

## Summer Interns' Gathering in Singapore

Some 70 university students from Hong Kong interning in Singapore this summer spent a wonderful evening connecting with each other at the annual summer interns' gathering hosted by the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (HKETO) in Singapore on July 4.

These students interned in the Lion City under various internship schemes, including the ASEAN Internship Scheme for Hong Kong Higher Education Students, which was launched by the HKETO since 2014. The Scheme aims to help widen the students' horizon by taking up internship opportunities in the ASEAN region from which they can learn to play the role of the "ambassadors" of Hong Kong in their respective host countries. The Scheme is part of the HKETO's continuous efforts made in enhancing mutual understanding and strengthening ties between Hong Kong and the ASEAN region.

With the support from the higher education institutions in Hong Kong and local host organisations in the ASEAN region, the Scheme has received favourable response with some 800 student participants so far. The students have taken up placements in host organisations of a wide-ranging nature, including government-related agencies, international organisations, academic institutions, think-tanks, arts and cultural organisations, real estate, technology, hospitality and logistics companies.

Currently the Scheme covers eight UGC-funded institutions and three other higher education institutions in Hong Kong. For more information, please visit <https://www.hketosin.gov.hk/internship/index.shtml>



*On July 4, the HKETO in Singapore hosted a gathering for some 70 students from universities in Hong Kong interning in Singapore this summer.*



*Director-General of HKETO, Mr Law Kin-wai, gives a welcoming speech at the gathering. He encourages students to make the best use of the internship opportunity to pursue their personal goals while wishing them a fruitful and enjoyable learning experience.*



*Student interns celebrate new friendships made during their internship.*



*Student interns talk about interesting cultural differences encountered while recommending a few local culinary delights.*



*Building new ties and exchanging ideas are part and parcel of students' internship journey.*

# Acclaimed music group stages debut concert in Singapore

A young and charismatic music group SMASH from Hong Kong made its debut in Singapore on August 25. Presented by the HKETO in Singapore and co-organised by Hong Kong's Music Lab and Singapore Global Cultural Alliance, SMASH – comprising award-winning pianist Ka Jeng Wong, harmonica world-champion CY Leo and renowned saxophonist Timothy Sun, staged a concert at the Victoria Theatre, wooing more than 300 audience with music from the movies, modern classics and traditional Cantonese tunes.

SMASH was famous for breaking down barriers between genres across generations. They fully demonstrated their capability of fusing music from different traditions into a new twist. In their first appearance in Singapore, the trio managed to captivate the audience and won big rounds of applause even after the encores. During the Meet-and-Greet session, the young musicians were showered with thumbs up and words of appreciation.

HKETO had invited friends and interlocutors from the diplomatic, government, arts and culture sectors, as well the local Hong Kong community, to enjoy an evening of great music and passionate performance.

(Photo credit: Jackie Tan for Global Cultural Alliance & Music Lab)



SMASH from Hong Kong gave an engaging performance.



SMASH concluded a successful debut concert in Singapore with the support of three other Hong Kong musicians.



Deputy Director of HKETO in Singapore, Mr Joey Tang (second right); Chief Executive Officer of Global Cultural Alliance, Mr Phan Ming Yen (first right); Cultural Counsellor of the Chinese Embassy in Singapore, Mr Que Xiaohua (third right); Director (China) of North East Asia Division of Singapore's Ministry of Trade and Industry, Mr Ho Chee Hin (centre); President of Hong Kong Singapore Business Association, Mr Philip Chan (first left) pictured with Ka Jeng Wong (second left), CY Leo (third left) and Timothy Sun (fourth left).



The audience are enthusiastic to meet and greet the music talents from Hong Kong.

On August 26, Ka Jeng Wong charmed some 200 audience with a Piano Recital themed "God or No God?" at Esplanade. The gifted pianist played keyboard works from the 19th and 20th centuries, including Fur Alina, Passacaglia in C minor and Piano Sonata No. 29 in B-flat major "Hammerklavier". Ka Jeng's performance in Singapore has marked an important milestone in his musical journey before he embarks on his overseas venture.

Ka Jeng Wong's concert tour in Singapore has drawn much attention from the local audience. By presenting the two concerts, the HKETO in Singapore exemplified its commitment in showcasing Hong Kong's arts and cultural talents in the ASEAN region and also strengthening people-to-people ties between the two places.



Deputy Director of HKETO in Singapore, Mr Joey Tang (centre); Chief Executive Officer of Global Cultural Alliance, Mr Phan Ming Yen (first left); pictured with Ka Jeng Wong (first right).

## Events to promote Hong Kong

The Director-General of the HKETO, Mr Law Kin-wai, spoke at the Hong Kong Day Event in Singapore, which was a half-day seminar organised by Citibank for Singapore enterprises on July 4. Mr Law provided an overview on the conducive business and investment environment in Hong Kong and the potentials coming alongside key initiatives such as the ASEAN-Hong Kong Free Trade Agreement and the Greater Bay Area (GBA) Development. In his speech, he also highlighted various advantages of Hong Kong, such as the “One Country, Two Systems” principle, low and simple tax system, as well as introduced specific investment opportunities in a number of industries. Topics covered by other speakers included benefits of establishing an operation in Hong Kong, opportunities in the GBA and initial public offering (IPO) trends and listing requirement in Hong Kong.



Director-General of the HKETO, Mr Law Kin-wai (fourth right), and Head of Investment Promotion of Invest Hong Kong in Singapore, Mr Melvin Lee (second left), pictured with representatives of the event organiser.

Invest Hong Kong held the Hong Kong Fintech Week 2019 Roadshow in Singapore on August 22. The Director-General of the HKETO, Mr Law Kin-wai, spoke on Hong Kong’s firm foundation and key elements for the Fintech industry to flourish, as well as the Government’s various initiatives to boost the development of the Fintech industry. Noting that both Hong Kong and Singapore are key financial hubs with advance technology in place, Mr Law looked forward to more collaborations between the two places, both in the public and private sectors, to fully optimise the growth potential that the Fintech sector could bring.



Mr Law speaks at the Hong Kong Fintech Week Roadshow to companies which are interested or have potential in investing in Hong Kong.



Mr Law (third left), pictured with the Associate Director-General of Invest Hong Kong, Mr Charles Ng (first left), and other speakers after the event.

## Briefings to visitors from Hong Kong

The HKETO in Singapore hosted two groups of visitors from Hong Kong Baptist University and Home Affairs Bureau’s Service Corps programme on June 17 and August 13 respectively. The Deputy Director of the HKETO, Mr Joey Tang, briefed our young visitors on Hong Kong’s economic and trade relations with the ASEAN region, as well as the function of and promotional work conducted by the HKETO. Fruitful exchanges of views followed the briefing, discussing Hong Kong’s strengths and challenges faced in the region.



### COMMENTS / SUGGESTIONS

#### The Editor, HK FILES

#### Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Singapore

9 Temasek Boulevard, #34-01 Suntec Tower Two, Singapore 038989, Singapore

Email: [hketo\\_sin@hketosin.gov.hk](mailto:hketo_sin@hketosin.gov.hk)  
Website: [www.hketosin.gov.hk](http://www.hketosin.gov.hk)

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