

HONG KONG REVIEW

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Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office, London



2023 Policy Address – making Hong Kong a better place for all

A better living environment, quality education, young people realising their potential and the elderly taken care of

Announcing his second Policy Address on 25 October, the Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), Mr John Lee, set out a range of initiatives to revive the economy, create opportunities and ensure long-term prosperity and stability of Hong Kong.

Entitled “A Vibrant Economy for a Caring Community” the policy address outlined the HKSAR Government’s policy focus on upholding “One Country, Two Systems”, and strengthening the economy to improve people’s livelihoods. It stated the Government’s aspiration to create a cohesive and caring community, with a vibrant economy where everyone can enjoy life. The Government will continue, it says, enhancing governance systems and foster a stronger sense of national identity and patriotism in the community.

The Government also announced plans to set up a Digital Policy Office to formulate policies on digital government, data governance and information technology.

Revitalising the economy

The Policy Address outlined a series of initiatives to revitalise the economy and create opportunities for the development of priority sectors. The Government plans to boost the economy and drive growth through infrastructural creation, moving ahead with land and transport development projects to expand economic capacity.

To boost the city’s strength as a global

hub for commerce and finance, the Government plans to promote a “headquarters economy” to attract more Mainland and overseas enterprises and talents to the city. A mechanism will be introduced to facilitate the re-domiciliation of companies to Hong Kong, in particular those with a business focus in the Asia-Pacific region.

A New Industrialisation Development Office will be created to promote new industrialisation and support strategic enterprises to develop their businesses in Hong Kong. A HK\$10-billion (around GBP 1.03 billion or EUR 1.17 billion) New Industrialisation Acceleration Scheme will also be launched to provide financial assistance for enterprises in the fields of life and health technologies, artificial intelligence and data science, advanced manufacturing, and new energy technologies.

With tourism a pillar industry for Hong Kong, the Government will formulate a development blueprint for tourism, to be published next year. To promote arts and culture, a new Cultural and Creative Industries Development Agency will be formed with the aim of developing arts, culture and creative industries. The Government will also inject HK\$4.3-billion (around GBP 442.5 million or EUR 505.2 million) into the Film Development Fund and the CreateSmart Initiative to provide incentives for attracting private sector capital and expanding new markets.



Above: Chief Executive, John Lee, with copies of his Policy Address 2023 ahead of a media briefing at the Central Government Offices, Tamar.

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●●● Economy

Hong Kong ranks well globally

Hong Kong continues to rank highly among the world's freest economies, and is recognised in new research as being one of the most competitive economies in the world.

In the Economic Freedom of the World 2023 Annual Report, published by the Fraser Institute, Hong Kong was placed second globally, and among the five areas of assessment:

- Top in “Freedom to trade internationally”
- Third globally in “Regulation”
- Year-on-Year improvement scores and rankings in “Size of government” and “Sound money”.

In the latest World Competitiveness Yearbook (2023), from the International Institute for Management Development, Hong Kong was ranked seventh globally and among competitiveness factors:

- Second globally in “Government efficiency”
- Top ranking in “Business legislation”
- In the top five for “Tax policy”, “International investment”, “International trade” and “Technological infrastructure”.
- Improved ranking in “Infrastructure”

In the latest Global Financial Centres Index (published in September) Hong Kong maintained fourth place globally with a notable overall rating increase. The data is compiled by the Z/Yen from the United Kingdom and the China Development Institute from Shenzhen and assesses 121 global centres.



Hong Kong's ranking has risen to fourth in:

- Business environment
- Human capital
- Financial sector development
- Reputational and General

A Government spokesman said this reflects recognition of Hong Kong's sustained strength and robustness as an international financial centre in the post-COVID era.

Finally, in the 2023 issue of The Global Innovation Index, published by the World Intellectual Property Organization, the Shenzhen-Hong Kong-Guangzhou science and technology cluster has been ranked second, globally, for four consecutive years. Hong Kong's ranking:

- Remains fifth in Asia
- Is 17th globally (among 132 economies)
- Performed “well” in the Innovation Input sub-index (eighth globally)
- Improved to 24th in the “Innovation Output” sub-index.

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2023 Policy Address

Noting that Hong Kong has among the world's longest life expectancies and coupled with a low birth-rate, the Policy Address announced various initiatives to create a more family-friendly environment and encourage more couples to have children, emphasising land and housing as a key priority.

National identity and culture

The Government will continue to roll out various programmes and initiatives to enhance national identity and promote Chinese culture and history.

“As we stay united and embrace our diversity, I firmly believe that we will be able to build a better Hong Kong together,” Mr Lee concluded.

Left: Chief Executive, John Lee, released his 2023 Policy Address at the Legislative Council.

●●● Travel

Multi-entry visas to the Mainland announced in the 2023 Policy Address

As announced in the 2023 Policy Address, starting from 26 October 2023, foreign staff of companies registered in Hong Kong may apply with the Chinese Visa Application Service Center (www.visaforchina.cn/HKG2_EN/) in Wan Chai, Hong Kong for “multiple-entry visas” to the Mainland, which last for two years or more, and enjoy priority processing. For those non-Chinese Hong Kong Permanent Residents, they can apply for “multiple-entry visas” valid for up to five years.

The introduction of the visa facilitation measure positively responded to the aspirations of foreign chambers of commerce and the business community in Hong Kong for ease of northbound travel which would further facilitate their active participation in the Greater Bay Area development.



●●● Government

Raising the flag on 26 years



A flag-raising ceremony and reception were held to celebrate the 26th anniversary of establishment of the HKSAR.

The HKSAR Chief Executive, Mr John Lee, addressed the audience at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre on 1 July which also marked the first anniversary of the current-term Government.

“A year ago, President Xi Jinping visited Hong Kong and delivered an important speech in which he made it clear that ‘One Country, Two Systems’ has been tested repeatedly in practice, so there is no reason for us to change such a good policy, and we must adhere to it in the long run,” Mr Lee remarked.

“President Xi also put forward ‘four musts’ and ‘four proposals’, which now serve as the basis of the governance blueprint for me and the HKSAR Government. With these central ideas in mind, I have built a pragmatic team that adopts a result-oriented approach to unite the community and build a better Hong Kong,” added Mr Lee.



Above top: Chief Executive, John Lee, together with Principal Officials and guests, at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre reception.

Above right: The disciplined services and the Government Flying Service performed a sea parade and a fly-past.

●●● Finance

Hong Kong's Financial Sec



As part of a post-pandemic European tour the HKSAR Financial Secretary, Mr Paul Chan, visited London to brief political and business communities in Europe about the latest situation and developments of Hong Kong, as well as its unique role and status.

Business boost

Arriving in London, Mr Chan attended a dinner hosted by the Hong Kong Trade Development Council which welcomed around 400 leaders and professionals from various UK sectors.

Packed agenda

On a busy second day in London, Mr Chan met The CityUK Leadership Council, an industry-led body representing UK-based financial services. He pointed out that Hong Kong is the ideal gateway and platform for UK's financial as well as asset and wealth management businesses for opening up the Mainland's and Asian markets, and he hoped to strengthen mutual collaboration.

During a Hong Kong Association luncheon, Mr Chan gave a speech to more than 120 guests from the political and business communities in the UK. He said that Hong Kong is pursuing high-quality development at full speed, led by the dual engines of financial services and innovation and technology, and is determined to become the international green tech and green finance centre.

In the afternoon, Mr Chan met with the Governor of the Bank of England, Mr Andrew Bailey, to exchange views on financial regulation, interest rates, inflationary trends and the global economy.

There was also time to call on the Chargé d'Affaires of the Chinese Embassy, Minister Yang Xiaoguang.



Left: Financial Secretary, Paul Chan (second right), at the Royal College of Art touring the display of research application projects of AiDLab.



Above: Financial Secretary, Paul Chan (first right), at a roundtable meeting with The City UK Leadership Council.

He took the opportunity to remark that Hong Kong will actively consolidate and enhance its status as an international financial centre, and raise the competitiveness and attractiveness of the securities and bond markets, asset and wealth management centre, offshore renminbi hub, and alike.

AstraZeneca

On his third day in London, Mr Chan visited biopharmaceutical company AstraZeneca to meet senior management and learn about their research and development as well as expansion plans.



Above: Financial Secretary, Paul Chan (right) and Senior Vice-President of AstraZeneca, Mr Shaun Grady.

During the meeting Mr Chan pointed out that his government actively seeks to attract cutting-edge enterprises to set up or expand their business in Hong Kong. In early October, the Office for Attracting Enterprises (OASES) signed an agreement with the first batch of strategic enterprises, including AstraZeneca, setting up or expanding their businesses in Hong Kong to jointly promote the development of the innovation and technology (I&T) ecosystem of Hong Kong.



Above: Financial Secretary, Paul Chan (eighth right); the Chairman of the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, Dr Peter Lam (second right); and Special Representative for Hong Kong Economic and Trade Affairs to the European Union, Shirley Yung (third left), and the Director-General of the London ETO, Gilford Law (second left), with members of the Hong Kong Association committee.

Top left: Financial Secretary, Paul Chan, delivered a keynote speech at the Hong Kong Dinner organised by the Hong Kong Trade Development Council.

etary visits London

Then, Mr Chan attended a roundtable luncheon held by the China-Britain Business Council, and met representatives of British enterprises that have business or plan to set up business in the Mainland and Hong Kong.

In the afternoon, Mr Chan visited the Royal College of Art and toured a number of applied research projects of AiDLab and learned about how artificial intelligence could empower fashion design, interior design, textile materials analysis and preserving traditional crafts. Mr Chan also found time to meet a



Above: Financial Secretary, Paul Chan (first row, seventh left) with awardee students under the Hong Kong Scholarship for Excellence Scheme of the Education Bureau.



Above: Financial Secretary, Paul Chan (first left) receiving a briefing on the operation of the Elizabeth Line at London's Paddington station.

group of Hong Kong students in the UK under the Hong Kong Scholarship for Excellence Scheme of the Education Bureau.

On the last day of his visit programme, Mr Chan paid a visit to the Elizabeth Line operations at Paddington station which are run by a subsidiary of Hong Kong's rail operator, MTR.

After a busy visit in the UK capital, Mr Chan departed for Germany to meet local financial and business communities there.

●●● Finance

Investors thanked for commitment



The HKSAR Chief Executive, Mr John Lee, welcomed over 400 senior representatives from Mainland and foreign companies at an Invest Hong Kong reception on 15 June. He thanked them for their lasting confidence in Hong Kong's business environment and called on them to continue using the city's global advantage to expand their business worldwide.

Mr Lee said that under the "One Country, Two Systems" principle, Hong Kong has the distinctive advantages of the strong support of the motherland and the close connections with the world. He added that Hong Kong is indeed the only city in the world that converges both the China advantage and the global advantage.

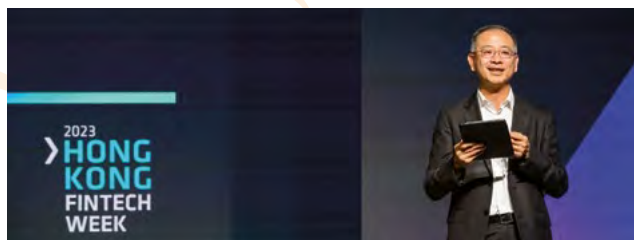
"With the full support of the Central Government, as well as the plentiful opportunities under such national strategies as the National 14th Five-Year Plan, the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area development and the Belt and Road Initiative, Hong Kong is the best place for investors to start and expand their business operations," Mr Lee said.

The HKSAR Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Mr Algernon Yau, also attended and joined Mr Lee to offer a toast to the guests.

Above: Chief Executive, John Lee (first row, sixth right), is pictured with guests at the Invest Hong Kong reception.

●●● Finance

Fintech leading global role



One of the annual flagship events of the Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau, the Hong Kong FinTech Week 2023, featured more than 500 speakers, 650 exhibitors and tens of thousands of participants from over 90 economies, in person or virtually.

Organised jointly by the Hong Kong Monetary Authority and InvestHK, it offers global participants opportunities to build partnerships, exchange ideas and share their fintech journeys.

At the main conference, the HKSAR Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury, Mr Christopher Hui, announced three major initiatives to foster co-development of fintech and real economy.

These include launching a new Integrated Fund Platform, welcoming cross-boundary Chinese Yuan applications to benefit inbound and outbound visitors between the Mainland and Hong Kong, and promoting real economy-related applications and innovations by the Virtual Assets and Web3.0 sector, as well as further development of the regulatory framework.

"I am glad to learn that our initiatives are well supported. Looking ahead, the Government will join hands with regulators and major market players to press ahead with the initiatives, with a view to injecting new energy to our ever-growing fintech ecosystem," Mr Hui said.

Above: Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority, Eddie Yue, delivering the opening keynote address.

●●● Culture

The Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office, London (London ETO) has been supporting a range of events in the UK and Nordics



London

Left: London ETO supported the London East Asia Film Festival held in October. The event showcased a selection of seven Hong Kong films. Pictured are (from left) the Director-General of the London ETO, Mr Gilford Law; actor Ng Siu-hin; actress Stephy Tang; the Festival Director of LEAFF, Ms Hye-jung Jeon; director Au Cheuk-man at the “Hong Kong Happy Hour” reception.



Stockholm

Right: With the support of the London ETO, the “Making Waves – Navigators of Hong Kong Cinema” programme was held from 22-24 September in Stockholm. Pictured are the director of “Cyber Heist”, Danny Wong (front row, centre) at the Questions and Answers (Q&A) session before the screening of his film.



Copenhagen

Left: London ETO supported the “Making Waves – Navigators of Hong Kong Cinema” in Copenhagen, Denmark from 15-17 September. The event featured a selection of six Hong Kong films with live Q&A with the films’ creative talents from Hong Kong. Pictured are (from left) director Ka Sing-fung; actor Gordon Lam; the Director-General of the London ETO, Mr Gilford Law; the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People’s Republic of China to the Kingdom of Denmark, Mr Feng Tie; actor Bowie Lam; actress Angela Yuen; the Counsellor (Cultural Affairs), Mr Liang Bin and director Jack Ng at the reception.

Copenhagen

Right: London ETO supported the “Wallace Chan: Skulptur & Smykker (Sculpture & Jewellery)” lecture by Wallace Chan, a world-renowned jewellery and sculpture artist, at the Royal Danish Library in Copenhagen on 14 September. Pictured are Mr Chan (right) discussing with Nina Hald, a curator of jewellery exhibitions in Denmark.



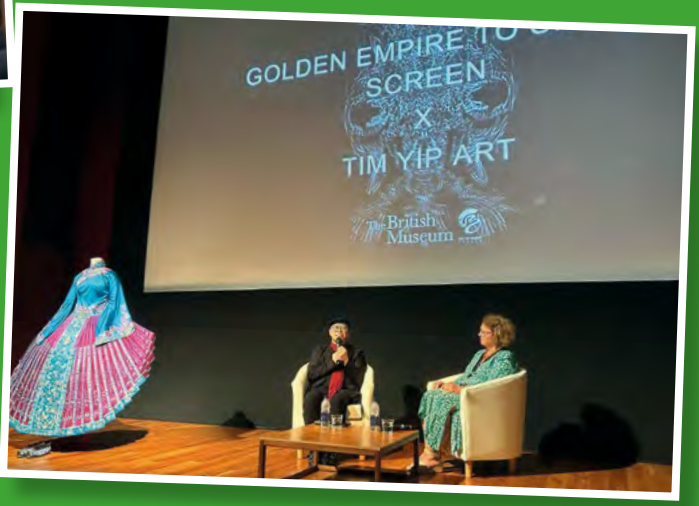


London

Left: London ETO supported the screening of “Sakra”, an action film co-directed by and starring Donnie Yen was screened at the Fighting Spirit Film Festival held at Stratford East Picturehouse, London, on 9 September. Guests and participants are pictured at the film festival.

London

Right: London ETO supported the “Golden empire to silver screen – Using China’s ancient past to reimagine culture and film” guest lecture by Tim Yip, a world-renowned art director from Hong Kong, held at the British Museum on 8 September. Mr Yip is pictured (left) discussing with the Head of the China Section of the British Museum, Ms Jessica Harrison-Hall at the lecture.



Edinburgh

Left: London ETO supported three Hong Kong performance programmes to stage the good stories of Hong Kong at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, including Mui Cheuk-yin and TS Crew from performance platform “Hong Kong Soul”. Théâtre de la Feuille are pictured playing “Fall and Flow”.



Edinburgh

Left: A networking reception on 8 August was hosted in the Scottish capital by London ETO and celebrated the participation of Hong Kong performance art groups in the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. Pictured is an excerpt of the performance of TS Crew.

Above: Mui Cheuk-yin performing in “Diary VII: The Story of.....” at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

●●● Culture



London

Left: London ETO partnered with Focus Hong Kong to showcase a selection of Hong Kong films at the British Film Institute Southbank, London in July. Pictured is London ETO's Director-General, Mr Gilford Law, addressing the audience at the opening screening.

London

Right: London ETO supported the UK premiere of WILD (The Musical), a captivating original production by the City Chamber Orchestra of Hong Kong, at the FUSE International festival at Rose Theatre, London in July. The performance integrates live orchestral music with a wide range of performing arts including Chinese martial arts dance.



London

Left: London ETO hosted a fireside chat with Lenna Lou of Westminster Business Council. The attendees from the council showed keen interest in Hong Kong and the sharing was light-hearted, genuine and informative.

Copenhagen

Right: With the support of London ETO, the Copenhagen Dragon Boat Festival 2023 was held on 18 June. A total of 24 teams formed by the Danish community took part in a full day of racing.



London

Left: London ETO hosted a summer networking reception in London at the end of June. London ETO's Director-General, Mr Gilford Law, is pictured updating the some 200 guests on the latest development of Hong Kong.

Engineering

Enticing UK engineers to Hong Kong

A one-week long visit to the UK by the Hong Kong Institute of Engineers (HKIE) highlighted the promising outlook for engineering practitioners in Hong Kong.

The first day of the visit programme included visits to sister institutions in the UK before a hybrid conference in Westminster which welcomed distinguished speakers from the Institution of Civil Engineers, the Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers, the Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management, and the Institution of Mechanical Engineers. They shared their views and experiences on Climate-resilience Infrastructure Development.

A forum for UK Engineering Small and Medium-sized Enterprises was supported by the London ETO and Hong Kong Trade Development Council. The gathering aimed to facilitate knowledge exchange between engineering SMEs. An expert panel comprised experts from the HKIE with diverse backgrounds and extensive professional experience. They gave exclusive insights into Hong Kong's engineering profession's latest developments and forthcoming opportunities. Attendees heard about the Hong Kong Government's latest initiatives supporting engineering and infrastructure projects.

Visiting Manchester on Day Two, there was a cocktail reception for delegates before meetings and social gatherings.



These allowed time for an exchange with local engineers, students and entrepreneurs, members of sister institutions, and HKIE members living in the city.

The visit ended back in London with a technical look at the capital's Elizabeth Line operation before a farewell reception for invited guests.

Above: London ETO's Director-General, Gilford Law (second row, sixth left), with engineering students, graduates and practitioners at the cocktail reception in London.

Law

Legal landscape of Hong Kong from the professional perspective

Hong Kong Economic Trade Office, London, co-hosted a seminar "Exploring the Evolving Legal Landscape of Hong Kong" together with The Law Society of Hong Kong, for students from the UK Joint University Hong Kong Career Society and the LSESU Asia Careers Society as partners.



Mr C.M. Chan, President of the Law Society of Hong Kong, and Ms Melissa Pang, Past President of The Law Society of Hong Kong and President of LAWASIA, flew from Hong Kong to give professional insights and engage with the enthusiastic participants. Among the topics covered were Hong Kong's full commitment to the rule of law; maintaining an independent judiciary; and the benefits of being the only common law jurisdiction in China.

Above: (From right) London ETO's Director-General, Gilford Law, with Melissa Pang, C.M. Chan and the UK students at the Evolving Legal Landscape seminar.

Culture

Tai Hang Fire Dragon Dance



On three nights during the Mid-Autumn Festival, at the end of September, the Tai Hang Fire Dragon Dance wends along the backstreets of Tai Hang in Causeway Bay.

The ceremony features a 67-metre dragon adorned with thousands of burning joss sticks and hundreds of performers, and follows a tradition running over a century.

Each autumn, the quaint neighbourhood of Tai Hang came alive as a glowing dragon – carried by over 300 performers – dances through the streets.

This fascinating tradition of Hong Kong dates back to the 19th century, when residents of the then small Hakka village combated a plague with a fire dragon dance, accompanied by roaring gongs and drums.

Today, the Tai Hang Fire Dragon Dance is officially listed as a National Intangible Cultural Heritage, and continues to attract crowds for the blazing spectacle each year.

Above: The 67-metre dragon in Tai Hang.

●●● HK Airport

Flying High at Asia's Top Airport

Named as Asia's Leading Airport in the latest World Travel Awards, celebrations took place at Hong Kong International Airport which has witnessed huge investment to create new facilities and services.

The airport has seen the commissioning of a new 3 800m-long third runway coupled with the expansion of Terminal 2, construction of T2 Concourse, a new baggage-handling system and automated people-mover, all scheduled for completion in 2024.

At an event celebrating the airport's silver anniversary in July, the HKSAR Chief Executive, Mr John Lee, said, "We all experience the good and happy steps when we go through the airport. That would not be possible without the commitment, devotion and the excellent work of each one of the members of the whole Hong Kong airport family."



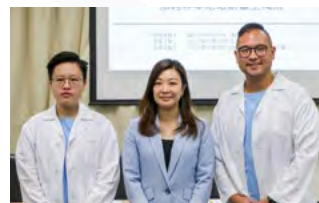
Careers

The Executive Director (Finance) of Hong Kong International Airport Authority, Mr Julian Lee, flew to the UK for a career talk co-organised by London ETO. He spoke of opportunities with the airport authority in Hong Kong and how its location, in the heart of Asia, meant that flights reach half the world's population within five hours. Its passenger and cargo capacities are expected to increase significantly from 2035 onwards, creating the need for more staff.

Above: Chief Executive, John Lee, at the cocktail reception in celebration of the 25th anniversary of Hong Kong International Airport.

●●● Health

More medics heading to Hong Kong



Hong Kong's success in attracting doctors trained abroad is gaining momentum as the Global Healthcare Talent Convergence Programme welcomes overseas healthcare professionals.

Among them is Dr Strathan Dino Chun who has returned to his native Hong Kong after 14 years of medical training and practice in the UK. "I wanted to return to serve Hong Kong", said the ophthalmologist who works in the New Territories West.

Dr Fung Hoi Yin also joined the Hospital Authority in May after nine years in Britain. She is now a resident in family medicine and primary healthcare in the New Territories West.

Between April and September more than 130 non-locally trained doctors were hired; the majority of them are from the UK and Australia. They will be assigned to various specialities

including those with the most acute shortage.

There are plans for collaborations with professional bodies and global institutions to promote the advantages of practising medicine in Hong Kong.

Qualifications

The fourth batch of overseas medical qualifications to be recognised in Hong Kong has been published and will also help to swell the influx of trained medics.

The Special Registration Committee has now recommended 100 medical qualifications for recognition. They are now pressing ahead with the assessment of other non-local medical programmes that fulfil the stipulated criteria in order to determine their next batch of recognised medical qualifications.

Above left: (From left) Dr Fung Hoi Yin; Chief Manager of Hospital Authority, Gladys Kwan and Dr Strathan Dino Chun at the press briefing.

●●● Engineering

Engineering achievements honoured

Hong Kong's engineering prowess was acknowledged at recent global award ceremonies.

The city's metro system came top for comfort, convenience and sustainability to win the prestigious International Association of Public Transport award with its "Smart and Inclusive Journey Programme".

The MTR system has recently enjoyed an extension at Admiralty Station which boasts an innovative vertical circulation design and 34 new escalators. The project received Special Recognition during the Union Internationale des Transports Publics (UITP) Global Public Transport Summit in Barcelona.

The awards are selected by an international panel of industry experts and recognise the most ambitious and innovative public transport projects around the world.

Engineering trophy

The UK's Institution of Civil Engineers gave multiple awards to the Development Bureau of the HKSAR Government for achievements by its works departments.

Global entries bid for the coveted Martin Barnes Awards which were presented at the New Engineering Contract annual conference in London.

Major prizes taken away by the Hong Kong delegation included the Building/Facility Management Project of the Year and Sustainability Award of the Year received by the Architectural Services Department; the Contract Innovation of the Year award received by the Drainage Services Department; and the Water Contract of the Year award received by the Water Supplies Department.



Above: Award-winning metro system.



Above: The Assistant Director of Drainage Services, Raymond Lee (sixth right), receives the Contract Innovation of the Year award.

●●● Finance

Belt and Road summit draws unprecedented attendance

With around 6 000 attendees and over a hundred overseas and Mainland delegations to the eighth Belt and Road Summit, the event saw record attendance.

Marking the tenth anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative (B&RI), this was first fully-physical gathering since the pandemic and welcomed delegates including overseas government officials and prominent international business leaders. Together they reviewed the development of the Initiative since 2013, and investigated investment, business and trade opportunities.

Under the theme “Prospering on a Decade of Collaboration”, this year’s Summit highlighted Hong Kong’s role as the functional platform for the B&RI, and to assist enterprises and professional services in exploring business opportunities, in particular those arising from emerging markets such as the Middle East and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations markets.

Vice Premier of the State Council, Mr Ding Xuexiang, gave a video keynote speech at the opening session. Deputy Director of the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council, and the Director of the Liaison Office of the Central People’s Government in the HKSAR, Mr Zheng Yanxiang, also delivered a special address.



Speaking at the opening session, the HKSAR Chief Executive, Mr John Lee, highlighted that more than 150 countries and over 30 international organisations have signed co-operation agreements with China in collective pursuit of the B&RI, setting in motion more than 3 000 co-operation projects and nearly US\$1 trillion in investment. Noting that Hong Kong is determined to embrace the vast promise of the B&RI, Mr Lee said that the HKSAR Government is redoubling its efforts for Hong Kong to serve as the functional platform for the Belt and Road.

Above: Chief Executive, John Lee, speaking at the Plenary Meeting of the conference.

●●● Sport

Asian Games close in style with the best ever medal haul for Hong Kong



There was a spectacular closing to the Hangzhou Asian Games in October as Team Hong Kong, China achieved their best-ever results. They came away with a total of 53 medals: eight Golds, 16 Silvers and 29 Bronzes.

The Men’s Bridge Team won the eighth Gold in Men’s Team Final, tying the record of eight Golds at the last Asian Games in Jakarta, Indonesia.

The HKSAR Chief Executive, Mr John Lee, extended his congratulations to the athletes on their outstanding achievements, commending their perseverance and distinguished performance.

Mr Lee said, “This is the largest Hong Kong delegation ever to participate in the Asian Games. The results were very encouraging. Their spirit of hard work has won everyone’s applause and support.”

The Hong Kong athletes won gold medals in rowing, fencing, swimming, rugby, golf, cycling and bridge. The Hong Kong men’s football team also made a historic appearance in the semi-finals of the Asian Games, arousing the passion of fans across Hong Kong.

The HKSAR Chief Secretary for Administration, Mr Chan Kwok-ki, attended the Closing Ceremony at the Hangzhou Olympic Sports Centre Stadium. He said that the Hong Kong, China Delegation has made great efforts in striving for excellence at the Games, bringing glory to the city and pride to all Hong Kong citizens. He also believed that all Hong Kong citizens would be proud of the country’s success in presenting to the world a great event that is distinctly Chinese, uniquely Asian and spectacular.

The HKSAR Government has pledged to continue to fully support Hong Kong athletes and the development of sports in Hong Kong. In 2023-24 it has provided some HK\$1.18 billion (around GBP 121.4 million or EUR 138.6 million) in funding to carry out work relating to supporting elite sports.

Above left: The Men’s Bridge Team bags the eighth Gold medal for Hong Kong.

Above middle: Hong Kong athletes celebrate their best ever results at the Asian Games.

Above right: Chief Secretary for Administration, Chan Kwok-ki (second right), and the Commissioner for Sports in the Culture of the Sports and Tourism Bureau, Sam Wong (first right), attended the Closing Ceremony in Hangzhou.



Above:
The action hero with his signature moves.

●●● Culture

Bruce Lee: a timeless classic

To mark the fiftieth anniversary of the passing of the legend, a pop-up exhibition “Bruce Lee: a Timeless Classic” is being held in the Hong Kong Heritage Museum until 1 January 2024.

Over the years Bruce Lee has touched the lives of many across time, space and social background with his signature moves and styles. He has charmed the world with his fists as well as his wits and remains a constant source of inspiration to popular culture ranging from movies, comics, animation to action figures in various manifestations.

Hong Kong Heritage Museum is proud to showcase some of the finest of Bruce Lee in popular culture in celebration of his long legacy. Visitors can share their moment with Bruce Lee in a unique pop-up display.

●●● Culture

Dragons of the Sea return



The Victoria Harbour and its waterfront promenades filled with vibrant colours and cheering fans as thousands of paddlers from around the world raced to the beat of rousing drums when the Hong Kong International Dragon Boat Races returned in full splendour after four years over the weekend of 24-25 June.

●●● Film

Movie awards for Hong Kong

Hong Kong star Mr Chow Yun-fat was named Asian Filmmaker of the Year while actor Mr Tony Leung Chiu-wai becomes the first Chinese actor to receive a much-coveted lifetime achievement award.

The Asian screen legend Chow Yun-fat was awarded the prestigious title after he enchanted the world with his charismatic performances in a number of masterpieces. They include the Oscar-winning martial arts epic “Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon” (2000) where he was the master warrior duelling in mid-air or in a bamboo forest.

Lifetime's achievement

Tony Leung Chiu-wai becomes the first Chinese actor to receive the much-coveted lifetime achievement awards in movies. He brought home the prestigious Golden Lion from the 80th Venice

International Film Festival and paid an emotional tribute to his home city in his acceptance speech, thanking “Hong Kong cinema” and the “wonderful people” he has worked with.

Leung gained international recognition for his roles in movies made by Wong Kar-wai, such as “In the Mood for Love” (2000) and “2046” (2004). He played a wide array of award winning roles in his 40-year long career.



Above left: Tony Leung pays an emotional tribute to Hong Kong at the Venice Film Festival. (Photo: South China Morning Post).

Above right: Hong Kong actor Chow Yun-fat is the second city star to earn international acclaim in a week. (Photo: South China Morning Post).

●●● Culture

Harbour's Double Dutch Ducks



After a ten-year absence, enormous yellow rubber ducks made a return to Hong Kong's Victoria Harbour; not one but a pair.

The 18-metre-tall globetrotting “Double Ducks” were seen bobbing around the city for two weeks in June.

Created by Dutch artist, Florentijn Hofman, the giant ducks bring double happiness to people taking selfies or photos with them. Click and smile was the invitation made on social media.

FOR HONG KONG EVENT DETAILS



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