

RECENT ACTIVITIES

HKETO Director visits Montreal

Director of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (Toronto) (HKETO), Miss Kathy Chan, visited Montreal on December 11 and 12 to promote mergers and acquisitions (M&A) opportunities in Hong Kong and Hong Kong as a gateway for Canadian companies to expand their business in Asia.

Speaking at the M&A Club Forum on December 12, Miss Chan introduced to businesses that Hong Kong is a global mergers and acquisitions hub, and the value of M&A deals involving Hong Kong companies has jumped fivefold in 20 years. The notable increase was recorded as more Chinese firms use Hong Kong to go global and more international firms use Hong Kong as a gateway to expand in Asia.

Noting that China already overtook the US for outbound M&A volume for the first time in 2016, Miss Chan remarked that Hong Kong will continue to play a significant role in this takeover activity as Mainland Chinese companies use their subsidiaries in the city to conduct overseas acquisitions.

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

Seminar on Hong Kong Food Culture

The Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (Toronto) (HKETO) collaborated with the Richard Charles Lee Canada-Hong Kong Library of the University of Toronto to host a seminar on “Hong Kong Food Culture” on December 14 to introduce the vibrant culinary culture of Hong Kong to the local Canadian public.

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

HONG KONG NEWS

Arrangement between NDRC and HKSAR Government on advancing Hong Kong's full participation in and contribution to the Belt and Road Initiative signed

The Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), Mrs Carrie Lam, signed the Arrangement between the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) and the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region for Advancing

Hong Kong's Full Participation in and Contribution to the Belt and Road Initiative (the Arrangement) with the Chairman of the NDRC, Mr He Lifeng, in Beijing on December 14.

The Arrangement will put forward specific measures focusing on six key areas, namely finance and investment; infrastructure and maritime services; economic and trade facilitation; people-to-people bonds; taking forward the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area Development; and enhancing collaboration in project interfacing and dispute resolution services. Implementation of the Arrangement will allow Hong Kong to give full play to its unique advantages under "one country, two systems" to contribute to the country on the one hand, while at the same time seize those opportunities brought by the Initiative to provide new impetus for its economic growth.

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

CS at Canada 150 Celebration@Ocean Park

The Chief Secretary for Administration of the HKSAR Government, Mr Matthew Cheung Kin-chung, spoke at the event "Canada 150 Celebration@Ocean Park" to celebrate Canada 150 at the Ocean Park on December 9.

In delivering a speech at the event, Mr Cheung remarked that 2017 is a year of special significance to both Canada and Hong Kong. This year, Canada celebrates its 150th birthday and also marks the 40th anniversary of the establishment of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong. On the other hand, Hong Kong is also celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

Mr Cheung highlighted the achievements of Hong Kong for the past 20 years and that the city has demonstrated to the world that the unique and unprecedented "one country, two systems" has been working well. The rights and freedoms of the people of Hong Kong continue to be cherished, the rule of law and judicial independence firmly upheld and the open market economy well preserved.

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

Hong Kong signs MOU with Argentina on co-operation in wine-related businesses

The Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development of the HKSAR Government, Mr Edward Yau, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Co-operation in Wine-related Businesses between Hong Kong and Argentina with the Chief Executive Officer of the Argentina Investment and Trade Promotion Agency, Mr Juan Pablo Tripodi, in Buenos Aires, Argentina on December 14.

The MOU will facilitate co-operation between Hong Kong and Argentina in wine-related trading and investment promotion, education and training, tourism and prevention of counterfeiting.

Since August 2008, Hong Kong has entered into similar wine co-operation agreements with Australia, Chile, France (and its Bordeaux, Burgundy and Champagne regions), Germany, Hungary, Italy, New Zealand, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain and the United States (and its Oregon and Washington states).

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

Slope Safety Summit discusses ways to enhance Hong Kong Slope Safety System

More than 260 leading experts and stakeholders in the field of slope engineering and landslide risk management discussed the challenges and opportunities in further enhancing the Hong Kong Slope Safety System at the Slope Safety Summit on December 11, jointly held by the Geotechnical Engineering Office (GEO) of the Civil Engineering and Development Department of the HKSAR Government and the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers.

The Chief Executive of the HKSAR, Mrs Carrie Lam, officiated at the summit's opening and applauded all the parties involved for their efforts in putting in place in Hong Kong one of the best slope engineering and landslide risk management systems in the world, which has evolved over the past decades in response to experience, continual improvement initiatives and technological advancement. She also reaffirmed the Government's commitment to maintaining the highest standards of slope safety in Hong Kong to protect people's life and property.

The summit provided a platform for experts and stakeholders to share their valuable experiences and insights which could benefit the enhancement of the city's Slope Safety System. Four distinguished speakers were invited to participate in four discussion sessions on landslide risk management, innovations and technological advances, climate change and public efforts in combating landslide risks. Professor Norbert Morgenstern of the University of Alberta of Canada was among the four speakers.

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

Immigration Department extends Self-service Departure for Visitors to other control points

Following the launch of the Self-service Departure for Visitors to Hong Kong (Smart Departure) at the Hong Kong International Airport, the Immigration Department announced on December

14 that the service will be extended to other control points with effect from December 18.

Smart Departure aims to provide greater travel convenience for visitors while enhancing the effectiveness of immigration control. Photos of visitors will be taken at arrival clearance counters to assist in authenticating their identity through face recognition technology. The above arrangement is not applicable to Hong Kong residents.

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

Hong Kong team excels at International Junior Science Olympiad

A team of six Hong Kong students achieved excellent results in the International Junior Science Olympiad (IJSO) 2017, winning three gold and three silver medals. The IJSO 2017 was held in Nijmegen, the Netherlands, from December 4 to 11. A total of 279 scientifically gifted students from 48 countries or regions participated in the event.

The IJSO is a science competition for secondary school students aged 15 or below. The competition covers three disciplines, namely physics, chemistry and biology, up to senior secondary level. It comprises written assessments and science experiments on unfamiliar problems that require analytical and problem-solving skills.

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

Hong Kong Jockey Club Scholarships – Graduate Scholarships at the University of Oxford and Harvard University 2018/19

The Hong Kong Jockey Club Scholarships – Graduate Scholarships at the University of Oxford and Graduate Scholarships at the Harvard University are now open for applications.

Under the Graduate Scholarships at the University of Oxford, three full scholarships are available for applicants who are permanent resident in Hong Kong and who are applying to a full-time master's or full-time DPhil course at Oxford.

More information can be found at the Oxford website:

<http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/fees-funding-and-scholarship-search/scholarships-1#hkjc>

The Graduate Scholarships at the Harvard University support up to three students who are residents of Hong Kong and who are enrolling in a full-time master's or doctoral degree program

Hong Kong e-News Bulletin

December 20, 2017



in public-service related programs at various Harvard schools.

More information can be found at the Harvard website:

<https://scholarships.harvard.edu/international-students/hong-kong>

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/