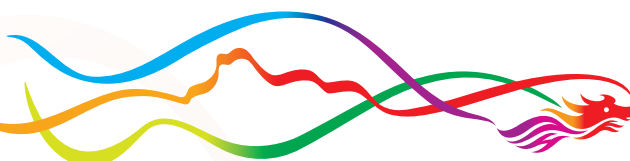


HONG KONG REVIEW

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Hong Kong Economic
and Trade Office, London



Policy Address 2021 “Building a Bright Future Together”



Above: Chief Executive, Mrs Carrie Lam, presents the Policy Address to the Legislative Council.

For her fifth and last Policy Address under the current administration, an upbeat Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), Mrs Carrie Lam, set out key goals for the future.

Under the theme of “Building a Bright Future Together”, Mrs Lam said Hong Kong’s ‘One Country, Two Systems’ principle was back on track, with full support from the Central Government. She spoke of “unprecedented challenges during the past two years”, but asserted that “Hong Kong is now ready again for a new start for economic development.”

Housing supply

The leader unveiled plans to tackle the city’s long-standing housing shortage. At the centre of the proposals is a Northern Metropolis, on the border with the

mainland’s technology hub of Shenzhen, covering 300 square kilometres.

The land, currently mainly agricultural, wetlands and brownfield sites, will ultimately have some 926,000 homes – more than half to be newly-built and housing around 2.5 million people.

Restructuring

With under nine months of her present tenure remaining, the Chief Executive revealed a preliminary proposal to restructure the government.

The plan includes the creation of an overarching Culture, Sports and Tourism Bureau to consolidate the city’s culture portfolio and creative industries. The Transport and Housing Bureau, meanwhile, will be split into two agencies.

The proposed expansion of the Innovation, Technology and Industry

Bureau will help push forward the city’s ‘re-industrialisation’ agenda to develop new high value-added industries.

Green thinking

There was a boost to the Green agenda with the government budgeting HK\$240 billion towards the effects of climate change, and helping residents adapt over the next 15 to 20 years.

The goal is to reduce emissions by half before 2035, with the Environment Bureau setting up an office to oversee the implementation of all related strategies.

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Anniversary of Hong Kong's Establishment Day

On the first day of July each year the anniversary of Hong Kong’s handover and creation of the Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) is marked. This year was the 24th since the Chinese government resumed exercise of sovereignty over Hong Kong in 1997.

Acting Chief Executive, John Lee, addressed the crowd before they enjoyed a flypast and sea parade. He reminded everyone assembled at the flag-raising ceremony how Establishment Day is an opportunity to “review with pride

the history of Hong Kong’s return to the Motherland; to firmly reiterate that ‘one country, two systems’ is the best arrangement for maintaining Hong Kong’s long-term prosperity and stability.”

Mr Lee also paid tribute to the centenary celebrations of the Communist Party of China and its role in Hong Kong’s transition. “Hong Kong has been both a contributor and a beneficiary in China’s reform and opening-up. Our country’s sustained and rapid developments in recent years have provided golden opportunities for Hong Kong.”

Above: The disciplined services and the Government Flying Service performed a sea parade and fly-past to mark the 24th anniversary of the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

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●●● Olympics

Best-ever Olympic performance



Tokyo 2021 will long be remembered as producing the best-ever Olympic results for a Hong Kong team. Athletes returned home jubilant and took part in a heroes' bus parade through the city.

Double-silver medallist and swimmer Siobhan Haughey, and Hong Kong's bronze medallists – karateka Grace Lau Mo-sheung, as well as table tennis players Doo Hoi-kem, Minnie Soo and Lee Ho-ching were on board, taking selfies and putting a smile on everyone's face. Training commitments forced golden fencer Edgar Cheung Ka-long, bronze

medallist and cyclist Sarah Lee and épée fencer Vivian Kong Man-wai to miss the celebrations though.

The parade came after the best-ever Olympic performance in Japan, with an historic result of six medals: one gold for Edgar Cheung, two silvers for Siobhan Haughey and bronzes for Grace Lau, Sarah Lee and Doo Hoi-kem, Minnie Soo and Lee Ho-ching. All were personally congratulated by Chief Executive, Mrs Carrie Lam, who said she was "immensely proud of their achievements".

Above: Athletes parade after Hong Kong's best-ever Olympic results.

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The Policy Address 2021

Science and tech boost

Up to 540 hectares are being set aside for a mega tech hub, the audience heard. The newly-constructed IT park at the Lok Ma Chau Loop will be consolidated into a so-called 'technopole'. This will be a cluster of hi-tech and information-based companies, alongside the nearby San Tin area, increasing the amount of land available for development to about 240 hectares.

Proposals were also announced to create an InnoLife Healthtech Hub in the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Park, which will be set up at the Lok Ma Chau Loop to promote world-leading research by speeding up innovation and technology development.

Investment and enterprise

In addition to continue strengthening Hong Kong's status as an international financial, transportation and trade centre, a range of key initiatives were proposed to develop sectors with good

growth potential. These included enhancing the listing regime, expanding offshore Renminbi business and promoting green-finance.

Plans also include developing a Smart Port and growing high value-added logistics and maritime business such as ship registration, ship finance and management, marine insurance, and maritime legal and arbitration services. There will be further development of Hong Kong into an international legal and dispute resolution services centre, and continuing efforts to promote re-industrialisation, including planning for a second Advanced Manufacturing Centre.

In an emotional conclusion, Mrs Lam said, "I am confident that Hong Kong is much stronger than ever, and I am most convinced that it can integrate into the overall development of the country and play an irreplaceable role as our country

●●● Paralympics

Five-medal haul at Paralympics

Badminton players clinched silver and a bronze on the final day of the Paralympics to boost Hong Kong's medal tally in Tokyo as the team of 24 headed home after competing in eight sports.

Japan hosted a vibrant closing ceremony as victorious badminton player Chu Man-kai carried the Hong Kong flag across the arena after the 30-year-old bagged a silver in the SH6 Men's Singles event. Speaking of the moment, he said: "To be able to represent Hong Kong as the flag bearer after winning a medal was indeed a perfect end to this Paralympics journey."

Another Hong Kong para-badminton player, Daniel Chan Ho-yuen, clinched bronze in the WH2 Men's Singles event by defeating Kim Kyung Hoon of South Korea in straight sets. Hong Kong's team also claimed a silver in the mixed pairs boccia team event, a bronze in the boccia mixed individual BC4 event, and another bronze in the table tennis Class 11 women's singles tournament.



strides towards the second centenary goal of the nation."

British applause

The British Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong welcomes the vision of the Northern Metropolis and believes that Hong Kong's urban development strategies and integration with the Greater Bay Area will offer more opportunities for international businesses.

Above: Following the Policy Address, Chief Executive, Mrs Carrie Lam, fronted a question and answer session.

●●● Economy

“Unique Advantages, Unlimited Opportunities”

A new report titled “Report on Hong Kong’s Business Environment: A Place with Unique Advantages and Unlimited Opportunities” has been announced by the Financial Secretary. The report sets out Hong Kong’s present business environment and its advantages while outlining the development opportunities available.

The economy of Hong Kong was impacted by social turmoil in 2019 and the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, as Hong Kong enters a new phase and pattern of evolution since the implementation of National Security Law, the report quells any concerns from the business sectors over the city’s outlook.

The report clearly outlines the robust strengths of Hong Kong as an international financial, aviation, innovation and technology, legal and cultural hub, which offer many opportunities for multinationals and entrepreneurs who wish to establish a reliable and efficient business base in Asia. Coupled with the Hong Kong’s institutional strengths under “one country, two systems”, the city serves as the gateway connecting the Mainland China and the rest of the world and performs the functions of a “super-connector”, a high-value-added service platform, an international talent and capital pool and more.



Speaking at the media session, the Financial Secretary Paul Chan said with Hong Kong’s unique positioning provided by the National 14th Five-Year-Plan, together with the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area development (read more on page 5), Hong Kong will be provided with new impetus for economic development.

Above: Financial Secretary, Paul Chan (left), and Deputy Government Economist, Adolph Leung, briefed the media on the report of Hong Kong’s business environment.

●●● Economy

Airport’s third runway on course

Completion of the third runway pavement at Hong Kong International Airport marks a major milestone in its ambitious Three-runway System (3RS) project which is set to be completed next year.

Officiating at the completion ceremony was the Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administration Region, Mrs Carrie Lam, who spoke of the plans to “transform a city airport into an Airport City”.

Forecasts show that, when finished, 3RS will generate some 5% of Hong Kong’s gross domestic product by 2030. Mrs Lam said: “I believe Hong Kong’s aviation industry will certainly seize the opportunities arising from various new infrastructures in the city and the significant synergy generated by integration of the airport’s core functions and related developments.”

Jack So, Chairman of the Airport Authority, told guests: “With the completion of reclamation and runway pavement works, we are confident that the new runway will commence operations next year as planned.”

Other development works at the airport including expansion of Terminal 2, construction of a T2 concourse, a new automated people-mover system, and high-speed baggage handling system are to be completed in 2024. They are all “on schedule and within budget”, added Mr So.

After its expansion, the airport will be able to handle greatly increased passenger and cargo volumes of around 120 million people and 10 million tonnes of freight. As part of the authority’s planned Airport City

there will be new retail outlets, dining and entertainment facilities, as well as office towers, a logistics centre and a mega performance venue.



Left: Chief Executive, Mrs Carrie Lam (second right), attending the completion ceremony of the third runway paving project at Hong Kong International Airport.

●●● London Office



New man at the helm in London

The Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office, London (HKETO), has a new Director-General as Gifford Law takes over from Winky So.

In his new role, Mr Law is responsible for promoting Hong Kong’s bilateral relations with the United Kingdom and eight other countries: Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Russia and Sweden.

Speaking on his first day, Mr Law said he looked forward to working with partners in promoting the core strengths, strategic advantages and unique opportunities of Hong Kong as well as fostering closer ties between Hong Kong and the nine countries under his office’s purview. Since joining the Administrative Service in 1997, he has served in various bureaux and departments, including the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Tokyo, the Home Affairs Bureau, the Chief Secretary for Administration’s Private Office, and the Kwun Tong District Office.

In his previous capacity as the Principal Assistant Secretary in the Food and Health Bureau, Mr Law oversaw the policies related to municipal services including public markets and environmental hygiene, as well as establishing the home quarantine regime in Hong Kong in a bid to combat the Covid-19 pandemic.

Mr Law holds a Bachelor of Social Science in Economics from the Chinese University of Hong Kong, a Master of Arts in Public Administration from Syracuse University, and a Master of Science in Management from Stanford University.

●●● Health

Doubling-up efforts in the fight against Covid-19



For many in Hong Kong life is starting to return to normal as measures to control the Covid-19 pandemic take effect, although restrictions remain to protect the population and the economy.

Epidemic case numbers have remained stable since the introduction of new methods to control the deadly virus. This has allowed some larger-scale events to be held while businesses have resumed operation. Early signs are that this is leading to an economic recovery. An entire month has passed without a single local-case being reported in Hong Kong.

In the region outside Hong Kong there are still serious issues, not least several variants of the virus which may be resilient to the vaccines. Mindful of this, Hong Kong has taken steps to “build double barriers” in an effort to stop the importation of coronavirus cases while maintaining momentum of the vaccination programme. Therefore, strict quarantine and testing regimes remain in force alongside inoculation.

Three-pronged attack

The Hong Kong authorities are working under three key principles: responding promptly, staying alert, and maintaining an open and transparent manner. It has also adopted a new direction in fighting the pandemic to restore a sense of normality to the city, albeit in a gradual and orderly way. This has seen emphasis on reinforcing infection control and reiterating the need for concerted community efforts. A series of colourful posters has been produced to advise residents on the various containment measures.

The latest approach sees free testing services, targeted group testing schemes, community vaccination centres as well as quarantine facilities plus distribution of over 10 million reusable masks and

31 million free disposable ones which have been produced locally. These must be worn in enclosed public places and on public transport.

Local research continues into Covid-19, and Hong Kong's Health and Medical Research Fund has approved HK\$170 million in funding to support its universities to conduct 49 research-related studies, among them the first approved nasal spray vaccine. It has been developed by the Hong Kong University in collaboration with researchers in the Mainland, and is in first-phase safety clinical trials.

Jabbing to protect

Over 8.5 million vaccinations have now been delivered to those in Hong Kong which sees over 4 million having received both doses. In the two weeks to 23rd September, 36 Covid cases were reported, all of which were ‘imported’, and health authorities are working on contact tracing to check for any further transmission. Of the 12,000 or so cases now recorded in Hong Kong there have been 213 deaths in total.

Hong Kong's Chief Executive, Mrs Carrie Lam, emphasised the importance of the vaccination programme to protect the more vulnerable: “Since Covid-19 has a higher incidence in elderly people and the conditions of elderly



patients are often more serious, the whole community must make concerted efforts to encourage the elderly to get vaccinated.”

Maintaining borders

Part of Hong Kong's defence against Covid is tight control of its borders as an ‘anti-epidemic barrier’. August saw a new direction of its travel rules where entry is now granted to fully-vaccinated UK residents who have travelled via a Group B country (medium-risk countries) and who have not been in high-risk places for the past 21 days. There is still, though, no direct entry permitted to non-residents travelling from the UK and some other locations which are deemed to be high-risk.

For the very latest, and before contemplating travel, consult the official advice online at www.coronavirus.gov.hk/eng/inbound-travel.html.

Above left: Chief Executive, Mrs Carrie Lam, promoting the importance of Covid vaccination.

Above right: The Covid-19 vaccination event held for seniors in Kowloon City includes a health talk to impart knowledge about the vaccines.

●●● Economy

Pandemic spending vouchers issued

Hong Kong's economy is set to be boosted by the distribution of the first tranche of Consumption Vouchers as the initial 5.5 million are distributed to residents who applied by the deadline. The government-issued vouchers have wide usage and may be redeemed at local retail, catering and service outlets.

They are expected to increase turnover for many businesses such as high street shops, market stalls, department stores, supermarkets, convenience stores, restaurants, fast food outlets and coffee shops as well as recreational facilities, beauty salons and public transport.

The scheme puts HK\$5,000 spending power in the hands of consumers which,



according to a study by Kantar (who interviewed 869 recipients), will be used primarily to purchase daily groceries, with almost half the respondents set to use them in between “one and three larger purchases” and to add to the vouchers' value with a top-up from their own funds. Perhaps surprisingly, cosmetics, travel and luxury goods ranked as a much lower priority.

Above: Financial Secretary, Paul Chan (right) updates a radio audience on the progress of the Consumption Voucher Scheme.

Business

Cross-boundary trading boost to Greater Bay Area



The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) and the People's Bank of China jointly announced that Southbound Trading under Bond Connect has been launched, which marks another milestone

of mutual access between Hong Kong and Mainland capital markets since the launch of the Northbound Trading more than four years ago.

Eddie Yue, Chief Executive of the HKMA, said: "I am confident that Southbound Trading will deepen the two-way opening up of the Mainland financial markets and promote the vibrant development of the Hong Kong bond market, thereby consolidating Hong Kong's status as an international financial centre."

Southbound Trading provides Mainland institutional investors with a convenient and secure channel to invest in Hong Kong bond market via the connection between the Mainland and Hong Kong financial infrastructure services institutions.

Meanwhile, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) government has welcomed the formal launch of cross-boundary Wealth Management Connect during an online ceremony which enables residents in Hong Kong, Macao and nine cities in Guangdong Province to carry out cross-boundary investment in wealth management products distributed by banks in the area.

Chief Executive of the HKSAR, Mrs Carrie Lam, called it "a milestone in the financial development of the Greater Bay Area and an important measure that deepens and widens mutual access between the financial markets of the Mainland and Hong Kong".

The move will also attract more international financial institutions to have a foothold in Hong Kong to expand their Mainland businesses, reinforcing further Hong Kong's role as an important gateway for capital flowing into and out of the Mainland, as well as its position as the global offshore Renminbi business hub and an international asset management centre, according to remarks made by the Financial Secretary, Paul Chan.

As part of the wider remit, national initiatives were announced to support the development of Hong Kong's legal sector at a seminar in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, supported by the Law Society of Hong Kong. National policies for supporting the Hong Kong legal profession's development were introduced.



The Secretary for Justice, Teresa Cheng, SC, called on the sector to join hands in seizing the opportunities together by integrating the needs of the country with the strengths of Hong Kong, to foster the long-term development of the city, the Greater Bay Area and the country.

Above top: Chief Executive, Mrs Carrie Lam, at the launching ceremony of the Cross-boundary Wealth Management Connect in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area.

Above: Secretary for Justice, Teresa Cheng, SC, delivered welcome news at a seminar on Hong Kong legal professionals' practice and other opportunities in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area.

Business

Governments and businesses come together for Belt and Road event

The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) government and the Ministry of Commerce signed a Memorandum of Understanding at the sixth Belt and Road Summit.

The Belt and Road Initiative is a development strategy to promote economic co-operation among countries along the proposed routes: the Silk Road Economic Belt and 21st Century Maritime Silk Road.

The sixth Belt and Road Summit themed *Driving Growth through Fostering Regional and International Trade* was joined by over 17,000 viewers from some 80 countries. It explored how the Belt and Road Initiative can be leveraged together with the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area development and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership to forge multilateral collaboration and drive post-pandemic economic recovery as well as investment and business cooperation in various sectors.

Speaking at the event, Chief Executive Mrs Carrie Lam reinforced that Hong Kong has much to offer the partnership, and the world at large, particularly in creating connections with the Mainland through the Greater Bay Area and the Belt and Road and "whether you're pursuing infrastructure prospects, seeking investment financing or looking for project services professionals, Hong Kong is where you want to be."



Left: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development Edward Yau chairing a policy dialogue session.

Law

"Security Brings Prosperity" message at National Security Law Legal Forum

The event, entitled *Security Brings Prosperity*, was organised by the Department of Justice of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) government and featured delegates both online and in person.



The HKSAR Chief Executive, Mrs Carrie Lam, told the forum that the legislation and implementation of the national security law has been the major turning point in Hong Kong's transition "from chaos to order".

After the implementation of the law, stability has been restored in society, while human rights and freedoms enjoyed by the overwhelming majority of people are not affected, she concluded. The rule of law and judicial independence in Hong Kong are as robust as ever, and Hong Kong's status as an international financial centre has not wavered at all, she told delegates.

Above: Chief Executive, Mrs Carrie Lam, with other guests at the National Security Law Legal Forum – Security Brings Prosperity forum.

●●● Elections

New electoral system sees democracy in action

Turnout was almost 90% at the first elections in Hong Kong since significant changes to the electoral system, as voters elected 364 of the 412 candidates standing for 36 Subsectors.

The new electoral system features full implementation of the principle of “patriots administering Hong Kong”. The success of the elections is seen as of great significance to voters, and has laid down a solid foundation for the two upcoming important elections, the Legislative Council General Election in December this year and the Chief Executive Election in March 2022.

Admitting that, while things went well, there was room for improvement, a spokesman for the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau said, “A number of new enhancement measures were launched successfully; however, some voters had to queue for an unduly long time during the peak hours.”



The arrangements were viewed, in Kowloon Bay, by the Chief Secretary for Administration, John Lee who saw first-hand how ballot papers were issued using an electronic electoral

poll register system. He was accompanied by the Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs, Roy Tang, and the Chief Electoral Officer, Alan Yung.

Above: Chief Secretary for Administration, John Lee, witnessed the new electronic poll register system.

●●● Economy

Leading the world when it comes to free economies

Celebrations abound as Hong Kong is again ranked as the world's freest economy by the Fraser Institute in its Economic Freedom of the World 2021 Annual Report.



Hong Kong has gained the pinnacle ranking since the inception of the report. Among the five areas of assessment, it continued to rank top in both the Freedom to Trade Internationally section as well as the Regulation category.

“This is an unequivocal affirmation of Hong Kong's long-standing and steadfast commitment to building a free economy with a level playing field,” a Government spokesman said, dismissing the report's comments regarding the rule of law. “Under ‘One Country, Two Systems’, HKSAR's trusted legal system remains as robust as ever. The rule of law is a fundamental core value of Hong Kong and much cherished by the community. We have been fully committed to upholding Hong Kong's fine tradition of the rule of law and judicial independence” he added.

●●● Economy

Financial centre status assured

It's good news for Hong Kong in the latest Global Financial Centres Index published jointly by Z/Yen in the UK and the China Development Institute from Shenzhen.

The latest Index puts Hong Kong in third place, globally, up one from its previous position and is news welcomed by a Government spokesman who said: “This is an unequivocal affirmation of Hong Kong's status and strengths as a leading global financial centre. Hong Kong has remained among the top in various areas of competitiveness, including human capital, infrastructure, financial sector development, and reputational and general.”

Uncertainties around the world caused by Covid-19 hit some centres hard but Hong Kong's robustness and regulatory regime ensured it remained buffered from the worst effects of the pandemic. Its unique role of providing a bridge between the Mainland and the rest of the world also helped to consolidate its global ranking.

●●● Environment

Webinar on the Environment

The Secretary for Environment, Kam-sing Wong, briefed the British business community on Hong Kong's strategic plan and key actions in achieving carbon neutrality during a webinar organised by UK-based think-tank Asia House.

The Secretary reiterated Hong Kong's commitment to achieving carbon neutrality before 2050 as announced by Chief Executive, Mrs Carrie Lam, in her 2020 Policy Address, and gave an in-depth introduction the concrete blueprints concerning Clean Air Plan, Roadmap on Popularisation of Electric Vehicles as well as Waste Blueprint.

About 100 people participated in the webinar, and the audience were keen to raise questions during the Q&A session. In response to participants' interests in Hong Kong's regional role in achieving deep carbonisation in the Greater Bay Area, Secretary Wong emphasised the “One Government” approach being adopted to capitalise on the opportunities.

Right:
Secretary for Environment
Kam-sing Wong
exchanging views with UK
business community.



●●● Economy

Sovereign Bond issue “warmly welcomed”

Moves by its finance ministry to again issue Renminbi (RMB) sovereign bonds are seen as reinforcement of Hong Kong's status as an international financial centre.

There will be a total issue of RMB20 billion in Hong Kong this year, of which the three batches are RMB8 billion, RMB6 billion and RMB6 billion respectively. Full details will be announced later.

A Government spokesman welcomed the issuance of RMB sovereign bonds in Hong Kong for the 13th consecutive year, saying: “This demonstrates clearly the Central Government's staunch support in reinforcing Hong Kong's status as an international financial centre and the global offshore RMB business hub, and is conducive to promoting the sustainable development of the bond market in Hong Kong.”

● ● ● Arts

New home for visual arts nears completion

Asia's first global museum of contemporary visual culture is nearing completion on Hong Kong's Victoria Harbour waterfront, and set to open on 12th November.

The West Kowloon cultural district plays host to the new attraction which is dedicated to collecting, exhibiting, and interpreting visual art, design and architecture, moving image, and Hong Kong visual culture of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries.

The museum is on a grand scale with around 1,500 works drawn from the M+ collections presented in a 17,000 square-metre exhibition space that spans thirty-three galleries, plus museum shops and a roof garden offering spectacular views for visitors.

Designed by a global team from the world-renowned architecture practice Herzog & de Meuron, in partnership with TFP Farrells and Arup, the 65,000-square-metre M+ building becomes one of Hong Kong's most iconic landmarks, both monumental in its architectural form and radically open in its position in the urban landscape. Visually, a striking terracotta tile-clad tower, featuring a dynamic LED system on the south facade for the display of M+ content, defines the museum's place within the urban landscape.

Set to become a 'must-see' destination, Henry Tang Ying-yen, Chairman of the Board of the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority, said that the new venture represented "a vital contribution to the future of Hong Kong, building on its reputation as one of the world's leading arts and cultural hubs".

Above: The M+ museum is already a part of the Hong Kong skyline. Photo: Virgile Simon Bertrand/Herzog & de Meuron.



● ● ● Tourism

Year-round all-weather World of Water

It's the day many in Hong Kong had been waiting for, the opening of Ocean Park's Water World. Special pricing was in force to entice locals to see what's been created at one of the most mind-blowing attractions ever built.



Left: One of the nine state-of-the-art water slides at the Water World. Photo: Ocean Park

Among the rides is Torrential River where adventurers can test their limits with a variety of high-adrenaline water rides; while Rainbow Rush is an eight-lane, 17-metre slide which takes visitors on a high-speed and exhilarating water race as they twirl and tumble through a tube of darkness to emerge with magnificent views of the Aberdeen Channel.

Deputy Chairman of Ocean Park, Paulo Pong, said, "We are excited to welcome adventurers of all ages and walks of life to splash into adventure with us."

● ● ● Tourism

Space boost as revamped theatre opens

Newly renovated, the Space Theatre at Hong Kong Space Museum has reopened to much acclaim after renovation to offer three brand new shows.



The venue, which has been thrilling audiences since 1980, now includes the sky show *Worlds Beyond Earth*, the Omnimax show *Ancient Caves* and the 3D dome show *Secrets of the Universe*.

A key part of the revamp saw the replacement of the 23-metre-diameter dome screen. Utilising the latest NanoSeam technology, the new screen offers a seamless viewing experience, enabling sharper and more colourful images for different shows.

Other facilities of the Space Theatre, including the digital sky projection system, audio equipment, the control studio and the production studio which have been upgraded with cutting-edge technologies to provide audiences with exhilarating audio-visual experiences.

Left: From the film *Secrets of the Universe* 3D where audiences glimpse an inside look at the components of the Large Hadron Collider.

● ● ● Sport

Medals brought home from National Games

Hot on the heels of the Tokyo Olympics, Hong Kong's athletes headed to the 14th National Games in Shaanxi, north-west China. Staged every four



years, and organised by the General Administration of Sport, they comprise the highest level and largest sports event in the region.

Hong Kong athletes participated in a wide range of competitions and had a hard act to follow given the achievements recorded in the last National Games.

Among early successes were a Gold in the Women's Sprint (Track Cycling) for veteran Lee Wai-sze who also won Bronze in the Women's Keirin (Track Cycling); quickly followed by a Bronze in the Men's Omnium (Track Cycling) for Leung Ka-yu.

Both were warmly congratulated by the Secretary for Home Affairs, Caspar Tsui who remarked "Lee Wai-sze shone amongst the competitors with impressive speed and explosive power. I am deeply encouraged by her remarkable achievement."

Above: Chief Executive Mrs Carrie Lam presents the Hong Kong SAR flag to Secretary for Home Affairs and Delegation Head Caspar Tsui.

● ● ● Safe cities

Safety in Numbers revealed by global index

Improving its ranking by 12 places, Hong Kong is now the eighth 'safest city' worldwide as revealed in an index produced by The Economist Intelligence Unit.

Last produced in 2019, the Index tracks five key areas of security in 60 countries around the world. It looks in each at digital, the health sector, infrastructure and, added for the 2021 assessment, personal and environmental safety.

Hong Kong topped the ranking for Infrastructure Security where it came 18th before, and was placed third for Health Security, up from 27th last time round.

●●● Culture

Diverse culture showcased in the UK

The amazingly diverse arts and culture sector of Hong Kong was promoted live to UK audiences through two cultural events organised by the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office, London (HKETO).

A partnership with the Fighting Spirit Film Festival saw *Armour of God*, a classic Hong Kong martial arts epic, brought to London. Martial arts fans enjoyed this Hong Kong classic as part of the two-day festival.

HKETO also supported a Cantonese Opera concert organised by the Islington Chinese Association. The event was also broadcast online to allow a worldwide audience to sample the afternoon of music, singing, martial arts and performances. They featured the story of Li Yu, the sixth son of the Emperor Li Jing of Southern Tang and the most accomplished poet of his time.

HKETO Director-General, Gilford Law, welcomed the opportunity to support the concert which promoted Cantonese opera, a distinctive art form that was officially recognised by UNESCO in 2009.

"The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government is keen in promoting Cantonese opera and providing more opportunities for people to enjoy this art form", he said. Having opened in 2019, the Xiqu Centre at the West Kowloon Cultural District is dedicated to promoting Chinese opera's rich heritage.

Above top: Guests and participants enjoying the Fighting Spirit Film Festival in London. Photo: Curtis Harvey/Combat and Strength magazine.

Above: Cantonese opera concert organised by Islington Chinese Association in full swing.



●●● Culture

Bamboo crafts brought to London

An exhibition showcasing some traditional and contemporary bamboo crafts was brought to Britain as part of London Craft Week 2021, thanks to support from the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office, London (HKETO).

Organised by the charity Crafts on Peel, the displays of "Imagine the 'Impossibilities: Bamboo'" featured some 50 pieces of bamboo crafts, most of which are works of artisans and craftsmen from Hong Kong.

Welcoming the opportunity to bring the exhibition to London, HKETO Director-General, Gilford Law, said, "The exhibits present traditional bamboo craftwork and innovative techniques. They exemplify how it is possible to blend the modern and the traditional; keeping heritage alive and relevant to us."

Mr Law also outlined how the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region recognises not only that creative industries are one of Hong Kong's new economic drivers, but also that creativity makes Hong Kong a more attractive cosmopolitan city.

The exhibition, held at Soho Works in The Strand, proved popular and included a range of workshops and live demonstrations on bamboo craftsmanship. Visitors were invited to explore the different natural qualities of bamboo and how they can be manipulated with contemporary aesthetics, and learn about the historical context of how bamboos have played an integral part of society over thousands of years.

Above: HKETO Director-General, Gilford Law, pictured with Crafts on Peel founder, Yama Chan.

●●● Culture

Mid-Autumn Festival Celebration in London

Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office, London (HKETO) has sponsored the London Chinatown Chinese Association's Mid-Autumn Festival Celebration in Chinatown.

Lion dances, Chinese opera and other Chinese cultural performances put on wonderful live shows after more than 18 months in Chinatown.

HKETO Director-General, Gilford Law, was delighted to attend the physical celebration of such an important Chinese festival with the Chinese community, Londoners and tourists.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

20 – 23 October 2021

SPARK Festival,
Hong Kong and the UK
www.britishcouncil.hk/en/programmes/spark-2021

21 – 31 October 2021

London East Asia Film Festival, UK
www.leaff.org.uk

25 – 28 October 2021

Hong Kong Arbitration Week,
Hong Kong
www.hkiac.org/events/2021-hong-kong-arbitration-week

1 – 5 November 2021

Hong Kong Legal Week,
Hong Kong
www.legalhub.gov.hk

1 – 5 November 2021

Hong Kong Fintech Week,
Hong Kong
www.fintechweek.hk

FOR HONG KONG EVENT DETAILS



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