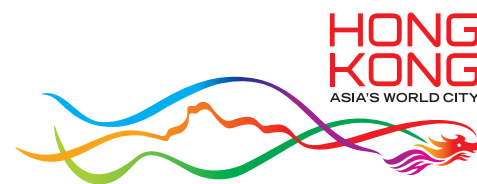


HONG KONG FILES



Issue No.2/2023

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)

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.

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



Singapore - Hong Kong :
Partnering for Success





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.

Young talented HK Cantonese opera actors landing in Singapore



In a year marking the 14th anniversary of Cantonese Opera being inscribed onto UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, we were delighted to greet a troupe of young actors aged between 5 and 16 from Sing Fai Cantonese Opera Promotion Association. The troupe staged two public performances at the Kreta Ayer People's Theatre in July, presenting a tapestry of time-honoured excerpts of Chinese classics and touching stories through well-calibrated singing, acting, gesturing and acrobatics. The performances also brought together 5 young musicians from Hong Kong and Singapore, to co-create Cantonese opera music in an attempt to rejuvenate the genre. In another fruitful cultural exchange session with Nam Hwa Opera, the troupe gained new insights in watching each other's performances while building friendship with their peers in Singapore.



Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry visits Singapore



Professor Sun Dong (left) met Deputy Prime Minister and Coordinating Minister for Economic Policies of Singapore, Mr Heng Swee Keat (right)

The Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry, Professor Sun Dong, visited Singapore in May. He visited the National University of Singapore (NUS) and learned the university's efforts to bring researches to application and commercialisation. He then toured the Centre for Quantum Technologies and the Mechanobiology Institute. He met with Deputy Prime Minister and Coordinating Minister for Economic Policies of Singapore, Mr Heng Swee Keat, and briefed him on Hong Kong's latest developments in innovation and technology (I&T). Professor Sun also joined a business luncheon attended by some 100 leaders and executives from the Singaporean I&T community, and took the opportunity to share Hong Kong's vision in the relevant sectors. He also called on the Minister for Communications and Information, Mrs Josephine Teo, to exchange views on data, artificial intelligence, and smart city. In his last stop, he toured JTC Corporation's One-north, a vibrant research and business park with leading companies in biomedical sciences and advanced manufacturing as well as science and research institutes.



Professor Sun Dong (third right) was briefed by JTC Corporation on its various landmark projects



Professor Sun Dong (left) called on the Minister for Communications and Information, Mrs Josephine Teo (right)



Professor Sun Dong delivered a thematic speech at a business luncheon

Secretary for Housing visits Singapore

The Secretary for Housing, Ms Winnie Ho, led a delegation from the Housing Bureau, Housing Department, HK Housing Authority and HK Housing Society to visit Singapore in August. She met with the Minister for National Development of Singapore, Mr Desmond Lee, and learned Singapore's overall land use planning, development strategies and direction. To deepen the understanding of Singapore's green building, age-friendly home and construction technologies, the delegation toured the Tiong Bahru Market, Punggol Eco-Town, SkyVille@Dawson, Kampung Admiralty, as well as projects adopting Modular Integrated Construction (MiC). Ms Ho was pleased to share with Building and Construction Authority's CEO Mr Kelvin Wong that among public housing projects to be completed in 2028-29 to 2032-33 in HK, no less than half would adopt the MiC approach to enhance construction efficiency, quality and site safety. Ms Ho also called on the CEO of the Housing & Development Board (HDB) of Singapore, Mr Tan Meng Dui.



The delegation toured the public housing project SkyVille@Dawson



Ms Winnie Ho (left) met Minister for National Development of Singapore, Mr Desmond Lee (right).



Meeting with officials from the HDB team

Secretary for Security visits Vietnam and Singapore

The Secretary for Security, Mr Tang Ping-keung, visited Vietnam and Singapore in August to strengthen collaboration and exchanges in immigration matters, national security, crime prevention, and prison management and rehabilitation services. In Vietnam, Mr Tang witnessed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) by the Director of Immigration, Mr Au Ka-wang, and the Director General of Immigration Department of Vietnam, Mr Pham Dang Khoa, on enhancing co-operation in immigration matters. He also met with Deputy Minister of Public Security of Vietnam and Senior Lieutenant General, Mr Luong Tam Quang, as well as heads of the Department of External Security, the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Foreign Relations, exchanging views on anti-terrorism and safeguarding national security. In Singapore, he called on the Senior Minister of Singapore, Mr Teo Chee Hean, and met with the Permanent Secretary (National Security and Intelligence Coordination), Mr Leo Yip. In the meeting with the Minister for Home Affairs and Minister for Law, Mr K Shanmugam, they discussed training of and exchanges between the disciplined forces in the two cities, as well as combating drugs, to explore further room for co-operation. He also shared views on talent attraction initiatives and related visa facilitations with Minister for Manpower, Dr Tan See Leng. In another call on Commissioner of the Singapore Police Force, Mr Hoong Wee Teck, Mr Tang expressed hope for enhancing professional capabilities together. He also visited the INTERPOL Global Complex for Innovation to learn more about its innovative and advanced solutions in combating cybercrimes. Accompanied by the Commissioner of Correctional Services, Mr Wong Kwok-hing, Mr Tang toured the Changi Prison Complex and Selarang Park Community Supervision Centre to learn about technology applications at local prisons, and how to assist persons in custody in further studies and counselling service. In both Vietnam and Singapore, Mr Tang took the opportunity to meet the local HK communities to learn about their living and aspirations in the two places.



The signing of MOU between Vietnam and Hong Kong



Mr Tang (centre) at the INTERPOL Global Complex for Innovation.



Mr Tang (left) met with the Minister for Home Affairs and Minister for Law, Mr K Shanmugam (right).

Talent attraction



Under Secretary for Labour and Welfare, Mr Ho Kai-ming, delivered a career talk at the campus of National University of Singapore.






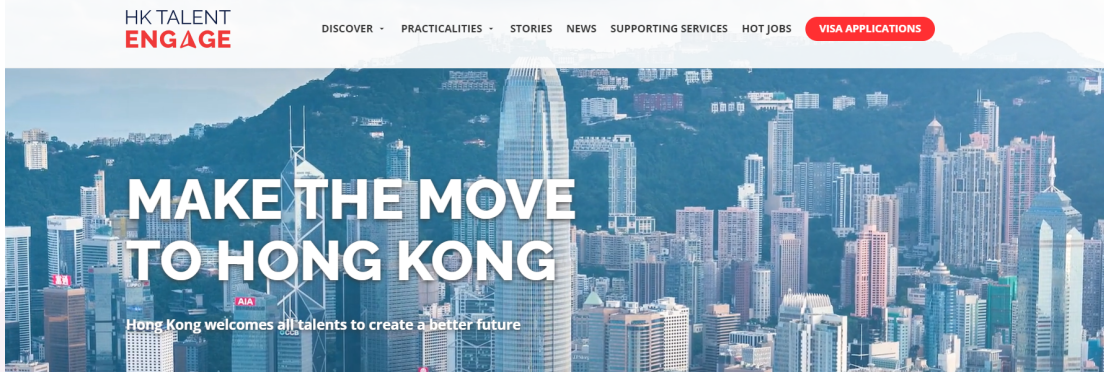
In a discussion panel moderated by NUS MBA student Shivam Tiwari (right), Mr Ho Kai-ming (middle) and Professor Ming Wai-kit (left) of the City University of Hong Kong shared different talent admission schemes and the life and work experiences in HK.



NUS student was keen to explore career opportunities in HK.

As part of HK Government's efforts to attract foreign talent, the Under Secretary for Labour and Welfare, Mr Ho Kai-ming, delivered a career talk at the campus of National University of Singapore (NUS) in August. Addressing about 100 students at scene, including undergraduate and MBA students from the Business School, Mr Ho shared HK's latest market trends and gave a walkthrough of different talent admission schemes. Professor Ming Wai-kit of the City University of Hong Kong also shared his personal experience to work and live in Hong Kong, and the support given by the government and non-government organisations including Hong Kong Quality And Talent Migrants Association to new migrants. Mr Ho highlighted that recent talent attraction effort was bearing fruit - as of end-July, around 120 000 applications had been received under various talent admission schemes, with over 75 000 approved and over 38 000 people arriving in HK. Of which, 30 000 applications had been approved under the newly-launched Top Talent Pass Scheme (TTPS), including about 270 friends from NUS and Nanyang Technological University, two of the world's top 100 universities. One merit of TTPS is the exemption of the need to first secure a job offer before coming to HK. It consists of three categories:

| | | | | |
|---|----|--|------------------------|--|
| <p>Category A</p>  | OR | <p>Category B</p>  | OR | <p>Category C</p>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> with annual salary reaching HK\$2.5 million or above in the year immediately preceding the date of application | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> degree graduates from the world's top 100 universities prescribed in four designated world university rankings with at least three years of work experience in the past five years | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> degree graduates from the world's top 100 universities in the past five years with less than three years of work experience |
| no quota | | | annual quota of 10 000 | |



HK Talent Engage (www.hkengage.gov.hk) is a one-stop portal that guides you at your fingertips



Scan to follow HK Talent Engage (LinkedIn and WeChat)

Hong Kong's Talent List expanded to 51 professions under 9 industry segments

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| Business support | Creative Industries, Arts and Culture, Performing Arts | Development and Construction |
| Environmental Technology Services | Financial Services | Healthcare Services |
| Innovation and Technology | Legal and Dispute Resolution Services | Maritime Services |

HK Talent Engage (www.hkengage.gov.hk), a one-stop portal with a matching tool to guide you at your fingertips to choose the most suitable admission scheme with a direct link to apply online has been set up. For those who are not degree graduates of the world's top 100 universities, they are advised to browse other talent admission schemes, and read the updated Talent List (<https://www.talentlist.gov.hk>).



Summer Interns' Gathering

16 HK university students gathered in our office on August 7 for a fun-filled night of online games testing one's knowledge of Singapore and sharing snippets of their internship experience amid a delicious dinner and souvenir giveaways. They were part of the latest cohort of 60 interns working in different countries under the ASEAN Internship Scheme for Hong Kong Higher Education Students co-organised by the Singapore, Jakarta and Bangkok Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs), revived this year after a 3-year pandemic hiatus. First launched in 2014, the scheme aims to expand the international horizons of students, foster bilateral HK-ASEAN ties, and cultivate culturally savvy leaders of tomorrow. To date, over 860 students have been interns in over 100 organisations in the ASEAN region in the past years, working in three ETOs, overseas offices of the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, the APEC Secretariat, and various private companies in the fields of aviation, port, finance, law, education and MICE.



On August 7, 16 students currently interning in Singapore connected with each other in a unique gathering in the office of Singapore ETO.

Join us!



We welcome all companies with presence in the ASEAN region to provide valuable internship opportunities for Hong Kong students. You can choose among a rich pool of students specialised in various disciplines in 11 tertiary institutions, gain fresh perspectives from our Hong Kong young generation, or even identify talents to assist in your company's future expansion in ASEAN region and Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA). We treasure connectivity as much as cultural diversity. Join us in this meaningful endeavour - visit our website (<https://www.hketosin.gov.hk/internship.php>) for more details or email us at hketo_sin@hketosin.gov.hk.



Catherine (in dress in above photo) and Grace (right photo) sharing their internship experiences at law firm Robert Wang & Woo LLP and Hong Kong Trade Development Council's overseas office respectively.



Ruby (second from left) from The Chinese University of Hong Kong and Shirwen (middle) from Hong Kong Baptist University relished every opportunity to learn marketing at the Singapore Film Society.



Yvonne (left) from Hong Kong Shue Yan University joined a zoom meeting with an automobile client at Team Synergy, an event planning and management company in Singapore. She learned first-hand about the workflow of organising exhibitions and product launches.

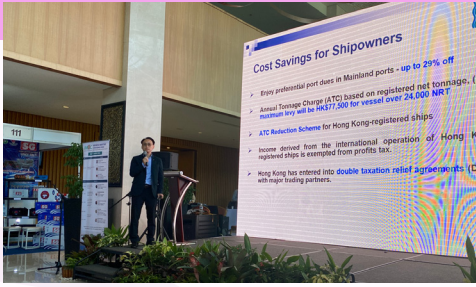
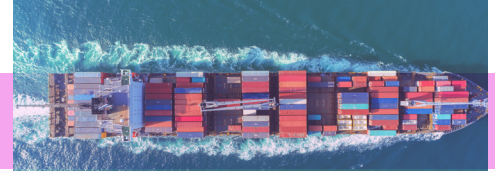


Student interns celebrated new friendships made during their internship.

The Singapore ETO held a background briefing last year to introduce the scheme to organisations and companies interested in joining the scheme.



Shipping Registry and Investment Promotion teams join two maritime expos



Mr Philip Ho giving a presentation to participants of IMOEX.

Our dedicated Shipping Registry and Investment Promotion teams joined forces to promote HK's status as a maritime services hub in two large-scale maritime expos in the region, Vietnam Marine & Offshore Expo 2023 (VMOX) held in Hanoi in July, and Indonesia Marine & Offshore Expo (IMOEX) held in Batam in August. An exhibition booth was staged in both fairs to engage industry stakeholders from various maritime fields, from shipbuilding, ship leasing to engineering and arbitration. Speaking at the seminars at both fairs, Regional Head of Shipping Registry, Mr Philip Ho, shared HK Marine Department (MD)'s longstanding reputation with over 150 years of experience in ship registration, inspection and survey.

As the world's 4th largest shipping register, the HK Flag is noted for its quality, high compliance with safety standards and low detention rate at ports. He encouraged the industry to use the Marine Department's one-stop portal (<https://ebs.mardep.gov.hk>) and its online fee calculator for ship registration and certification.

Head of Business and Talent Attraction/Investment Promotion, Mr Melvin Lee, in another seminar at VIMOX, introduced the myriad of maritime services in HK and how the city's ecosystem of 900 maritime services companies provides support to the global maritime industry. He also highlighted the tax concessions (i.e. a tax rate of 8.25 per cent) for qualifying profits derived from ship leasing management activities. As the most established maritime expos in the region, VIMOX and IMOEX brought together an international congregation of maritime practitioners. The former drew 77 exhibitors and close to 2000 visitors, while the latter drew 210 exhibitors and around 5200 visitors this year.



Mr Philip Ho (left) and Deputy Head of Business and Talent Attraction/Investment Promotion of InvestHK of Jakarta ETO, Mr Andy Hermanto (second left), networking with booth visitors at IMOEX



Regional Head of Shipping Registry, Mr Philip Ho (left) and Head of Business and Talent Attraction/Investment Promotion, Mr Melvin Lee (right), shared their insights to the maritime communities at VIMOX.

**CHARTING THE FUTURE:
EXPLORING THE ICT
LANDSCAPE AND
INITIAL PUBLIC
OFFERING IN HONG
KONG**



Mr Abhishek Bakshi of HKEX



Ms Wendy Chow of InvestHK



InvestHK

Hong Kong - Premier ICT Hub



In conjunction with the Association of Small & Medium Enterprises (ASME) in Singapore, Invest Hong Kong (InvestHK) organised a seminar "Charting The Future: Exploring the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Landscape and Initial Public Offering in Hong Kong" in August to share the dynamic opportunities in HK's thriving ICT industry and the listing regime. Addressing some 35 participants from ICT, manufacturing and professional service sectors, Ms Wendy Chow, Head of ICT at InvestHK, introduced HK's institutional strengths, simple and competitive tax regime, ICT infrastructures, and vibrant start-up ecosystem.



Mr Abhishek Bakshi, Head of ASEAN Issuer Services/ Sales and Marketing at the Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited (HKEX), gave a briefing on HK's strengths as a premier IPO destination, new initiatives to attract listings of biotech, innovative, and R&D focused technology companies, and enhanced links with the Mainland markets through Stock Connect, Bond Connect, and the HKD-RMB Dual Counter Model. The combination of an environment conducive to growth of ICT companies and easy access to fund-raising underscores HK's advantages as an ICT hub.



Hong Kong Children's Symphony Orchestra



Cheers! We are grateful to have a talented troupe of budding musicians visiting our office. Photo shows our Director Mr Owin Fung (front row, fifth right) with members of the orchestra.

Our office was livened up upon the visit of a group of close to 70 members of Hong Kong Children's Symphony Orchestra (HKCSO) on August 7. Extending a warm welcome, our Director briefed them on the work of ETO and the latest ASEAN developments. Two young talented violinists, Tiffany and Chloe, showcased their musical flair in live gigs that captivated all the audience at scene. They were part of HK's promising and talented young generation who knew dedication and perseverance, from a young age, were crucial to musical success. Founded in 1996 by Dr Yip Wai-hong, HKCSO recruits members aged 7 to 18 through highly competitive open auditions for the opportunity to learn under the baton of Maestro Yip Wing-Sie.

Since 2001, it has been mesmerizing global audiences through concert tours around the world. The orchestra staged a public performance in Victoria Concert Hall and attended master classes at Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music in Singapore, before returning to HK to stage a post-tour concert in mid August at the Hong Kong City Hall.



Talented members of the HKCSO - Tiffany Li (left) and Chloe Chan (right) showcasing a violin performance



(Photos above) Young member of HKCSO sharing his thoughts and experiences in the Singapore trip.



HKCSO's public performance at Victoria Concert Hall



Mr Owin Fung (second right with microphone) briefed Islands District Council members on the cultural events organised by HKETO to promote people-to-people ties.



The Islands District Council members were interested to learn about the membership of ASEAN which now consists of 10 countries, with East Timor becoming the 11th member in near future.

Islands District Council

Our office welcomed 10 members of the Islands District Council led by its chairman Mr Randy Yu and accompanied by Assistant District Officer (Islands) Mr Thomas Li in August. They were visiting Singapore in a study trip calling on various Singapore authorities including the National Parks Board, Land Transport Authority, Housing Development Board and Public Utilities Board. In their visit to our office, our Director, Mr Owin Fung, briefed them on the relationship between Hong Kong and ASEAN, HKETO's work on attracting talents and businesses into HK, as well as the ASEAN internship scheme for Hong Kong higher education students. He also emphasised the strong alliance with other ETOs as we take forward our promotional work in ASEAN, and addressed various members' questions on the socio-economic developments in ASEAN.



Members of HKCSO enjoying their tea session with local delights.

Follow us!



Comments/suggestions:

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We are Hong Kong SAR Government's representative office in the ASEAN region, covering Singapore, Vietnam, Laos, as well as India.