

RECENT ACTIVITIES

HKETO organises a gathering with university students from Hong Kong

The Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (Toronto) (HKETO) hosted a gathering with Hong Kong students studying at different universities in Toronto on January 25.

Director of the HKETO, Ms Emily Mo, welcomed the students and introduced to them the role of HKETO. Ms Mo spoke on the latest developments of the Hong Kong-Canada relations and the office's work in fostering closer relations between the two places on various fronts. She also encouraged the students to return to Hong Kong after completion of their studies in Canada and asked them to encourage their peers to consider pursuing careers in Hong Kong.

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

HKETO Director attends Air Canada's Lunar New Year Gala

Director of HKETO, Ms Emily Mo, attended the Lunar New Year Gala of Air Canada in Toronto on January 24.

Speaking at the gala, Ms Mo noted that the bonding between Hong Kong and Canada has been well established and generated a great demand for air services as the trade relations between Hong Kong and Canada continue to thrive in recent years. Ms Mo further said that Hong Kong continues to make tremendous efforts to further enhance its connectivity. She encouraged Canadian travellers to consider planning a trip to Hong Kong and other destinations in Mainland China or Asia in the Year of the Pig.

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

HKETO Director attends MRVCBA Chinese New Year Gala

Director of HKETO, Ms Emily Mo, attended and spoke at the Chinese New Year Gala hosted by the Markham, Richmond Hill and Vaughan Chinese Business Association on January 29. She noted that the US-based Heritage Foundation had once again rated Hong Kong the world's freest economy for the 25th consecutive year and that the Hong

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Kong-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement was expected to take effect in the months to come. She encouraged Canadian enterprises to make use of the facilitation measures under the Agreement to expand into the ASEAN market by using Hong Kong as a base or by partnering with Hong Kong service providers.

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

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Kung Fu Fridays: Fatal Fists and Crazy Kicks from the Shaw Brothers

HKETO, in partnership with the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF), is proud to present *The Kung Fu Fridays: Fatal Fists and Crazy Kicks from the Shaw Brothers* at the TIFF Bell Lightbox. Ten kung fu classics produced by the Shaw Brothers Studio in Hong Kong in the 70s and 80s will be screened on Fridays from January 18 to April 12, 2019.

Tickets are on sale now and the full programme of the event can be found at <https://www.tiff.net/calendar.html?series=shaw-brothers&list>

HKETO and HKTB will host Lunar New Year receptions in Toronto and Vancouver

HKETO and the Hong Kong Tourism Board (Canada) will jointly hold Lunar New Year receptions in Toronto and Vancouver on February 8 and 13 respectively to celebrate the upcoming Year of the Pig. HKETO Director Ms Emily Mo and HKTB Director (Canada, Central & South America) Mr Michael Lim will present at the receptions the latest developments of Hong Kong. The award-winning and record-breaking Team SLASH from the Hong Kong Rope Skipping Academy will perform at both receptions.

HONG KONG NEWS

Hong Kong rated as world's freest economy for 25 consecutive years

Hong Kong has been ranked the world's freest economy for 25 consecutive years according to the 2019 Index of Economic Freedom report released by the Heritage

Foundation on January 25 in Washington, DC.

In this year's report, Hong Kong's overall score remained at 90.2. This makes Hong Kong once again the only economy attaining an overall score higher than 90. The Foundation continued to recognise Hong Kong's economic resilience, high-quality legal framework, low tolerance for corruption, high degree of government transparency, efficient regulatory framework and openness to global commerce.

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

IMF commends Hong Kong's strong buffers and prudent policy frameworks for ensuring continued stability

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) released a Staff Report on January 25 which reinforces the conclusions of its assessment of Hong Kong's economic and financial positions published on December 12, 2018.

The IMF notes that Hong Kong's economy benefited from a strong cyclical upswing in 2017 and the momentum continued through the first half of 2018. It commends Hong Kong in particular for maintaining robust financial regulation and supervision and reaffirms its long-standing support for the Linked Exchange Rate System, noting that it should remain as an anchor of economic and financial stability for Hong Kong. The IMF also applauds Hong Kong for its continued efforts to maintain competitiveness and expand its role as a leading financial centre, through various initiatives including the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, which could create growth opportunities through further regional economic integration.

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

Chief Executive attends World Economic Forum Annual Meeting in Switzerland

The Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), Mrs Carrie Lam, visited Switzerland and attended the World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting in Davos, Switzerland from January 21 to 24.

Mrs Lam arrived in Zurich on January 21 and called on the Mayor of Zurich, Ms Corine Mauch, to share with her details of Hong Kong's latest developments in finance,

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innovation and technology, design and smart city. She expressed the hope that collaboration in these areas as well as exchanges between young people of the two cities could be enhanced.

Mrs Lam met with the President of the New York Stock Exchange, Ms Stacey Cunningham on January 22, and exchanged views on the latest developments in the securities industry, as well as exploring ideas for co-operation.

On January 23, Mrs Lam spoke at WEF speaking session on the emerging markets outlook. Mrs Lam said that Hong Kong, a founding member of the World Trade Organisation, has been supporting and benefitted from free trade over the years. Hong Kong is proactively participating in the Belt and Road Initiative and willing to strengthen ties with emerging economies.

On the sidelines of the meeting, Mrs Lam met with the Prime Minister of Luxembourg, Mr Xavier Bettel, as well as leaders of different organisations and enterprises from the sectors of financial services, innovation and technology, to explore collaboration in various aspects between Hong Kong and different places and organisations.

On January 24, Mrs Lam met with the Prime Minister of Vietnam, Mr Nguyen Xuan Phuc, and attended a series of events and delivered speeches on Hong Kong's participation in the Belt and Road Initiative and the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. Mrs Lam also attended a meeting organised by the Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited. She introduced to the participants from investment banks and financial corporations the latest developments of Hong Kong's financial services.

After the meeting, Mrs Lam joined the third Belt and Road Davos Forum hosted by Tsinghua University, the International Cooperation Center of the National Development and Reform Commission, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, and co-organised by the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau of the HKSAR Government. In her opening address, Mrs Lam said Hong Kong has been performing unique functions in the process of the reform and opening up of the country in the past 40 years, and will continue to contribute proactively to the Belt and Road Initiative.

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

StartmeupHK Festival informs, entertains and spotlights Hong Kong as perfect location for innovative start-ups

Hong Kong's annual [StartmeupHK Festival](#), organised by Invest Hong Kong (InvestHK), ended on January 25 after a week of insightful events. Guests throughout the festival had shared wisdom and discussed their experience in entrepreneurship, funding, creativity, communication, growing a business, and more, along with the pain, the setbacks and the struggle for success.

The week drew well over 17 000 delegates and more than 300 speakers, presenters, panellists and performers to the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre. The events this year comprised the [Healthtech O2O Summit](#), [TECH\[LIFE\]STYLE Conference](#), [Retail's Cutting Edge](#), [Jumpstarter](#), [the Connected Cities Conference](#), the [AI & Education Conference](#) and the [Startup Impact Summit](#). While the events focused on different aspects of technology and start-ups, the link between them was an emphasis on new trends, fresh thinking and cutting-edge innovation.

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

Invest Hong Kong assists record number of overseas and Mainland companies to set up or expand in Hong Kong

InvestHK on January 21 announced that the Department had assisted 436 overseas and Mainland companies to set up or expand in Hong Kong in 2018. This number represents an all-time high and a year-on-year increase of 8.5 per cent. The number of jobs thereby created (5 268) also rose by 3.3 per cent on the year before.

The 436 companies came from 43 economies. Mainland China continued to provide the most with a total of 101 companies, followed by the US (63), the UK (43), France (26) and Australia and Singapore (both 20).

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

Hong Kong, China - Georgia Free Trade Agreement to enter into force

The Hong Kong, China - Georgia Free Trade Agreement (FTA) will enter into force on

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February 13, giving Hong Kong exporters and service providers the legal certainty of favourable treatment and market access to Georgia.

The Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development of the HKSAR Government, Mr Edward Yau, said on January 22 that the Agreement, signed on June 28, 2018, is the first FTA which Hong Kong signed with a country in the Caucasus. With Georgia being a gateway to the Caucasus, this Agreement not only enhances trade and investment flows between Hong Kong and Georgia, but also paves the way for the business community to tap into opportunities in the Caucasus under the Belt and Road Initiative.

Mr Yau noted that the current-term Government has signed three FTAs with 12 economies (the 10 member states of the ASEAN, Georgia and the Macao Special Administrative Region). It has also concluded negotiations for FTAs with Australia and the Maldives.

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

Hong Kong residents born in 1985 or 1986 to start applying for new smart identity cards

The Immigration Department (ImmD) announced on January 18 that from January 21 to March 30, 2019, Hong Kong residents born in 1985 or 1986 should apply for a new smart identity card in person at a Smart Identity Card Replacement Centre.

Eligible applicants may make appointment bookings via the Internet (www.gov.hk/newicbooking), the ImmD mobile application or the 24-hour telephone booking hotline 2121 1234. The ImmD appeals to applicants to pre-fill the application form when making appointment bookings through the Internet or mobile application in order to enjoy a faster registration process.

The above call-up period is only eligible for Hong Kong residents born in 1985 or 1986. The ImmD will make announcements on the arrangements for other age groups in due course. If eligible Hong Kong residents are absent from Hong Kong during their call-up period, they can apply within 30 days of their return to Hong Kong.

For details of the Territory-wide Identity Card Replacement Exercise, please visit the website www.smartid.gov.hk or call the enquiry hotline 2824 6111.

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

Hong Kong Customs seizes suspected cannabis buds

Hong Kong Customs inspected a parcel arriving in Hong Kong from Canada and seized about 2 kilograms of suspected cannabis buds with an estimated market value of about \$410,000 at Hong Kong International Airport on January 11.

After follow-up investigation, Customs officers on January 18 arrested a 21-year-old woman in Yuen Long suspected to be in connection with the case.

Under the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance, trafficking in a dangerous drug is a serious offence. The maximum penalty upon conviction is a fine of \$5 million and life imprisonment.

Customs also reminds that cannabis and tetrahydro-cannabinol (THC) are classified as dangerous drugs under the Ordinance. Importation of products (including food and drinks) containing cannabis or THC into Hong Kong is prohibited unless the relevant provisions in the Ordinance are complied with. In order to avoid breaching the law inadvertently, special attention should be paid to the packaging labels of food and drinks.

[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?ID=3&AC=HKHA&EC=HA_Adm&GC=HAA DM&JobID=30669&LID=1&WD5B84991091489792

and

b. Associate Consultant under various specialties

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

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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)).

[\[Attachment DH1\]](#)

[\[Attachment DH2\]](#)

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