

### RECENT ACTIVITIES

Reel Asian showcases the best in Hong Kong Cinema

The Toronto Reel Asian international Film Festival (Reel Asian) in partnership with the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Toronto (HKETO) presented the North American premieres of THE POSTERIST and IN YOUR DREAMS, at this year's edition of the festival which was held from November 9 to 18.

Director of HKETO, Miss Kathy Chan, remarked that Hong Kong has many talented filmmakers and the two Hong Kong films screened this year were works from two young directors in Hong Kong. She noted that HKSAR Government has adopted a multi-pronged approach in promoting the development of the film industry. Taking the Film Development Fund as an example, it has supported the production of a great number of films since its establishment in 1999 and many of these films have attained encouraging achievements. The HKSAR government will continue to promote the development of the Hong Kong film industry, build audience and nurture more professionals for film production or post-production.

Miss Chan took part in a press conference on November 10 with the director of THE POSTERIST, Mr Hui See-wai, to publicise the two Hong Kong films. She also spoke before the screenings of THE POSTERIST on November 11 and IN YOUR DREAMS on November 12 with the two directors Mr. Hui and Ms. Tam Wai-ching in attendance respectively.

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### HONG KONG NEWS

#### CE attends APEC meetings in Vietnam

The Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), Mrs Carrie Lam, visited Vietnam from November 9 to 12, to attend the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) 2017 Economic Leaders' Meeting (AELM) and other related meetings in Da Nang.

On November 11, Mrs Lam had in-depth discussions with the economic leaders at the AELM on ways to consolidate and sustain regional and global economic growth, deal with challenges brought by technology and digital economy, and ensure inclusive development.

Mrs Lam noted that Hong Kong enjoys unique advantages under "One Country, Two Systems". Coupled with the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Agreement, the city is an ideal platform for overseas enterprises to tap the vast Mainland market. In particular, Hong Kong has a well-developed services sector and the standard of services is on the rise through

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sharing of knowledge and experience among different trades in the sector. Hong Kong is capable of providing the best services to overseas enterprises.

Before attending the AELM, Mrs Lam participated in a discussion session of the APEC CEO Summit on November 9. She said that the HKSAR Government would continue to strive to promote free trade and proactively formulate various policy initiatives beneficial to people's livelihood to ensure that people from all walks of life can reap the benefits of the opening up of the economy.

Pointing out that Hong Kong has always been a staunch supporter of free trade and a rule-based multilateral trading system, Mrs Lam said she believed that Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) which are free and open in nature could facilitate regional trade and serve as building blocks for the liberalisation of multilateral trade.

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### **Hong Kong and ASEAN sign Free Trade Agreement and Related Investment Agreement**

Hong Kong and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) signed a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and a related Investment Agreement in Pasay City, the Philippines on November 12. The agreements will bring about legal certainty and better market access for the trade in goods and services as well as investment protection to Hong Kong. They will also help reduce the restrictions in doing business and expand business opportunities for Hong Kong enterprises, thus creating a more conducive environment for the development of Hong Kong's economy.

The agreements are expected to come into force on January 1, 2019, at the earliest, subject to completion of the necessary procedures by Hong Kong and the ASEAN member states.

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### **Wine re-exported from Hong Kong to enjoy instant customs clearance in all customs districts of the Mainland**

The HKSAR Government announced on November 9 that wine re-exported from Hong Kong will enjoy instant customs clearance in all customs districts of the Mainland with immediate effect.

Under the relevant facilitation measures, pre-registered Hong Kong wine traders may submit advance wine consignment information online and enjoy instant customs clearance upon their

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consignments' arrival at Mainland ports. The measures are exclusive for wine entering the Mainland through Hong Kong. They were hitherto applicable only to five customs districts in the Mainland (namely Beijing, Shanghai, Tianjin, Guangzhou and Shenzhen) and are extended to all 42 customs districts in the Mainland from November 9 onward.

Details of the facilitation measure are available on the websites of the Customs and Excise Department (C&ED) ([www.customs.gov.hk/en/trade\\_facilitation/wine/index.html](http://www.customs.gov.hk/en/trade_facilitation/wine/index.html)) and the Trade and Industry Department (TID) ([www.tid.gov.hk/english/import\\_export/nontextiles/wine/index.html](http://www.tid.gov.hk/english/import_export/nontextiles/wine/index.html)).

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