HONG KONG REVIEW

September 2025

Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office, London

Policy Address 2025

The economy and livelihoods at heart of leader's blueprint

Above: The Chief Executive, Mr John Lee, releases "The Chief Executive's 2025 Policy Address" at the Legislative Council

The Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, Mr John Lee, announced his fourth Policy Address entitled Deepening Reforms for Our People and Leveraging Our Strengths for a Brighter Future.

Noting that this year marks the conclusion of the National 14th Five-Year Plan period, and the preparatory year for the 15th Five-Year Plan, Mr Lee said the Policy Address serves as "a roadmap for Hong Kong to strive for a vibrant economy, pursue development, and improve people's livelihood."

Finance hub

Measures announced include stock market enhancements by exploring shortening the stock settlement cycle to T+1, support "homecoming" of China Concept Stock companies, include Renminbi (RMB) trading counter under Stock Connect's Southbound trading. The building of an international gold trading market is being expedited to create a central clearing system for gold, expand gold storage facilities, and develop new investment products such as tokenised gold. Also promised are a new RMB Business Facility to support the use of RMB in real economy as well as deeper co-operation with carbon markets in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area to test out cross-boundary trade settlement. To entice investors, the threshold for residential property investment of the New Capital Investment Entrant Scheme will be lowered from HK$50 million (GBP 4.71 million or EUR 5.43 million) to HK$30 million (GBP 2.83 million or EUR 3.26 million).

Trade boost

Measures intended to facilitate increased international trade include new investment agreements with Saudi Arabia, Bangladesh, Egypt and Peru. A new Economic and Trade Office (ETO) will be established in Kuala Lumpur. ETOs' coverage will be expanded to Latin America and Central Asia. Proactive efforts will be made to attract Mainland enterprises to use Hong Kong in expanding their businesses overseas.

Air and Sea focus

The development of high value-added maritime services is a priority with a "rail-sea-land-river" transport network being established to promote intermodal cargo transport from the Mainland's inland provinces and cities to international markets through Hong Kong.

Its aviation hub will be boosted by expansion of the Airport City development which will see AsiaWorld-Expo Phase 2, an arts industry ecosystem plus a yacht bay with ancillary facilities.

Education and talent

The Policy Address announced an increase in places for non-local self-financing students to study in Hong Kong universities alongside extra hostels to attract international teaching and research talents and students.

Two vacant schools will be converted to encourage international schools to increase their admission quotas while the third InnoHK research cluster will focus on sustainable development, energy, advanced manufacturing and materials. A further boost to IP trading will come with promotion of IP financing, valuation and protection.

Culture, sport and tourism

A premium arts trading hub will be formed to deepen collaboration with Art Basel. The Government will commission the WestK Quay and establish the WestK Academy to provide professional training. It will promote prime yacht tourism in new facilities alongside a relaxation in requirements for visiting yachts and improving immigration clearance. A multi-year partnership arrangement with LIV Golf tour will be concluded.

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Northern Metropolis

The Committee on Development of the Northern Metropolis, chaired by the Chief Executive, will be created to accelerate development of the area. It will streamline the administrative workflows with new mind-set to adopt construction methods, materials and equipment from different jurisdictions. Dedicated legislation will be introduced to empower the Government to devise simplified statutory procedures for accelerating the development of the Northern Metropolis.

Foster Industry Development

The Government will formulate preferential policy packages to attract enterprises to set up in Hong Kong. Efforts will be made to attract an aircraft recycling enterprise and train relevant talents. At the same time, the development of the life and health technology industry will be promoted, with a view to attracting more top-notch international and Mainland pharmaceutical companies to Hong Kong. To support this, a Hong Kong Centre for Medical Products Regulation will be set up to help pharmaceutical companies bring innovative drugs to the markets. In parallel, the Government will promote the development of the AI and data science industries, and expand the application of AI in government services and business operations. Development of the new energy industry will also be promoted, alongside initiatives to promote the development of a low-altitude economy ecosystem.

SMEs support

Backing for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) will see the application period for the 80% Guarantee Products under the SME Financing Guarantee Scheme extended for two years. The restaurant licensing regime will be streamlined with an expedited approval process for outside seating accommodation of restaurants. An injection of HK$1.43 billion (GBP 135 million or EUR 155 million) into the BUD Fund and expand its geographical scope is promised along with creating of the "Economic and Trade Express" to assist local SMEs in exploring business opportunities overseas. A pet-friendly business environment will also be promoted.

Mr Lee concluded, "By working together, innovating, and embracing reform, we will turn our beloved Hong Kong into an even better home for everyone. The Pearl of the Orient will keep shining brighter than ever before."

Above: The Chief Executive, Mr John Lee, at the Legislative Council.

●●● Government

Celebrating 28 years of HKSAR

1st July marked the 28th Anniversary of the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR). It also marked the third anniversary of the current term of the Government which has forged ahead with reforms to build a safe and stable Hong Kong, develop the economy and improve people's livelihood.

The Chief Executive of the HKSAR, Mr John Lee delivered a speech at the anniversary reception and highlighted how the Government has rebuilt a safe Hong Kong and fulfilled the constitutional duty by enacting the local legislation for Article 23 of the Basic Law.

He also highlighted how the Government has addressed land and housing issues, with waiting time for public housing shortened considerably. Hong Kong's economy has shifted from negative to positive growth, while median monthly household income during the period has risen by over 11 per cent.

"We have endeavoured to trawl for talent, compete for enterprises, and attract companies and investment to Hong Kong. For World Talent Ranking, Hong Kong has returned to the top ten, climbing up seven places to the ninth position.

"Looking ahead, our major tasks will cover three areas: first, to safeguard high-quality development with high-level security; second, to speed up the development of the Northern Metropolis; third, to improve people's livelihood proactively.

"As long as we are determined to fully seize the opportunities, keep enhancing our value and competitiveness, undertake reforms for progress and foster innovation, I am confident the wisdom and experience of the people of Hong Kong will help our Pearl of the Orient shine brighter than ever on the world stage", Mr Lee concluded.

Above: The Chief Executive, Mr John Lee, together with Principal Officials and guests, at the anniversary celebration reception.

Above: The disciplined services and the Government Flying Service performed a sea parade and a fly-past at Golden Bauhinia Square in Wan Chai.

●●● Finance

London visit centred on financial co-operation

During a visit to London in June, HKSAR's Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury, Mr Christopher Hui, highlighted Hong Kong's position at the forefront of global finance and the digital asset revolution. He said the Asian city shares the same vision as the UK, allowing the two places to drive transformative economic growth through partnership in an era of innovation and sustainability.

Speaking at a luncheon held by the Hong Kong Association of the UK, Mr Hui highlighted Hong Kong's commitment to three key pillars, the 3Es. These refer to extending financial value chain across equities, fixed income, currencies and commodities; embracing fintech and green finance; and enhancing opportunities for Chinese and international businesses.

Mr Hui remarked that Hong Kong's integration into the London Metal Exchange's global warehouse network enhances Hong Kong's commodities infrastructure and creates significant opportunities for UK firms to tap into the growing demand for new-energy metals and support global industrial transformation and sustainable development.

Among the highlights of the visit was the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the Financial Services Development Council (FSDC) and TheCityUK to establish a partnership in sharing insights and best practices.

Prior to the signing, Mr Hui had a roundtable meeting with members of the TheCityUK, which represents an industry contributing over 12 per cent of the UK's economic output and employing nearly 2.5 million people in financial and related professions. There was also time for a bilateral meeting with the Lord Mayor of the City of London, Mr Alderman Alastair King, on Hong Kong's latest financial services developments. Mr Hui also met the Chief Markets Officer of PwC UK, Mr Carl Sizer, to discuss the role the auditing and accounting profession can play to support Mainland enterprises going global.

Meeting of minds

While in the UK capital, Mr Hui attended a members' briefing of the Asia House think-tank. Then, during a lunch meeting with representatives of the ICBC Standard Bank, he outlined the international gold trading market and commodity trading ecosystem that Hong Kong is shaping.

In the afternoon, Mr Hui met with the then Economic Secretary to the Treasury of the UK, Ms Emma Reynolds, and other financial officials to reinforce the financial partnership between the two leading international financial centres. Mr Hui also paid a courtesy call on Minister of the Chinese Embassy in the UK, Mr Wang Qi.

Photos right (top to bottom):

Mr Christopher Hui (centre); Chief Executive of Asia House, Mr Michael Lawrence (left); London ETO Director-General, Miss Fiona Chau (right).

Mr Christopher Hui (first right); the then Economic Secretary to the UK Treasury, Ms Emma Reynolds (first left); London ETO Director-General, Miss Fiona Chau (second right).

Mr Christopher Hui (second right), chats with members of the Hong Kong Association at its luncheon.

Mr Christopher Hui, gives the keynote speech at Hong Kong Association luncheon.

Mr Christopher Hui, (centre); the Chair of TheCityUK China Market Advisory Group and President of the China-Britain Business Council, the Lord James Sassoon (first left); the Chair of the Leadership Council of TheCityUK, Mr Bruce Carnegie-Brown (second left); the Managing Director of Public Affairs, Policy and Research of TheCityUK, Mr John Godfrey (second right); and London ETO Director-General, Miss Fiona Chau (first right).

Mr Christopher Hui (second right), together with the Chair of the Leadership Council of TheCityUK, Mr Bruce Carnegie-Brown (second left); the Executive Director of the FSDC, Dr King Au (first right), and the Managing Director for Public Affairs, Policy and Research of TheCityUK, Mr John Godfrey (first left) with the MoU.

●●● Finance

International financial centre boost

Hong Kong has maintained third place globally, with the overall rating increasing by 11 points to 760, in the Global Financial Centres Index (GFCI) 37 Report. Published by Z/Yen from the United Kingdom and the China Development Institute from Shenzhen, it continues to rank Hong Kong first in the Asia Pacific.

A Government spokesman said the report acknowledges Hong Kong's leading status and strengths as an international financial centre. "Rankings in the areas of 'human capital', 'infrastructure', and 'financial sector development' rose to second in the world, while rankings in 'business environment' and 'reputational and general' rose to third globally."

Hong Kong also ranked among the top in various financial industry sectors: ranked first globally in "investment management", "insurance" and "finance", and ranked third globally in "banking". In addition, the report assessed the financial centres' fintech offering, and Hong Kong's ranking leapt further by five places to fourth in the world.

●●● Finance

Norway tax collaboration

During his visit to Oslo in June, HKSAR's Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury, Mr Christopher Hui, met with the Norwegian State Secretary of the Ministry of Finance, Mr Torgeir Micaelsen, and the Director General of Tax Law Department, Mr Omar G Dajani, and urged for the early signing of a comprehensive avoidance of double taxation agreement between Hong Kong and Norway.

At a dinner reception (co-organised by the London ETO and the Norway-Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce, Mr Hui introduced Hong Kong's financial market over a keynote speech, pictured above.

●●● Economy

Smart City Index ranking

Hong Kong ranked eighth out of 73 cities, and Number Two in Asia, in the ISUI Smart City Index 2025 jointly released by the International Society for Urban Informatics (ISUI) and the Otto Poon Charitable Foundation Smart Cities Research Institute of The Hong Kong Polytechnic University. Recognised for its economy, strong governance and digital services as well as environmental commitment, Hong Kong's smart city initiatives are gaining ground.

●●● Economy

Competitiveness rating success

Hong Kong has risen to become the third most competitive economy in the 2025 World Competitiveness Ranking, published by the International Institute for Management Development.

This is a rise of two places and Hong Kong's highest position since 2019, reflecting the city's economic resilience, business-friendly policies and efforts in attracting private sector investment. Among 69 economies assessed, Hong Kong rated second for "Government efficiency" and "Business efficiency" and topped the sub-sector rankings of "Tax policy" and "Business legislation.

A Government spokesperson said the rise shows that policy directions are on the right course and that various policies have yielded results, and validates that the change in government culture led by the Chief Executive to drive result-oriented policies has borne fruit. "The Government can efficiently deliver results that benefit our people and bring them better livelihoods", said the spokesperson.

●●● Investment

Mass foreign investment secured

Invest Hong Kong (InvestHK) has assisted over 1 300 overseas and Mainland companies to set up or expand their business in Hong Kong from January 2023 to the first six months of 2025, bringing in foreign direct investment of more than HK$160 billion (GBP 15.3 billion or EUR 19.4 billion) and creating over 19 000 jobs within the first year of operation or expansion, contributing to the local job market and reaffirming Hong Kong's position as a leading business hub in Asia.

The results demonstrate that InvestHK has achieved ahead of schedule its performance indicators as set out in the 2022 Policy Address.

"InvestHK will build on this strong momentum to deepen mutual engagements between Hong Kong, the Mainland and overseas markets", said Ms Alpha Lau, Director-General of Investment Promotion at InvestHK.

Above: Director-General of Investment Promotion at InvestHK, Ms Alpha Lau, hosted the news conference.

●●● Finance

Asset and wealth management triumph

According to Securities and Futures Commission's (SFC) recently published Asset and Wealth Management Activities Survey 2024, Hong Kong rode a new wave of growth as a pre-eminent international asset and wealth management hub, notching a robust year-on-year gain of 13% to HK$35 trillion (GBP 3.33 trillion or EUR 3.86 trillion) in assets under management (AUM), powered by an 81% surge in net fund inflows of HK$705 billion (GBP 66.9 billion or EUR 77.5 billion) last year.

Hong Kong-domiciled funds authorised by the SFC showed robust growth. Their net asset value increased 22% to HK$1.64 trillion (GBP 155.8 billion or EUR 180.4 billion) as at end-2024 and further grew 21% to HK$1.99 trillion (GBP 190 billion or EUR 220 billion) as at end-May 2025.

They recorded net fund inflows of HK$163 billion (GBP 15.5 billion or EUR 18 billion) during 2024, followed by HK$237 billion (GBP 22.5 billion or EUR 26.1 billion) during the first five months of 2025.

The investor base is well diversified in terms of geography. Investors outside the Mainland and Hong Kong consistently accounted for over 54% of the total AUM in recent years.

●●● Business

Fashion in focus!

Hong Kong's premier international fashion event, CENTRESTAGE celebrated its 10th edition in early September with top global brands, celebrated designers and trendsetters gathered in Hong Kong.

With the United Kingdom as the event's Partner Country for the first time this year, the fair features over 40 activities including fashion shows, competitions and expert sharing sessions. An annual highlight, the Hong Kong Young Fashion Designers' Contest is set to take place on the final day with celebrated British designer Charles Jeffrey as the guest judge.

●●● Government

International mediation body established

An international mediation body has been established in Hong Kong. The International Organization for Mediation (IOMed) was set up on 30th May during a high-level ceremony in Hong Kong attended by representatives of the United Nations and more than 80 countries around the world, including China.

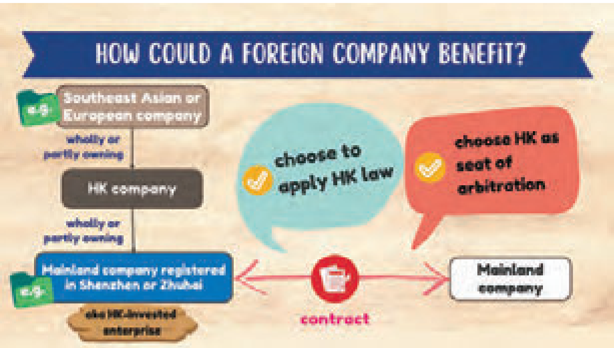
With its headquarters in Hong Kong, the IOMed is dedicated to promoting mediation to settle international disputes through dialogue and mutual respect and understanding, fostering a peaceful and prosperous future amid current geopolitical tensions.

Member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Wang Yi, was the first to sign the Convention, on behalf of China, as one of the 33 countries who jointly signed. In addition, more than 50 countries and nearly 20 international organisations, including the United Nations also sent senior representatives to witness the ceremony.

Above: Member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Wang Yi (front row, centre); the Chief Executive, Mr John Lee (front row, eighth right), and representatives of the signatories at the ceremony.

●●● Commerce

Trade integration thrust



HKSAR's Second Agreement Concerning Amendment to the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA) Agreement on Trade in Services (Amendment Agreement II) signed between the Ministry of Commerce and the HKSAR Government under the framework of CEPA has come into force.

This further opens up the services market of the Mainland to Hong Kong, enabling Hong Kong businesses and professionals to enter the Mainland market with more preferential treatments. The Amendment Agreement II introduces new liberalisation measures across a number of service sectors.

The latest document also brings institutional innovation and collaboration enhancements. It includes the addition of "allowing Hong Kong-invested enterprises to adopt Hong Kong law" and "allowing Hong Kong-invested enterprises to choose for arbitration to be seated in Hong Kong" as facilitation measures for Hong Kong investors; and removal of the period requirement on Hong Kong service suppliers to engage in substantive business operations in Hong Kong for three years in most service sectors.

●●● Finance and Trade

Metal Exchange warehouse approval

HKSAR's Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury, Mr Christopher Hui, has welcomed approval by the London Metal Exchange (LME) (a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited), of the first three applications to establish approved warehouses in Hong Kong. These applications involve four warehouse facilities. He said that the decision will further promote the development of Hong Kong's commodity market and strengthen its position as an international financial, shipping and trading centre.

Mr Hui said, "The approval of the first batch of applications in merely a few months indicated the efforts of the Government and the industry in exploring new growth areas, and allowed LME-approved warehouse operators and local warehouse operators to begin the process of establishing operations early."

Above: The Financial Secretary, Mr Paul Chan (fourth right) and the Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury, Mr Christopher Hui (third left) and other guests officiating at a celebration ceremony for LME-Approved HK Warehouse Operations.

●●● Business

Business environment report

Report on Hong Kong's Business Environment: Unique Strengths under 'One Country, Two Systems' was published at the end of July by the HKSAR Government. It provides all sectors of the community and Mainland and overseas investors with details on Hong Kong's latest developments and strengths, comprehensively showcasing Hong Kong's open, safe, stable, efficient and internationalised business environment.

The document systematically and clearly demonstrates to the world that Hong Kong's development has been picking up in recent years as social stability has been restored and the city has recovered post-pandemic. The report explains the Government's policy priorities and achievements in promoting high-quality economic development, including continuously strengthening competitiveness, as well as its achievements in attracting capital inflows, pooling together enterprises and attracting talent. It also showcases Hong Kong's latest developments and potential in finance, trade, aviation, maritime, innovation and technology, intellectual property trade, and legal services, as well as culture, sports and tourism.

Right: The Financial Secretary, Mr Paul Chan (centre); Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Mr Algernon Yau (left), and the Acting Government Economist, Dr Cecilia Lam (right).

●●● Economy

Belt and Road Initiative progress

The Eighth Joint Conference on Advancing Hong Kong's Full Participation in and Contribution to Belt and Road (B&R) Initiative was held in Beijing in July.

HKSAR's Secretary for Justice, Mr Paul Lam, led officials including the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Mr Algernon Yau, to attend. Mr Lam said that with the country's support, Hong Kong will continue to deepen international exchanges and co-operation and will actively utilise its own advantages to exert a greater role in the country's high-level opening up to the world.

Above: The Secretary for Justice and chairperson of the Working Group on B&R Development under the Steering Group on Integration into National Development, Mr Paul Lam, (front row, first right); the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development and Hong Kong-side Convenor of the Joint Conference, Mr Algernon Yau (front row, second right); the Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Ms Maggie Wong (front row, second left); and the Commissioner for Belt and Road, Mr Nicholas Ho (front row, first left).

●●● Education

Universities rank highly

Hong Kong's status as a leading hub for world-class education and cutting-edge research is reaffirmed as five institutions rank among the world's top 100 in the QS World University Rankings 2026, giving Hong Kong the highest concentration of top-ranked universities globally (56%).

The University of Hong Kong soared six places to claim its 11th position worldwide, while The Chinese University of Hong Kong rose four places to 32nd, followed by The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (44th), The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (54th) and City University of Hong Kong (63rd).

In the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2025, which measures global universities' success in delivering the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals, a number of Hong Kong universities also performed outstandingly in different fields. Among them, Lingnan University ranked top globally for SDG 4: Quality Education for the first time, showcasing exemplary performance.

●●● Talent

Hong Kong leaps in World Talent Ranking 2025!

Hong Kong rose five places to its highest ever No.4 ranking in the World Talent Ranking 2025 published by the International Institute for Management Development, and No.1 in Asia.

For the second consecutive year, Hong Kong improved across all three ranked talent competitiveness factors, namely "Appeal", "Readiness" and "Investment and Development". Hong Kong continued to top the ranking in the percentage of graduates in sciences. It is a clear testament to Hong Kong's efforts in education, innovation and technology, and talent admission, which are in the right direction and are getting results.

●●● Infrastructure

Airport transformed for sport and mega events

Hong Kong's largest sports infrastructure project has been opened by HKSAR's Chief Executive, Mr John Lee. He officiated at the Kai Tak Sports Park ceremony at Kai Tak Stadium. The new venue is set to boost sports development and inject impetus into related industries such as recreation, entertainment and tourism, and also mega-event economy, thereby consolidating Hong Kong's reputation as an event capital in Asia.

Mr Lee, said that the largest sports park in Hong Kong's history will soon welcome top local, Mainland and international sports, music and cultural events, kicking off Hong Kong Super March. Once an airport in the middle of a busy city, Kai Tak has evolved from a flight terminal to a new global stage for sports, culture and arts.

Above: The Chief Executive, Mr John Lee, and other officiating guests at the Kai Tak Sports Park Grand Opening Ceremony.

●●● Music

Music-lovers paradise

British rock sensation Coldplay launched a new era for entertainment in Hong Kong with four sell-out concerts at the brand new 50 000-seat Kai Tak Stadium in early April. The performances created unforgettable moments for about 200 000 spectators from around the world.

●●● World Snooker

Snooker debuts at new venue

It was a near-perfect performance from Australia's snooker ace during the first formal sports event staged at Hong Kong's new Kai Tak Arena. Neil Robertson stormed to a 10-0 victory over Englishman Stuart Bingham to win the World Snooker Grand Prix 2025.

The tournament featured 32 of the world's top-ranked players, including World No.1 Hong Kong resident Judd Trump, who lost to Bingham in the semi-final. Fans were also treated to exhibition matches involving local heroes Marco Fu and Ng On Yee, who took on Jimmy White of England and Thailand's Mink Nutcharut respectively.

Above: Neil Robertson in action during the final of the World Snooker Grand Prix 2025.

●●● Rugby Sevens

Argentina wins first tango in Kai Tak

The debut Cathay/HSBC Hong Kong Sevens at the new Kai Tak Stadium saw Argentina beat France 12-7 in the final to extend their lead in the Series, while New Zealand won the women's tournament defeating Australia 26-10 in the final.

Hosts Hong Kong, China clinched the men's and women's Melrose Claymores titles beating China and Kazakhstan respectively in front of a roaring crowd after three days of intense competition as well as non-stop entertainment and family fun.

Above: Argentina (right) v France in the final.

●●● Football Festival

Fever pitch

A raucous record crowd of some 50 000 fans at the new Kai Tak Stadium on 26th July saw English Premier League champions Liverpool FC tackle AC Milan in the opening game of the Hong Kong Football Festival.

The Italians claimed a thrilling 4-2 victory with goals from Noah Okafor (2), Rafael Leão and Ruben Loftus-Cheek, while Dominik Szoboszlai and Cody Gakpo hit the target for Liverpool.

●●● Culture

Global museum minds meet

Above (From left): The Director of Leisure and Cultural Services, Manda Chan; the Secretary for Culture, Sports and Tourism, Rosanna Law; the President of The Guimet – National Museum of Asian Arts (France), Dr Yannick Lintz; the Deputy Chief Secretary for Administration, Cheuk Wing-hing; and the Chairman of the Museum Advisory Committee, Professor Douglas So, attend the opening ceremony of the Museum Summit 2025.

The Museum Summit 2025 gathered a record of more than 7 000 participants at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre at the end of March, with around a third of delegates from the Mainland and overseas.

Themed “Going Beyond”, this year’s event covered topics on cultural tourism, social wellness, technological advancements and sustainable development. Organised by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department in partnership with The Guimet – National Museum of Asian Arts in France, the summit also arranged various extended programmes including local cultural visits, experiencing intangible cultural heritage items and museum visits.

HKSAR’s Deputy Chief Secretary for Administration, Mr Cheuk Wing-hing, told the Opening Ceremony that the event has become a highly acclaimed one in the museum world as well as “an iconic mega event in our city’s vibrant cultural calendar”.

●●● Culture

Asia’s flagship art event

Art Basel Hong Kong welcomed works from over 240 world-renowned galleries from 42 countries and territories. Enthusiasts and collectors from far and wide immersed themselves in a diverse range of masterpieces from established artists and emerging talents.

The fair’s thematic sectors included “Encounters”, featuring expansive installations; “Insights”, for galleries with a strong focus on Asia; “Discoveries”, introducing up-and-coming artists; and “Kabinett”, showcasing thematic presentations. The three-day fair, at the end of March, attracted over 90,000 visitors worldwide to enjoy assorted works ranging from expansive installations, paintings, and sculptures to video art.

●●● Fencing

Fencing champ’s success

Hong Kong’s world champion fencer Ryan Choi clinched a historic gold medal in the Men’s Foil Individual event at the 2025 Fencing World Championships in Georgia.

The 27-year-old local hero beat Russia’s Kirill Borodachev 15-9 in the final to become the first Hong Kong fencer to win a gold medal at the Fencing World Championships.

●●● Football Festival

Derby Day delight

Hong Kong was swept in football fever on 31st July as a near capacity crowd of 49 975 fans packed the Kai Tak Stadium for a historic North London derby between fierce rivals Tottenham Hotspur and Arsenal.

The match saw Spurs prevail 1-0 thanks to a stunning 45-yard strike by Pape Matar Sarr that caught Arsenal keeper David Raya off his line. This thrilling clash capped a week of unforgettable action in the first Hong Kong Football Festival, with the new Kai Tak Sports Park reaching its one-millionth spectator milestone, the city continues to set the stage for world-class “sportainment”.

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

London

Left and below: Supported by the Marine Department, London ETO held a reception at the International Maritime Organization in London on 19th June, attended by the Director of Marine Environment Division, Dr Heike Deggim, plus around 300 guests. In her welcome speech, the Director-General of the London ETO, Miss Fiona Chau, highlighted that Hong Kong is the only common law jurisdiction in China, and maintains its status as a free port, implements free trade policies and ensures the free flow of capital, goods, people and information.

Miss Chau took the opportunity to introduce guests to the vibrant traditions of the Dragon Boat Festival, along with a glimpse of the other rich cultural experiences Hong Kong has to offer.

London

Below: Invest Hong Kong (InvestHK) and London ETO maintained a strong presence at London Tech Week 2025, underscoring Hong Kong's role as a strategic gateway for UK technology companies expanding into Asia.

As the official Founders Fuse Partners at London Tech Week in mid-June, InvestHK and the London ETO hosted a series of fireside chats moderated by the Head of Business and Talent Attraction/Investment Promotion at InvestHK London Office, Ms Daisy Ip. Complementing these were case studies from UK-based founders who have successfully entered the Hong Kong market with support from InvestHK.

InvestHK also co-organised a networking reception with the London ETO on 9th June for participants of the London Tech Week to promote business opportunities in Hong Kong, attracting over 130 participants from the UK Government, as well as the financial, innovation and technology, and business sectors.

London

Below and below right: London ETO supported Crafts on Peel, a charitable organisation of Hong Kong, at London Craft Week 2025, presenting the "Embracing Craft, Connecting Culture" exhibition from 12th to 18th May. It brings together artisans from Hong Kong and around the world to collaborate and co-create across a variety of mediums and forms, fostering creative dialogue and cultural exchange.

Speaking at the opening reception, the Director-General of the London ETO, Miss Fiona Chau, remarked, "This exhibition underlines Hong Kong's position as a centre for international cultural exchange and reflects its spirit in honouring traditions while embracing innovation."

Miss Chau expressed her hope that the exhibition would offer audiences a fresh perspective on Hong Kong and encouraged them to visit the city and experience its vibrant arts and cultural scene first-hand.

Edinburgh

Left: London ETO supported three Hong Kong performance programmes at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2025 in August, highlighting the city's vibrant arts scene. The performances featured the One Table Two Chairs Charitable Foundation, zheng musician Wan Xing and a cappella group Yat Po Singers.

The Festival showcased three Hong Kong programmes: "Cantonese Opera x Children's Interactive Theatre: Dic Dic Chang Chang Playground" by One Table Two Chairs Charitable Foundation; "Rock Hard – A Theatrical A Cappella Adventure" by Yat Po Singers; and "Waves of Tradition: A New Horizon in Scottish-Chinese Music" by Wan and two UK musicians, Eleanor Dunsdon and Gregor Black. These performances underscored Hong Kong's vibrant cultural contributions and its role in international cultural exchanges.

London

Below: London ETO supported an exhibition in London featuring promising emerging artists from Hong Kong and the United Kingdom in June. The exhibition is part of a cultural exchange initiative supported by the Choi Koon Shum Charitable Foundation in Hong Kong, in collaboration with the Hong Kong Arts Centre. The exhibition presented works by two young Hong Kong artists and two UK-based artists, pictured with London ETO's Director-General, Miss Fiona Chau (back, centre).

London

Above: London ETO brought a taste of Hong Kong to London's Chinatown on 12th August, hosting a lively lunch for over 80 UK university students who will be heading to Hong Kong as exchange students to strengthen the people-to-people ties between Hong Kong and the UK.

Over delicious Cantonese dishes and great conversation, they enjoyed a taste of what's to come from city lights to campus life.

Their study destinations will be Lingnan University, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, and The University of Hong Kong.

Joining the fun were six students from City University of Hong Kong on summer internships in the UK. They shared pro-tips for living and studying in Hong Kong which promises vibrant energy, rich culture, and endless opportunities. There will also doubtless be new friendships, fresh perspectives, and a year to remember.

London

Right: London ETO supported the Chinese Cinema Project in presenting the Hong Kong New Wave: 1979–1989 Film Festival in London. The festival from 1st April to 16th May presented nine iconic Hong Kong films, with selected sessions accompanied by introductions and panel discussions led by notable film experts, offering audiences a deeper understanding of the historical and artistic significance of Hong Kong films.

A highlight of the festival was the special masterclass titled "In Conversation with Ann Hui", held in partnership with director Hui's alma mater, the London Film School, as well as King's College London, where director Hui engaged in a dynamic exchange with film critics, students and the audience, sharing her personal journey, creative insights, and reflections on the evolution of the Hong Kong film industry. She also joined two Q&A sessions as well as a reception at The Garden Cinema, further enriching the festival experience.

●●● Nature

Pandastic first birthday for cubs

Hong Kong's giant panda twin cubs, elder sister Jia Jia and little brother De De, celebrated their first birthday in Ocean Park on 15th August.

From enjoying scrumptious treats to soaking up the birthday love from their many fans, the celebrity siblings sure had a 'pandastic' time as well-wishers sent tree-cheers to the adorable duo and their superstar mum, Ying Ying.

The cubs are now old enough to start enjoying solid food and are growing taller, weighing nearly 30kg. Their birthday menu featured a special icy cake as part of a weekend of celebrations.

The cry went up to make a birthday wish for more love, laughter, and panda hugs along with an enormous 'thank you' to all the caretakers and panda fans for their gifts and thoughtfulness.

●●● Culture

Making a splash

The 2025 Sun Life Hong Kong International Dragon Boat Races took place over the weekend of 7th–8th June to conclude an epic weekend of action and entertainment at Tsim Sha Tsui East Promenade.

Over 190 teams from a dozen countries and regions battled for glory on the water while spectators celebrated the Tuen Ng Festival in style. Beyond the races, the event dazzled with creative costumes in the Fancy Dress Competition, breath-taking Cirque du Soleil acrobatics, and a lively Dragon Boat Food Lane offering delicious festive bites, making this dynamic carnival a true celebration of sport, culture, and entertainment.

●●● Culture

Bun Fun tradition

Hong Kong's quirkiest tradition returned in full colour attracting thousands of spectators to enjoy the unique Cheung Chau Bun Festival on 5th May.

On Cheung Chau Island, crowds lined the main streets to cheer the "floating colours" Grand Parade, featuring lion-dancers and children dressed up as deities and local personalities.

Another highlight was the exciting Bun Scrambling Competition, where a dozen climbers raced up a bun tower to grab as many festive "ping on" (meaning safe and well) buns as possible.

With its mix of fun, tradition and local charm, the Cheung Chau Bun Festival continues to be one of Hong Kong's most unforgettable cultural experiences.

FOR HONG KONG EVENT DETAILS

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