

Calendar of Events 2017

January

- 3 The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government signs a Memorandum of Understanding on Jointly Developing the Lok Ma Chau Loop by Hong Kong and Shenzhen with the Shenzhen Municipal People's Government to develop an 87-hectare Hong Kong-Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Park.
- 6 The Green Hub, the Old Tai Po Police Station restored by Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden under the Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme, gets an Honourable Mention in the 2016 Unesco Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation, the 17th Hong Kong project honoured by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation since the awards' inception in 2000.
- 9 At the ceremonial opening of the legal year, the Secretary for Justice, Mr Rimsky Yuen, SC, says matters that can be properly handled within Hong Kong's legal or judicial system should be left to be dealt with at the Hong Kong level as much as possible, as it is the best way to demonstrate that the 'one country, two systems' policy works robustly and successfully.
- The Chief Justice of the Court of Final Appeal, Mr Geoffrey Ma Tao-li, says at the ceremonial opening of the legal year that the purpose of the law is to facilitate the functioning of a society, and to achieve a sense of mutual respect and harmony. This is the community approach of the courts: for the respect not just of individual rights but respect for everyone's rights and interests.
- Tin Shui Wai Hospital offers its first patient services, including specialist outpatient clinics for medicine and geriatrics, family medicine, and orthopaedics and traumatology; renal dialysis; allied health; diagnostic radiology; and community nursing.
- 12 The Chief Secretary for Administration, Mrs Carrie Lam, tenders her resignation to the Chief Executive of the HKSAR, Mr C Y Leung, who submits it to the Central People's Government (CPG). The Chief Executive announces these appointments on 16 January: Mr Matthew Cheung Kin-chung, Chief Secretary for Administration; and Mr Paul Chan, Financial Secretary; followed by these on 13 February: Mr Eric Ma, Secretary for Development; and Mr Stephen Sui, Secretary for Labour and Welfare.
- 13 The Code of Practice for Employment Agencies comes into effect, specifying minimum standards expected of licensees in areas including operational transparency, service agreements with job-seekers and employers, and the provision of payment receipts.
- 18 In his fifth and final Policy Address, the Chief Executive says the National 13th Five-Year Plan and the Belt and Road Initiative will provide new opportunities for Hong

Kong in financial and professional services, innovation and technology and other sectors. The government will take forward measures on the sustainable development of Hong Kong's financial market and financial services sector in areas including taxation, legislation and nurturing talent, he says.

- 20 The Climate Action Plan 2030+ is unveiled, targeting a 65 to 70 per cent cut in Hong Kong's carbon intensity by 2030 compared with the 2005 level. It also aims to reduce coal-fired electricity generation, apply renewable energy more widely, and make infrastructure and buildings more energy efficient.
- 24 Alice Ho Miu Ling Nethersole Hospital in Tai Po is the first public hospital to use landfill gas to produce electricity. Its new heat and power plant also supplies steam and hot water for hospital facilities.

February

- 3 Food trucks start business in tourism spots.
- 7-10 Ms Sarah Lee Wai-size is the best female cyclist at the Asian Track Cycling Championship in India, winning three individual gold medals and a silver with Ms Ma Wing-yu in the women's team sprint. Mr Leung Chun-wing and the team of Ms Meng Zhaojuan and Ms Pang Yao also clinch gold, among 11 medals won by Hong Kong.
- 10 An arson incident occurs at Tsim Sha Tsui MTR station. Nineteen people are injured or feel unwell. The MTR Corporation later submits a report to the government with recommendations to enhance the corporation's response in emergencies.
- 16 A Washington-based think tank, the Heritage Foundation, ranks Hong Kong as the world's freest economy for the 23rd consecutive year.
- 17 A former Chief Executive, Mr Donald Tsang Yam-kuen, is convicted in the Court of First Instance of one count of misconduct in public office (charge 2), for failing to declare to the Executive Council his dealings with the major shareholder of a company over a residential property in Shenzhen while he was involved in decision making related to applications made by that company. He is later sentenced to 20 months' imprisonment and is granted bail pending an appeal. The jury acquits him of another charge of misconduct in public office (charge 3), and is unable to reach a verdict on a charge of Chief Executive accepting an advantage (charge 1). A retrial is ordered on charge 1, which ends on 3 November with a hung jury. This charge is left on the court's file, not to be taken further without the leave of the court.
- 22 The Financial Secretary delivers his maiden Budget for the 2017-18 financial year, aiming to enhance the competitiveness of pillar industries, promote diversified economic development, and make good use of the wealth Hong Kong has accumulated to invest for the future and build a caring and sharing society.
- 24 An electronic database, Hong Kong e-Legislation, is rolled out to provide free and convenient public access to the laws of Hong Kong. The database contains current and past versions of consolidated legislation dating back to 30 June 1997 and copies of legislation marked 'verified copy' have legal status.
- 27 Summary results of the 2016 Population By-census show the Hong Kong resident population was 7,336,585 at end-June 2016.

28 The Hong Kong Heritage Museum opens a permanent Jin Yong Gallery to showcase the contributions of Dr Louis Cha, considered the most influential Chinese martial arts novelist, to Hong Kong's popular culture.

Ms Yang Qianyu secures Hong Kong's first gold in the women's elite – individual road race at Bahrain's Asian Road and Para Cycling Championship, first held in 1963.

The territory wraps up its warmest winter on record, averaging 18.4 degrees, in a tie with the December-February period in 1998-99.

March

5 The Premier, Mr Li Keqiang, says the CPG will continue to implement, both to the letter and in spirit, the principle of 'one country, two systems', under which Hong Kong enjoys a high degree of autonomy, in his report of the CPG's work at the annual session of the National People's Congress (NPC). A plan to develop a city cluster in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area will be drawn up, he says.

11 Professional boxer Mr Rex Tso Sing-yu defeats Mr Hirofumi Mukai of Japan at the Clash of Champions 2 in Hong Kong. The win gives him three belts in one go – retaining his World Boxing Organisation (WBO) international super flyweight title and World Boxing Council's (WBC) Asian Boxing Council super flyweight title and taking his opponent's WBO Asia-Pacific title.

13 The Chief Executive is elected Vice-Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference.

16 The Happy Valley Underground Stormwater Storage Scheme comes into full operation to better protect surrounding areas from flooding. The 60,000 cubic metre storage tank, equivalent to about 24 standard swimming pools, runs a groundwater and rainwater harvesting system for flushing, washing and irrigation at Happy Valley Recreation Ground.

17 The District Court hands down the city's first sentences for rioting in Mong Kok during the 2016 Lunar New Year, jailing two men and a woman for three years. Up to the year end, the trio's applications for leave to appeal against their convictions and sentences are pending and no hearing date has been fixed yet. Six people have received custodial sentences of between three years and four years nine months, while another person has been sentenced to a training centre, on the riot charge.

21 The territory's 12th private hospital, the 500-bed Gleneagles Hong Kong Hospital, opens in Wong Chuk Hang.

22 A principal fireman, Mr Yau Siu-ming, dies from serious injuries sustained during a mountain rescue operation at Ma On Shan.

24 The city makes its first conviction for the illegal deposit of waste with evidence collected via internet protocol cameras, installed at six dumping black spots in Central and Western, Sham Shui Po and Yuen Long in December 2016. A goods vehicle owner is fined \$3,500 for littering in public places under the Public Cleansing and Prevention of Nuisances Regulation.

- 26 Mrs Carrie Lam Cheng Yuet-ngor is elected the fifth-term Chief Executive of the HKSAR with 777 votes out of 1,163 valid votes cast by the Election Committee, defeating the other two candidates, Mr John Tsang Chun-wah and Mr Woo Kwok-hing.
- 28 The Chief Executive in Council grants the Kowloon Motor Bus Company (1933) (KMB) a new 10-year franchise that will start on 1 July.
- 29 A temporary working platform at the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (HZMB) construction site collapses, with some workers falling into the sea. Two workers die and three are injured. A total of 55 summonses are later issued against nine defendants. The hearing is adjourned pending completion of the Hong Kong Police Force's investigation.
- 31 HK Television Entertainment, a domestic free-TV programme service licensee, launches its free English-language channel, ViuTVsix.

April

- 1 The first registration tax of electric private cars is waived up to \$97,500 while that for electric commercial vehicles, motorcycles and motor tricycles is waived in full until 31 March 2018.
A one-year pilot scheme gets under way to inspect plumbing works randomly during construction to enhance drinking water safety.
- 6 The Chief Secretary for Administration outlines three focus areas under the 20th anniversary theme 'Together • Progress • Opportunity': celebrations for all, building on past success to scale new heights and showcasing Hong Kong's strengths through celebrations on the Mainland and overseas.
Youth fencer Mr Cheung Ka-long, 19, becomes Hong Kong's first world junior champion at Plovdiv's World Cadet and Junior Fencing Championships, first held in 1993. Competitors of the junior category must not be older than 20.
- 9 The flagfall for urban, New Territories and Lantau taxis rises \$2. Incremental charges for the first-tier and second-tier distances after flagfall rise 10 cents and 20 cents respectively.
- 11 Snooker player Ms Ng On-yee achieves a hat trick of world titles in a month, comprising the World Women's Snooker Championship in Singapore as well as the World Women's 6-Red Championship and World Women's 10-Red Championship at the Festival of Women's Snooker in Leeds, England. The team of Ms Katrina Wan Ka-kai and Mr Sanderson Lam lifts the 10-Red mixed pairs' title.
- 12 An exemption provided for Hong Kong permanent residents under the new residential stamp duty regime is tightened, following an increased number of purchases involving multiple residential properties under a single instrument. A permanent resident who does not own any other residential property in Hong Kong at the time of purchase and buys more than one residential property under a single instrument is no longer exempted from the stamp duty rate of 15 per cent.

The Track Cycling World Championships of the Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI) is held for the first time in Hong Kong, the second Asian host city since the event began in 1893. Ms Sarah Lee wins a bronze in elite women's sprint.

- 17 Hong Kong welcomes the birth of its first golden snub-nosed monkey, Lokie, son of Qi Qi and Le Le, which came from Chengdu Zoo in 2015 and 2012 respectively. Golden snub-nosed monkeys are listed as endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature.
- 19 The Hong Kong Polytechnic University opens its University Research Facility in 3D Printing, the largest 3D-printing research centre locally. It later works with Queen Elizabeth Hospital and develops a simulation model containing life-size, 3D-printed blood vessels and aortic valves to train doctors.
- 25 The government enters into post-2018 Scheme of Control Agreements with CLP Power and HK Electric that carry a term of about 15 years, cut the two companies' permitted rate of return from 9.99 per cent to 8 per cent, and further promote energy efficiency and the development of renewable energy.
- 30 Hong Kong Disneyland Resort opens its third hotel, the 750-room resort-style Disney Explorers Lodge with a theme of exploration.

May

- 1 The Chief Executive meets the President of Indonesia, Mr Joko Widodo, at Government House.
The statutory minimum wage rate is raised from \$32.50 to \$34.50 per hour.
Asset limits under the Old Age Living Allowance are raised from \$225,000 to \$329,000 for elderly singles and from \$341,000 to \$499,000 for elderly couples. The new asset limits also apply to applicants aged 65 to 69 under the Guangdong Scheme, which does not subject applicants aged 70 or above to a means test. The income limits remain unchanged.
- 2 The Legislative Council (LegCo) approves funding of \$5.45 billion to support the expansion and development of Hong Kong Disneyland Resort, which will bring new attractions to the theme park almost every year between 2018 and 2023.
- 12 The Chief Justice officiates at the opening ceremony of the West Kowloon Law Courts Building in Sham Shui Po, which houses the West Kowloon Magistrates' Courts, Small Claims Tribunal, Coroner's Court and Obscene Articles Tribunal.
- 14 Fantastic Television, a domestic free-TV programme service licensee, debuts the free Fantastic TV Chinese Channel.
- 16 The 12km, dual three-lane Hong Kong Link Road of the HZMB is connected, linking the Hong Kong Boundary Crossing Facilities and the Main Bridge, which is within Mainland waters.
- 17 The Chief Executive meets the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mr Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, at Government House.
- 19 The Chief Executive meets the Prime Minister of New Zealand, Mr Bill English, at Government House.

To reduce banks' credit risks, the HKMA lowers by 10 percentage points the maximum loan-to-value ratio allowed for borrowers with pre-existing property mortgages. The loan amount permitted for homes of under HK\$10 million is cut to 50 per cent of their value, and to 40 per cent for homes exceeding HK\$10 million and for corporate buyers.

- 24 Mr Rex Tso receives the 'WBC Asia Fight of the Year' award in Bangkok for his victory over Ryuto Maekawa of Japan in 2016.
- 27 The 20th anniversary of implementing the HKSAR Basic Law is marked in Beijing. Mr Zhang Dejiang, a member of the Political Bureau Standing Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and Chairman of the NPC Standing Committee, says China reaffirms the commitment to advancing the great cause of 'one country, two systems', and will continue to ensure the full implementation of the HKSAR Basic Law so as to further uphold China's sovereignty, security and development interests as well as Hong Kong's long-term prosperity and stability.

June

- 1 Hong Kong is crowned the world's most competitive economy for the second consecutive year, according to the International Institute for Management Development's *World Competitiveness Yearbook 2017*.
 - 3 The Sustainable Lantau Blueprint maps out the future direction of 'Development in the North, Conservation for the South' for Lantau.
 - 7 The Hong Kong Observatory marks the 100th anniversary of the introduction of numbered typhoon signals that alert the public to the strength and direction of winds caused by tropical cyclones.
 - 13 Hong Kong becomes a member of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank.
 - 14 A former Chief Secretary for Administration, Mr Rafael Hui, loses his final appeal against conviction in 2014 for conspiracy to commit misconduct in public office, involving his acceptance of \$8.5 million in return for his favourable disposition while in office. He continues to serve a jail term of seven and a half years, while two former senior members of a listed company and a businessman continue serving their sentences of five and six years.
- The Arbitration (Amendment) Ordinance 2017 is enacted to clarify that disputes over intellectual property rights are capable of resolution by arbitration.
- The Arbitration and Mediation Legislation (Third Party Funding) (Amendment) Ordinance 2017 is enacted to clarify that third-party funding for arbitration and mediation is not prohibited by the common law doctrines of maintenance and champerty, and to provide for related measures and safeguards.
- 15 The Fire Services, Buildings, Lands and Labour departments announce the completion of a territory-wide inspection of all mini-storage facilities started in June 2016 following a major fire in such facilities.

- 17 LegCo approves an extra \$847.7 million for the railway works of the Shatin to Central Link, taking the total cost estimate to \$7.1 billion.
- 18 Revised fees for public hospital services are put into effect, raising charges from \$100 to \$180 for the use of accident and emergency (A&E) services, and from \$45 to \$50 for general outpatient clinic services to relieve the burden of non-urgent patients using A&E services.
- 22 The government signs a Protocol of Cooperation with the Direction Générale de l'Aviation Civile of France to further joint efforts in providing training for officials of the civil aviation authorities of Southeast Asian countries, in line with the International Civil Aviation Organisation's objective to help developing countries enhance their civil aviation development process.
- 23 LegCo approves funding of \$31.9 billion to build the Kai Tak Sports Park.
- 26 The Insurance Authority (IA), which is independent of the government and the industry, takes over the statutory functions of the Office of the Commissioner of Insurance (OCI), a government department, to regulate insurance companies. The IA is empowered by the Insurance Ordinance to supervise the industry and promote stability of the insurance market and policyholders. The OCI is disbanded.
- 27 Hong Kong and Guangdong Province launch a cross-boundary electronic bill service allowing people in Hong Kong to make Renminbi-denominated payments to Guangdong merchants using the internet or mobile banking.
- 28 Hong Kong and the Mainland sign the Investment Agreement and the Agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation under the framework of the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA) to promote and protect the increasing investment flows between the two places with clarity and stability and to foster economic and technical cooperation.
- 29 President Xi Jinping, also General Secretary of the CPC Central Committee and Chairman of the Central Military Commission, and his wife Peng Liyuan arrive for a three-day visit to attend celebrations for the 20th anniversary of the resumption of the exercise of sovereignty over Hong Kong and the inauguration ceremony of the fifth-term HKSAR Government.
- Witnessed by the President, the Chief Executive and the Chief Executive-elect, the Chief Secretary for Administration, as Chairman of the Board of the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority, signs a collaborative agreement with the Director of the Palace Museum, Dr Shan Jixiang, to mark the formal start of the Hong Kong Palace Museum project.
- 30 The President inspects and reviews 20 squads, comprising more than 3,000 troops, of the Chinese People's Liberation Army Hong Kong Garrison in a Shek Kong Barracks parade attended by about 4,000 guests hailing from all walks of life in the city.

The Private Columbaria Ordinance takes effect to regulate the operation of private columbaria through licensing.

July

1 The HKSAR marks the 20th anniversary of its establishment. The President says that with the support of the Motherland, an international vision and an innovative spirit, Hong Kong has in the last two decades continued to develop itself as a modern metropolis, and the practice of 'one country, two systems' in Hong Kong is a success story recognised by all. The CPG will unswervingly implement 'one country, two systems' and make sure it is fully applied in Hong Kong without being bent or distorted, he says.

The President swears in the new Chief Executive, Mrs Carrie Lam, and the Principal Officials of the fifth-term HKSAR Government at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre. In her inauguration speech, Mrs Lam pledges to implement the 'one country, two systems' principle, uphold the Basic Law, defend the rule of law, and promote a deep and positive relationship between the CPG and the HKSAR.

Witnessed by the President, the Chairman of the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), Mr He Lifeng; the Chief Executive of the HKSAR; the Governor of Guangdong Province, Mr Ma Xingrui; and the Chief Executive of the Macao SAR, Mr Chui Sai-on, sign the Framework Agreement on Deepening Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Cooperation in the Development of the Bay Area in Hong Kong. The agreement provides that the objective of cooperation is to implement 'one country, two systems' fully and accurately, improve and innovate the cooperation mechanism, establish a mutually complementary cooperation relationship, and jointly take forward the development of the bay area.

The President visits the construction site of the HZMB Hong Kong Link Road project. He is briefed on the HZMB Hong Kong section and the Three-runway System at the airport before departing Hong Kong.

The Air Pollution Control (Vehicle Design Standards) (Emission) (Amendment) Regulation 2017 starts tightening emission standards from Euro V to Euro VI for most types of newly registered vehicles in phases.

The eligibility age for the Elderly Health Care Voucher Scheme is lowered from 70 to 65, covering about 400,000 more people.

2-6 Hong Kong achieves its best results to date at the World Jump Rope Championship, winning 31 golds, 21 silvers and 19 bronzes in Florida.

3 The Bond Connect is launched, enabling eligible overseas investors to access, for the first time, the Mainland interbank bond market through financial infrastructural links set up between the Mainland and overseas bond markets.

4 The investment quota for the Renminbi Qualified Foreign Institutional Investor scheme is raised from RMB270 billion to RMB500 billion following State Council approval. The scheme allows qualified Hong Kong financial institutions to use RMB funds raised in Hong Kong, subject to the quota, to invest in Mainland securities markets.

Customs seizes about 7 tonnes of ivory tusks with an estimated market value of about \$70 million in a container from Malaysia in Kwai Chung, a record haul according to the database of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, which registers seizures of elephant specimens that have occurred anywhere in the world since 1989.

- 5 The Chief Executive attends the Chief Executive's question and answer session at LegCo for the first time after assuming office. She announces a \$3.6 billion package of measures as new education resources.
- 7 A carrier battle group consisting of the first national aircraft carrier, the *Liaoning*, two destroyers and a frigate berths at Hong Kong for the first time. The four vessels stay for five days, receiving over 36,400 visitors on board in a series of open days.
- 11 Hong Kong hosts the inaugural International Civil Aviation Organisation Traveller Identification Programme Regional Seminar, highlighting the city's active role in safeguarding global aviation safety. The seminar was officiated by the organisation's Secretary General, Dr Fang Liu.
- 13 The Apology Ordinance is enacted to encourage the making of apologies in order to prevent disputes from escalating and facilitate amicable resolutions.
- 14 The Court of First Instance rules that the oaths purportedly taken in October 2016 by four LegCo members, Ms Lau Siu-lai, Mr Yiu Chung-yim, Mr Law Kwun-chung and Mr Leung Kwok-hung, contravene the Basic Law and the Oaths and Declarations Ordinance, and are invalid. Ms Lau and Mr Leung later appeal to the Court of Appeal against the ruling of the Court of First Instance. Up to the year end, the hearing date of the appeal has not been fixed yet.
- 19 LegCo approves an increase of \$2.253 billion in recurrent expenditure in 2017-18 for the implementation of priority initiatives to support quality education with effect from the 2017-18 school and academic years.
- 19, 22 The English Premier League Asia Trophy returns to Hong Kong after four years, with Liverpool, Leicester City, Crystal Palace and West Bromwich Albion competing for the trophy at Hong Kong Stadium.
- 20 The Anti-Deception Coordination Centre of the police's Commercial Crime Bureau is established to consolidate all relevant efforts of the force in fighting and preventing scams, including phone and email fraud.
- 20-23 The Hong Kong Masters, the territory's first event sanctioned by World Snooker, is held at Queen Elizabeth Stadium, featuring seven of the world's top 10 players.
- 23 A 'stop-and-go' electronic payment system at the Shing Mun Tunnels starts allowing toll payment via Octopus and contactless credit cards issued by local banks, including Visa, Mastercard and UnionPay, on top of the existing Autotoll and cash transactions. The system is rolled out at the Aberdeen Tunnel, Cross-Harbour Tunnel and Lantau Link by the year end.

- 25 The government announces a proposed 'Three-step Process' to take forward the co-location arrangement of Hong Kong and Mainland customs, immigration and quarantine procedures at the West Kowloon Station of the Hong Kong Section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link. The Secretary for Justice says the legal arrangements allowing co-location will be consistent with the 'one country, two systems' policy and the Basic Law. Passengers will complete both Hong Kong and Mainland clearance procedures in one go before boarding a train. A quarter of the station, covering 109,000 square metres, will become the Mainland Port Area and be regarded as lying outside Hong Kong for the purposes of application of laws and delineation of jurisdiction.

August

- 1 Bishop Michael Yeung Ming-cheung, 71, takes office as Hong Kong's eighth diocesan bishop, succeeding Cardinal John Tong Hon, 78, who retires on the same day. The Holy See raised the Catholic Church in Hong Kong to the status of a diocese in 1946.
- 2-4 The Chief Executive embarks on her first overseas trip in the capacity of Chief Executive. She calls on the Emeritus Senior Minister, Mr Goh Chok Tong, and the Prime Minister, Mr Lee Hsien Loong, in Singapore separately. In Bangkok, she meets the Prime Minister, Mr Prayut Chan-o-cha, to explore areas for further cooperation.
- 4 The government announces a Non-means-tested Subsidy Scheme for Self-financing Undergraduate Studies in Hong Kong, which grants \$30,000 to cover eligible full-time self-financing locally accredited local and non-local undergraduate and top-up degree programmes at 15 institutions with effect from the 2017-18 academic year.
A non-means-tested annual subsidy of \$5,000 is launched under the Mainland University Study Subsidy Scheme for eligible students pursuing undergraduate studies at designated Mainland institutions from 2017-18 and do not receive the means-tested subsidy of \$15,000 or \$7,500.
- 5 Ms Ng On-yeek cruises to victory at the World 6-Reds and Team Snooker Championship for women in Hurgada, Egypt.
Oil patches are sighted on the sea and at beaches in Islands District and Southern District after two vessels collided in Mainland waters southwest of Hong Kong. Thirteen beaches are closed and about 212 tonnes of palm stearin are collected in an interdepartmental cleanup.
- 6-9 The Chief Executive pays her first visit to Beijing in her capacity as Chief Executive and calls on 16 central ministries and organisations, achieving fruitful results.
- 9 Minibuses with 19 seats debut in Sai Kung, Tai Po and Southern District, upgraded from 16 seats after LegCo enacted the Road Traffic (Amendment) Ordinance 2017 in July.
- 10 JPC @ Pat Heung in Yuen Long opens. The campsite provides large-scale indoor and outdoor training facilities for the Junior Police Call, Senior Police Call, youth groups and ethnic minorities.
- 11 'Eternal Life – Exploring Ancient Egypt', which opened on 2 June at the Hong Kong Science Museum, receives its 500,000th visitor.

- 14 The first Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Hong Kong is unveiled, comprising 20 items, to provide a basis for prioritising resources and safeguarding measures.
- 15 Under a New Parking Meter System Trial Scheme, 20 new parking meters, covering about 60 parking spaces in Sai Kung and Wan Chai, begin to accept fee payment through contactless credit cards issued by local banks, including Visa, MasterCard and UnionPay, in addition to Octopus.
- 17 The Wi-Fi.HK pilot Public-Private Collaboration project is rolled out at government venues, offering free public Wi-Fi through private service providers. A new Wi-Fi service is also launched at the youth service centres and study rooms of non-profit-making organisations through a government subsidy scheme to facilitate internet learning by students outside schools.
- 19-30 Hong Kong breaks its medal record at the biennial Summer Universiade in Taipei, with Ms Siobhan Bernadette Haughey adding a pair of golds in the 100m and 200m freestyle to the city's two bronzes in tennis and wushu. Hong Kong's previous best showing was in Belgrade in 2009, with two golds. The first games were held in 1923.
- 20 Mr Jason Hak Shun-yat triumphs at the Yunnan Championship in Kunming with a 10-stroke lead and 22-under par, Hong Kong's first victory in the China Tour series, which started in 2014.
- 22 Ahead of the arrival of Super Typhoon Hato, temperatures at the Observatory soar to 36.6 degrees, breaking the previous record of 36.3 degrees, logged on 8 August 2015 under the effect of Severe Typhoon Soudelor near Taiwan.
- 23 Hato whips up gusts as strong as 193km/h, triggering the Hurricane Signal No 10 after Vicente in 2012, York in 1999 and Ellen in 1983. The approach of Hato coincides with high tides, bringing floods to coastal areas including Tai O, Shek Pik, Mui Wo, Cheung Chau, Heng Fa Chuen, Siu Sai Wan, Lei Yue Mun, Tseung Kwan O, Sha Tin, Tai Po, Sai Kung, Yuen Long and Lau Fau Shan. It is followed within five days by Pakhar, warranting the fourth No 8 tropical cyclone signal of the year. By the year end, the No 8 signal has been issued five times, equalling the records of 1964 and 1999.
- 25 The Court of Final Appeal dismisses applications by two LegCo members-elect, Mr Leung Chung-hang and Ms Yau Wai-ching, for leave to appeal against the Court of First Instance's ruling that the oaths they purportedly took in 2016 contravened the Basic Law and the Oaths and Declarations Ordinance and were invalid. This court decision comes after the Court of Appeal on 16 January rejected the pair's applications for leave to appeal to the Court of Final Appeal.
- 26 Badminton athletes Ms Chau Hoi-wah and Mr Lee Chun-hei win Hong Kong's first doubles medal at the BWF World Championships in Glasgow, with a bronze in mixed doubles. The championships started in 1977.

September

- 1 Football striker Ms Cheung Wai-ki signs with Brisbane Roar for the Westfield W-League 2017-18 season, the first Hong Kong player to join the Australian elite women's club football competition.
- 1-8 Track cyclist Mr Leung Chun-wing and the team of Ms Pang Yao and Ms Yang Qianyu garner gold medals at the quadrennial National Games in Tianjin. Hong Kong collects two golds, seven silvers and seven bronzes altogether in cycling, karatedo, fencing, swimming and equestrian, the city's best results since it first took part in 1997.
- 3 Digital audio broadcasting (DAB) goes off the air, with Radio Television Hong Kong closing its five DAB channels upon the Chief Executive in Council's decision in March to discontinue such services. The government granted licences to three commercial DAB operators in 2011.
- 4 Hannah Tam Wan-ching, 12, tops the under-15 category of Germany's International Competition for Violin, Hong Kong's first victory since the competition debuted in 1987. She also clinches the Baroque special prize in that category.
- 4-9 A team of eight Hong Kong students wins two golds and six silvers at the 2nd International Olympiad of Metropolises in Moscow, a competition for students aged 14 to 18 covering mathematics, informatics, chemistry and physics.
- 8 Hong Kong's resident population is projected to rise from 7.34 million in mid-2016 to peak at 8.22 million in 2043, then drop to 7.72 million in mid-2066, according to an updated set of projections covering the 50 years from 2017 to 2066.
- 15 The Chief Executive visits Myanmar, the first official trip to the country by an HKSAR Chief Executive. She meets the State Counsellor, Union Minister in the President's Office and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of Myanmar, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.
- 16-27 Ms Sarah Lee completes a golden hat trick at the Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, holding sway in women's keirin, sprint and team sprint with Ms Li Yin-yin. The others who bring gold-medal glory to Hong Kong are fellow track cyclists Mr Leung Chun-wing and Ms Diao Xiaojuan, hurdler Ms Lui Lai-yiu, swimmers Ms Stephanie Au Hoi-shun and Ms Chan Kin-lok, and the women's 4x50m and 4x100m medley relay teams. The city records 10 golds, 11 silvers and 14 bronzes.
- 19 Eligible online-only media outlets are admitted into the government's news and media distribution list, joining traditional print and electronic media on an equal footing.
- 21 An Action Plan for Enhancing Drinking Water Safety in Hong Kong is launched following the discovery of excess lead in drinking water in 2015. Random water samples will be collected from drinking taps to test for six metals with a view to adopting standards beyond World Health Organisation guidelines.
- The Chief Executive announces the launch of the Strategic Dialogue on Trade Partnership with the United Kingdom to lay a solid foundation for future collaboration through discussions on trade issues of mutual interest.
- 27 Hong Kong leaps three places to rank sixth in the World Economic Forum's *Global Competitiveness Report 2017-18*.

- 28 The Fraser Institute once again recognises Hong Kong as the freest economy in the world in its *Economic Freedom of the World: 2017 Annual Report*.
- 29 The IA launches two pilot initiatives, Insurtech Sandbox and Fast Track, to promote the use of new technologies in Hong Kong's insurance sector. The former facilitates pilot runs of innovative insurtech applications by authorised insurers, while the latter provides a dedicated queue for new authorisation applications from insurers using solely digital distribution channels.
- 30 The allowable minimum wage for foreign domestic helpers rises from \$4,310 to \$4,410 per month under job contracts signed on or after this day. The monthly food allowance given in lieu of free food increases by \$16 to not less than \$1,053.
- 31 The city wraps up the warmest September on record with a monthly average temperature of 29 degrees, 1.3 degrees above normal.

October

- 1 The Chief Executive addresses the National Day reception held by the HKSAR Government, which she attends in the capacity of Chief Executive for the first time. She says she has been deeply impressed by the strength bestowed upon Hong Kong by the country and the immense opportunities lying before the SAR.
- 3 Ms Liu Xuxu, Ms He Jianxin, Ms Zheng Tianhui and Ms Chen Suijin win a total of five golds at the World Wushu Championships in Kazan, Russia.
- 7 Mr Rex Tso prevails over Mr Kohei Kono of Japan at the Clash of Champions 3 in Hong Kong, retaining his WBO international super flyweight title while extending his winning streak to 22 victories.
- 10 Self-service Smart Departure e-Channels are introduced at the airport for visitors aged 11 or above holding eligible electronic travel documents. The system uses facial recognition technology to verify identities. It is extended on 18 December to the control points at Lo Wu, Lok Ma Chau Spur Line, Hung Hom, Shenzhen Bay, Lok Ma Chau, Man Kam To, Sha Tau Kok, China Ferry Terminal, Hong Kong-Macao Ferry Terminal, Tuen Mun Ferry Terminal and Kai Tak Cruise Terminal.
- 11 The Chief Executive delivers her first Policy Address. Themed 'We Connect for Hope and Happiness', the Policy Address explains the philosophy of governance for various policies and puts forward innovative measures with new perspectives to solve economic and livelihood issues of public concern.
- 12 The territory lives through the last of a record 41 hot nights, when the mercury drops no lower than 28 degrees.
- 21 Mr Wong Kar-wai receives the Lumière Award in Lyon, France, the first Chinese filmmaker to be so honoured since the award's inception in 2009.
- 22 Ms Tse Ying-suet and Mr Tang Chun-man become Hong Kong's first badminton mixed doubles champions in the Denmark Super Series Premier, established in 2007.
- 23-27 Ms Ng Mui-wui sweeps seven golds in the World Table Tennis Championships of the International Federation for Athletes with Intellectual Impairments in Hradec Králové, Czech Republic.

- 25 The General Secretary of the CPC Central Committee, Mr Xi Jinping, says in his report to the 19th National Congress of the CPC that the central government will continue to support Hong Kong in integrating its own development into the overall development of the country.
- The Ministry of Finance issues US\$2 billion of US-dollar sovereign bonds, with five- and 10-year tenors, the first such issuance in Hong Kong after its return to China.
- Sophia, designed by Hong Kong company Hanson Robotics, is granted Saudi citizenship, the first robot to hold citizenship in any country.
- 27 The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and Macao Special Administrative Region CEPA is signed, providing enhanced legal certainty to market access or treatment in each other's territory.
- Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing closes the securities market's trading hall, in operation since 1986, ending 126 years of floor trading in the city. The premises are to reopen in the first quarter of 2018 to showcase Hong Kong's financial markets.
- 30 Ms Ng On-yeo pulls off back-to-back world titles in a month, first reigning at the UK Women's Championship for the third time in Leeds, then netting her maiden Eden Women's Masters victory in Gloucester. Ms Mini Chu Pui-ying triumphs over Ms Ho Yee-ki in an all-Hong-Kong final at the Masters to lift the Challenge Cup.

November

- 1 The Viva Blue House, revitalised from the Blue House Cluster in Wan Chai by St James' Settlement, becomes Hong Kong's first built heritage conservation project to receive the top honour of Award of Excellence in the 2017 Unesco Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation. The three tenement buildings were constructed between the 1920s and 1950s and restored under the Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme, begun in 2008.
- 4 The NPC Standing Committee adds the Law of the People's Republic of China on National Anthem to Annex III of the Basic Law. The National Anthem Law will be applied in the HKSAR by way of appropriate local legislation consistent with the territory's constitutional and legal regime.
- 7 Hong Kong wins a Global Safety Achievement Award in recognition of its contributions in improving aviation safety over the last 12 months. It is the city's first award from the Civil Air Navigation Services Organisation, which says the Civil Aviation Department's Air Traffic Management System, fully commissioned in November 2016, contains new safety features to improve safety and increase efficiency in the Hong Kong flight information region.
- 9-12 The Chief Executive attends the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) 2017 Economic Leaders' Meeting and other related meetings in Da Nang, Vietnam, for the first time in her capacity as Chief Executive in support of the promotion of free trade and inclusive development.

- 10 The Chief Executive attends the APEC Women Political Leaders Roundtable, which aims to strengthen ties amongst women leaders in the Asia-Pacific. She shares with the women leaders, including the President of Chile, Ms Veronica Michelle Bachelet Jeria, and the Prime Minister of New Zealand, Ms Jacinda Ardern, her governing experience and the work on promoting equal opportunities for women.
- Ms Chung Yuen-ping, Ms Justine Charissa Ng, Ms Tong Nga-ting and Ms Yu Chui-yeet grab a gold in the epee female team event of the International Wheelchair and Amputee Sports Federation's Wheelchair Fencing World Championships in Rome.
- 11 A Briton, Mr Simon Holliday, completes a 45km, 12.5-hour swim round Hong Kong Island, the first since 1976.
- 12 The Chief Executive says in her meeting with the Prime Minister of Australia, Mr Malcolm Turnbull, at the airport that she is pleased that, following the launch of Free Trade Agreement negotiations between Hong Kong and Australia in May, both sides have been working together proactively to take the close trade and investment relations to new heights.
- Hong Kong forges a Free Trade Agreement and a related Investment Agreement with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.
- 17 The Chief Secretary for Administration says the Low-income Working Family Allowance, to be renamed Working Family Allowance Scheme, has lifted 22,900 non-Comprehensive Social Security Assistance recipients out of poverty since its launch in May 2016, in an annual analysis by the Commission on Poverty.
- 18 Hong Kong and the Mainland sign the Cooperation Arrangement between the Mainland and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region on the Establishment of the Port at the West Kowloon Station of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link for Implementing Co-location Arrangement, following LegCo's passage of a non-binding motion on 15 November. This is the first step of the 'Three-step Process' to take forward the co-location arrangement.
- 20 Ms Chan Hei-man reaps a gold in the RS:X women's event at the Asian Windsurfing Championship in Penghu.
- 26 Mr Chu Man-kai and Mr Wong Chun-yim top the SS6 men's doubles event at the Badminton World Federation's Para-Badminton World Championships in Ulsan, South Korea.
- 28 The HKSAR Government signs the Agreement between the Mainland and Hong Kong Special Administrative Region on Enhancing the Arrangement for Closer Cultural Relations and the Agreement on Exchange and Closer Cooperation Arrangements in the Area of Cultural Heritage with the Ministry of Culture and the State Administration of Cultural Heritage respectively.

December

- 1 The Communications Authority creates a new licensing regime for the provision of wireless internet of things platforms and services, to prepare Hong Kong for the era of internet of things, fifth-generation mobile services and smart city applications.

Foster care allowances are raised by more than 20 per cent, including a monthly \$6,010 for the child's maintenance and a monthly \$4,508 for the foster parents, to better support families in need and to recruit more foster families. An extra \$1,502 a month is introduced to encourage the fostering of children under three. The service provides residential family care for children below 18 who do not receive adequate care from their own families.
- 2-3 The 2017 FIA Formula E Hong Kong E-Prix, the first double-header Formula E race in Asia, takes place in the Central Harbourfront area.
- 3 The Chief Executive visits Saudi Arabia and calls on HM King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, King of Saudi Arabia, to strengthen ties with the Arab state.

Mr Au Chun-ming, Mr Lee Ho-yin, Mr Tang Ming-hong and Mr Yip Tsz-fung secure Hong Kong's first medal in the Men's World Team Championship of the World Squash Federation, with a bronze in Marseille. The championship debuted in 1967.

Ms Tiffany Chan Tsz-ching is the first Hong Kong golfer to join the Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA) Tour, finishing second at Florida's qualifying tournament, in which the top 20 earn their LPGA cards. She begins her rookie season in the Bahamas in January 2018.
- 4 The tenpin bowling team lands its first gold in the World Bowling Championships in Las Vegas, begun in 1854. Mr Wu Siu-hong, Mr Michael Mak and Mr Eric Tseng triumph at the Men's Trios event.
- 5 The first self-service library station opens in Sai Wan Ho, carrying about 300 Chinese and English books. Users can borrow and return library materials, pick up reserved materials and pay library fees with the Octopus card on their own round the clock.
- 7 Hong Kong signs its second five-year Letter of Intent on Cultural Exchange and Cooperation with the Palace Museum, after the first agreement inked in 2012, taking cultural heritage collaboration to 2022. The extension allows both sides to exhibit more of the Palace Museum's artefacts in the territory, launch education and extension programmes including internships for young people, and set up joint training of museum professionals.
- 10-13 The Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Mr Edward Yau Tang-wah, is one of three Vice-Chairs at the World Trade Organisation's 11th Ministerial Conference in Buenos Aires.
- 12 The number of dual-plate cross-boundary Hong Kong private cars permitted to travel to the Mainland via the HZMB is raised to 10,000 following a flood of applications for the initial quota of 3,000, announced in August.
- 14 The Chief Executive signs the Arrangement between the NDRC and the Government of the HKSAR for Advancing Hong Kong's Full Participation in and Contribution to the Belt and Road Initiative with the NDRC Chairman in Beijing. The arrangement puts

forward specific measures focusing on six key areas, namely finance and investment, infrastructure and maritime services, economic and trade facilitation, people-to-people bonds, the bay area development, and collaboration in project interfacing and dispute resolution services. It also serves as a blueprint for Hong Kong's further participation in the Belt and Road Initiative.

The HKSAR signs arrangements with the Mainland on the reciprocal notification mechanism regarding the imposition of criminal compulsory measures on and the institution of criminal prosecution or unnatural deaths of residents of the other side within its own territory. Notification time frames are set for the first time and other measures are introduced to improve the notification content, scope and channel. The arrangements take effect on 1 February 2018.

- 15 The Chief Executive meets the President and the Premier separately on her first duty visit to Beijing in the capacity of Chief Executive to brief the state leaders on the latest economic, social and political situation in Hong Kong.

LegCo passes two resolutions to amend provisions of the Rules of Procedure related to, among others, petitions, quorum in a committee of the whole council, and the handling of motions and amendments.

The Smart City Blueprint for Hong Kong maps out development plans in the next five years to enhance city management and improve quality of living through innovation and technology.

- 17 Ms Tse Ying-suet and Mr Tang Chun-man clinch a silver in Hong Kong's first badminton mixed doubles victory in the Dubai World Superseries Finals, launched in 2008.

- 20 China Development Bank debuts its Belt and Road bond in Hong Kong to finance projects across Belt and Road countries.

- 26 Two research studies led by Faculty of Medicine professors at the Chinese University of Hong Kong are among the 10 most notable articles of 2017 selected by the *New England Journal of Medicine* in Massachusetts, and are the only studies on the list headed by Asia-based researchers. 'Osimertinib or Platinum-Pemetrexed in EGFR T790M-Positive Lung Cancer', led by Professor Tony Mok, explores treatment for patients whose cancer genes further mutate and develop resistance after first-line therapy, while 'Analysis of Plasma Epstein-Barr Virus DNA to Screen for Nasopharyngeal Cancer', led by Professor Allen Chan and Professor Dennis Lo, demonstrates circulating DNA analysis is a powerful non-invasive tool to screen for cancer patients at significantly earlier stages.

- 27 The NPC Standing Committee approves the Cooperation Arrangement between the Mainland and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region on the Establishment of the Port at the West Kowloon Station of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link for Implementing Co-location Arrangement. This signifies the second step in the 'Three-step Process' to provide a firm legal basis for the implementation of the co-location arrangement at West Kowloon Station.

- 28 The Central Government Offices' (CGO) East Wing Forecourt is reopened for vehicular access to the CGO and pedestrian access to the CGO and LegCo complex, and as a passenger pick-up and drop-off point for the CGO. It is closed to general access from 11pm to 6am daily. Members of the public may apply to use the forecourt for public meetings or processions on Sundays and public holidays.
- 31 The Exchange Fund records a full-year investment income of \$264 billion, nearly four times the \$68.1 billion made last year. This takes the total assets of the fund to \$4 trillion, an increase of \$396.6 billion over end-2016.