

Calendar of Events in 2010

January

- 4 A Mediation Information Office opens to promote wider use of mediation to facilitate early and satisfactory settlement of disputes in Hong Kong.
- 7 The Chief Secretary for Administration, Mr Henry Tang, leaves for the United States to attend the Consumers Electronics Show 2010 in Las Vegas and to meet government officials, business and financial leaders in New York.
- 11 Speaking at the opening of the Legal Year, the Secretary for Justice, Mr Wong Yan Lung, says Hong Kong, being part of China, has a separate and well-established legal system guarded by an independent judiciary, manned by a mature legal profession and trusted by the world. Meanwhile, the Chief Justice, Mr Andrew Kwok-nang Li, also spoke on the occasion for the last time before retiring.
- 19 Hong Kong signs a Memorandum of Understanding with the Shanghai Municipal Government Financial Services Office concerning advancing Hong Kong-Shanghai financial co-operation.
- 20 The Heritage Foundation ranks Hong Kong as the world's freest economy for the 16th consecutive year.
Speaking at the Asian Financial Forum, the Chief Executive, Mr Donald Tsang, urges greater co-operation among Asian economies to meet the challenges of the changing economic landscape following the financial crisis.
- 21 The Chief Secretary for Administration officiates at a conference on 'vertical density' marking the 100-day countdown to the World Exposition 2010 Shanghai China (Shanghai Expo).
- 31 The Chief Secretary for Administration and the Secretary for Education, Mr Michael Suen, lead a delegation of 2 500 secondary school students and teachers on a visit to Beijing and other Mainland cities under the 'Passing on the Torch' national education exchange programme.

February

- 7-11 The Secretary-General of the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO), Dr Taleb Rifai, visits Hong Kong.
- 16 The Finance Committee of the Legislative Council approves funding for the construction of the Hong Kong Section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link.

- 20 A Hong Kong film, 'Echoes of the Rainbow' directed by Alex Law and produced by Mabel Cheung, wins the Crystal Bear award for the Best Feature Film in the Generation Section of the 60th Berlinale 2010 in Berlin.
- 24 The Financial Secretary, Mr John C Tsang, unveils the 2010-11 Budget with promoting a 'caring society' as the main theme.
- 28 The Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Mrs Rita Lau, leaves for Tokyo to promote stronger ties with Japan in the creative industry, tourism and business sectors.

March

- 1 The Hong Kong – Canada Working Holiday Scheme for young people goes into effect.
- 4 The Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury, Professor K C Chan, starts a five-day visit to the United States and Canada to promote Hong Kong as an international financial centre.
- 8 A 'Shared Care Programme' is launched to enhance primary care services for the chronically ill through a public-private partnership arrangement.
- 11 The Government accepts in principle the key recommendations of a consultancy study on developing football in Hong Kong and on allocating more resources to promote the sport.
- 16 The Financial Secretary leaves for Malaysia, Brunei and Indonesia to foster closer economic ties with the three countries.
- 24 A revamped GovHK portal (www.gov.hk) with enhanced design and functions is launched.
- 27 A revitalised Brand Hong Kong, the communications platform for promoting Hong Kong globally, is unveiled with the updated core values of Free, Enterprising, Excellence, Innovative and Quality Living and a more contemporary looking dragon logo.
- 29 Hong Kong and New Zealand sign a Closer Economic Partnership Agreement, the first Hong Kong free trade agreement with a foreign economy.

April

- 1 A Hong Kong-Taiwan Business Co-operation Committee is established to foster co-operation in trade, investment and tourism between the two places at the corporate level.
- 7 The Chief Executive and the Governor of Guangdong Province, Mr Huang Huahua, sign a Framework Agreement on Hong Kong/ Guangdong Co-operation in Beijing.

- 8 The Chief Executive appoints the Chief Judge of the High Court, the Honourable Mr Geoffrey Ma Tao-li, as the Chief Justice of the Court of Final Appeal with effect from September 1.
- 11 The Secretary for the Environment, Mr Edward Yau, leaves for Langkawi, Malaysia, to attend the 4th International UNESCO conference on geoparks.
- 21 More than 100 government officials, led by the Chief Executive, observe a minute's silence at the Central Government Offices compound to mourn the victims of the earthquake that devastated Yushu, in China's Qinghai Province.
- 25 The Secretary for Food and Health, Dr York Chow, leads a Hong Kong delegation to Israel to study the country's successful healthcare and agriculture systems.
- 28 The Government introduces the Motor Vehicle Idling (Fixed Penalty) Bill to the Legislative Council to reduce roadside air pollution, heat and noise.

May

- 1 The Chief Executive officiates at the opening of Hong Kong Pavilion and Hong Kong's Urban Best Practices Area Exhibition at Shanghai Expo.
- 4 The Secretary for Development, Mrs Carrie Lam, visits Auckland and Wellington to gain an understanding of the cities' efforts on heritage conservation, waterfront planning and green buildings.
- 8 The Government signs a design-and-build contract for developing the cruise terminal building at Kai Tak.
- 13 The Secretary for Food and Health leaves on a visit to Estonia, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom for a fact-finding visit on healthcare and food safety systems. He will also attend the World Health Assembly in Geneva.
- Hong Kong signs two agreements with Kuwait: an Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement and an Economic and Technical Co-operation Agreement.
- 16 A 2010 Legislative Council by-election — called as a result of the resignation of five Legislative Council members — takes place with a voter turnout of 17 per cent, which is the lowest for a Legislative Council election since the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR).
- 27 Hong Kong signs Supplement VII to the Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement with the Mainland to further liberalise trade in services and enhance co-operation in trade and investment facilitation between the two economies.

June

- 8 The Secretary for Home Affairs, Mr Tsang Tak-sing, congratulates Hong Kong athletes on their return from the 4th All-China Games at which they won 13 first-class, 43 second-class and 41 third-class trophies.
- 16 The Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury leaves for Russia, the United Kingdom and Ireland to promote Hong Kong as an international financial centre.
- 19 The Secretary for Development leads a 270-member Hong Kong delegation to the 2010 Mainland and Hong Kong Construction Industry Forum in Fuzhou, Fujian Province.
- 24-25 The Legislative Council passes a constitutional reform package concerning the draft amendments to the methods for selecting the Chief Executive and forming the Legislative Council in 2012, marking the first time the post-1997 electoral arrangements will be amended under the Basic Law.
- 25 The Financial Secretary leaves for Toronto as part of the People's Republic of China delegation to the Group of 20 Summit.
- 28 The Secretary for Transport and Housing, Ms Eva Cheng, leads a group of shipping representatives to Malaysia to promote Hong Kong as an international maritime centre and premier port.
- The Chief Secretary for Administration joins 1 000 teachers and students on a visit to Sichuan carried out under a national education exchange programme called 'Passing on the Torch: Affection for Sichuan'.
- 29 The Chief Executive gives his consent to the draft amendments to the methods for selecting the Chief Executive and forming the Legislative Council in 2012.

July

- 1 The Chief Executive speaks at a reception marking the 13th anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR and describes the passage of Hong Kong's political reform package as a decisive step towards democracy and the goal of universal suffrage in 2017 and 2020.
- 4 The Secretary for Education begins a week-long visit to Korea and Japan to continue promoting Hong Kong as a regional education hub.
- 6 The Department of Justice holds its largest legal services forum outside Hong Kong — The Shanghai Legal Services Forum — as part of Hong Kong's activities during the Shanghai Expo period.
- 17 The Minimum Wage Bill is passed by the Legislative Council after a marathon 41-hour debate.

- 19 The Hong Kong Monetary Authority and the People's Bank of China sign a Supplementary Memorandum of Co-operation on the expansion of the RMB settlement scheme, promoting further Hong Kong's status and role as a China currency market platform.
- 23 The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development ranks Hong Kong as the world's fourth largest Foreign Direct Investment recipient in 2009, up from ninth place in 2008.
- 25-27 The Chief Executive visits Sichuan to inspect reconstruction projects supported by the HKSAR Government and non-governmental organisations. He also met the Governor and Party Secretary of Sichuan.
- 27 The Secretary for Security, Mr Ambrose Lee, leaves for Malaysia and Indonesia to discuss security matters of common concern with officials in the two countries.

August

- 15 The national and HKSAR flags at all Government buildings in Hong Kong are flown at half-mast to mourn the victims of the massive mudslide in Zhouqu, in Gansu Province.
- 20 Mr Henry Tang, in his capacity as chairman of the West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD) Authority Board, unveils three conceptual plans for the WKCD, and invites public comments on them.
- 23-24 The Chief Executive expresses grave disappointment with the handling of a hostage crisis in Manila in which eight Hong Kong residents were killed and seven injured. He asks for a full report on the tragedy from the Philippine Government, and dispatches a Government team to Manila to render every assistance to the survivors and the family members of the victims.
- 26 The Chief Executive leads Principal Officials at a ceremony at the Golden Bauhinia Square to mourn the eight Hong Kong residents killed in the tour bus hostage tragedy in Manila while the national and HKSAR flags at all Government buildings are flown at half-mast.
- 27 Hong Kong signs a Memorandum of Understanding with the Italian region of Veneto to strengthen trade and economic ties.
- 28 The Financial Secretary leads a business delegation to Taiwan in his capacity as Honorary Chairperson of the Hong Kong-Taiwan Economic and Cultural Co-operation and Promotion Council to foster close economic and cultural exchanges between the two places.

The Standing Committee of the National People's Congress approves and records amendments to Annexes I and II of the Basic Law relating to the methods for selecting the Chief Executive and forming the Legislative Council in 2012. This completes the amendments to the two electoral methods in the Basic Law for the first time.

- 31 The Chief Executive leaves for Russia as head of a 30-member business delegation to boost Hong Kong as a sourcing hub and a fund-raising platform for Russian firms.
- The Secretary for Transport and Housing leaves for London and Brussels to exchange views with officials on high-speed rail development.

September

- 4 Hong Kong and Ukraine sign a visa-free agreement and a Customs Co-operative Arrangement.
- 6 The Chief Executive leads a Government delegation to Shenzhen to attend celebrations marking the city's 30th anniversary as a Special Economic Zone.
- 12-19 The Secretary for the Civil Service, Miss Denise Yue, leads a delegation of HKSAR Government Permanent Secretaries to Beijing and Shanghai for a national studies course and visit.
- 15 Creative and quality projects proposed by non-profit organisations are selected for the preservation and revitalisation of the Old Tai Po Police Station, the Blue House Cluster and the Stone Houses under the second batch of the Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme.
- 15-17 The first INTERPOL Information Security Conference, 'Global Co-operation Today for InfoSec Risks Tomorrow', is held in Hong Kong.
- 20 The Government receives a copy of the first Philippine Government report on the Hong Kong hostage siege in Manila.
- 22-24 The Secretary for Development leads an official delegation to Oslo to gain a deeper understanding of Norway's extensive use of underground space.

October

- 1 The Chief Executive hails the Mainland's remarkable achievements in a speech in Hong Kong marking the 61st anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China.
- 3 The Financial Secretary leaves for the United Kingdom and the United States to strengthen Hong Kong's economic ties with the two countries and to attend the Annual Meeting of the International Monetary Fund/World Bank in Washington as a member of the People's Republic of China delegation.
- 6 The Food and Health Bureau publishes the second stage public consultation document on healthcare reform 'My Health My Choice', which proposes the creation of a government-regulated, voluntary 'Health Protection Scheme' to enhance the long-term sustainability of the healthcare system.

- 10 The Secretary for Food and Health leads a delegation of senior Government health officials to the 61st session of the World Health Organisation Regional Committee for the Western Pacific, in Putrajaya, Malaysia.
- 13 The Chief Executive delivers his annual Policy Address in which he lays out strategies for stabilising the property market, supporting low-income families, coping with an aging population and protecting the environment. He also announces a new type of subsidised housing, the 'My Home Purchase Plan', to assist the sandwich class to buy 'no-frills' small- to medium-sized flats.
- 18 Hong Kong Week opens at the Shanghai Expo with a dazzling array of performances and activities highlighting the city's creativity, vibrancy and cosmopolitan lifestyle.
- 20 The Financial Secretary leaves for Paris to strengthen Hong Kong's economic ties with France.
- 25 The Secretary for Justice and the Vice Chairman of the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade, Mr Dong Songgen, sign a 'Co-operation Arrangement on Legal Services for Commercial Matters and Arbitration'.
- 25-29 The Chief Executive leads a business delegation to India to promote government and economic relations.
- 31 The Chief Executive joins state leaders and VIPs from around the world at the closing ceremony of Shanghai Expo.
- Hong Kong's two Expo pavilions close after welcoming more than 3.3 million visitors during the six-month Expo period.

November

- 4 A senior Government health official, Dr Leung Pak-yin, is appointed the new Chief Executive of the Hospital Authority.
- The Financial Secretary leaves for Japan to attend the 17th APEC Finance Ministers' Meeting in Kyoto.
- 5 The Chief Executive officiates at the opening of an international climate change forum held in Hong Kong under the auspices of the C40, an international alliance of 40 major cities committed to reducing carbon emissions.
- The Chief Executive in Council approves in principle the applications of Metro Broadcast Corporation Limited, Phoenix U Radio Limited and Wave Media Limited for 12-year sound broadcasting licences to provide territory-wide, 24-hour digital audio broadcasting services in Hong Kong.
- 9 A 120-metre-long, animated version of the historical painting *Riverside Scene at Qingming Festival* goes on display in Hong Kong showing life

- in the Northern Song Dynasty 900 years ago. The animated painting was a star attraction inside the China Pavilion at Shanghai Expo.
- 10 The Chief Executive in Council adopts the recommendation of the Provisional Minimum Wage Commission to set the initial statutory minimum wage rate at \$28 per hour effective from May 1, 2011.
- The Secretary for Transport and Housing leaves for Melbourne to exchange views on regulations governing the sale of residential properties.
- 11 The Chief Executive leaves for Yokohama to attend the 18th APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting.
- The Financial Secretary leaves for Seoul to attend the G20 Summit as part of the People's Republic of China delegation.
- Moody's upgrades Hong Kong's Government bond ratings to 'Aa1' from 'Aa2' with 'Positive' outlook.
- The Chief Executive appoints the Steering Committee of the Community Care Fund to which the Government and the business sector will each contribute \$5 billion to support the needy in areas not covered by the social security safety net.
- 12 The Secretary for Labour and Welfare, Mr Matthew Cheung Kin-chung, signs a Memorandum of Understanding with the Consul General of the Republic of Korea on a Hong Kong – Korea Working Holiday Scheme for young people, effective from January 1, 2011.
- 15 The Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury leaves for London to officiate the opening of a HKSAR Government conference, the first leg of a world-wide campaign to promote Hong Kong as China's global financial centre.
- 25 A global credit-rating agency, Fitch, upgrades Hong Kong's long-term foreign-currency sovereign rating from AA to AA+ with a stable outlook.
- 25-26 The Secretary for Justice visits Malaysia and Singapore to strengthen ties with the two countries.
- 29 The Financial Secretary leaves for Auckland to foster closer economic ties with New Zealand.
- 30 The Financial Secretary leads a business delegation to Chile and Brazil to explore business opportunities and promote Hong Kong as the premier international gateway to the mainland of China.
- The national Ministry of Finance launches the second issue of RMB sovereign bonds in Hong Kong.
- The Chief Executive in Council approves the construction of the Mass Transit Railway Kwun Tong Line Extension and the South Island Line (East).

December

- 1 The Chief Executive, speaking at a celebratory reception, praises Hong Kong athletes for winning eight gold, 15 silver and 17 bronze medals at the Guangzhou 2010 Asian Games, their best-ever result at the Games.
- 3 The International Monetary Fund welcomes Hong Kong's efforts in maintaining financial stability and restates its support for the city's Linked Exchange Rate system.
- 6 MyGovHK — a new account-based service delivery platform — is launched by the Government to provide the public with personalised and integrated online access to government information and services.
- 8 A Legislative Council Select Committee inquiring into matters relating to the post-service work of Mr Leung Chin-man, a former government director of housing, releases its findings and recommendations which will be studied by the Government.
- The Secretary for Transport and Housing attends the 7th World Congress on High Speed Rail in Beijing.
- The Secretary for the Environment attends the 16th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Cancun, Mexico.
- 9 The Secretary for Justice holds the first meeting of the Mediation Task Force which will assist with the implementation of recommendations in the Report of the Working Group on Mediation, published for public consultation.
- 13 The Secretary for Labour and Welfare unveils details of a territory-wide Work Incentive Transport Subsidy Scheme aimed at easing the burden of home-to-work travelling expenses on the working members of low-income families and to promote employment.
- The Labour Department launches a two-year \$140-million Pilot Employment Navigator Programme to further strengthen employment support for unemployed job seekers.
- The Government is to set up an 'Investor Education Council' and a 'Financial Dispute Resolution Centre' to enhance education and protection for investors.
- 16 Hong Kong's sovereign rating is upgraded from 'AA+' to 'AAA' with a stable outlook, by Standard & Poor, the highest rating ever given to Hong Kong.
- 17 The Chief Secretary for Administration leads an official delegation to Beijing to discuss Hong Kong's participation in the National 12th Five-Year Plan with the Central People's Government (CPG).

The Finance Committee of the Legislative Council approves the relaxation of the minimum residence period from 90 to 60 days in a payment year for recipients of the Old Age Allowance and the Disability Allowance under the Social Security Allowance Scheme with effect from February 1, 2011.

- 20 Hong Kong athletes who won 28 medals — five gold, nine silver and 14 bronze — at the Guangzhou 2010 Asian Para Games, are applauded by the Acting Chief Executive, Mr Henry Tang, at a welcome-home ceremony organised by the Government.
- 27 The Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs, Mr Stephen Lam, visits Beijing on behalf of the Steering Committee on HKSAR's Participation in the 2010 Shanghai Expo to receive the CPG's Commendation for contribution to the Shanghai Expo.
- 31 The number of visitor arrivals to Hong Kong reaches a historic high of 36.03 million, which also marks the first time that arrival figures have surpassed the 30 million mark.