

RECENT ACTIVITIES

HKETO hosts media lunch

The Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (Toronto) (HKETO) held a media lunch in Toronto on February 28 to thank the Toronto media for their support to the work of HKETO over the years, and to introduce the major events to be hosted by HKETO in 2019.

Director of the HKETO, Ms Emily Mo, announced that HKETO would organise a “Hong Kong Week” event under the theme of “Connect and Excel” in June. The programme will encompass a series of activities including a business conference, photo exhibitions, an academic seminar, a concert by the Hong Kong Oratorio Society, a Hong Kong-themed drama and dragon boat festival activities.

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

HKETO Director attends workshop on Belt and Road

Director of the HKETO, Ms Emily Mo, attended a workshop entitled “Hong Kong - Starting Your Belt and Road Journey” organised by the British Canadian Chamber of Trade and Commerce at the Ontario Investment and Trade Centre on February 26. Ms Mo gave a presentation on the business opportunities arising from the Belt and Road Initiative and how Hong Kong serves as an ideal partner for Canadian companies to venture into the vast Belt and Road region.

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

HKETO Director attends MCPB annual spring banquet

Director of the HKETO, Ms Emily Mo, attended the annual spring banquet organised by the Mississauga Board of Chinese Professionals and Businesses on March 2. Ms Mo updated the guests on the latest developments of Hong Kong at the banquet.

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

HKETO Director visits Chinese Cultural Centre

Director of the HKETO, Ms Emily Mo, visited the Chinese Cultural Centre of Greater

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Toronto on March 11 to learn more about the facilities of the Centre and its work in promoting cultural ties between Hong Kong and Canada.

[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>

Table Tennis Tournament by Canada-HK New Horizon Lions Club in Toronto

Canada-Hong Kong New Horizon Lions Club will host a press conference on its 10th Annual Charity Table Tennis Tournament on April 17. The HKETO sponsors "The Media Cup" of the competitions which will be presented to the winning team in the Media category. The deadline for the competition registration is May 12.

For more information, please visit the official website of the organiser: <http://www.newhorizonlions.org/>

HONG KONG NEWS

The Financial Secretary uses Budget to help diversify economy, and promote innovation and technology

The Financial Secretary of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government, Mr Paul Chan, in his 2019-20 Budget delivered on February 27 unveiled a raft of initiatives to promote economic development and diversify Hong Kong's economy to enhance competitiveness and overcome challenges posed by changes in the external economy.

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Mr Chan said innovation and technology (I&T) development was a priority for Hong Kong, with over HK\$100 billion committed by the current-term Government.

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

The Financial Secretary proposed a 75 per cent reduction of profits tax, salaries tax and tax under personal assessment for the year of assessment 2018-19, subject to a ceiling of HK\$20,000 per case. This measure will cost the HKSAR Government HK\$18.9 billion, benefiting about 2.05 million taxpayers. The Financial Secretary also proposed to waive the business registration fees for 2019-20.

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

In addition, the Financial Secretary emphasised measures to improve Hong Kong's living environment and promote a caring society.

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

Measures were also announced to relieve people's burden and support enterprises to help counter the challenges facing Hong Kong's economy.

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

For full version of the Budget Speech, please visit:

<https://www.budget.gov.hk/2019/eng/>

Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Bangkok commences operation

The Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Bangkok (Bangkok ETO) commenced operation on February 28. The opening of the third Economic and Trade Office established by the HKSAR Government in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) region is set to further strengthen Hong Kong's economic and trade relations with the region for more new business opportunities.

Addressing the opening ceremony, the Chief Executive of HKSAR Mrs Carrie Lam, said that the establishment of the Bangkok Office is a clear and compelling statement of the importance of the ASEAN to Hong Kong, noting that ASEAN is Hong Kong's second largest trading partner since 2010. Looking ahead, Mrs Lam expected the Bangkok ETO to play the role of facilitator to connect businesses and organisations between Hong Kong and Thailand, and serve as a catalyst to take the cooperation of both sides to new heights and fresh directions.

The geographical coverage of the Bangkok ETO includes Thailand, Cambodia, Myanmar and Bangladesh, which is another country with great development potentials. The ETOs in Singapore and Jakarta will continue to cover other countries in the ASEAN region.

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

During her visit in Bangkok, Mrs Lam met with the Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, and attended a business seminar as well as the opening ceremony of cultural collaboration activities between Hong Kong and Thailand.

Noting that the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between Hong Kong and the ASEAN and the related Investment Agreement were signed in late 2017, Mrs Lam thanked the Thailand Government for the co-ordination role it took throughout the negotiations, as well as its timely ratification of the FTA and its effort to encourage other ASEAN member states to expedite their ratification process. She expressed the hope that Thailand will continue to support the early implementation of the FTA to further enhance trade and economic ties between Hong Kong, Thailand and ASEAN.

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

CE visits Beijing

The Chief Executive of HKSAR, Mrs Carrie Lam, visited Beijing from March 1 to 7.

On March 1, Mrs Lam attended the second plenary meeting of the Leading Group for the Development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Greater Bay Area) convened by the Vice Premier of the State Council, Mr Han Zheng, at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.

Mrs Lam welcomed the eight policy measures introduced by the Central Government for taking forward the development of the Greater Bay Area. She said such measures could facilitate Hong Kong residents to develop, work and reside in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area, as well as strengthen the convenient flow of people and goods within the Greater Bay Area.

On March 2, Mrs Lam attended the signing ceremony for the donation by the Ng Teng Fong Charitable Foundation to the Palace Museum and visited the Palace Museum and its exhibition in Beijing. The donation by the Ng Teng Fong Charitable Foundation serves to fund the repair of the Palace of Prolonging Happiness in the Palace Museum,

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the establishment of a gallery of foreign artefacts and the restoration of more than 200 foreign artefacts.

On March 4, Mrs Lam met with the Chairman of the China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC), Mr Yi Huiman, and the Minister of the National Health Commission (NHC), Mr Ma Xiaowei, in Beijing with the aim of strengthening co-operation with the Mainland in the sectors of finance and medicine and to exchange views on follow-up work in the relevant areas of the Outline Development Plan for the Greater Bay Area.

On March 5, Mrs Lam attended the opening ceremony of the second session of the 13th National People's Congress (NPC) in Beijing. Premier Li Keqiang delivered the government work report in the meeting. Premier Li reviewed the work in 2018 in the government work report and noted that the development plan for the Greater Bay Area will be implemented in 2019, strengthening regulatory interface, fostering efficient flows of factors of production and facilitating personnel exchange. He reiterated in the work report that the Central Government supports Hong Kong in seizing the immense opportunities brought about by the Belt and Road Initiative and the development of the Greater Bay Area and in giving full play to Hong Kong's advantages to fully enhance mutually beneficial co-operation with the Mainland.

Mrs Lam said the HKSAR Government will uphold the "One Country, Two Systems" principle to promote proactively the development of the Greater Bay Area.

On March 6, Mrs Lam visited Tsinghua University and met with the Party Secretary of Tsinghua University, Professor Chen Xu. She delivered a speech to over 300 teachers and students and answered questions from the students. Among those attending the session were dozens of young Hong Kong people studying in Tsinghua University.

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

Japanese companies extend reach to Hong Kong

Superstation Inc, a Japanese creative project design company, officially opened a Hong Kong branch, Superstation International Ltd, at Cyberport on February 27. The company's Hong Kong presence will leverage its connections with local partners with

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the aim of exploring new business opportunities in the city.

Superstation offers creative project development and consultancy services to its clients. One of its signature projects is “Knowledge Capital” in Osaka – an innovative hub comprising about 100 companies, universities and research organisations to create new and innovative ideas through the exchange of knowledge.

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

In addition, Japanese food supplier Toho Co Ltd announced on March 1 that it has established Toho Foods HK Co Ltd with a Hong Kong partner to start a joint venture business in Hong Kong, as part of the group’s strategic expansion in the local market.

Toho Co Ltd is one of the largest business-to-business food suppliers in Japan, and since 2015 the company has started to expand its operations outside Japan. The joint venture in Hong Kong is aimed at further spreading Japanese foods in this growing market.

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

Hong Kong residents born in 1985 or 1986 should apply for new smart identity cards on or before March 30

The Immigration Department of the HKSAR Government on March 1 reminded Hong Kong residents born in 1985 or 1986 to apply for a new smart identity card in person at a Smart Identity Card Replacement Centre (SIDCC) on or before March 30. The SIDCCs will be open from Mondays to Saturdays, from 8am to 10pm (except public holidays).

Eligible applicants may also bring along up to two family members or friends aged 65 or above to replace their smart identity cards together during the same visit to an SIDCC.

If eligible applicants 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.*](#)

Recruitment of qualified doctors outside Hong Kong

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The Hospital Authority (HA) on March 6 announced that confirmation has been received from the Medical Council of Hong Kong on the approval of three new applications of non-locally trained doctors for practice with Limited Registration in public hospitals to help relieve the front-line workload. The three doctors will be serving in Radiology, Emergency Medicine and Family Medicine.

At the moment, there are 16 non-locally trained doctors who have been assessed to be eligible for the recruitment exercise and considered suitable for appointment after interviews by user departments. As at January 2019, there are 10 non-locally trained doctors working in public hospitals to relieve the manpower pressure in the respective units in the specialties of Anaesthesia, Cardiothoracic Surgery, Emergency Medicine, Family Medicine and Internal Medicine.

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

Besides, the HA continues to recruit 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.

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

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

HKEX Strategic Plan 2019-2021

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Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited (HKEX) announced on February 28 its Strategic Plan 2019-2021, which sets out its vision and strategic objectives for the next three years.

Already a leading venue for investing into and out of Mainland China, HKEX aims to further increase its international relevance to China and Asia, as well as its Asia relevance to the global markets, serving as the venue of choice for investors and issuers in the Asian time zone.

To support this vision, HKEX intends to focus its efforts in the areas of *China Anchored, Globally Connected, and Technology Empowered*.

To read the Strategic Plan and details, please visit www.hkexgroup.com/strategic_plan

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

Hong Kong is an arbitration hub

Secretary for Justice of the HKSAR Government, Ms Teresa Cheng, said that Mainland enterprises could make use of Hong Kong's arbitration services to capitalise on Hong Kong's unique advantages. Ms Cheng said she hoped a platform could be created for Hong Kong, Macao and the Mainland to boost mutual understanding of the legal strengths each place can offer. This in turn would enable proposals to be drafted to benefit the enterprises and people of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area.

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

For news and information relating to Hong Kong's legal system and legal services, please visit:

Website - www.legalhub.gov.hk

Video - [Get to know Hong Kong's court system](#)

Publication - [Hong Kong: Asia's legal services hub](#)

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