





### **Cover Illustration**

08, two numbers that recall  
a proud year for Hong Kong  
which staged the Equestrian Events,  
a popular part of the  
greatest show on earth,  
the Olympic Games.

### **End-paper Maps**

*Front*

The Hong Kong Special  
Administrative Region

*Back*

Hong Kong in its regional  
setting

# Events in 2008

The Chief Executive, Mr Donald Tsang, welcomes the nation's Olympic gold medallists to Hong Kong in August. The medal winners spent three days touring the city, which held special events to showcase their athletic prowess.





**Above:** The Chief Secretary for Administration, Mr Henry Tang, autographs the Golden Book at Belgium's House of Representatives during a trip to Europe in May, where he sought closer ties with Belgium and the European Union.

**Right:** President Hu Jintao, the Chief Executive and other world leaders don traditional Peruvian ponchos at the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in Lima, in November.

**Below:** The Chief Executive, Mr Donald Tsang, visited Sichuan Province in western China, scene of the disastrous earthquake that struck in May.





**Above:** The Secretary for Justice, Mr Wong Yan Lung, speaks at the launch of the territory-wide 'Campaign Against Youth Drug Abuse' in June.

**Left:** The Financial Secretary, Mr John Tsang, and the Mainland's Vice-Minister of Commerce, Mr Jiang Zengwei, shake hands after signing a further agreement under the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement.





**Above:** Astronauts (from left) Liu Boming, Zhai Zhigang and Jing Haipeng sing along with local school children at the Hong Kong Stadium in December to celebrate China's first spacewalk.

**Below:** Vice-President Xi Jinping visits the Wong family in Kowloon to gain a better understanding of Hong Kong family life.



# Olympics & Paralympics

2008 was a historic year for China which hosted the Olympic Games. Hong Kong played a part in this great event by co-hosting the Olympic and Paralympic Equestrian Events in which 197 riders and 218 horses from around the world participated, watched by a combined audience of 155 500 spectators.





**Above:** The Chief Executive hands the Olympic flame to the first torchbearer, Ms Lee Lai-shan, at the Olympic Torch Relay launching ceremony at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre on May 2. Hong Kong was the first Chinese city to welcome the Olympic flame on its return from its relay across five continents.



**Right:** Equestrian torchbearer Kenneth Cheng Man-kit participates in the Olympic Torch Relay event.

**Far right:** Hong Kong's Patrick Lam clears a hurdle in the Olympic jumping event at Sha Tin. It was the first time Hong Kong had competed in this Olympic event.





**Left:** Performers at the Sha Tin equestrian venue go through their routine in front of the five Olympic mascots, representing the Olympic Flame and China's most popular animals – the fish, the panda, the Tibetan antelope and the swallow.

**Top:** Hong Kong cyclist Wong Kam-po, the last torchbearer in the torch relay, carries the Olympic torch through Golden Bauhinia Square.

**Above:** Hong Kong's Olympic team marches at the Games opening ceremony at Beijing's National Stadium on August 8.

**Right:** The Olympic mascots lit up in the form of lanterns on display at the Hong Kong Olympic Piazza in Tsim Sha Tsui.



*Courtesy of the Sports Federation & Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China*





**Above:** Ludger Beerbaum of Germany in action during the final round of the individual jumping competition.

**Right:** Courtney King of the USA competing in the Olympic dressage event at Sha Tin.





**Above:** Igor Atrohov of Russia negotiates a water jump at the cross-country course at Beas River.

**Left:** Nadine Capellmann, Heike Kemmer and Isabell Werth of Germany, winners of the team dressage event, wave victoriously from the winner's podium.



**Above left:** Bettina Eistel of Germany competes in the Paralympic dressage event at Sha Tin in September.

**Above right:** Hong Kong Paralympic equestrian Nelson Yip waves to spectators.

**Right:** Hong Kong athletes returning from Beijing's Paralympic Games, are given a rousing welcome at the airport. Also on hand to welcome them was the Secretary for Home Affairs, Mr Tsang Tak-sing (*first from left*).





**Above:** Britain's winning Paralympic team poses for the crowd following a lap of honour after the team dressage event.

**Left:** Volunteer workers in the press conference room at Sha Tin.



China's gold medal winning athletes received a warm welcome during their special visit to Hong Kong in late August. More than 5 000 people turned out to watch as the athletes showed their skills. A young spectator (above) joins the flag-waving crowd to welcome China's gold medal winners as they enter the Hong Kong Stadium (above right).

**Right:** China's gold medal divers show their skills to an admiring Hong Kong crowd at Shing Mun Valley Swimming Pool.





**Top:** A China Olympic gold medal gymnast performs at Hong Kong's Queen Elizabeth Stadium.

**Above:** A lucky boy gets a table tennis lesson from the Mainland's gold medallists.

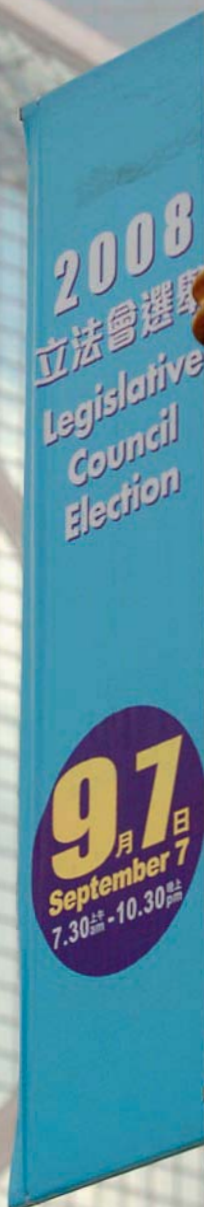


**Above:** Visitors engrossed in the Olympic memorabilia displayed at 'The Ancient Olympic Games' exhibition at the Hong Kong Heritage Museum. The show was organised jointly by the Hong Kong Heritage Museum and the British Museum. The exhibits, which included over 110 posters, sculptures, pottery items, goldware, coins, medals and other ancient and modern Olympic artefacts, were from the British Museum.

**Left:** School children admire 'The Discus Thrower' at the same exhibition. The famous Roman marble statue dates back to the 2nd century AD.

# Elections

Elections for the Legislative Council take place every four years. The election for the fourth term of the Legislative Council since Hong Kong's reunification with the Mainland was held on September 7, 2008. Over 1.52 million registered electors cast their votes on polling day, a turnout of 45.2 per cent. All permanent residents aged 18 or above are entitled to vote.





**Above:** Students perform at a publicity event for the Legislative Council election at the Kowloon Park Sports Centre.

**Right:** A tram bedecked in election publicity encourages voter turnout.





**Above:** The Chief Executive, the Chairman of the Electoral Affairs Commission, Mr Justice Pang Kin-kee, and the Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs, Mr Stephen Lam (*right*), empty a ballot box at the counting station at Wong Nai Chung Sports Centre.

**Left:** Staff count votes for the 2008 Legislative Council functional constituency elections.

**Right:** Polling day – members of the press at the media centre at the Hong Kong International Trade and Exhibition Centre.

**Below:** A returning officer announces the 2008 Legislative Council Election results.



A photograph of a woman with long dark hair, wearing a black sleeveless top and a light-colored bag, smelling a glass of red wine. In the background, a man is also smelling a glass of wine. Several wine bottles are visible on a table in the foreground.

# Wine Trade

Wine enthusiasts enjoy the first Hong Kong International Wine Fair organised by the Hong Kong Trade Development Council in August, which attracted some 8 800 trade buyers and 11 000 visitors. Hong Kong is fast developing into a regional wine hub following the Government's 2008 Budget in February in which wine duties were abolished. The market has reacted swiftly, with wine imports, trading and distribution all increasing and wine auctions making record-breaking sales.



**Above and right:** Wine correspondents attend a special gathering at a wine cellar in Shouson Hill. The cellar, which was originally built by the British military to store ammunition, is ideal for wine storage.





**Above and left:** VinExpo Asia-Pacific at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre in May – the region’s largest international wine and spirits exhibition. It attracted 700 exhibitors from 30 countries, and about 8 500 trade buyers.



**Above:** Wine dealer Acker Merrall & Condit of New York sold US\$8.2 million of wine at this auction – the company’s first in Hong Kong in May.

**Right:** The Financial Secretary, Mr John Tsang (*second from right*), attends the launch of the MICHELIN Guide Hong Kong Macau 2009. It is the first bilingual Michelin guide and includes 202 establishments in Hong Kong, 22 of which received one or more Michelin stars.



# Creative Industries

Hong Kong's continuing success is due partly to the creativity of its people and the growing creative industry sector which receives strong government support. The city already has some 32 000 establishments involved in a wide spectrum of creative industries ranging from jewellery and fashion design, to animation, music and film-making. Our picture shows young visitors to a creative art exhibition at Times Square in Causeway Bay.





Visitors to the Dutch Pavilion at the Inno Design Tech Expo discussing business (*above*) and looking at a 3-D print costume through 3-D spectacles (*above right*). The Inno Design Tech Expo was held as part of the Business of Design Week 2008 which featured the Netherlands as special partner.

**Right:** Students captivated by robots at the InnoCarnival, at the Hong Kong Science Park in October.





**Above:** Hong Kong comic illustrator Lau Wan-kit shows the trophy he won at the Second International Manga Award in Japan. His 'Feel 100%' comic series won the Gold Award.

**Left:** Secondary school students drawn by the 'Matching Game' at the Inno Design Tech Expo 2008, designed to increase young people's interest in design.



A teacher at HKICC Lee Shau Kee School of Creativity demonstrates lighting effects for theatrical performances (*above*), while students of the same school prepare exhibits and artwork for the school's grand opening in December (*right*).



# Exhibitions

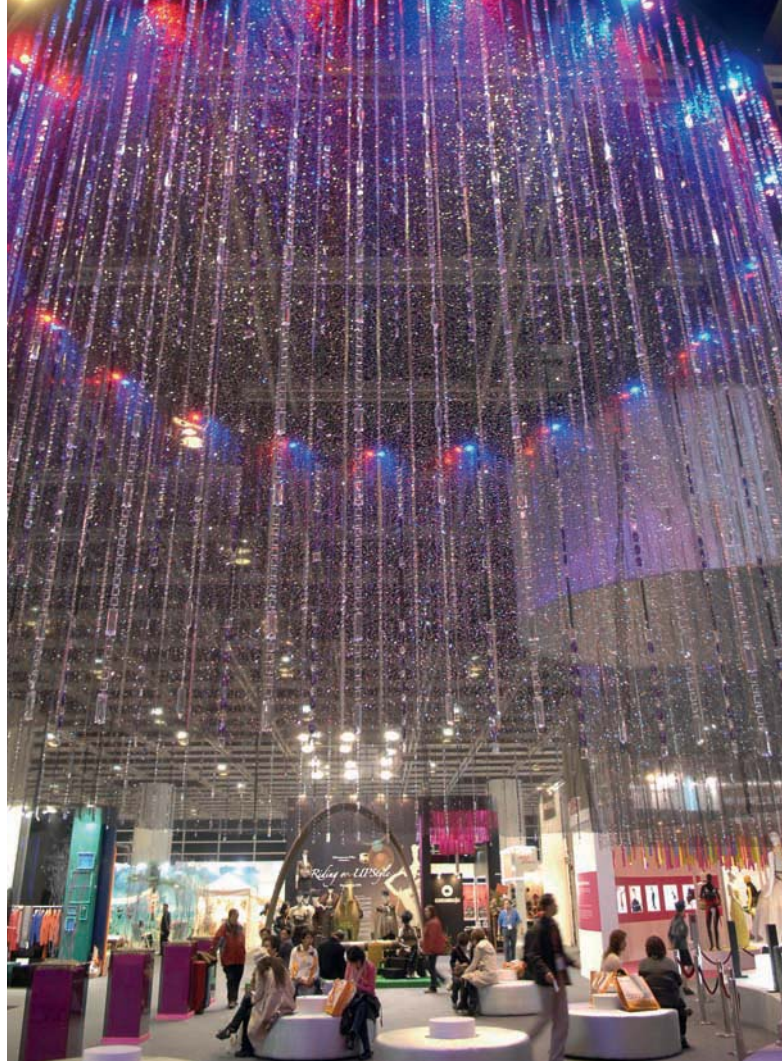
The city hosts a wide variety of exhibitions, covering subjects ranging from science to business, fashion to photography and space travel to toys and games. In October, a 180 million-year-old Lufengosaurus skeleton went on display at the Hong Kong Science Museum — a donation from the Yunnan Provincial Government to mark the first major cultural exchange between the province and Hong Kong.





'China's First Spacewalk Mission' Exhibition was held at the Hong Kong Science Museum in December, featuring information and exhibits about China's successful spacewalk mission in September. Among the exhibits were the re-entry capsule of the Shenzhou-7 spacecraft (*right*) and spacesuits (*above*).





**Above:** Asia's largest fashion fair – Hong Kong Fashion Week for Fall/Winter 2008 in January – attracted 1 490 exhibitors from around the world.

**Below:** Hong Kong's participation in EXPO 2010 Shanghai China featured during EXPO's Hong Kong Promotion Week at the former Central Police Station in October, where this mirrored room highlighting Hong Kong's unlimited potential was a big hit.





**Above right:** A corner of the Infant and Children's Wear Zone at July's Hong Kong Fashion Week for Spring/ Summer 2009. The show attracted a record 1 153 exhibitors from 21 countries and regions.

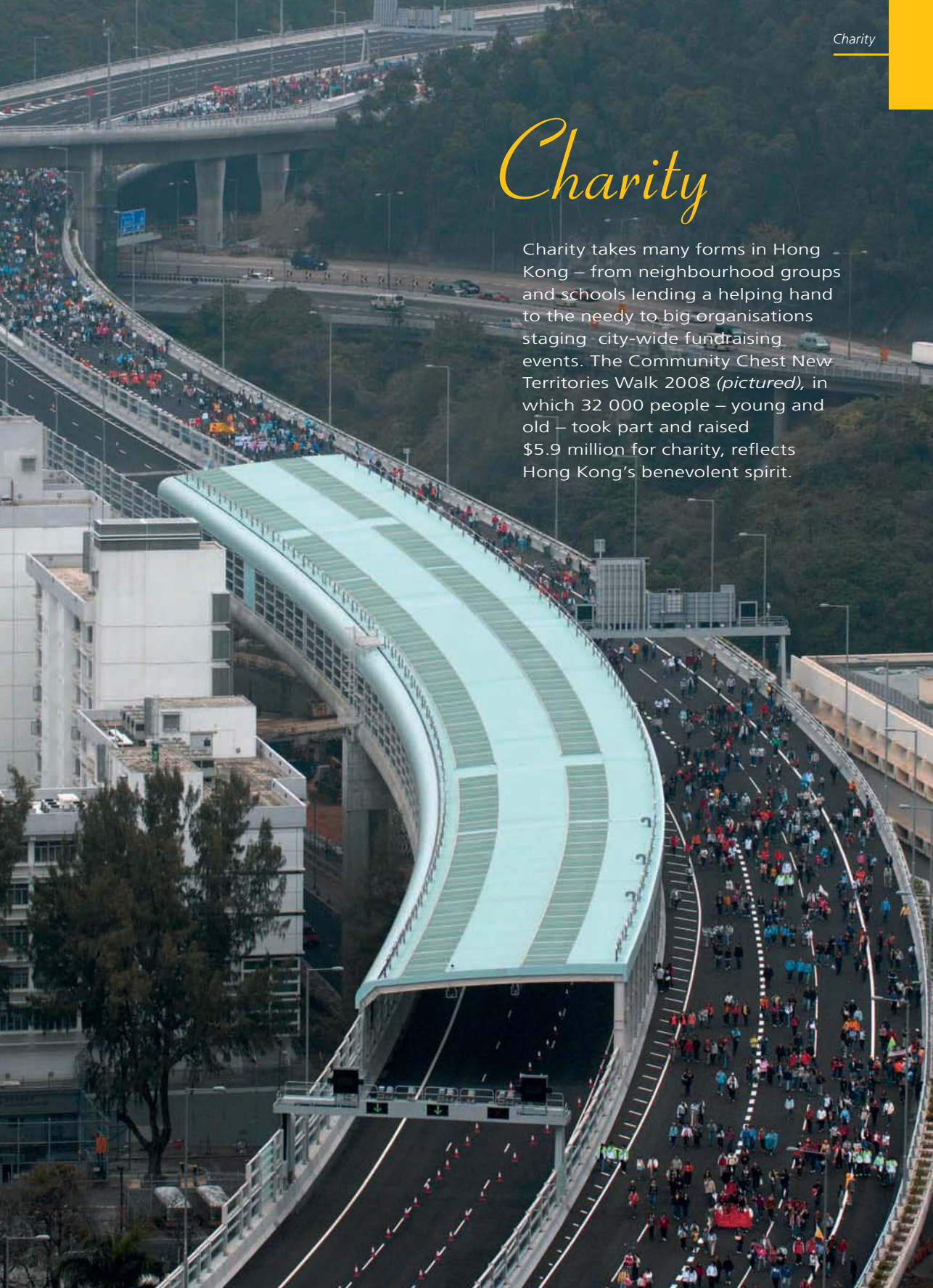
**Above:** The latest collections of brand name shoes for every occasion on display at the Hong Kong Fashion Week for Fall/Winter 2008 held in January.

**Right:** A teacher and her pupils are captivated by the toy banks on display at an exhibition on 'The Development of Banks in Shanghai and Hong Kong' at the Hong Kong Museum of History.



# Charity

Charity takes many forms in Hong Kong – from neighbourhood groups and schools lending a helping hand to the needy to big organisations staging city-wide fundraising events. The Community Chest New Territories Walk 2008 (*pictured*), in which 32 000 people – young and old – took part and raised \$5.9 million for charity, reflects Hong Kong's benevolent spirit.





**Above:** 'Pedal power' in action at the 22nd Hong Kong Grand Prix Round Table Pedal, a round-the-clock race to raise money for the Round Table 10 charity.

**Right and far right:** Fun and games at the 2nd Hong Kong Charity Birdman Flying Competition, organised by the Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong and the Hong Kong Aviation Club Foundation.





**Above:** Dress Special Day has become one of the Community Chest's most popular and successful fundraising events, raising \$20 million in 2008 for charitable causes.



**Above:** The Sedan Chair Race is a popular community effort and great fun for the competitors. First held in 1975, the 2008 race raised HK\$4 million for 42 local charities.

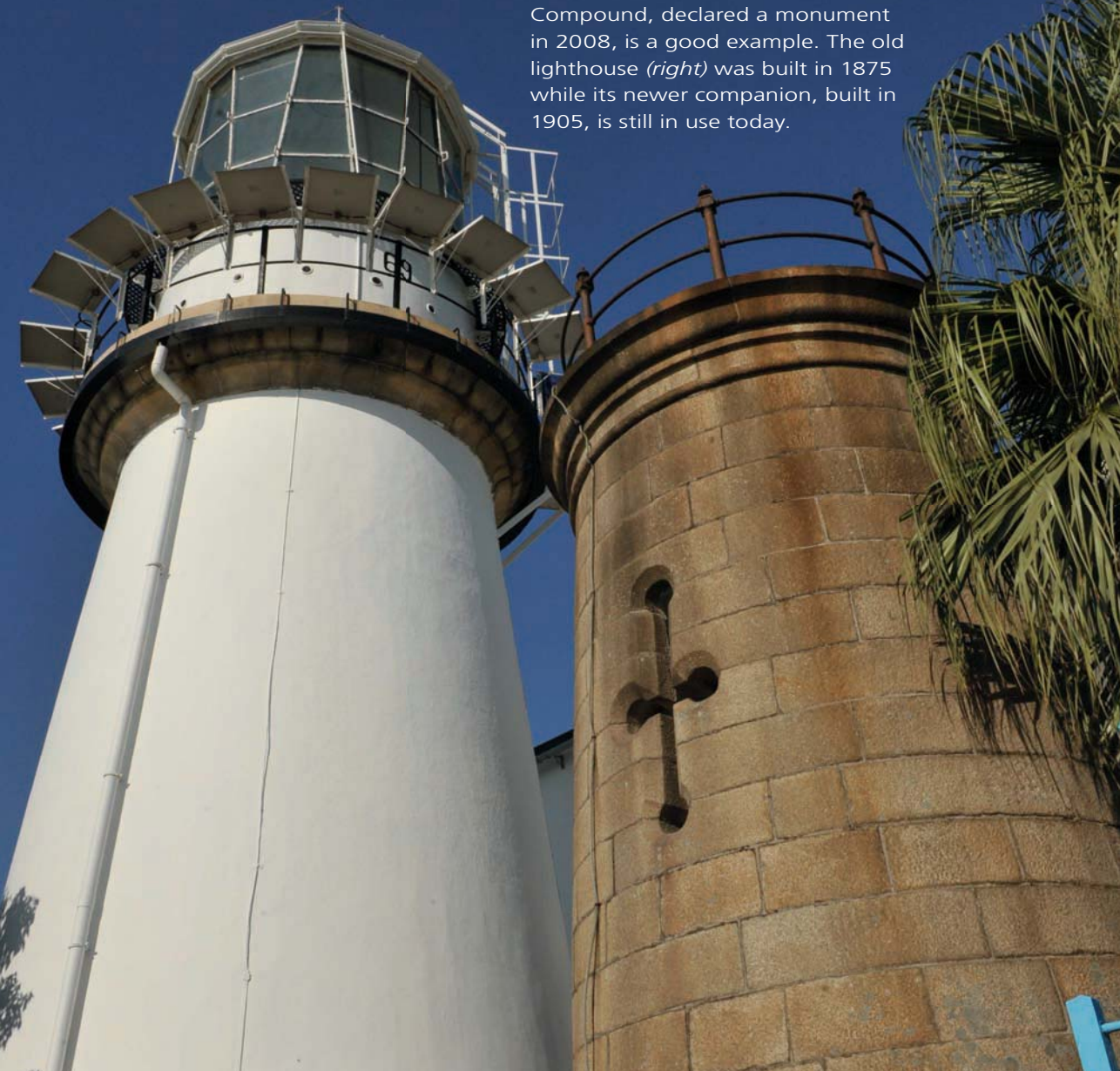
**Below:** Launched in 2006, the Central Rat Race raises funds for MINDSET, a charity providing support for mental health related organisations and projects.



*Courtesy of the MINDSET and Hongkong Land Limited*

# Heritage Conservation

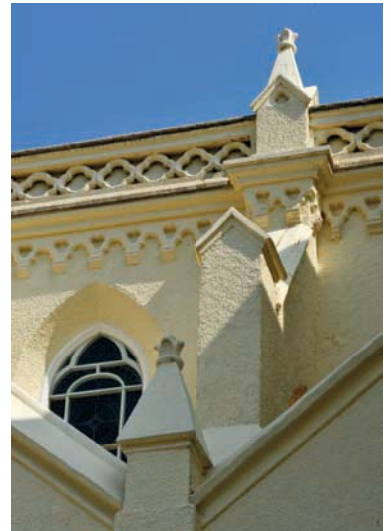
In recent years, the people of Hong Kong have shown an increasing passion for the city's history and cultural heritage. In response, the Government has increased funding and support not only for conserving historic buildings, but also for revitalising them and putting them to good use. The Green Island Lighthouse Compound, declared a monument in 2008, is a good example. The old lighthouse (*right*) was built in 1875 while its newer companion, built in 1905, is still in use today.





**Above, middle and right:**

In 2002, the Government decided to restore Bethanie in Pok Fu Lam – which was built by the Societe des Missions Etrangeres de Paris in 1875 as a rest home for Catholic missionaries and is now used by the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts as the Academy's Landmark Heritage Campus. The restoration project won an honourable mention at the 2008 UNESCO Asia Pacific Heritage Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation.





**Top and left:** A tram runs past a former pawnshop in Wan Chai. The building is a good example of adaptive re-use with retail trades currently occupying the building.

**Above:** Built in 1914, Kom Tong Hall was purchased by the Government in 2004, was refurbished and now houses the Dr Sun Yat-sen Museum.



**Above:** A former Chinese tenement building, Lui Seng Chun in Yau Tsim Mong District, will become a Chinese medical healthcare centre as part of the Government's 'Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme'.

**Right:** The 'Blue House' in Wan Chai, built in the early 1920s, became Government property in 1978 and is now used for residential, commercial and community purposes, including an osteopathy clinic.



An aerial photograph of the Stonecutters Bridge under construction in Hong Kong. The bridge's main span is the central focus, extending from a large concrete pier on the right towards the left. The bridge deck is partially completed, with visible structural elements and construction equipment. To the left of the bridge, a large container terminal is visible, filled with stacks of colorful shipping containers and several large container ships, including one labeled 'YANG MING'. In the background, the dense urban skyline of Hong Kong is visible, with numerous skyscrapers and buildings. The water is a deep blue-green, and the sky is clear. The overall scene depicts a major infrastructure project in a bustling city.

# Infrastructure

With a main span of 1 018 metres, Stonecutters Bridge (*pictured*) will be one of the longest span cable-stayed bridges in the world. Due for completion in 2009, the bridge is highly visible from Hong Kong Island and the Kowloon peninsula. It forms a key part of Route 8, which will improve road links between the airport, the city centre, the New Territories and the Mainland, and provide much easier road access to the Kwai Chung container terminals.



**Above:** Land reclamation along the Central-Wan Chai waterfront dominates the foreground. The reclaimed land will accommodate new road and rail links, and provide new public space and amenities along the north shore of Hong Kong Island. In the background is the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, where construction work on its new atrium extension is visible. Due to be completed in the first half of 2009, the extension will increase the centre's exhibition space by 40 per cent.

**Right:** The Nam Wan Tunnel is a crucial part of the new Route 8 highway, located between Tsing Yi and Cheung Sha Wan. The tunnel is 1.2km long with dual, 3-lane highways.



Courtesy of the MTR Corporation



The Kowloon Southern Link (KSL) is due for completion in 2009, and will connect the West Rail Line with the East Rail Line at Tsim Sha Tsui. The new link-line is about 4.5km long and will include new station access in West Kowloon. Pictured are ticket booths at the newly built Austin Station (*above*), a tunnel-boring machine used in the KSL project (*left*), and track slabs being installed prior to track laying (*right*).



**Above:** An artist's impression of how the former Kai Tak Airport site and adjoining areas will look once the Kai Tak Development Project is completed. Work on the project began in 2008. When completed, Hong Kong's old airport and adjacent area will accommodate a cruise terminal, a multi-purpose stadium, a heliport, public housing and parks.

**Right:** A photograph of the general area of the Kai Tak Development project.



# Weather

Like many parts of the world, Hong Kong is experiencing changeable weather patterns. Globally, 2008 was the 10th warmest year on record although the average temperature in Hong Kong was slightly lower than in previous years. The year in Hong Kong also saw the longest cold spell for 40 years and rainfall was 29 per cent above normal. October was the warmest since records began in 1884.





**Top:** Clearing fallen branches in Central after a typhoon.

**Above:** Stanley waterfront takes a battering during a typhoon. The typhoon season started in mid-April – much earlier than usual.

**Right:** Typhoon Hagupit struck on September 24 and caused considerable flooding.





**Above:** A quick dash for cover. April and June saw record-breaking rainfall.

**Left:** Office workers take cover under their umbrellas as another rainstorm drenches Central.



**Above:** Late January to mid-February saw the longest cold spell in 40 years, with temperatures below 12°C for 24 consecutive days.

**Right:** Hikers take advantage of a clear, bright day to indulge in a favourite pastime, strolling the hills of Hong Kong.



# Sichuan Earthquake

A survivor is winched to the safety of a helicopter flown by a HKSAR Government Flying Service pilot on duty in Sichuan Province. More than 69 000 people were killed and tens of thousands injured and made homeless by the magnitude-8 quake which struck Sichuan Province on May 12.





**Above:** A young girl who had one of her legs amputated attempts bravely to stand, assisted by a surgeon and physiotherapist from Hong Kong's Hospital Authority.  
**Right:** Hospital Authority surgeons operate on an earthquake victim.



**Above left and top:** Teams from Hong Kong's Fire Services Department search for victims among the rubble of damaged buildings in Hanwang Town, in Sichuan. Hanwang, 30km from the epicentre, was one of the hardest hit sites.

**Left:** Injured survivors being flown out of the disaster area in a helicopter in an operation carried out jointly by Mainland rescuers and the Government Flying Service.



**Above:** A three-minute silence was observed in Times Square, Causeway Bay on May 19 at 2.28pm the exact moment the devastating Sichuan earthquake struck a week earlier. Outside the Central Government Offices (*right*), the Chief Executive and top government officials stood in silence to pay respect to the tens of thousands killed in the disaster.



# Promotions

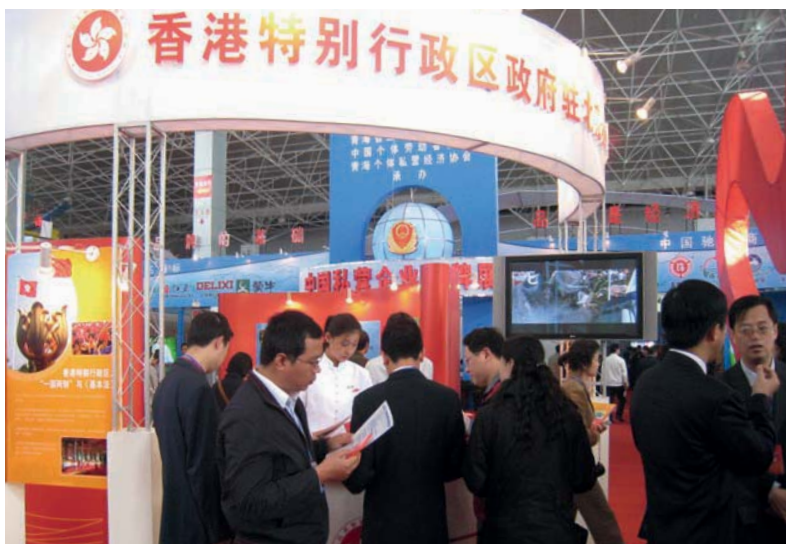
Hong Kong participates at the annual Lord Mayor's Show in London in November for the fourth time. The crowd-drawing Hong Kong display, organised by the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (London) included an acrobatic exhibition, a float bedecked with a golden dragon, roller-skaters dressed as Hong Kong's iconic Star Ferries and a long procession of performers waving colourful flags and banners.





**Above:** The Chief Secretary for Administration, Mr Henry Tang (centre), and official guests offer a toast at a reception in Beijing held by the Hong Kong Jockey Club to usher in the Beijing Olympic Games and the Equestrian Events.

**Right:** A HKSAR Government booth at the '2008 China – Qinghai Investment and Trade Fair' in Xining, provides visitors with information about Hong Kong.





**Above:** The US Olympic Selection Trial for the Beijing 2008 Olympics dressage competition, co-sponsored by the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (San Francisco), was held in June in San Juan Capistrano, Southern California.

**Left:** Well known Hong Kong chef Chow Chung (*seated, right*) joins TV celebrities in Toronto for the 'Celebrity Challenge – the Great Hong Kong Culinary Cook Off'. The event in November was organised by the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (Toronto) to promote Hong Kong as a gourmet paradise.



**Above:** One of Hong Kong's floats at Singapore's annual Chingay Festival carries a traditional 'bun tower', complete with climbers scrambling up the tower for buns.

**Right:** A Cantonese Opera workshop offers New Yorkers a behind-the-scenes glimpse of traditional Chinese musical drama as part of the 'New York Celebrates Hong Kong 2008' organised by the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (New York).



# Geology

Hong Kong is mainly underlain by volcanic or granitic rock. Weathering and erosion of these rocks has resulted in many interesting rock formations and distinctive outcrops. Amah Rock (*pictured*) above Sha Tin is composed of granite and is so-called because it resembles a mother carrying a baby on her back.

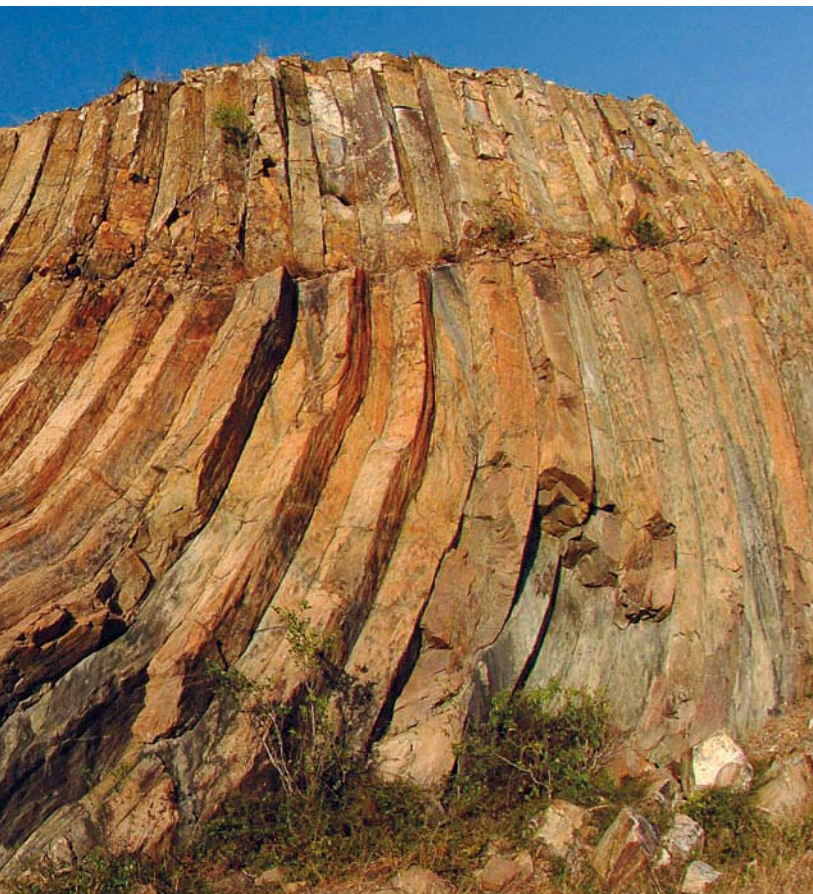




**Above:** These volcanic hexagonal columns near High Island Reservoir East Dam have formed a shallow S-curve.

**Right:** Hexagonal rock columns rising steeply and impressively from the sea at the Ninepin Group.





**Above:** Granite boulders sometimes depict familiar shapes, such as this 'turtle' rock on Po Toi Island.



**Left:** Ancient rock carvings on Po Toi Island. Some carvings resemble animals and fish, while some comprise interlocking spirals.



**Above:** Pink granite outcrops along the coast of Cheung Chau Island often display well-developed honeycomb structures, like the ones pictured.

**Right:** The weathering of granitic rocks often produces rounded boulders, like these on Po Toi Island. The rock in the foreground looks like the palm of a hand.

