

RECENT ACTIVITIES

Creative Visions unveiled at the Cinematheque Vancouver

Twenty years of Hong Kong cinema would be highlighted in a specially curated programme “Creative Visions: Hong Kong Cinema 1997-2017” presented by Create Hong Kong and co-presented by The Cinematheque in Vancouver, with support from the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Toronto (HKETO). The programme is part of a series of similarly themed film programmes that Create Hong Kong is screening in 10 cities around the world to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR). The programme in Vancouver would run from June 1 to 23.

Director of HKETO, Miss Kathy Chan, delivered opening remarks before the screening of the opening presentation “Echoes of a Rainbow” on June 1. Filmmakers Alex Law and Mabel Cheung were also present at the opening presentation. Later in the programme, Ms Heiward Mak will meet the audience at the screening of her first feature film “High Noon” on June 22 and 23.

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

Tickets are on sale now and the full programme can be found at -

<http://thecinematheque.ca/creative-visions-hong-kong-cinema-1997-2017>

A similar film retrospective would be held in Toronto on June 23-25 and the details would be announced at hk20.hketo.ca soon.

HKETO organises gala dinners to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the establishment of HKSAR in Vancouver and Toronto

HKETO held two official gala dinners in Vancouver and Toronto on June 2 and 5 respectively in celebration of the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR. The two gala dinners were attended by representatives of the three levels of Government, business sectors and community groups.

Director of HKETO, Miss Kathy Chan, delivered welcome speeches at the gala dinners and remarked that the HKSAR 20th anniversary was a special occasion and a major milestone of Hong Kong's development. She noted that the past 20 years had not always been a smooth sail for Hong Kong in which challenges, such as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) in 2003 and the global financial crisis in 2008 had brought about difficult times. However, Hong Kong was able to prevail with the staunch support of the Central Government by rolling out

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measures during those crucial moments, including the signing of the Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement between Mainland China and Hong Kong in 2003 and the usage of Hong Kong as the launch pad of Mainland China's financial market liberalisation measures since 2008 under the "One Country, Two Systems" Arrangement.

Looking ahead, Miss Chan pointed out that Hong Kong would continue to seize every opportunity to grow with its sound fundamentals, such as the rule of law, clean and efficient government, low taxes, business-friendly practices with a level playing field, and world-class infrastructure, and she was confident that Hong Kong would be able to achieve another 20 years of remarkable progress and continue to shine on the international stage as Asia's world city.

The Vancouver gala was also graced by the attendance of the Chief Justice of the Court of Final Appeal in the HKSAR, the Chief Geoffrey Ma Tao-li, who reiterated the importance of the rule of law to Hong Kong in his keynote speech.

On the other hand, the Toronto gala showcased an exquisite dinner menu presented jointly by a Hong Kong culinary master cum Executive Chef of VEA Restaurant and Lounge in Hong Kong Mr Vicky Cheng and the Executive Chef of Fairmont Royal York Hotel in Toronto, Mr Robert Mills.

In addition, guests of the two galas were treated with an exclusive Cantonese opera performance of the "Eight Divinities Crossing the Sea" staged by young talented artists of the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts together with the starlets of the Starlight Chinese Opera Performing Arts Centre in Toronto.

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

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HKSAR 20th anniversary seminar series continues

Director of HKETO, Miss Kathy Chan, delivered opening remarks on June 6 at the third seminar of the HKSAR 20th Anniversary Seminar Series organised by the Richard Charles Lee Canada-Hong Kong Library throughout 2017 to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR.

This third seminar of the series on "What Cantonese Opera Accompaniment Is Not: In Comparison with Classical Music" featured Professor Li Siu-leung, Dean of School of Chinese Opera of the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts (HKAPA). Professor Li gave audience insights into the meaning of "accompaniment" in Cantonese opera as against its literal English meaning. Apart from conceptual explanation, the seminar also featured demonstrations by students of HKAPA.

Miss Chan noted that Hong Kong has been an important place for the succession and development of Cantonese Opera and Hong Kong is keen on preserving and revitalising Cantonese Opera. She mentioned that the Opera Centre in the West Kowloon Cultural District, once completed next year, would provide an excellent place for both performance and training of talents.

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

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

HKSAR 20th Anniversary Celebration Activities

1. Vancouver Dragon Boat Festival

Concord Pacific Vancouver Dragon Boat Festival organised by the Canadian International Dragon Boat Festival Society will be held from June 23 to 25 at Concord Pacific Place, Creekside Park and the waters of False Creek in Vancouver.

As part of the programme to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR, HKETO sponsored the event with the "Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office International Cup" which will be presented to the winners of the Premier race with competing teams from Hong Kong, China and the United States. These featured races will be held on June 24.

For more information, please visit the official website at:

<http://vancouverdragonboatfestival.ca/things-to-do/dragon-boat-races/>

2. Rhythm & Tempo

Rhythm & Tempo and Niracle Performing Arts Centre Corporation will present a special tap dance performance "Muban - A Tap Dance Journey" at City Playhouse Theatre in Toronto from July 15 to 16. HKETO sponsored this performance as part of the programme to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR.

More details are available at the following facebook page of Niracle:

<https://www.facebook.com/Niracle.ca/?pnref=story>

Tickets are on sale at the following website:

http://www.vaughan.ca/services/city_playhouse_theatre/Pages/upcoming.aspx

HONG KONG NEWS

Hong Kong once again ranked as the world's most competitive economy

Hong Kong had been crowned as the world's most competitive economy for the second consecutive year, according to the International Institute for Management Development (IMD) World Competitiveness Yearbook 2017 released on May 31.

The Financial Secretary, Mr Paul Chan, was delighted to see Hong Kong, after returning to the top position last year, had been ranked as the world's most competitive economy in 2017 again. He welcomed the IMD's high regard of Hong Kong, which was a clear recognition of Hong Kong's steadfast fiscal discipline, as well as the incessant effort that the government had put into building a favourable business environment and a robust financial system.

The report assessed each economy on four competitiveness factors: "Economic performance", "Government efficiency", "Business efficiency" and "Infrastructure", each consisting of five sub-factors. Among the four competitiveness factors, Hong Kong's rankings in "Government efficiency" and "Business efficiency" both stayed at the top position globally.

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

HKSAR Government to hold its first large-scale expo and summit on gerontechnology

The HKSAR Government will hold its first large-scale expo and summit on gerontechnology to showcase new technology products developed in various places worldwide. The event will also explore strategies of applying technology and innovation to enhance quality of life for the elderly.

The Gerontech and Innovation Expo cum Summit (GIES) will be held from June 16 to 18 at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre. The event is co-hosted by the HKSAR Government and the Hong Kong Council of Social Service (HKCSS), and co-organised by the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation (HKSTP). The GIES is one of the celebration events of the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR.

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

20A Fact Sheets

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A set of Fact Sheets providing an overview of progress and developments in major areas in Hong Kong since 1997 had been produced and the details could be found by browsing the links below:

<http://www.hksar20.gov.hk/eng/factsheets.html>

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