





### **Cover Illustration**

Hong Kong hosted the East Asian Games in December 2009 – the first major, international multi-sport competition held in the city. It provided a tremendous opportunity to showcase Hong Kong's ability to organise a large-scale, multi-venue event and to encourage greater community participation in sport.

For many in Hong Kong, the defining moment of the Games was Hong Kong's nail-biting gold medal victory in football – the joy of which is so clearly captured on the faces of spectators who packed into Hong Kong Stadium for the final.

### **End-paper Maps**

*Front*

The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

*Back*

Hong Kong and Pearl River Delta Satellite Image Map



# Events in 2009

Professor Charles K. Kao, former Vice-chancellor of the Chinese University of Hong Kong, receives the 2009 Nobel Prize in Physics from Sweden's King Carl Gustaf in Stockholm in December. Professor Kao was born in Shanghai but moved to Hong Kong in 1948 where he attended secondary school and lived during much of his career. He is widely regarded as the 'Father of Fibre Optics'.





**Above:** President Hu Jintao, the Chief Executive, Mr Donald Tsang, and other world leaders pose for the cameras in local 'Peranakan' attire, at the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in Singapore, in November.

**Right:** Acting Chief Executive, Mr Henry Tang (*centre*), officiates at the launch of RMB Sovereign Bonds in Hong Kong on September 28.

**Far right:** The Financial Secretary, Mr John Tsang, and the Mainland's Vice-Minister of Commerce, Mr Jiang Zengwei, shake hands following the signing of supplement VI of the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement in May.







**Top:** The Chief Secretary for Administration, Mr Henry Tang, visits a new school in Wenchuan during his visit to Sichuan in August to inspect reconstruction projects funded by the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.  
**Above:** The Secretary for Justice, Mr Wong Yan Lung, meets the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, Mr Robert Douglas Nicholson, in October during his three-day visit to Canada.



**Above:** The Financial Secretary, Mr John Tsang, presents a souvenir to France's Minister of Economic Affairs, Industry and Employment, Christine Lagarde, who visited Hong Kong in October.

**Above right:** State Councillor Madam Liu Yandong and the Chief Executive enjoy the spectacular opening ceremony of the 2009 Hong Kong East Asian Games on December 5.

**Right:** Vice-Premier Li Keqiang (*second from right*), the Chief Executive, Mr Donald Tsang, the Chief Executive (Designate) of the Macao Special Administrative Region, Mr Fernando Chui Sai-on (*first from left*), and other officials at the ceremony in Zhuhai on December 15 marking the start of construction on the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge.





# East Asian Games

Hong Kong hosted the 5th East Asian Games (EAG) in December. The city's athletes excelled, achieving their best-ever result in an EAG and winning a total of 110 medals – 26 gold, 31 silver and 53 bronze – placing Hong Kong 4th overall among the nine participating countries and regions. Picture shows the last torchbearer at the EAG 100-day Countdown-cum-Torch Relay, Olympic windsurfing gold medallist Lee Lai-shan, lighting the cauldron in Bauhinia Square.



**Above:** The EAG medals comprise nine connected leaves – one for each participating country or region – with a standardised size representing fairness and justice in the competition.

**Top left:** With a month to go before the start of the Games, elegantly attired victory ceremony assistants meet the media and introduce the EAG medals.

**Top right :** The Chief Executive hands the EAG flame to the first torchbearer, Wong Kam-po, at the launching ceremony of the EAG 100-day Countdown-cum-Torch Relay at Kowloon Park Piazza.

**Right:** Singer Alan Tam performs the EAG theme song *You Are the Legend* at the opening ceremony, while school children wave the HKSAR and National flags.











**Above:** Athletes take centre stage at the opening ceremony, backed by the flags of the nine competing countries or regions.

**Below:** A flotilla of adorned vessels, accompanied by pyrotechnics and laser beams, added to the dazzling array of colour at the opening ceremony.

**Far left:** A spectacular fireworks display lights up Victoria Harbour, bringing the opening ceremony to a close.



**Above:** Hong Kong's Steven Wong (*left*) en route to a gold medal in the BMX cycling men's elite finals. It was also the first gold medal presented at the Games.

**Top right:** Lau Siu-wai of Hong Kong plays a forehand on the way to winning gold in the men's team squash event.

**Below:** Hong Kong's Yu Sum-yee and Lo Ting-hin on the way to gold in the men's indoor cycling artistic pair event.







**Top:** Hong Kong's footballers show their delight following victory in the final against Japan – Hong Kong's first gold medal in an EAG football competition.

**Left:** Hong Kong's Yip Pui-yin on her way to winning a gold medal in the women's badminton singles.

**Above:** Hong Kong's 4x100m women's freestyle swimming relay team display their silver medals. From left are Sze Hang-yu, Hannah Wilson, Tsai Hiu-wai and Au Hoi-shun.





**Above:** China's Liu Xiang successfully defends his title in the men's 110m hurdles final.

**Below:** China's Liang Yujie (*left*) and Shen Hong sway towards gold in the dancesport – standard dance – tango event.





**Left:** Wang Jin of China in her gold medal performance in the women's taijiquan and taijijian all-round wushu competition.

**Below:** Guo Jingjing (*right*) and Wu Minxia of China on their way to winning gold in the women's 3m synchronised springboard diving competition.







**Above:** Japan's rugby sevens team in action against Hong Kong. Japan went on to win the final against Hong Kong by 26-24 in a close final.

**Below:** Medal winners in the men's 70kg in wushu (sanshou) pose for the cameras. From left are Chou Ting-yuan of Chinese Taipei (silver), Cai Liangchan of Macao (gold) and Khatanbaatar Khuukhenkhuu of Mongolia (bronze).





**Top left:** Chang Kai-chen of Chinese Taipei plays a backhand en route to winning gold in the women's tennis singles.

**Top right:** Jong Chun-mi of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, gold winner in the women's 58kg weightlifting competition.

**Left:** The Korean men's team score against Chinese Taipei in the basketball final, to win the gold in a nail-biting contest 98-97.

**Above:** The Secretary for Home Affairs, Mr Tsang Tak-sing (*second from left*), prepares to hand the East Asian Games Association flag to Mr Huang Xingguo (*second from right*), Mayor of Tianjin – host city of the 6th EAG in 2013 – at the closing ceremony.





**Top:** A city tram bedecked in EAG advertising, including mascots Doni and Ami.

**Above:** The launch of the 200-day countdown to the EAG included the unveiling of a Handprint Wall in Kowloon Park, with handprints provided by EAG volunteers, officials, organisers and sponsors.

**Right (above, below):** Hong Kong's streets and public areas were full of colour and decoration for the Games.











**Above:** School children welcome China's Yuanwang-6 space tracking ship in April. The high-tech vessel was open to the public during its six-day stopover. School children (top) take part in a drawing activity on board.

**Right:** The acting Chief Executive, Mr Wong Yan Lung, and other officials propose a toast at the National Day reception at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre.







**Above:** An exhibition in Beijing highlighting China's progress during the past 60 years featured a blooming bauhinia and showcased Hong Kong's major economic and social developments since reunification in 1997.

**Left:** Officials and leading members of the community attend a flag-raising ceremony in Bauhinia Square, Wan Chai, marking the 60th anniversary of the founding of People's Republic of China. A synchronised fly-past by Government Flying Services helicopters towing the National and HKSAR flags and a sea parade by disciplined services add to the pomp and pageantry of the occasion. Flag-waving citizens (*below*) turn out in large numbers to watch the ceremony.







**Above:** Over 14 000 people took part in a Chinese General Chamber of Commerce Charity Walk in Celebration of the 60th Anniversary of the PRC, which raised \$10 million.

**Right:** Smiling children in different national costumes at a special parade entitled 'Sea, Land and Sky' celebrate the anniversary at Golden Bauhinia Square in Wan Chai.

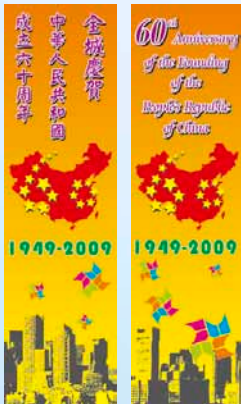






**Above:** Visitors attend the 'New China 60th Anniversary Celebration Military Parade' Photo Exhibition at New Town Plaza, Sha Tin.

**Below:** Establishing a new Guinness World Record, 754 Wing Chun enthusiasts from around the world performed at the Avenue of Stars on November 7 to mark the 60th Anniversary of the PRC.



Yau Tsim Mong District



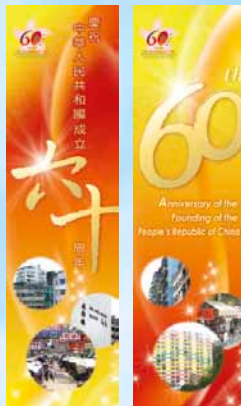
Yuen Long District



Wong Tai Sin District



Tsuen Wan District



Sham Shui Po District



Tuen Mun District



Kwun Tong District



Kowloon City District



Tai Po District



Sha Tin District





Wan Chai District



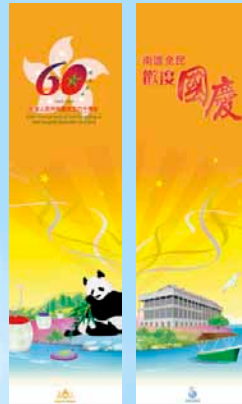
Sai Kung District



Eastern District



North District



Southern District



Kwai Tsing District



Central & Western District



Islands District

As part of celebrations, a National Day bunting design competition was organised by the Home Affairs Department to encourage public participation throughout Hong Kong's 18 districts. The winning designs were mounted on lampposts in the respective districts through September and October.



**Above:** Traditional dragon dances formed part of the celebrations, including this one in North District.

**Right:** Special Cantonese Opera gala events were held at the Hong Kong Coliseum in October, featuring Opera masters from Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao.





# Diverse *Attractions*

Hong Kong is continually upgrading its attractions, whether for leisure, business or family activities. In 2009 nearly 30 million people visited the city – an increase on the previous year despite the global economic turmoil. The Hong Kong National Geopark in eastern Hong Kong opened in November, featuring geological changes and ancient volcanic activities over the past four hundred million years. Tung Ping Chau (pictured), with its interesting layered sedimentary rocks, marks the park's eastern boundary.



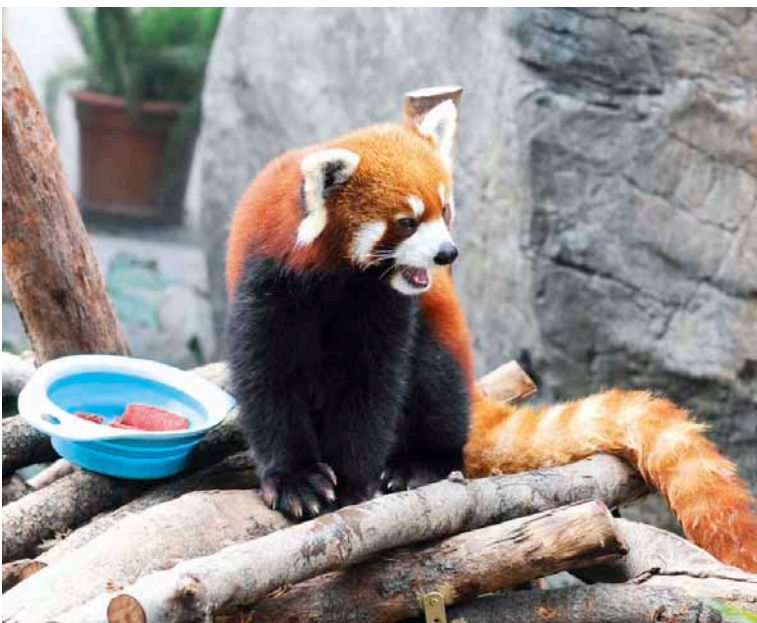
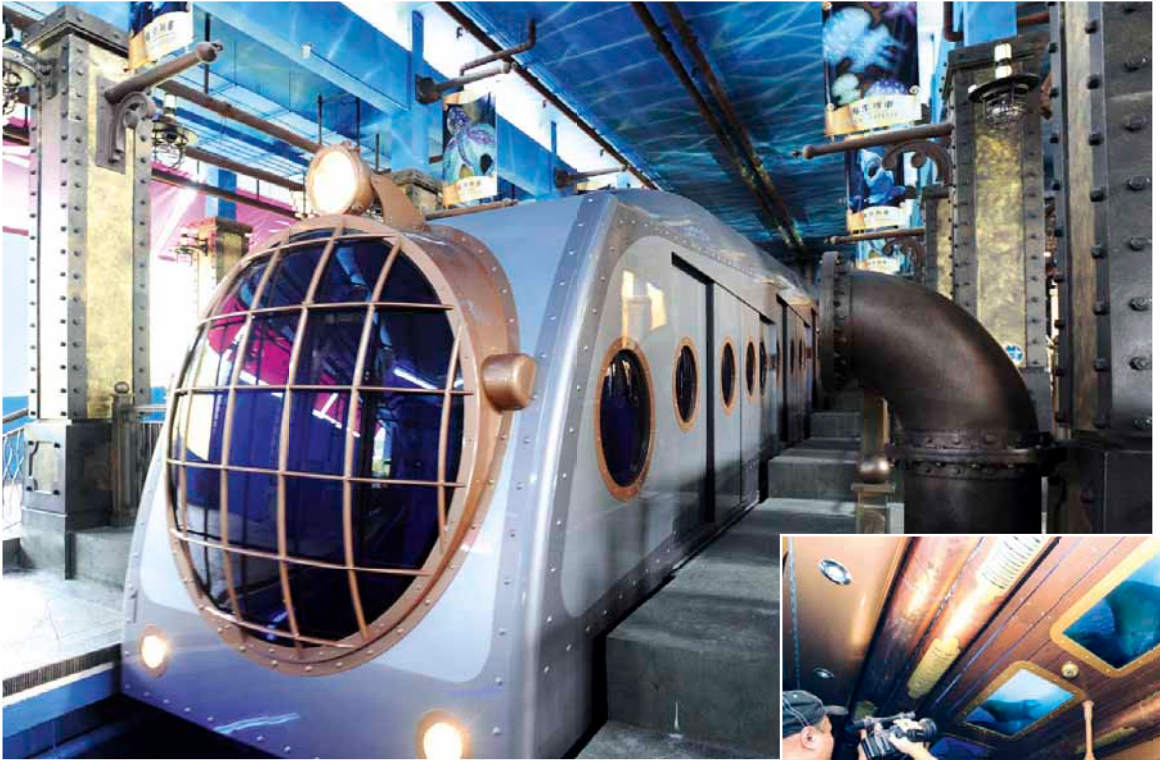


**Right:** The Ngong Ping 360 Cable Car, near Hong Kong International Airport. Thirty-six cabins were fitted with see-through glass floors between April and July, giving passengers a bird's eye view of the surrounding spectacular scenery as the cable-car climbs the slopes of North Lantau Country Park to the Po Lin Monastery and the Giant Buddha at Ngong Ping.

**Below:** Opened in May, Noah's Ark in Ma Wan, the world's only full-size replica, offers a range of attractions such as animal sculptures, educational and multi-media exhibitions, dining and shopping.

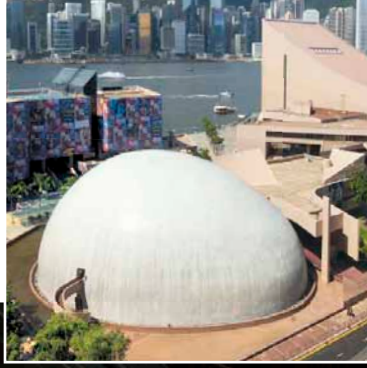






**Top & insert:** The Ocean Express opened in September and takes three minutes to travel through a 1.3-kilometre tunnel joining Ocean Park's two main activity areas. En route passengers enjoy an experience that simulates a journey along the ocean depths.

**Left:** One of the four cuddly Chinese red pandas that arrived at Ocean Park's 'Amazing Asian Animals' enclosure that opened in April, the world's first integrated indoor and outdoor multi-Asian-species exhibit.



**Above and top:** The space theatre of the Hong Kong Space Museum completed a major refurbishment in July – a new digital planetarium system with a resolution exceeding 53 million pixels which can project full dome animations or movies.

**Right:** Autumn saw the city's first-ever, large-scale outdoor food and wine event – the Hong Kong Wine and Dine Festival on the West Kowloon Waterfront Promenade. Around 150 booths offered fine wines and gourmet dining, with entertainment including jazz and a *cappella* singing.





# Trade Fairs and Exhibitions

Over 300 international trade fairs and exhibitions take place each year in Hong Kong, attracting hundreds of thousands of participants from all over the world. A total of 1 164 exhibitors from 24 countries or regions attended the Hong Kong Fashion Week for Spring/Summer 2010 (pictured) in July at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre. The exhibition has become one of the world's biggest and most glamorous fashion industry events.





**Above:** The Asian Aerospace 09 show at AsiaWorld Expo in September attracted 13 000 visitors, 100 senior industry speakers and around 200 media representatives.

**Right:** The inaugural Hong Kong International Tea Fair in August attracted a remarkable 80 000 visitors and over 9 500 buyers, of which 40 per cent came from countries or regions outside Hong Kong.







**Left:** Over 700 exhibitors from 17 countries and regions took part in the 28th Hong Kong Watch and Clock Fair in September. Fair organiser, the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, organised 63 buying missions representing over 2 460 buyers from 61 countries or regions.

**Below:** The four-day 19th Education and Careers Expo in February at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre attracted more than 500 exhibitors from 14 countries or regions to help people looking for ideas on how to enhance their job prospects.





**Above:** A young visitor takes a closer look at an interactive exhibit at an exhibition entitled 'A Tribute to Professor Charles Kao – Father of Fibre Optics'. Professor Kao, the former Vice-chancellor of the Chinese University of Hong Kong, was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 2009.

**Right:** The 20th Hong Kong Book Fair at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre in July saw a record turnout of around 900 000 visitors.





# Education

Education accounts for more than 20 per cent of the Government's recurrent annual spending – the biggest share of the budget. Great efforts are made to enhance the education system and 2009 witnessed the launch of the '3-3-4' new academic structure, which includes three years each of junior and senior secondary education, followed by four years of university education, to cater for students' varied needs and meet the challenges of a knowledge-based society.





**Above:** The University of Hong Kong ranked first in the overall new QS (Quacquarelli Symonds Limited) Asian University Rankings (2009). Six of the city's universities were among the QS's top 100 Asian universities.

**Right:** Students cross the University Mall of The Chinese University of Hong Kong. This institution was given the second highest ranking in the QS Asian University Rankings in 2009.







**Above:** Chu Hoi-ming, a form VII student at Carmel Pak U Secondary School won 'The Little Scientist of Tomorrow' title in the 2009 National Little Scientist of Tomorrow Reward Scheme. He invented a way of producing electricity from domestic waste.

**Above left:** Students leap with joy following their graduation from The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, which was ranked fourth in the QS Asian University Rankings (2009).





**Above:** The 60th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China in 2009 led to greater promotion of national education through school activities.

**Middle:** In December, six Hong Kong students won three gold and three silver medals in the Sixth International Junior Science Olympiad, held in Baku, Azerbaijan – the city's best result since entering the competition in 2006.

**Bottom:** In July, a team of five Secondary Six students achieved the city's best yet results in the 40th International Physics Olympiad in Mexico, bringing home one gold medal, two silver and two bronze.





# Flu Pandemic

In late April, the World Health Organisation (WHO) raised the level of pandemic alert to Phase 5 in response to the outbreaks of the new Influenza A (H1N1) virus, or 'human swine flu', in some countries. Health authorities in Hong Kong were swift to react and quarantine measures were imposed at a Wan Chai hotel following the confirmation of the first human swine flu case in Hong Kong on May 1 involving a hotel guest. All the hotel guests were released on May 8 (pictured).





**Top:** People arriving at Hong Kong International Airport were obliged to fill out health declaration forms.

**Above:** Surveillance measures for flu prevention included infra-red temperature screening at boundary control points.

**Top right:** Dr York Chow, the Secretary for Food and Health, attends a press conference on June 11 confirming the first cluster of indigenous H1N1 cases in Hong Kong.

**Right:** A 'Clean Hong Kong Day' was launched on May 10 to appeal to members of the community to render their full support to maintaining a clean and healthy environment in the fight to prevent pandemic disease.





**Above left:** Schools and kindergartens made every effort to fight the pandemic, with special hygiene emphasis on hand-washing to guard against the spread of the disease.

**Above right:** Vaccinations were subsidised for those most at risk from the virus, including elderly people aged 65 or above.

**Left:** Eight specially designated flu clinics were set up to help deal with pandemic cases. A total of 236 patients with flu-like symptoms were received on the clinics' first day of operation on June 13.

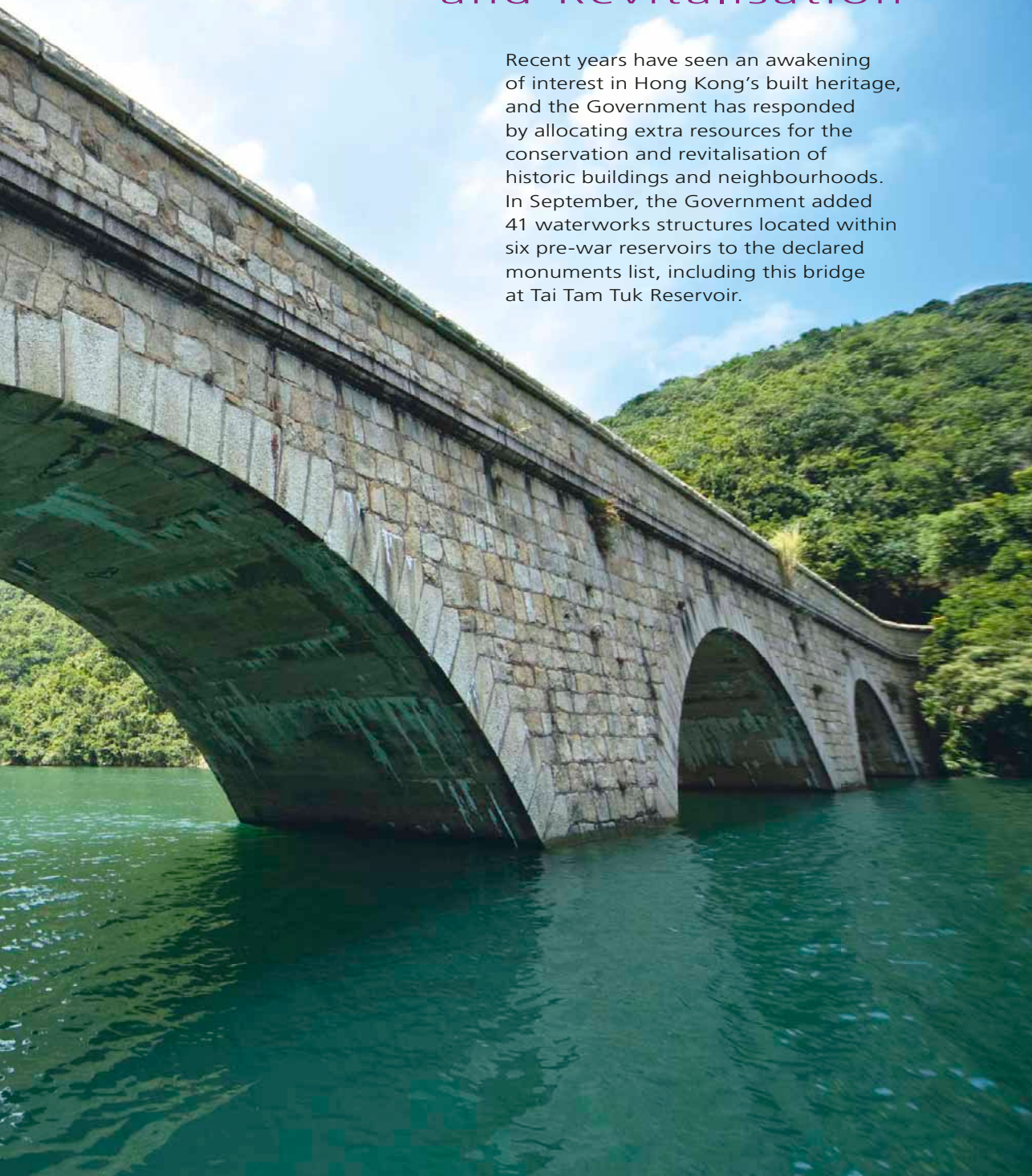
**Right and below:**  
Information leaflets about the virus and preventive measures were widely distributed in several languages, both on the streets and at traveller checkpoints.





# Heritage Conservation and Revitalisation

Recent years have seen an awakening of interest in Hong Kong's built heritage, and the Government has responded by allocating extra resources for the conservation and revitalisation of historic buildings and neighbourhoods. In September, the Government added 41 waterworks structures located within six pre-war reservoirs to the declared monuments list, including this bridge at Tai Tam Tuk Reservoir.





**Above:** Murray Building in Central will be converted for use as a hotel following relocation of Government offices to the new Central Government Complex at Tamar in 2011.

**Right:** The former North Kowloon Magistracy, built in 1960, is soon to become the Hong Kong campus of the Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD), with 40 classrooms and 1 500 student places.







**Above left:** The former Lai Chi Kok Hospital will become the Jao Tsung-I Academy, named after the renowned Chinese scholar and artist, Professor Jao Tsung-I. The new centre will aim to promote Chinese culture and history, using a blend of environmental and urban design. The project is set for completion in 2012.

**Above:** Located on Lantau Island, the former Tai O Police Station will be transformed into a boutique hotel.

**Left:** The former Fong Yuen Study Hall on Ma Wan Island is set to become a tourist and education centre with a fishermen's museum, offering eco-tours and Chinese cultural and arts courses.





**Above:** The Central Police Station Compound, which includes the former Central Police Station, Central Magistracy and Victoria Prison declared as monuments in 1995, will be transformed into a heritage, arts and cultural attraction as part of Hong Kong's conservation and revitalisation programme.

**Right:** Visitors attracted by the centuries-old photographs of Hong Kong's Central, Western and Wan Chai districts shown at the 'Faces and Places: Heritage Photo Exhibition' at the former Central Police Station in September.





# Infrastructure

Infrastructure is a key element to Hong Kong's continuing development, and a source of huge economic and employment gains. Stonecutters Bridge (pictured), which straddles the Rambler Channel at the entrance to the busy Kwai Chung Container Port, opened to traffic in December. With a main span of 1 018 metres, the bridge has the second longest cable-stayed span in the world, and forms an essential part of Route 8 – a new highway linking the border crossings of the northern New Territories with Lantau Island.





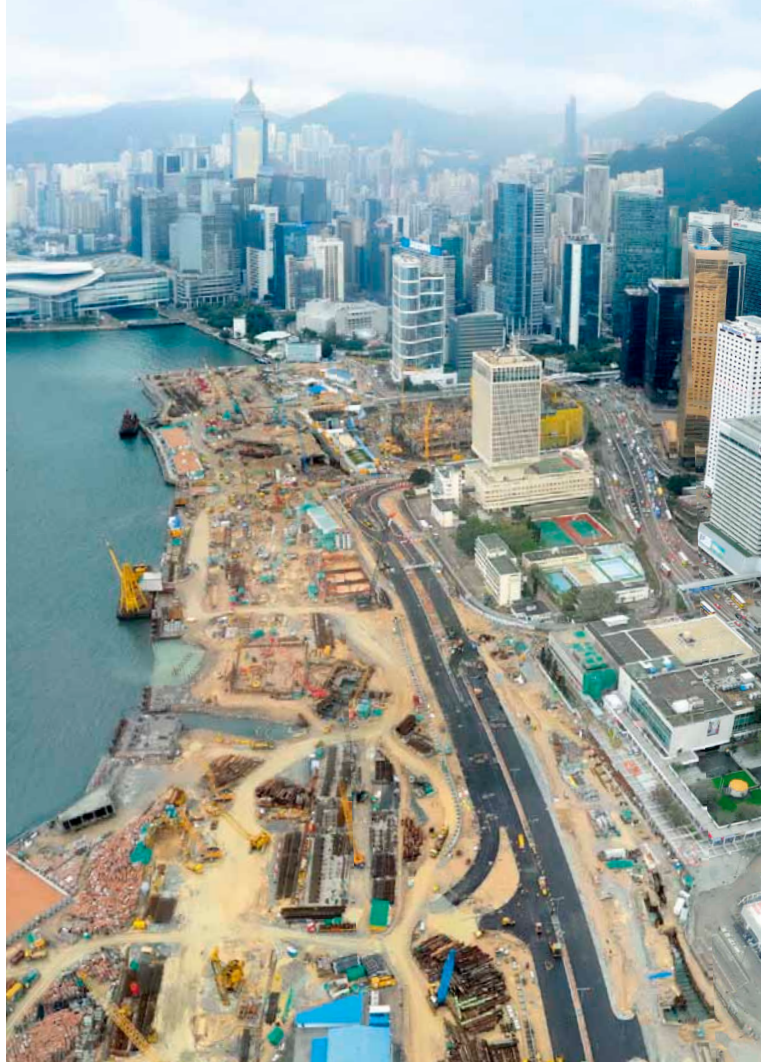


Courtesy of the Airport Authority Hong Kong

Two major new facilities of Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA) went into operation in December to enhance service levels and meet future demand. The new 16 500-square-metre SkyPier (*above*) efficiently conveys passengers travelling to and from eight ports in the Pearl River Delta and Macao. The North Satellite Concourse (*below*) equipped with 10 bridge-served parking stands for narrow-bodied aircraft, enables about 98 per cent of the passengers at HKIA to embark and disembark flights in an indoor, weatherproof environment.







**Top:** The new construction site of Hong Kong Disneyland will enlarge the park by 23 per cent and provide space for over 30 new attractions. Completion is scheduled for 2014.

**Above right:** The Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre completed its HK\$1.4 billion atrium expansion in April, increasing exhibition space by 42 per cent.

**Above left:** Central Reclamation Phase III, due for completion in 2011, will provide land for the Central-Wan Chai Bypass and other essential transport infrastructure. Photograph shows the first section of Lung Wo Road under construction.





*Courtesy of the MTR Corporation Limited*

**Above:** Opened in parallel with the Kowloon Southern Link (KSL) in August, the new Austin Station is one of the stops on the 3.8-kilometre KSL which links the East Rail Line with the West Rail Line to provide northwest New Territories residents with a faster way of travelling to and from urban Kowloon.

**Right:** The opening of the LOHAS Park Station in July marked the completion of the MTR Tseung Kwan O Line that connects the new town with Hong Kong Island, Kowloon and the New Territories.





# Green Living

*mycar* (pictured), an environmentally friendly emission-free electric vehicle (EV) developed jointly by the Hong Kong Polytechnic University and a technology company, highlights the Government's aim to create a green Hong Kong economy. The EV has already gone on sale in Hong Kong and in several European countries. The Government has set up a steering committee to study the wider use of electric vehicles in the city.







Courtesy of PARKnSHOP

**Above:** In July the Government introduced a levy on plastic shopping bags to reduce their use and to encourage the public to use reusable bags to protect the environment.

**Bottom left:** A supermarket customer supports the environmental initiative.

**Right:** School canteens support green living by using reusable or recyclable lunch boxes.







**Top and above:** For the second year running the 'Dim it! Lights out!' campaign, organised by Friends of the Earth, saw lights and signs switched off between 8pm and 10pm on June 21 to raise awareness of air and light pollution.

**Left:** Over 2 000 people gathered at the Hong Kong Wetland Park on October 17 to create a 959.35-metre-long painting featuring birds and wetlands, setting a Guinness World Record for creating the longest painting and inaugurating the World Wetlands Day 2010 – Bird Watching Festival to strengthen wetland ecology awareness.



**Above:** Subsidised by the Environment and Conservation Fund, students from St Edward's Catholic Primary School build a green roof and organic farm to turn food waste into fertilizers as part of an education learning programme to support green living.

**Top right and right:** Forty-one secondary and primary schools received commendations for their contributions to environmental greening made under the Greening School Project Award scheme. Projects by Ching Chung Hau Po Woon Secondary School (*Top right*) and Tun Yu School (*Right*) won top awards in the Large Garden Plot Project category.







## *Creative Industries*

Hong Kong's creative industries are thriving, buoyed by Government initiatives to boost them further. The creative sector employs some 176 000 people in different areas such as the TV and film, design and advertising, architecture, comics and animation, and digital entertainment fields. One of the major events of 2009 was the Inno Design Tech Expo (pictured) in which 345 exhibitors participated, with a highlight showcasing over 50 internationally awarded projects by Hong Kong design and technology professionals.





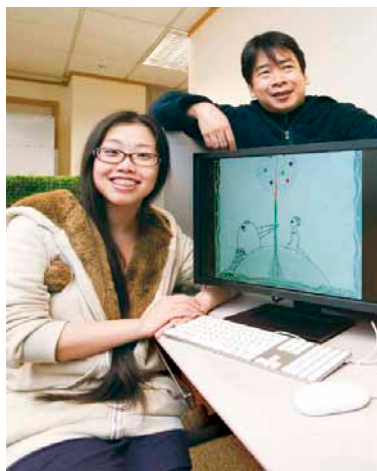
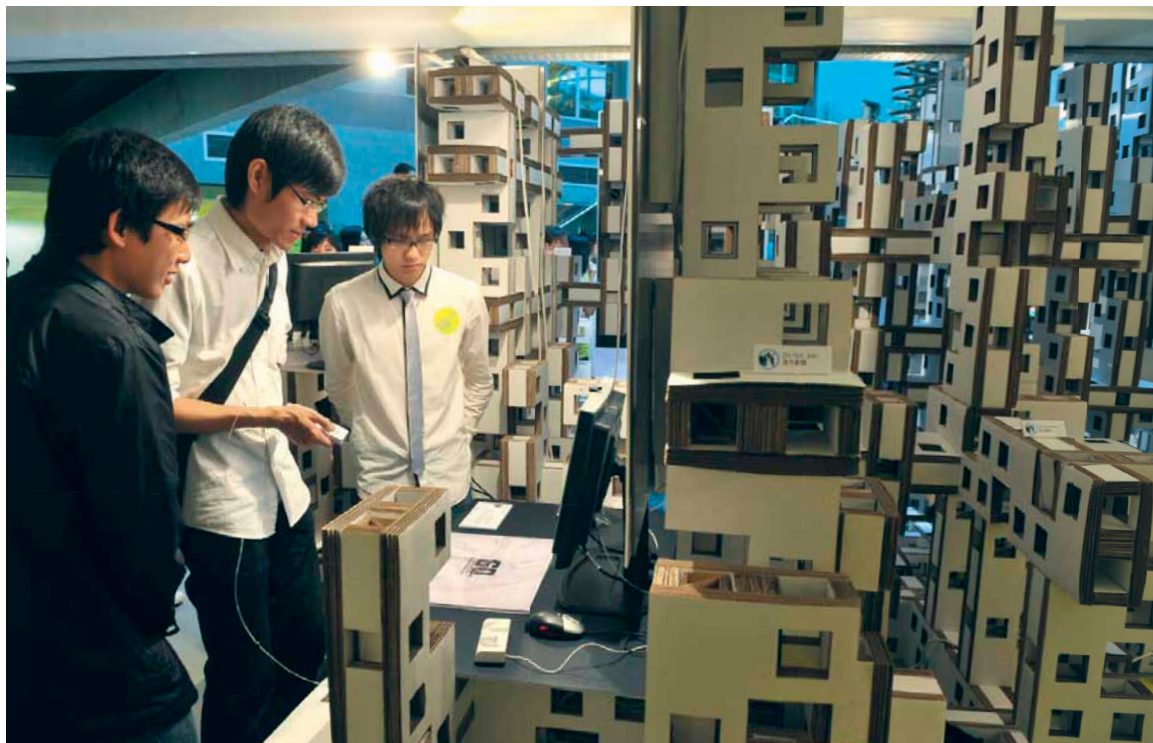
**Above:** The 13th Hong Kong International Film and TV Market (FILMART) in March attracted 505 exhibitors from 28 countries and regions. It is one of the world's top three events of its kind in exhibitor numbers.

**Right:** A scene from the Hong Kong animated film *McDull Kungfu Ding Ding Dong*, the first project approved for financing under the Film Development Fund of the Hong Kong Film Development Council. It was released in July in the Mainland to wide acclaim.



*Courtesy of Bliss Concepts Limited*





Courtesy of City University of Hong Kong



**Above:** Students examine an interesting work at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University School of Design's annual show by final-year students.

**Far Left:** Jazz Zhou Jia (*left*), a second-year student at the City University of Hong Kong's School of Creative Media, with her animated commercial which won three prizes at Japan's Gatsby Student CM Awards for 2009.

**Left:** The Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Mrs Rita Lau, with Spencer Wong (*right*) and Nick Lim of McCann Worldgroup, winner of the Grand Prix Award for design at the Cannes Lions International Advertising Festival.



**Above and top:**

'The Character of Hong Kong' cartoon exhibition provided a canvas for local cartoonists and art students from tertiary institutions to use their creativity to portray the city's unique character and its qualities for success.

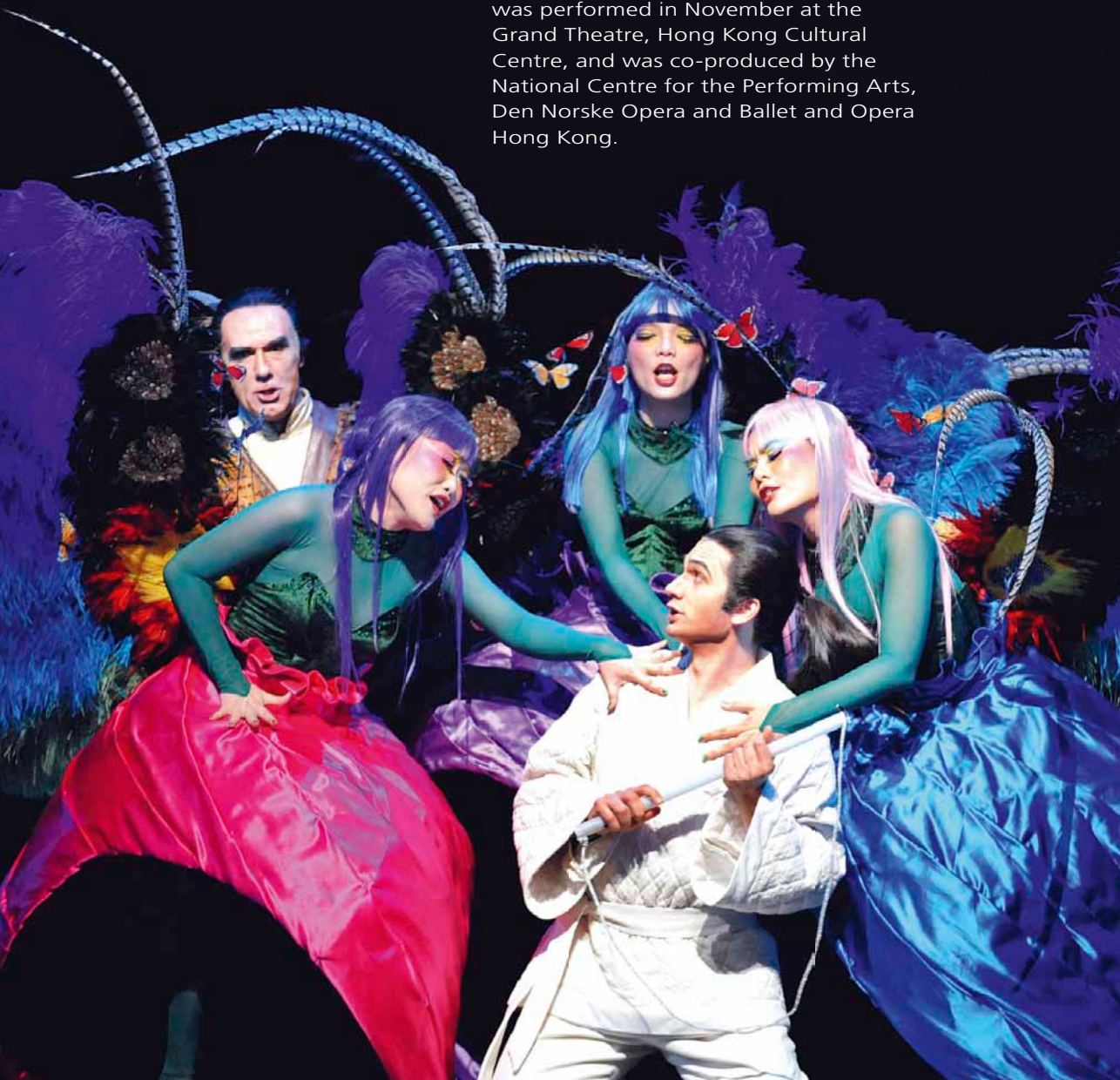
**Right:** Visitors capture an interesting angle of an exhibit at the 'Hong Kong and Shenzhen Bi-City Biennale of Urbanism and Architecture 2009' held in December on the site of the planned West Kowloon Cultural District.





# Performing Arts

Arts and cultural events are very popular in Hong Kong. A variety of homegrown and international artists stage performances throughout the year at venues ranging from intimate neighbourhood theatres to world-class concert halls. *The Magic Flute* (pictured), one of Mozart's most popular operas, was performed in November at the Grand Theatre, Hong Kong Cultural Centre, and was co-produced by the National Centre for the Performing Arts, Den Norske Opera and Ballet and Opera Hong Kong.





**Above and top:** U Theatre, a renowned group of drummers from Taiwan, perform the *Sound of the Ocean* at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre in December.

**Right:** Taiwan's Lanting Kun Opera Troupe perform highlights from the abridged version of the classical Kun opera *The Palace of Eternal Youth* at Nan Lian Garden in November.







**Above:** The Georgian National Dance Company Sukhishvili on stage at Sha Tin Town Hall in October.

**Left:** Acclaimed opera bass Tian Haojiang performs in the five-act opera *Poet Li Bai*, by contemporary Chinese composer Guo Wenjing, at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre in December.



**Above:** China's Shaanxi Provincial Song and Dance Theatre perform *Splendours of the Tang Dynasty* – the opening event of the Silk Road Arts Festival – at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre in October.

**Right:** The Inner Mongolia Acrobatic Troupe of China perform an acrobatic spectacular, *Genghis Khan*, at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre in July.

