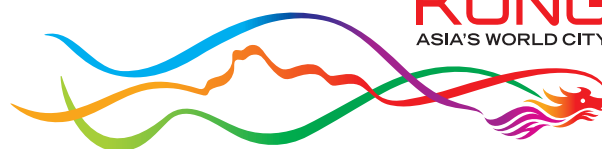


HONG KONG FILES

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NO. 3/2016 ISSUE

CS visits to Vietnam to strengthen bilateral ties



The Chief Secretary for Administration, Mrs Carrie Lam, speaks at a business luncheon in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, co-organised by the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Singapore and the Chinese General Chamber of Commerce.

The Chief Secretary for Administration (CS), Mrs Carrie Lam, visited Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC) and Hanoi, Vietnam from August 15 to 18 to strengthen bilateral relations between Hong Kong and Vietnam.

She paid a courtesy call on the Prime Minister of Vietnam, Mr Nguyen Xuan Phuc, and met with other leaders of the Vietnamese Government and representatives of the business sector.



2. The Chief Secretary for Administration, Mrs Carrie Lam (left), meets with the Prime Minister of Vietnam, Mr Nguyen Xuan Phuc (right), in Hanoi, Vietnam.



3. She meets with the Chairman of the Ho Chi Minh City People's Committee, Mr Nguyen Thanh Phong (third right), in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

HK's unique role as a super-connector under Belt and Road Initiative



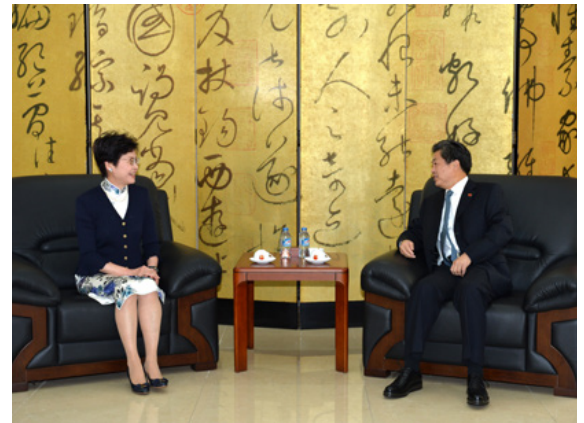
7. She meets with some 100 Hong Kong people living and working in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, and briefs them on the latest developments in Hong Kong.

During her visit, CS delivered a speech at a business luncheon in HCMC and addressed Hong Kong people working and living in Vietnam at a reception held in HCMC, highlighting the competitiveness of Hong Kong, its unique position as the “super-connector” between the Mainland of China and the rest of the world including Vietnam, and the important roles that Hong Kong could play under China’s Belt and Road Initiative.

In addition, Mrs Carrie Lam visited two factories owned by Hong Kong-based investors in Vietnam. During her stay in Vietnam, she also called on the Chinese Ambassador to Vietnam, Mr Hong Xiaoyong, and the Consul General in HCMC, Mr Chen Dehai.



8. She meets with the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Vietnam, Mr Hong Xiaoyong (right), in Hanoi, Vietnam.



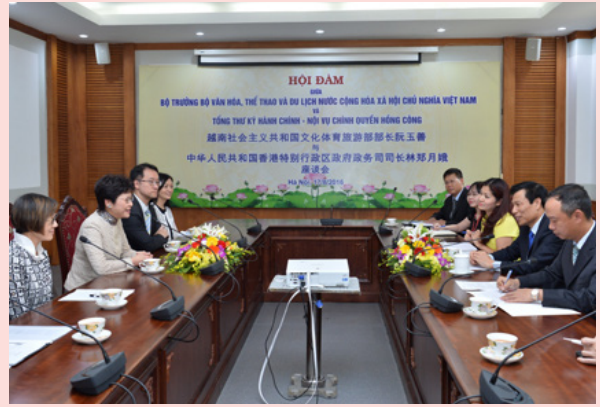
9. She meets with the Consul General of the People's Republic of China to Ho Chi Minh City, Mr Chen Dehai, in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.



4. She meets with the Vice Chairman of the Hanoi People's Committee, Mr Nguyen Doan Toan, in Hanoi, Vietnam.



5. She meets with the Minister of Industry and Trade of Vietnam, Mr Tran Tuan Anh, in Hanoi, Vietnam.



6. She meets with the Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism of Vietnam, Mr Nguyen Ngoc Thien (second right), in Hanoi, Vietnam.

Promising Free Trade Agreement

The media in Vietnam reported widely with pictorial coverage on the visit, considering it as promoting closer bilateral ties between Hong Kong and Vietnam on various fronts. CS called on Prime Minister of Vietnam, Nguyen Xuan Phuc, and expressed her belief in stronger cooperation between both places in the years to come, given Vietnam was Hong Kong's third biggest trading partner in ASEAN.

She also thanked the Prime Minister for his support in the negotiations of the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between Hong Kong and ASEAN, which would be concluded in the end of this year. She believes that an FTA with ASEAN will facilitate and enhance trade and investment flows between Hong Kong and ASEAN, bring about better market access opportunities and create more favourable business environment for Hong Kong's businessmen. It will also strengthen Hong Kong's role as an international trade, commerce and financial centre.

Youth development

CS officiated at the opening of the concert staged by the Asian Youth Orchestra in Hanoi. She also met with young leaders trained under a programme sponsored by a Hong Kong company in HCMC, and students from the Vietnam National University in Hanoi.



10. The Chief Secretary for Administration, Mrs Carrie Lam (fourth right), accompanied by the Permanent Honorary President of the Chinese General Chamber of Commerce, Dr Jonathan Choi (third right), meets with young leaders of the Sunwah Foundation Global Young Leaders Network in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

HKETO fosters youth development and 'People to People Bond'

This summer, the HKETO in Singapore has received three student delegations aged between 14 and 26, totalling more than 110 delegates, from the Tai Po and Yuen Long districts, as well as the Hong Kong Polytechnic University's International Student Ambassador Scheme. The delegates were briefed on the strengths and positioning of Hong Kong under the Belt and Road Initiative and the roles and work of the HKETO in Singapore. The HKETO believes that a better understanding among people is a crucial foundation under the Belt and Road Initiative; whereas various youth exchange programmes will help foster young people's connection and cooperation with their counterparts in the Belt and Road countries in the Region.



Director of HKETO, Mr Bruno Luk, briefs a student exchange delegation visiting HKETO on the office's roles and work.



CE meets with Prime Minister of Vietnam



The Chief Executive, Mr C Y Leung (right), meets the visiting Prime Minister of Vietnam, Mr Nguyen Xuan Phuc, at Government House of Hong Kong on September 15.

The Chief Executive, Mr C Y Leung, met with the visiting Prime Minister of Vietnam, Mr Nguyen Xuan Phuc, in Hong Kong on September 15 to exchange views on issues of mutual concern.

Mr Leung briefed Mr Nguyen on the latest developments in Hong Kong. He thanked Vietnam for supporting the negotiation on the ASEAN-Hong Kong Free Trade Agreement and looked forward to its early conclusion.

Belt and Road Initiative

The Chief Executive said that the country's Belt and Road Initiative would bring about enormous development potential for Hong Kong and ASEAN countries such as Vietnam. By capitalising on its dual advantages of "one country" and "two systems", Hong Kong would further enhance the economic and trade relations with Vietnam and other major trading partners along the Belt and Road.

SCED meets with ASEAN Economic Ministers in Laos

The Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Mr Gregory So, met with the Economic Ministers of various ASEAN member states in Laos on August 6, before he attended the 1st ASEAN Economic Ministers – Hong Kong, China Consultations (AEM-HKC Consultations).

Mr So had bilateral meetings respectively with the Minister of Industry and Commerce of Laos, Mrs Khemmani Pholsena; the Minister of International Trade and Industry of Malaysia, Dato' Sri Mustapa Mohamed; the Minister of Commerce of Thailand, Mrs Apiradi Tantraporn; and the Director General of International Trade Cooperation of the Ministry of Trade of Indonesia, Mr Iman Pambagyo. At the meetings, Mr So exchanged views with them on the ASEAN – Hong Kong Free Trade Agreement negotiations and

emphasised the committed goal of ASEAN and Hong Kong to conclude the negotiations within 2016 since the commencement of negotiations.

Mr So attended the 1st AEM-HKC Consultations to discuss the progress and target of the ASEAN – Hong Kong Free Trade Agreement negotiations with the participating ASEAN Economic Ministers.



SCED attends 13th ASEAN Leadership Forum



The Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Mr Gregory So (second left), speaks at the 13th ASEAN Leadership Forum on “China – Hong Kong – ASEAN Partnership: Growing together for Shared Prosperity” in Laos.

The Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Mr Gregory So, attended the 13th ASEAN Leadership Forum (ALF) from August 6 to 7 in Laos. He hosted the opening dinner and delivered welcoming remarks. ASEAN leaders including the Prime Minister of Cambodia, Samdech Hun Sen; the Prime Minister of Laos, Dr Thongloun Sisoulith; and the Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia, YAB Dato’ Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, attended the dinner.

Speaking at one of the panels of ALF, Mr So shared his insights on what Hong Kong may bring to the China – Hong Kong – ASEAN partnership in terms of its locational advantages, world-class infrastructure, deep pool of talents, unique role under the Belt and Road Initiative as well as the forthcoming ASEAN – Hong Kong Free Trade Agreement.

He pointed out that Hong Kong possessed unparalleled access across the Asia-Pacific region, and unrivalled connections both to the international markets and to the Mainland China. With its unique location and remarkable infrastructure and logistics network, Hong Kong has been serving and supporting ASEAN businesses in capitalising all forms of growth opportunities, including those emerging from the Belt and Road Initiative.



The Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Mr Gregory So (sixth from left), attends the 1st ASEAN Economic Ministers – Hong Kong, China Consultations in Laos on August 6 to discuss the progress and target of the ASEAN – Hong Kong Free Trade Agreement negotiations with the participating ASEAN Economic Ministers.

HK continues to be ranked 1st for economic freedom

The Fraser Institute, a Canadian public policy think tank, has ranked the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region as the most economically free in the world in 2016.

In its annual Economic Freedom of the World report published in September, the Fraser Institute measures freedom in levels of personal choice, ability to enter markets, security of privately owned property and rule of law in 57 countries and territories. The report was based on statistics and ranked Hong Kong as the most economically free territory, followed by Singapore, New Zealand, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates, Mauritius, Jordan, Ireland and Canada, 10th place was shared by United Kingdom and Chile.

Fred McMahon of the Fraser Institute commented, “Economic freedom breeds prosperity, and the most economically free countries offer the highest quality of life while the lowest-ranked countries are usually burdened by oppressive regimes that limit the freedom and opportunity of their citizens”. The think tank stated that countries or places with higher levels of economic freedom tend to offer their citizens a higher level of prosperity, political and civil liberties as well as increased life expectancy.

The Hong Kong Government spokesman welcomed the ranking: “our steadfast commitment to free market principles has once again received international acclaim.”

“The Government attaches great importance to Hong Kong’s economic freedom, and will strive to uphold our fine tradition of the rule of law and an independent judiciary, a small and efficient public sector, and a free and open business and trade environment, which are the cornerstones of Hong Kong’s economic success,” the spokesman said.



HK ranked again world's most competitive economy

Hong Kong is again ranked the world's most competitive economy, moving up from second place last year, according to the International Institute for Management Development (IMD) World Competitiveness Yearbook 2016 in May. Hong Kong was ranked top among the 61 economies assessed, followed by Switzerland, the US and Singapore.

The Financial Secretary, Mr John C Tsang, said "we welcome the IMD's high regard of Hong Kong as the world's most competitive economy and its recognition of our consistent commitment to a favourable business environment."

"We are delighted to see that Hong Kong has regained the title of the world's most competitive economy. In light of the fierce competition in the global arena, we will strive to uphold our prevailing competitive edge and continue to search for new growth areas, so as to strengthen our position as an international financial, trading and business centre and enhance Hong Kong's long-term competitiveness."

The IMD also recognised Hong Kong for its consistent commitment to providing a favourable business environment,

encouragement of innovation through low and simple taxation, free flow of capital, and role as a gateway between the Mainland and the global capital markets.

The report assessed each economy on four competitiveness factors: "Economic performance", "Government efficiency", "Business efficiency" and "Infrastructure", with each consisting of five sub-factors. Among the four competitiveness factors, Hong Kong's rankings in "Government efficiency" and "Business efficiency" both continued to be ranked first globally. The ranking in "Economic performance" climbed four places from ninth to fifth, mainly reflecting the more resilient Hong Kong economy relative to others in the challenging global economic environment last year.



Authentic Singaporean flavour

Singapore-based coffee and kaya toast chain, Ya Kun, has relaunched its Family Café in Tsim Sha Tsui, Hong Kong and plans to increase its presence in Hong Kong and neighbouring cities.



"Hong Kong is an attractive market to Ya Kun as it showcases cuisine and food from different parts of the world and discerning gourmards welcome a diversity of culinary cultures."

- Adrin Loi, Executive Chairman of Ya Kun International Ptd Ltd

The long established brand started by the late Loi Ah Koon in 1944 and now operates more than 100 outlets in 10 places covering Singapore, Hong Kong, Indonesia, the Philippines, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, Mainland China, Myanmar and Cambodia.

With its relaunch, Ya Kun not only offers its signature kaya toasts, coffee and soft-boiled eggs to customers, it also provides an array of popular Singapore-styled dishes and seasonal cuisine to cater for the sophisticated market of Hong Kong.

"Besides ensuring the same taste that Hong Kong and other customers have enjoyed at our outlets in Singapore, we will also introduce unique Singaporean cuisine to address their epicurean curiosity and adventure here in Hong Kong. We will render the same friendly service in order to build a loyal clientele for our Tsim Sha Tsui outlet," Adrin Loi, Executive Chairman of the Ya Kun Group, said.

Health tech startup benefits workplace wellness

Singapore-based ConnexionsAsia (CXA) is helping companies improve employees' health and productivity through innovations in employee benefit.

CXA has developed an innovative online platform enabling companies to offer flexible benefits for their employees. It works on a credit system that allows employees to choose how their given budget is spent in accordance with their individual needs, whether it be a fitness programme, a gym membership or healthcare services for personal and family needs. Its Singapore headquarters has about 150 staff, serving companies ranging from SMEs to Fortune 100 companies.

"This way of doing flex benefits is a win-win because employers can control their budget and employees now all get a choice," Dawn Soo, Chief Wellness Officer/ Head of Hong Kong office, CXA Insurance Brokers Ltd, said.

About ConnexionsAsia (CXA)

- Asia's first marketplace for employee flex benefits

Extend its rich heritage to neighbouring cities

“Hong Kong is an attractive market to Ya Kun as it showcases cuisine and food from different parts of the world and discerning gourmards welcome a diversity of culinary cultures. In addition, it is easy and straight forward to start a business in Hong Kong, thanks to its pro-business environment, well-developed transportation system and infrastructure, reliable communications network and a cosmopolitan culture that possess a comparatively high per capita income. These factors have collectively influenced Ya Kun International to set up its corporate-owned outlet,” Loi explained.

Ya Kun will also actively explore collaborative opportunities to increase the number of outlets through franchising with experienced and established partners. Given the geographical advantage of Hong

Kong, Ya Kun hopes to extend its brand presence in Macau and neighbouring Mainland cities.

“The InvestHK team has been very supportive and forthcoming with administrative and market information. What’s more, the publicity support from InvestHK has helped to generate an overwhelming response from the locals when we first opened in Tsim Sha Tsui and this was instrumental in driving the business for the outlet,” Loi said.

For more about InvestHK:
www.investhk.gov.hk

About Ya Kun International Pte Ltd

- Operates more than 100 outlets in Asia offering authentic Singaporean cuisine
- Hong Kong’s first corporate-owned outlet opened in Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon



“The StartmeupHK Venture Forum was really useful for us to educate our potential clients about what flex benefits are.”

- Dawn Soo, Chief Wellness Officer, Head of Hong Kong office of CXA Insurance Brokers Ltd

StartmeupHK helps

Soo and Rosaline Koo, the founder of CXA, visited Hong Kong in 2014 to do market research before setting up there. They first received advice from InvestHK on market information and referrals to service providers. With the encouragement of InvestHK, the company entered the StartmeupHK global competition in 2014, and was selected as one of the finalists to pitch at the Venture Forum.

“The StartmeupHK Venture Forum was really useful for us to educate our potential clients about what flex benefits are. We were able to get new clients and business partners because of this forum,” Soo said.

After receiving its insurance broker license in 2015, CXA opened its Hong Kong office, which has sales, marketing and vendor management functions. Soo said the company will open an office in Mainland China in the second quarter of next year. Meanwhile, CXA continues to develop its technology platform in Singapore.

From good to great

Setting up in Hong Kong allows Achieve Group, a Singaporean human resources firm, to expand beyond the city, including Mainland China.

Based in Singapore, Achieve Group is a multi-award-winning human resources (HR) outsourcing partner for local and multinational companies within the Asia Pacific region. The company decided to re-open its operation in Hong Kong in order to expand further to North Asia. To bring the Singaporean culture to the company, Madeline Ng, Director, Talent Acquisition, relocated from Singapore to Hong Kong and established JCG/Achieve (HK) Ltd.

Being a boutique agency with 25 years of HR experience, Achieve Group’s success is built upon its intimate knowledge of the economic fabric and its consistency in meeting long-term clients’ recurring needs. It adopts a personalised approach that requires active “hand-holding” with clients, especially for small companies which account for the majority of its clientele.

According to Ng, the company articulates its business around several key divisions: General Placement, Technology and Global Energy (including life sciences, IT, communications, oil and gas, engineering), Executive Search, and HR Consulting and Outsourcing. It has a linked computer system and talent database among its offices in Singapore, Malaysia and Hong Kong. Amid a changing economy, Ng sees active growth in the eCommerce and mobile sectors in the Hong Kong market.

About Achieve Group

- With offices in Singapore, Malaysia and Hong Kong
- Previous awards include Singapore Prestige Brand Award, ISO 9001:2008 by UKAS 2011 Enterprise 50 Awards and ASEAN Business Award

“The regional decision makers for human resources tend to sit either in Singapore or Hong Kong. The Hong Kong team usually looks after Mainland China as well. These markets are very synergistic, which is why we wanted to open in Hong Kong first — to look after clients with a base in Hong Kong and a small team in Mainland China,” Soo explained.

CXA was recently selected as a finalist in the HR Magazine’s employer compensation-and-benefits category award. Its short-term plan is to focus on serving a few clients well — as it usually takes several years for a company to be fully converted to flex benefits — and on educating insurers to support flex benefits. In the medium term, in addition to hiring veterans from the insurance field, CXA also plans to train up young graduates with its own curriculum.

“A presence in Hong Kong will give us good visibility in Mainland China, which is our next strategic target.”

- Madeline Ng,
Director of Talent Acquisition
JCG/ Achieve (HK) Ltd



A presence in HK; a good visibility in Mainland China

“Hong Kong is an important economic and financial centre. As our organisation grows, we are naturally drawn to Hong Kong and beyond that, to Mainland China. A presence in Hong Kong will give us good visibility in Mainland China, which is our next strategic target,” Ng said. “Our immediate goal is to leverage the strong relationships we have with multinational corporations in our home market. This will trickle down to local firms as well, thanks to the great talent we are hiring for our Hong Kong office.”

As a passionate recruiting professional, Ng is very satisfied with the quality of staff employed in Hong Kong. “We find the Hong Kong staff of high quality. Our consultants are very responsible, dedicated and self-motivated. They are passionate in providing the best candidates for clients, even if that means going the extra mile,” Ng said.

“InvestHK is very supportive. The Business and Professional Service team was instrumental in pointing out different sources of possible government support and business opportunities, allowing us to focus on our core business development,” she concluded.

In Style • Hong Kong

Promotion in Bangkok in October



The Secretary for Justice, Mr Rimsky Yuen, SC, speaks at the opening ceremony of "In Style • Hong Kong" organised by the Hong Kong Trade Development Council in Bangkok, Thailand, on October 6.

In Style • Hong Kong is an annual large-scale signature promotion campaign organised by the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC) with an aim to highlight Hong Kong's vibrant and unique lifestyle and creativity, showcase the city's branded and design-led products as well as its world-class services - which together have established Hong Kong as a leading trendsetting city in the region.

Celebrating the introduction of ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), the HKTDC hosted the 2016 In Style • Hong Kong in Bangkok, Thailand on October 6, 2016. This high-profile promotion included a **symposium** featuring a range of business services to engage the Thai business elites and a series of **citywide promotions** to attract local Thai consumers.

At the opening ceremony, the Secretary for Justice, Mr Rimsky Yuen, SC, highlighted Hong Kong's role as an effective gateway between the Mainland and the world including Thailand.

"Hong Kong's strengths, including our unique position as the gateway to Mainland China, our rule of law, judicial independence, clean and efficient government, business-friendly environment and world-class infrastructure, are well recognised by the international community. So is the 'one country, two systems' policy enshrined in our constitutional document known as the Basic Law, which gives us the advantage of blooming as Asia's world city while achieving economic integration with the Mainland."

Mr Yuen also led a delegation to promote Hong Kong's international legal and dispute resolution services during his visit to Bangkok. The delegation comprises legal and dispute resolution professionals including representatives from the Hong Kong Bar Association, the Law Society of Hong Kong, the Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre, the Secretariat of the International Court of Arbitration of the International Chamber of Commerce (Asia Office), the China International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission Hong Kong Arbitration Center, the China Maritime and Arbitration Commission Hong Kong Arbitration Center, the Chartered Institutes of Arbitrators (East Asia Branch) and the Hong Kong Institute of Arbitrators.





Asian Logistics and Maritime Conference in November

The sixth edition of the Asian Logistics and Maritime Conference (ALMC) will return on Nov 22 – 23, 2016 at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre.

The annual ALMC held in Hong Kong 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.

Discussions this year will focus on several hot topics, including China's Belt and Road Initiative and the 13th Five-Year Plan, and the latest development in Cross-border Ecommerce. The programme will be divided into three main tracks, namely SCM & Logistics Forum, Maritime Forum and Air Freight Forum.

The event is expected to attract 2,000 industry players from around the world. It is bound to be an ideal platform for

players from the logistics, shipping and maritime sectors to exchange latest market intelligence and expand business connections.

Alongside the conference, an exhibition will be staged to house around 100 exhibitors, offering e-logistics solutions as well as logistics, shipping and maritime related services. One-on-one business-matching sessions will be arranged to help exhibitors and conference participants explore new business opportunities.

With so many ever-changing trends, opportunities and challenges lying ahead, companies will need information and contacts to stay competitive and expand new markets. Here at the ALMC, you will find both - and accomplish much more. For details, please visit: www.almc.hk.

92% of participants in 2015 rated ALMC
as **"Excellent"** and **"Good"**

Seminar: Hong Kong Maritime Sector – Moving Up the Value Chain & Growth Prospects

A seminar titled “Hong Kong Maritime Sector – Moving Up the Value Chain and Growth Prospects” was jointly organised by Invest Hong Kong and HKETO in Singapore at the HKETO on July 14.

Some 60 participants from the maritime and legal sectors attended the seminar and exchanged views with guest speakers Mr Benjamin Wong, Head of Transport and Industrial of InvestHK; Mr Paul Chang, Maritime Advisor of ICBC Leasing, and Ms Rosita Lau, Partner of INCE & Co. Participants were updated on the Government’s latest strategies and policies for the maritime sector in Hong Kong as well as what new initiatives like the Qualifying Corporate Treasury Centre and the Belt and Road Initiative mean to shipping companies. The seminar was followed by a networking lunch attended by the guest speakers and the participants.



Guest speakers at the seminar share their insights and prospects of Hong Kong Maritime Sector. (From right): Mr Benjamin Wong, Head, Transport and Industrial, InvestHK; Ms Rosita Lau, Partner, INCE & Co., and Mr Paul Chang, Maritime Advisor, ICBC Leasing.

Asian Youth Orchestra performances



The Chief Secretary for Administration, Mrs Carrie Lam, speaks at the opening reception of a concert of the Asian Youth Orchestra in Hanoi, Vietnam, supported by HKETO in Singapore.



The Chief Secretary for Administration, Mrs Carrie Lam (first row, seventh right), is pictured with the Asian Youth Orchestra’s Artistic Director and Conductor, Richard Pontzius (first row, sixth right); Principal Conductor, James Judd (first row, eighth right); and young musicians during their rehearsal at the Vietnam National Academy of Music in Hanoi, Vietnam on August 17.

The Asian Youth Orchestra (AYO), supported by HKETO in Singapore, staged four performances in Singapore and Hanoi, Vietnam August 14-15 and August 17-18 respectively. Yearly, AYO provides a six-week summer music program for advanced music students in the region.

This year, more than one-third of the 100-plus members of AYO are young Hong Kong musicians selected through highly competitive auditions. They represent the finest musicians in China, Hong Kong and ASEAN countries. The Chief Secretary for Administration hosted a pre-show

opening reception on August 17 in Hanoi for some 180 HKETO interlocutors from the diplomat, business, arts and cultural sectors. Altogether, more than 330 HKETO guests had enjoyed the performances of AYO young musicians in Hanoi and Singapore.

The Mad Phoenix



The Mad Phoenix, based on the tragic life story of the eccentric 20th century Cantonese opera playwright, Mr Kong Yu Kau, has seen great successes since its debut 23 years ago in Hong Kong. Mr Tse Kwan-Ho (right) plays the role of Mr Kong Yu Kau – the eccentric 20th century Cantonese opera playwright with a tragic life story. Mr Tse has been playing the leading role of the work for 23 years since its debut in 1993 in Hong Kong.



Picture shows Director of HKETO in Singapore, Mr Bruno Luk (left), and Deputy Secretary (Culture) of the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth, Singapore, Mrs Rosa Daniel, at the pre-show reception organised by the HKETO for its 200 guests from the government, academic, cultural, business and media sectors.

Supported by the HKETO in Singapore, *The Mad Phoenix* - one of Hong Kong's most famous plays by the Springtime Experimental Theatre - has recently returned to Singapore and staged its 150th performance at The Theatre @ Mediacorp on May 13. The consecutive 3-day performance between May 13 and 15 attracted some 3,000-strong audience. HKETO hosted a pre-show reception for its 200 guests from the government, academic, cultural, business and media sectors.

“People in Hong Kong treasure arts and culture as an inseparable part of our lives”, said Mr Bruno Luk, Director of HKETO in Singapore.

He added that next year would be the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. All ETOs around the world would be organising activities in the respective countries to celebrate this important occasion.

“Here in Singapore, we are planning a series of celebrative events, including theatrical, orchestral and dance performances, exhibitions, gala dinner and other activities that can engage the general public in Singapore,” he said.

A-Mui Live!

Assisted by the HKETO in Singapore, *A-Mui Live!* was staged at the Kreta Ayer People's Theatre on June 18 and 19. The musical tells the story of the legendary Hong Kong artist Anita Mui's glamorous and eventful life. The Hong Kong production was presented by the Springtime Experiential Theatre with its lead actress Margaret Cheung playing the role of Anita Mui.

More than 1,000 fans in Singapore enjoyed the 2-day musical, which had successfully staged its 58th and 59th performances over the weekend since its debut in Hong Kong in 2007.



Hong Kong-Singapore theatrical production - *fleet* in The Chinese Theatre Festival 2016



Sponsored by the HKETO in Singapore, a Hong Kong-Singapore theatrical production - *fleet* - was featured in The Chinese Theatre Festival 2016, Singapore. The organiser -The Theatre Practice - showcased *fleet* from July 21 to 31, 2016 as part of the annual Chinese Theatre Festival.

“The play signifies a cultural collaboration between Singapore and Hong Kong as it showcases the work by Hong Kong playwright Janice Poon (*third right in picture below*) and Singapore’s Director Liu Xiaoyi (*second right*), casting Hong Kong actress Melissa Leung”, the Director of HKETO in Singapore, Mr Bruno Luk, said.

He added that the play explores the physical, emotional and existential experiences of a human body and the literary preconception of our true human voice through the solitude of a vanishing soul. He hoped HKETO friends would enjoy various art genres that the HKETO in Singapore would like to share with them.



Picture shows Mr Bruno Luk (*third left*) with The Theatre Practice’s production team at the pre-show reception organised by the HKETO for its guests from the academic, cultural, business and media sectors.

Hong Kong community gathering

The HKETO in Singapore attaches importance to fostering people-to-people exchanges and value interactions with its friends from the Hong Kong community. More than 100 HKETO friends from the Hong Kong community in Singapore joined the gathering on July 29.



HKETO friends enjoy themselves at the gathering against the unblocked panoramic view of the Padang and Marina Bay, Singapore.



Director of HKETO in Singapore, Mr Bruno Luk (*centre*), pictures with guests at the gathering for the Hong Kong community hosted by the HKETO in Singapore. HKETO friends enjoy a night of catching up at a rooftop bar atop one of Singapore’s most historically and culturally significant icons - the National Gallery Singapore.



Gathering for summer interns in Singapore 2016

The HKETO in Singapore hosted a gathering on August 11 for some 30 summer interns, with more than half of them participating in the ASEAN Internship Scheme for Hong Kong Higher Education Students (2016).

The scheme, first initiated by the HKETO in Singapore in 2014, aims to provide an opportunity for higher education students in Hong Kong to widen their international perspectives by taking up internship in the ASEAN region which, as a bloc, is Hong Kong's second largest trading partner.

The scheme has met with very positive responses and a total of some 450 Hong Kong higher education students have joined the scheme so far.

Echoing the Belt and Road Initiative of the Central People's Government, which aims to enhance, among others, people-to-people bonds, starting from the 2016 round, the HKETO has extended the scheme to cover three more Hong Kong higher education institutions on top of the original eight institutions funded by the University Grants Committee. They are: Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, Hong Kong Shue Yan University and Hang Seng Management College.



◀ The Director of HKETO in Singapore, Mr Bruno Luk, speaks at the gathering, encouraging students to be the "ambassadors" of Hong Kong in their respective host countries in ASEAN and vice versa upon their return to Hong Kong, thereby enhancing mutual understanding and strengthening ties between Hong Kong and ASEAN.



▶ Hong Kong student interns share their insights on internship experiences and seize the moment and enjoy themselves at the gathering.





Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Jakarta

To further enhance Hong Kong's collaboration and integration with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), a new Economic and Trade Office (ETO) has been set up in Jakarta. The temporary office of the Jakarta ETO commenced operation on June 13 and the Director-General, Hong Kong Economic and Trade Affairs, Jakarta assumed office on September 13.

The main responsibilities of the Jakarta ETO are to represent the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region in matters between Hong Kong and the ASEAN as a whole, and handle in particular matters between Hong Kong and four ASEAN countries, namely Indonesia, Malaysia, Brunei Darussalam and the Philippines. The Singapore ETO will continue to cover Singapore, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam. The two ETOs will strengthen Hong Kong's ties with the ASEAN countries and enhance Hong Kong's trade and economic relations with the region.

The temporary office of Jakarta ETO is located at Unit 19, Level 11, One Pacific Place, Jalan Jenderal Sudirman Kav. 52-53, Jakarta Selatan 12190, Indonesia (Tel: (62-21) 2783 0616; Fax:(62-21)2985 9889; Email:hketo_jkt@hketojakarta.gov.hk). Details of the permanent office will be announced in due course.

Director-General of HKETO in Jakarta



Mrs Do Pang Wai-yee has assumed office as the Director-General, Hong Kong Economic and Trade Affairs in Jakarta on September 13. Mrs Do joined the Administrative Service in 1992.

Prior to taking up her posting in Jakarta, Mrs Do was posted to the Office of the Chief Secretary for Administration as the Deputy Director of Administration from 2012 to 2016. She also worked in Sha Tin District Office, Office of the Government Chief Information Officer and Labour Department during her service.



The Secretary for Home Affairs, Mr Lau Kong-wah (first left) and the Vice Minister of Culture, Mr Ding Wei (seventh left) pictured on August 25 with ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) culture ministers at the Third China- ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Culture and Arts Meeting.

SHA attends ASEAN cultural ministers' meetings in Brunei

Supported by the HKETO in Jakarta, the Secretary for Home Affairs, Mr Lau Kong-wah, in August attended the Seventh Meeting of the ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) Plus Three (China, Japan, Korea) Ministers Responsible for Culture and Arts as well as the Third China-ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Culture and Arts Meeting in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei.

Mr Lau attended the meetings as a member of the Chinese delegation representing the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. The Chinese delegation was led by the Vice Minister of Culture, Mr Ding Wei.

At the Third China-ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Culture and Arts Meeting, Mr Lau said that Hong Kong, being a vibrant metropolis with cultures originating from Chinese traditions, could make significant contributions to the implementation of the Belt and Road Initiative.

Mr Lau added that Hong Kong could serve as a “super-connector” between China and the rest of the world on the cultural front. At present, Hong Kong has signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) on Cultural Co-operation with three ASEAN members, namely Vietnam, Singapore and the Philippines. Mr Lau said he hoped to sign more MoUs with countries along the Belt and Road.

Mr Lau further said that the first of many facilities in the West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD) - the M+ Pavillion – would open in September and the WKCD would become one of the world’s largest cultural quarters, which would help strengthen ties between China and the world in support of the Belt and Road Initiative.

Asian design shines at CENTRESTAGE

The inaugural show of CENTRESTAGE, organised by the Hong Kong Trade Development Council this September in Hong Kong, was Asia's premier fashion-gala event.

The event not only highlighted Asia's hottest emerging design talents but also provided a launch pad for international, especially Asian, fashion brands to showcase their latest collections, with some 200 brands taking part. They included heritage brand Aquascutum, Italy's ANTEPRIMA, Japan's ATSURO TAYAMA and Nordic label Marimekko.

More than 50 events were held at CENTRESTAGE, including about 30 runway shows and several trend forecasting seminars on upcoming trends for the Asia-Pacific market.



Erica Ng, Senior Editor Retail Intelligence specialising in the Asia-Pacific region for WGSN, leads the "Retail Destinations of the Future" seminar.

Business Matching

The inaugural CENTRESTAGE attracted nearly 8,300 buyers from 71 countries and regions, with some 49 per cent of buyers coming from Asia. Buyers from major department stores, including Italy's La Rinascente and Harvey Nichols Riyadh attended the show to source the latest designs from Asia.

Asian boutiques also tapped the Hong Kong show for the latest styles to cater to the region's growing middle class. Indonesian fashion boutique Lucy House placed an initial 100-piece order with Hong Kong designer Dorian Ho. "CENTRESTAGE has brought together some appealing designer brands," said boutique operator Lucy Kurniawan. "I will definitely visit the show again next year."

HK students excel in 30th China Adolescents Science and Technology Innovation Contest

Hong Kong students and teachers won more than 60 awards in the China Adolescents Science & Technology Innovation Contest (CASTIC) held August 13-18 this year in Shanghai.

CASTIC, which aims to develop youngsters' innovative talents, is the largest annual adolescent science and

technology contest in China open to all elementary and high school students nationwide, with over 10 million participants in all kinds of categories. More than 500 participating teams, including delegations from China, as well the USA, Germany, Denmark, Hungary, India, Korea, Japan and Hong Kong, showcased their innovations.



Students are encouraged to "work like scientists" and put forward new research topics and solve problems with what they have learned.