

RECENT ACTIVITIES

“Hong Kong: Asia’s World City” Roving Exhibition

The Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (Toronto) (HKETO) continued to stage the roving exhibition entitled “Hong Kong: Asia’s World City” at Richard Charles Lee Canada-Hong Kong Library of the University of Toronto from June 18 to 24.

The exhibition, which was kicked off in the Greater Toronto Area and the Greater Vancouver Area in May and June respectively, provides an opportunity for the Canadian public to learn more about Hong Kong, especially some little-known facts about the Asia’s world city. The exhibition showcases the achievements of Hong Kong in areas such as economic development, innovation and technology, transport and infrastructure and arts and culture, as well as the beauty of its natural environment.

The tentative dates and venues of the roving exhibition in various cities across Canada are as follows:

July 24 to 30	Aberdeen Centre in Richmond
July 30 to August 3	Oakville Town Centre
August 8 to August 14	Erin Mills Town Centre in Mississauga
August 20 to 26	Cadillac Fairview Mall in Toronto
August 27 to 31	Toronto City Hall
September 4 to 10	City Centre Library in Surrey
September 11 to 17	Vaughan City Hall
October 8 to 14	Metropolis at Metrotown in Burnaby
Early October	McMaster University in Hamilton

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Summer show-cum-artistic talk by Hong Kong choreographer

The Little Pear Garden Dance Company will produce a summer showcase of contemporary creations featuring the works of Mr Felix Chen, its Resident Guest Choreographer from Hong Kong, on July 22, 2018 at the Winchester Street Theatre in Toronto. Mr Chen will speak at a pre-show artist talk on the process of modern dance creation inspired by cultural interaction between the artists and audience. During his

stay in Toronto from June 29 to July 25, Mr Chen will give classes and workshops of techniques in Chinese contemporary and traditional dance as well as choreographic techniques to local dancers and university students as cultural exchanges. The residency project of Mr Chen in Toronto by the dance company is sponsored and supported by HKETO.

Mr Chen is currently the Dance Art Advisor and Art Development Project Assessor for the Hong Kong Arts Development Council, Council Member of the Hong Kong Dance Federation and an instructor of the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts. He has participated in about 20 major dance drama productions and his works including "Austere Image" and "Dunhuang Reflections" have won a number of international awards.

2018 Calgary Dragon Boat Race and Festival

HKETO will sponsor the 2018 Calgary Dragon Boat Race & Festival organised by the Calgary Dragon Boat Society on August 11 and 12, 2018 at North Glenmore Park in Calgary. HKETO is a sponsor of the event. The Hong Kong Cup will be presented to the winning team, and exhibition panels will be set up to show to the visitors the history of dragon boating.

For more information, please visit the official website at:

<https://www.calgarydragonboatsociety.com/>

HONG KONG NEWS

Reception for 21st anniversary of establishment of HKSAR

The Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), Mrs Carrie Lam, attended the reception for the 21st anniversary of the establishment of HKSAR at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre on July 1. Speaking at the reception, Mrs Lam said that during President Xi Jinping's visit to Hong Kong last year, he expressed cordial care for Hong Kong and gave four imperatives, which has created the exceptionally favourable ground for the current-term Government to govern Hong Kong in accordance with the law, assume a proactive role, develop the economy and improve people's livelihood.

Mrs Lam said that during the past year, the SAR Government upheld the principle of "One Country" and made good use of the advantage of "Two Systems". With the staunch support of the country, Hong Kong actively participated in the Belt and Road Initiative and planned for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area in collaboration with the Guangdong and Macao governments. She also conducted frequent duty visits to strengthen Hong Kong's external ties and promote Hong Kong's international status.

Mrs Lam highlighted the "we care", "we listen" and "we act" approach sincerely adopted by the current-term Government, which has brought about relative stability in society, restored room for rational discussion rather than personal attacks in the Legislative Council, and rebuilt public trust in the Government.

Following is the translation of the speech by Mrs Lam at the reception.
<http://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/201807/01/P2018070100395.htm>

In addition, Mrs Lam, together with the Secretaries of Department and the Directors of Bureau met over 100 Hong Kong young people and students, who won international competitions in the past year, in a tea gathering at Government House in the afternoon on July 1 to commend the new and outstanding generation of Hong Kong and encourage them to continue to work hard for their goals.

The young people invited to the tea gathering won in 40 different international competitions with areas covering STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics), drawing, music, animation, design, sports, etc. The youngest of them is only four years old.

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

CE visits France, Lindau and Beijing

Having visited Brussels, Bordeaux, Marseille and Paris from June 14 to 19, the Chief Executive of HKSAR, Mrs Carrie Lam, continued her visit in Paris on 20 June and spoke at seminars on the Belt and Road Initiative and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area development to promote the opportunities brought by and the role of Hong Kong in these two major national strategies to different sectors in France.

On June 21, Mrs Lam met with the French Prime Minister, Mr Edouard Philippe, in Paris. She also noted that France supports the nation's Belt and Road Initiative and she

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looked forward to working with different sectors in France to seize future opportunities. Mrs Lam then addressed a business luncheon and a proptech forum to promote Hong Kong's advantages.

On June 22, Mrs Lam met with the President of Ile de France region, Mrs Valérie Péresse. Mrs Lam particularly introduced the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area to Mrs Péresse, encouraging the Ile de France region to explore the huge market of the Bay Area through Hong Kong. Mrs Lam also witnessed the signing of two memorandums of understanding between the Airport Authority Hong Kong and Groupe ADP on strengthening co-operation between the Hong Kong International Airport and Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport in airport management, aviation development and air cargo development.

On June 24, Mrs Lam attended the Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting and met with the Chairman of the Foundation for the Lindau Nobel Laureate Meetings, Professor Dr Jürgen Kluge. She then attended the opening ceremony, the opening concert and the dinner organised by the host of the Meeting. Addressing the guests at the cocktail reception held before the dinner, Mrs Lam said that Hong Kong and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area development need a lot of talent and she welcomed young scientists from different parts of the world to participate in the development.

On June 25, Mrs Lam continued to attend the Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting and spoke with young scientists as well as met with laureates of the Nobel Prize and the Shaw Prize. Noting that Hong Kong provides necessary support for scientific research and has a highly international environment, Mrs Lam welcomed the young scientists to go to Hong Kong to develop their careers.

On June 26, Mrs Lam left Lindau and departed for Beijing. During the stay in Beijing, she reported to the Vice-Premier of the State Council, Mr Han Zheng, the views and suggestions of the Government of HKSAR and different sectors of the community on matters relating to the development plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area.

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

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Third Belt and Road Summit fosters collaboration on all fronts

Close to 5,000 participants, including ministerial officials, business leaders and professionals from 55 countries and regions attended the third Belt and Road Summit in Hong Kong on June 28, at which over 500 one-to-one business-matching meetings with over 220 projects were arranged to promote business deals. The Summit was jointly organised by the HKSAR Government and the Hong Kong Trade Development Council.

Themed "Collaborate for Success", the Summit started with the Chief Executive of HKSAR, Mrs Carrie Lam, delivering an opening address, followed by special addresses and keynote speech from senior officials from the Mainland and overseas. Mrs Lam said in her opening address that wide participation from different parts of the world is important for the successful implementation of the Belt and Road Initiative, as its pursuit requires a high degree of co-operation between countries and the establishment of a sound bilateral and multilateral mechanism, as well as participation from different sectors. She also pointed out that the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area would boost interaction and integration within the region, encouraging strategic partnerships between Hong Kong, Guangdong and the larger Belt and Road region.

During the Summit, Mrs Lam met a number of senior officials from the Mainland and overseas at Government House on June 27 and 28. They included the Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand, Dr Somkid Jatusripitak; the Chairman of the State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission of the State Council, Mr Xiao Yaqing; the Vice Minister of Commerce, Ms Gao Yan; and the National Security Advisor, Union Minister for the Ministry of the office of the Union Government and Chairman of the Myanmar Investment Commission, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, U Thaung Tun. Mrs Lam exchanged views with them on future co-operation in the context of the Belt and Road Initiative.

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

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Hong Kong and Georgia sign Free Trade Agreement

The Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Mr Edward Yau, and the Deputy Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia, Mr Genadi Arveladze signed a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) on June 28 at a signing ceremony in the Belt and Road Summit.

Mr Yau said that it is the first FTA between Hong Kong and a country in the Caucasus. Georgia is a close trading partner of Hong Kong in the Caucasus and an emerging market with great potential for further growth. The FTU will not only bring to Hong Kong traders and businessmen legal certainty and better market access to the Georgian market, but also enhance the trade and investment flows between the two economies.

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

HKSAR Government welcomes Ministry of Finance's plan to issue sovereign bonds in Hong Kong in 2018

The Ministry of Finance announced on June 26 its plan to issue Renminbi (RMB) sovereign bonds totalling RMB10 billion in Hong Kong this year, of which RMB5 billion will be issued in the first half of the year and the remaining RMB5 billion will be issued in the second half of the year. The Ministry of Finance also announced its plan to issue US dollar sovereign bonds outside the Mainland totalling US\$3 billion in the second half of the year. Details will be announced later.

The Financial Secretary, Mr Paul Chan, said the HKSAR Government welcomes the Ministry of Finance's issuance of RMB sovereign bonds in Hong Kong for the tenth consecutive year. This demonstrates clearly the Central Government's support in reinforcing Hong Kong's status as the global offshore RMB business hub, and is conducive to the development of the bond market in Hong Kong.

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

Fintech co-operation between Hong Kong Monetary Authority and Financial Services Regulatory Authority of Abu Dhabi Global Market

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) and the Financial Services Regulatory Authority (FSRA) of the Abu Dhabi Global Market (ADGM) signed a Co-operation Agreement on June 26 to enhance fintech collaboration between the two authorities, with a view to encouraging and enabling innovation in financial services in both markets, and supporting innovative financial businesses in expanding to each other's jurisdictions.

The Co-operation Agreement was signed between the Chief Fintech Officer of the HKMA, Mr Nelson Chow, and the Chief Executive Officer of the FSRA of ADGM, Mr Richard

Teng, in Hong Kong. Under the Co-operation Agreement, the HKMA and the FSRA will collaborate on referring innovative businesses, information sharing, and joint innovation projects.

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

Hong Kong Customs signs Authorized Economic Operator Mutual Recognition Arrangement with New Zealand and Action Plan with Canada

The Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Hermes Tang, signed a Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) with the Acting Comptroller of the New Zealand Customs Service, Ms Christine Stevenson, in Brussels, Belgium on June 28 during the 132nd Council Session of the World Customs Organization.

Under the MRA, the Hong Kong Authorized Economic Operator (HKAEO) Programme and the New Zealand Secure Exports Scheme are mutually recognised, by which Authorized Economic Operators of both economies enjoy mutual customs clearance benefits, including reduced examination and prioritised clearance. This is the ninth MRA that the Hong Kong Customs and Excise Department has concluded with other Customs administrations.

During the same Council Session on June 29, the Assistant Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Excise and Strategic Support), Mr Jimmy Tam, signed an MRA Action Plan with the Vice President of the Canada Border Services Agency, Mr Martin Bolduc, to mark the commencement of formal negotiation for mutual recognition of the HKAEO Programme and the Partners in Protection programme in Canada.

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

International and Mainland Chinese companies establish presence in Hong Kong

The Shilla Duty Free announced on June 28 the official opening of its retail store chain at Hong Kong International Airport, taking an important step in the Korean travel retailer's continuous expansion plan in East Asia. To further enhance the brand's commitment to deliver a comprehensive beauty shopping experience, the retail spaces feature interactive engagement zones deploying digital technologies, virtual reality and in-house-developed beauty apps. With around 200 brands on offer, the Shilla Duty Free

also brings a list of premium brands new to Hong Kong International Airport.

On the other hand, Japan-based SABAR Ltd on June 20 opened a joint venture restaurant with its business partner in Causeway Bay to gain a foothold in Hong Kong and introduce authentic saba-tuna fusion dishes for discerning diners. The President of Sabar said that Hong Kong is an excellent platform to promote their high quality of cuisines to customers in Hong Kong and across Asia.

In addition, Nido International Company Ltd announced on June 21 the opening of its new gallery, aimed at leveraging Hong Kong's international city status and sophisticated art industry to help alternative artists connect with local and international art scenes and flourish. The gallery sits on Hollywood Road, a popular location for many galleries from around the globe. Nido International Company Ltd said that the company sees Hong Kong as the regional base to reach out to an international audience.

Besides, Shenzhen-listed multi-brand fashion apparel company Zhejiang Semir Garment Co Ltd announced on June 22 that it will open its Balabala children's apparel brand's first store in Hong Kong, leveraging the city's international status and its sophisticated retail environment to extend its brand globally. The new store in Kowloon offers Balabala-branded children's casual wear for all ages. It said Hong Kong is an international and well-developed city offering an ideal platform for them to enter the global market.

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

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Policy Address consultation launched

The HKSAR Government launched the public consultation exercise for the 2018 Policy Address. The Chief Executive of HKSAR, Mrs Carrie Lam; the Chief Secretary for Administration, Mr Matthew Cheung Kin-chung; and the Financial Secretary, Mr Paul Chan, will meet representatives from different sectors to listen to their views.

To facilitate expression of opinions by the public, the Government introduced social media as an additional channel for collecting views this year. Members of the public are invited to give their views through the dedicated website (www.policyaddress.gov.hk), the Chief Executive's Facebook page (www.facebook.com/carrielam.hksar), and

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Instagram (www.instagram.com/carrielam.hksar), or by email (policyaddress@pico.gov.hk), phone (+852 2432 1899) or fax (+852 2537 9083).

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

Short video on Hong Kong's economic performance

The Commerce and Economic Development Bureau of HKSAR Government recently produced a short video on Hong Kong's economic performance and key policy initiatives delivered by the Bureau over the past 12 months. You are invited to browse the video at the following YouTube links:

English: <https://youtu.be/rjkNe-dXV-g>

Chinese: <https://youtu.be/sVxEtxYa5SU>

Hong Kong as a good place to live and work

Euronews, an international TV news channel, has created a two-part television programme. The first part about Hong Kong as a startup hub was on air from June 11 until June 20. The second part of television programme, featuring Hong Kong as a good place to live and work, is now available in English and French in the following links. This TV segment was aired worldwide on Euronews TV channel from June 21 to 30 and the links will be online for some time.

English: <http://www.euronews.com/2018/06/21/there-s-more-to-hong-kong-than-meets-the-eye>

French: <http://fr.euronews.com/2018/06/21/quand-hong-kong-rime-avec-culture-et-detente>

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:

- Checkout-free shopping – From Seattle to Dhaka
- ICAC stands ready to mentor start-ups in becoming business ethics-savvy

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Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (Toronto)
We work across Canada

- Handy online corruption prevention resources

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

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