

# HONG KONG FILES



Issue No.2/2024

## Chief Executive's ASEAN visit yields fruitful results



Visit to Saysettha Development Zone, a state-level co-operation project between China and Laos.

The Chief Executive John Lee led a high-level government and business delegation to . Aiming to highlight Hong Kong's strengths and introduce latest developments to local political and business communities, the ASEAN tour was a fruitful one, with a total of 55 memoranda of understanding (MoUs) and agreements concluded in three countries, significantly enhancing collaboration in various areas including customs, innovation and technology, financial services, aviation, logistics, education, tourism, investment promotion, trade and economic partnership. Apart from calling on local government leaders and attending business luncheons and dinners, he also visited key Belt and Road infrastructural developments and a secondary school in Laos, and a Hong Kong garment manufacturer in Vietnam.



Meetings with Lao Prime Minister Mr Sonexay Siphandone (left photo) and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Saleumxay Kommasith (right photo) respectively.

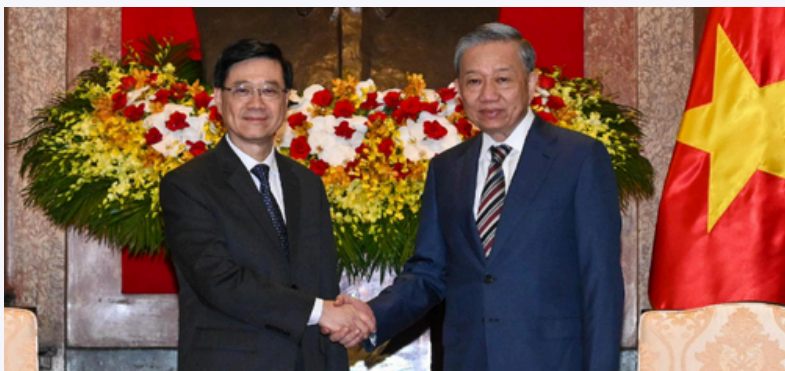


Visit to Vientiane Secondary School, a leading public school in Laos.



Some 30 business leaders joined the ASEAN tour.





Meetings with President of Vietnam Mr To Lam (upper left photo), Deputy Prime Minister of Vietnam Mr Tran Luu Quang (upper right photo), and Deputy Secretary of the Ho Chi Minh City Party Committee Mr Nguyen Ho Hai (left photo) respectively.



Visit to Tessellation Binh Duong, a garment manufacturer headquartered in Hong Kong (upper photo), and participating in a tree-planting ceremony (lower photo).



Meeting with Chairman of the People's Committee of Ho Chi Minh City Mr Phan Van Mai.

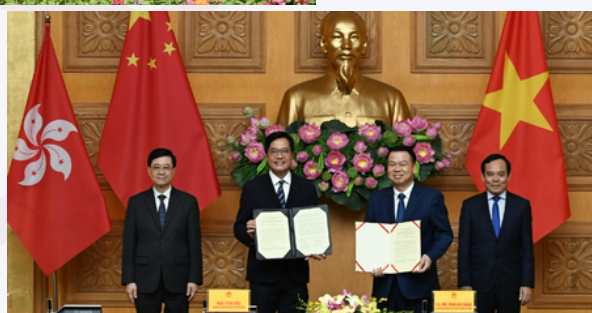


Signing of MoU between InvestHK and Hong Kong Business Association Vietnam.



A business luncheon in Ho Chi Minh City.

Media stand-up briefing in Ho Chi Minh City to summarise the outcome of the visit.



Signing of MoU between Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau and Vietnam's Ministry of Finance.

## Five key results of ASEAN visit

1

Strengthening government-to-government relations and communications.

2

Reaching consensus on different areas of development and co-operation.

3

Consolidating and expanding business networks, injecting new impetus to open up new horizons and opportunities.

4

Enhancing a shared strong will to jointly promote the Belt & Road Initiative.

5

Re-affirming the three countries' strong and continuous support for Hong Kong's accession to the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP).



## Secretary for Justice visits Singapore



Meeting with the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Singapore, Mr Sundaresh Menon (right).

The Secretary for Justice, Mr Paul Lam, visited Singapore from July 24 to 26. He attended the inaugural Forum of Chief Legal Advisors organised by the Attorney-General's Chambers of Singapore to discuss topics including international investment dispute settlements, and promote the advantages and opportunities of Hong Kong's legal services to other forum participants. He also attended the 125th Anniversary Commemorative Event of the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA). During his stay, he took the opportunity to meet Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Singapore, Mr Sundaresh Menon, as well as the Attorney General of India, Mr R Venkataramani, to discuss matters of mutual interest, and visited the Singapore Academy of Law and the Maxwell Chambers.



Attendance at the inaugural Forum of Chief Legal Advisors organised by the Attorney-General's Chambers of Singapore.



Presentation of souvenir to the Attorney General of India, Mr R Venkataramani (left).



Visit to Singapore Academy of Law to discuss the development of lawtech and potential co-operation.



Visit to Maxwell Chambers to exchange views on integrated facilities and services on alternative dispute resolution.

## Secretary for Culture, Sports and Tourism visits Vietnam



The Secretary for Culture, Sports and Tourism, Mr Kevin Yeung, visited Hanoi from June 11 to 14. He called on the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism of Vietnam and met with its Deputy Minister, Mr Ta Quang Dong. He also visited the Vietnam Television Corporation, as well as the Vietnam National Institute of Culture and Arts Studies.

Courtesy call on Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism of Vietnam and meeting with its Deputy Minister, Mr Ta Quang Dong (right).



Visit to Vietnam National Institute of Culture and Arts Studies.



Visit to Vietnam Television Corporation.



## LegCo members visit Singapore



Led by the President of the Legislative Council, Mr Andrew Leung, a delegation of the Parliamentary Liaison Sub-committee of the Legislative Council visited Singapore and met with Singapore's parliamentary members. They also received briefings by JTC Corporation, the Housing & Development Board and the Institute of Technical Education to learn about Singapore's policies in different areas.



Delegation observing a Meet-the-People Session being conducted by a Member of the Parliament of Singapore.



Delegation receiving a briefing on the landmark projects of JTC Corporation.



Delegation exchanging views with the Institute of Technical Education in Singapore.

## Memorandum of Understanding



The Office of the Communications Authority (OFCA) of Hong Kong and the Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA) of Singapore signed a MoU in Singapore in June. The MOU seeks to strengthen strategic collaboration and support the exchange of information between Hong Kong and Singapore in areas including regulatory practices, public education and development of technical solutions to address and mitigate issues relating to scam and spam communications, including calls and SMS messages. OFCA and IMDA have a fine tradition of conducting annual bilateral meetings since 2004. Over their 20-year close relationship, they have shared experience in the landscape and development of telecommunications markets, as well as regulatory and enforcement issues.



## Extension of Government Leases Ordinance

The Extension of Government Leases Ordinance has come into operation since July 5, 2024. The Ordinance establishes a new statutory mechanism for lease extension. The Lands Department will publish Extension Notices in the Government Gazette regularly to declare whether the leases expiring in a specified expiry period will be extended. By this, the owners will not have to execute legal documents involving cumbersome procedures and costs, and hence the manner of lease extension has become easier. The Ordinance applies to general purpose leases expiring on or after 5 July 2024 without a right of renewal. These are leases for general commercial, residential or industrial uses. For more details, please visit: [www.landsd.gov.hk/en/land-disposal-transaction/extension.html](http://www.landsd.gov.hk/en/land-disposal-transaction/extension.html)



## New travel permit for non-Chinese Hong Kong permanent residents



Singapore Chamber of Commerce (Hong Kong) committee member Gary Lim (right) says the new permit makes travel to the Mainland more convenient.

New milestone for cross-boundary travel! Starting from July 10, non-Chinese Hong Kong permanent residents can apply for a new permit to visit Mainland China for up to 90 days for each visit, without having to apply for a separate visa. The card-type document, known as Mainland Travel Permits for Hong Kong and Macao Residents (non-Chinese Citizens), is valid for five years and not limited to nationality or industry, facilitating easier cross-boundary travel for business, tourism and family visits. Applications can be made to the China Travel Service (Hong Kong) Limited.

Enquiry hotline: +852 2992 1999

Email: [hongkongcenter@visaforchina.org](mailto:hongkongcenter@visaforchina.org)

Address: 20/F, Capital Center, 151 Gloucester Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong

Website: [https://www.visaforchina.cn/HKG2\\_EN](https://www.visaforchina.cn/HKG2_EN)



Austrian Chamber of Commerce Hong Kong & Macau former committee member Alfred Buchner (centre) says he will take the opportunity to bring his family to the Mainland now that it is easier to travel there.



Malaysian Chamber of Commerce (Hong Kong & Macau) Chairman Gan Khai Choon hails the permit as a 'marvellous move' that will make Hong Kong more effective as an international financial centre.



## Events

### 2024 Asia Forum in Vietnam

Our Director Mr Owin Fung delivered a speech at the welcome dinner of 2024 Asia Forum in Hanoi, Vietnam on June 26. He highlighted that Hong Kong's economy remains solid and growing, supported by improvements in merchandise exports, recovery of inbound tourism, and inflow of strategic enterprises and talents. On future opportunities, he called on continued and joint promotion of international free trade, regional green transition and transformation, and digital economy. The Asia Forum is an annual flagship event of the Federation of Hong Kong Business Associations Worldwide, a unique network of 48 Hong Kong business associations in 37 countries and regions with close to 11,000 business executives and professionals worldwide as members. The 2024 Asia Forum was co-organised by the Hong Kong Trade Development Council and the Hong Kong Business Association Vietnam.



We hosted some 50 representatives from the shipping industry in our office on July 2 and briefed them on the Green Incentive Scheme launched by the Marine Department. The scheme underscored our commitment to incentivize Hong Kong-registered ships to attain high ratings in international decarbonisation standards to promote the branding of Hong Kong Shipping Registry as a green fleet in the international maritime arena. Under the scheme, ships of 5,000 gross tonnage or above which have attained rating A or B in the Carbon Intensity Indicator formulated by the International Maritime Organisation can receive HK\$20,000 per corresponding year, or a maximum total of HK\$60,000, from the year 2024 to 2026.



# Hong Kong cultural events in Singapore



'King Li, the final escape'

## Hong Kong Cultertainment Festival



We are pleased to have supported production company *Have a Good Day* in presenting the inaugural Hong Kong Cultertainment Festival in June-July. One of the programs we supported was '*King Li, the final escape*' by Arts' Options, a drama production inspired by Shakespeare's classic play "*King Lear*", which explored challenges faced by the elderly, including family discord, financial planning, and lack of support in daily life. Another program was '*The Love Story of Sam and Sally*' presented by Actors' Family. A romantic comedy combined with Hong Kong pop songs and witty dialogues, the musical chronicled the journey of Sam and Sally as they fell in love, separated and reunited.



'The Love Story of Sam and Sally'



## Sammo Hung Masterclass



We have honour in supporting a Masterclass featuring legendary martial arts actor Mr Sammo Hung, after his five classic films were selected to Singapore Chinese Film Festival 2024. The heart-warming sharing session, brought by Asian Film Awards Academy in collaboration with the Singapore Film Society, attracted a full house of audience at LASALLE College of the Arts on May 4.

## Asian Youth Orchestra

The concert of Asian Youth Orchestra gained rounds of applause from around 800 audience at the Esplanade on August 14. Awarded Nikkei Asia Prize for Culture and Community in 2015, the Hong Kong-based AYO visited Singapore after a hiatus of 8 years. Founded in 1990 with a vision to unite young musicians across Asia, the 100-plus orchestra members aged between 17 and 28 are selected from different Asian cities every year through rigorous auditions. Every summer, they meet together for a three-week rehearsal camp and share the fruits of training in a three-week concert tour across Asia. We are honoured to have supported its Asia journey!







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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.



## I. M. Pei: Life Is Architecture

Jun 29, 2024 - Jan 5, 2025

<https://www.mplus.org.hk/en/exhibitions/i-m-pei-life-is-architecture/>



## Tai Hang Fire Dragon Dance

Sep 16 - 18, 2024

<https://www.taihangfiredragon.hk>

Explore a rich selection of drawings, sketches, videos, models and photographs in a rare retrospective of I. M. Pei, one of the greatest architects of the 20th and 21st centuries, whose high-profile projects over seven decades cover an exceptionally wide geographic reach.

Every Mid-Autumn Festival, the quaint neighbourhood of Tai Hang comes alive as a glowing dragon, carried by over 300 performers, dances through the streets for three nights amid roaring gongs and drums. Come to witness this national intangible cultural heritage!



## Hong Kong Cyclothon

Oct 13, 2024

<https://www.discoverhongkong.com/hk-eng/what-s-new/events/dhk-highlighted-events/cyclothon.html>



## Hong Kong Wine &amp; Dine Festival

Oct 23 - 27, 2024

<https://www.discoverhongkong.com/eng/what-s-new/events/dhk-highlighted-events/hong-kong-wine-and-dine-festival.html>

Calling amateur and professional cyclists! Enjoy an exhilarating wind-breaking journey through a number of infrastructure icons of Hong Kong and immerse in the city's unique cityscape. Travel through major bridges and tunnels, and take in the city's most eye-catching landmarks and stunning views of Victoria Harbour.

Embark on a memorable culinary journey set against the Victoria Harbour skyline with a wide range of delectable local and international cuisine from different countries. As the night unfolds, continue to enjoy a feast for the eyes and ears with jazz and classical songs.



## Hong Kong Fintech Week

Oct 28 - Nov 1, 2024

<https://www.fintechweek.hk>



Explore the latest trends of fintech in a series of engaging community events, featuring satellite events, networking opportunities, wellness activities, workshops, and more.



## Hong Kong Maritime Week

Nov 17 - 23, 2024

<https://www.hkmw.hk>

Join us for a fabulous week of maritime activities, where industry leaders, experts and guests from all over the world gather together to explore the latest trends in the global maritime industry.