

HONG KONG NEWS

IMF commends Hong Kong's strong buffers and robust policy frameworks despite increasing global risks

An International Monetary Fund (IMF) Staff Mission has commended the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) in its latest assessment, noting that many years of prudent macroeconomic policies have endowed the city with strong buffers to navigate through challenges and ensure continued stability despite increasing risks confronting global growth. The assessment was made in the Concluding Statement of the IMF Mission published on December 12, following the 2018 Article IV Consultation with the HKSAR.

The Mission notes that Hong Kong has been considered one of the most competitive economies in the world for many years, and is rightly taking steps to maintain competitiveness. These steps include further development of the bond market, introduction of various green finance initiatives, and development in innovation and technology as attested by the launch of eTradeConnect and the Faster Payment System.

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

Thematic seminar on HKSAR's celebration of 40th anniversary of reform and opening up of the country concludes successfully

To celebrate the 40th anniversary of the reform and opening up of the country, the HKSAR Government held a thematic seminar to review the contributions of Hong Kong in the reform and opening up of the country and to explore the role of and opportunities for Hong Kong in the country's further reform and opening up at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre on December 10. The seminar drew an audience of about 900.

During the seminar, the Chief Executive of the HKSAR, Mrs Carrie Lam, and the Director of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the HKSAR, Mr Wang Zhimin, both delivered speeches. The Vice President of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Mr Cai Fang, and the Chairman of the Fung Group, Dr Victor Fung, also gave keynote addresses. The seminar was concluded by the Chief Secretary for Administration cum Chairman of the Steering Committee for the HKSAR's Celebration of the 40th

Anniversary of the Reform and Opening Up of the Country, Mr Matthew Cheung Kin-chung.

On December 11, Mrs Carrie Lam officiated at the opening ceremony of the "HKSAR Government's Celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the Reform and Opening up of the Country: 'Joint Development · Shared Prosperity' Exhibition" organised by the Information Services Department.

She said that as a Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China under the principle of "one country, two systems", Hong Kong continues to strengthen the advantages as our country's premier hub for international business and finance, with new opportunities including the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area and the Belt and Road Initiative emerging.

The exhibition features interesting artefacts, multimedia displays and interactive games that depict different elements of the unique relationship between Hong Kong and the Mainland over the past four decades. The exhibition at the Hong Kong Museum of History is open to the public from December 12, 2018 to January 28, 2019.

For the latest update of HKSAR's Celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the Reform and Opening Up of the Country activities, please visit the dedicated website at www.reformandopeningup40a.gov.hk

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

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InvestHK surveys point to city's business attractions for overseas and Mainland companies and upward trend of startup communities in Hong Kong

The Director-General of Investment Promotion, Mr Stephen Phillips, said on December 12 that recent surveys showed that Hong Kong remains a magnet for overseas and Mainland businesses while its start-up ecosystem is thriving.

Mr Phillips said that Hong Kong continues to attract and retain leading overseas and Mainland companies, as well as entrepreneurs from around the globe setting up leading edge and innovative businesses.

According to the 2018 Annual Survey of Companies in Hong Kong with Parent Companies Located Outside Hong Kong jointly conducted by Invest Hong Kong

(InvestHK) and the Census and Statistics Department, the number of business operations in Hong Kong with parent companies overseas and in Mainland China climbed 6.4 per cent to 8 754 in 2018, compared to 8 225 a year ago. In terms of jobs, the number of people engaged by the companies reached an all-time high at 485 000, compared to 443 000 in 2017.

In addition, InvestHK's 2018 Annual Start-up Survey found that there were 2 625 startups operating in major public and private co-work spaces and incubators, up 18 per cent from 2 229 in 2017.

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

CEDB holds "Belt and Road: Hong Kong - IN" Forum

The Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (CEDB) of the HKSAR Government held the "Belt and Road: Hong Kong - IN" Forum on December 12 to explore how professionals and start-ups might use Hong Kong as a springboard for the Belt and Road markets. More than 650 professionals from various service sectors participated in the Forum.

The Chief Executive of HKSAR, Mrs Carrie Lam, and the Deputy Director of the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council, Mr Huang Liuquan, delivered opening remarks at the Forum.

At the sharing session of the Forum, the Executive Chairman of the Alibaba Group, Mr Jack Ma, offered his insights from the perspective of private enterprises on leveraging Hong Kong's advantages in professional services and expertise to serve as the launchpad into the Belt and Road markets.

The Belt and Road Cross-Professional Advancement Programme was inaugurated after the Forum. The Programme, which is undertaken by the Hong Kong Polytechnic University with funding support from the Professional Services Advancement Support Scheme managed by the CEDB, seeks to better equip Hong Kong professionals in meeting the challenges and grasping the opportunities brought about by the Belt and Road Initiative.

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

Hong Kong Customs reminds members of the public that illicit import of cannabis is criminal offence

The Customs and Excise Department of the HKSAR Government reminds members of the public that illicit import of cannabis is a criminal offence. Noting that the recreational use of cannabis has recently been legalised in individual overseas jurisdictions including Canada, the department reminds members of the public that cannabis is a dangerous controlled drug in Hong Kong.

Under the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance (Cap. 134), trafficking in dangerous drugs, or illicitly importing of cannabis or any products that contains controlled cannabinoids (such as tetrahydro-cannabinol, or "THC") to and exporting from Hong Kong, procuring, supplying, manufacturing, or dealing in or with dangerous drugs, constitutes a criminal offence. The maximum penalty is life imprisonment and a fine of HK\$5 million. Illicitly possessing, or smoking, inhaling, ingesting or injecting dangerous drugs is subject to a maximum penalty of imprisonment for seven years and a fine of HK\$1 million.

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

Recruitment of qualified doctors outside Hong Kong

1) The Hospital Authority (HA) in Hong Kong is now recruiting non-locally trained doctors for the positions of:

a. Service Resident

https://erecruit.ha.org.hk/career/Default.asp?PID=3&AC=HKHA&EC=HA_Adm&GC=HA_ADM&JobID=30669&LID=1&WD5B84991091489792; and

b. Associate Consultant under various specialties

https://erecruit.ha.org.hk/career/Default.asp?PID=3&AC=HKHA&EC=HA_Adm&GC=HA_ADM&JobID=31448&LID=1&WD5A94968813657761

Interested candidates are welcome to visit HA's website http://www.ha.org.hk/visitor/ha_visitor_index.asp?Content_ID=2010&Lang=ENG&Dimension=100 for online application. A promotional brochure is also enclosed for reference.

The application period for the posts will close on 31 March 2019 (Hong Kong time).

[attachment HA 1]

2) The Department of Health in Hong Kong is recruiting qualified doctors outside Hong Kong for the positions of Non-civil Service Contract Doctor (without Full Registration) and Contract Doctor (without Full Registration) (Child Assessment).

Applications for the above two posts are accepted all year round. Eligibility requirements are set out in the attached recruitment notices of the Department of Health. Enquiries can be made to the Department of Health at appts_registry1@dh.gov.hk and online application can be made through the Civil Service Bureau's website at <http://www.csb.gov.hk>. Job numbers are 40221 (Contract Doctor (without Full Registration)) and 40248 (Contract Doctor (without Full Registration) (Child Assessment)).

[attachments DH1 and DH2]

The Administrative Service Summer Internship Programme 2019

The Administrative Service Summer Internship Programme 2019 was launched on December 14, 2018. The primary objective of the Programme is to give Hong Kong students who wish to pursue a career in the Administrative Service an early opportunity to get hands-on experience of working with serving Administrative Officers (AOs), so as to facilitate their future career planning.

Applications from students studying outside Hong Kong are now being invited. Applications have to be submitted by postal mail by January 25, 2019. The application form, as well as information about the programme can be obtained from the website of <http://www.csb.gov.hk/english/grade/ao/279.html> and the dedicated Facebook page of the Programme (<http://www.facebook.com/ao.intern>) as well as the AO Recruitment website (<http://www.ao-recruitment.gov.hk/english/eindex.html>).

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

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