

# HONG KONG FILES

HONG  
KONG  
ASIA'S WORLD CITY



NO. 2/2015 ISSUE

## CE promotes Hong Kong's "super-connector" role at ASEAN Leadership Forum in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

The Chief Executive (CE), Mr CY Leung, and the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (SCED), Mr Gregory So, visited Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from April 25 to 27 to establish and renew ties. During the visit, Mr Leung addressed the 12th ASEAN Leadership Forum held alongside the ASEAN Summit. He called on the Malaysian Prime Minister, Mr Najib Razak and met with the Prime Minister of Singapore, Mr Lee Hsien Loong; Prime Minister of Thailand, Mr Prayuth Chan-ocha; Prime Minister of Cambodia, Mr Hun Sen; President of Myanmar, Mr Thein Sein and Prime Minister of Laos, Mr Thongsing Thammavong to strengthen bilateral relations between Hong Kong and the respective ASEAN countries.

Mr Leung also addressed key representatives of major chambers of commerce and business associations in Malaysia at a dinner co-organised by the HKETO and the Associated Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Malaysia. In addition, Mr Leung called on the Chinese Ambassador to Malaysia and met with Hong Kong people living and working in Kuala Lumpur.

Mr Leung encouraged the businesses from ASEAN countries to make use of Hong Kong's unique role as a "super-connector" to expand their operations in Mainland China and doing business in Hong Kong.



“ The Chief Executive (CE), Mr C Y Leung, delivers a keynote address at the opening ceremony of the ASEAN Leadership Forum (ALF), an annual high-level forum held alongside the ASEAN Summit. The theme of the ALF this year is “Forward ASEAN: One Community, One Vision, One People”. He said China’s “Belt and Road” initiatives would benefit Hong Kong. As Mainland China strengthens its economic and trade connections with the Belt-Road countries, Hong Kong can provide Mainland enterprises with a wide range of professional services in the financial and legal areas. The “Belt and Road” initiatives will create huge opportunities for Hong Kong’s financial services industry and professionals as well as our ASEAN partners. ”



*Mr C Y Leung shakes hands with the Prime Minister of Malaysia, Dato' Sri Mohd Najib bin Tun Abdul Razak (left), before their meeting.*



*Mr C Y Leung meets with the Prime Minister of Cambodia, Mr Hun Sen (first right).*



*Mr C Y Leung meets with the Prime Minister of Thailand, Mr Prayuth Chan-ocha (right).*



*Mr C Y Leung meets with the Prime Minister of Laos, Mr Thongsing Thammavong (left).*



*Mr C Y Leung meets with the President of Myanmar, Mr Thein Sein (first right).*



*Mr C Y Leung shakes hands with the Prime Minister of Singapore, Mr Lee Hsien Loong.*



*Mr C Y Leung delivers a speech to key members of chambers in Malaysia at a dinner in Kuala Lumpur co-organised by the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Singapore and the Associated Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Malaysia. He said that the third round of negotiations on a free trade agreement between Hong Kong and ASEAN countries just took place last month (March 2015) in Hong Kong and all were progressing smoothly. He looked forward to a successful conclusion of negotiations next year. "With the Free Trade Agreement in place, I'm confident that Hong Kong can supercharge its 'super-connector' role between Mainland China and ASEAN," Mr Leung concluded.*

## Hong Kong-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement negotiation

The fourth round meeting of the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiation was held in Singapore from July 20 to 23. The then Director of HKETO, Mr Fong Ngai, took the opportunity to co-host a dinner with the leader of the Hong Kong delegation, Mr Raistlin Lau, Deputy Director-General of Trade and Industry for the representatives of the 10 ASEAN member states on July 21. He said an FTA between Hong Kong and ASEAN would

further strengthen their economic ties, and HK was already seeing the positive effects, including the increasing interest of the Hong Kong business community in the ASEAN economies. The negotiation on the FTA between Hong Kong and ASEAN formally commenced in July last year. Both sides are working toward the common target of concluding the negotiation by 2016.

# CS promotes Hong Kong-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement



Mrs Lam delivers a speech at a business luncheon co-organised by the HKETO, the Hong Kong Chinese General Chamber of Commerce and the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade. The luncheon themed “Hong Kong – Singapore Partnership Sharing for Development and Opportunities” was attended by around 200 representatives from the business community in Hong Kong, Singapore and other Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) member states.

The Chief Secretary for Administration (CS), Mrs Carrie Lam, visited Singapore and Brunei from July 23 to 27 to promote to ASEAN friends Hong Kong’s soft strengths and business opportunities as a gateway to Mainland China. As Hong Kong is negotiating a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with ASEAN, Mrs Lam took the opportunity of her calls on senior officials in Singapore and Brunei to seek their support for an early conclusion of the Hong Kong-ASEAN FTA.

While in Singapore from July 23 to 25, Mrs Lam officiated at the “Spotlight Hong Kong in Singapore” event, co-presented by the Fringe Club and the Global Cultural Alliance, and at a gala dinner organised by the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Singapore. She also met with senior officials, spoke at a business luncheon and met with Hong Kong people living and working in Singapore.

Mrs Lam attended as the Special Guest of Honour at the Farewell Ceremony of the 14th Singapore-Hong Kong Exchange Programme, which was an annual exchange programme between secondary schools in Hong Kong and Singapore.

This year, around 120 students from both places joined the Exchange Programme. More than 1,600 students from the two places have benefited from the Programme since its inception in 2000.



Mrs Lam chats with secondary school students from Hong Kong participating in the exchange programme about their two-week experience in Singapore.



Mrs Lam attends a lunch hosted by the Deputy Prime Minister, Coordinating Minister for National Security and Minister for Home Affairs of Singapore, Mr Teo Chee Hean (left). They exchange views on forging stronger economic ties between Hong Kong and Singapore, as well as with ASEAN as a whole.



Mrs Lam meets with Singapore’s Minister for Trade and Industry, Mr Lim Hng Kiang (left), before the Gala Dinner organised by the HKETO to celebrate two decades of co-operation and friendship between Hong Kong and Singapore. Mrs Lam seeks Singapore’s support on the early conclusion of the negotiations of the Hong Kong-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement.

## CS: Hong Kong Sees Great Strides in Ties with Brunei



Mrs Lam is received by the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Negara Brunei Darussalam, the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence and Minister of Finance of Brunei, His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah (right).

During her stay in Bandar Seri Begawan in Brunei on July 26 and 27, Mrs Lam met with senior officials to enhance bilateral relations and promote Hong Kong's role as a financial, trading and shipping centre. She also met with local business leaders among others. This was the first visit by a Principal Official to Brunei in this term of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government.

Mrs Lam said that Hong Kong wanted to see more Bruneian companies operating in the city, trading with Hong Kong and using Hong Kong as a gateway to Mainland China. "Hong Kong is also looking to enhance bilateral ties with Brunei in the field of trade, tourism, education, technology, aquaculture and people exchange," she added.

Mrs Lam expressed her deep appreciation for Brunei's support in the negotiations of the Free Trade Agreement between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and Hong Kong since it took up the chairmanship of ASEAN in 2013. Both sides were pleased that the fourth round of negotiations held in Singapore in July 2015 had successfully concluded.



Mrs Lam is received by the Crown Prince, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Chairman of Autoriti Monetari Brunei Darussalam, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah (right).



Mrs Lam attends an audience and a lunch hosted by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah (left).



Mrs Lam attends a dinner hosted by the Second Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng (left).



Mrs Lam (second left) attends a breakfast meeting with local business leaders in Brunei. She tells the attendees that as an international financial centre, Hong Kong welcomes companies from Brunei to use Hong Kong to raise funds, issue bonds and manage their assets. Hong Kong's existing strengths in the conventional financial services industry and its unique role as a gateway to Mainland China can serve as a solid foundation for the development of Islamic finance.

# HKETO Gala Dinner and “Spotlight Hong Kong in Singapore” - Celebrating Friendship and Partnership



*Officiating guests propose a toast to celebrate friendship and partnership with guests. Among them are Mrs Carrie Lam (centre) and Singapore's Minister for Trade and Industry, Mr Lim Hng Kiang (third left)*

The HKETO celebrates two decades of friendship and partnership with Singapore this year, when Singapore also celebrates its 50th birthday. To mark this important year, the HKETO has delightedly sponsored a three-day signature cultural and arts festival, “Spotlight Hong Kong in Singapore”, as well as co-organised with its partners a business luncheon, to promote exchanges in arts and culture as well as economic activities. To celebrate the years of friendship and partnership between Hong Kong and Singapore, a Gala Dinner has also been held.

The “Spotlight Hong Kong in Singapore” festival, which ran from July 24 to 26, was the latest illustration of our growing cultural relations. Presented by the Hong Kong Fringe Club (HKFC) and the Global Cultural Alliance, and sponsored by the Singapore ETO, the three-day event showcased a dazzling array of Hong Kong talent, in areas ranging from jazz, swing and rock, to dance and film. The festival also featured an opening-day symposium: “Creative Cities, Creative Minds”.

Highlighting the soft strengths of Hong Kong as an international art and cultural metropolis, we have brought to our Singapore friends and others from ASEAN music and dance performances presented by the HKFC and the Hong Kong Arts Festival (HKAF) at the Gala Dinner themed “Hong Kong – Singapore: Growing Friendship and Partnership”. Some 650 friends of HKETO in Singapore and various Hong Kong communities in ASEAN gathered at the Gala Dinner. They were warmly greeted by the Starlight Élan Orchestra (Hong Kong) and Swing dancers of Jazz Inc (Singapore) arranged by the HKFC.

During the dinner, the HKAF also presented a new music dance drama, called Danz Up, which would premiere at the upcoming Hong Kong Arts Festival 2016. The stage production is based on Adam Wong's award winning movie, *The Way We Dance*, embracing aspiring young dancers' athletic and dexterous moves, reflecting the diversity of talent in Hong Kong.



*The Chief Secretary for Administration, Mrs Carrie Lam (back row, fifth right), meets with more than 40 Hong Kong artists from HKFC and HKAF.*



*During the gala dinner, Mrs Lam (left) chats with Hong Kong students joining the ASEAN Internship for University Students of Hong Kong Scheme this year in Singapore.*



*“Swing dance and Jazz band performance” by HKFC*

*A stage performance adapted from award-winning Hong Kong movie “The Way We Dance” by HKAF*

## New Director of the HKETO assumes office



Mr Bruno Luk has succeeded Mr Fong Ngai as the Director of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade office in Singapore on August 24, 2015. His main duty is to enhance bilateral relations and exchanges between Hong Kong and ASEAN countries.

Mr Luk joined the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government as Administrative Officer in 1998. He has worked in various bureaux, responsible for policy areas such as environmental hygiene, energy efficiency, civil service training and manpower planning, and public health.

Mr Luk was posted to the Office of the Chief Secretary for Administration (CS) in 2010, and spent some four years there as the Administrative Assistant to three CS, including the incumbent Mrs Carrie Lam, before taking up the new post in Singapore.

Mr Luk received his bachelor degree in the US and master degree in Canada. He was also awarded a Certificate of Advanced Study in Public Administration by Syracuse University under government sponsorship. He enjoys reading, piano playing and travelling.

## New one-stop portal to help Hong Kong's search for talent

A new one-stop web portal to provide information for people considering a move to Hong Kong to work, invest or study has been launched in August.

"Hong Kong Welcomes U" ([www.hkwelcomesu.gov.hk](http://www.hkwelcomesu.gov.hk)) has been launched by the Steering Committee on Population Policy as part of ongoing initiatives to attract talent to Asia's world city.

The Chief Executive announced in his 2015 Policy Address in January that Hong Kong would be more proactive in attracting talent to help tackle the demographic challenges of an ageing society, a shrinking workforce and a declining birth rate.

The portal centralises a wide range of information on employment, education, investment and immigration matters as well as social, recreational and cultural activities.

The portal provides a handy reference to a range of initiatives and support for those wanting to learn more about relocating to and living in Hong Kong.

The portal contains contact information for Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government offices outside Hong Kong for ease of reference and enquiries. HKSAR Government offices outside Hong Kong will promote the portal through their wide network of contacts.

Specific measures announced in this year's Policy Address include a pilot scheme to facilitate the return of the second generation of Hong Kong emigrants, and revised admission schemes to encourage more talent and entrepreneurs to go to Hong Kong. The measures have been implemented since May this year.

In the past two months, HKSAR Government offices outside Hong Kong, with the support of the Immigration Department, have organised various promotional events and activities in key cities in Asia, Europe and North America to promote the enhanced measures and Hong Kong's attraction as a place to live and work.

*The Chief Secretary for Administration, Mrs Carrie Lam attends a gathering with Hong Kong people living and working in Singapore and other ASEAN member states. She briefs attendees on the latest developments in Hong Kong, with particular reference to the Admission Scheme for the Second Generation of Chinese Hong Kong Permanent Residents, launched in May this year. She encourages second-generation young professionals residing in ASEAN countries to consider the growing opportunities in Hong Kong.*





*"In Style • Hong Kong" Expo 2014*

## “In Style • Hong Kong” Expo in Jakarta

The countdown is underway for “In Style • Hong Kong,” a mega promotion to be held in Jakarta, Indonesia, from September 14 to 20. Top business professionals, leading brands and creative talent have been arranged to inspire and inform Indonesian corporates and consumers alike.

The mega-promotion is an expansion of Hong Kong’s successful Lifestyle Expos held in Jakarta in the past three years, whereby the city’s innovative and quality products have been showcased to Indonesian buyers.

This time, the promotion will include Hong Kong’s professional business services to show how Indonesian companies can

use Hong Kong as a springboard to explore and expand to Mainland China, other parts of Asia and beyond.

Business-to-Consumer Citywide Promotion, Hong Kong Gala Dinner and Hong Kong Services Symposium are other core programme elements of this mega promotion in Jakarta. Through the events, we aim to establish HK’s role as a trendsetter in the region, offering its quality products and related services such as creative, marketing and business services.



ALMC 2014

## Asian Logistics and Maritime Conference: "Belt and Road" initiative, E-commerce and Big Data

The Asian Logistics and Maritime Conference (ALMC) brings together logistics and maritime services providers and users, including manufacturers, traders and distributors, to exchange market intelligence and explore business opportunities in the region.

The fifth edition of ALMC returns on November 17-18, 2015 at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre. This year, the ALMC has been extended into a two-day event, focusing on three timely topics: China's "Belt and Road" initiative, e-commerce and Big Data. Moreover, four distinctive forums

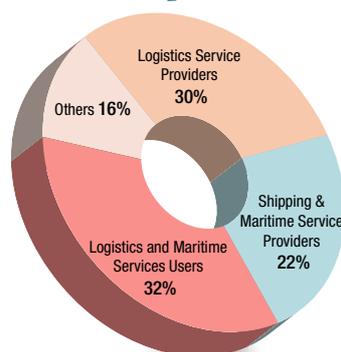
covering Logistics, Supply Chain Management, Maritime and Air Freight will be featured. ALMC 2015 is expected to attract 2,000 participants from around the world and feature 100 exhibitors, showcasing their offerings in e-logistics, logistics services and shipping and maritime services. One-on-one business-matching sessions will be arranged for conference participants and exhibitors to explore business opportunities.

Mark your diary now and do not miss this must-attend event. Stay tuned for more updates on this website: [www.almc.hk](http://www.almc.hk)

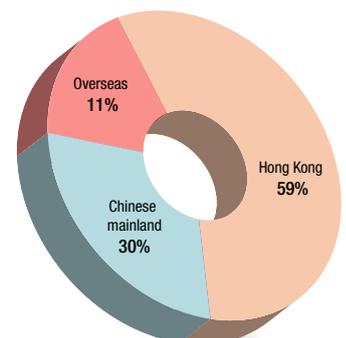
### Highlights of ALMC 2014

- 58** internationally renowned speakers
- 1,681** participants from **32** countries and regions
- 82** exhibitors from **11** countries and regions
- 114** journalists and media representatives
- Over 130** news clippings and reports
- 92%** of the participants rated ALMC as 'Excellent' or 'Good'

Business Nature of Participants



Origin of Participants



## HONG KONG FILES

### SUBSCRIPTION/FEEDBACK

For renewal of subscription or any feedback, please send your contact information and/or comments to:

The Editor, HK FILES

Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Singapore

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

Website: [www.hketosin.gov.hk](http://www.hketosin.gov.hk) Tel: (65) 6338 1771 Email: [hketo\\_sin@hketosin.gov.hk](mailto:hketo_sin@hketosin.gov.hk) Fax: (65) 6339 2112

More up-to-date news on Hong Kong is available at [www.news.gov.hk](http://www.news.gov.hk)