

HKSAR 20th anniversary celebration events

The HKETO in Singapore organised and supported a variety of celebration events to mark the 20th anniversary (20A) of the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) between March and November this year in Singapore, Thailand and Cambodia. These events ranged from receptions, business seminars and gala dinners, to orchestral performance, dance drama, visual art and photo exhibitions, and sports events.

Kick-off Event Golden Cangue cum Opening Reception

The unveiling event of the series of 20A programmes was the renowned literary and theatrical work Golden Cangue staged in Esplanade, Singapore by the Perry Chiu Experimental Theatre for March 31 - April 1.

The event showcased Hong Kong's theatrical artists and entrepreneurs to a substantial audience size in Singapore through three shows on March 31 (Friday night) and April 1 (Saturday afternoon and evening). The performance, conducted in Cantonese with both Chinese and English subtitles, allowed non-Cantonese-speaking audience to appreciate Hong Kong's theatrical performance. It is in line with the Government's objectives to promote HK's soft power in arts and culture overseas, as well as to nurture HK art talents and entrepreneurs.

In the speech delivered by the Director of the HKETO in Singapore, Mr Bruno Luk, at the opening reception before a 250-strong audience, he threaded the theme of 20A "Togetherness • Progress • Opportunity" by covering a wide range of topics, including the Basic Law, the dual advantages of "One Country" and "Two Systems", Hong Kong's close relationship with Mainland China since the handover through initiatives such as CEPA, Shenzhen-Hong Kong Stock Connect, major cross-boundary infrastructure projects, etc.



Golden Cangue staged in Esplanade, Singapore



The art group took the initiative to reach out to the public by organising exchange and appreciation workshop session.

"HK Phil Tour 2017" Orchestral Performance cum Opening Reception

As part of the "HK Phil Tour 2017", the Hong Kong Phil staged one performance at the Esplanade Concert Hall, Singapore on May 1, performing three orchestral pieces, to celebrate 20A. Some 280 HKETO guests attended the opening reception. The HKETO guests, together with some 1,300 members of the public, attended the concert.

This signature event of the series of 20A programmes arranged by HKETO in Singapore was poured with applauses. The performance was spectacular and mind capturing. The audience gave a standing ovation for the orchestra after the performance as a sign of appreciation and gratitude.



Photo on the left shows the Director of the HKETO in Singapore, Mr Bruno Luk, addressing the guests at the opening reception.

Seminar on Belt and Road Initiative

The Seminar, co-organised by the HKETO in Singapore and the HKTDC, was held in Bangkok, Thailand on May 24. It highlighted the opportunities brought about by the Belt and Road Initiative for Hong Kong and ASEAN. More than 100 business interlocutors and representatives from various trades participated in the seminar. It provided an opportunity for Hong Kong officials to introduce Hong Kong's role in the Belt and Road Initiative as well as the related opportunities to Thailand's business sector.



The Director of the HKETO in Singapore, Mr Bruno Luk, gives his opening remarks.



At the panel discussion of the seminar (from left), the Director (Thailand) of Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC), Mr Sunny Chau; the Vice-chairman of the Thailand China Business Council, Mr Vikrom Kromadit; the then Belt and Road Commissioner of the Government of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, Ms Yvonne Choi; the Director of Research of HKTDC, Mr Nicholas Kwan; and the Deputy Secretary General of the Thai-Chinese Chamber of Commerce, Mr Prasong Owlarn, exchange views on the Belt and Road Initiative.

HKETO Gala Dinner

The HKETO Gala Dinner was held at Gardens by the Bay, Singapore on June 8. Some 400 HKETO friends from the diplomat, government, business, academic, Hong Kong community and media circles attended the event.

The then Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury, Professor K C Chan, spoke at the Gala Dinner under the theme of “Together • Progress • Opportunity”. He said that the relationship between Hong Kong and ASEAN has never been closer. He shared that Hong Kong would want to conclude and sign a Free Trade Agreement with ASEAN within 2017 as the negotiation of the trade pact was in the final stage. He called on Hong Kong and Singapore to establish closer ties with ASEAN on all fronts and to echo the Central Government’s Belt and Road Initiative.

Singapore’s Minister for National Development and Second Minister for Finance, Mr Lawrence Wong, also addressed the guests at the Gala Dinner. Echoing Professor Chan’s view, he said that greater cooperation between Hong Kong and ASEAN was a key for healthy growth, adding that Asia was the fastest-growing region in the world and the market was big enough for both economies of Hong Kong and Singapore to thrive. The healthy competition between the two spurred both sides to strive to be better and offer more value to investors.

The Gala Dinner featured Hong Kong-style “Poon Choi” and traditional food of Hong Kong presented by the Chinese Culinary Institute of Hong Kong. Many guests, especially the local Singaporeans and foreign diplomats, were impressed by the traditional “Poon Choi”, which is new to most of them. The entire programme of the dinner, together with official promotional videos playing in the background, successfully showed to our guests various facets of Hong Kong and raised Hong Kong’s profile. The event showcased the strengths of Hong Kong as a dynamic Asia’s world city, and strengthened our connections with local contacts.



Guests at the Gala Dinner



Professor K C Chan speaks at the Gala Dinner.



Singapore’s Minister for National Development and Second Minister for Finance, Mr Lawrence Wong



The stunning energy-filled “Danz Up 2.0”, presented by Hong Kong Arts Festival, featuring some 20 Hong Kong dancers, was the first highlight staged at the Gala Dinner with enthusiastic responses.



Hong Kong-style “Poon Choi” and traditional food of Hong Kong was another highlight presented by the Chinese Culinary Institute of Hong Kong.



The Gala Dinner also screened a short film premiere, “Hong Kong-ASEAN Synergies”, produced by Mr Clifton Ko, a renowned Hong Kong film director. To view: www.hk-aseansynergies.com.



Celebrated Hong Kong photographer Mr Edward Stokes presents a telling, evocative portrait of Hong Kong’s natural beauty and his photo book.

Feature on 20A Events



Guests enjoying their mingling at the pre-dinner reception



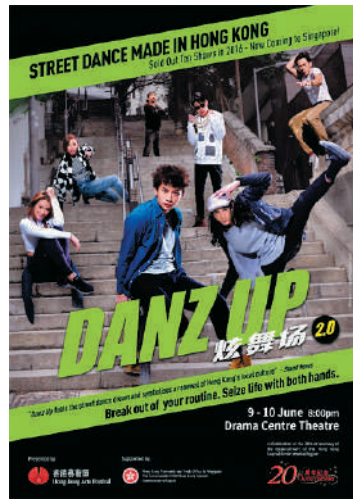
Feature on 20A Events



Guests enjoying at the Gala Dinner



Dance drama: Danz Up 2.0



Danz Up 2.0 poster

Two performances of the dance drama “Danz Up 2.0” were staged at Drama Centre, National Library, Singapore by Hong Kong Arts Festival June 9-10. A condensed version was shown at the HKETO Gala Dinner on June 8 at Gardens by the Bay, Singapore.

Written by award-winning playwright Matthew Cheng, the Hong Kong production “Danz Up 2.0” is a high-octane, dance drama about a young man torn between a practical career and following his dream to become a street dancer.

Some 500 members of the public enjoyed the energy-filled dance drama with hip hop, jazz funk, urban dance and locking, choreography by Shing Mak (of the hit homegrown dance movie of Hong Kong “The Way We Dance”).

Visual art exhibition “Joy to the Words” cum workshops

The week-long exhibition was jointly presented by the HKETO in Singapore and Artwow’s Chinese Character Artworks. It featured selected artworks of the Father-and-Daughter Art Team, Mr Sun Chan and Ms Hikoko Chan, from their Mirage, Treble and Rainbow series. The artworks can be appreciated purely for their visual appeal, but the embedded Chinese words also engage those viewers who can read Chinese characters in word-guessing games, sparking curiosity and evoking imagination. The exhibition was also a tribute to the late Sun Chan, who just passed away in early 2017.

The Opening Reception, held on July 21 at The Arts House, Singapore, was warmly welcomed by some 100 HKETO friends from the diplomat, arts, media and business circles, as well as Hong Kong communities.



Opening of visual art exhibition “Joy to the Words”

Click here for the video on HKETO website:
https://www.hketosin.gov.hk/events/Joy_to_the_words_Highlights.m4v

and also on the HKSAR20 YouTube channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?list=PLSsk2xYmkFd93FsKctpaSjACd3n6jiM9C&v=pEfEBcBsxPY>

Art exhibition “Tian Tian Xiang Shang” cum workshops



Art exhibition “Tian Tian Xiang Shang”

The HKETO in Singapore, in collaboration with Zuni Icosahedron, presented the “Tian Tian Xiang Shang” project exhibition showcasing conceptual comics “Tian Tian” in Singapore in form of mall museum in public areas inside the mall and right outside the mall entrance of Raffles City, Singapore from July 28 to August 21.

“Tian Tian Xiang Shang” is a well-known Chinese saying encouraging children to work hard and achieve their dreams. It then inspired experimental art pioneer and founder of Zuni Icosahedron, Mr Danny Yung, to create Tian Tian, a cartoon, for adults and kids all around the globe, challenging them to be curious and creative like Tian Tian.

The Opening Reception, held on July 28 at Raffles City, Singapore was warmly welcomed by leading figures in the arts and cultural scene from Hong Kong and Singapore, as well as local celebrities and communities from both places.

The exhibition in Singapore featured some 1,000 pieces of works from artists in Hong Kong, Singapore and other overseas countries, as well as students and teachers of local arts classes, primary and secondary schools.

The 3-week long exhibition attracted attention of the members of the public in Singapore. Also, by engaging local primary and secondary schools and arts classes to participate, the event helped increase the ETO’s profile locally and extend the ETO’s connections with arts communities in Singapore.



Art exhibition “Tian Tian Xiang Shang” engages people from all walks of life.



Photo Exhibition “Lee Fook Chee: Son of Singapore, Photographer of Hong Kong”



The Chief Executive, Mrs Carrie Lam, officiates at the opening.

The HKETO in Singapore, in collaboration with The Photographic Heritage Foundation, presented the Photo Exhibition “Lee Fook Chee: Son of Singapore, Photographer of Hong Kong” in The Arts House, Singapore from August 3 to September 3. This was the last of the three bundled-exhibitions arranged by HKETO in Singapore to celebrate the HKSAR’s 20th birthday.

The Chief Executive, Mrs Carrie Lam, officiated and spoke at the Opening Reception of the photo exhibition at the Arts House, Singapore on August 2 during her official visit to Singapore.

Some 120 HKETO guests attended and 50 representatives from the local and Hong Kong press covered the event.

The exhibition featured 50 photographs from the book “Lee Fook Chee’s Hong Kong” published by The Photographic Heritage Foundation.



Guests at the opening



Lee Fook Chee (1927-2012) was born in Singapore and was given over at birth to an adoptive family, and had a hard childhood. In 1947, then a seaman, he came ashore in Hong Kong. During the 1950s, Lee Fook Chee photographed Hong Kong, earning a simple living selling his photos to tourists on The Peak.

Gala dinner in Cambodia



A group picture of attending guests

Some 200 representatives from the China Hong Kong & Macau Expatriate & Business Association of Cambodia and the Hong Kong Business Association of Cambodia, with support from the HKETO in Singapore, came together to celebrate the 20A of the HKSAR establishment at Topaz restaurant, Phnom Penh, Cambodia on August 10. Connecting Hong Kong people, the event aimed to continuously explore new connections and opportunities in Cambodia.

The event was graced by three Guests of Honours: Deputy Prime Minister of Cambodia, H.E. Hor Namhong; the Chinese Ambassador to the Kingdom of Cambodia, H.E. Xiong Bo; and the Secretary for Labour and Welfare of HKSAR, Dr Law Chi-Kwong.

The short film on “Hong Kong-ASEAN Synergies” (www.hk-aseansynergies.com) produced by HK film director Clifton Ko was shown at the Gala Dinner. The Hong Kong Business Association of Cambodia also filmed a short video in Hong Kong to introduce Hong Kong cuisine in two episodes.

For viewing Episode 1:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B3iDpBx87rLaSkstb3FvakpsVUE/view?usp=sharing>;

For viewing Episode 2:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B3iDpBx87rLaOG9ndXo4c1c5MTQ/view?usp=sharing>

“Hong Kong Cup 2017” of the 35th Singapore River Regatta

Sportive spirit was in the air when champion paddlers from Hong Kong and Singapore competed the “Hong Kong Cup 2017” of the 35th Singapore River Regatta (SRR) dragon boat races in Singapore River during November 3-5.

Arranged by the HKETO in Singapore, in collaboration with the Singapore Dragon Boat Association, a 34-strong mixed team of women and men from Hong Kong China Dragon Boat Association took part in the 35th SRR dragon boat races in Singapore, and the men’s team also joined the “Hong Kong Cup 2017” on November 5.



Photos show the HK team members.

The Hong Kong Team won the “Hong Kong Cup 2017” event co-organised by the HKETO and Hong Kong Tourism Board in Singapore, in collaboration with the Singapore Dragon Boat Association.

The Director of HKETO in Singapore, Mr Bruno Luk, stressed that the event was a good opportunity to bring closer the people of HK and Singapore through competition and fun-filled atmosphere. He hoped that the dragon boat race would strengthen the bond and friendship between Hong Kong and Singapore.



The Director of the HKETO in Singapore, Mr Bruno Luk (first left), is pictured with the champion teams after presenting the “Hong Kong Cup 2017” and medals.



A token of appreciation and friendship is received by the Director of the HKETO in Singapore, Mr Bruno Luk (right), from Member of Parliament for Tanjong Pagar, Singapore, Dr Chia Shi-Lu (left).

The 35th SRR has drawn some 80 teams with 3,788 dragon boat athletes to compete in 230 races in the three-day event which has attracted a large crowd of spectators, both locals and tourists.

The event has helped enhance the visibility of HK in international sports events and thereby promoting HK’s vibrancy and diversity as a sports hub.

Bringing the 20A celebration activities to a close, Mr Bruno Luk said that thanks to all the collaboration parties, by showing the strengths of Hong Kong in different aspects, the 20A events have helped raise Hong Kong’s profile in various ASEAN countries, and extend the HKETO’s connections with diplomats, government officials, business associations, Hong Kong communities, sports organisers, arts scene experts, art critics and media in the region.