

HONG KONG FILES



Issue No.1/2024

GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT EXCHANGES



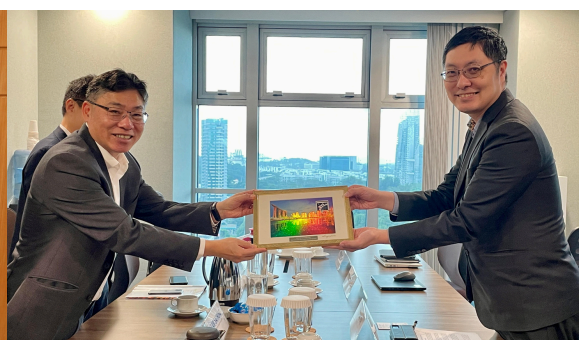
The Chief Executive, Mr John Lee, met with the visiting Deputy Prime Minister and Coordinating Minister for Economic Policies of Singapore, Mr Heng Swee Keat, in April, stressing further collaborations with Singapore on all fronts, especially in the areas of green and digital economies and emerging industries. Mr Lee also highlighted the upgrading of China-Singapore relations to an All Round High Quality Future Oriented Partnership last year, adding that Hong Kong as a "super connector" and "super value-adder" will continue to promote mutually beneficial economic growth between China and Singapore.



Deputy Secretary for Justice, Mr Cheung Kwok-kwan (right), met with visiting Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Communications and Information and Ministry of Health of Singapore, Dr Janil Puthuchery (left) in April, and shared the work of the Department of Justice.



The Secretary for Culture, Sports and Tourism, Mr Kevin Yeung (fourth right), shared Hong Kong's cultural and sports policies with visiting Minister for Culture, Community and Youth & Second Minister for Law of Singapore, Mr Edwin Tong (fifth right) in March.



Left photo: The Secretary for Transport and Logistics, Mr Lam Sai-hung (left), met with visiting Minister for Transport of Singapore, Mr Chee Hong Tat (right), in April. **Right photo:** Earlier in January, Mr Lam (left) visited Singapore and met with the Chief Executive of the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore, Mr Teo Eng Dih (right). Mr Lam looked forward to collaborations with Singapore to promote the development of transportation and logistics in the Asia-Pacific region.



Attracting Enterprises, Capital and Talent

- Attract more than 40 strategic enterprises to set up or expand businesses in Hong Kong
- Organise "Roundtable for International Sovereign Wealth Funds" and "Summit on Start-up Investment and Development"
- List an Exchange Traded Fund in the Middle East tracking Hong Kong stock indices
- Review Top Talent Pass Scheme and host a Global Talent Summit



Building the Hong Kong Brand

- Allocate over HK\$1.09 billion to strengthen tourism development and organise events, with launch of a new Hong Kong tourism brand
- Earmark HK\$100 million to boost mega-event promotions over next 3 years
- Sponsor renowned scholars and industry leaders to promote Hong Kong overseas



Innovation and Technology

- AI Supercomputing Centre to operate in 2024 earliest by phases
- HK\$6 billion for universities to set up life and health technology research institutes
- Set up the Greater Bay Area International Clinical Trial Institute in Hetao Shenzhen Hong Kong Science and Technology Innovation Co-operation Zone in 2024
- HK\$2 billion to support presence of InnoHK research clusters in Hetao, and HK\$3 billion earmarked to launch a Frontier Technology Research Infrastructure Support Scheme



International Cultural Exchange

- Inject HK\$1.4 billion into Film Development Fund
- Inject HK\$2.9 billion into CreateSmart Initiative
- Organise Hong Kong Fashion Design Week annually
- Organise the first Hong Kong Performing Arts Expo

Financial Secretary Paul Chan unveiled 2024-25 Budget



Green Future

- Extend Green and Sustainable Finance Grant Scheme to 2027
- Launch Green and Sustainable Fintech Proof of Concept Subsidy Scheme in the first half of 2024
- Co-host a Joint Climate Finance Conference in Hong Kong with Dubai
- Allocate HK\$65 million for Hong Kong-registered ships attaining a high rating under international standards of decarbonisation
- Promote use of Sustainable Aviation Fuel in Hong Kong



Financial and property Markets

- Issue HK\$70 billion worth of retail bonds
- Promote block trading and RMB counters under Southbound Stock Connect, and expansion of the mutual access regime to Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs)
- Enhance preferential tax regimes for family office funds
- Launch phase 1 of Project mBridge to settle cross-boundary transactions for corporates
- Cancel Special Stamp Duty, Buyers' Stamp Duty and New Residential Stamp Duty for residential properties with immediate effect



Legal and Dispute Resolution Services

- Establish the International Organization for Mediation in Hong Kong
- Promote Hong Kong's legal and dispute resolution services in the Mainland, the Middle East and ASEAN member states
- Establish Hong Kong International Legal Talents Training Academy



Hong Kong and Laos connected in direct flights

Hong Kong Airlines launched the inaugural direct flight from Hong Kong to Vientiane, the capital of Laos on April 27. The direct flight was part of the airliner's efforts to strengthen connectivity along the Belt and Road countries. The flight will depart Hong Kong International Airport at 2.55 pm on Saturdays, arriving at the Wattay International Airport in Vientiane at 4.20 pm (Laos time). The return flight will depart Vientiane at 5.20 pm also on Saturdays, landing in Hong Kong at 8.40 pm (HK time) *.

For details, please check out:
<https://www.hongkongairlines.com/>

**Flight schedules subject to change by HK Airlines without prior notice.*

Travel to Laos



Laos boasts different stunning landscapes and a myriad of historical sites. Please check out:

<https://www.tourismlaos.org/>

Visa requirements for HKSAR passport holders:

<https://research.hktdc.com/en/guides-and-resources/visa-on-demand/laos>

Travel to Hong Kong



A shopping and dining paradise aside, Hong Kong offers perennial cultural events, festivities, international conferences and mega events. Please check out:

<https://www.discoverhongkong.com/> and P.7-8 of this Newsletter.

Visa requirements for Laos passport holders:

<https://www.hketosin.gov.hk/visiting-hong-kong.php>

More strategic enterprises to land in Hong Kong



The Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises (OASES) held a partnership signing ceremony with 25 strategic enterprises on March 20. They come from industries including life and health technology, artificial intelligence and data science, fintech, advanced manufacturing and new energy. This signing ceremony followed an earlier batch of 20 strategic enterprises last October with which OASES signed for collaborations. Together, these 45 strategic enterprises will invest more than HK\$40 billion in total and create over 13 000 jobs in Hong Kong in coming years. For information of these enterprises, please read:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202403/20/P2024032000543.htm>

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202310/04/P2023100400660.htm>

Make the move to Hong Kong



HKTE
 HONG KONG TALENT ENGAGE
 香港人才服務辦公室

When you first arrive in Hong Kong, building a strong network is crucial for your career success and personal growth. Hong Kong Talent Engage (HKTE) is there to help:

✔ Connect with Talent Network: Try the support services of our robust designated partners to find your dream job in Hong Kong and connect with your professional networks. Find out more here: <https://www.hkengage.gov.hk/en/supporting-services>

✔ Join workshops and seminars: We regularly organise workshops and seminars, allowing you to connect with like-minded individuals. Learn more at <https://www.hkengage.gov.hk/en/media/news/>

✔ Build Your Network: Stay tuned to our social media platforms for industry-specific events, conferences, and meetups, to establish personal and business connections. Follow us on LinkedIn (<https://www.linkedin.com/company/hk-talent-engage/>), Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/HongKongTalentEngage/>) and Instagram (<https://www.instagram.com/hktalentengage/>).

Memoranda of understanding (MoUs) signed

Judicial exchanges

Hong Kong and Singapore attained a milestone in judicial exchanges in March, as the High Court of Hong Kong inked an MoU with the Family Justice Courts of Singapore to promote the efficient administration of the family justice systems in the two jurisdictions. The MoU covers knowledge-sharing in family law, concerning case management, technology integration, judicial training, procedural rules, use of mediation, etc.



Cultural exchanges

The West Kowloon Cultural District Authority (WKCD) made another leap in its inaugural Hong Kong International Cultural Summit in March, having signed MoUs with over 20 leading arts and cultural institutions from 11 countries, covering exhibition co-production and touring, conservation, scientific research, educational and exchange programmes. Among the signatories is Singapore's Asian Film Archive, which is focused on the preservation of the rich film heritage of Singapore and Asian Cinema.

Innovation and technology exchanges



Located at the Lok Ma Chau Loop in Hong Kong, the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Park (HSITP) will be developed as a key base for cooperation in scientific research, and higher education, cultural and creative industries. In April it signed MoUs with some 60 world-class enterprises, academia and research institutes to forge partnerships. Among them is Singapore's Orbit Ventures. With its strategic location, HSITP will form part of a cross-border 387-hectare Shenzhen-Hong Kong Science and Technology Innovation Co-operation Zone as a key innovation and technology hub.

Events in Singapore and Vietnam



Chinese New Year dinner Feb 21

HKETO in Singapore hosted some 200 guests from the government and business sectors and the Hong Kong community in a dinner at the Clifford Pier to celebrate the Year of Dragon. In his opening speech, our Director, Mr Owin Fung, stressed the importance of ever-growing bilateral relations between Hong Kong and ASEAN countries including Singapore to the overall growth of the region. He also re-affirmed Hong Kong's commitment to free trade, unimpeded investment and rules-based multilateralism, and introduced the latest sustainable developments in the city.



Chinese New Year luncheon of Hong Kong Singapore Business Association Feb 23

Addressing some 200 guests in a welcome speech, our Director, Mr Owin Fung, highlighted the Hong Kong Government's proactive and catalytic role in driving the economy. He encouraged the audience to explore the city's rich culinary and cultural offerings as well as natural scenery.



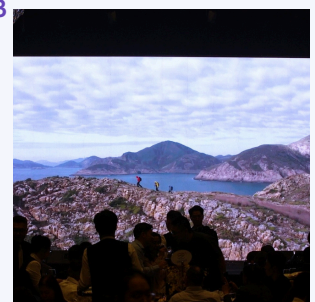
Luncheon and a seminar co-organised with Hong Kong Business Association Vietnam and Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry respectively Mar 19

Connecting with some 170 guests from the business and financial sectors of Ho Chi Minh City, Ms Alpha Lau, Director-General of Investment Promotion of InvestHK, gave an update on Hong Kong's business environment. She also shared the market outlook in the fashion, food and beverage, fintech and innovation, and family office industries in Hong Kong.



25th anniversary gala dinner of Hong Kong Business Association Vietnam April 13

Addressing some 200 guests, Our Director, Mr Owin Fung, outlined Hong Kong government initiatives to boost the flow of trade, business and people between Vietnam and Hong Kong. He encouraged the guests to explore the city's natural scenery, mega events, international conferences and exhibitions, as well as arts and cultural performances.



A video showcasing the pristine beauty of Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark was played at the dinner.

Hong Kong arts performances in Singapore



Boombabliss Cantonese Opera Troupe staged two performances *The Sassy Princess* and *Woman Warrior: Mu Gui Ying* featuring Hong Kong veteran actress Liza Wang and Cantonese opera actor Law Ka-ying in February. Blending singing, acting and acrobatics with exquisite costume and make-up, the two performances attracted a total audience of 3 100.

Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra returned to Singapore in February after a seven-year hiatus under the baton of Dutch conductor Jaap van Zweden, enchanting close to 1 500 audience. Addressing in the reception, our Director, Mr Owin Fung, commended the orchestra's role as a cultural ambassador for Hong Kong.



Group visits to ETO



We received four visiting groups from Hong Kong from Jan to Apr. Our Director and Deputy Director, Mr Owin Fung and Mr Alfred Tang, respectively gave briefings to the visitors on the socio-economic situation of ASEAN countries, the ETO's work, as well as the ASEAN Internship Scheme for Hong Kong Higher Education Students.

Hong Kong Baptist University



Caritas Yuen Long Chan Chun Ha Secondary School



Chiu Chow Association Secondary School



New Age Youth Association



Events in Hong Kong



Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon 2024 (Jan 21)



Asian Financial Forum (Jan 24-25)



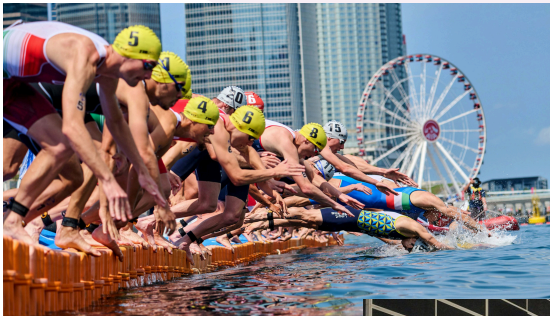
Chubby Hearts Hong Kong (Feb 14-24)



ComplexCon Hong Kong 2024 (Mar 22-24)



WestK FunFest: Atelier Sisu - Ephemeral (Mar 22- Apr 7)



2024 World Triathlon Cup (Mar 23-24)



Wealth for Good in Hong Kong Summit 2024 (Mar 27)



Art Basel Hong Kong 2024 (Mar 26-30)



Art Central 2024 (Mar 27-31)



Cathay/HSBC Hong Kong Sevens 2024 (Apr 5-7)

Follow us!

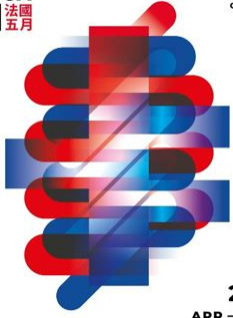


@hketosg

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We are Hong Kong SAR Government's representative office in the ASEAN region, covering Singapore, Vietnam, Laos, as well as India.



2024
APR — JUN

FRENCHMAY.COM



Enjoy a rich sensory experience as we present five stunning outdoor arts projects on both sides of Victoria Harbour fusing art, science and technology.



This inaugural festival, with Shanghai selected as the focus city, will bring Chinese Opera Festival, performing arts projects, film screenings, exhibitions, talks and much more.



Hong Kong Performing Arts Expo
Oct 14-18

www.hkpax.org.hk

Be inspired by a vibrant artistic dialogue in various performing arts programs, international showcases, pitch sessions, conversations, exhibition and networking activities. Welcome artists, performers, presenters and producers to join to scout market opportunities. Early bird rates apply until July 14.

French May
May - Jun

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

For three decades, French May is one of the most iconic cultural events in Asia, embracing Hong Kong's vision for cultural diversity. With more than 100 programmes concentrated in May and June, this festival is set to touch those with a passion for French culture.

Art@Harbour
until Jun 8

<https://www.museums.gov.hk/en/web/portal/artatharbour2024-art-projects.html>



Hong Kong International Dragon Boat Races
Jun 15-16

<https://www.discoverhongkong.com/seasia/whats-new/events/dhk-highlighted-events/dragon-boat-races.html>

Amid rousing cheers and thunderous drumbeats witness how paddlers of dragon boat teams from around the world compete for various trophies at the Tsim Sha Tsui promenade!

Chinese Culture Festival
Jun to Sep

<https://www.ccf.gov.hk>



Jin Yong's World of Wuxia
until Oct 7

<https://jinyong.hk/>

Join us in celebrating the centenary of the birth of martial arts novelist Dr Louis Cha (Jin Yong)! Dive into his martial arts universe in two exhibitions at Edinburgh Place (until Jul 2) and Hong Kong Heritage Museum (until Oct 7) with lively sculptures and an AR immersive Mongolian yurt inspired by his novel characters.



Hong Kong Pop Culture Festival 2024
until Nov

<https://www.pcf.gov.hk/en/programmes>

Kung fu and martial arts films, as well as their associated industries, have always been integral to Hong Kong's pop culture. Themed 'Arts & Action', this festival takes us on a journey of the chivalry of martial arts and tenderness of literature to explore Hong Kong's pop culture from new perspectives.