

First Hong Kong/Latvia film screened in Vilnius

September 15 marked the film première of the first Hong Kong/Latvia co-production movie, *Hong Kong Confidential* (aka *Amaya*), in Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania. The Gala Première was attended by Mrs Agnes Allcock, the new Director-General of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (HKETO) in London, as well as Mr Arunas Gelunas, the Minister of Culture of Lithuania.

Filmed entirely in Hong Kong, the movie is a co-production by Latvia's Krukfilms and Hong Kong's October Pictures. It is directed by Latvian director, screenwriter and producer Maris Martinsons (who currently resides in Lithuania), and stars Lithuanian actor and musician Andrius Mamontovas, who also composed the soundtrack; Japanese actress Kaori Momoi, as well as Hong Kong actors Hui Shiu Hung, Lau Dan and Monie Tung.

Speaking at the Première, Mrs Allcock said: 'I am most delighted to see the first-ever Latvian – Hong Kong co-production film being screened. The celebrated film industry of Hong Kong is the flagship of our creative industries, and Hong Kong is often described as the "Hollywood of the Orient". Last year, Hong Kong films and artists won a total of 52 awards at 12 film festivals and competitions held in Mainland China and overseas.'

'I would strongly encourage other talents of the film industry in Lithuania to have more exchanges with their counterparts in Hong Kong, and to consider partnering with Hong Kong in creating other high quality films for international audiences', Mrs Allcock added.

The visit to Vilnius was Mrs Allcock's first overseas visit since she took up the position on 14 September. During her visit, she also met senior officials from the Lithuanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Economy. She was also given a briefing by the Vilnius Municipality on the latest developments in Vilnius.