

HONG KONG ECONOMIC AND TRADE OFFICE IN SINGAPORE

HONG KONG FILES

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HKSAR 25th anniversary celebration events

In celebration of the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (HKETO) in Singapore organised two gala dinners in Singapore and Vietnam under the theme "A New Era – Stability • Prosperity • Opportunity".



Authentic Hong Kong-style milk tea was served at the pre-dinner reception.



The mix of Hong Kong and Singapore musicians showcased cultural collaboration between the two cities.



The Director of the Singapore ETO, Mr Wong Chun To (second left), joined the Chinese Ambassador to Singapore, Ms Sun Haiyan (third left); and the Minister for Health of Singapore, Mr Ong Ye Kung (third right), in a toast in the gala dinner in Singapore.

Gala Dinner in Singapore

Some 300 friends from the diplomatic, government, business, academic and media circles attended the gala dinner on August 3. Minister for Health of Singapore, Mr Ong Ye Kung, and the Chinese Ambassador to Singapore, Ms Sun Haiyan, also graced the event. The Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Mr Algernon Yau, gave a virtual keynote speech highlighting Hong Kong's opportunities under the National 14th Five-Year Plan and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. He also noted further co-operation between Hong Kong and Singapore in areas from trade and investment, culture, to innovation and technology. Guests were delighted by the authentic Hong Kong-style milk tea and delicious roast duck served. They also enjoyed the boisterous lion dance, vibrant music performances, and a captivating light painting demonstration at the event.



Guests flocked to a photo booth featuring various lovely iconic landmarks of Hong Kong.

Gala Dinner in Vietnam

About 250 guests joined the gala dinner in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam on August 27, including the Chinese Consul General in Ho Chi Minh City, Mr Wei Huaxiang, and the Director-General of Department of Foreign Affairs in Ho Chi Minh City under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Vietnam, Mr Tran Phuoc Anh. In a video speech, the Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury, Mr Christopher Hui, highlighted the strong presence of Hong Kong business sector in Vietnam. The fun-filled night saw a repertoire of classic songs performed by Saigon Philharmonic Orchestra and award-winning opera singer Ngoc Mai, as well as sumptuous culinary dishes - much to the delight of the guests.



Mr Wong Chun To (second left), pictured with the Director-General of Department of Foreign Affairs in Ho Chi Minh City, Mr Tran Phuoc Anh (second right), and the Chinese Consul General in Ho Chi Minh City, Mr Wei Huaxiang (centre).



Performance by Saigon Philharmonic Orchestra and Vietnamese opera singer Ngoc Mai (right)

25 周年紀念
 ANNIVERSARY

HKSAR 25TH ANNIVERSARY- TWIN CITIES MELODIES CONCERT



SCO performing on stage against a backdrop of Hong Kong's mesmerising nightscape.



Guests reading exhibition panels on Hong Kong's vibrant arts and cultural scenes with interest.

In partnership with the Singapore Chinese Orchestra (SCO), we presented the **Twin Cities Melodies** concert on June 24, featuring seven songs from some of the finest pieces of Hong Kong and Singapore to celebrate the long-cherished ties of the two cities. The concert was a showcase of the artistry of talents from both cities, including Hong Kong-born SCO sheng musician Kevin Cheng. It was performed to a full house of some 500 audience in the national monument of Singapore Conference Hall.

Audience was led through a mesmerising journey of Hong Kong, experiencing the beauty of traditional and contemporary music in Kevin Cheng's sheng concerto, revisiting classic songs of Hong Kong television drama series and being immersed in the cohesive spirit of the song "Below the Lion Rock". A pre-concert exhibition **Hong Kong: where art thrives** was held at the concourse of the Singapore Conference Hall to showcase Hong Kong's vibrant arts and cultural scenes.

HKSAR 25TH ANNIVERSARY - CONVERGENCE

A hybrid event **Convergence: A Dialogue in Dance between Hong Kong and Singapore** was staged in collaboration with Singapore's Global Cultural Alliance at the National Museum of Singapore on July 30. Adapted from a namesake production by Hong Kong Dance Company (HKDC) in 2020, which blended Chinese martial arts and Chinese dance, the Singapore edition was an innovative variation that blended Chinese martial arts with Bharatanatyam (Indian Classical Dance), culminated from a two-month co-creation process after Singapore's Maya Dance Theatre (MDT) had learned elements of Chinese martial arts from HKDC in a series of online workshops and re-interpreted them in its own dance genre. The collaboration was a vivid example of how dance groups have overcome pandemic-related travel restrictions for cultural exchange while continually injecting new elements into a dance form. Some 200 guests were treated to an immersive hybrid combo of a collaborative dance film featuring HKDC and MDT, a virtual live dialogue session with HKDC joining from Hong Kong, and a live performance by MDT. In the lead up to the event, HKDC also premiered four tutorial videos featuring basic movements of Chinese martial arts demonstrated by its Artistic Director Yang Yuntao.



An in-person dance performance by Singapore's Maya Dance Theatre



A virtual live dialogue session with HKDC's Artistic Director Yang Yuntao (left) and Head of Programme and Education Candy Cheung (right)

HKSAR 25TH ANNIVERSARY - SHIPPING AND LOGISTICS SEMINAR



The Regional Head (Singapore), Hong Kong Shipping Registry, Marine Department, Mr Philip Ho (left), and the Director of the Singapore ETO, Mr Wong Chun To (right), joined industry players in a lively panel discussion.

On August 18, we held our first ever shipping and logistics themed seminar titled ***Development of Hong Kong Shipping Registry and logistics opportunities associated with Greater Bay Area (GBA)***. Co-organised with Invest Hong Kong, Marine Department and Hong Kong Maritime Arbitration Group, the seminar discussed an array of topics of interest for the maritime and logistics sectors in ASEAN, from Hong Kong's boundless opportunities as a regional hub port and a gateway to the Mainland of China for businesses in ASEAN, support rendered by Hong Kong Shipping Registry (HKSAR) to overseas shipowners, to the advantages of using Hong Kong as the seat for maritime arbitration. More than 100 industry leaders and executives joined the hybrid seminar either virtually or in-person, which was graced by Secretary for Transport and Logistics, Mr Lam Sai-hung, in a virtual keynote speech. The audience also learned from three industry players some useful tips on how to use Hong Kong as a platform to grow their businesses and tap the huge market of Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao GBA.

HKSAR 25TH ANNIVERSARY - BUSINESS SEMINAR ON RCEP, GBA AND CEPA

We co-organised a business seminar cum luncheon entitled ***Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), Greater Bay Area (GBA) and Hong Kong: What it means for Singapore Businesses*** with the Hong Kong Trade Development Council and Invest Hong Kong on August 3. Supported by the Singapore Business Federation, the Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Singapore Manufacturing Federation, and the Association of Small and Medium Enterprises, the event was well received by some 110 guests from a wide spectrum of industries. The Director of the Singapore ETO, Mr Wong Chun To, highlighted the synergistic effect of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao GBA, the RCEP, as well as the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA). In a lively panellist session, industry players from Hong Kong-Malaysia Business Association, UOB Hong Kong, and digital wealth start-up Endowus also shared their success stories of using Hong Kong to grow their markets.



Invest Hong Kong (InvestHK) together with PwC have published a comprehensive guidebook "A practical guide for setting up in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area via Hong Kong". Presenting the latest developments of the GBA from innovation and technology, professional services to creative industries, the 78-page guide outlines winning strategies to succeed in GBA, with tips on government policies and case studies from Arup, King & Wood Mallesons, Siemens, and Standard Chartered Bank. Both PwC and InvestHK encouraged businesses to add this guidebook to their toolbox.

Report can be downloaded here:

gba.investhk.gov.hk/en/resource-centre/booklet-practical-guide-setting-gba-hong-kong.html

HKSAR 25TH ANNIVERSARY - MINIATURE EXHIBITION AND YOUTH COMPETITION



We proudly announce that our April miniature exhibition ***Hong Kong: Through the Looking Glass*** has bagged a total of 4 Gold and one Bronze awards in the Marketing Events Award 2022 in collaboration with Hong Kong Tourism Board. As the first large-scale public-facing physical event since the pandemic, the exhibition has drawn over 100,000 visitors in its 14-day exhibition period, with its 40 exquisite miniature replicas showcasing Hong Kong's diversified facets from food culture, traditional festivals to architectures and intangible heritage.

1. Best Creative Element for an Event (Gold)
2. Best Government Sector/Non-Profit (Gold)
3. Best Pop-up Experience/Environment (Gold)
4. Best PR-Led Event Campaign (Gold)
5. Best Event Branding (Bronze)

A sequel of the miniature exhibition, the ***Hong Kong Story Youth Competition*** also received an overwhelming response. It invited young generation aged 18 to 30 to show their affection for Hong Kong in a four-frame collage made up of photos or sketches taken at the exhibition. Our winner has succinctly captured the essence of the city in his work titled "The Contrasts of Hong Kong's Night Scene", juxtaposing the boisterous scene of a fire dragon dance in Tai Hang with quiet alleys nearby, noting one could always find "little pockets of peace" in a city that never sleeps. He won two round-trip air tickets to Hong Kong sponsored by Hong Kong Tourism Board.



HKSAR 25TH ANNIVERSARY - HSBA BUSINESS LUNCHEON

We co-organised a business luncheon with Hong Kong Singapore Business Association (HSBA) on June 21, which was attended by 75 business leaders and executives. The Director of the Singapore ETO, Mr Wong Chun To, took the opportunity to update the guests on the latest re-organisation of Hong Kong Government in July, and re-assert Hong Kong's competitiveness in different global rankings. He also shared the city's opportunities ahead under the National 14th Five-Year Plan, as an international financial centre, an international innovation and technology hub, and an East-meets-West centre for international cultural exchange. Emphasising Hong Kong's door was always open to foreign talent, he highlighted the Quality Migrant Admission Scheme and the Talent List, as well as new pathways for overseas-trained doctors to practise in Hong Kong and the new immigration facilitation measures for visitors to participate in short-term activities in designated sectors.



The Director of the HKETO in Singapore, Mr Wong Chun To, addressed participants at the event.



Mr Wong (second left) pictured with HSBA's Chairman Mr Dennis Chiu (third left) and President Philip Chan (first right).

HONG KONG'S INNOVATIONS AT FINGERTIPS

The Innovation and Technology Commission has launched the Innovation Hub@HK website, a one-stop platform showcasing over 360 research and development (R&D) outcomes of **six research institutes** and **six universities** in Hong Kong. The cutting-edge technologies range from artificial intelligence, gerontechnology, material science to logistics, which can be applied in finance, healthcare and manufacturing sectors. The Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry, Professor Sun Dong, said Hong Kong can break through the 'zero to one' stage in innovation and technology (I&T) development, with commercialisable and scalable R&D work under collaboration between academia, research institutes and the industry. The website will incorporate in future the R&D outcomes of **28 research laboratories at InnoHK** (www.innohk.gov.hk) of Hong Kong Science Park, a HK\$10 billion flagship I&T initiative, comprising two research clusters namely Health@InnoHK (focusing on healthcare technologies) and AIR@InnoHK (focusing on artificial intelligence and robotics technologies), pooling around **2,000 eminent local and global researchers from 30 institutions in 11 economies**.

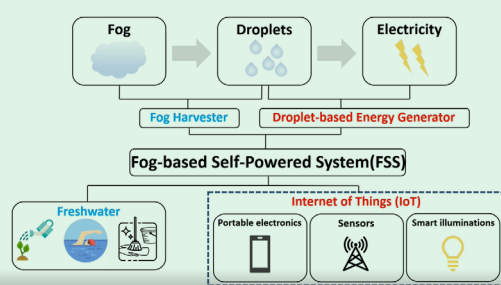
Six research institutes:

- Automotive Platforms and Application Systems (APAS) R&D Centre
- Hong Kong Applied Science and Technology Research Institute (ASTRI)
- Hong Kong Productivity Council (HKPC)
- Logistics and Supply Chain MultiTech R&D Centre (LSCM)
- Nano and Advanced Materials Institute (NAMI)
- Hong Kong Research Institute of Textiles and Apparel (HKRITA)

Six universities:

- City University of Hong Kong
- Hong Kong Baptist University
- Chinese University of Hong Kong
- Hong Kong Polytechnic University
- Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
- University of Hong Kong

Here are some examples of innovative R&D outcomes of our leading institutions:



Fog-to-electricity Generator - a single raindrop can now power 100 small LED light bulbs

The technology makes use of the kinetic energy when water droplets fall from height and hit a surface made up of polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) material, to generate electricity under a field-effect transistor (FET)-like structure, a 1956 Nobel Prize creation. Eco-friendly with a low cost, this novel energy-harvesting technology can also turn fog into fresh water, potentially tackling the global freshwater crisis.



Lip Password: double security for identity

As an alternative to biometric data like fingerprints which owners cannot change if the data is hacked, lip password can verify one's identity by simultaneously matching the password content with the underlying behavioral characteristics of lip motions. As nobody can mimic another's lip movements, this provides authentication. It is not necessary for users to read aloud when the lip sequence is analysed visually by the computer system, so people with speech disabilities can also use it. The process is also less susceptible to background noise and distance.



Food TranSmarter: the solution to food waste

Food waste is a serious global problem, with up to 1.3 billion tonnes of food waste created every year. Recycling is often hindered by high labour cost in sorting and logistics. Food TranSmarter can liquefy food waste into slurry within 1-2 hours, capturing over 97% usable materials, and leaving less than 3% waste for disposal. No pre-treatment is needed. Technologies on anaerobic digestion of food waste and production of animal feed are integrated in the system, so the slurry is converted into biogas and animal feed. The system is also clean, hygienic and odourless.

Interested to learn more about Hong Kong scientists' groundbreaking R&D?

Please check out <https://www.innovationhub.hk>

Head over to Hong Kong Science Park, the IT hub in the city: <https://www.hkstp.org/>

BELT AND ROAD SUMMIT



Deputy Prime Minister and Coordinating Minister for Economic Policies of Singapore, Mr Heng Swee Keat (centre), pictured with Deputy Financial Secretary, Mr Michael Wong (left) after the policy dialogue session.

Hong Kong was ready to partner with Belt and Road companies and economies by providing essential project financing and professional services support, innovation and technology, capacity building, cultural awareness, and wide-ranging connections. Singapore's Deputy Prime Minister and Coordinating Minister for Economic Policies, Mr Heng Swee Keat, took part in a policy dialogue session titled "Driving Growth through Partnership and Collaboration", and expressed support for Hong Kong to join the RCEP.

The seventh Belt and Road Summit was successfully held in a hybrid format on August 31 and September 1, attracting over 6,000 senior government officials and business leaders from more than 80 countries and regions. Co-organised by the HKSAR Government and the Hong Kong Trade Development Council under the theme "Heralding a New Chapter: Collaborate and Innovate", the two-day summit featured six thematic breakout sessions on different topics, four project pitching sessions, and 800 one-on-one business-matching meetings for more than 280 projects. Addressing at the opening, Chief Executive Mr John Lee pointed out that



The Chief Executive, Mr John Lee, giving an address at the event.

HONG KONG'S RECENT ACCOLADES IN DIFFERENT WORLD RANKINGS

Freest economy, again



2020. The latest Global Financial Centres Index also reaffirmed the status of Hong Kong as a leading global financial centre, which ranked among top five globally.

Hong Kong was crowned the world's freest economy again by the Fraser Institute in its Economic Freedom of the World 2022 Annual Report, a feat we have maintained since the inception of the report. Among the five areas of assessment, Hong Kong continued to rank top in "Freedom to Trade Internationally" and "Regulation". Welcoming the report, a Government spokesman added that the value of Hong Kong's asset and wealth management business reached HK\$35.5 trillion at the end of 2021, a 20 per cent increase than that in late 2019. The amount of deposits in the banking system stood at more than HK\$15 trillion in July 2022, 8.5 per cent higher than that in mid

Vibrant start-up ecosystem, to watch

In the latest Global Startup Ecosystem Report published by research organisation Startup Genome, Hong Kong scooped a second spot in the World's Top 100 Emerging Ecosystem Rankings, behind Detroit and ahead of Dublin. Gauging emerging start-up ecosystems that have high potential to be global top performers in the coming years, the report measured four success factors: Performance, Funding, Market Reach, and Talent & Experience. Indeed, Hong Kong has a vibrant ecosystem, from incubation programmes, venture funds, government funding schemes, to co-working spaces as well as clubs and associations. Check out the following page to learn more: <https://www.startmeup.hk/startup-resources/>

Air cargo hub status reaffirmed



Hong Kong International Airport was crowned "Airport of the Year 2022" at the World Air Cargo Awards hosted by Air Cargo Week. With industry players from the air freight supply chain sector to logistics suppliers voting on the winners, the award is one of the most prestigious recognitions of excellence in the global air cargo industry. Welcoming the award, Hong Kong Airport Authority said it would continue to strive for service excellence and operational efficiency, working with partners to enhance cargo services, connectivity and digitalisation to reinforce Hong Kong's status as the world's leading air cargo hub.

HONG KONG AND SHENZHEN LINKED IN VENTURE CAPITAL INVESTMENTS IN QIANHAI



Hong Kong and Shenzhen have jointly promulgated 18 measures to support the linked development of their venture capital investments in Qianhai. The 18 measures complement a three-step strategy by Hong Kong for developing the private equity fund market: introduction of the limited partnership fund (LPF) regime; tax concessions for carried interest distributed by eligible private equity funds; and establishment of a mechanism to attract foreign funds to re-domicile in Hong Kong, so as to provide clear support for the convergence of rules between Hong Kong LPFs and Qianhai Qualified

Foreign Limited Partnerships (QFLPs). Meanwhile, the Qianhai Authority will support eligible Hong Kong LPFs to set up qualified investment entities in Qianhai to commence onshore investment. It will also enhance the QFLP pilot scheme, adjusting the entry threshold and expanding the investment scope. Qianhai and Hong Kong will also explore a cross-boundary supervisory sandbox mechanism for the linked development of Shenzhen and Hong Kong private equity markets. For the full text of 18 measures, please check out: https://www.fstb.gov.hk/en/financial_ser/financial-co-operation-with-the-mainland_Full-document.html

EXPANSION OF FINANCIAL MARKETS' MUTUAL ACCESS

The China Securities Regulatory Commission will move forward to include securities of overseas enterprises that have primary listing in Hong Kong and fulfill certain conditions in the eligible scope of Southbound Trading under Stock Connect, study to set up a Renminbi securities trading counter under Southbound Trading of Stock Connect, and support the issuance of Mainland government bond futures in Hong Kong. Chief Executive Mr John Lee said these measures were significant milestones of the mutual access between the two financial markets, enriching the investment choices for investors, attracting more overseas enterprises to list in Hong Kong, and providing risk management tools for Mainland government bond investments in Hong Kong. The announcement also demonstrated support for Hong Kong to consolidate its status as an international financial centre under the National 14th Five-Year Plan. The HKSAR Government, the Securities and Futures Commission and the Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited have commenced discussion with relevant Mainland institutions and will continue the close collaboration with a view to implementing the measures promptly.



HONG KONG PhD FELLOWSHIP SCHEME

2023/24



Applications open for 2023/24 Hong Kong PhD Fellowship Scheme

The Research Grants Council (RGC) of Hong Kong has launched the Hong Kong PhD Fellowship Scheme for the 2023/24 academic year. Established in

2009, the scheme aims to attract top international students to pursue their PhD studies in Hong Kong's world-class universities. Candidates seeking admission as new full-time PhD students in HK's eight universities, irrespective of their country of origin, prior work experience and ethnic background, are eligible. The fellowship provides an annual stipend of HK\$325,200 (approximately US\$41,690) and a conference and research-related travel allowance of HK\$13,600 (approximately US\$1,740) per year for each awardee for up to three years. A total of 300 PhD fellowships will be awarded in 2023/24 academic year. Application will close at 12 noon (HK time) on December 1 2022. Those interested in this fellowship should first complete an initial application through RGC's electronic system, before submitting full applications for their selected PhD programmes to the proposed universities. Please check out <https://bit.ly/3qHX7Xf> for details.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM WEST KOWLOON CULTURAL DISTRICT

Summer has been a bountiful season for Hong Kong's cultural scene as we greeted the opening of the Hong Kong Palace Museum and M+ Cinema in the West Kowloon Cultural District, two world-class facilities that will delight and inspire history and movie lovers alike. Here are our editorial picks of some of the highlights.

Hong Kong Palace Museum



"Entering the Forbidden City: Architecture, Collection and Heritage" exhibition

Built on Beijing's central axis, the position of the Forbidden City testifies to its significance to Chinese politics and culture. Reconstructed many times, it was during the Qing dynasty that the current layout of the Forbidden City emerged. This exhibition features over 100 significant works from the Palace Museum in Beijing, shedding light on the architectures and legacy of the Qing dynasty.



"From Dawn to Dusk: Life in the Forbidden City" exhibition

Follow in the footsteps of the emperors and empresses of the Forbidden City and experience the court life in the eighteenth century. With over 300 sumptuous treasures from the Palace Museum, you will experience significant events in an ordinary day, as well as the joy and sorrow of life in the Forbidden City.

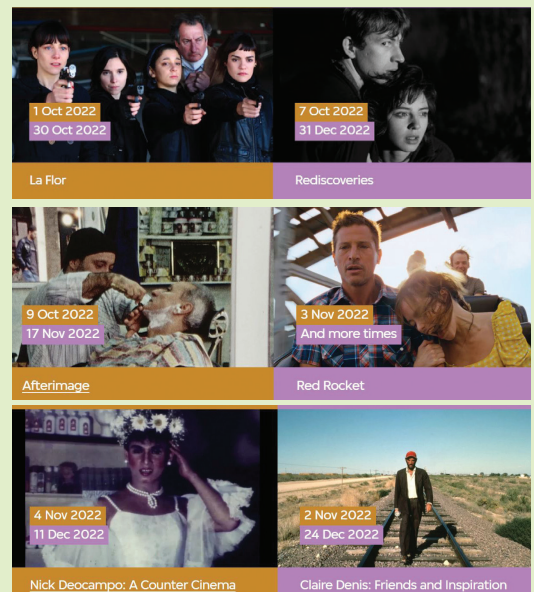
For details, please check out: <https://www.hkpm.org.hk>



M+ Cinema

M+ Cinema comprises three houses of 180 seats, 60 seats, and 40 seats designed by world-renowned Swiss architecture firm Herzog & de Meuron, Italian furniture maker Poltrona Frau and

Danish design company Kvadrat. Equipped with digital and analogue 16mm and 35mm projection facilities and a Dolby 7.1 sound system, M+ Cinema features a wide range of moving image works, including feature films, documentaries, experimental cinema, video art and restored classics. The programmes are cross-disciplinary in nature, seeking to respond to M+ museum's own exhibitions and collections, so as to inspire conversations and intellectual exchanges for an immersive visual culture experience. Here are some of the exciting film line-ups in coming months:



For details, please check out: <https://www.mplus.org.hk/en/cinema/>

For more M+ events, please subscribe to its newsletter at www.mplus.org.hk/en/newsletter/

Learn about M+'s collections here: www.mplus.org.hk/en/collection/

COMMENTS / SUGGESTIONS

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