

HONG KONG ECONOMIC AND TRADE OFFICE IN SINGAPORE

HONG KONG FILES

HONG KONG
 ASIA'S WORLD CITY

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Miniature Hong Kong coming to Singapore



Yue Man Square

In celebration of the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (HKETO) in Singapore unveiled *Hong Kong: Through the Looking Glass* miniature exhibition at Suntec City in Singapore. As a debut in the city-state, the exhibition was met with great fanfare, drawing over 100,000 visitors over its 14-day period from April 4 to 17. A total of 40 handmade miniature models were shipped in, bringing Hong Kong's past and present to life as they showcased diversified facets of Hong Kong from food, culture, traditional festivals to architectures and intangible heritage.

Iconic heritage buildings like Tai O Heritage Hotel and the State Theatre, and vivid scenes of festivities like Cheung Chau Bun-Scrambling Competition and Tai Hang Fire Dragon Dance were recast in the exhibition. Visitors took



The State Theatre

delights as they marvelled at the incredible level of detail featured in each exhibit. The glittering *Yue Man Square* exhibit, featuring an old Kwun Tong with bright neon lights and busy neighbourhoods, was the centre of attention. Visitors were excited to see animated scenes of fireworks lighting up in the background by scanning a QR code. The *Bamboo Theatre* exhibit equally drew praise from the visitors, with its array of hand painted light bulbs and intricate large flower board, an epitome of the finest skills of miniature artists.



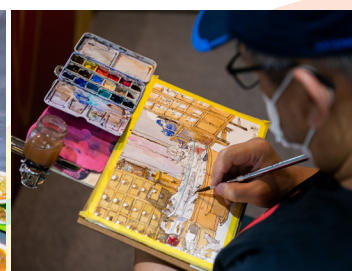
Bamboo Theatre



Attentive participants at the miniature workshops



"Bites" of miniature food



Urban sketcher



Barber shop given a second life on drawing paper by urban sketcher

MINIATURE HONG KONG COMING TO SINGAPORE

To enhance public engagement, nine free guided workshops on miniature craft were held on the weekends, for participants to create their own “bites” of miniature food. Complimentary giveaways of limited edition colouring books also drew an overwhelming response from the public. Urban Sketchers, a group of artists passionate about sketching, captured the nostalgic charm of iconic buildings, giving them a second life on drawing paper. The exhibition, rich in cultural perspectives, also attracted the visit of a group of students from Nanyang Technological University studying a module on “Hong Kong Literature and Culture In Global Perspective”. Speaking at the opening ceremony of the event, the Director of the HKETO in Singapore, Mr Wong Chun To, said the exhibition promoted among Singaporeans a better understanding of Hong Kong, reinforcing the city's status as an attractive destination.



D(SG) ENGAGES SINGAPORE BUSINESS COMMUNITY



With the support of the HKETO in Singapore, Hong Kong Singapore Business Association (HSBA) held the Chinese New Year Business Luncheon on February 11, marking the first of a series of celebratory events for the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. In his welcoming speech, the Director of the HKETO in Singapore, Mr Wong Chun To, gave an update on Hong Kong's latest developments. Elaborating on the theme of the 25th anniversary, “A New Era — Stability • Prosperity • Opportunity”, he recounted how Hong Kong had regained stability with the National Security Law and improvements to the electoral system. He also shared the city's opportunities ahead, as an international aviation hub, an international innovation and technology hub, a regional intellectual property trading centre, and an East-meets-West centre for international cultural exchange.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW FOR YOUR HONG KONG TRIP

HONG KONG TO RE-OPEN TO NON RESIDENTS FROM MAY 1



Effective from May 1, Hong Kong is open to fully-vaccinated non-Hong Kong residents. Here is a list of FAQs.

1. What do I need to prepare for my Hong Kong trip?

Proof of vaccination, negative PCR test within 48 hours pre-boarding, booking of a quarantined hotel room for at least 7 days, online health declaration. Persons previously infected with COVID-19 can board a flight if they hold a medical certificate showing they were infected 14 to 90 days prior to boarding and have recovered, and a negative result of the rapid antigen test (RAT) conducted within 24 hours before boarding.

2. How many days can I stay in Hong Kong?

The length of your visa-free stay will depend on the type of passport (country) you hold. Please check out Immigration Department's website <https://bit.ly/3xlsEkN> Compulsory quarantine days are counted in the number of visa-free days. Indian nationals are required to complete pre-arrival registration (PAR). Please click here: <https://bit.ly/3aO1oUw>

3. What kind of activities can I do in my capacity as a 'visitor'?

Please check: <https://bit.ly/39eADrU> If a longer stay is required or you have to engage in other activities, you

need to apply for a proper visa: <https://bit.ly/3O4TYum> For further enquiries on visa matters, please call Immigration Department directly on (+852) 2824 6111 or email to enquiry@immd.gov.hk

4. Can I transit via Hong Kong to Mainland China?

As of this publication date, transit to Mainland China remains not allowed. You have to spend 7 days in a Hong Kong quarantined hotel. For entry into the Mainland China, you have to take an additional outbound test on top of any quarantine and testing arrangements required by your destination: <https://bit.ly/3NOaTBR>

5. From May 31, “vaccine Pass” will be implemented in most Hong Kong premises. How can I get the vaccine pass?

You can declare your non-local vaccination records when conducting the online health declaration, to obtain a “Provisional Vaccine Pass”, which is valid within 180 days from the date of arrival. For details, please check: www.covidvaccine.gov.hk/pdf/nonlocalvacc_ENG.pdf

Important note:

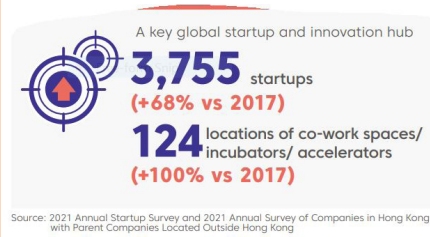
Due to the fluid nature of epidemic, please check this page for the latest measures www.coronavirus.gov.hk/eng/inbound-travel.html

You can also scan QR code to access HKETO's COVID-19 page:



HONG KONG COMMITTED TO TALENT ATTRACTION

For years Hong Kong's vibrant lifestyle, enviable location in the heart of Asia, a simple low tax regime and world-class infrastructures have drawn talent worldwide to pursue their dreams here. Like other cities Hong Kong saw population fluctuations as epidemic-related travel curbs slowed inflows of people. The number of talents arriving via the General Employment Policy and the Admission Scheme for Mainland Talents and Professionals temporarily dipped in 2020 amid the epidemic, yet rebounded nearly 20 per cent last year. We also saw a steady rise in the number of registered non-Hong Kong companies, from 13 752 in end-2020 to 14,497 in May this year, showing the city's tenacity. The start-up scene is flourishing as ever, up 68% from 2017 to 3,755 startups in 2021. 28% of founders are non-locals, evidencing Hong Kong remains a great place of doing business for the venturous.



Keen to learn about incubation programmes, funding schemes or even networking groups in Hong Kong? Check out this comprehensive guide: www.startmeup.hk/startup-resources/

As a city that thrives on the convergence of ideas and institutional strengths, we value human capital and are committed to attracting high quality talent, having doubled the annual quota of the Quality Migrant Admission Scheme (QMAS) to 4,000. Applicants need not secure a job offer in Hong Kong in advance. To diversify our economy into priority sectors we have drawn up a Talent List. These 13 professions will gain bonus points under QMAS.



Please check out www.talentlist.gov.hk for jobs covered in each profession



IT talent attraction

Hong Kong Science Park's HK\$10 billion (SGD 1.75 billion) flagship project **InnoHK** has attracted over 30 world-renowned universities and research institutes to pair up with local universities in setting up 28 research laboratories, pooling around 2,000 researchers globally in scientific research projects. The first cluster **Health@InnoHK** focuses on healthcare-related technologies while second cluster **AIR@InnoHK** focuses on artificial intelligence and robotics. **InnoCell** provides smart living space with 500 affordable accommodation units for I&T community. Please check out www.innohk.gov.hk



HONG KONG COMMITTED TO TALENT ATTRACTION

A **Hong Kong-Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Park (HSITP)** will be built in phases from end-2024 in **Lok Ma Chau Loop** on Hong Kong side. Together with the **Shenzhen Innovation & Technology Zone (SZ I&T Zone)** on Shenzhen side, it will form a 540-hectare Shenzhen-Hong Kong Innovation & Technology Co-operation Zone, a “one zone, two parks” initiative under the auspices of “one country, two systems”. There will also be a **Shenzhen branch of Hong Kong Science Park** in the SZ I&T Zone, to help institutes and enterprises **tap the opportunities in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA)**. Both Hong Kong and Shenzhen governments have signed a Joint Policy Package to facilitate **flow of talent** in the co-operation zone.

Other talent attraction schemes include:

Technology Talent Admission Scheme (TechTAS) fast tracks eligible technology companies to admit research and development (R&D) talent in 13 technology areas.

Immigration Arrangements for Non-local Graduates allows non-local students obtaining an undergraduate or higher qualification in a Hong Kong full-time accredited programme to stay for one year.

Admission Scheme for the Second Generation of Chinese Hong Kong Permanent Residents helps second generation of emigrated Chinese Hong Kong permanent residents, aged 18-40, to return to Hong Kong without the need to first secure a job offer.

InvestHK offers free and confidential customised services below to support settlement in Hong Kong. Check out website www.liveworkhongkong.gov.hk or email to liveworkhongkong@investhk.gov.hk

 Advice on settling in Hong Kong	 Visa application, employment & tax-related issues	 Career opportunities or talent matching
 HKSAR government funding schemes or other support initiatives	 Identification of suitable incubation or acceleration programmes	

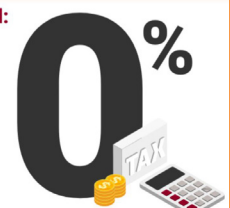
New Pathway for Non-locally Trained Doctors to work in HK



The Hong Kong Government has announced a new pathway for non-locally trained doctors to practise in the city. The first two batches of recognised medical qualifications comprise 50 medical programs from overseas medical schools, including one from the National University of Singapore. Subject to fulfilling certain criteria, they may apply for special registration to practise in the public healthcare institutions (i.e. the Hospital Authority, the Department of Health, the University of Hong Kong and the Chinese University of Hong Kong) in Hong Kong. After serving for a certain period, obtaining recognised specialist qualifications and passing the assessment, they will be granted full registration to practise in Hong Kong. If you yearn for a different lifestyle in a foreign city blending urban and nature and with low and simple tax regime (salary rate capped at 15%), please check out <https://bit.ly/3mME1xe>

**Levies are low in HK,
none of these taxes are imposed:**

- Sales Tax
- VAT
- Withholding Tax
- Capital Gains Tax
- Estate Tax
- Tax On Dividends

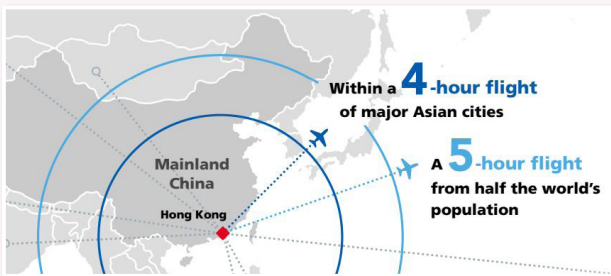


WHY ARBITRATE AND MEDIATE IN HONG KONG?

Under the National 14th Five-Year Plan, Hong Kong was given support to develop into a centre for international legal and dispute resolution services in the Asia-Pacific region. Crowned the third most popular seat for arbitration in Queen Mary University of London's 2021 survey, and recognised as the fourth maritime arbitration venue under BIMCO Law and Arbitration Clause 2020, Hong Kong's strengths are multifold.

Deep pool of legal professionals

We have a robust legal sector of local and foreign lawyers from 33 jurisdictions, with a wealth of expertise in different areas, from commerce and finance, maritime to construction and intellectual property. Parties are free to appoint arbitrators of their own choice with no restrictions on nationality. Hong Kong's Talent List has also included legal professionals specialised in resolving international financial and investor-state disputes and transactional lawyers. They will be given bonus points under Quality Migrant Admission Scheme to apply for residency in the city.



Strategic position in the heart of Asia

Within a five-hour flying zone to half the world's population, Hong Kong's proximity to Mainland China offers boundless opportunities in dispute resolution in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA) and Belt and Road countries.

Under a pilot scheme, four groups of people (arbitrators, experts & factual witnesses, counsel, and parties to an arbitration) can visit Hong Kong to participate in arbitral proceedings without first obtaining employment visas, provided they are from the list of 'visa-free' countries and can produce the work proof, subject to prevailing COVID-related measures.

Worldwide enforceability of arbitral awards

The decisions of arbitrations, known as arbitral awards, conducted in Hong Kong can be enforced in over 160 Contracting States, as well as Mainland China and Macao, under New York Convention and two arrangements. Where necessary, parties can make simultaneous enforcement applications to both Mainland and Hong Kong courts, to secure fruits of arbitration.



First and only jurisdiction to seek interim measures from Mainland courts

Under a game-changing agreement signed in 2019, parties to Hong Kong-seated arbitrations administered by designated arbitral institutions can seek interim measures from courts of Mainland China on preservation of evidence, conduct and property, before the arbitral award is made.

This prevents someone from deliberately destroying the evidence or transferring the property. Hong Kong is the only jurisdiction outside the Mainland China that can provide this service.



WHY ARBITRATE AND MEDIATE IN HONG KONG?

Strong cluster of reputable organisations at the Legal Hub

The Legal Hub, comprising heritage buildings converted from former Central Government Offices and former French Mission Building and commercial space in the CBD, houses a total of 25 local, regional and international law-related organisations. This cluster of organisations provides synergy and is a testament to Hong Kong's premier status as a legal and dispute resolution services hub.



Pro-arbitration approach and availability of third-party funding

When two disputing parties have a valid arbitration agreement, Hong Kong courts usually order court proceedings be stayed in favour of arbitration, and uphold the wide discretion of arbitrators. Third party funding is permissible for arbitration. Moreover, under a proposed bill, parties will be given the option of linking legal fees to the successful outcome of the case or recovery of claimed amount, thus sharing the risks in arbitration with their lawyers, and creating a win-win situation.

Arbitrability of intellectual property disputes

The Arbitration Ordinance allows intellectual property (IP) disputes, whether within or outside Hong Kong, to be resolved by arbitration. Hong Kong has also signed an agreement with Mainland China on reciprocal recognition and enforcement of judgments in civil and commercial matters, which covers judgments involving IP rights.



Promotion of mediation

Hong Kong Mediation Ordinance encourages the wider use of mediation as an effective means of dispute resolution. Hong Kong is the first jurisdiction in Asia to have apology legislation to encourage the making of apologies to prevent escalation of disputes and facilitate an amicable resolution.

Role as training and capacity building centre in GBA and beyond

With the CEPA Mediation Mechanism in place, we are developing a bespoke training programme to build up a team of investment mediators in Asia, aiming to develop Hong Kong as a training and capacity building centre. We are also harmonising rules by promulgating unified accreditation standards and code of conduct best practice for mediators in the GBA, to foster standardisation and professionalism of mediation services in the GBA, a city cluster of 86 million.



HONG KONG'S ACCOLADES IN WORLD RANKINGS

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) released a Staff Report reaffirming Hong Kong's position as a major global financial centre with a resilient financial system, sound macroprudential policies, and robust regulatory and supervisory frameworks. Recognising Hong Kong's financial sector had continued expanding robustly, even during the pandemic, IMF commended the city for making significant progress in addressing climate change in the past decade, noting its ongoing efforts to enhance the green and sustainable finance ecosystem. Financial Secretary Paul Chan welcomed the report, saying Hong Kong would continue to strengthen the already robust institutional frameworks with a view to fostering economic recovery after the pandemic and safeguarding financial stability.

Hong Kong also retained its position as one of the world's top fund-raising centres, ranking fourth globally for Initial Public Offering (IPO) funds raised in 2021. Despite the challenging global business environment last year, Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited noted that an overwhelming majority, over 88 per cent of funds raised, was related to new economy and biotech IPOs. HKEx also recorded record revenue and other income in 2021, with core business revenue up by 10% year on year.

In the Global Financial Centres Index (GFCI) 31 Report by UK's Z/Yen and the Shenzhen's China Development Institute, Hong Kong maintained the third place globally. A Government spokesman said Hong Kong remained among the top in various



areas of competitiveness, including business environment, human capital, infrastructure, and reputational and general.

In the latest Smart Centres Index developed by Z/Yen which explored the ability of global commercial centres to harness technology and science, Hong Kong jumped two places to rank No.3 globally, making itself the only Asia-Pacific centre in the top 10 among the 131 centres researched. The ranking tracks three dimensions related to I&T: innovation support, creative intensity and delivery capability. Hong Kong especially performed well in the dimension of "Creative Intensity", ranking second globally only after New York.

Singapore social enterprise Dignity Kitchen coming to Hong Kong



Photo credit: Invest Hong Kong

Founder of Dignity Kitchen Koh Seng Choon

Located in the heart of Hong Kong's bustling Mong Kok neighbourhood is Dignity Kitchen, a social enterprise utilising Singaporean hawker cuisine as an enabler for challenged individuals to learn catering skills. The initiative was first launched by Koh Seng Choon in 2010 in Singapore, before commencing operation in Hong Kong in 2019 upon the invitation of the Urban Renewal Authority, with the vision of helping disadvantaged groups through career development via a social innovation model.

A variety of mouth-watering Singapore-style dishes, including Bak Chor Mee, Hainan chicken rice, laksa, claypot rice and nasi lemak, are offered at Dignity Kitchen's seven stalls, which are reminiscent



Photo credit: Dignity Kitchen

Staff members with disabilities are given special training

of Dai Pai Dongs. What sets Dignity Kitchen apart from its peers is its practical training and support for the disabled in learning culinary skills and serving customers. Through tailor-made kitchen tools, staff members are able to overcome their disabilities to realise their potential and work independently for self-reliance and social integration.

Among the 67 staff members employed, 54 had disabilities or special needs. Koh Seng Choon found a secret recipe in staff training by recruiting retired airline trainers, noting their core attributes including patience and adaptability in dealing with people of different backgrounds often made them great teachers for the physically challenged. Dignity Kitchen is looking at setting up a second kitchen on Hong Kong Island, a vote of confidence in the city.

Ultimately, many would agree that Dignity Kitchen's good food not only nourishes the body and soul but also empowers individuals and serves a good cause.

HONG KONG SPOTLIGHT

Highlights from West Kowloon Cultural District

M+, Asia's flagship museum of visual culture, is well received by the public. Here are our editorial picks of its events and online treasures that you can enjoy from the comfort of your couch free from visiting Hong Kong.



Scan the QR code for a vivid tour of the exhibition led by veteran M+ curators.

Hong Kong: Here and Beyond exhibition

Divided into four chapters - *Here*, *Identities*, *Places*, and *Beyond*, this exhibition captures Hong Kong's transformation from the post-war decades to the present day. Home to ground-breaking artists, architects, designers, and filmmakers, the city is a site of intense creative ferment and social and cultural transformation.

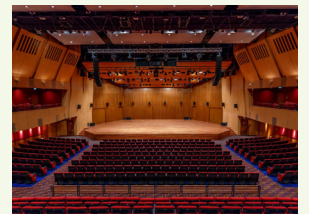
Lim Chong Keat: Building Singapore and Malaysia



One of the faces behind the now declared national monuments Singapore Conference Hall and Jurong Town Hall, architect Lim Chong Keat and his firm Architects Team 3 played an important role during Singapore's nation-building period in 1960s–1980s.



In this video, Lim shared the stories behind some of his iconic projects, his friendship with US architect Buckminster Fuller, and his philosophy in architecture.



Singapore Conference Hall



Jurong Town Hall

Fan Ho, On the 'Decisive Moment'



Photo credit: M+



Photo credit: M+

Internationally acclaimed photographer Fan Ho was known for his mastery of lights and shadows. In this video, he talked about how black-and-white photos offer him a distance from real life, and what art meant for him. Learn also 10 facts about Fan Ho.



For more M+ events, please subscribe to its newsletter at www.mplus.org.hk/en/newsletter/
Learn also M+'s collections here: www.mplus.org.hk/en/collection/

COMMENTS / SUGGESTIONS

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