

RECENT ACTIVITIES

HKETO and HKTB host joint Lunar New Year reception

The Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (Toronto) (HKETO) and the Hong Kong Tourism Board (Canada) (HKTB) jointly held a Lunar New Year reception in Toronto on February 8 to celebrate the Year of the Pig. In her welcoming remarks at the reception, Director of HKETO, Ms Emily Mo, updated guests on the developments of Hong Kong in 2018 and said the city continued to prosper under the “one country, two systems” principle.

Ms Mo noted that Hong Kong had championed in various world rankings in the past year. With the commissioning of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link and the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge, connectivity between Hong Kong, Mainland China and Macao has been greatly enhanced. Hong Kong’s position and role in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area development and the Belt and Road Initiative have also become more prominent.

Ms Mo also highlighted that the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government last year launched new schemes to attract innovation and technology as well as research and development talents and experts.

In term of Hong Kong-Canada relations, Ms Mo said that the two places continued to have very close relations for trade and investment. She remarked that HKETO would continue to promote closer relations between Hong Kong and Canada on all fronts in 2019. She announced that HKETO would organise a “Hong Kong Week” event under the theme of “Connect and Excel” in June 2019.

A highlight of the reception was a special performance by the award-winning team SLASH from the Hong Kong Rope Skipping Academy. They will continue to perform on various occasions during their Canada tour, including a reception to be hosted by HKETO and HKTB in Vancouver on February 13.

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

HKETO Director attends Chinese New Year celebrations in Ontario and Manitoba

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Director of HKETO, Ms Emily Mo, attended on February 5 the Chinese New Year Reception organized by the Mississauga Chinese Business Association to celebrate with the business community of Mississauga the first day of the Lunar New Year. Ms Mo also joined the Chinese New Year celebration events hosted by the Hong Kong-Chinese Business Association Winnipeg Section and the Toronto Chinese Business Association on February 2 and 4 respectively to welcome the Year of the Pig.

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

HKETO Director attends Toronto Chinatown Chinese New Year celebration

Director of HKETO, Ms Emily Mo, attended the Chinese New Year celebration organized by the Toronto Chinatown Business Improvement Area on February 9. Ms Mo delivered her New Year greetings to the public at the opening ceremony held at the Chinatown Centre and wished Toronto and Hong Kong would continue to prosper in the Year of the Pig.

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

HKETO Director attends Dragon Ball

Director of HKETO, Ms Emily Mo, attended the Dragon Ball hosted by Yee Hong Community Wellness Foundation at the Beanfield Centre in Toronto to celebrate the Lunar New Year with over 1 200 prominent business, political and community leaders in the Greater Toronto Area on February 9.

Ms Mo delivered her Lunar New Year greetings to participating guests and introduced a special performance by the award-winning team SLASH from the Hong Kong Rope Skipping Academy. The team gave a high-speed breathtaking performance of swirling ropes, symbolising Hong Kong's dynamism and vibrancy. They gained much acclamation from the audience.

[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 until 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 HKTBC will host Lunar New Year reception in Vancouver

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

HONG KONG NEWS

CE delivers Lunar New Year message

The Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), Mrs Carrie Lam, delivered a Lunar New Year message on February 4. She said that the Lunar New Year is an important festival for Chinese people. It is also a time for families to get together. She took the chance to extend early New Year greetings to members of the public and exchange good wishes with them.

The message is available on the Chief Executive's website www.ceo.gov.hk/lny_message19/eng/

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

On the first day of the Lunar New Year (February 5), Mrs Lam visited staff members on duty at the site of the Victoria Park Lunar New Year Fair and the Hong Kong

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International Airport to express her gratitude for their dedication to duties in serving the public during the Chinese New Year.

Mrs Lam also went to a home for the elderly in Tsz Wan Shan to visit the 98-year-old Uncle Fook. Mrs Lam met Uncle Fook during her tenure as the Director of Social Welfare and had visited him during the Chinese New Year over the years to send festive greetings to him. She also presented mandarin oranges to other elderly residents there and conveyed her well wishes to them.

In the evening, Mrs Lam attended the Chinese New Year night parade organised by the Hong Kong Tourism Board in Tsim Sha Tsui to join members of the public to celebrate the Lunar New Year.

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

Visa-free access to Panama and Armenia for HKSAR passport holders

The Immigration Department of the HKSAR Government announced on February 1 that with effect from February 10, 2019, HKSAR passport holders may visit Panama visa-free for a stay of up to 30 days. Likewise, national passport holders of Panama will also enjoy 30 days' visa-free access to Hong Kong.

Besides, with effect from March 3, 2019, HKSAR passport holders may visit Armenia visa-free for a stay of up to 180 days whereas national passport holders of Armenia will enjoy 30 days' visa-free access to Hong Kong.

Including Panama and Armenia, 165 countries and territories have granted visa-free access or visa-on-arrival to HKSAR passport holders.

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

Hong Kong Customs seizes suspected cannabis buds

Hong Kong Customs seized about 2.1 kilograms of suspected cannabis buds from Canada with an estimated market value of about \$440,000 at Hong Kong International Airport on January 28. After follow-up investigation, Customs officers on January 31 arrested a 27-year-old 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 the public 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

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

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).

[\[Attachment HA 1\]](#)

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ICAC updates international communities on anti-corruption efforts

The latest issue (34th issue) of the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC)'s electronic newsletter for local and international business communities, *ICAC Post*, has been uploaded on the ICAC corporate website. Highlight of this issue includes the following:

- Times change, but the mission continues
- Closer ties to fight graft under B&R initiative
- Preventing graft through governance and system controls

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

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