

# HONG KONG REVIEW



## Hong Kong Chief Executive visits UK



**Above:** Mrs Lam addresses the Think Asia, Think Hong Kong symposium in London in September.

**C**arrie Lam, Hong Kong Chief Executive, visited London in September, where she was Guest of Honour at the annual Hong Kong Dinner organised by the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC).

Noting in her speech at the event that in 2017 Hong Kong marked the 20th anniversary of its return to the motherland and the successful implementation of “one country, two systems”, Mrs Lam said that the rule of law and judicial independence, which are the cornerstones of Hong Kong’s success, are safeguarded by the Basic Law and would not waver.

Citing President Xi’s pledge of China’s support for Hong Kong during his visit there in July, Mrs Lam said developments such as the Belt and Road Initiative (see page three) would bring huge opportunities for Hong Kong. This success would be underpinned by Hong Kong’s core values, she said.

### Crossrail and Hong Kong

While in London, Mrs Lam visited one of the world’s largest engineering projects,



**Above:** Philip Hammond, UK Chancellor of the Exchequer, with Mrs Lam at the annual dinner of the Hong Kong Trade Development Council.

Crossrail, which is creating a new rail link between east and west London. The service will be operated by MTR Corporation, a Hong Kong company, reflecting international recognition of the quality of Hong Kong’s transport operating services.

Later Mrs Lam and UK Schools Minister Nick Gibb attended a roundtable discussion with education leaders, hosted by the British Council, where they talked about issues including teacher empowerment and professional

development. Education is a priority for Hong Kong, said Mrs Lam, who has announced that her Government will spend HK\$3.6 billion of recurrent funding on creating quality education, benefiting schools, teachers and students.

During a meeting with Philip Hammond, UK Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mrs Lam discussed issues including financial technology, green finance and the Belt and Road Initiative. She also met UK art and design leaders and said she was looking forward to establishing closer cultural ties with the UK to enrich arts and culture in Hong Kong. The Government is committed to developing Hong Kong into an international arts and cultural hub, she said.

### Asia growth

Addressing the Think Asia, Think Hong Kong symposium, organised by the

*Continued on page 2*

## ‘Hope and happiness’ policy address



**Above:** Mrs Lam delivers her 2017 Policy Address at the Legislative Council in October.

**Delivering her first policy address since her election as Chief Executive last year, Carrie Lam outlined her Government’s strategies for promoting economic development and fostering a more harmonious society.**

She identified governance as her top priority. “Good governance is vital whether in discharging the responsibilities of the Government as a service provider or a regulator, or in taking up the new roles of the Government as a facilitator and a promoter,” she said, speaking at the Legislative Council in October.

### Tax cuts

Mrs Lam unveiled a raft of measures to enhance Hong Kong’s competitiveness including halving profits tax to 8.25% for the first

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HKTDC, Mrs Lam said that Asia would continue to drive global economic growth and invited British enterprises to partner with Hong Kong to explore new business opportunities in the region. "As Asia continues to drive the global economy's growth we welcome British companies interested in exploring new business opportunities in the East to partner with Hong Kong in their search for success," she said.

Mrs Lam also pointed out the strong ties between Hong Kong and the UK in the fields of education, design, and culture, noting that the UK Government was set to launch the GREAT Festival of Innovations

in Hong Kong next March. The symposium brought together over 1,000 people from politics and business.

**Stronger bilateral trade**

While in London, Mrs Lam also met Damian Green, then UK First Secretary of State, and Liam Fox, UK Secretary of State for International Trade. Mrs Lam said she welcomed moves to strengthen trade between the two places and looked forward to closer collaboration with the UK in areas such as creative industries and technology. Mrs Lam also exchanged views on topics including housing, urban planning and smart city initiatives at a

luncheon with MPs hosted by the All Party Parliamentary China Group at the House of Commons. While in London, Mrs Lam met Hong Kong students who were studying there under the Hong Kong Scholarship for Excellence Scheme and visited an exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum as part of the London Design Festival. She also called on Liu Xiaoming, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the UK, to thank the embassy for its continuing support. Before leaving London, Mrs Lam met with Hong Kong people living in the UK to learn about their everyday lives.

*Continued from p1 'Hope and Happiness'*

HK\$2 million of profits, and major tax incentives to encourage investment in research and development. HK\$2 billion would be invested in local tech startups, she said, matched by venture capital funds, and HK\$700 million would be earmarked for the Smart City initiatives including 'smart lampposts', which can monitor traffic and air pollution.

The Government will create 23,000 square metres of new exhibition and convention space by demolishing three government towers in Wan Chai, she announced, so that the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre can expand. In addition, a new convention centre will be built above the MTR Exhibition Station. A number of commercial sites will be put up for sale to increase the supply of land, she added, including at the Kai Tak Development Area, above the terminus of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link and at the new harbourfront in Central.

She also promised to diversify Hong Kong's tourism sector by promoting cultural, heritage, green and creative tourism. HK\$1 billion was earmarked to develop design and creative industries.

**Belt and Road agreement**

Mrs Lam said her Government would capitalise on the opportunities presented by China's Belt and Road Initiative, with a comprehensive agreement on Hong Kong's involvement in this global initiative now agreed with China (see page seven).

Mrs Lam also emphasised the need to diversify Hong Kong industries and will personally chair a steering committee on innovation and technology to ensure collaboration across all government departments.

**"Hope and happiness"**

Subsidies of around HK\$3 billion will be available to help residents maintain their buildings and make Hong Kong a better place to live, she announced. She also said her Government would set up a Countryside Conservation Office to co-ordinate conservation projects and promote the sustainable development of remote countryside areas.

"My vision is for a Hong Kong of hope and happiness," said Mrs Lam. "I see a vibrant international metropolis that is just, civilised, safe, affluent, enjoys the rule of law, compassionate and well-governed. As long as we can connect and achieve consensus, and capitalise on our strengths, the future of Hong Kong is bright."

The complete Policy Address can be found at [www.policyaddress.gov.hk/2017/eng/index.html](http://www.policyaddress.gov.hk/2017/eng/index.html)

**Right:** Mrs Lam (right) visits an exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, with Edward Yau, Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (second right).



**Above:** Liu Xiaoming, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the United Kingdom, with Mrs Lam.



**Above:** Mrs Lam speaks at the annual dinner of the Hong Kong Trade Development Council.

**Right:** Students studying under the Hong Kong Scholarship for Excellence Scheme in London meet Mrs Lam.



**Below:** Damian Green (first right), then UK First Secretary of State and Minister for the Cabinet Office, meets Mrs Lam along with Liam Fox (second right), UK Secretary of State for International Trade.

**Above:** Mrs Lam (third right) meets Richard Graham MP (fourth left), Chair of the All Party Parliamentary China Group, and other guests.



**Above:** Leaders in the fields of art and design meet Mrs Lam to discuss links between the UK and Hong Kong.



**Above:** Mrs Lam (second left) with (left) Edward Yau, Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development and (second right) Professor Frederick Ma, Chairman of MTR Corporation, at the learning and development centre of MTR Crossrail in London.

●●● Transport

## Maritime services boost

**Frank Chan, Secretary for Transport and Housing, visited London in September to promote Hong Kong as an international maritime centre.**

Speaking at a seminar during London International Shipping Week, Mr Chan said that the Belt and Road Initiative (see box below) opened up new horizons, “connecting each and every economy and their people all the way from the East through the Middle East to the West.” He urged shipping companies to take advantages of Hong Kong’s strategic location and maritime services to grow their businesses in the region.

While in London, Mr Chan signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Maritime London, a not-for-profit body, to work together to promote the maritime industry in both places. He also met with John Hayes, then UK Minister of State at the Department for Transport, to explore opportunities to enhance co-operation between Hong Kong and London. Hong Kong has over 800 maritime companies providing services from ship management, ship finance and marine insurance to maritime legal and arbitration services.



**Above:** Mr Chan outlines opportunities under the Belt and Road Initiative at a seminar organised by Maritime London.

●●● Finance

## Fintech flourishing

**James Lau, Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury, visited London in September to learn more about the latest developments in financial technologies (fintech) and promote Hong Kong as a fintech hub. Speaking at a roundtable discussion on blockchain, the Belt and Road Initiative and trade finance, Mr Lau said that fintech could improve, streamline and facilitate trade.**

At a dinner organised by Cyberport, the Hong Kong digital community, Mr Lau pointed out that Hong Kong was a place where fintech start-ups flourished and where companies and investors could tap into fintech opportunities in the Asia Pacific region. While in London, Mr Lau also visited Accenture FinTech Innovation Lab London and met with key players in the fintech sector. He also witnessed the signing of the Hong Kong-UK Fintech Bridge Agreement between the two governments (see page 7).

Mr Lau was in London to join the Hong Kong FinTech Mission to London 2017 co-organised by Cyberport and the Hong Kong Monetary Authority.



**Above:** Mr Lau delivers a speech at a dinner in London organised by Cyberport.



**Above:** Mr Lau (fifth left) discusses opportunities brought about by the Belt and Road Initiative with leading fintech start-ups in London.

●●● Culture

## Creative collaborations

**The Royal College of Art, British Film Institute, Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design, and the London College of Fashion, were four of the London institutions visited by Edward Yau, Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, during his visit in September to strengthen creative collaborations.**

Speaking to representatives from various creative sectors, Mr Yau highlighted the close links between Hong Kong and the UK and said that creative industries were a strong driving force for the future economic development of Hong Kong. Mr Yau also visited the Zaha Hadid Design Gallery, Heatherwick Studio and the Design Museum to discuss, among other things, vocational training initiatives for creative professionals in the UK.

**Below:** Mr Yau (second right) pictured with Professor Naren Barfield (third right), Pro-Rector of the Royal College of Art, accompanied by Eliza Lee (third left) Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Creative Industries), during this visit there in September.



**Above:** Visiting Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design of the University of the Arts London, Mr Yau (second left) is briefed by Jeremy Till (fourth left), Head of College and Pro-Vice Chancellor.

●●● Design

## Swedish royalty visits Hong Kong

Prince Carl Philip of Sweden visited Hong Kong in December to launch the first edition of #SwedenTalks\_HK, a platform for exchanges between Hong Kong and Sweden in areas including innovation, creativity, design, culture and social values. Carrie Lam, Chief Executive, welcomed Prince Carl Philip and expressed her gratitude to Sweden for their cooperation over the years in the fields of design and creativity, including their support for the Business of Design Week, a flagship event in Asia.



**Above:** Prince Carl Philip of Sweden pictured with Mrs Lam at Government House.

## What is Belt and Road?

The Belt and Road Initiative refers to the Silk Road Economic Belt and 21st Century Maritime Silk Road, a significant development strategy launched by President Xi Jinping of China in 2013. Commonly called the Belt and Road Initiative, its aim is to promote economic, political and cultural co-operation in over 60 economies of the proposed Belt and Road network, which stretches across Asia, Africa and Europe, and together encompass around 65 per cent of the world’s population. Historically, the Silk Road was an ancient network of trade routes from China to the Mediterranean and Northern Europe, dating back well over a thousand years, which were vital for trade and cultural interaction.



# 20th anniversary celebrations

A ten-month programme of events to mark the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region was concluded in November. The events were organised by the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (HKETO), London. A big thank you to all our partners for making the celebrations such a success.

## Creative Visions: Hong Kong Cinema 1997–2017

**Below:** Special screenings in London, Moscow and Manchester, organised by the Hong Kong International Film Festival Society (HKIFFS) with local partners and sponsored by Create Hong Kong, celebrated the achievements of the Hong Kong film industry over the past 20 years.

“Our film industry has a global reputation,” said Priscilla To, Director-General, HKETO, speaking in Manchester. “Not only do we have one of the largest and most dynamic film entertainment industries in the world, many Hong Kong directors, actors, cinematographers and producers have already become household names.”

## Western and Chinese music come together

**Right:** Hong Kong musicians performed a special programme of jazz, Western classical and traditional Chinese music in London’s Bishopsgate Institute in November.

*Resounding Bauhinia* was curated by award-winning Hong Kong-born composer, jazz pianist and conductor Raymond Yiu to showcase Hong Kong’s unique ‘East meets West’ culture. Mrs To (fourth left) is pictured with Mr Yiu (first left) and musicians.



## Manchester and Birmingham business events

**Below:** Priscilla To (centre), Director-General, HKETO, pictured with David Marsden (left), Director, UK, Benelux & Ireland, Hong Kong Trade and Development Council, and Andrew Davis, Head, Investment Promotion, Invest Hong Kong, at Manchester Airport’s Concorde Hangar. Addressing the “Take off 2017” business conference in Manchester in November, organised by the UK Department for International Trade, Ms To highlighted Hong Kong’s achievements over the past 20 years and its vibrant innovation and technology scene. She also addressed a business luncheon in Birmingham, co-organised by HKETO, at which she stressed Hong Kong’s role in China’s Belt and Road Initiative (see page three).



**Above:** Film director Herman Yau (right) answers audience questions after a screening of his film *The Sleep Curse* at HOME in Manchester.



**Above:** The Creative Visions: Hong Kong Cinema 1997-2017 film festival in London opened with the European première of Wilson Yip’s *Paradox*. The film’s leading actor Gordon Lam (centre) is pictured with Mrs To (fourth left) and Roger Garcia (fourth right), Executive Director of the HKIFFS.



**Left:** Hong Kong film producer Subi Liang (first left) and director Pang Ho-cheung (second right) pictured before a screening of their film *Love Off the Cuff* in Moscow. The screening was part of the Creative Visions: Hong Kong Cinema 1997-2017 film festival at Moscow’s Gorizont Cinema.





**Left:** Milk tea master Mok Pui-ling (left) demonstrates how to make this popular Hong Kong drink.

## Lord Mayor's show 2017

Over half a million people took to the streets in November to watch the spectacular Lord Mayor's Show, which included a stunning Hong Kong float to mark the 20th anniversary of Hong Kong's return to Mainland China.

Sponsored by HKETO, the float featured Hong Kong musicians playing medleys of well-known Cantopop songs, alongside specially designed flags, a spectacular dragon dance and a troupe of Chinese-style dancers.

"We have been organising and supporting many events to mark Hong Kong's special anniversary but this is definitely the biggest," said Priscilla To, Director-General, HKETO. "We are truly honoured to see the enjoyment and affection people hold towards Hong Kong." HKETO has been taking part in the Lord Mayor's Show since 2005.



**Above:** The Lord Mayor's show has a global TV audience of millions.



**Above:** Children show off their paper lanterns made at a workshop run by paper craft master Kenneth Mo.



**Above:** The Hong Kong float travels along the Embankment by the River Thames. The annual spectacular celebrates the swearing-in of the new Lord Mayor of London.

## Intangible Cultural Heritage Festival

**Above:** A ten day exhibition and a series of workshops held at London's China Exchange in November marked the finale of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Festival – promoting Hong Kong's traditional folk culture including performing arts, social practices, rituals, festivals, food and traditional crafts. The exhibition was organised by Ming Ai (London) Institute and supported by HKETO.



**Above left and right:** The 2017 Hong Kong float featured musicians, flags, dancers and a dragon dance.

## Business and cultural promotion in Sweden

**Right top and bottom:** A business reception was held in the Swedish History Museum in Stockholm in October attended by over 150 people from business, government, academia and diplomatic circles. Guests included Torborg Chetkovich (fourth right), Vice-Chairman of the Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce in Sweden, and Congyou Gui (fifth right), Chinese Ambassador to Sweden. The Hong Kong String Orchestra, led by the orchestra's founder and artistic director Jue Yao, was invited to stage a performance at the reception to showcase Hong Kong's musical talent. Sponsored by the HKETO, the String Orchestra also took part in a concert at the Uusi Paviljonki in Kauniainen, Finland in October, which celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region as well as the centenary of Finland's independence.



## East Asia film

A café in London, designed in the style of a traditional Hong Kong café, was the venue for a reception hosted by HKETO to mark the screening of Andrew Lau and Alan Mak's *Infernal Affairs* at the London East Asia Film Festival 2017 (LEAFF). A total of four films were screened in a special Hong Kong 20th Anniversary festival strand titled 'Hong Kong: Now and Then' to promote the vibrant film industry of Hong Kong. Ann Hui's *Our Time Will Come* was also screened at the Stockholm International Film Festival in November and at the BFI London Film Festival in October, which also showed Christopher Doyle's *The White Girl*.

## ● ● ● Trade

## Hong Kong and ASEAN sign free trade agreement

**Hong Kong and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) have signed a free trade agreement covering goods and services, investment, and economic and technical co-operation.**

The agreement will strengthen trade and investment between Hong Kong and ASEAN and enhance business opportunities for Hong Kong enterprises, said Edward Yau, Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, speaking at the signing ceremony in the Philippines in November. A related Investment Agreement was also signed.

ASEAN, which includes Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam, is Hong Kong's second largest trading partner in merchandise and the fourth largest in



**Above:** Mr Yau and Ramon Lopez, Secretary of Trade and Industry of the Philippines, sign a free trade agreement in November between Hong Kong and the ten ASEAN nations.

services. The agreements will strengthen Hong Kong's status as "the most open and business-friendly international city in the region," said Mr Yau. The two agreements will come into force by January 2019 at the earliest.

## ● ● ● Trade

## World Trade Organisation appointment

Edward Yau, Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, served as Vice Chair of the 11th World Trade Organisation Ministerial Conference held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in December. Hong Kong is a separate and independent member of the World Trade Organisation and supports free and open trade, said Mr Yau. Chairing a session on Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, he urged WTO members to make greater efforts so that smaller enterprises share in the benefits of trade. His appointment reinforces Hong Kong's role as an advocate for rules-based, non-discriminatory trade.



**Left:** Mr Yau (centre) chairs a meeting during the 11th World Trade Organisation Ministerial Conference in November.

## ● ● ● Economy

## Hong Kong "world's freest economy"



**Hong Kong has been named the world's freest economy by the Fraser Institute in its latest report on global economic freedom. The Canadian organisation annually assesses economies for their 'regulation' and 'freedom to trade internationally', for example, rating Hong Kong first for the former and second for the latter, and first overall.**

Hong Kong also ranks highly in the World Bank's list of the easiest places

to do business, published in October. The report compares the ease of doing business in 190 economies using measures such as ease of starting a business and paying taxes, with Hong Kong ranked fifth overall.

### Strong financial buffers

An International Monetary Fund (IMF) assessment has concluded that Hong Kong is well placed to navigate future financial challenges. The verdict is based on Hong Kong's strong financial buffers, robust policy frameworks and the Linked Exchange Rate System, which stabilises the exchange rate between the Hong Kong and US dollars. Welcoming the IMF's reassuring forecast in November, Financial Secretary Paul Chan said he was confident that Hong Kong's economic growth would continue to gather momentum. The IMF noted that Hong Kong's gross domestic product was projected to grow by 3.5 per cent in 2017.

Hong Kong is now home to over 8,200 businesses whose parent companies are overseas or in Mainland China, said Edward Yau, Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, speaking at a reception in December hosted by InvestHK, a government department that helps overseas companies to set up and expand in Hong Kong.

## ● ● ● Economy

## Asia to drive global growth

Asia will continue to be the engine of global economic growth for the foreseeable future, said Carrie Lam, Chief Executive, speaking at a conference in November organised in Hong Kong by Asia House to mark the 20th anniversary of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.



**Left:** Mrs Lam delivers her keynote speech at the Asia House conference in Hong Kong in November.

"The world economy, at least in terms of GDP, is shifting east and south at an extraordinary speed," she said, noting that increasing economic integration with Mainland China will continue to bring new opportunities for Hong Kong. Major infrastructure developments, including the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (which will cut the journey time between the Hong Kong International Airport and Macao to 45 minutes), would underline Hong Kong's status as "the region's trade, business and logistics hub," she said.

Trade

## Hong Kong signs Belt and Road agreement with China

The Hong Kong and Chinese governments have signed an agreement to deepen Hong Kong's participation in the Belt and Road Initiative (see page three).

The new agreement, signed in December, focuses on Hong Kong's role in advancing the Belt and Road Initiative through, for example, finance and investment, infrastructure and maritime services, project management, and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area development.

In addition, a Joint Conference mechanism will be set up between the Hong Kong Government, the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council and other relevant Mainland authorities for regular and direct communication. The Joint Conference will discuss matters relating to Hong Kong's participation in and contribution to the Belt and Road Initiative and consider specific work priorities. Mrs Lam said: "Grounded on Hong Kong's strengths in finance, infrastructure, economic and trade, professional services and more, the Arrangement seeks to enhance communication and co-operation with the Mainland in the 'five areas of connectivity', i.e. policy co-ordination, facilities connectivity, unimpeded trade, financial integration and people-to-people bond ... The Commerce and Economic Development Bureau will follow up with the NDRC on the establishment of the Joint Conference mechanism. We intend to convene the meeting at the earliest opportunity to take forward the various areas of work in the Arrangement."

**What is the Belt and Road Initiative? See box on page 3.**



**Above right:** Mrs Lam (left) signs an agreement with China to advance Hong Kong's involvement in the Belt and Road Initiative. Pictured with He Lifeng, Chairman of China's National Development and Reform Commission.

Finance

## Hong Kong is Asian fintech leader



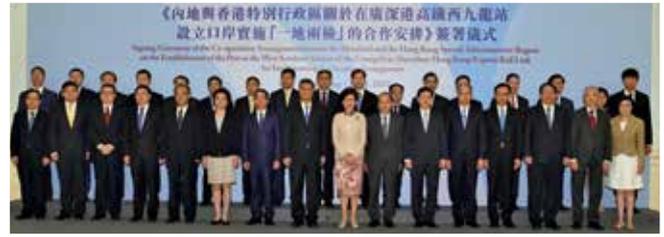
**Fintech Week in Hong Kong, which took place in October, attracted over 4,000 people including entrepreneurs, regulators, venture capitalists and service providers from more than 50 countries.**

Over 300 speakers addressed packed events on topics from blockchain and artificial intelligence to insurance technologies and cyber security. "Participants came from all around the world, clearly demonstrating Hong Kong's potential to develop into a global fintech hub," said Paul Chan, Financial Secretary. In 2016, 138 fintech companies started up in Hong Kong, an increase of 60 per cent on the year before.

**Above:** Fintech Week, organised by InvestHK, was the first of a series of fintech activities running over three weeks in Hong Kong, involving regulators, entrepreneurs, investors, start-ups, academics and service providers from Hong Kong and around the world.

Transport

## Rail link immigration agreement



**Hong Kong and Mainland China have reached agreement on arrangements for border checks once the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link (XRL) opens later in 2018.**

Under a so-called 'co-location arrangement' both places will exercise entry and exit regulation at Hong Kong's West Kowloon Station. This means passengers entering or leaving Hong Kong will have all immigration checks done in one place. "Time-saving clearance procedures are absolutely essential to realising the full potential of the XRL in terms of speed and convenience," said Carrie Lam, Chief Executive.

Hong Kong checks will take place at a Hong Kong Port Area set up in West Kowloon Station by the Hong Kong government. Mainland checks will take place at the separate Mainland Port Area within the same station, to be established by the Mainland Government. Rules on immigration, customs and quarantine will be enforced in the separate areas according to each place's respective laws. Mainland officials will, however, have no law enforcement powers outside the Mainland Port Area.

**Above:** Mrs Lam (front row, centre) at the signing of the agreement between Hong Kong and China on immigration arrangements for the new Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link.

Finance

## UK-Hong Kong fintech collaboration

**The Hong Kong and UK governments have signed an agreement jointly to promote financial innovation. The Hong Kong-UK FinTech Bridge Agreement covers government-to-government, regulator-to-regulator and industry-to-industry links and will enable fintech firms in each place to use the facilities and assistance available to companies in the other.**

"We hope to see Hong Kong's home-grown fintech firms grow and expand their business to the UK," said James Lau, Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury, speaking at the Hong Kong Fintech Awards Ceremony 2017 organised by the UK Department for International Trade in November. "We also welcome UK fintech firms to establish a presence in Hong Kong." The Hong Kong Fintech Awards give Hong Kong start-ups a chance to access the UK market. A reciprocal programme run by InvestHK programme will identify UK fintech firms interested in exploring business opportunities in Hong Kong.



**Infrastructure finance boost.** Vincent Lee (left), Executive Director (External) of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA), and Sherry Madera, Special Adviser for Asia of the City of London, pictured at the Hong Kong-London Financial Services Forum in December. During the forum it was announced that the City of London is now a partner of HKMA's Infrastructure Financing Facilitation Office. This will enable it to draw on the City's network of financial institutions to further strengthen the global dimension of its work promoting infrastructure financing and investment.

## ●●● Science

## Young science medallists

A team of six Hong Kong students achieved excellent results in the International Junior Science Olympiad 2017 held in the Netherlands in December, winning three gold and three silver medals.

Forty eight countries participated in the competition for secondary school students which saw contestants asked to complete written assessments and carry out biology, chemistry and physics experiments.

Congratulating the team on their outstanding performance, Secretary for



Above: Hong Kong medallists at the International Junior Science Olympiad in November.

Education Kevin Yeung said: "We will continue to support learning activities related to science, technology and mathematics so that more students can become the new generation of leaders in the development of science and innovation in Hong Kong."



**Finland Hong Kong cultural dialogue.** A temporary exhibition space in Hong Kong Cultural Centre Plaza, created by two young architects, explored the relationship between the cultures of Hong Kong and Finland. *Hot is Cool: Cultural Dialogue Between Finland and Hong Kong* created a space for design exhibitions, cultural salons, creative workshops, and reading and music performances, plus a Finnish sauna experience.

## ●●● Culture

## Chinese art in London

The Art Museum of the Chinese University of Hong Kong exhibited some of its best collections at Asia House in October and November as part of 'Asian Art in London', which showcased Hong Kong's unique role in promoting and researching Chinese art.



Established in 1971, the Art Museum has taken an active role in promoting Chinese culture and heritage and facilitating academic exchange between China and the West. "This exhibition is a vivid example of the Art Museum's international cultural collaboration," said Priscilla To, Director-General of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office, London, which supported the event. "As the UK is the world's leading art and culture hub, I look forward to seeing more collaboration between Hong Kong and the UK."

## ●●● Sport

## Volvo Ocean Race

Hong Kong is a host city for the Volvo Ocean Race, one of the sailing world's most gruelling challenges which takes teams 45,000 nautical miles around the world, across four oceans, touching six continents and 12 landmark host cities.

The Hong Kong Stopover from January 17 to 31 will feature plenty of events including a Race Village and Race Festival on the shoreline of Victoria Harbour with Hong Kong's iconic cityscape providing a dazzling backdrop.

Hong Kong is represented in the race by Team Sun Hung Kai/Scallywag, helmed by veteran Australian skipper David Witt and supported by BrandHK. This is the first time Hong Kong has been a host city for the event. Other host cities for the race include Cardiff in the UK and Gothenburg in Sweden. More information at [www.volvoceanracehk.com](http://www.volvoceanracehk.com).



© Pedro Martinez/Volvo Ocean Race

Above: Hong Kong's Scallywag on its way from Cape Town to Melbourne.

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

**Thursday, 1 February 2018**  
Chinese New Year Reception in Helsinki, Finland

**Tuesday, 6 February 2018**  
Chinese New Year Reception in Stockholm, Sweden

**Thursday, 8 February 2018**  
Chinese New Year Reception in Copenhagen, Denmark

**Monday, 12 February 2018**  
Business Seminar and Chinese New Year Reception in Oslo, Norway

**Sunday, 18 February 2018**  
Chinese New Year celebration at Trafalgar Square and Chinatown in London, UK

**Wednesday, 21 February 2018**  
Chinese New Year Reception in London, UK

**Monday, 26 February 2018**  
Business Seminar and Chinese New Year Reception in St Petersburg, Russia

**Tuesday, 27 February 2018**  
Chinese New Year Reception in Moscow, Russia

### FOR HONG KONG EVENT DETAILS:



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**Lighting up winter.** Buildings on both sides of Hong Kong's famous harbour were transformed by a spectacular light show during a month-long Winterfest in December. Other highlights included a dazzling 18-metre-tall Christmas tree in Statue Square and 3D projections on the façade of the Hong Kong Cultural Centre.