

Calendar of Events in 2007

January

- 1 Hong Kong's smoking ban is extended further to cover more places, including restaurants, bars, karaoke lounges, shops, and indoor areas of workplaces.
- 12 The State Council approves the appointment of Mr Tang King-shing as the Commissioner of Police.
- 15 The Four Focus Groups of the Economic Summit on 'China's 11th Five-Year Plan and the Development of Hong Kong' submit their reports and their proposed Action Agenda to the Chief Executive.
- 16 The Heritage Foundation names Hong Kong as the world's freest economy for the 13th year in a row.
- 19 The Chief Executive, Mr Donald Tsang, leads a delegation of business leaders and government officials to Jiangxi on a three-day study tour.
- 24 The Government announces the setting up of the Beijing Olympic Equestrian Events Hong Kong Fund to raise money to support cultural, educational and community involvement activities relating to the 2008 Olympic and Paralympic Equestrian Events.
- 26 The Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury, Mr Frederick Ma, leads a delegation to the Middle East to promote business cooperation with countries in the region.

February

- 1 The Financial Secretary, Mr Henry Tang, opens the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Shanghai.
- 5 The Secretary for Constitutional Affairs, Mr Stephen Lam, opens the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Chengdu.

March

- 19 Hong Kong and Australia sign a protocol on amending the agreement for the surrender of accused and convicted persons.

The Government releases a report on a public consultation exercise on Hong Kong's competition policy.

- 21 New security measures governing liquids, aerosols and gels in cabin baggage are introduced at Hong Kong International Airport to comply with new guidelines set down by the International Civil Aviation Organisation.
- 25 Mr Donald Tsang is re-elected as Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR).
- 28 The Environmental Protection Department announces a \$3.2 billion scheme to improve roadside air quality by encouraging early replacement of pre-Euro and Euro I diesel commercial vehicles with new ones complying with Euro IV emission standards.
- 31 The Secretary for Home Affairs, Dr Patrick Ho, congratulates Hong Kong cyclist Wong Kam-po for winning the UCI Track Cycling Championships.

April

- 1 The Air Pollution Control (Volatile Organic Compounds) Regulation imposing a direct ban on the import and local manufacture of products with VOC contents exceeding prescribed limits comes into force.
- 9 Mr Donald Tsang, receives the instrument of appointment as the Third Term Chief Executive of the HKSAR from Premier Wen Jiabao.
- 14 The Government sets up the Hong Kong Film Development Council to advise it on the overall policy and strategy for the development of the local film industry.
- 20 The Financial Secretary, Mr Henry Tang, leads a delegation of business leaders and government officials to the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference in Hainan Province.
- 21 The first Hong Kong Games, a major programme to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of Hong Kong as a Special Administrative Region of China, are launched.
- 25 The Chief Executive leaves for Zhengzhou, Henan, to attend Expo Central China 2007.
- 26 Two giant pandas, Le Le and Ying Ying, arrive in Hong Kong as gifts from the Central People's Government to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Establishment of HKSAR.

May

- 2 The Legislative Council passes the Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications Bill to provide the legislative framework for implementing the Qualifications Framework.
- 9 Queen's Pier in Central is assessed to be a Grade I historic building by the Antiquities Advisory Board.

- 17 The Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury, Mr Frederick Ma, leads a delegation of more than 100 to Beijing to promote Hong Kong's financial services.
- 18 The Financial Secretary, Mr Henry Tang, officiates at a photo exhibition to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of Festival de Cannes, in Cannes.

June

- 1 Hong Kong International Airport opens Terminal 2.
The first phase of the Unsolicited Electronic Messages Ordinance goes into force. It deals with the use of unscrupulous techniques to reach a large number of recipients, and also fraud and other illicit activities related to the sending of multiple commercial electronic messages.
- 5 The Chief Executive leaves for Beijing to attend a forum on the 10th anniversary of the implementation of the Basic Law. He then visits Tianjin and attends the Fourth Pan-Pearl River Delta Regional Cooperation and Development Forum in Hunan.
- 12 The Government releases the final public consultation report on tax reform.
- 20 The Commission of Inquiry, set up in February to look into allegations of interference by government officials with the academic freedom and institutional autonomy of the Hong Kong Institute of Education, submits a report on the matter to the Chief Executive.
- 22 Hong Kong and the Mainland sign a landmark Memorandum of Understanding to enhance cooperation on medical and health issues.
Hong Kong's first Infectious Disease Centre goes into operation.
- 23 The Central People's Government approves the list of Principal Officials proposed by the Chief Executive for the Third Term HKSAR Government.
The Chief Executive announces the appointment of Mr Timothy Tong as Commissioner, Independent Commission Against Corruption, following the resignation from the civil service on June 20 of the previous commissioner, Mrs Fanny Law.
- 25 The Chief Executive announces the membership of the Executive Council for the Third Term HKSAR Government.
- 27 The Chief Executive officiates in Beijing at the opening ceremony of 'A Decade of Achievements' — an exhibition to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the HKSAR.
The Chief Executive announces the appointment of 67 non-official members and four official members to the Commission on Strategic Development.

- 29 President Hu Jintao arrives in Hong Kong for a three-day visit to attend activities celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the Establishment of HKSAR.

The Financial Secretary, Mr Henry Tang, and Vice Minister of Commerce, Mr Liao Xiaoqi, sign the Supplement IV to the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement.

'The Pride of China: Masterpieces of Chinese Painting and Calligraphy of the Jin, Tang, Song and Yuan Dynasties from the Palace Museum', opens at the Hong Kong Museum of Art. Among the exhibits is the famous painting, 'Along the River During the Qingming Festival', by Zhang Zeduan from the Northern Song dynasty.

July

- 1 President Hu Jintao swears in the Chief Executive, Mr Donald Tsang, and the Principal Officials of the Third Term HKSAR Government at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre.

The Government Secretariat is reorganised to optimise bureaux synergy and to better facilitate implementation of the promises made by the Chief Executive during his election campaign.

The Shenzhen Bay Port and the Shenzhen Bay Bridge, also known as the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Corridor, go into operation following their opening by President Hu Jintao.

- 5 The Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Mr Frederick Ma, attends the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Trade in Cairns, Australia.

- 9 The new \$10 polymer note is put into circulation.

- 11 The Government publishes the Green Paper on Constitutional Development to consult the public on the models, roadmap and timetable for implementing universal suffrage for electing the Chief Executive and forming the Legislative Council.

- 12 The first issue of renminbi bonds in Hong Kong is issued by the China Development Bank.

- 16 The Financial Reporting Council, a new independent statutory body set up to investigate audit irregularities and financial reporting non-compliances, goes into full operation.

August

- 2 The Chief Executive and the Governor of Guangdong Province, Mr Huang Huahua, co-chair the 10th Plenary Session of the Hong Kong/Guangdong Cooperation Joint Conference in Hong Kong.

- The Financial Secretary, Mr John C Tsang, attends the 14th Finance Ministers' Meeting of APEC in Coolumb, Australia.
- 8 The Chief Executive officiates at a ceremony in Hong Kong to mark the start of the one-year countdown to the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games.
- 11 A trial run of the 2008 Olympic and Paralympic Equestrian Events, the 'Good Luck Beijing — HKSAR 10th Anniversary Cup', is held from August 11 to 13.
- 13 The Acting Chief Executive, Mr Henry Tang, and the Shenzhen Mayor, Mr Xu Zongheng, address the Second Hong Kong-Shenzhen Cooperation Forum entitled 'Jointly Developing a World-Class Metropolis'.
- 15 The Lok Ma Chau Spur Line and Futian Port are declared open.

September

- 1 The Secretary for Justice, Mr Wong Yan Lung, starts a five-day official visit to Ningxia and Beijing, and attends the 7th Chinese Lawyers' Forum in Yinchuan, Ningxia.
- 6 The Chief Executive arrives in Sydney to attend the 15th Economic Leaders' Meeting of APEC.
- 9 The Chief Executive arrives in New Zealand on a three-day visit.
- The Secretary for Education, Mr Michael Suen, announces that the standard class size for primary schools will be reduced from 37 or 32 to 35 or 30 to improve the working conditions of teachers.
- 12 The Government releases the report of the Consultative Committee on the Core Arts and Cultural Facilities of the West Kowloon Cultural District, starting a three-month public engagement exercise to explain the committee's recommendations and seek public views.
- 14 The Chief Executive officially opens Phase 2 of the Hong Kong Science Park at Pak Shek Kok in Sha Tin.
- 15 King Yin Lei, on Stubbs Road, built in Chinese Renaissance style in 1937, is declared a proposed monument.
- 17 The Department of Justice hosts the 12th Annual Conference and General Meeting of the International Association of Prosecutors with the theme 'Relations with Others: Accountability, Transparency and Independence'.
- 21 Hong Kong hosts the Asian Financial Forum under the theme 'Leveraging New Opportunities, Advancing Regional Stability'.
- 24 The Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Mr Frederick Ma, leads a business delegation to Russia to promote trade and tourism.

- 30 Over 20 000 *tai chi* enthusiasts take part in a martial art exhibition, setting a new record to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR.

October

- 2 The Secretary for Justice starts a five-day official visit to London, Stockholm, Helsinki and Dublin. He is also called as a Master of the Bench of the Middle Temple in London.
- 4 The Secretary for Justice signs an Agreement on Mutual Legal Assistance on Criminal Matters between HKSAR and the Republic of Finland.
- 5 The Secretary for Justice signs a Surrender of Fugitive Offenders Agreement between HKSAR and the Republic of Ireland.
- 10 The Chief Executive delivers the first Policy Address of his current term of office, entitling it: 'A New Direction for Hong Kong'.
- 12 Hong Kong athletes to the 2007 Special Olympics World Summer Games in Shanghai return with a record 154 medals in 10 sports.
- 17 Hong Kong retains its position as Asia's second largest destination for foreign direct investment according to the 'World Investment Report 2007', released by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.
- 23 The Executive Council approves the further planning and detailed design of the Mass Transit Railway (MTR) West Island Line, which will involve extending the existing MTR Island Line from Sheung Wan to Kennedy Town.

November

- 2 The Secretary for the Environment, Mr Edward Yau, launches a public consultation on a proposal to ban idle vehicles with running engines.
- The governments of Hong Kong and Luxembourg sign an agreement for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income and capital.
- 15 The Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Mr Frederick Ma, leads a delegation of creative industries to the 2007 Shanghai International Creativity Industry Week.
- 18 Some 1.15 million registered electors, or 38.8 per cent of the electorate, turn out to vote in the election for the third-term District Councils.
- 21 The Chief Executive pays a duty visit to Beijing.

- 22 The Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury, Professor K C Chan, pays his first official visit to Vietnam to promote Hong Kong as an international financial centre and preferred listing venue.
- 29 An international study, 'The Progress in International Reading Literacy Study' (PIRLS) 2006, announces that the performance of Hong Kong students has improved greatly, placing them second in the PIRLS list, up from 14th place in 2001.
- 30 The Secretary for Justice addresses experts at a conference entitled 'Mediation in Hong Kong: The Way Forward' to promote dispute resolution methods that can strengthen Hong Kong's position as a global financial centre.
- The HKSAR Government and the European Commission hold their first Structured Dialogue meeting in Hong Kong. They agree to continue enhancing understanding and cooperation on economic, trade and regulatory issues of mutual interest.

December

- 2 Hong Kong's two railway systems, MTR and the Kowloon-Canton Railway, merge.
- Former senior civil servant, Mrs Anson Chan, is elected to the Legislative Council to replace Mr Ma Lik who died on August 8, 2007.
- 3 The Government announces the appointment of 16 members to the newly set up Family Council chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration.
- Hong Kong, Mainland and Macao authorities hold a joint exercise to test their readiness in tackling an avian flu outbreak.
- 4 An international study, The Programme for International Student Assessment, carried out by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, shows Hong Kong schoolchildren outclass most of their overseas counterparts in maths, reading and science.
- 10 The Chief Secretary for Administration, Mr Henry Tang, and the Deputy Director of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the HKSAR, Mr Li Gang, officiate at the launching of the 'Delegation of Hong Kong Students National Education Programme Series'.
- 11 The Financial Secretary, Mr John C Tsang, leads a high-level business mission to India to forge closer economic ties between Hong Kong and India.
- 12 The HKSAR Government submits a report on the outcome of the public consultation on the Green Paper on Constitutional Development to the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress.

- 18 The Chief Secretary for Administration, Mr Henry Tang, and the Shenzhen Mayor, Mr Xu Zongheng, agree at the Hong Kong-Shenzhen cooperation meeting to set up the 'Task Force on Airport Cooperation between Hong Kong and Shenzhen' and the 'Hong Kong-Shenzhen Joint Task Force on Boundary District Development'.
- 19 The Executive Council gives the green light for the planning of a further MTR line linking Admiralty Station, in Hong Kong's central district, with South Horizons on the southern part of the island.
- 20 The Secretary for the Environment announces details of the Product Eco-Responsibility Bill, with an environmental levy on plastic shopping bags as the first scheme under the bill.
- 22 The Unsolicited Electronic Messages Ordinance goes into full operation. The Beijing Organising Committee for the Games of XXIX Olympiad and the HKSAR Government sign a document on the arrangements to set up Olympic Live Sites in Hong Kong, which will allow the public to participate in cultural and entertainment activities during the Games.
- 24 The Secretary for Education leads an 800-member 'Delegation of the Hong Kong Students National Education Programme Series' to Beijing where the group is received by the Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, Mr Jia Qinglin.
- 29 The Standing Committee of the National People's Congress makes a decision regarding the Chief Executive's report on constitutional development. It states that the election of the HKSAR Chief Executive in 2017 may be by universal suffrage. After the Chief Executive has been elected by universal suffrage, the election of all members of the Legislative Council may also be by universal suffrage.
- 31 Hong Kong enters a new era of broadcasting with the launch of digital terrestrial television broadcasting. The Ngong Ping 360 cable car system re-opens for public use after satisfactory implementation of improvements to managing, operating and maintaining the system as recommended by the government-commissioned panel set up to investigate the dislodgement of a cabin from a cable on June 11, 2007.