

Calendar of Events 2011

January

- 1 The Closer Economic Partnership Agreement between Hong Kong and New Zealand comes into effect.
- 10 The Secretary for Justice, Mr Wong Yan Lung, speaking at the opening of the new Legal Year, welcomes new ordinances enabling solicitors to be assessed for rights of audience before the High Court and the Court of Final Appeal; and strengthening Hong Kong's credentials as a prime international arbitration venue.
- 12 Hong Kong is ranked the world's freest economy by the Heritage Foundation for the 17th consecutive year.
- 13 The Hong Kong Monetary Authority welcomes a People's Bank of China pilot scheme that allows Mainland enterprises to settle their overseas direct investments in Renminbi (RMB) through Hong Kong's offshore RMB centre.
- 17-18 The Government and the Hong Kong Trade Development Council jointly host the two-day Asian Financial Forum under the theme 'Asia: Reshaping the Global Agenda', attended by close to 1 800 business leaders and around 460 journalists from over 30 countries and territories.
- 25 A topping-out ceremony is held for the Tamar Development Project which includes the new Government Headquarters and Legislative Council Complex.
- 26 Ocean Park unveils three new themed areas — 'Aqua City', 'Rainforest' and 'Thrill Mountain' — as part of its Master Redevelopment Plan, which helped boost attendance in 2011 to a record high of 6.95 million visitors.
- 27 The Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Mrs Rita Lau, leaves for Davos, Switzerland, for an informal ministerial meeting of the World Trade Organisation hosted by the Swiss Government on the sidelines of the annual World Economic Forum meetings.

February

- 11 The Government announces appointments to the Minimum Wage Commission for a two-year term with effect from March 1 to study and recommend a statutory minimum wage rate for Hong Kong.
- 14 The Chief Secretary for Administration, Mr Henry Tang, visits Singapore where he meets government officials and inspects waste collection and incineration facilities.
- 23 The Financial Secretary, Mr John C Tsang, delivers his Budget, stating that Hong Kong's economy has fully recovered and that the

Government will continue promoting economic development and improving the people's livelihood.

March

- 2 In his revised 2011-12 Budget package, the Financial Secretary proposes granting \$6,000 to all Hong Kong permanent identity card holders aged 18 or above, and injecting additional cash into the Community Care Fund to help those not able to benefit from the proposal but in need of financial assistance.
- 2-5 The Secretary for Development, Mrs Carrie Lam, pays a four-day visit to Seoul to study the city's initiatives in infrastructure development, urban planning and heritage conservation.
- 4 A conceptual plan, *City Park*, submitted by a London-based architectural firm, is chosen as the preferred option for the development of an arts and cultural hub at the West Kowloon Cultural District.
- 5 The Motor Vehicle Idling (Fixed Penalty) Bill, is passed by the Legislative Council.
- 11 The Chief Executive, Mr Donald Tsang, extends Hong Kong's condolences to the people and government of Japan following the devastating earthquake and tsunami that occurred on the same day.
- 17 The Civil Aviation Department and the aviation industry join forces to set two new Guinness World Records for the 'heaviest combined weight of aircraft pulled simultaneously' and the 'heaviest aircraft pulled over 100 metres by a team' as part of activities to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of aviation development in Hong Kong.
- 24 The Government announces the granting of sound broadcasting licences to Digital Broadcasting Corporation Hong Kong Limited, Metro Broadcast Corporation Limited and Phoenix U Radio Limited to provide digital audio broadcasting services in Hong Kong.

April

- 8 The foundation stone laying ceremony is held for the new cruise terminal building at Kai Tak.
- 11 Experts from the World Health Organisation and Western Pacific countries meet in Hong Kong to discuss a draft strategy for the optimal use of medical devices in the region.
- 17 The Chief Executive hosts a meeting with the Russian President, Mr Dmitry Medvedev, and his delegation at Government House.
The Secretary for Education, Mr Michael Suen, leads a higher-education delegation to Vietnam and Brunei to promote Hong Kong as a regional education hub.
- 18 A forum held in Hong Kong on the 'National 12th Five-Year Plan' highlights the Central Government's continuing strong support to maintaining Hong Kong's prosperity and stability.
The Hong Kong Police and their Australian counterparts sign a Memorandum of Understanding in Canberra on combating international crime and strengthening co-operation.

- 19 The Secretary for the Environment, Mr Edward Yau, leads a delegation to Beijing to exchange views with the National Nuclear Safety Administration of the Ministry of Environmental Protection.

May

- 1 The Minimum Wage Ordinance goes into effect with an initial minimum wage rate of \$28 an hour.
- 2 The Secretary for Food and Health, Dr York Chow, leaves for Canada, Chile and Brazil to study health care, and the fisheries, agricultural and poultry industries, and to attend the World Health Assembly in Geneva.
- 5 The Chief Secretary for Administration leads a government delegation to Chengdu, Sichuan to meet officials and attend a ceremony marking the completion of a number of post-earthquake reconstruction projects funded by the HKSAR Government.
- 13 The Legislative Council's Finance Committee approves a \$5 billion injection into the Community Care Fund to help Hong Kong people in need.
- 17 A Hong Kong-Taiwan Cultural Co-operation Forum is held in Hong Kong to promote co-operation between the arts sector and creative industries, and to foster the development of creative brands in the region.
- 18 Hong Kong is ranked the world's most competitive economy for the first time by the International Institute for Management Development in the 2011 World Competitiveness Yearbook, alongside the US.
- 23-26 The Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury, Professor K C Chan, leads a delegation to Indonesia and Malaysia for a joint roadshow with the Shanghai Municipal Government Financial Services Office to promote financial co-operation between Shanghai and Hong Kong and the development of RMB business.
- 25 The Secretary for the Environment leaves for France and Austria to learn more about European geological conservation and waste treatment facilities before proceeding to Brazil to attend the C40 Large Cities Climate Summit in Sao Paulo.
- 27-30 The Secretary for Development leads a 250-member Hong Kong delegation to Luoyang in Henan Province for the 2011 Mainland and Hong Kong Construction Industry Forum.
- 29 The Secretary for Food and Health receives a Director-General's special recognition award at the 'World No Tobacco Day 2011 — Regional Launching and Award Ceremony' organised in Hong Kong by the World Health Organisation.
- 30-31 The Secretary for Transport and Housing, Ms Eva Cheng, leads a shipping delegation to South Korea to promote Hong Kong as an international maritime centre and premier port hub.

June

- 1 A new Arbitration Ordinance goes into effect to facilitate the conduct of arbitration proceedings.
A new regulatory regime governing credit rating agencies (CRAs) in Hong Kong goes into effect requiring CRAs and their rating analysts to be licensed and subject to supervision by the Securities and Futures Commission in line with requirements laid down by the G20.
- 2 The Hong Kong International Airport Master Plan 2030, which maps out the future development strategies and options of Hong Kong's airport, is released for public consultation.
- 3 The HKSAR Government welcomes the decision to inscribe four local traditional festivals and events — the Cheung Chau Jiao Festival, the Tai O dragon boat water parade, the Tai Hang fire dragon dance and the Yu Lan Ghost Festival of the Hong Kong Chiu Chow community — onto the third national list of intangible cultural heritage.
- 6 The Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury begins his visit to Prague, Brussels and London to boost ties with those cities and to promote Hong Kong as China's global financial centre.
- 7-8 Over 3 000 local, Mainland and international healthcare experts and professionals attend the Hospital Authority convention on 'Collaborative Healthcare' in Hong Kong.
- 12 The Director of the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council, Mr Wang Guangya, arrives in Hong Kong for an official visit.
- 15-23 The Chief Executive visits Australia to strengthen bilateral ties and to promote trade and business opportunities in Hong Kong.
- 15 The Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury departs for Russia to attend the St Petersburg International Economic Forum 2011.
- 21 Hong Kong signs a free trade agreement with European Free Trade Association member states Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.
- 22 Hong Kong Police and their French counterpart sign a Letter of Intent in Hong Kong on combating international crime.
- 28 Mr Gregory So Kam-leung is appointed Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development to succeed Mrs Rita Lau Ng Wai-lan, who resigned for health reasons.
- 30 The 2011 Population Census gets underway to obtain up-to-date benchmark information on the size and socio-economic characteristics of the population and its geographical distribution. The population census takes place in Hong Kong every 10 years.

July

- 1 The Chief Executive speaks about Hong Kong's achievements and future challenges in his speech marking the 14th anniversary of the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

- 5 The Government launches an inflation-linked retail bond, the iBond, under the Government Bond Programme for subscription by Hong Kong residents.
- 6 The 'Hong Kong, China' team in the Special Olympics World Summer Games in Athens returns with 115 medals — 58 gold, 27 silver and 30 bronze.
- 11 The Financial Secretary starts a five-day visit to Toronto, Ottawa and Montreal to foster closer economic and trade ties between Hong Kong and Canada.
- The Government announces its action plan to take forward the Health Protection Scheme to enhance the long-term sustainability of Hong Kong's healthcare system, following the release of the second stage public consultation report on healthcare reform.
- 12 Hong Kong film director and producer, Mr Tsui Hark, is presented the 'Star Asia Lifetime Achievement Award' at the 10th New York Asian Film Festival. He goes on to be named the Asian Filmmaker of the Year at the 16th Busan International Film Festival in October.
- 14 The Education Bureau hosts its first International Education Forum and Expo — a three-day event comprising a Ministerial Roundtable, an International Conference and an Education Expo under the theme 'Learning Journey for the Globalised World'.
- 17-21 The Secretary for Development visits Paris and Nice to learn about the cities' urban planning, heritage conservation and green building initiatives.
- 18 More than 140 incumbent and former Legislative Council members bid farewell to the Legislative Council Building in Jackson Road where their meetings have been held since 1985. A time capsule was also unearthed. The new Legislative Council Complex is located at the Tamar site.
- 22 The Government issues a consultation paper on Arrangements for Filling Vacancies in the Legislative Council for a two-month public consultation.
- 24-25 The US Secretary of State, Mrs Hillary Rodham Clinton, arrives for an official visit and meets the Chief Executive at Government House.
- 27 The World Investment Report 2011 by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development ranks Hong Kong as the world's third largest recipient of Foreign Direct Investment flows in 2010.

August

- 10 The Hong Kong-Taiwan Economic and Cultural Co-operation and Promotion Council and the Taiwan-Hong Kong Economic and Cultural Co-operation Council hold their second joint meeting in Hong Kong.
- 11 The Hong Kong Monetary Authority and the Taiwan Financial Supervisory Commission sign a Memorandum of Understanding for banking supervisory co-operation between the two authorities.

- 12 The Chief Executive departs for Shenzhen to attend the opening ceremony of the 2011 Summer Universiade, a university multi-sports event.
- 16-18 The Vice-Premier of the State Council, Mr Li Keqiang, arrives in Hong Kong to attend a 'Forum on the National 12th Five-Year Plan and Economic, Trade and Financial Co-operation and Development Between the Mainland and Hong Kong', a ceremony marking the completion of the new Government Headquarters at Tamar and other events.
- 17 China's Ministry of Finance launches a third issue of RMB sovereign bonds in Hong Kong worth RMB 20 billion.
- 31 The Chief Executive leaves for Urumqi, Xinjiang, to attend the first China-Eurasia Expo.

September

- 7-14 The Secretary for Transport and Housing departs for Los Angeles and San Francisco to update logistics industry figures on Hong Kong's distinct position as a high value-added logistics services provider and to attend the 7th APEC Transportation Ministerial Meeting and APEC Ministerial Conference on Transportation and Energy in San Francisco.
- 8-16 The Chief Executive starts his visit to Brussels, London and Edinburgh to update political and business leaders in Europe and the UK on Hong Kong's latest developments.
- 11 Hong Kong actress, Ms Deanie Ip, wins the Coppa Volpi for Best Actress Award, at the 68th Venice International Film Festival for her role in the film *Tao Jie (A Simple Life)*.
- 14 The Secretary for Labour and Welfare, Mr Matthew Cheung, leaves for San Francisco to attend the APEC Women and the Economy Summit.
- 15 The Secretary for the Environment departs for Europe to visit the Swedish city of Malmo, the Danish capital, Copenhagen, and the Norwegian town of Langesund, to enhance co-operation between Hong Kong and those European cities on sustainability and other environmental matters, and to promote Hong Kong's Geopark.
The Secretary for Food and Health leaves for the United States to attend high-level meetings on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, held by APEC in San Francisco and the United Nations, respectively; and to visit the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta.
- 18 The Global Geoparks Network (GGN) supported by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, accepts Hong Kong National Geopark as a GGN member at the 10th European Geoparks Conference in Langesund, Norway.
- 19 The Financial Secretary starts his visit to New York, Washington and Chicago to strengthen ties between Hong Kong and the United States. He also attends the annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund/World Bank in Washington as a member of the Chinese delegation.

- 20 Hong Kong is again ranked by the Fraser Institute as the world's freest economy in the Economic Freedom of the World 2011 Annual Report.
- 25-29 The Secretary for Home Affairs, Mr Tsang Tak-sing, pays a five-day visit to Moscow and St Petersburg to discuss co-operation on culture and sport with Russian government officials.
- 27 The Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development leads the HKSAR delegation to Beijing for the first meeting of the Inter-ministries Joint Conference on the Development of Shenzhen's Qianhai Area.
- 29/9-2/10 The Secretary for Development attends a conference on city planning at the Rockefeller Conference Centre in Bellagio, Italy.
- 30 The Central People's Government approves the resignation of Mr Henry Tang as Chief Secretary for Administration, as well as the Chief Executive's recommendation to appoint Mr Stephen Lam to fill the post; for Mr Raymond Tam takes up Mr Lam's post as the Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs; and for Professor Gabriel Leung to be appointed as the Director of the Chief Executive's Office.

October

- 1 The Chief Executive speaks about Hong Kong's strengths and advantages as China's international financial centre and its support of the nation's development in a speech in Hong Kong marking the 62nd anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China.
The Secretary for Labour and Welfare congratulates the Hong Kong delegation to the International Abilympics 2011 on winning two gold awards and five special prizes.
- 3 The Convenor of the Non-official Members of the Executive Council, Mr Leung Chun-ying, tenders his resignation from the council. His post is filled by fellow-councillor, Mr Ronald Arculli.
The Secretary for Justice departs for his visit to Paris, Brussels, the Hague and Amsterdam to strengthen ties with those cities and to promote Hong Kong as a premier legal dispute resolution centre.
The Work Incentive Transport Subsidy Scheme invites applications. It was set up to help low income households with employed members offset travelling expenses to and from work.
- 8 Cultural ministers and senior officials from 11 Asian countries attend a panel discussion in Hong Kong, a highlight of the 'Asia Cultural Co-operation Forum 2011' held to support the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage.
- 12 The Chief Executive delivers his final annual Policy Address in which he tackles some of Hong Kong's most pressing concerns, including the need for affordable housing, more help for the elderly, enhancing the city's competitiveness and improving living standards.
- 13 Hong Kong and New Zealand sign an 'Arrangement on Education Co-operation' to help build and strengthen the education relationship between the two places.

- 14 The People's Bank of China and the Ministry of Commerce promulgate the Administrative Rules on Settlement Business of Foreign Direct Investment Denominated in RMB to expand the use of RMB funds in Hong Kong and to promote the development of the RMB bond market and financing activities in Hong Kong.
- 16-22 The Secretary for Development leads a Hong Kong delegation to the World Sustainable Building Conference 2011 in Helsinki.
- 17 The Secretary for Justice attends the Ninth China Lawyers' Forum in Qingdao.
The Hong Kong Police and their Canadian counterparts sign a Memorandum of Understanding in Ottawa on faculty exchange and training partnership.
- 24 The Chief Secretary for Administration, Mr Stephen Lam, visits Berlin and Warsaw to promote business opportunities and bilateral exchanges with the two European cities.

November

- 1 The minimum income level for making Mandatory Provident Fund contributions is increased from \$5,000 to \$6,500 per month.
- 2 Serbia grants HKSAR passport holders visa-free access to the republic.
- 3-10 The Financial Secretary attends the G20 Summit in Cannes after which he travels to Los Angeles to promote trading opportunities in Hong Kong before attending the APEC Finance Ministers' Meeting in Honolulu on November 9 and 10.
- 3 A ceremony is held by the Government to welcome home Hong Kong athletes who won a record six medals — two gold, two silver and two bronze — at the 7th National Intercity Games in Nanchang, Jiangxi Province.
The Government endorses the University Grants Committee's strategies and directions recommended in its report 'Aspirations for the Higher Education System in Hong Kong'.
- 6 More than 1.2 million people, or 41 per cent of registered voters, cast their ballots in the 4th term District Council election.
- 7-13 The Chief Executive meets US political and business leaders in New York and Washington before travelling to Honolulu for the APEC CEO Summit and APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting.
- 11 The Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development attends the 23rd APEC Ministerial Meeting in Honolulu.
- 13 The Secretary for Security, Mr Ambrose Lee, leaves for Seoul and Tokyo to update counterparts on the latest developments in Hong Kong.
- 15 The Secretary for Education leads 800 students and teachers from 54 secondary schools on an exchange tour to Sichuan carried out under

the 'National Education Exchange Programme in Mainland for Senior Secondary Students'.

- 18 Hong Kong Disneyland opens a new themed area, 'Toy Story Land'.
- 25 Over 600 business leaders and industrialists from 14 countries and regions attend the Asian Logistics and Maritime Conference in Hong Kong to discuss the global economic trends and opportunities created by the National 12th Five-Year Plan.
- The Secretary for Justice signs the 'Arrangement for Hong Kong/ Shenzhen co-operation on legal services' with the Vice Mayor of the Shenzhen Municipal Government, Mr Chen Yingchun.
- The Chief Secretary for Administration co-chairs the 2011 Hong Kong/ Shenzhen Co-operation Meeting with the Mayor of the Shenzhen Municipal Government, Mr Xu Qin.
- 28 The Chief Executive highlights Hong Kong's role as a regional news and information hub at the inaugural 'News World Summit' in Hong Kong held by the Global Editors Network.
- The HKSAR Government welcomes the pilot scheme announced by the national Ministry of Education in which 63 Mainland higher education institutions will exempt Hong Kong students from taking the Joint Entrance Examination for universities in the Mainland.
- 29 The Government launches a two-month consultation on proposed legislation regulating the sale of first hand residential properties.
- 30 The Mediation Bill, which seeks to establish a legislative framework for conducting mediation to resolve disputes other than through litigation in the courts, is introduced to the Legislative Council.

December

- 2 The Government declares as monuments St Stephen's College School House (built in 1930) and King's College (built between 1923 and 1926).
- 3 The Financial Secretary leads a 30-member Hong Kong business delegation to South Africa to foster closer trade and commercial links.
- 7 The Secretary for Justice leaves for a three-day visit to Seoul and Tokyo to strengthen ties with counterparts and the legal community in the two cities.
- 9 The International Monetary Fund, in its Staff Report on Hong Kong, endorses the city's Linked Exchange Rate system and commends the Government's effort to safeguard Hong Kong's financial stability.
- 11 Polling for the Election Committee Subsector Elections takes place to elect members to a new term Election Committee to return the fourth term Chief Executive.

- 12 The Government launches a two-month consultation on the Legal, Privacy and Security Framework for Electronic Health Record Sharing to help reduce records duplication and enable more timely treatment and diagnosis of patients.
- 12-13 Over 400 local and foreign academics, professionals and government officials take part in the 'International Conference on Heritage Conservation 2011' to share expertise and experience in heritage conservation and to discuss the challenges of preserving historic buildings in rapidly developing urban areas.
- 13 Hong Kong and the Mainland sign Supplement VIII to the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement, to enhance economic and trade co-operation and exchanges between the two places.
Hong Kong tops the World Economic Forum's Financial Development Index for the first time, overtaking the US, the UK and Singapore.
- 14 The Chief Executive officiates at the launching ceremony of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Hong Kong Boundary Crossing facilities.
The Chief Executive officiates at the opening of the Hong Kong Global Geopark of China.
- 15 The Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development leads a Hong Kong, China delegation, to the Eighth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organisation in Geneva.
- 15-16 More than 80 ministers and senior officials from the Mainland and 13 other countries and region in the Asia Pacific attend the Ninth Ministers' Forum on Infrastructure Development in the Asia-Pacific Region in Hong Kong to exchange views and share experiences on sustainable urbanisation.
- 19 The Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office commences operation in Taiwan to promote the long-term development of closer economic and cultural relations between Hong Kong and Taiwan.
- 20 The Government announces the proposed establishment of an independent statutory body as an overall regulatory body of the tourism sector.
The Hong Kong Police and their Cambodian counterparts sign a Memorandum of Understanding to renew co-operation in the fight against international crime.
- 30 The Hong Kong-Taiwan Economic and Cultural Co-operation and Promotion Council and the Taiwan-Hong Kong Economic and Cultural Co-operation Council sign an air services arrangement between Hong Kong and Taiwan, which lifts the limit on the number of airlines to be designated, and increases the passenger and cargo capacities and flight routes for special chartered flights by both sides.
The West Kowloon Cultural District Authority submits its development plan to the Town Planning Board which brings the West Kowloon Cultural District to its next stage of development — the statutory planning process.