

## HONG KONG NEWS

### **Government announces appointment and removal of Secretary for Justice**

The Central People's Government, on the recommendation and nomination of the Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), Mrs Carrie Lam, approved the appointment of Ms Teresa Cheng Yeuk-wah, SC as the Secretary for Justice (SJ) and the removal of Mr Rimsky Yuen Kwok-keung, SC from the post of SJ with effect from January 6.

Mrs Lam paid tribute to Mr Yuen for his outstanding performance during the past five-and-a-half years as SJ. He has been a pillar of strength in upholding the rule of law in Hong Kong.

On the appointment of Ms Cheng, Mrs Lam said she had every confidence that Ms Cheng will make a very competent SJ. Ms Cheng is a seasoned Senior Counsel in private practice, with rich experience in international arbitration and mediation. Over the years, she has been very active in public service. Through her chairmanship and membership of a range of important committees of the HKSAR Government, she is well versed in government affairs.

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### **Asian Financial Forum explores innovation as economic growth accelerator**

The 11th Asian Financial Forum (AFF), with a theme of "Steering Growth and Pioneering Innovation: Asia and Beyond", opened on January 15 providing a high-level platform for global policymakers as well as financial and business leaders to exchange views on how to embrace innovation and technology to steer economic growth in Asia and beyond. The two-day forum is co-organised by the HKSAR Government and the Hong Kong Trade Development Council.

Addressing the opening session of the AFF, the Chief Executive of the HKSAR, Mrs Carrie Lam, highlighted Hong Kong's roles as a premier international financial centre, the world's largest offshore Renminbi business hub, a preferred listing platform for initial public offerings and a premier centre for asset management and risk management. On economic connections, Mrs Lam pointed out that the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area and the Belt and Road Initiative would further deepen

Hong Kong's role in connecting the Mainland with other economies.

Also among the highlights of the programme was the luncheon keynote speech delivered by the 76th United States Secretary of the Treasury, Mr Jacob J Lew. Other keynote speakers included First Deputy Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund, Mr David Lipton, Vice Chairman of the China Securities Regulatory Commission, Mr Jiang Yang, Asian Development Bank President, Mr Takehiko Nakao, and Luxembourg Finance Minister, Mr Pierre Gramegna.

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### **InvestHK announces details of StartmeupHK Festival 2018**

The StartmeupHK Festival 2018 ([www.startmeup.hk/festival2018](http://www.startmeup.hk/festival2018)), organized by the Invest Hong Kong (InvestHK), will take place from January 29 to February 2 and focus on financial technology (Fintech), connected city, retail technology, health technology (Healthtech) and a new theme of "the Internet of Life".

The festival will take place at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre in Wan Chai with more than 100 industry experts involved in panel sessions, interactive discussions, speaking events and competitions.

The StartmeupHK Venture Forum on day one is the week's flagship event offering a unique opportunity to hear from and interact with globally acclaimed entrepreneurs, industry leaders and policymakers through keynote speeches, fireside chats and panel discussions. Other programmes include the 2018 Fintech Finals, the Connected City conference, the Retail's Cutting Edge and the Healthtech O2O Summit.

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### **Number of companies registered approaches 1.4 million**

The total number of local companies registered under the Companies Ordinance in Hong Kong was 1,383,946 at the end of 2017, up 42,723 from the corresponding figure for 2016, according to statistics released by the Companies Registry on January 7.

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In 2017, a total of 160,229 local companies were newly registered with the Registry, among which 51,002 were incorporated online at the e-Registry via the one-stop electronic company incorporation and business registration service. According to the World Bank's "Doing Business 2018" report, Hong Kong's ranking in "starting a business" remained third internationally.

To bring Hong Kong's regulatory regime in line with international requirements, the Registry will implement a new licensing regime for trust and company service providers to combat money laundering and terrorist financing. All companies incorporated in Hong Kong, except listed companies, will also be required to maintain a significant controllers register for inspection by law enforcement agencies.

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### **2018 Voter Registration Campaign launched**

The 2018 Voter Registration Campaign was launched. There is no need for registered electors to register again, but they are reminded to fulfil their civic responsibility by notifying the Registration and Electoral Office of any changes in residential address or other registration particulars by April 2, the statutory deadline for change of registration particulars.

Eligible persons who have yet to register as electors are reminded to sign up by May 2, the statutory deadline for new registration, so that their registration particulars can be included in the final register to be released in July this year. Hong Kong permanent residents holding an identity document who have reached 18 years of age and are ordinarily residing in Hong Kong are eligible to register as electors.

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### **news.gov.hk website revamped**

The Information Services Department's online news platform (news.gov.hk) was relaunched with a new look to make it even more convenient for readers to get the latest government news and information via mobile devices. A responsive web design has been adopted for the new site so it can be easily viewed with tablets and smartphones.

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The site is better integrated with related social media channels, including Facebook, Instagram, YouTube and Twitter pages. Other features include a night reading mode, adjustable font sizes and sharing to common social media platforms.

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