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## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **HKCBA Annual Lunar New Year Galas 2025**

The Hong Kong-Canada Business Association (HKCBA) (Toronto Section) will organize the 2025 annual Lunar New Year Gala on February 15. Activities include traditional Chinese games, lion dance, band performance, silent auction, etc. Grand prize draw is two round-trip premium economy tickets between Toronto and Hong Kong donated by Cathay Pacific Airways. The Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (Toronto) (HKETO) is a sponsor of the event. For details, please visit:

<https://toronto.hkcba.com/cpages/home>

In addition, the HKCBA's Winnipeg Section and Edmonton Section will host the 2025 annual Lunar New Year gala on February 15 and 20 respectively. Participants can enjoy a festive meal and be dazzled by performances and guest speakers. The HKETO is also a major sponsor of the events. For details, please visit:

<https://winnipeg.hkcba.com/events/hkcba-winnipeg-section-2025-chinese-new-year-gala>

<https://edmonton.hkcba.com/events/2025-lunar-new-year-dinner-gala-1>

## **RECENT ACTIVITIES**

### **HKETO Director greets Lunar New Year across Canada and presents student scholarship**

Director of the HKETO, Ms Emily Mo, greeted the Year of the Snake by attending Lunar New Year gala dinners hosted by different sections of the HKCBA across Canada, during which she highlighted Hong Kong's dynamic business environment, economic strengths, and its continued role as a global financial powerhouse.

On February 5, Ms Mo attended the Lunar New Year Celebration held by the HKCBA Montreal Section. She updated participants the latest developments of Hong Kong. As the world's freest economy and the third-largest international financial center, Hong Kong has climbed to fifth place in global competitiveness. With three airlines now operating between Canada and Hong Kong, and the opening of the Kai Tak Sports Park, she invited Canadian business leaders to explore the city's dynamic opportunities and vibrant culture.

On the west coast, Ms Mo attended the galas held by the HKCBA Vancouver Section and the Calgary Section on February 6 and 7 respectively, where she promoted Hong Kong's strengths as global business hub and a premium gateway to opportunities.

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The three receptions attracted more than 1,000 guests, including government officials, as well as senior representatives from trade and business, academia, and cultural sectors.

During her duty trip to Calgary, Ms Mo presented the 2025 HKCBA Calgary Scholarship to four students from the University of Calgary and Bow Valley College at a student reception on February 7. The Scholarship, sponsored by the HKETO, is awarded to Calgary university or college students who demonstrate a strong interest in Hong Kong and a clear motivation to pursue an exchange programme or work experience in the city.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.hketotoronto.gov.hk/newsroom/hketo-director-greets-lunar-new-year-across-canada-2.html>

## HONG KONG NEWS

### **Cross-Agency Steering Group sets 2025 priorities to support growth of sustainable finance in Hong Kong**

The Green and Sustainable Finance Cross-Agency Steering Group (the Steering Group), co-chaired by the Hong Kong Monetary Authority and the Securities and Futures Commission, on February 6 sets out three key priorities for this year to foster the growth of sustainable finance in Hong Kong:

- 1) *Developing a comprehensive sustainability disclosure ecosystem:* With the publication of the Roadmap on Sustainability Disclosure in Hong Kong by the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government, the Steering Group will take further actions to support the implementation of the International Financial Reporting Standards Sustainability Disclosure Standards in Hong Kong.
- 2) *Reinforcing Hong Kong's role as a leading sustainable and transition finance hub:* To scale up the flow of green and sustainable finance, the Steering Group is engaging the industry to expand the Hong Kong Taxonomy for Sustainable Finance to incorporate transition elements and add new sustainable activities. The Steering Group also works alongside the industry to develop operational guidance for practising transition finance in a sectoral approach.
- 3) *Harnessing data and technology to facilitate sustainability reporting and promote sustainable financing activities:* In view of the potential of green fintech solutions in facilitating large-scale mobilisation of sustainable capital and enabling information flow with greater transparency and accessibility, the Steering Group is

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developing the official Hong Kong Green Fintech Map with the industry, which will be published in the first half of 2025.

For details on the initiatives of the Steering Group and its members, please visit [sustainablefinance.org.hk/en/](https://sustainablefinance.org.hk/en/).

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202502/06/P2025020600339.htm>

### **CE leads delegation to visit Harbin**

The Chief Executive of the HKSAR, Mr John Lee, visited Harbin on February 6 and attended the opening ceremony of the 9th Asian Winter Games Harbin 2025 at the Harbin International Conference, Exhibition and Sports Center on February 7. The Asian Winter Games is the largest comprehensive winter sports event in Asia.

Mr Lee noted that the Hong Kong, China Delegation participating in this Asian Winter Games is the largest ever, with 74 Hong Kong athletes taking part in various events, namely alpine skiing, curling, ice hockey, figure skating, short track speed skating and speed skating. He hoped that the delegation could achieve brilliant results in the Games and that the athletes could perform their best on the field and enjoy every competition.

During the visit, Mr Lee also met with the Hong Kong, China Delegation to the Asian Winter Games to learn more about the athletes' preparations and watched competitions at the Games to cheer for Hong Kong athletes. He also visited various local cultural and tourism facilities to learn more about the development of industries in Harbin.

Click the following links for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202502/07/P2025020700592.htm>

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202502/08/P2025020800457.htm>

### **Import of poultry meat and products from areas in Canada suspended**

The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department of the HKSAR Government announced on February 4 and 7 respectively that in view of notifications from the World Organisation for Animal Health about outbreaks of highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza in areas in Canada, the CFS has instructed the trade to suspend the import of poultry meat and products (including poultry eggs) from the relevant areas below with immediate effect to protect public health in Hong Kong:

- Wellington County in the Ontario Province
- Matawinie Regional County Municipality in the Québec Province

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A CFS spokesman said that according to the Census and Statistics Department, Hong Kong imported about 400 tonnes of frozen poultry meat from Canada last year.

Click the following links for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202502/04/P2025020400439.htm>

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202502/07/P2025020700485.htm>

### **HKSAR Government files complaint with World Trade Organization regarding US imposition of additional duty on products of Hong Kong**

In response to the United States (US)'s announcement to impose an additional 10 per cent duty on products of Hong Kong, a spokesman for the HKSAR Government on February 7 said that the Government has decided to file a complaint regarding the matter with the World Trade Organization (WTO).

The spokesman said that the US' measures are grossly inconsistent with the relevant WTO rules and ignore Hong Kong's status as a separate customs territory as stipulated in Article 116 of the Basic Law and recognised by the WTO. The HKSAR Government will formally launch procedures in accordance with the WTO Dispute Settlement Mechanism against the US' unreasonable measures to defend its legitimate rights.

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202502/07/P2025020700353.htm>

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HKETO Toronto X Page <https://x.com/TorontoHKETO>

HKETO Toronto LinkedIn Page <https://www.linkedin.com/company/hketotoronto>

Brand Hong Kong Facebook page [www.facebook.com/brandhk.isd](http://www.facebook.com/brandhk.isd)

Brand Hong Kong Instagram page [www.instagram.com/brandhongkong/](http://www.instagram.com/brandhongkong/)

Brand Hong Kong X page [https://twitter.com/Brand\\_HK](https://twitter.com/Brand_HK)

Brand Hong Kong LinkedIn page <https://www.linkedin.com/company/brand-hong-kong/>

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