

HONG KONG REVIEW

March 2026

Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office, London



Hong Kong's 2026-27 Budget: Driving High-Quality, Inclusive Growth with Innovation and Finance



The Financial Secretary of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), Mr Paul Chan, unveiled Hong Kong's Budget for 2026-27 on 25 February 2026 with measures including tax incentives for businesses and support for residents.

Outlook for 2026 and Beyond

The Budget forecasts that the Hong Kong's economy will grow by 2.5% to 3.5% in real terms in 2026, while the underlying inflation rate is expected to be 1.7%. In the medium term, the Budget forecasts an average growth of 3% per annum in real terms from 2027 to 2030, with the underlying inflation rate averaging 2% a year.

To align with the National 15th Five-Year Plan, the Chief Executive of the HKSAR will lead a cross-bureau, cross-departmental task force for Hong Kong, and formulate Hong Kong's five-year plan for the first time.

Budget Highlights

Innovation and Technology

- Driving AI+ development
 - Establish the Committee on AI+ and Industry Development Strategy to transform industries
 - Hong Kong AI Research and Development Institute to support R&D and transformation of outcomes
 - Take forward Sandy Ridge data-facility cluster project
- Enhancing AI Literacy
 - HKD 50 million (about GBP 4.7 million or Euro 5.4 million) to help public organisations, tech enterprises and tertiary institutions set up AI application courses,

seminars and competitions

- Tertiary institutions to organise more AI-related programmes
- Employees Retraining Board to become Upskill Hong Kong, providing skill-based training, including AI application
- New online interactive data service platform to be launched in March 2026

Life and Health Technology

- International Clinical Trial Academy to be established in 2027
- HKD 500 million (about GBP 47.3 million or Euro 54.2 million) injection for Chinese Medicine Development Fund to support strategic research, training and international publicity

Supporting emerging industries

- Aerospace
 - The Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises to attract aerospace enterprises
 - The Hong Kong Exchange and Clearing Limited to review listing requirements for aerospace enterprises
- Microelectronics
 - The Hong Kong Investment Corporation Limited (HKIC) and enterprises to establish Hong Kong RISC-V Alliance, forging collaboration among industries, academia and the investment sector
 - Push for R&D and applications in embodied AI, quantum technology and new materials
 - HKD 10 billion (about GBP 0.9 billion or Euro 1.1 billion) I&T Industry-Oriented Fund to begin operating this year

- Review and enhance tax arrangements for R&D expenditures
- New Industrialisation
 - New Industrialisation Elite Enterprises Nurturing Scheme to be launched this year, supporting high-growth enterprises
 - HKD 220 million (about GBP 20.8 million or Euro 23.8 million) to establish the first national manufacturing innovation centre outside the Chinese Mainland
- Northern Metropolis for I&T
 - Public-Private Partnership to channel land and corporate resources for industrial development
 - Hetao Co-operation Zone Hong Kong Park: HKD 10 billion (about GBP 0.9 billion or Euro 1.1 billion) to accelerate land development, provide infrastructure, establish venture fund
 - San Tin Technopole: establish dedicated company and inject HKD 10 billion (about GBP 0.9 billion or Euro 1.1 billion) as initial capital
 - HKD 10 billion (about GBP 0.9 billion or Euro 1.1 billion) to support initial operation of Hung Shui Kiu Industry Park Company Limited, beginning operation this year
 - HKD 10 billion (about GBP 0.9 billion or Euro 1.1 billion) loan to support campus development in the Northern Metropolis University Town

Above: The Financial Secretary, Mr Paul Chan (second left) presents the Budget to the Press, alongside the Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury, Mr Christopher Hui (second right); the Permanent Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury, Mr Andrew Lai (first left); and the Government Economist, Ms Irina Fan (first right).

Continued on page 2

Government

Safeguarding national security



A White Paper to safeguard Hong Kong's national security published by central authorities has been welcomed by the Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), Mr John Lee, who pledged full government support to implement the document.

"Hong Kong: Safeguarding China's National Security Under the Framework of One Country, Two Systems" covers five critical areas including Hong Kong's transformation from disorder to stability and prosperity, and establishing high-standard security to support high-quality development of the "one country, two systems" policy.

Mr Lee will lead and co-ordinate Hong Kong's executive authorities, legislature and judiciary in implementing its content and requirements.

Above: The Chief Executive, Mr John Lee, comments on the White Paper.

Legislation

Government to work with legislators

Hong Kong held its eighth general election last December and elected 90 of the 161 candidates to the Legislative Council (LegCo).

This was only the second election held following the implementation of the principle of "patriots administering Hong Kong" and based on an improved electoral system.

The Chief Executive of the HKSAR, Mr John Lee, commented on the smooth and successful conduct of the election, saying it demonstrated electors' support for choosing capable and committed members to drive institutional reform. "It showcases the spirit of unity, mutual care and support among the people of Hong Kong," he said.



Above: The Chief Executive, Mr John Lee, administers the oath-taking of members of the eighth-term LegCo on 1 January 2026.

Continued from page 1

Hong Kong's 2026-27 Budget

Finance

- Offshore RMB market
 - Reduce transaction costs for RMB and other currency conversions
 - Attract more RMB-denominated bond issuances in Hong Kong
 - Explore formation of offshore RMB yield curve
- Mutual market access
 - Expedite launch of Chinese Government Bond futures in Hong Kong
 - Include real estate investment trusts (REITs) in mutual access
 - Inclusion of RMB trading counter under Southbound Stock Connect
- Securities market reforms
 - Consult the market on revised requirements for weighted voting right structures
 - Facilitate secondary listing of overseas issuers and implementing T+1 settlement cycles
 - Enhance structured product-listing framework and regulatory regime for listed companies
- Asset and wealth management
 - Legislate this year to enhance family offices and fund tax regime
 - Enable REITs privatisation
 - Amend the law next year to provide stamp duty waiver for transferring non-residential properties into REITs seeking to list
- Digital assets
 - Central Moneymarkets Units
 - OmniClear to establish digital asset

- platform this year to support the issuance and settlement of digital bonds
- Establish through legislation licensing regime for providers of digital-asset dealing and custodian services
- Gold trading
 - Explore tax concessions for eligible institutions conducting gold trading and settlement in Hong Kong

Aviation, Shipping, Logistics

- Future Innovative Logistics Acceleration Scheme to be launched this year
- Enhance tax-concession measures for maritime services industry
- Provide half-rate tax concession to eligible physical commodity traders
- Provide port dues concessions for green vessels and offer incentives for green vessels registered in Hong Kong, involving government subsidies of about HKD 34 million (about GBP 3.2 million or Euro 3.7 million)

Culture, Sports, Tourism

- HKD 1.66 billion (about GBP 0.16 billion or Euro 0.18 billion) for Hong Kong Tourism Board in 2026-27 to enhance Hong Kong's tourist appeal
- Additional HKD 1 billion (about GBP 0.09 billion or Euro 0.11 billion) for the Built Heritage Conservation Fund
- HKD 1.2 billion (about GBP 0.11 billion or Euro 0.13 billion) into the sports portion of the Arts and Sport

Development Fund

- Secure five-year collaboration with Art Basel

Trade Centre

- Preferential policy packages: including preferential arrangements on land grants, financial subsidies and tax incentives. Preferential tax rates at half rate or 5%.
- HKD 100 million (about GBP 9.5 million or Euro 10.9 million) to attract international, large-scale exhibitions with new elements
- Intellectual Property Trading – tax deduction arrangements for capital expenditure in purchasing IP
- HKD 52 million (about GBP 4.9 million or Euro 5.6 million) for Intellectual Property Academy on two-year pilot

Land

- HKIC to collaborate with regional and international long-term capital to direct capital flow towards quality commercial property projects
- Three post-secondary student hostel sites to be made available for land sale, subject to market response
- Conduct public consultation on dedicated legislation for Northern Metropolis and submit legislation in mid-2026
- Impose time limits on approval process for large-scale, private development projects in Northern Metropolis

●●● Economy

Global business summit success

Global speakers gathered for the nineteenth Asian Financial Forum, exploring market developments and ways of fostering co-operation among economies.

Co-organised by the Government of the HKSAR and the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, the two-day event, themed “Co-creating New Horizons Amid an Evolving Landscape”, attracted over 3 600 delegates.

Day Two included the inaugural Global Business Summit, with a specific focus on how Hong Kong can help international businesses grow their presence in China. Addressing the opening session, the Chief Executive of the HKSAR, Mr John Lee, highlighted Hong Kong’s prowess as an international financial hub, saying, “our financial market stands out for its deep liquidity, innovative products and world-class investor protection”



Above right: The Chief Executive, Mr John Lee, (first row, fifth right) at the Forum.

●●● Economy

Financial Secretary on European trade tour

London was the first stop on a European visit by HKSAR’s Financial Secretary, Mr Paul Chan.

He met representatives from family offices across Europe, the Middle East and Asia, and briefed them on the investment opportunities in Hong Kong’s finance and innovation and technology (I&T). Mr Chan also told them about the city’s vibrant ecosystem for philanthropy and impact investing, and its high-quality living environment, and invited them to establish a presence in Hong Kong.

He held a meeting with a financial institution planning to set up operations in Hong Kong, before paying a courtesy call on the Chinese Ambassador to the UK, Mr Zheng Zeguang. In the evening, Mr Chan attended a Hong Kong Dinner hosted by the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, a longstanding tradition that celebrates the enduring ties between Hong Kong and the UK.

In his keynote speech, Mr Chan updated political and business leaders in the audience on the latest developments and emerging opportunities in Hong Kong. He observed that exchanges between Hong Kong and the UK have become more frequent over the past year, including growth in bilateral trade and an expansion of two-way investment.

“We continue to keep our tax system simple and low”, he said. “Last year, we even reduced import duties on high-value spirits. No surprise, we’ve been enjoying more fine single malts lately – some of them even older than I am! Beyond the fundamentals, what sets Hong Kong apart is our resilience, agility and flexibility,” added Mr Chan.

He also told his audience that the HKSAR Government is accelerating I&T development, including easing planning restrictions and adopting more flexible development models. Preferential policy packages will also be introduced to attract top-tier enterprises.

Mr Chan explained that the Lok Ma Chau Loop area will become a cross-boundary innovation corridor, where capital, talent, goods, data and even bio-samples will flow seamlessly from the Chinese Mainland to Hong Kong. This will offer opportunities to international firms in the fields of AI and biotech, he said.

Right from top to bottom:

The Financial Secretary, Mr Paul Chan (front row, centre) with representatives from family offices from Europe, the Middle East and Asia.

The Financial Secretary, Mr Paul Chan (left) with the Chinese Ambassador to the UK, Mr Zheng Zeguang.

The Financial Secretary, Mr Paul Chan (third left) with representatives of a financial institution interested in setting up operations in Hong Kong.

The Financial Secretary, Mr Paul Chan gave the keynote address at the Hong Kong Trade Development Council’s dinner.

The Financial Secretary, Mr Paul Chan spoke at the Hong Kong Association’s luncheon.



Investment

Global investor confidence boom



Above: The Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Mr Algernon Yau (right), and the Director-General of InvestHK, Ms Alpha Lau, present the annual report.

A record 560 overseas and Chinese Mainland businesses have been assisted by Invest Hong Kong (InvestHK) to set up or expand in Hong Kong during 2025, a four per cent rise year-on-year.

InvestHK's annual report estimates that total direct investment brought by these companies is almost HKD 69.4 billion (about GBP 6.6 billion or EUR 7.5 billion), a two per cent increase on 2024. The growth is expected to create 10 748 job opportunities in Hong Kong during their first year of operation with around 20% at management or professional level.

HKSAR's Secretary for Commerce & Economic Development, Mr Algernon Yau, said this was "a clear reflection of the strong global investor confidence in Hong Kong".

The New Capital Investment Entrant Scheme received 2 852 applications by the end of 2025 and is set to bring more than HKD 85.5 billion (about GBP 8.1 billion or EUR 9.3 billion) in investments to the city, the report said.

Growth

Thriving startups hit record

A growing number of businesses are opening in Hong Kong as its startup ecosystem thrives, boosted by the city's business-friendly environment and strong innovation support making it an appealing base for those aiming to expand in the region.

The figures were released in the two 2025 surveys which show that the number of companies in Hong Kong with Chinese Mainland or overseas parent companies rose to 11 070 in 2025, while the number of start-ups in Hong Kong increased to 5 221, both reaching record highs again.

One of them is a Hong Kong fintech startup that was acquired last year by Singapore's loyalty and travel rewards platform HeyMax. Mr David B Wang, the platform's Global Head of Loyalty Partnerships and General Manager of Hong Kong, said the city offers favourable conditions for startup development.

Economy

World's freest economy, again

Hong Kong has again been ranked as the world's freest economy by The Fraser Institute in its latest Economic Freedom of the World report for 2025.

Among the five areas of assessment, the city maintained the top position in "Freedom to trade internationally", while securing the third position in both "Sound money" and "Regulation".

The report reaffirmed Hong Kong's strengths as a free-market economy, as well as its open and efficient business environment with a level-playing field. A spokesman for the HKSAR Government said: "Hong Kong will, as always, continue to steadfastly uphold its status as a free port."

Growth

Index ranking highs recorded

A series of recently published high-profile rankings place Hong Kong in commanding positions across a range of business and financial sectors.

The city has maintained third place globally, and continues to rank first in the Asia-Pacific region, in the Global Financial Centres Index 38 Report published by the UK's Z/Yen and the China Development Institute.

Hong Kong's overall rating increased four points to 764. The city's rankings in fintech offerings leapt from fourth place to top spot in the world, and those in the areas of business environment, infrastructure, and reputational and general also rose further to first globally, while ranking second and third globally in human capital and financial sector development respectively.

In worldwide innovation, Hong Kong's ranking rose by three places to 15th globally among 139 economies and remains fifth in Asia in the Global Innovation Index 2025 published by the World Intellectual Property Organization.

In the Rule of Law Index 2025, Hong Kong continues to rank sixth in East Asia and the Pacific, and 24th out of 143 countries and jurisdictions globally. Hong Kong maintains its position within the top 10 globally in respect of "Absence of Corruption" and "Order & Security". The global rankings in relation to "Absence



of Corruption" and "Regulatory Enforcement" are higher than last year, ranking ninth and 15th respectively.

When it comes to World Digital Competitiveness Ranking for 2025, published by the International Institute for Management Development, Hong Kong ranks fourth globally with the city's latest ranking is up three places, having also risen three places last year.

According to the latest survey by international anti-graft watchdog Transparency International, Hong Kong ranked the twelfth least-corrupt place among 182 countries/territories, five places up from the preceding year. The rise sees Hong Kong as the second least corrupt place in Asia. Hong Kong has consistently remained in the band of the Top 20 and one of the top performers in the Asia-Pacific region in this Corruption Perceptions Index since its launch in 1995.

●●● Law

Legal Week 2025

“Linking Laws, Bridging Worlds” was the theme of Hong Kong Legal Week 2025 as representatives from international organisations and the legal industry, renowned experts, government officials and academics gathered.

Sessions covered the integration of lawtech and AI, the development of international law and alternative dispute resolution, as well as collaboration in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area.

The sixth UNCITRAL Asia Pacific Judicial Summit – Judicial Conference, organised by the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) and the Hong Kong International Legal Talents Training Academy, involved around 50 judges from over 25 jurisdictions as the opening event.

The biennial summit themed “The Future is Now: Legally Enabling Digitalization of International Trade” comprised a Judicial Conference and a Judicial Roundtable. The former focused on “Building Towards End-to-End Trade Digitalization” and explored topics such as digitalisation of trade, digital transformation in transport, and emerging trends in dispute resolution within the digital economy. The Roundtable, under the theme “Recent Trends in Dispute Resolution”, explored judicial approaches for handling disputes involving AI, as well as the dynamic interaction between alternative dispute resolution mechanisms and formal court proceedings.



Above: The Secretary for Justice, Mr Paul Lam, delivers welcome remarks

●●● Business

Family-office expansion

A major study has revealed that over 3 380 single-family offices were in operation in Hong Kong at the end of 2025. The Market Study on the Family Office Landscape in Hong Kong, commissioned by InvestHK and conducted by Deloitte, shows an increase of about 680 offices over the past two years, a growth of more than 25%.

The study estimates that single-family offices operating in Hong Kong contribute approximately HKD 12.6 billion (about GBP 1.2 billion or EUR 1.4 billion) annually to the local economy through operating expenditures alone, and directly employ over 10 000 full-time professionals.

InvestHK’s Director-General, Ms Alpha Lau, said that many overseas family offices had a strong interest in Hong Kong’s institutional advantages and tax incentives. “Single-family offices are not required to obtain a licence in Hong Kong in general, which helps maintain a high level of privacy. These are key considerations that overseas family offices particularly value,” she added.

Speaking at the inaugural family office forum, HKSAR’s Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury, Mr Christopher Hui, said, “Amidst global changes, the family office industry and asset management sector are undergoing a rapid evolution, placing greater emphasis on sustainable growth, intergenerational legacy, and positive impact.”

Hong Kong’s strengths as a leading global family office hub were outlined during a European tour by the Global Head of Family Office at InvestHK, Mr Jason Fong, and a delegation which prompted greater interest among European families and professionals in exploring the opportunities available in Hong Kong.

During the visit, which included London, Zurich, Geneva and Milan, a series of in-depth exchanges with European family offices, family representatives, asset owners, wealth managers and professional service providers were held. These highlighted Hong Kong’s advantages as Asia’s leading international financial centre: an open-architecture capital market.

Mr Fong said, “We welcome European families to establish a presence in Hong Kong, expand their businesses, and capture the immense growth opportunities in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area and the Chinese Mainland.”

●●● Law

Capital of Mediation

HKSAR’s Secretary for Justice, Mr Paul Lam spoke of Hong Kong’s unique and visionary status as the Capital of Mediation, saying it was not merely an aspirational slogan.

“It is a status built upon a foundation of strong national backing and a distinct identity: rooted in history, reinforced in practice, and recognised in policy”, he said during his welcoming remarks at the Hong Kong Legal week 2025. “The 14th Five-Year Plan expressly supports Hong Kong’s development as a centre for international legal and dispute resolution services in the Asia Pacific region. This national endorsement provides the momentum for us to leverage our unique position and project our robust rule of law globally.

“The Hong Kong Judiciary also plays a vital role in promoting mediation as a key dispute resolution tool”, he said; concluding, “let us remember the spirit that underpins the Capital of Mediation – a spirit of collaboration, respect, and relentless pursuit of peaceful solutions that benefit all.”

The Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in London's (London ETO) rich calendar of events across the UK and the Nordics

Chinese New Year celebrations



London

Left (Clockwise): Year of the Horse was welcomed by London ETO whose Director-General, Miss Fiona Chau, addressed guests at an evening reception in the Dorchester Hotel's ballroom. Officiating guests included (pictured from left) the Head of Europe at the Hong Kong Tourism Board, Ms Anette Wendel-Menke; the Head of Business and Talent Attraction/Investment Promotion of Invest Hong Kong London Office, Ms Daisy Ip; the Director-General of the London ETO, Miss Fiona Chau; the Minister of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the UK, Mr Wang Qi; the Director of UK, Nordics & Ireland of the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC), Ms Joey Ko; and the Marine Adviser of the Marine Department's Regional Desk (London)/Regional Head (London) of the Hong Kong Shipping Registry, Mr Ben Lau. London's large-scale Chinatown celebrations, supported by London ETO, included a traditional lion dance in Trafalgar Square. It was attended by Miss Fiona Chau and the Lord Mayor of Westminster, Mr Paul Dimoldenberg.

Edinburgh

Right: A Chinese-Burns Supper was arranged in Edinburgh by the China-Britain Business Council. Supported by London ETO, Invest Hong Kong (InvestHK) and the HKTDC, the event welcomed the Director-General of the London ETO, Miss Fiona Chau (pictured left) and the Minister for Business and Employment of Scotland, Mr Richard Lochhead.



Stockholm

Right: InvestHK and the HKTDC were supported by London ETO to host events to celebrate the Year of the Horse in Sweden and Norway. The Stockholm reception was well-received by over 200 guests from local government as well as the business, academic and cultural sectors.



Copenhagen



Left: Celebratory events were held in Denmark and Norway as London ETO collaborated with

Invest Hong Kong and the Hong Kong Trade Development Council. In Copenhagen, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to the Kingdom of Denmark, Mr Wang Xue-feng (fourth right); the Director-General of the London ETO, Miss Fiona Chau (fourth left); the Chairman of the Denmark-Hong Kong Trade Association, Mr Nikolaj Juhl Hansen (third right); Nordic Consultant of the InvestHK, Mr Mats Gerlam (first left); HKTDC Regional Director for Europe, Mr Chris Lo; and other guests toasted Chinese New Year.

Oslo



Left: In the Norwegian capital, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and Head of Mission

of the People's Republic of China to the Kingdom of Norway, Ms Hou Yue (fifth left); the Director-General of the London ETO, Miss Fiona Chau (fourth left); the representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Norway, Jens Reinertsen (fourth right); the Executive Secretary of the Norway-Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce, Ms Cathrine Jahnsen (third left); Nordic Consultant of the InvestHK, Mr Mats Gerlam (second left); the Marketing Manager of the HKTDC (London Office), Ms Rachel Fung (first right); and other esteemed guests toasted the Oslo reception.

Helsinki

Right: In the Finnish capital, the Minister Counsellor of Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the Republic of Finland, Mr Chen Huixin (first left); the Consul-General of Finland to Hong Kong and Macao, Mr Timo Kantola (second left); the Director-General of the London ETO, Miss Fiona Chau (third left); the Chairman of the Finland-Hong Kong Business Association, Mr Pertti Jalasvirta (first right); Nordic Consultant of the InvestHK, Mr Mats Gerlam (second left); and the Director of UK, Nordics and Ireland of the HKTDC, Ms Joey Ko (third right) and other guests joined the event.



Business, Arts and Cultural

London

Right: Fashion Hong Kong, at London Fashion Week, was supported by London ETO and showcased four labels from Hong Kong. Pictured (from left) the Director, UK, Nordics and Ireland of the HKTDC, Ms Joey Ko; the designer of Bettie Haute Couture, Ms Bettie Jiang; the designer of selfFab., Ms Menu Tsai; the Director-General of the London ETO, Miss Fiona Chau; designers Mr Harrison Wong and Mr Angus Tsui.



London

Left: London ETO co-hosted a reception titled “Pulse of the Pearl: The Business of Avant-garde” with Hong Kong Baptist University (HKBU) to promote the latest developments and investment opportunities in Hong Kong’s art-tech sector. Pictured (from left) the Director of the Academy of Visual Arts of HKBU, Professor Andreas Kratky; Chair Professor of the Academy of Visual Arts of HKBU, Professor Jeffrey Shaw; the Artistic Director/Executive Director of Hong Kong Ballet, Mr Septime Webre; and the Artistic Director of Studio Wayne McGregor, Professor Wayne McGregor, at a panel discussion.

Sweden



Left: The Asian Film Festival presented three Hong Kong films across six cities in Sweden with support from London ETO whose Director-General, Miss Fiona Chau, addressed the audience before the screening of “Little Red Sweet”. She highlighted Hong Kong’s unique role as a vibrant East-meets-West centre for international cultural exchanges as underpinned by the National 14th Five-Year Plan.

London

Right: London’s East Asia Film Festival was supported by London ETO, the Film Development Fund, and the Cultural and Creative Industries Development Agency under the Culture, Sports and Tourism Bureau of the HKSAR Government. Director-General of the London ETO, Miss Fiona Chau is pictured (left) with “Crossing Years” Director YonFan at the opening gala ceremony.



London

Below: A Hong Kong Business seminar was held by the Hong Kong Association to update its members on the latest economic and business developments. London ETO took part with its Director-General, Miss Fiona Chau (second right), joining a panel discussion on Hong Kong’s economic outlook. Moderated by the Chief Executive of the China-Britain Business Council, Mr Peter Burnett (first left), other panellists included the Head of Business and Talent Attraction/Investment Promotion of InvestHK London Office, Ms Daisy Ip (centre); the Chief Economist of International Monetary Monitor Limited, Dr John Greenwood (first right); and the Chair of the British Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong, Mr Jeremy Sheldon (second left).



London and Leeds

Above: The Odyssey 2025 film festival presented Hong Kong films in London and Leeds supported by London ETO whose Director-General, Miss Fiona Chau, delivered a speech at the opening screening of the award-winning documentary “Four Trails” which attracted over 100 supporters of Hong Kong cinema. She remarked that it was the third consecutive year that the London ETO has supported the festival which reflects the commitment to fostering the development of Hong Kong’s film industry and promoting its productions to international audiences.

●●● Environment

Beautiful Mirs Bay

Hong Kong's Mirs Bay has been recognised by the Ministry of Ecology & Environment in its fourth batch of "Outstanding Examples of Beautiful Bays" in China, receiving an excellent overall score.

The commendation highlights recent efforts in marine ecological environment protection and the transformation of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. Situated in the northeastern waters of Hong Kong, Mirs Bay presents a beautiful scene of clear water and clean beaches, thriving marine life and harmonious coexistence between humans and the sea.

The bay's rich and diverse ecosystems are important habitats for various nationally protected wild animals, such as hard corals, seahorses, horseshoe crabs and white-bellied sea eagles. The bay area features the Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark, Yan Chau Tong and Tung Ping Chau Marine Parks.



Above Right: An "Outstanding Example of Beautiful Bays".

Right: Mirs Bay is home to 65 hard coral species.

●●● Talent

Mission to attract UK talent



Offering "an international hub for high-calibre talent" was the message from Hong Kong Talent Engage as it visited the UK to collaborate with enterprises in attracting graduates.

The delegation was led by Deputy Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Manpower) of the HKSAR Government, Mr Andrew Tsang, accompanied by professionals from engineering, finance and accounting sectors in Hong Kong. Beginning in London, they met representatives from Imperial College, King's College London, the London School of Economics and Political Science and the University of Oxford.

Events were staged to promote Hong Kong's advantages and opportunities, introduce talent attraction measures and feature professionals sharing insights on industry development. There was also time to join forces with MTR Corporation Limited and Cathay Pacific to take part in university career fairs.

Further stops included universities in Warwick, Leeds and Sheffield before a visit to Switzerland to promote hospitality management.

Above: The Deputy Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Manpower), Mr Andrew Tsang, at the career fair.

●●● Education

Enhancing education opportunities

The inaugural Study in Hong Kong Week, at the end of February 2026, promoted the city's attractiveness as a destination for students around the world to pursue higher education.

A key element was the prestigious Asia-Pacific Association for International Education (APAIE) 2026 Conference which attracted over 3 500 global education professionals who explored educational trends and key issues.

During the event, HKSAR's Secretary for Education, Dr Christine Choi, emphasised the city's global recognition with five universities in the world's top 100 and highlighted Hong Kong's advantages in global connectivity, world-class infrastructure, and rich cultural experiences that attract outstanding talent.

"As the 'super connector' of the global education network, Hong Kong's hosting of the conference and exhibition is a testament to the city's status as an international post-secondary education hub, and provides an important platform to facilitate collaboration on teaching and research among Hong Kong's education representatives and their counterparts worldwide", she said during the opening ceremony.

APAIE 2026 included workshops, forums, and exchange activities under the theme Asia-Pacific Partnerships for the Global Good.



Above: The Secretary for Education, Dr Choi Yuk-lin, at the opening ceremony.