hong Kong to develop their careers after completion of their studies in Canada.

[Click here to read the details.](#)

HONG KONG NEWS

Hong Kong remains as the world's freest economy

Hong Kong was ranked world's freest economy by the 2017 Index of Economic Freedom Report, which was released by the Heritage Foundation on 15 February. The city has been ranked the world's freest economy for the 23rd consecutive years since the index was first published in 1995.

Among the 12 components measured in the Index of Economic Freedom report, Hong Kong achieved high scores of 90 or above in eight components, and attained the top positions in Fiscal Health, Trade Freedom and Financial Freedom amongst the 180 economies ranked in the report. The Foundation also recognised Hong Kong's high quality of legal framework, low tolerance for corruption, efficient regulatory framework and open markets.

On a scale of 0 to 100, the overall rating of Hong Kong in this year's report was 89.8, 1.2 point higher than that of the previous year and well above the global average of 60.9.

[Click here to read the details.](#)

[Click here to read the details.](#)

Budget pledges to boost pillar industries and promote diversified economic development of Hong Kong

In the 2017-18 Budget released on 22 February, Hong Kong's Financial Secretary Mr Paul Chan announced measures to consolidate and enhance the competitiveness of pillar industries and promoting diversified economic development of Hong Kong.

[Click here to read the details.](#)

He also announced HK\$35.1 billion in short-term relief measures and tax breaks, and HK\$61 billion in longer-term investments for community benefit.

[Click here to read the details.](#)

See full version of the Budget Speech:-
<http://www.budget.gov.hk/2017/eng/budget01.html>

Invest Hong Kong assists record number of overseas and Mainland companies to set up or expand in Hong Kong

Invest Hong Kong (InvestHK) assisted 391 overseas and Mainland Chinese companies to set up or expand in Hong Kong in 2016. This number represents an all-time high and a year-on-year increase of 4.3 per cent.

The 391 companies came from 40 economies. Mainland China continued to lead with a total of 82 companies, followed by the US (59), the UK (40), France (23) and Japan (20).

In terms of sectors, InvestHK assisted 58 companies in the "Transport & Industrial" category, followed by "Tourism & Hospitality" (56) and "Innovation & Technology" (53).

Hong Kong e-News Bulletin

March 1, 2017



In the year ahead, InvestHK will continue to identify investors from key sectors/ markets and targets include companies ranging from entrepreneur-led ventures to multinationals.

[Click here to read the details.](#)

Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited to introduce its first RMB Currency Options in March

Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited (HKEX) will introduce the Renminbi (RMB) Currency Options and roll out a US dollar/Offshore RMB (USD/CNH) contract on 20 March 2017.

The USD/CNH Options will be the first currency options traded at HKEX. HKEX has invited Futures Exchange Participants (FEPs) to apply to serve as liquidity providers for USD/CNH Options. It is also planning a joint promotion programme with FEPs.

[Click here to read the details.](#)

[Click here to read the details.](#)

Hong Kong e-Legislation launched

The Department of Justice of Hong Kong launched a new electronic legislation database known as Hong Kong e-Legislation (HKEL) (www.elegislation.gov.hk) on 24 February to provide convenient and free public access to the Laws of Hong Kong in English and Chinese versions.

The hard copy loose-leaf edition of the Laws of Hong Kong with legal status has been the official source of consolidated legislation for over 25 years. However, in the age of information technology, the availability of an updated, reliable and searchable online consolidated legislation database with legal status is a must and HKEL delivers a better user experience for members of the public, including more advanced viewing functions and accessibility on mobile devices.

[Click here to read the details.](#)

To stay tuned to updates on Hong Kong, please follow us at
Brand Hong Kong Facebook page www.facebook.com/brandhk.isd or
Brand Hong Kong Instagram page www.instagram.com/brandhongkong/