

# HONG KONG FILES

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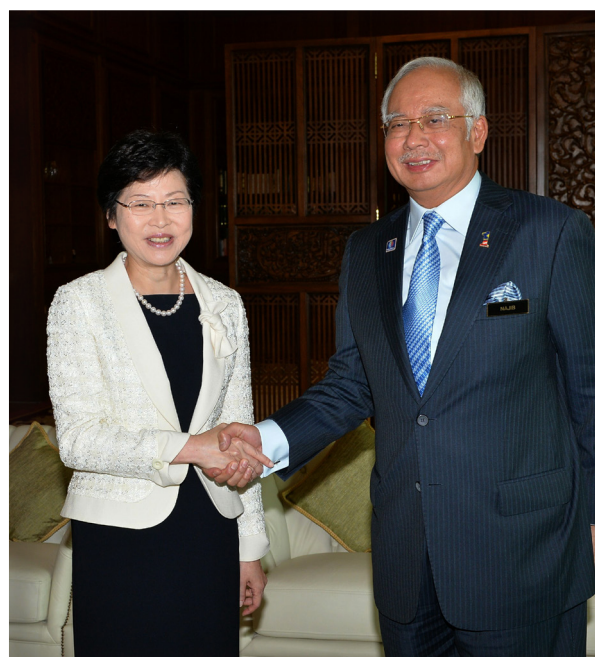
NO. 3/2014 ISSUE

## High-level visit to Malaysia

The Chief Secretary, Mrs Carrie Lam, visited Malacca, Kuala Lumpur and Penang, Malaysia from June 3-7 to strengthen the bilateral relations between Hong Kong and Malaysia. The visit covered the areas of trade ties, investment promotion and cultural exchanges.

During her five-day visit, Mrs Lam met with a number of Malaysian top government officials including the Prime Minister, Dato' Sri Najib Razak and the Minister of International Trade and Industry, Dato' Sri Mustapa Mohamed. She also met with the representatives of major chambers of commerce in Malaysia.

In Kuala Lumpur, she witnessed the signing ceremony of a memorandum of understanding between Dato' Azman Mahmud, the Chief Executive Officer of the Malaysian Investment Development Authority and Mr Simon Galpin, Director-General of Investment Promotion of Invest Hong Kong, to enhance cooperation on investment promotion.



The Chief Secretary for Administration, Mrs Carrie Lam (left), meets with the Prime Minister of Malaysia, Dato' Sri Najib Razak.



The Director-General of Investment Promotion, Invest Hong Kong, Mr Simon Galpin (first row, left), and the Chief Executive Officer of the Malaysian Investment Development Authority, Dato' Azman Mahmud (first row, right), sign the memorandum of understanding to enhance co-operation on investment promotion. Witnessing the signing ceremony are Mrs Lam (back row, second left) and the Minister of International Trade and Industry, Dato' Sri Mustapa Mohamed (back row, second right).

Speaking at the forum on "Hong Kong - ASEAN Regional Cooperation", Mrs Lam said, "With the establishment of the ASEAN Economic Community by the end of 2015, we are confident that a Free Trade Agreement between Hong Kong and ASEAN will provide a timely boost to markets across our region and add value to business activities."

She also officiated at the opening ceremony of "Hong Kong's Evolving Harbour Exhibition cum Travel Fair" co-organised by the HKETO and the Hong Kong Tourism Board.

In Penang, Mrs Lam officiated at the opening of the "Spotlight Hong Kong in Penang" festival co-presented by the Hong Kong Fringe Club and George Town Festival and sponsored by HKETO to promote cultural exchanges between Hong Kong and Malaysia.

She attended and spoke at the symposium on "Creating New Culture Belts: From Heritage Conservation to Urban Regeneration" which was part of the festival's programme.

In Malacca and Penang, Mrs Lam visited heritage sites there to learn about the heritage conservation work.

She also attended dinner gatherings with Hong Kong people living and working in Kuala Lumpur and Penang respectively and called on the Deputy Chief of Mission of the Chinese Embassy in Malaysia, Ms Ma Jia.

# Financial Secretary visits Singapore



Mr Tsang delivers a keynote speech at the 7th ASEAN and Asia Forum in Singapore.

**The Financial Secretary, Mr John C Tsang, promoted Hong Kong's multiple roles as the gateway to China, a global business centre, a global financial centre and a global aviation and logistics centre during his recent visit to Singapore.**

During the visit from July 30 to August 1 to Singapore, Mr Tsang met with the Prime Minister, Mr Lee Hsien Loong; the Emeritus Senior Minister, Mr Goh Chok Tong; the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam; the Minister for Trade and Industry, Mr Lim Hng Kiang; and other prominent personalities in the business and banking sectors.

Speaking at the 7th ASEAN and Asia Forum organised by Singapore's leading independent think tank, the Singapore Institute of International Affairs, Mr Tsang encouraged ASEAN entrepreneurs to do business in Hong Kong, with Hong Kong and through Hong Kong. He also told attendees that the early and successful conclusion of the Hong Kong-ASEAN

Free Trade Agreement negotiations would enable entrepreneurs in Asia to reap the rewards of greater regional co-operation.

During the visit, Mr Tsang also met with the Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer of Temasek, Ms Ho Ching; the Chairman of the Singapore Exchange, Mr Chew Choon Seng; the Managing Director of Monetary Authority of Singapore, Mr Ravi Menon; representatives of major chambers in Singapore and the Association of Banks in Singapore; and entrepreneurs of Singapore in the field of innovation and technology. The Financial Secretary also visited a leading animation and special effects production house, Lucasfilm.

Mr Tsang called on the Chinese Ambassador in Singapore, Mr Duan Jielong. He also met with members of the Hong Kong community living and working in Singapore and launched the ASEAN Internship for University Students of Hong Kong Scheme (see separate story on p.6).



The Financial Secretary Mr John C Tsang (right), is greeted by the Prime Minister, Mr Lee Hsien Loong.



Mr Tsang (right) calls on the Emeritus Senior Minister, Mr Goh Chok Tong.



Mr Tsang (right) meets with the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam.

## Prime Minister of Singapore visits Hong Kong



The Prime Minister of Singapore, Mr Lee Hsien Loong, signs the guest book at Government House.

**The Chief Executive, Mr C Y Leung, received the visiting Prime Minister of Singapore, Mr Lee Hsien Loong, at Government House in Hong Kong on September 17.**

Mr Leung said that Hong Kong and Singapore enjoy strong economic and trade ties and have close exchanges and co-operation in areas such as education, culture and tourism. Furthermore, Mr Leung and Mr Lee shared views on the challenges that the two places faced in respect of housing, land use planning and infrastructural developments.

Mr Leung said he looks forward to continued support from Singapore to bring about an early conclusion of the negotiations for the Free Trade Agreement between Hong Kong and ASEAN, and to work together to promote the further development of economic and trade co-operation in the region.

# Ministerial exchanges at ASEAN Leadership Forum



Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Mr Gregory So (eighth right, front row), is pictured with leaders and senior government officials of members of the ASEAN as well as representatives of the organisers of the ASEAN Leadership Forum at the welcome dinner. Tenth from right on the front row is the President of Myanmar, Mr Thein Sein, and eleventh from right on the front row is the President of the Republic of Indonesia, Dr H Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono.

forum held alongside the Summit of ASEAN Leaders.

Mr So also took the opportunity to hold bilateral meetings in Nay Pyi Taw with the Minister of Commerce of Myanmar, Mr U Win Myint; the Minister of National Planning and Economic Development cum Secretary of Myanmar Investment Commission of Myanmar, Dr Kan Zaw; the Minister of International Trade and Industry of Malaysia, Dato' Sri Mustapa Mohamed; and the Senior Minister and Minister of Commerce of Cambodia, Mr Chanthol Sun.

In Yangon, Mr So visited the site of a redevelopment project involving a Hong Kong company, which would turn the former Myanmar Railway Company building into a hotel. He also visited a garment manufacturing factory owned by a Hong Kong businessman. He later met with the President of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI), Mr Win Aung, as well as the local business community to learn about the business environment there.



Mr So (right) meets with Minister of Commerce of Myanmar, Mr U Win Myint.



Mr So (left) meets with Minister of National Planning and Economic Development of Myanmar cum Secretary of the Myanmar Investment Commission, Dr Kan Zaw.



Mr So (right) meets with Senior Minister and Minister of Commerce of Cambodia, Mr Chanthol Sun.



Mr So (right) meets with Minister of International Trade and Industry of Malaysia, Dato' Sri Mustapa Mohamed.

**The Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Mr Gregory So, said the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) would facilitate ASEAN members in the process of regional integration in the context of other ongoing free trade and economic partnership agreements.**

Mr So gave welcoming remarks at the Gala Dinner and spoke at the session "ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) - Creating

Regional Prosperity, Resilience and Opportunities" of the 11th ASEAN Leadership Forum held in Nay Pyi Taw when he visited Myanmar from May 10 to 14 to promote stronger bilateral and economic ties between Hong Kong and member states of ASEAN.

Themed "The Road Towards 2015 - Community Building Towards Regional Prosperity, Resilience and Peace", the Forum is an annual high level

## Secretary for Development attends Forum in Singapore

The Secretary for Development, Mr Paul Chan, visited Singapore from June 1 to 2 to represent Hong Kong at the 10th Ministers' Forum on Infrastructure Development in the Asia-Pacific Region.

He signed a Ministers' Joint Declaration together with other representatives to demonstrate the joint commitment and solidarity of member countries and regions to promote sustainable development and create liveable communities.

## Solicitor General promotes arbitration services in Myanmar

**The Solicitor General of the Department of Justice, Mr Frank Poon, led a delegation of some 20 professionals of Hong Kong legal and arbitration community to Yangon, Myanmar from August 27 - 30 to promote Hong Kong's legal and dispute resolution services.**

"Given its close proximity to Myanmar and the availability of seasoned legal professionals, Hong Kong is an ideal place to conduct international commercial transactions. It is also a preferred venue for arbitration of commercial disputes for Myanmar businesses, particularly disputes with foreign and Chinese companies," Mr Poon said when addressing a legal seminar entitled "Hong Kong - An

International Hub for Legal and Arbitration Services" in Yangon.

Jointly organised by Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government, the Hong Kong Trade Development Council and the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI), the seminar was attended by some 260 business, legal and other professional leaders from Hong Kong and Myanmar.

The delegation included representatives from the Hong Kong Bar Association, the Law Society of Hong Kong, the Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre, the China International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission Hong Kong



Solicitor General, Mr Frank Poon, delivers a speech at a seminar on Hong Kong's legal and arbitration services.

Arbitration Center, and the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (East Asia Branch).

Mr Poon also met with the Joint Secretary General of UMFCCI, Mr U Aye Lwin, and Supreme Court Advocate, Mr U Khun Win Hlaing.

# Universal suffrage framework set out

**The Chief Executive (CE), Mr C Y Leung, announced on August 31 that the National People's Congress Standing Committee (NPCSC) has set out the 2017 CE election framework.**

Speaking to the media after the NPCSC decided on the universal suffrage framework, Mr Leung said he hopes citizens will cherish the offer as it gives for the first time in Hong Kong's history every eligible voter the right to elect the CE.

The aim of selecting the CE and forming the Legislative Council by universal suffrage was first set out in the Basic Law promulgated in 1990.

In 2007, the NPCSC decided that universal suffrage for selecting the CE may be implemented in 2017 and, thereafter, universal suffrage for forming the Legislative Council.

During the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government's consultation with the public from December 2013 to May 2014, the community at large indicated a strong desire for implementing

universal suffrage in selecting the CE in 2017.

Mr Leung submitted his report to the NPCSC in mid-July, and the NPCSC on August 31 made a decision that confirms implementing universal suffrage for electing the CE from 2017 onwards through "one person, one vote" elections. The NPCSC decision also provides the framework for implementing the Basic Law provision that there should be a broadly representative nominating committee to nominate candidates for universal suffrage in accordance with democratic procedures.

For more details on the election framework and related issues, please visit [www.2017.gov.hk](http://www.2017.gov.hk).

**"Occupy Central"** - Right before the newsletter goes to print, "Occupy Central" has happened in Hong Kong. The Hong Kong Government has set up a dedicated website to provide relevant news and updates. For details, please visit [www.hketosin.gov.hk](http://www.hketosin.gov.hk).

## Council endorses three-runway report



**The Advisory Council on the Environment endorsed the Airport Authority's environmental impact assessment report on the expansion of Hong Kong International Airport into a three-runway system, with conditions and recommendations on September 15.**

The council has asked the Director of Environmental Protection to consider imposing conditions on the environmental permit for the Airport Authority, to address the council's concerns regarding marine and terrestrial ecology. They include the Chinese White Dolphins' conservation, the proposed marine park, water quality, waste management, and audits of air and noise emissions.

The council has also asked the Airport Authority to seek the council's comments on the marine park proposal, and implementation of plans for marine ecology conservation and fisheries management, as well as the marine traffic routes and management plan for high speed ferries before submitting the relevant plans for approval.

Welcoming the decision, Mr C K Ng, Acting Chief Executive Officer of the Airport Authority Hong Kong, said if everything goes well, it is targeted to obtain the support and approval from the Government to begin construction as soon as possible, with an aim for the three-runway system to be fully operational by 2023.

## Hong Kong's future railway development blueprint unveiled

**The Secretary for Transport and Housing, Professor Anthony Cheung, has outlined plans for seven new railway projects to be completed by 2031, with preliminary cost estimates of HK\$110 billion.**

Announcing the Railway Development Strategy 2014 (RDS-2014) recommendations on September 17, Professor Cheung said the new projects are the Northern Link and Kwu Tung Station, Tuen Mun South Extension, East Kowloon Line, Tung Chung West Extension, Hung Shui Kiu Station, South Island Line (West), and North Island Line.

They will lengthen Hong Kong's railway network from 270km in 2021 to over 300km by 2031. The number of stations will increase from 99 to 114.

The expansion will enable the railway network to cover areas inhabited by 75% of the population and 85% of job opportunities.

The taking forward of individual railway projects will be subject to the outcome of detailed engineering, environmental and financial studies, as well as updated assessments of passenger transport demand and the availability of resources.

Prior to the completion of individual projects, the Government will assess their impact on other public transport and devise service rationalisation proposals to achieve better co-ordination amongst them, Professor Cheung added.

Members of the public may read the RDS-2014 and relevant document online on the Transport and Housing Bureau's website ([www.thb.gov.hk](http://www.thb.gov.hk)).



# Hong Kong Week in Malaysia forges closer bilateral ties



The design of the exhibition venue is inspired by the Kai Tak Cruise Terminal.



From left: The Director of HKETO, Mr Fong Ngai; Mrs Lam; Hong Kong Fringe Club's Chairman, Ms Wailee Chow and its Director, Mr Benny Chia.



The Chief Secretary for Administration, Mrs Carrie Lam (third right) and other officiating guests at the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Hong Kong's Evolving Harbour Exhibition cum Travel Fair.



Mrs Lam (fifth left) and the Minister of International Trade and Industry, Dato' Sri Mustapa Mohamed (fifth right), with other guests at the forum on "Hong Kong - ASEAN Regional Cooperation".



Mrs Lam (front row, centre) in a group photo that includes talents from the Hong Kong film "The Way We Dance" who take part in the "Spotlight Hong Kong in Penang" festival.

**A colourful Hong Kong Week in Malaysia was staged in June 2014 to promote Hong Kong's latest developments and to cement the strong relations between Hong Kong and Malaysia.**

Organised by the HKETO and partners, the Hong Kong Week comprised the "Hong Kong's Evolving Harbour" Exhibition cum Travel Fair; a business forum on "Hong Kong - ASEAN Regional Cooperation"; and the "Spotlight Hong Kong in Penang" festival. It was also tied in with the visit of the Chief Secretary for Administration, Mrs Carrie Lam, to Malaysia.

Jointly organised with the Hong Kong Tourism Board, the exhibition aimed to introduce the latest developments along the shorelines of the Victoria Harbour as well as to promote Hong Kong's tourist attractions and the up and coming cruise tourism. The week-long exhibition attracted over 16 000 visitors.

The forum on "Hong Kong - ASEAN Regional Cooperation" was co-organised by Hong Kong Chinese General Chamber of Commerce, HKETO, Associated Chinese Chambers of Commerce & Industry of Malaysia and Asian Strategy and Leadership Institute. It brought together some 250 senior government representatives, key personalities of the business community, academics and think tanks to explore issues of common interest of Hong Kong and ASEAN, including Malaysia.

The "Spotlight Hong Kong in Penang" festival brought some 60 Hong Kong and 85 Malaysian artists and arts administrators from the sectors of music and dance, film making, arts and heritage conservation to take part in the three-day festival. Enjoyed by over 5 500 audiences, the festival provided a platform for exchanges between the cultural and heritage groups and practitioners in Hong Kong and Malaysia.

# Financial Secretary launches ASEAN internship scheme



2014 | China-ASEAN  
Cultural Exchange Year

The Financial Secretary, Mr John C Tsang, officially launched a new initiative for Hong Kong university students to undertake internships in ASEAN member countries during his visit to Singapore on July 31.

The ASEAN Internship for University Students of Hong Kong Scheme (the internship scheme) was initiated and developed by the HKETO with an aim of widening students' international perspectives and enhancing bilateral relations between Hong Kong and ASEAN.

Speaking at the launching ceremony, Mr Tsang said the internship scheme showcases the Hong Kong Government's commitment to nurturing young talent and to better preparing them for an increasingly globalised world.

"This internship scheme provides students with exposure to ASEAN, 10 economies of great diversity in language, culture, religion and economic strength as well as political system," he said.

Started this summer, the inaugural round of the



The Financial Secretary, Mr John C Tsang (second row, fourth right) and the Director of HKETO, Mr Fong Ngai (second row, sixth right) with other guests and Hong Kong university student interns.

internship scheme has seen some 90 internship places in seven ASEAN countries being taken up by Hong Kong university students. The seven ASEAN countries were Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Those taking part in the inaugural round of the scheme included the Hong Kong Government and related agencies, ASEAN Government-related agencies,

international organisations, academic institutions, think tanks, arts and cultural groups and private companies.

The internship scheme has been included in the programme of the 2014 China-ASEAN Cultural Exchange Year, which aims to promote regional cultural exchanges. Interested organisations are invited to join the 2015 round of the internship scheme. For details, please visit [www.hketosin.gov.hk](http://www.hketosin.gov.hk) or email

to [broadcast@hketosin.gov.hk](mailto:broadcast@hketosin.gov.hk).



Four university students who took up internships in the HKETO in the inaugural round of the ASEAN internship scheme prepared a special card showing all faces in the office.

## Service learning projects in Cambodia



Mr Fong (fifth left) and the President of the PolyU, Professor Timothy Tong (sixth left) visit PolyU students who join the service-learning projects in Cambodia.

The Director of HKETO, Mr Fong Ngai, gave words of encouragement to over 100 students who joined the service-learning projects organised by the Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU) in Phnom Penh, Cambodia in June 2014.

Speaking at the closing ceremony of the service-learning projects, Mr Fong said he was impressed by the enthusiasm and the serving hearts of the students and staff displayed in the projects. He further briefed the students on the close ties and educational and cultural exchanges between Hong Kong and ASEAN including Cambodia. Also present at the visit and the ceremony was the President of the PolyU, Professor Timothy Tong.

The projects included an e-learning laboratory, training in hospitality, eye-screening service, and assistance in capacity building for Cambodia YMCA, to help local children and NGO staff. It was attended by over 80 students from PolyU and some 30 students from Asia Human Resource Development Institute of Cambodia.

## HKETO celebrates mid-autumn festival with cultural performance

The HKETO enjoyed with some 200 guests an evening of Chinese orchestral music at the Esplanade in Singapore on September 6 to celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival.

The concert, presented by the Esplanade and staged by the Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra in Singapore 17 years after its previous tour to the city state, delighted the audience with a number of classics.

The Director of HKETO, Mr Fong Ngai, said, "The Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra best exemplifies how East meets West in Hong Kong's vibrant arts and culture scene."

"We are pleased to bring Hong Kong's Chinese orchestral music to Singapore, one of the region's prime locations for cultural exchanges."

"We hope that with more exchanges between Hong Kong and Singapore, the two peoples can become even closer, bringing about more collaborations on different fronts," he said.

The concert has been included in the programme for the 2014 China-ASEAN Cultural Exchange Year, which aims to promote regional cultural exchanges.

The 200 guests came from Singapore government departments and agencies, diplomatic missions, educational institutions, arts groups, trade associations, Hong Kong-related associations and media organisations. They were invited to attend a networking reception before the performance.



Mr Fong (first right) with the Chairman of Council, Dr Carlye Tsui (second left); the Artistic Director and Principal Conductor, Mr Yan Huichang (second right); and the Executive Director, Ms Celina Chin (first left) of the Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra.



A light moment for members of the Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra after the concert with Mr Fong.



The Deputy Director of HKETO, Ms Joyce Chan (fourth left on the stage) with other guests and young soccer enthusiasts at the "Children - our Future" Soccer Carnival.

## Soccer carnival draws over 600 people

Some 600 children and their families enjoyed soccer matches and performances at the "Children - Our Future" Soccer Carnival, organised by the Kowloon Club on May 25.

Sponsored by the HKETO, the event also aimed to raise bursary fund for needy students studying in four primary and secondary schools in Singapore. The Deputy Director of HKETO, Ms Joyce Chan, officiated at the event to show support to activities contributing to the betterment of the local community.

## HK alumni celebrate mid-autumn festival in Singapore



Alumni of the University of Hong Kong, the Chinese University of Hong Kong, the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, the Polytechnic University and City University jointly held a dinner in celebration of the mid-autumn festival on August 31. To encourage the alumni to visit Hong Kong more frequently, the HKETO sponsored a Hong Kong tour package as a lucky draw prize at the event. Picture shows some 120 alumni and their guests and families in a group photo.



# Free trade pact negotiation between HK and ASEAN starts



The Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Mr Gregory So (first row, second right), in a group photo with the participants of the meeting.

The first round of negotiation on the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between Hong Kong and ASEAN was held successfully on July 11.

Representatives from the Governments of the 10 Member States of ASEAN met representatives of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government on July 10 and 11 in Hong Kong at the first meeting of the Hong Kong-ASEAN Trade Negotiation Committee, which marks the formal commencement of the FTA negotiation.

“An FTA between Hong Kong and ASEAN will boost the economic growth of the two sides, and at the same time further enhance Hong Kong’s role as a regional trading hub, and as a gateway for trade and investment between ASEAN and the Mainland,” the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Mr Gregory So said.

“The commencement of Hong Kong-ASEAN FTA negotiation marks a significant milestone of Hong Kong’s participation in regional economic integration,” he added.

The key elements covered by the FTA negotiation include the elimination or reduction of tariffs; rules of origin; liberalisation of trade in services; liberalisation, promotion and protection of investment; and intellectual property co-operation.



Mr Fong (third right) with Chairman of Hong Kong Trade Development Council, Mr Jack So (fifth right); Hong Kong-Singapore Business Association’s outgoing president, Mr Gary Cheng (first right); and president-elect, Mr Dennis Chiu (sixth right) at the Gala Dinner.

## Hong Kong-Singapore Business Association celebrates 20th anniversary

The Hong Kong-Singapore Business Association celebrates its 20th Anniversary by holding a Gala Dinner on June 27. The Chairman of the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, Mr Jack So; the association’s outgoing president, Mr Gary Cheng; and president-elect, Mr Dennis Chiu joined over 400 guests from various sectors of the local community at the celebration.

Speaking at the Gala Dinner, the Director of HKETO, Mr Fong Ngai,

said over the years, the Hong Kong-Singapore Business Association has played no small part in strengthening the ties between Hong Kong and Singapore.

HKETO showed its support to the association by sponsoring the event and invited some 40 guests from the Singapore government, diplomatic missions, trade associations, the business sector and Hong Kong-related associations to attend the gala dinner.

## Automated clearance services launched in HK and Singapore

The Hong Kong and Singapore have implemented the mutual use of automated clearance services with effect from September 22. Under the arrangement, holders of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region passport are able to enrol for the automated immigration clearance services - the enhanced-Immigration Automated Clearance System (eIACS) - in Singapore. At the same time, holders

of the Singapore passport can enrol for the e-Channel services in Hong Kong.

For detailed information, please visit the websites of the Hong Kong Immigration Department at [www.immd.gov.hk](http://www.immd.gov.hk) and the Immigration & Checkpoints Authority of Singapore at [www.ica.gov.sg](http://www.ica.gov.sg).

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