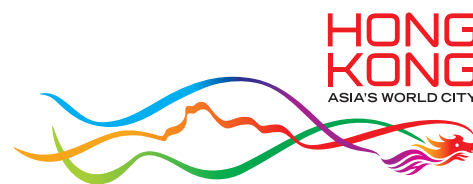


HONG KONG FILES



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Chief Executive completed his trip to ASEAN on a high note



Meeting with Deputy Prime Minister Mr Lawrence Wong (left)



Meeting with Deputy Prime Minister Mr Heng Swee Keat (right)



The Chief Executive Mr John Lee meeting with Prime Minister of Singapore, Mr Lee Hsien Loong (right)

Hong Kong and Singapore share the same cosmopolitan characteristics, rooted in Asian culture and values. Hong Kong is known for its "Lion Rock Spirit", the can-do attitude and the perseverance of our resilient people. Singapore is renowned as a Lion City for its courage, strength and excellence. We are two valiant, nimble and fast-paced lions from the East, with a wide world of opportunities ahead of us.

~ Excerpt of Chief Executive John Lee's keynote speech at the business dinner

The Hon John KC Lee, GBM, SBS, PDSM, PMSM
The Chief Executive
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of
the People's Republic of China



The Chief Executive (CE) Mr John Lee led a high-level delegation comprising five senior officials and over 20 prominent business leaders in his trip to three countries of Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in July 2023. In the first stop of Singapore, he attended a breakfast meeting hosted by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Mr Lawrence Wong, followed by a meeting and lunch hosted by the Prime Minister, Mr Lee Hsien Loong. CE highlighted that Singapore has consistently been HK's largest trading partner in ASEAN, and competition and collaboration come hand in hand in a closely-connected global economy today. Both cities would continue to be active partners in playing a leading role to help advance regional developments. CE also thanked Singapore for supporting Hong Kong's accession to the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), adding that HK stands ready to engage in discussions with RCEP members to lay the groundwork for formal negotiations. Addressing about 200 prominent government officials and businessmen in a business dinner, CE highlighted HK's unique advantages under "one country, two systems" and the latest opportunities in Hong Kong.





Photo shows (from left) the Director of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Singapore, Mr Owin Fung; Consul General of Singapore in Hong Kong, Mr Ong Siew Gay; Minister in the Prime Minister's Office of Singapore, Ms Indraneel Rajah; Secretary for Transport and Logistics, Mr Lam Sai-hung; Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Mr Algernon Yau; Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance of Singapore, Mr Lawrence Wong; Chief Executive, Mr John Lee; Deputy Financial Secretary, Mr Michael Wong; Minister for Manpower of Singapore, Dr Tan See Leng; Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry, Professor Sun Dong; Senior Minister of State of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of National Development of Singapore, Ms Sim Ann; and Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury, Mr Christopher Hui.



Enterprises and institutions of HK and Singapore signed 7 memoranda of understanding (MoU) on areas including trade, financial services, fintech, innovation and technology, and research collaboration during CE's visit.



Mr John Lee met with the Secretary-General of ASEAN, Dr Kao Kim Hourn (right). ASEAN has long been HK's second-largest trading partner. Mr Lee thanked ASEAN member states for supporting HK's accession to the RCEP, and looked forward to maintaining close communication with the ASEAN Secretariat on relevant issues.



The delegation visited a major Singaporean enterprise Meinhardt, noting that its success in using Hong Kong as a springboard to tap the Mainland market could inspire other Singaporean and ASEAN enterprises to follow suit.

Success of the ASEAN trip (Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia)



1.



The Chief Executive has built friendship and communication with the leaders of 3 countries, and established communication with the Secretary-General of ASEAN;

2.



A total of **33** MOUs and agreements were signed, covering trading and commerce, investment, finance, innovation and technology, logistics, academic research and cultural exchange.

3.



Singapore, Indonesia and Malaysia have reaffirmed their support to HK's accession to the RCEP.

4.



HK and Singaporean governments have agreed to reconvene within this year the civil service exchange programme suspended during the pandemic.

5.



The Malaysian government has extended the visa-free entry for HKSAR passport holders from one month to 90 days.