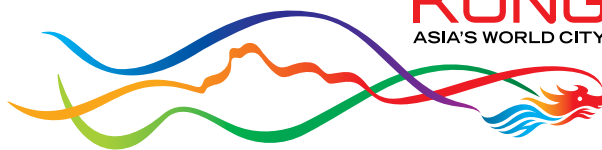


# HONG KONG FILES

**HONG  
KONG**  
ASIA'S WORLD CITY



NO. 1/2016 ISSUE

## Chief Executive C Y Leung delivered the 2016 Policy Address



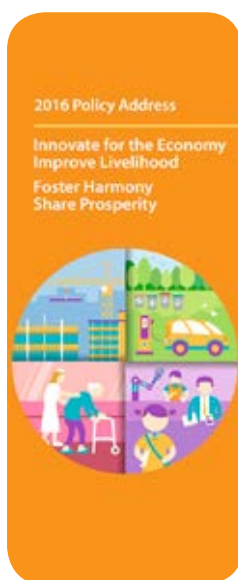
*The Chief Executive, Mr C Y Leung, delivers the 2016 Policy Address at the Legislative Council on January 13.*

### Benefit from national strategy: CE

The Belt & Road Initiative is an important long-term national strategy, and Hong Kong should make the most of the opportunities it will bring. This is the message of Chief Executive C Y Leung at his post Policy Address press conference. He said Hong Kong could make full use of the advantages offered by the “one country, two systems” and “Hong Kong people administering Hong Kong” principles to play an active role to facilitate the implementation of the Initiative.

The Belt & Road Initiative provides huge momentum for Hong Kong’s social and economic development, and it is highly regarded by other countries, including Singapore and other member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

The Initiative is a comprehensive strategy covering “five areas of connectivity”, namely, policy co-ordination, facilities connectivity, unimpeded trade, financial integration and people-to-people bond. Mr Leung will personally chair a high-level steering committee to formulate strategies and policies for Hong Kong’s participation.



### Core values to be upheld: CE

Chief Executive C Y Leung vowed to uphold Hong Kong’s core values, such as human rights, freedom, democracy, the rule of law and clean governance. He also promised to fully and faithfully implement the principles of “one country, two systems”, “Hong Kong people administering Hong Kong” and a high degree of autonomy, in accordance with the Basic Law.

“In the year ahead, to make the best use of the new opportunities arising from the 13th Five-Year Plan, the Belt & Road Initiative, as well as innovation and technology, all of us must join forces to work for the short, medium and long-term development of Hong Kong.”

He pledged the best efforts of himself and his administration to promote mutual understanding among all sectors and walks of life to benefit all parties and enhance social harmony and stability.

Mr Leung believed that as Hong Kong stood united and seized every opportunity to implement the various policy initiatives and proposals, it would have a new and stronger impetus for economic growth.



## ASEAN trade pact achievable

Hong Kong hoped to have a free trade pact with Association of Southeast Asian Nations economies in place within this year, Chief Executive C Y Leung said. ASEAN is Hong Kong's second-largest trading partner and the Government is negotiating a Free Trade Agreement with member states thereby securing for businesses more favourable access to the relevant markets. The FTA would strengthen economic and trade relations between Hong Kong and ASEAN by facilitating the flow of goods, services and investment.

## A new HKETO in Jakarta

Mr Leung underscored ASEAN's importance to Hong Kong by highlighting the Government's decision to set up a new Economic and Trade Office in Jakarta, Indonesia - the largest ASEAN member in terms of gross national product, population and land area, and where the Secretariat of ASEAN is located.

Mr Leung added that as an open economy Hong Kong must boost its competitiveness and expand global trade ties.

# Highlights of the Policy Address 2016

## 13th Five-Year Plan and the Belt and Road Initiative

- Actively facilitate and participate in the National 13th Five-Year Plan and the Belt and Road Initiative to create new opportunities:
  - ✓ Develop Hong Kong to become platforms for financing, trade, professional services, etc., as well as for educational, cultural and youth exchanges;
  - ✓ Expand the network of Mainland offices, set up new Economic and Trade Offices in Indonesia and Korea;
  - ✓ Allocate HK\$200 million to support the professional services sector in launching publicity and arranging exchanges and co-operation with the Belt and Road countries and other regions outside Hong Kong;
  - ✓ Step up research, establish databases and launch a Belt and Road Portal;
  - ✓ Boost the Targeted Scholarship Scheme to attract more students from Belt and Road countries to pursue study in Hong Kong;
  - ✓ Set up Belt and Road Steering Committee and Office.

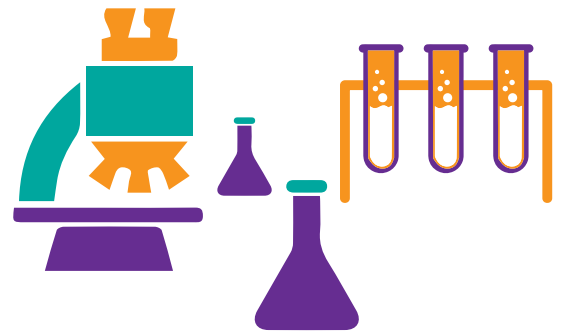


## Economy

- Set up Hong Kong Maritime and Port Board to promote manpower training, marketing and research to develop high value-added maritime services sector.
- Develop high value-added tourism such as cultural and creative tourism and organising more mega events, and enhance publicity.
- Introduce pilot measures to promote local fashion design and brands and implement the Fashion Incubation Programme.

## Innovation and Technology

- Continue co-operation with outstanding Mainland and overseas research and development institutions, support “re-industrialisation” and high value-added industries.
- Develop Science Park and Industrial Estates near the Liantang/Heung Yuen Wai Boundary Control Point.
- Set aside HK\$2 billion to set up an Innovation and Technology Venture Fund to co-invest in local start-ups with private venture capital funds on a matching basis.
- Double free Wi-Fi coverage within 3 years and progressively double existing Wi-Fi speed at government venues.
- Formulate a digital framework and standards to develop a smart city, formulate policies on big data application, and encourage public sector and commercial organisations to open up more data.
- Set aside HK\$500 million for Innovation and Technology Fund for Better Living to finance projects that apply innovation and technology to improve people’s daily life.



## Housing, Land and Transport

- Proceed full steam with new development areas and extension of new towns.
- Set up Lantau Development Office to take forward Lantau development.
- Develop Kowloon East into a quality business district.
- Plan strategic highways and related roads.



## Education and Youth Development

- Implement free quality kindergarten education policy from the 2017/18 school year.
- Set up a HK\$800 million Gifted Education Fund to nurture exceptionally gifted students aged between 10 and 18.
- Enhance Funding Scheme for Youth Internship in the Mainland and launch Youth Development Fund.
- Discuss new Scheme of Control Agreements with power companies to improve regulatory arrangements, enhance energy efficiency and promote renewable energy.
- Legislate as soon as possible to ban the import and export of ivory, phase out the local ivory trade, and strengthen enforcement against smuggling and illegal trading of ivory.
- Earmark HK\$500 million fund for conservation of built heritage.



## Culture, Leisure, Municipal Services and District Administration

- Launch a HK\$300 million Art Development Matching Grants Pilot Scheme.
- Free admission to permanent exhibitions of designated museums under the Leisure and Cultural Services Department.

“The HKETO in Singapore has been actively culturing Hong Kong's relationship with member states of ASEAN in the realms of economic and trade, culture and art, infrastructure and transport, youth development, as well as Hong Kong's role as the “super-connector” for Mainland China with the ASEAN region. Our collaboration with ASEAN partners enables us to share our experiences and deepen the bases for our friendship. I am sure more exchanges between Hong Kong and ASEAN region will bring benefits to the development of many aspects in both areas.

May I take this opportunity to wish you and your family a happy and prosperous Year of Monkey! ”

Bruno Luk  
Director, HKETO in Singapore



## APEC MEETINGS

## CE and SCED attended APEC meetings



Chief Executive C Y Leung attended the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation CEO Summit in Manila, the Philippines on November 17, 2015. Picture shows Mr Leung (second left) speaking on trade in the Asia-Pacific region.

Chief Executive C Y Leung and Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (SCED) Gregory So visited Manila, the Philippines in November 2015 to attend the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Meeting and APEC Ministerial Meeting respectively, 2015 Leaders' Week and other related meetings in Manila. At the margins, CE met with, among others, leaders/heads of delegation of APEC member economies, namely Brunei, Indonesia, New Zealand, Singapore,

South Korea, Thailand and Vietnam; and SCED met with, among others, his counterparts from Canada, Indonesia and Thailand.

“The economies in this region have been growing quite handsomely and we believe in further growth in the years ahead, particularly as China's ‘Belt and Road’ Initiative is being rolled out,” Mr Leung said. As Hong Kong is very much the gateway of that “Belt and Road” network, with that in mind, there is all the



more reason to promote free trade amongst the “Belt and Road” economies, he added.

After attending the APEC Ministerial Meeting, SCED Gregory So also met with the Minister of Trade of Indonesia, Mr Thomas Trikasih Lembong; and had a bilateral meeting with the Minister of Commerce of Thailand, Mrs Apiradi Tantraporn, to exchange views on issues of mutual concern. Mr So noted that the negotiation of the Hong Kong-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement (FTA) had been progressing steadily. He said the FTA would strengthen economic and trade relations between Hong Kong and ASEAN by facilitating the flow of goods, services and investment.



*SCED Gregory So meets with the Minister of Commerce of Thailand, Mrs Apiradi Tantraporn, to exchange views on issues of mutual concerns.*

## SCED in Thailand



*SCED Gregory So delivers a speech at the 55th OSEAL Forum Hong Kong Reception in Bangkok.*

SCED Gregory So attended the closing ceremony of the 54th Orient and Southeast Asian Lions Forum (OSEAL Forum) held in Bangkok, Thailand last December. He delivered a speech at the Hong Kong Reception for the 55th OSEAL Forum which would be held in Hong Kong in 2016.

He said that a successful conference was definitely more than just a gathering of people. Hong Kong, by staging large-scale events like the OSEAL Forum, could make the most of our extensive network of trade and economic connections. This extensive network of Hong Kong would serve as a platform for sourcing and business matching. Indeed, one of the central themes running through the “Belt and Road” blueprint was to foster mutual trust with the countries along the route. Hong Kong was built on trade, and we remained one of the world’s greatest trading economies.

## Hong Kong Customs launches Free Trade Agreement Transhipment Facilitation Scheme

Free Trade Agreement  
Transhipment  
Facilitation Scheme  
(FTA Scheme)

Hong Kong Customs has rolled out the Free Trade Agreement Transhipment Facilitation Scheme (FTA Scheme) on December 20, 2015 to further facilitate consignments passing through Hong Kong to enjoy tariff reduction under the Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) signed by Mainland China, and to streamline the facilitation of goods under the Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement between the Mainland and Taiwan (ECFA).

The FTA Scheme provides a facilitation service and a certificate of non-manipulation for goods passing through Hong Kong under 13 FTAs signed by the Mainland. Apart from the Mainland and Taiwan under the ECFA, the facilitation service will be extended to consignments of other countries including Korea, Australia, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam and Laos), Pakistan, Iceland, Switzerland, Chile, Costa Rica, Peru, New Zealand, Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka.

The FTA Scheme is voluntary. The industry will need to pay for the service. The FTA Scheme facilitates traders to enjoy tariff reduction, strengthens Hong Kong’s status as the logistics hub in the region, and fosters the development of trade, commerce and logistics under the Belt and Road Initiative.

For the detailed arrangements of the FTA Scheme, please visit the website of Hong Kong Customs at [www.customs.gov.hk](http://www.customs.gov.hk). Enquiries can be made to the hotline at (+852) 3152 0233.

## USED in Indonesia



*The MOU was signed by Under Secretary for Education Kevin Yeung (right), and Secretary General of the Ministry of Education and Culture of Indonesia Didik Suhardi (left).*

Under Secretary for Education (USED) Kevin Yeung and Secretary General of the Ministry of Education and Culture of Indonesia Didik Suhardi signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Education Co-operation in Jakarta, Indonesia last December. The MOU provides a framework to facilitate strategic collaboration between the education communities of Hong Kong and Indonesia. Following the signing of the MOU, the Education Bureau also announced the launch of the Hong Kong Scholarship for “Belt and Road” Students (Indonesia) with a view to attracting outstanding Indonesian students to pursue undergraduate study in Hong Kong starting from the 2016/17 academic year.

“Both the signing of the MOU and launch of the new scholarship scheme demonstrate our commitment and effort in enhancing the internationalisation of education as well as strengthening educational ties and exchanges between Hong Kong and places along the ‘Belt and Road’ region,” Mr Yeung said.



## ASEAN Internship Scheme for Hong Kong Higher Education Students

The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region is committed to nurturing young people and to better preparing them for an increasingly globalised world. The HKETO in Singapore launched an internship scheme in 2014 to widen Hong Kong higher education students’ international perspectives and enhance bilateral relations between Hong Kong and ASEAN.

The internship scheme (previously the ASEAN Internship for University Students of Hong Kong Scheme) has met with very positive responses so far. In the 2014 and 2015 rounds, a total of some 290 Hong Kong higher education

students from the eight University Grants Committee-funded institutions took up internships in ASEAN member countries. Echoing the Belt and Road Initiative, which aim to enhance, among others, people-to-people bonds, starting from the 2016 round, the HKETO in Singapore is pleased to extend the scheme to cover three more Hong Kong higher education institutions. They are: Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, Hong Kong Shue Yan University and Hang Seng Management College. More details of the Scheme are available at [www.hketosin.gov.hk/internship](http://www.hketosin.gov.hk/internship).





## The Ninth Asian Financial Forum: “Asia: Shaping the New Paradigm for Growth”

The annual large-scale Asian Financial Forum (AFF) ([www.asianfinancialforum.com](http://www.asianfinancialforum.com)), themed “Asia: Shaping the New Paradigm for Growth”, was held in Hong Kong on January 18 and 19, 2016. The 2-day event brought together some of the most influential members of the global financial and business community, including government, finance and business leaders from around the world, to network and exchange insights on international financial and business trends.

More than 100 internationally respected leaders in government, financial and business sectors gathered for groundbreaking discussions about opportunities and challenges facing Asia. The event attracted more than 2,600 participants from 39 countries and regions, about 85% of them were CEOs and senior decision makers. More than 500 journalists and media representatives attended the forum.

Over the years, more than 2,600 meetings were arranged for more than 1,000 companies involving investment project owners, private equity firms, investors, high net-worth individuals and senior professionals from intermediaries and professional services providers.

“For seven years in a row, the Forum takes place between the Western and the Chinese New Year. In that, it reflects Hong Kong itself - the international financial centre of China and the Chinese financial centre of the world,” Chief Executive C Y Leung said at the opening.

He added that similarly, this year’s Forum theme - “Asia: Shaping the New Paradigm for Growth” - captured Hong Kong’s singular ability to bring East and West together in pursuit of business and investment opportunities. Hong Kong, powered by the winning formula comprising “one country” and “two systems”, is the “super-connector” connecting the rest of China and the world.

## Asia Cultural Co-operation Forum 2015 promotes cultural co-operation in Asian economies

Cultural ministers and senior officials of eight Asian countries came together in Hong Kong for the Asian Cultural Ministers’ Panel Discussion session last December to exchange ideas and share views on the furtherance of cultural co-operation to promote the development of culture and the arts.

With the theme of “Community-wide Support: the Foundation for Vibrant and Sustainable Cultural Growth”, the Asian Cultural Ministers’ Panel Discussion session was the highlight of the Asia Cultural Co-operation Forum (ACCF) 2015 held in Hong Kong for the ninth year.

Minister of Culture of the Government of the People’s Republic of China Luo Shugang addressed the panel discussion session. Other cultural ministers and senior officials from Cambodia, India, Korea, Laos, Myanmar, Singapore and Thailand also joined the panel discussion session. They took turns to speak on the theme and together exchanged views with the audience in a question-and-answer session.

Chief Secretary for Administration Carrie Lam said that the Hong Kong was committed to playing an active role in stimulating cultural growth and facilitating vibrant development of culture and arts across the region. She believed that co-operation and exchanges in arts and culture were the basic blocks for building friendship among countries and improving quality of life.



Chief Secretary for Administration Carrie Lam hosted the welcome luncheon for the Forum. Photo shows Mrs Lam (fifth left) and Secretary for Home Affairs Mr Lau Kong-wah (fourth left) with the cultural ministers and senior officials from eight Asian countries participating in today’s panel discussion.



## Public engagement exercise on retirement protection launched

The Hong Kong Government launched a six-month public engagement exercise last December on retirement protection. Entitled “Retirement Protection, Forging Ahead”, it aims to gauge public views on how to improve Hong Kong’s retirement protection system.

This is the first time in 18 years since Hong Kong’s return to the motherland that a public consultation is being held on retirement protection. It shows the positive stance of the Government in addressing social problems of the day.

The scope of this consultation is comprehensive, addressing the core issue on whether the ‘regardless of rich or poor’ principle or the ‘those with financial needs’ principle should be adopted to provide better protection for the elderly.

The six-month public engagement exercise will end on June 21, 2016. The consultation document, executive summary and leaflet can be downloaded from the dedicated website “Retirement Protection, Forging Ahead” ([www.rp.gov.hk](http://www.rp.gov.hk)).

## M+ Screenings, a new moving image programme from M+ begins with the theme “Visible Places” in January

M+, Hong Kong’s new museum for visual culture, unveils a new ongoing series that showcases a diverse range of moving image works in the context of a single cinema screen.

M+ Screenings: Visible Places presents works by 13 internationally renowned artists and filmmakers, including Mak Tai Kit’s *Wicked City*, Jia Zhangke’s *24 City*, Sarah Morris’ *Miami*, Christian Petzold’s *Yella*, and Cao Fei’s *La Town* this January.

A key feature of M+ Screenings: Visible Places is its diversity of programming – animations, artist moving image, documentary and feature films examine how experiences, memories, and desires of our lived environments are (re)invented and (re)imagined on-screen. Taking Italo Calvino’s *Invisible Cities* as its starting point, the programme focuses on the

ways we see cities and places we have lived and experienced.

After four years of successful exhibitions under the series title *Mobile M+*, the launch of M+ Screenings marks another significant chapter in the evolution of M+ and builds upon 2015’s acclaimed *Mobile M+: Moving Images* exhibition and screening programme, which was recently awarded the accolade of Best Exhibition of the Year (Contemporary Chinese Art) at the 2015 TANC Prize by The Art Newspaper China.

“One of our goals for M+ Screenings is to highlight the diverse nature of moving image, which is important for understanding and appreciating this particular field. We are developing a number of upcoming screenings, each with a different theme – I am sure the

scope will only grow as this series evolves, which I hope will keep its contents timely, relevant, and interesting for Hong Kong’s cinema-going public,” says Dr Lars Nittve, Executive Director of M+.



### HONG KONG FILES

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