

UPCOMING ACTIVITY

Seminar of “Hong Kong and the Gold Mountain Dream”

The York Centre for Asian Research and the Richard Charles Lee Canada-Hong Kong Library are co-presenting the Second Bernard H.K. Luk Memorial Lecture in Hong Kong Studies, titled “Hong Kong and the Gold Mountain Dream” on May 10, 2018. The Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Toronto (HKETO) is a sponsor of the seminar.

Professor Elizabeth Sinn from the University of Hong Kong will be the keynote speaker for this event. Professor Sinn will be speaking on Hong Kong as an “in-between place” during Chinese migration to California for various opportunities in the latter part of the 19th century.

Other speakers of the event include: the Chancellor Emerita of the University of Toronto and retired Senator of Canada, Dr. Vivienne Poy; Director of the York Centre for Asian Research, Professor Abidin Kusno; Chief Librarian of the University of Toronto Libraries, Mr. Larry Alford; and Richard Charles Lee Chair in Chinese Canadian Studies of the University of Toronto, Professor Lisa Mar.

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

2018 HKCBA National Conference

The Hong Kong-Canada Business Association (HKCBA) will host its 2018 National Conference in Montreal on May 25, 2018. The Conference will look into the latest economic developments of China and the rest of Asia, showcase the opportunities presented by the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Bay Area and the Belt and Road initiative as well as how Canadian companies can use Hong Kong as the platform to tap into the opportunities in China and the wider Belt and Road region. HKETO is the lead sponsor of the event.

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

3rd Belt and Road Summit in Hong Kong

HKETO, in partnership with the HKCBA and Hong Kong Trade Development Council

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(HKTDC), would like to invite Canadian companies to join the 3rd Belt and Road Summit which will be held on June 28, 2018 in Hong Kong.

The Summit brings together senior government officials, representatives of international institutions, business leaders and industry experts from countries along and beyond the Belt and Road region to exchange views on multilateral co-operation and explore new business opportunities arising from the Belt and Road initiative. The Summit will enable participants to leverage Hong Kong's unique advantages to seize the enormous business opportunities presented by the initiative from banking and financial services, logistics and maritime services, professional services, infrastructure development to international trade and manufacturing, etc.

For registration and more details about the Summit, please contact Mr Andrew Yui, Director, Canada, HKTDC, at andrew.yui@hktdc.org (email) or 416-366-3594 (telephone).

Applications for Hong Kong civil service posts

Prospective applicants for Hong Kong civil service posts at degree or professional level can now apply to sit the Common Recruitment Examination and Basic Law Test (CRE and BLT) scheduled to be held on **June 2 and 9 in Hong Kong**. The deadline for application is **April 12, 2018**.

Applicants may choose to take any of the CRE papers and / or the BLT paper in this examination.

Valid CRE results are required of applicants for civil service posts at degree or professional level, unless applicants possess equivalent results in the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination or other specified public examinations. Persons interested in applying for civil service posts at degree or professional level in the near future may wish to consider sitting the coming examination so as to be eligible to apply for these posts, which may come available before another CRE is held.

In addition, applicants for civil service posts will be assessed on their Basic Law knowledge. The result of the BLT will be one of the considerations to assess the suitability of a candidate.

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

Another round of the CRE and BLT will be held in late 2018. For the convenience of those studying or residing outside Hong Kong, this later round of examination will also be held in some non-local cities. The examination is tentatively scheduled for October 6 and 13, 2018 in Hong Kong, and **December 8, 2018 in non-local cities**. Details relating to this round of examination will be announced later this year.

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

HONG KONG NEWS

CE attends Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference in Hainan

The Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), Mrs Carrie Lam, visited Hainan from April 8 to 10 to attend the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2018. She was accompanied by the Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs, Mr Patrick Nip, and the Director of the Chief Executive's Office, Mr Chan Kwok-ki.

At the Opening Ceremony of the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2018 with the theme of "An Open and Innovative Asia for a World of Greater Prosperity" on April 10, Mrs Lam and other officials listened to the keynote speech delivered by the Chinese President Xi Jinping. Noting the President said in his speech that the nation will continue to further its opening up, Mrs Lam considered it very good news to Hong Kong as the nation's most open centre for finance and trade. She said that Hong Kong has benefited from the reform and opening up of the nation in the past 40 years and it will continue to give full play to its strengths to contribute to the country.

On April 9, Mrs Lam attended the CEO Roundtable of the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2018 and spoke at a discussion session on the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area, as well as met Hong Kong student volunteers at the annual conference.

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

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Two-tiered profits tax rates regime implemented from April 1 this year

The Inland Revenue (Amendment) (No. 3) Ordinance 2018 was gazetted on March 29 to implement the two-tiered profits tax rates regime announced in the 2017 Policy Address.

The two-tiered profits tax rates regime is applicable to any year of assessment commencing on or after April 1, 2018. The profits tax rate for the first HK\$2 million of profits of corporations will be lowered to 8.25 per cent. Profits above that amount will continue to be subject to the tax rate of 16.5 per cent. For unincorporated businesses (i.e. partnerships and sole proprietorships), the two-tiered tax rates will correspondingly be set at 7.5 per cent and 15 per cent.

The two-tiered profits tax rates regime will reduce the tax burden on enterprises, especially SMEs and startup enterprises. This will help foster a favourable business environment, drive economic growth, create job opportunities and enhance Hong Kong's competitiveness.

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

InvestHK announces opening of ICBC Aviation Leasing in Hong Kong

Invest Hong Kong announced on March 28 that one of its strategic clients, ICBC Financial Leasing Co Ltd (ICBC Leasing), officially opened its wholly owned subsidiary ICBC Aviation Leasing Company Limited (ICBC Aviation Leasing) in Hong Kong, marking a significant milestone in Hong Kong's bid to become the leading aviation finance hub in the region.

As the first bank-affiliated financial leasing company approved by the China Banking Regulatory Commission, ICBC Leasing is one of the biggest leasing companies on Mainland China in terms of asset value and market share, engaged in the aviation, maritime and equipment leasing businesses. On the front of aviation leasing, ICBC Leasing has a fleet that ranks among the top players in the world in terms of the number of aircraft and their value.

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

Enhanced travel convenience for HKSAR passport holders going to Bolivia

The HKSAR Government has received confirmation from the Embassy of Plurinational State of Bolivia in the People's Republic of China that HKSAR passport holders may apply for a tourist visa upon arrival in Bolivia for a stay of 30 days. For more information on the documents required and applicable fees as well as other details, HKSAR passport holders are advised to refer to the Embassy's website at www.embolchina.cn/index.php/English before travelling to Bolivia.

Including Bolivia, 162 countries/territories have granted visa-free access or visa-on-arrival to HKSAR passport holders. Please visit the following website for details: www.immd.gov.hk/eng/service/travel_document/visa_free_access.html

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

Hong Kong signs Memorandum of Understanding on Working Holiday Scheme with the Netherlands

Hong Kong and the Netherlands signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on April 9 to mark the establishment of a bilateral Working Holiday Scheme for young people of the two places.

The agreement was signed by the Secretary for Labour and Welfare, Dr Law Chi-kwong, and the Consul General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Hong Kong, Ms Annemieke Ruigrok, at Government House in the presence of the Acting Chief Executive, Mr Matthew Cheung Kin-chung, and the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Mr Mark Rutte.

The scheme with the Netherlands is Hong Kong's 13th bilateral working holiday scheme. Since 2001, Hong Kong has established working holiday schemes with New Zealand, Australia, Ireland, Germany, Japan, Canada, Korea, France, the United Kingdom, Austria, Hungary and Sweden. So far, more than 85 000 Hong Kong youths have benefited from these schemes.

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

ICAC updates business community on international anti-corruption efforts

The latest issue of the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC)'s electronic newsletter, *ICAC Post*, for the international and Mainland Chinese business community has been uploaded on the ICAC corporate website.

Highlight of this issue includes the following:

- Upholding probity is key to enhancing competitive edge, says Advisory Committee on Corruption Chairman Chow Chung-kong
- ICAC chief unveils new initiative to enhance global anti-graft cooperation
- Latest international recognition of Hong Kong
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