

HONG KONG FILES

HONG KONG ECONOMIC & TRADE OFFICE (ASEAN)

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1. Flag raising ceremony at the Bauhinia Square.

2. President Hu Jintao swears in the Chief Executive, Mr C Y Leung, at the inauguration ceremony of the Fourth Term Hong Kong SAR Government on July 1.



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INAUGURATION OF FOURTH TERM HKSAR GOVERNMENT

The inauguration ceremony of the Fourth Term Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government was held on July 1 at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre.

President Hu Jintao, who was in Hong Kong for this special occasion, swore in the Chief Executive, Mr C Y Leung, and the Principal Officials.

The Chief Executive then swore in members of the Executive Council.

Some 2,300 guests attended the ceremony, including representatives from the Central Government, members of the Executive and Legislative Councils, Hong Kong delegates to the National People's Congress and the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, political and economic figures, personalities from social circles, senior executives of Hong Kong-based Chinese enterprises, and members of the foreign diplomatic corps.

NEW TEAM OF PRINCIPAL OFFICIALS

The Principal Officials of the fourth term HKSAR Government are:

- Chief Secretary for Administration, Mrs Carrie Lam Cheng Yuet-ngor
- Financial Secretary, Mr John Tsang Chun-wah
- Secretary for Justice, Mr Rimsky Yuen Kwok-keung, SC
- Secretary for Transport and Housing, Professor Anthony Cheung Bing-leung
- Secretary for Home Affairs, Mr Tsang Tak-sing
- Secretary for Labour and Welfare, Mr Matthew Cheung Kin-chung
- Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury, Professor K C Chan
- Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Mr Gregory So Kam-leung
- Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs, Mr Raymond Tam Chi-yuen
- Secretary for Security, Mr Lai Tung-kwok
- Secretary for Education, Mr Eddie Ng Hak-kim
- Secretary for the Civil Service, Mr Paul Tang Kwok-wai
- Secretary for Food and Health, Dr Ko Wing-man
- Secretary for the Environment, Mr Wong Kam-sing
- Secretary for Development, Mr Paul Chan Mo-po
- Commissioner of Police, Mr Tsang Wai-hung
- Commissioner, Independent Commission Against Corruption, Mr Simon Peh Yun-lu
- Director of Audit, Mr David Sun Tak-kei
- Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Clement Cheung Wan-ching
- Director of Immigration, Mr Chan Kwok-ki

HIGHLIGHTS



2 Financial Secretary's three-nation visit

4 HK's heritage conservation work introduced in Singapore



5 You Ma Tei Theatre revitalised

6 HK's strengths as a strategic and differentiated SAR of China promoted



FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S THREE-NATION VISIT

1. Mr Tsang updates the business community on Hong Kong's development as an international financial centre at a luncheon in Kuala Lumpur.
2. The Malaysian Prime Minister, Dato' Sri Mohd Najib (right), presents a souvenir to Mr Tsang.
3. Mr Tsang (right) and the Malaysian Minister of Finance II, Dato' Seri Ahmad Husni Mohamad Hanadzlah, shake hands after signing an agreement for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income. Looking on is the Malaysian Prime Minister, Dato' Sri Mohd Najib.
4. Mr Tsang (left) meets with Vietnam's Minister of Finance, Mr Vuong Dinh Hue in Hanoi.
5. Mr Tsang (left) and the Chief Executive Officer of the State Capital Investment Corporation, Mr Lai Van Dao, at a meeting in Hanoi.
6. Mr Tsang (left) and the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Mr Kittiratt Na-ranong, at a meeting in Bangkok.
7. Mr Tsang (left) exchanges views with the Governor of the Bank of Thailand, Dr Prasarn Trairatvorakul.

The Financial Secretary, Mr John C Tsang, visited Vietnam, Malaysia and Thailand in April to strengthen economic and trade ties between Hong Kong and these three countries. During the visit, Mr Tsang also explained the benefits which will be brought about by Hong Kong's joining the China-ASEAN Free Trade Area (CAFTA).

Mr Tsang made his first stop at Hanoi, Vietnam on April 23 and 24. He met senior officials and representatives of the business community in Vietnam. Mr Tsang also spoke at the Conference on Global Financial Economic Challenges 2012, which was jointly organised by Vietnam's Ministry of Finance, the Korea Asset Management Corporation and the Asian Development Bank.

At the Conference, Mr Tsang told the Vietnam business community that Hong Kong is the preferred choice for enterprises seeking to access the vast mainland markets.

On the second leg of his trip, Mr Tsang visited Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on April 25. He met top officials and prominent financial figures and attended a luncheon co-organised by the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (HKETO (ASEAN)) and the Asian Strategy & Leadership Institute.

Mr Tsang updated the local business community on Hong Kong's development as an international financial centre in the Asian time zone, especially its rapid development of offshore Renminbi business.

He also signed a Comprehensive Agreement for the Avoidance of Double Taxation between Hong Kong and Malaysia. Prior to the signing ceremony, Mr Tsang held a meeting with the Malaysian Prime Minister, Dato' Sri Mohd Najib, and the Minister of Finance II, Dato' Seri Ahmad Husni Mohamad Hanadzlah.

On April 26, Mr Tsang flew to Bangkok, Thailand for the last leg of his tour. He called on his counterparts in the Thai government and financial leaders. He also officiated at the gala premiere of the first Hong Kong Film Festival in Thailand and attended a business luncheon co-organised by the HKETO (ASEAN) and the Hong Kong Trade Development Council.

At the luncheon, Mr Tsang spoke on Hong Kong's status as a global asset management and fund-raising centre. He told the Thai business community that Hong Kong has emerged as China's premier platform for offshore Renminbi business.



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ASEAN TO POSITIVELY CONSIDER HK'S REQUEST FOR JOINING CHINA-ASEAN FREE TRADE AREA

The trade relations between Hong Kong and ASEAN are fast-growing, with an average annual growth rate of 7% from 2007 to 2011. ASEAN as a whole has become Hong Kong's second largest trading partner since 2010. In view of the vast growth potential, Hong Kong submitted a formal request for joining the China-ASEAN Free Trade Area (CAFTA) in November 2011.

Since then, the Hong Kong SAR Government has been lobbying ASEAN Member States (MSS) at different levels to explain the potential benefits of Hong Kong's joining CAFTA. ASEAN Economic Ministers formally discussed Hong Kong's proposed accession at ASEAN Economic Ministers' meeting held in August 2012 in Cambodia. ASEAN agreed to give positive consideration to Hong Kong's proposed accession, noting the overall economic benefits that Hong Kong's joining CAFTA would bring to ASEAN, China and Hong Kong.

As the next step, individual ASEAN MSS would further look into the implications of Hong Kong's joining, and conduct domestic consultations. The Hong Kong SAR Government will continue to lobby ASEAN MSS with a view to urging ASEAN to reach an early decision to engage Hong Kong.

Thai movie goers revelled in the first Hong Kong Film Festival in Thailand featuring 10 internationally recognised Hong Kong movies.

The event, launched at a gala premiere in Bangkok on April 26 and opened with the award-winning movie "A Simple Life", was organised by the HKETO (ASEAN).

Speaking at the gala premiere, the Financial Secretary, Mr John C Tsang, said that as home to more than nine million Chinese, which is more than the entire population of Hong Kong, Thailand offers huge opportunities for Hong Kong's film productions. Bangkok, with its own proud cinematic history, is also a prime location for exchange and information-sharing in the field of film art.

"This is why we are organising the first Hong Kong Film Festival here in Bangkok," he said.

A line-up of 10 award-winning Hong Kong movies was prepared for the film festival. The opening movie, "A Simple Life", has scooped coveted awards at regional and international film festivals, including the Venice Film Festival, Taipei's Golden Horse Awards and the Hong Kong Film Awards.

The gala premiere attracted some 300 government officials and representatives from trade associations and the film industry. Also officiating at the gala premiere were the Vice Minister of Tourism and Sports of the Government of Thailand, Mr Sombat Kuruphan; Chinese Ambassador to Thailand, Mr Guan Mu; and the Director of HKETO (ASEAN), Mr Fong Ngai. It is also one of the major events organised by HKETO (ASEAN) to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

The Hong Kong Film Festival in Thailand was held from April 27 - 30 at the SF World Cinema, Bangkok. The 10 selected movies are: "A Simple Life", "The Beast Stalker", "Soundless Wind Chime", "Accident", "At the End of Daybreak", "Night and Fog", "Echoes of the Rainbow", "Break Up Club", "Lover's Discourse" and "Quattro Hong Kong I and II".



FIRST HK FILM FESTIVAL COMES TO THAILAND

1. Mr Tsang (centre) officiates at the launching ceremony with the Vice Minister of Tourism and Sports of the Government of Thailand, Mr Sombat Kuruphan (third left). Other officiating guests include the Chinese Ambassador to Thailand, Mr Guan Mu (third right), and Director of HKETO (ASEAN), Mr Fong Ngai (second right).
2. Mr Tsang delivers a speech at the gala premiere of the Hong Kong Film Festival.
3. Hong Kong movie fans queuing up for tickets to the Hong Kong Film Festival.
4. Vice Minister of Tourism and Sports of the Government of Thailand, Mr Sombat Kuruphan (third right) and Director of HKETO (ASEAN), Mr Fong Ngai (third left) with other guests at the gala premiere.
5. Mr Tsang (right) chats with the Chinese Ambassador to Thailand, Mr Guan Mu (left). Looking on is Director of HKETO (ASEAN), Mr Fong Ngai (centre).





HK'S HERITAGE CONSERVATION WORK INTRODUCED IN SINGAPORE

The then Secretary for Development, Mrs Carrie Lam*, made a presentation at a public lecture on the efforts and achievements of the Hong Kong SAR Government in preserving and revitalising Hong Kong's historic buildings in the past five years in Singapore on May 17.

Jointly organised by the Centre for Liveable Cities and the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, the lecture was attended by more than 200 participants from the public and private sectors as well as academia.

In her presentation, Mrs Lam discussed the application of the heritage conservation policy adopted in 2007 and introduced major projects in Hong Kong, including Conserving Central, and the Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme. She also highlighted the need to respect private property rights in dealing with privately owned historic buildings, quoting the use of land exchange to preserve the historic mansion King Yin Lei.

During her stay in Singapore, Mrs Lam met with the then Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Information, Communications and the Arts and Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources, Ms Grace Fu**, and the Chief Executive Officer of the Urban Redevelopment Authority, Mr Ng Lang. She toured the Singapore City Gallery at the Urban Redevelopment Authority Centre to understand the urban renewal work in Singapore.

She also visited the Civil Service College of Singapore. The college provides a comprehensive suite of programmes in the areas of leadership, policy development and public administration for public service officers in Singapore.



Mrs Lam met with the Chief Executive Officer of the Housing and Development Board, Dr Cheong Koon Hean, who concurrently is the Deputy Secretary (Special Duties) at the Ministry of National Development in charge of land reclamation issues. She also had a lunch meeting with the then Minister of State for National Development and Manpower, Mr Tan Chuan-Jin***.

Mrs Lam visited Gardens by the Bay before concluding the two-day visit.

(*Mrs Carrie Lam is now the Chief Secretary for Administration.)

(** Ms Grace Fu is now Minister in the Prime Minister's Office, 2nd Minister for the Environment and Water Resources and 2nd Minister for Foreign Affairs.)

(*** Mr Tan Chuan-Jin is now the Acting Minister for Manpower and Senior Minister of State for National Development.)

1. Mrs Lam elaborates on Hong Kong's efforts and achievements in preserving and revitalising Hong Kong's historic buildings in the past five years.

2. Mrs Lam visits the Singapore City Gallery at the Urban Redevelopment Authority Centre.

YAU MA TEI THEATRE REVITALISED

1. The Yau Ma Tei Theatre after its conversion.
2. The Chief Executive, Mr C Y Leung officiates at the grand opening of the revitalised Yau Ma Tei Theatre and its lion eye-dotting ceremony.
3. A Cantonese opera performance at the revitalised Yau Ma Tei Theatre.

The decades-old Yau Ma Tei Theatre has been revitalised into a contemporary performing arts venue, in particular for the promotion of Cantonese opera.

Opened in 1930, the building is the only pre-World War II cinema building that remains in the urban area of Hong Kong. With mixed Chinese and Western design, the building features a Chinese pitched roof, an art deco façade and Dutch gable walls. Most striking are the two pillars at the front entrance, engraved with crying and laughing masks, as well as the theatre's proscenium arch.

It was once a popular spot for film buffs to see their favourite stars on-screen and has provided entertainment for residents in the area. According to existing records, its first film, "A Plum with Him" was shown on June 21, 1930. Western silent classics like Charlie Chaplin's "Behind the Screen" and "City Lights" had also been screened at the theatre. The theatre closed down in July 1998.

The Red Brick Building adjacent to the theatre was built in 1895 as an engineer's office for a major pumping station in Kowloon. It is the oldest surviving water pumping station building of the Water Supplies Department. The station ceased operation in 1911.

Its special features include the red brick façade, cast iron rainwater pipes and hopper heads, arched verandahs and granite coping stones and pad stones to gable.

Conservation and conversion works were launched in 2009, turning the theatre and the Red Brick Building into a performing arts venue for the promotion of various forms of Chinese opera, and in particular as a training and performance venue for nurturing Cantonese opera talents.

To mark the event, a grand opening of the revitalised Yau Ma Tei Theatre was held on July 17, officiated by the Chief Executive, Mr C Y Leung.



For details, please browse
<http://www.lcsd.gov.hk/CE/CulturalService/ymt/en/index.php>

HK'S STRENGTHS AS A STRATEGIC AND DIFFERENTIATED SAR OF CHINA PROMOTED

The principle of "One Country, Two Systems" has given Hong Kong a strategic position as part of China, yet with a system different from that of the Mainland of China, the Director of HKETO (ASEAN), Mr Fong Ngai, said on July 30 at the 2012 Annual Asia Competitiveness Institute Conference.

He said Hong Kong has enjoyed the best of both worlds. Its special linkage to the Mainland has provided huge business opportunity, while at the same time its traditional strengths can be retained, making it one of the best international trading, logistics and financial centres in the world.



"If Hong Kong joins the China-ASEAN Free Trade Area (CAFTA), it would give a vote of confidence in each other's economies. This would in turn induce more investment into ASEAN and help promote stronger links between ASEAN and Mainland China via Hong Kong," he said.

The 2012 Annual Asia Competitiveness Institute Conference was organised by the Asia Competitiveness Institute at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore.



ASEAN LEADERSHIP FORUM IN PHNOM PENH

The Director of HKETO (ASEAN) Mr Fong Ngai gave a presentation entitled "Hong Kong and ASEAN – Close Partners, Now and Beyond" at the 9th ASEAN Leadership Forum in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. In the presentation, he spoke on the close ties between Hong Kong and ASEAN countries and Hong Kong's role in enhancing economic relations between ASEAN and China. The 9th ASEAN Leadership Forum was organised, immediately after the ASEAN Leaders' Summit, by the Asian Strategy and Leadership Institute and the Ministry of Commerce, Cambodia from April 4 – 6. Some 300 senior government officials from ASEAN countries and heads of business groups attended the event.

UNESCAP

The Director of HKETO (ASEAN) Mr Fong Ngai presented the Hong Kong, China's Statement on "Enhancing regional economic integration in Asia and the Pacific" in the ministerial segment of the 68th Session of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) held in Bangkok, Thailand on May 22.

Mr Fong told the audience the proactive multi-pronged growth strategy pursued by the Hong Kong SAR Government to capitalise on the eastward shift of the centre of global economic gravity following the global financial crisis.

He said, "We capitalise on the rise of the Mainland economy, enhance regional integration, explore new markets, develop six industries where Hong Kong enjoys advantages, and invest heavily in human capital and attract talents. All these should ensure Hong Kong's sustainable growth and development."

ASIA FORUM 2012 IN HANOI

Some 200 guests from government offices, the business sector and trade associations attended the Asia Forum 2012 which was jointly organized by HKETO (ASEAN) and the Hong Kong Trade Development Council in Hanoi, Vietnam on May 25. The Forum invited guest speakers to share their views on Vietnam's economic outlook as well as to explore further integration of Hong Kong and ASEAN, and to discuss the internationalisation of Renminbi.

CULTURAL TIES WITH ASEAN COUNTRIES

The Secretary for Home Affairs, Mr Tsang Tak-sing, attended the Fifth ASEAN Plus Three (China, Japan, Korea) Meeting for Ministers Responsible for Culture and Arts, and the First ASEAN-China Ministers Responsible for Culture and Arts Meeting in Singapore on May 24.

Mr Tsang attended the meetings as a member of the Chinese delegation which was led by the Minister of Culture, Dr Cai Wu.

During the ASEAN-China meeting, Mr Tsang said, "The meeting has established a mechanism on cultural co-operation between the ASEAN and China, a significant step in jointly promoting cultural development in the region. We are glad to have the opportunity to play a role in establishing this mechanism, which will further enhance cultural development in Hong Kong."

Of ASEAN's 10 member countries, Hong Kong has signed memoranda of understanding on cultural co-operation with the Philippines, Singapore and Vietnam.



The Secretary for Home Affairs, Mr Tsang Tak-sing (first left), attends the First ASEAN - China Ministers Responsible for Culture and Arts Meeting in Singapore.

EXCHANGES ON LABOUR AND MANPOWER ISSUES

The Secretary for Labour and Welfare, Mr Matthew Cheung Kin-chung (left), on May 22 in Hong Kong met the then Minister of State for Manpower and National Development of Singapore, Mr Tan Chuan-Jin*. Mr Cheung briefed Mr Tan on the Government's experience in implementing the statutory minimum wage and the labour protection and assistance for the 300 000-plus foreign domestic helpers. They also exchanged views on labour and manpower issues of common interest.

(*Mr Tan Chuan-Jin is now the Acting Minister for Manpower and Senior Minister of State for National Development.)



VISIT BY COMMUNITY GROUP

HKETO (ASEAN) received a 50-strong delegation from the Hong Kong Islands District Association on May 31. The Director of HKETO (ASEAN) Mr Fong Ngai briefed them on the work of the promotion of bilateral relations between Hong Kong and ASEAN countries. The delegation was on a waste management mission study trip to Singapore.



BUSINESS STUDENTS VISIT HKETO

A group of over 20 students of Global Learning Opportunities in Business Education (GLOBE), a pioneering undergraduate business programme jointly offered by three top business schools, including the Chinese University of Hong Kong in Asia, Copenhagen Business School in Europe and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in America, visited HKETO (ASEAN) on May 14. The Director of HKETO



(ASEAN) Mr Fong Ngai gave a briefing to them on the work of his office as well as the latest developments in the ASEAN region.

HONG KONG FESTIVAL 2012



This year marks the 15th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. In celebration of this special occasion, the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (ASEAN), together with its partners, is organising a series of events in Singapore to showcase Hong Kong's vibrancy and its diverse arts and culture. Details of the events are as follows:

Event	Date	Venue
Hong Kong - inspired menu by Singapore's celebrity chef, Willin Low - <i>Prelude to the Wine & Dine Month in Hong Kong (November 2012)</i>	11 October 2012 (launch event) 12-31 October 2012	Wild Rocket Restaurant
"The Spirits Play" : a work of Asian theatre masters Danny Yung from Hong Kong and Makoto Sato from Japan - <i>Presented by Singapore's Theatre Practice</i>	25-28 October 2012	The Joyden Hall, Bugis+ Shopping Mall
Gala Dinner in Celebration of the 15th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region	30 October 2012	The Fullerton Hotel
ASEAN - Hong Kong Business Forum - <i>The Forum will look at Global and Regional Supply Chains, with a focus on the complementary roles of Hong Kong and Singapore in the development of the East Asia market.</i>	31 October 2012	The Fullerton Hotel
Hong Kong Dragon Boat Race	4 November 2012	Singapore River

For details, please visit www.hketosin.gov.hk/hksar15/.

HK STUDENTS SHARE EYE-OPENING EXPERIENCE IN SINGAPORE

Some 25 students from four Hong Kong universities who have joined internship in Singapore attended a gathering in HKETO on July 31 to share their experience gained from the internship. The four universities are the Hong Kong Baptist University, the Chinese University of Hong Kong, the University of Hong Kong and the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. They shared that the experience was valuable and eye-opening which would contribute to their personal development. Picture shows the Director of HKETO (ASEAN) Mr Fong Ngai (centre, front row) in a group photo with the students.



SUBSCRIPTION/RESPONSE

For renewal of subscription or any response, please send your contact information and/or comments to the Editor, HK FILES:

Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (ASEAN)

9 Temasek Boulevard, #34-01 Suntec City Tower Two, Singapore 038989

Website: www.hketosin.gov.hk Tel: (65) 6338 1771 Email: hketo_sin@hketosin.gov.hk Fax: (65) 6339 2112

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