

HONG KONG FILES

**HONG
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Chief Executive visits Thailand



The Chief Executive, Mrs Carrie Lam, delivers a keynote speech at the opening of the Ministerial Segment of the 74th session of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok, Thailand.

The Chief Executive, Mrs Carrie Lam, visited Bangkok, Thailand on May 14. She attended the 74th session of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

Mrs Lam delivered a keynote speech on “Inequality in the Era of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” at the opening of the Ministerial Segment. She shared with participants Hong Kong’s experience in promoting social inclusion and environmental protection to achieve sustainable development.

Noting that the successful implementation of the “one country, two systems” principle since Hong Kong’s return to the motherland had laid the foundation for the city’s continued prosperity and stability, Mrs Lam said that Hong Kong would seize the opportunities brought about by the Belt and Road Initiative and strive to promote economic development, which she stressed should be inclusive and beneficial to all.

On the same day, Mrs Lam attended a lunch hosted by the Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand, Dr Somkid Jatusripitak, to exchange views on strengthening co-operation between Hong Kong and Thailand. They also discussed the establishment in Bangkok the third Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (HKETO) in the Association of Southeast



Mrs Lam (third left) meets with the Head of the China delegation to the 74th session of ESCAP, Mr Zhang Jun (third right). Also attending the meeting are the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to the Kingdom of Thailand, Mr Lyu Jian (second right), and the Permanent Representative of China to ESCAP, Mr Li Hong (first right).



Mrs Lam (left) attends a lunch hosted by the Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand, Dr Somkid Jatusripitak (right), in Bangkok, Thailand.

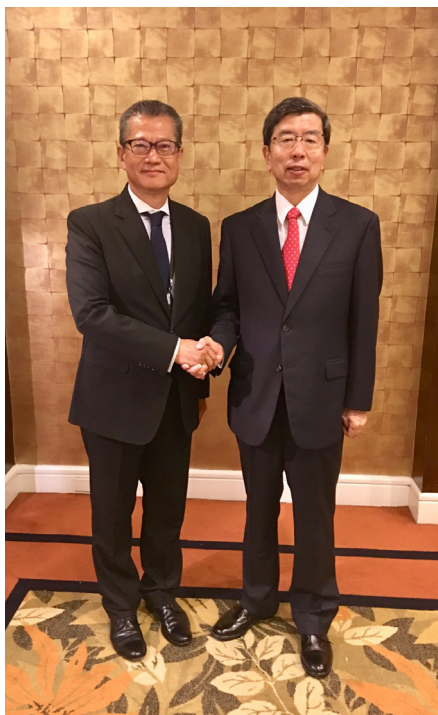
Asian Nations (ASEAN) region raised in her maiden Policy Address in 2017. Both of them were glad that preparatory work was making good progress and hoped that the Office could commence operation early next year.

The Chief Executive also met with the Head of the China delegation to the 74th session of ESCAP, Mr Zhang Jun, during the visit. She expressed her gratitude to the Central Government for its support for Hong Kong's participation as an associate member in the annual session of ESCAP and related work over the years.

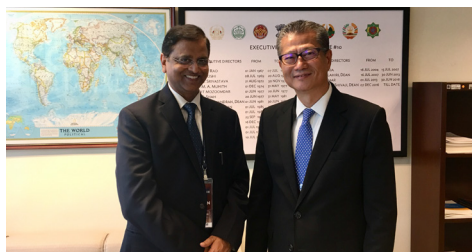
Financial Secretary visits the Philippines

The Financial Secretary, Mr Paul Chan, visited Manila, the Philippines from May 3 to 5 to attend the 51st Asian Development Bank (ADB) Annual Meeting. During the visit, he met with the Secretary of the Department of Economic Affairs of the Ministry of Finance of India, Mr Subhash Chandra Garg, and the President of the ADB and Chairperson of the ADB's Board of Directors, Mr Takehiko Nakao. They exchanged views on the economic prospects of Asia, and how Hong Kong could make good use of its strengths as an international financial centre to further collaborate with the ADB in areas such as project investment and financing.

Mr Chan also made a courtesy call on the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the Philippines, Mr Zhao Jianhua, and attended a business luncheon hosted by the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines Inc.



Mr Chan (left) meets with the President of the ADB and Chairperson of the ADB's Board of Directors, Mr Takehiko Nakao (right).



Mr Chan (right) meets with the Secretary of the Department of Economic Affairs of the Ministry of Finance of India, Mr Subhash Chandra Garg (left).



Mr Chan attends the 51st ADB Annual Meeting in Manila, the Philippines.



Mr Chan (left) calls on the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the Philippines, Mr Zhao Jianhua (right).

Secretary for Home Affairs in Indonesia

The Secretary for Home Affairs, Mr Lau Kong-wah, visited Jakarta, Indonesia from August 17 to 21. Mr Lau attended the opening ceremony of the 18th Asian Games and watched various competitions to support Hong Kong athletes. He also visited the athletes' village to meet with the Hong Kong delegation and cheered them on.

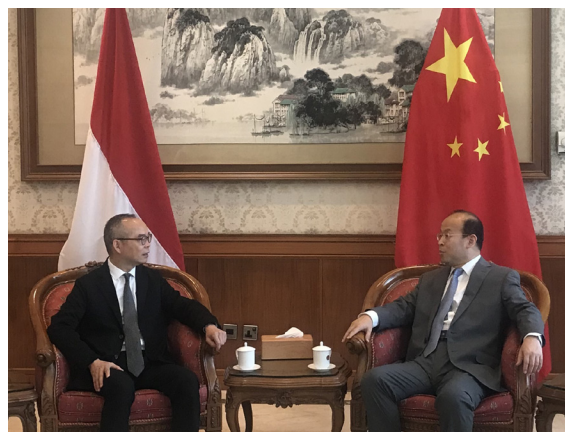
During his visit, Mr Lau met with the Secretary General of the Ministry of Education and Culture of Indonesia, Dr Didik Suhardi, and discussed enhancing cultural co-operation between Hong Kong and Indonesia. He also called on the Chinese Ambassador to Indonesia, Mr Xiao Qian, to learn more about China's latest developments in Indonesia.



Hong Kong athletes reaped 46 medals at the 18th Asian Games, including gold medals in cycling, squash, gymnastics, equestrian and rugby. The two gold medals won in equestrian and rugby are the first ever won by Hong Kong in these events.



Mr Lau (left) meets with the Secretary General of the Ministry of Education and Culture of Indonesia, Dr Didik Suhardi (right).



Mr Lau (left) calls on the Chinese Ambassador to Indonesia, Mr Xiao Qian (right).

Director-General of Investment Promotion in Vietnam and Thailand

The Director-General of Investment Promotion (DGIP), Mr Stephen Phillips, visited Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam on August 13 to participate in a roundtable discussion on business opportunities in Hong Kong relating to the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area and the Belt and Road Initiative. The event, supported by the HKETO in Singapore, was jointly organised by Invest Hong Kong and the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Mr Phillips also met with a few major Vietnamese companies in various industries during the visit.



DGIP then visited Bangkok, Thailand from August 14 to 15 to meet with entrepreneurs in the real estate, retail and textiles sectors. He promoted to Thai businesses the benefits of entering the Hong Kong market and introduced the StartmeupHK Festival 2019 in Hong Kong.



Hong Kong Hosts Third Belt and Road Summit

The third Belt and Road Summit, themed “Collaborate for Success”, was held at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre on June 28. The event, jointly organised by the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government and the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC), drew leading speakers from Hong Kong, the Mainland of China, and countries along the Belt and Road, who shared insights on the development of the initiative, intergovernmental co-operation and business opportunities for different industries.



Close to 5,000 participants, including ministerial officials, business leaders and professionals from 55 countries and regions attended the third Belt and Road Summit, at which over 500 one-to-one business-matching meetings with over 220 projects were arranged to promote business deals.

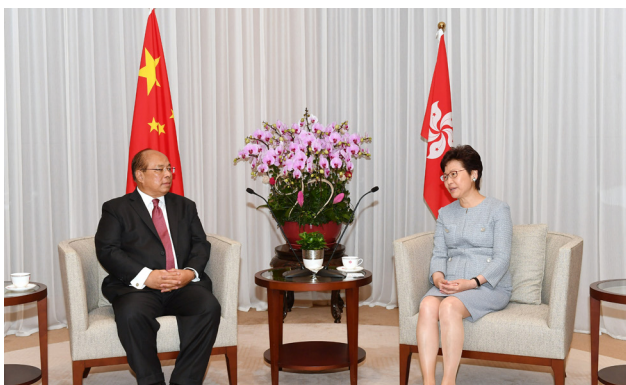
The Summit started with the Chief Executive, Mrs Carrie Lam, delivering an opening address. She said wide participation from different parts of the world is important for the successful implementation of the Belt and Road Initiative, as its pursuit requires a high degree of co-operation between countries and the

establishment of a sound bilateral and multilateral mechanism, as well as participation from different sectors. Mrs Lam added that Hong Kong, being the world’s freest economy and China’s most international city, is destined to play a significant part in the Belt and Road Initiative.





Mrs Lam (right) hosts a dinner for Dr Somkid Jatusripitak (left) at Government House on June 27.



Mrs Lam meets Mr U Thaung Tun at the Chief Executive's Office on June 28.

The Financial Secretary, Mr Paul Chan, delivered opening remarks at the luncheon plenary. The session consisted of a ministerial dialogue chaired by the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Mr Edward Yau, with the participation of four overseas ministerial officials.

Mrs Lam took the opportunity to meet with a number of senior officials who were visiting Hong Kong for the Belt and Road Summit on June 27 and 28. Among them were the Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand, Dr Somkid Jatusripitak, who delivered a keynote speech at the Summit on June 28; and the National Security Advisor, Union Minister for the Ministry of the office of the Union Government and Chairman of the Myanmar Investment Commission, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Mr U Thaung Tun, who led a delegation to attend the Summit.

Mrs Lam thanked them for the staunch support for the Summit and exchanged views with them on future co-operation in the context of the Belt and Road Initiative.

During his visit to Hong Kong, Dr Somkid also met with Mr Paul Chan, visited the Hong Kong – Zhuhai – Macao Bridge, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, and Cyberport.



Mr Edward Yau (fourth left), holds a bilateral meeting with the Secretary of State of Ministry of Commerce of Cambodia, Mr Chhuon Dara (fourth right), who attends the Belt and Road Summit on June 28.



Director of HKETO in Singapore, Mr Bruno Luk (centre), is pictured with Artistic Director and Principal Conductor for Life of HKCO, Maestro Yan Huichang (first right), and Executive Director of HKCO, Dr Celina Chin, before the concert.



Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra's concert in Singapore

The internationally acclaimed Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra (HKCO), with the sponsorship of the HKETO in Singapore, staged a concert in Esplanade, Singapore on September 1. Dubbed as “a leader of Chinese ethnic music”, the HKCO performed to another full house of 1,800 audience after its last successful performance in Singapore in 2014. Themed “Liu Bang, Xiang Yu and the Terra Cotta Warriors” (刘邦·项羽·兵马俑), the concert presented spectacular music which took the audience through the time tunnel to the Qin, Han and Tang dynasties.

In a pre-concert reception hosted by the HKETO for some 200 guests, the Director of HKETO in Singapore, Mr Bruno Luk, mentioned that the HKCO, together with eight other flagship performing arts groups and a thousand troupes in Hong Kong, offered around 8,000 performing arts shows annually and helped build the vibrant arts scene in the city. Mr Luk also briefed the guests on the progress of the West Kowloon Cultural District and various government initiatives which helped develop Hong Kong into a prominent arts and cultural hub in the world.



Director of HKETO in Singapore, Mr Bruno Luk (first right), addresses some 200 HKETO guests at the reception.



Director of HKETO in Singapore, Mr Bruno Luk (first right), exchanges views with Deputy Head of Departments of Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Singapore, Ms Isabel Schmidt (centre), on arts and cultural development of both places.





*(Photo credit: Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay)
The Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra performed to a full house in Esplanade, Singapore.*

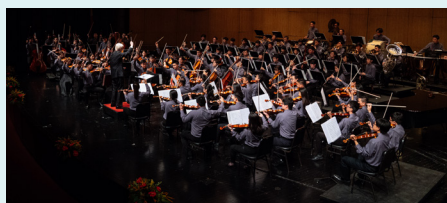


(Photo credit: Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay)

Being the “cultural ambassador of Hong Kong”, a six-member team of the HKCO conducted two community outreach performances at Sunshine Welfare Action Mission Home and Temasek Polytechnic on August 31, sharing the joy of Chinese music appreciation with 80 seniors and 100 students respectively.

Asian Youth Orchestra's concerts in the Philippines

Sponsored by the HKETO in Jakarta, the Asian Youth Orchestra staged two concerts in the Cultural Center of the Philippines in Manila, Philippines on August 16 and 17. Under the batons of conductors James Judd and Richard Pontzius, the concerts featured internationally-awarded soloists Benny Tseng on violin and Anna Tsybuleva on piano, as well as a crew of talented young musicians. The audience was mesmerised by the tuneful feast of classical masterpieces by Rachmaninov, Prokofiev, Wagner, Barber, Enescu and Gershwin.



*(Photo credit: Mr Stephen Ng)
The musicians and audience share memorable concert experiences.*

Jakarta Dragon Boat Festival 2018 in Indonesia

Organised by the Jakarta Paddle Club and Klub Dayung Bahtera, and sponsored by the HKETO in Jakarta, the Jakarta Dragon Boat Festival 2018 was held on May 5 to 6, on the waterfront of Baywalk Mall, Pluit, North Jakarta. The intense dragon boat races filled the harbour with heart-pounding action, a profusion of colour, and the sounds of drummers and fans urging paddlers on to the finish line.

Director-General of HKETO in Jakarta, Mrs Do Pang Wai-yee, gives a welcoming remark at the Jakarta Dragon Boat Festival 2018 and shows support for the athletes.



Jakarta Marketing Week 2018 in Indonesia

The HKETO in Jakarta participated in the Jakarta Marketing Week 2018 to promote Hong Kong as Asia's World City. A photo exhibition was staged at the Kota Kasablanka Mall, South Jakarta from May 2 to 8, which showcased various aspects of Hong Kong ranging from finance and trade to education and tourism.



Visitors learn about the work of HKETO in Jakarta and Hong Kong as a cosmopolitan and dynamic international city.



Speaking at the event, Director-General of HKETO in Jakarta, Mrs Do Pang Wai-yee, highlights Indonesia as an important source market for Hong Kong in Southeast Asia tourist arrivals.

Hong Kong Neighbourhood Promotion in Indonesia

Sponsored by the HKETO in Jakarta, Hong Kong Tourism Board collaborated with Trans TV Indonesia to film 12 episodes of the reality show “Mission X” in Hong Kong. The episodes, which started airing on August 5, feature Indonesian celebrities competing in different missions in various districts and tourist attractions in Hong Kong. Famed as Asia’s World City, Hong Kong charms visitors with its unique local culture and neighbourhoods. The launch event of Hong Kong neighbourhood promotion was held in Jakarta on July 31. Interactive game session and a media interview at the event enabled audiences to learn about the less known side of the city.



Mrs Do (left) and Regional Director, Southeast Asia of Hong Kong Tourism Board, Mr Raymond Chan (right) host a media interview to talk to reporters about tourism in Hong Kong.



Interactive game session with the celebrities adds fun to the launch event.

Networking gathering in Singapore

On July 20 evening, the HKETO in Singapore hosted a networking gathering for some 130 guests, including close contacts and interlocutors from the diplomatic, business and academic circles, as well as the local Hong Kong community. The event was held at a restaurant located within the classy interiors of the iconic Victoria Theatre & Concert Hall in Singapore.

The Director of the HKETO in Singapore, Mr Bruno Luk, in his address expressed appreciation to all the guests for their continuous support over the years. He also mentioned the Belt and Road and Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area initiatives, both of which were expected to bring Hong Kong’s economy to a new height. Moreover, the guests were briefed on the progress made in the preparation for the opening of the new HKETO in Bangkok in 2019.



Mr Luk (centre), pictured with the Chairman of the Hong Kong Singapore Business Association, Mr Dennis Chiu (second right); the Director of Singapore, Hong Kong Trade Development Council, Ms Vivienne Chee (first right); the President of Kowloon Club, Mr Simon Li (second left); and committee member of Kowloon Club, Ms Kimmis Pun (first left).



Photo shows representatives of the local Hong Kong community who are alumni of universities in Hong Kong



The HKETO gathering’s venue provides a rich cultural ambience for HKETO friends to mingle and enjoy a blissful evening.



HKETO friends spend a joyous evening together with great food and conversation at the gathering.

Summer interns' gathering in Singapore and Indonesia

The HKETO in Singapore hosted a gathering on the evening of July 27 for more than 60 higher education students interning in Singapore under various internship programmes this summer. 45 of them joined the 2018 ASEAN Internship Scheme for Hong Kong Higher Education Students (the Scheme) co-ordinated by the HKETO in Singapore.

The eight University Grants Committee-funded universities in Hong Kong, together with Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, Hong Kong Shue Yan University and Hang Seng Management College, are covered by the Scheme. Students of these institutions have responded positively to the internship opportunities offered. About 720 students have joined the Scheme since 2014, taking up internships at private companies, international organisations, academic institutions, think-tanks, arts and cultural organisations, as well as government organisations in the region.



Mr Bruno Luk encourages student interns to be the “ambassadors” of Hong Kong and vice versa upon return to Hong Kong, so as to help enhance mutual understanding and strengthen people-to-people bonds between Hong Kong and ASEAN.



A student intern shares his valuable internship experience on stage.



The student interns seized the opportunity to share with their new friends challenges faced and insights developed during their internship in Singapore.

On July 19, the HKETO in Jakarta and HKTDC hosted a briefing for the student interns who were working in Indonesia, including Hong Kong students participating in the 2018 ASEAN Internship Scheme for Higher Education Students and Bank of China's internship programme. Following the briefing, the HKETO in Jakarta also hosted a luncheon for the student interns to exchange ideas with members of the Indonesia-Hong Kong Business Association. Participants were optimistic about the rapid development in Indonesia and the ASEAN region. The students were also eager to explore further career and business opportunities amid the backdrop of closer ties between Hong Kong and the ASEAN countries under the Belt and Road Initiative.



Deputy directors of the HKETO in Jakarta, Ms Angie Chung and Mr Kelvin Ng; and Director of HKTDC in Indonesia, Mr Leung Kwan Ho, host a briefing for the student interns.



The student interns broaden their horizon by having firsthand work experience and interacting with local professionals in Indonesia.

Pre-departure briefing for Indonesian students to Hong Kong

On August 5, the HKETO in Jakarta and Indonesian Students Association in Hong Kong hosted a pre-departure briefing for Indonesian students who would start their tertiary education in Hong Kong in the coming semester. More than 150 students and their parents attended the event. At the briefing, interns from the HKETO in Jakarta and HKTDC briefed the students about the local lifestyle and university life, climate, transportation and other tips in Hong Kong that would help them get ready for the new environment. They also learnt about various distinguished and unique features of each university in Hong Kong.



Indonesian students participate in the pre-departure briefing at HKETO in Jakarta before pursuing tertiary studies in Hong Kong.



Briefings to visitors from Hong Kong

In Singapore

From May to August, the HKETO in Singapore received five visiting groups from Hong Kong. The Director and the Deputy Director of the HKETO, Mr Bruno Luk and Mr Eric Lee respectively, gave briefings to more than 80 visitors from the Hong Kong Baptist University Model United Nations Club, HKU SPACE Po Leung Kuk Stanley Ho Community College, as well as members of Sai Kung, Southern, Kowloon City District Councils.

The visitors were briefed on the economic situation of the ASEAN countries, Hong Kong's unique role played in the Belt and Road Initiative, the HKETO's functions, as well as the ASEAN Internship Scheme for Hong Kong Higher Education Students.



In Indonesia

On August 1, the HKETO in Jakarta and HKTDC hosted a briefing for over 20 visiting students from the Hong Kong Community College of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU). The briefings introduced the work of the HKETO in Jakarta and HKTDC in promoting closer bilateral relations between Indonesia and Hong Kong to the students, as well as letting them know different business and career opportunities under the Belt and Road Initiative.



Visiting students from Hong Kong Community College of PolyU attend a briefing and pose for a group photo at the HKETO in Jakarta.



Hong Kong • Talent Hub

Unlimited Opportunities

The HKSAR Government promulgated on August 28 the first Talent List of Hong Kong. Aiming to attract talent from around the world in a more focused manner to support Hong Kong's development as a high-value added and diversified economy, the Talent List has been drawn up after extensive consultation with the stakeholders.

The Talent List highlights 11 specific professions needed most for Hong Kong's economic development. They are:

- Asset Management Professionals
- Fintech Professionals
- Actuaries
- Marine Insurance Professionals
- Data Scientists & Cyber Security Specialists
- Innovation and Technology Experts
- Naval Architects
- Marine Engineers & Superintendents of Ships
- Creative Industries Professionals
- Dispute Resolution Professionals & Transactional Lawyers
- Waste Treatment Specialists

Immigration facilitation is provided to eligible persons under the Talent List through the Quality Migrant Admission Scheme (QMAS) within its existing annual quota of 1,000. Successful applicants under the QMAS are not required to have secured an offer of local employment for settlement in Hong Kong. For applicants who meet the specifications of the respective profession under the Talent List, bonus marks will be given under the General Points Test of the QMAS. Detailed information of the Talent List can be found at the dedicated website: www.talentlist.gov.hk

The Talent List will be regularly updated to ensure that it can keep up with Hong Kong's latest economic development and the changing needs for different talents.

COMMENTS / SUGGESTIONS

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