

Calendar of Events 2018

January

- 6 Ms Teresa Cheng Yeuk-wah, SC, assumes duty as the Secretary for Justice following the departure of Mr Rimsky Yuen Kwok-keung, SC, from the post.
- 8 At the ceremonial opening of the legal year, the Chief Justice of the Court of Final Appeal, Mr Geoffrey Ma Tao-li, says it is healthy that members of the community take an interest in the operation of the law, in the administration of justice and in all aspects of the rule of law in Hong Kong. It is essential that any comments that may be made about the work of the Judiciary, whether seemingly positive or negative, should be done on an informed basis, he says.
- 19 Hong Kong, represented by the Scallywag sailing team, wins the Melbourne-Hong Kong leg of the 11-leg triennial Volvo Ocean Race that takes seven teams across 45,000 nautical miles in four oceans, the longest since the event's inaugural 1973-74 edition. The city joins for the first time as a race participant and a host city, setting up a Race Village in Kai Tak to hold the Hong Kong Stopover.
- 20 Cyclists Leung Chun-wing and Cheung King-lok win the men's madison team event in the fifth of the six-leg 2017-18 Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI) Track Cycling World Cup series in Minsk, Belarus.
- 22-26 The Chief Executive, Mrs Carrie Lam, visits Switzerland and attends the World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting in Davos for the first time in her capacity as Chief Executive. She meets the Vice-President of the Swiss Federal Council and Finance Minister, Mr Ueli Maurer, in Bern; and the United Kingdom Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr Philip Hammond; the WEF Founder and Executive Chairman, Professor Klaus Schwab; and the Director General of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), Mr Roberto Azevêdo, in Davos.
- 23 The International Monetary Fund (IMF) commends Hong Kong in a Staff Report for being well placed to navigate both external and domestic challenges, given the strong policy frameworks and ample buffers, including strong fiscal reserves and robust regulatory frameworks. The IMF underlines its continued support for the Linked Exchange Rate System, which links the Hong Kong dollar (HKD) to the US dollar (USD) at the rate of about HK\$7.80 to US\$1.
- 26 The Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Mr Edward Yau Tang-wah, says at the WTO Informal Ministerial Gathering in Davos that Hong Kong will continue to work closely with WTO members to bring unfinished business to fruition and to pursue other initiatives that can reinvigorate the WTO.

The city's first low-floor, wheelchair-accessible public light bus begins a trial operation between Kennedy Town Station and Queen Mary Hospital.

February

- 2 Hong Kong is ranked the world's freest economy for the 24th year in a row by the US-based Heritage Foundation.
- 6 Mr Wong Chi-fung, Mr Law Kwun-chung and Mr Alex Chow Yong-kang win their appeals in the Court of Final Appeal against jail sentences substituted by the Court of Appeal in August 2017 over an unlawful assembly two days before the start of an 'Occupy Movement' protest in 2014. The Court of Final Appeal emphasises, however, that future offenders involved in violent, large-scale unlawful assemblies will be subject to the Court of Appeal's new guidelines. It says the Court of Appeal was right to send the message that violent unlawful assemblies will not be condoned and may warrant jailing, and that little weight will be given to the mitigation that the offending act was committed in the exercise of constitutional rights or acts of civil disobedience because a conviction necessarily means the offender has crossed the line separating the lawful exercise of his constitutional rights from unlawful activity.
- For the first time, Hong Kong has three universities – the University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) and Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) – in the top 10 of the Times Higher Education Asia University Rankings, making it also the most represented territory in the top 10.
- 9-25 Skier Arabella Ng becomes the first Hong Kong athlete at an Olympic snow event, competing in the slalom and giant slalom events at the Winter Games in Pyeongchang, Korea.
- 13 The Court of First Instance rules in an election petition lodged by Mr Chan Hotin against the 2016 Legislative Council General Election that the declaration requirement to support the Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC) and pledge allegiance to the HKSAR is a substantive legal requirement and a precondition for candidature instead of a requirement in formality, and that returning officers, in accordance with the Legislative Council Ordinance and the relevant subsidiary legislation, are entitled to look at various materials relating to a candidate's objective intention and to ask questions in order to determine whether the candidate has complied with the declaration requirement substantively. The court also rules that the Electoral Affairs Commission is entitled and empowered to issue the non-mandatory Confirmation Form asking a candidate to furnish the information requested therein to assist the returning officer in deciding on the validity of a nomination.
- 17-18 Cyclist Sarah Lee Wai-sze wins a gold medal for the seventh time in the Asian Track Championships women's 500m time trial in Malaysia and also defends her title in the women's sprint.
- 20 Snooker player Ng On-yeek makes history as the first Asian woman to be No 1 in the World Ladies Billiards and Snooker (WLBS) world women's rankings. She remains in top spot throughout the rest of the year.

- 28 The Financial Secretary, Mr Paul Chan Mo-po, delivers the Budget for the 2018-19 financial year, aiming to diversify the economy, invest for the future, and build a caring and sharing society.

March

- 1 The Development Bureau says that from the first quarter of 2018-19, the tender amounts of all unsuccessful submissions under the Land Sale Programme will be published on an anonymous basis after all transaction procedures of the successful bid are completed, to provide more market information and address market interest in land tender results.
- 11 In the first of two LegCo by-elections this year, Mr Gary Fan Kwok-wai, Mr Au Nok-hin, Mr Vincent Cheng Wing-shun and Mr Tony Tse Wai-chuen win seats respectively in the New Territories East, Hong Kong Island and Kowloon West geographical constituencies and the architectural, surveying, planning and landscape functional constituency. A total of 906,557 geographical constituency electors cast votes, a turnout of 43.13 per cent.
- 13 A three-member Independent Review Committee on Hong Kong's Franchised Bus Service, chaired by Mr Justice Michael Victor Lunn, is appointed to examine the operation, management, regulation and monitoring of franchised buses from the safety point of view.
- The Chief Executive in Council grants the Star Ferry Company Limited a new 15-year franchise, starting from 1 April, for the continued operation of the Central-Tsim Sha Tsui and Wan Chai-Tsim Sha Tsui routes.
- 15 To better protect children, a new reporting mechanism requires kindergartens to notify the Education Bureau (EDB) if a student has been absent for seven consecutive school days without a reason or in doubtful circumstances.
- 17 Ms Ng On-yea defends her WLBS World Women's Snooker Championship title in Malta.
- 19 The government's waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) treatment and recycling facility, WEEE • PARK, opens in Tuen Mun to turn waste into reusable materials such as plastics and metals. The facility signifies a major milestone in Hong Kong's sustainable use of resources and supports a producer responsibility scheme on WEEE that comes into full operation on 31 December.
- 21 A high-level Steering Committee to Tackle Trafficking in Persons and to Enhance Protection of Foreign Domestic Helpers in Hong Kong is set up and a comprehensive action plan is promulgated.
- Hong Kong and the UK issue a joint statement on closer collaboration on trade and economic matters following the launch of a Strategic Dialogue on Trade Partnership in 2017.
- 23 The Financial Secretary announces granting up to \$4,000 to each eligible person under the Caring and Sharing Scheme of the Budget to share the fruits of the city's economic success with more people in the community.

- 28 LegCo passes the Medical Registration (Amendment) Bill 2017 to improve the Medical Council of Hong Kong's complaint investigation and disciplinary inquiry mechanism, increase lay membership in the council and enable it to approve applications of non-locally trained doctors for limited registration for a period from not exceeding one year to not exceeding three years.
- 31 The month is marked by 196.2 hours of bright sunshine, the most since records began in 1885 and more than twice the norm of 90.8 hours for March.

April

- 1 Two high-level bodies chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration, Mr Matthew Cheung Kin-chung, each begins its first two-year tenure. The Youth Development Commission, with Mr Lau Ming-wai as Vice-Chairman and 34 non-official and eight ex-officio members, incorporates the Home Affairs Bureau's Commission on Youth and is the first government committee with young members appointed through the Pilot Member Self-recommendation Scheme for Youth. The Human Resources Planning Commission has 20 non-official and 13 ex-officio members.
- The Working Family Allowance Scheme is rolled out to implement improvements to the Low-income Working Family Allowance Scheme, including extending the scheme to singleton households, allowing households to aggregate working hours and relaxing income requirements.
- 2 Ms Kaylin Hsieh Sin-yan, 16, wins the Junior and Cadets World Fencing Championships girls' under-17 épée finals in Verona, Italy, becoming Hong Kong's third junior fencing champion and securing her entry to the Youth Olympic Games in Buenos Aires in October.
- 9 The HKSAR Acting Chief Executive, Mr Matthew Cheung, meets the Prime Minister of the Netherlands, Mr Mark Rutte, at Government House.
- 10 The Chief Executive attends the opening of the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference in Hainan and meets the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mr Shahid Khaqan Abbasi.
- 12 The weak-side Convertibility Undertaking of HK\$7.85 against the USD is triggered for the first time since its introduction in 2005, with the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) using USD to buy HK\$816 million from the market.
- 13 The Chief Executive meets the First Minister of Scotland, Ms Nicola Sturgeon, at the Chief Executive's Office.
- The Beijing-Hong Kong University Alliance is set up under the auspices of the Ministry of Education and the Education Bureau of the HKSAR, with Peking University and the HKUST as the leading members. This is followed by the establishment of the Shanghai-Hong Kong University Alliance on 6 November.
- 20-22 Thirty-two LegCo members conduct their first duty visit to the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area after the Framework Agreement on Deepening Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Cooperation in the Development of the Greater Bay Area in Hong Kong was signed in July 2017.

Calendar of Events

2018

- 24-26 The Chief Executive visits Indonesia and meets the President of Indonesia, Mr Joko Widodo.
- 30 The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong implements new rules to broaden its listing regime and allow companies in emerging and innovative sectors to apply for a listing.

May

- 1 The Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants (Amendment) Ordinance 2018 comes into force to phase out the local ivory trade and increase the maximum penalties on smuggling and illegal trade in endangered species to a \$10 million fine and 10 years' imprisonment.
- 14 The Ministry of Science and Technology and the Ministry of Finance promulgate provisions on opening up science and technology funding from the Central People's Government (CPG) for application by higher education institutions and research institutions in Hong Kong, in response to an important instruction given by President Xi Jinping that affirms Hong Kong's solid science and technology foundation and large pool of quality technology talent, and recognises the significant contributions made by Hong Kong's science and technology sector to the development of the city and the country. Universities and research institutions may apply for state funding, previously available only to Mainland scientists, and use the funding in Hong Kong under the new arrangement.
- The Chief Executive attends the 74th session of the United Nations (UN) Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok.
- 24 Hong Kong ranks second globally in the Swiss-based International Institute for Management Development's *World Competitiveness Yearbook 2018*.
- The EDB announces revised curriculum frameworks for Junior Secondary Chinese History and History to help students develop a holistic understanding of Chinese historical development and to broaden their international perspectives by studying the histories of other places.
- 25 Tai Kwun – Centre for Heritage and Arts opens after the revitalisation of the Central Police Station compound, comprising the former Central Police Station, Central Magistracy and Victoria Prison.
- 31 The city experiences its warmest May on record with 16 very hot days and six hot nights, registering daily maximum and minimum temperatures of at least 33 and 28 degrees Celsius respectively. The Very Hot Weather Warning is in force for more than 320 hours, the longest since it was introduced in 2000.

June

- 1 The new Commission on Children starts its two-year term, with the Chief Secretary for Administration as Chairman, the Secretary for Labour and Welfare, Dr Law Chi-kwong, as Vice-Chairman, and 21 non-official and nine ex-officio members.

Calendar of Events

2018

Fines for five congestion-related traffic offences under the Fixed Penalty (Criminal Proceedings) Ordinance increase 25 per cent to \$400 and \$560, the first such changes since 1994.

The Higher Old Age Living Allowance is launched to provide \$3,485 a month to eligible elderly people with more financial needs while the current allowance, of \$2,600, is renamed Normal Old Age Living Allowance.

- 2 Hong Kong beats Korea 39-5 on home ground to claim its first Asia Rugby Championship title.
- 14 LegCo passes the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link (Co-location) Bill after conducting over 60 hours of discussion of the bill, including two public hearing sessions. The completion of the 'Three-step Process' provides a sound legal basis for the implementation of the co-location arrangement at Hong Kong West Kowloon Station.
- 14-16 The Chief Executive visits Europe. She has an audience with HM King Philippe of the Belgians and meets the President of the European Commission, Mr Jean-Claude Juncker, in Belgium and the French Prime Minister, Mr Edouard Philippe, in France.
- 15 The Green Bond Grant Scheme is launched to subsidise eligible green bond issuers to obtain certification under the Green Finance Certification Scheme, established by the Hong Kong Quality Assurance Agency on 3 January to provide third-party conformity assessments for issuers on their green financial instruments with reference to international and national standards on green finance.
- 15-20 The Highways Department expresses deep concern and dismay about supervision problems in the building of a reinforced concrete wall at To Kwa Wan Station of the Shatin to Central Link project, and about the contractor's excavation at Exhibition Centre Station exceeding the allowable depth, a situation that the MTR Corporation allowed to persist for a prolonged period. The construction of a platform in the Hung Hom Station extension is referred to the police.
- 17-19 Ms Vivian Kong Man-wai becomes Hong Kong's first woman to win a gold at the Asian Fencing Championships, triumphing in the women's épée individual event in Bangkok. Mr Cheung Siu-lun wins the men's foil individual event.
- 25 A three-year pilot Technology Talent Admission Scheme is introduced to help companies in the Hong Kong Science Park and Cyberport to fast-track the hiring of non-local research and development (R&D) personnel in biotechnology, artificial intelligence, cyber security, robotics, data analytics, financial technology and material science.
- 28 Hong Kong signs a Free Trade Agreement with Georgia, the first with a country in the Caucasus.
- 29 The Chief Executive unveils six housing initiatives, including revising the pricing mechanism for the Home Ownership Scheme and levying special rates, of 200 per

cent the rateable value, on vacant first-hand private-sector flats by amending the Rating Ordinance.

July

- 3 The Chief Executive in Council approves the new development plans of CLP Power Hong Kong Limited and Castle Peak Power Company Limited, covering 1 October 2018 to 31 December 2023, and Hongkong Electric Company Limited, covering 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2023.
- 4 The Court of Final Appeal dismisses the Director of Immigration's appeal in a judicial review, lodged by QT, that challenges the director's rejection of her application for entry for residence in Hong Kong as a dependant of her same-sex partner on the grounds that she is not a 'spouse' under the dependant immigration policy. The court holds that, when implementing the policy, the director has to exercise his powers of immigration control in accordance with the principle of equality and for the purpose of which such powers are given, and that the differential treatment between same-sex civil partners and a married couple is not justifiable in the circumstances as there is no rational connection between the policy and the stated twin aims of attracting foreign talent and maintaining strict immigration control.
- 5 An insurance product, the HKMC Annuity Plan, is launched under the auspices of the Hong Kong Mortgage Corporation Limited to guarantee retirees aged 65 or above who pay a single premium a fixed income for the rest of their lives.
- 9 The Hong Kong Housing Society debuts its 'T-Home' Transitional Housing Scheme at the Yue Kwong Chuen rental estate in Aberdeen, providing about 200 flats to eligible applicants who have been queuing for public rental housing for at least three years. The scheme adds to the supply of transitional housing by making use of existing rental flats.
- 9-16 Hong Kong gains 10 golds, four silvers and nine bronzes in the World Junior Wushu Championships in Brasilia, with Mr Lau Chi-lung and Ms Sham Hui-yu each winning two of the golds. On the medal table, the city ranks second out of 43 participating countries and territories.
- 10 A two-member Commission of Inquiry, chaired by a former non-permanent judge of the Court of Final Appeal, Mr Michael John Hartmann, is appointed to look into steel reinforcement works and any other works that raise safety concerns in the construction of diaphragm walls and platform slabs in the Hung Hom Station extension.
- 11 The Asian Aviation Meteorological Centre, established jointly by the Hong Kong Observatory, Civil Aviation Administration of China and China Meteorological Administration, begins operation to provide quality en-route weather information.
- 12 The new Steering Committee on Ethnic Minority Affairs, chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration, is formed to enhance collaboration within the government on strengthening support for the integration of ethnic minorities into society.

- 24 The HKMA and the three note-issuing banks, Standard Chartered Bank (Hong Kong), Bank of China (Hong Kong) and the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, unveil the 2018 banknote series, depicting Hong Kong as a global financial centre, the Hong Kong Unesco Global Geopark, Cantonese opera, butterflies and yum cha. For the first time, each denomination carries the same graphic theme across all three banks for easy recognition by users. The HK\$1,000 and HK\$500 notes are put into circulation on 12 December 2018 and 23 January 2019 respectively, while the HK\$100, HK\$50 and HK\$20 notes will enter circulation between mid-2019 and early 2020.
- 29 The Sai Yeung Choi Street South pedestrian precinct in Mong Kok, designated a part-time pedestrian area in 2000, hosts its final street performances before it is abolished a week later to ease noise and light pollution and street obstruction. The roads reopen for round-the-clock vehicular traffic.
- 30 Fantastic Television Limited, a domestic free-television programme service licensee, launches its English service, Hong Kong International Business Channel.

August

- 9 A steering committee chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration is formed to coordinate and oversee major events organised by the government to mark the 40th anniversary of the reform and opening up of the country.
- 15 The Chief Executive attends the first plenary meeting of the Leading Group for the Development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area as a member in Beijing. The meeting is hosted and convened by the Vice-Premier of the State Council, Mr Han Zheng, to discuss work priorities for the next stage of the Greater Bay Area development.
- 18-Sep 2 Hong Kong excels in the Asian Games with a record haul of 46 medals, comprising eight golds, 18 silvers and 20 bronzes, in Jakarta and Palembang in Indonesia. Equestrian Jacqueline Siu Wing-ying, competing in the individual dressage, and the men's rugby sevens team clinch Hong Kong's first golds in these events, while track cyclist Sarah Lee and gymnast Shek Wai-hung defend their titles respectively in the women's keirin and sprint and the men's vault. The other gold winners are squash player Leo Au Chun-ming in the men's singles; women's squash team Annie Au Wing-chi, Chan Ho-ling, Ho Tsz-lok and Lee Ka-yi; and track cyclists Cheung King-lok and Leung Chun-wing in the men's madison. The medal tally tops the 43 won in Incheon, Korea, in 2014.
- 22 The Technology Talent Scheme is rolled out on a pilot basis for five years to subsidise research organisations in recruiting R&D personnel and training their staff to apply advanced technology to their businesses.
- 28 The government promulgates the first Talent List of Hong Kong, containing 11 professions, to attract quality people from round the world in a focused manner to support the city's development as a high value-added and diversified economy.
- 31 The Chief Executive meets the Federal Chancellor of Austria, Mr Sebastian Kurz, at Government House.

The government says in an initial response to the concluding observations of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on the HKSAR's third report that the Race Discrimination Ordinance is binding on the government and therefore prohibits discriminatory acts of the government in all the areas specified in the ordinance, including employment, education, the provision of goods and the management of premises.

The month of August ends with a record low 116.2 hours of bright sunshine, about 38 per cent lower than the norm of 188.9 hours.

September

- 1 Eligible Hong Kong residents living in the Mainland can start applying for residence permits introduced by the CPG. A residence permit holder is entitled to enjoy a range of rights, basic public services and facilitation measures covering employment, education, medical care and other areas.
- 4 The Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link (Co-location) Ordinance comes into operation today to dovetail with the commissioning of the Hong Kong Section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link (XRL) on 23 September. Mainland personnel begin work at the West Kowloon Station Mainland Port Area. For the purposes of application of laws and delineation of jurisdiction in the Mainland Port Area, the Mainland exercises jurisdiction over non-reserved matters.
- 10 The Air Accident Investigation Authority is established under the Transport and Housing Bureau and independent of the Civil Aviation Department to enhance the impartiality of investigations and comply with new standards issued by the International Civil Aviation Organisation.
- 16 Super Typhoon Mangkhut, one of the most intense tropical cyclones worldwide in 2018, batters Hong Kong. Hurricane Signal No 10 is in force for 10 hours, the second longest since 1946 and just below the record 11 hours set by Typhoon York in 1999. The increase in water level in Victoria Harbour, as recorded at the Quarry Bay tide station, reaches 2.35 metres, breaking Super Typhoon Wanda's record of 1.77 metres in 1962.

Ms Ng On-yeet retains her crown at the UK Women's Snooker Championship in Leeds.
- 20 The Hong Kong Forum: 60th Anniversary of the New York Convention, co-organised by the Department of Justice, UN Commission on International Trade Law and Asian Academy of International Law, takes place to mark 60 years of the operation of the convention. The forum reviews the application of the convention over the last six decades and discusses the implications of mediation on the future of investment arbitration, highlighting Hong Kong's role as a centre for international legal and dispute resolution services.
- 23 The 26km Hong Kong Section of the XRL begins services. It connects Hong Kong to the national high-speed rail network of over 29,000km, with direct trains to 44 destinations including Beijing, Shanghai, Xiamen and Wuhan.

- Hong Kong's laureate of the 2009 Nobel Prize in Physics, the third Vice-Chancellor of the CUHK and the 'Father of Fibre Optics', Professor Sir Charles Kao Kuen, dies aged 84.
- 24 The Secretary for Security prohibits the operation of Hong Kong National Party under the Societies Ordinance in the interests of national security, public safety, public order, and the protection of the rights and freedoms of others.
- 26 Hong Kong is once again ranked the freest economy in the world by the Canadian-based Fraser Institute, retaining the top position since 1996.
- 29 The minimum monthly wage for foreign domestic helpers rises from \$4,410 to \$4,520 for contracts signed from this day.
- 30 The HKMA launches the Faster Payment System, which allows users to transfer money across different participating banks and stored-value facilities. It supports instant payment in both the HKD and the Renminbi (RMB) round the clock, and the use of a mobile number or email address as the account proxy for receiving funds.

October

- 2 The Observatory signs a Memorandum of Understanding with the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) to support global weather information services for users round the world, after it was designated in June by the WMO as a Regional Specialised Meteorological Centre for Nowcasting for the Asian region, a recognition of the Observatory's significant role in applying nowcasting techniques to predict severe weather.
- 6-13 The Hong Kong team wins a record 48 medals in the Asian Para Games in Jakarta, comprising 11 golds, 16 silvers and 21 bronzes. Swimmer Tang Wai-lok defends his title in the men's 200m freestyle S14. Others bringing gold-medal glory to Hong Kong are wheelchair fencer Yu Chui-ye in the women's foil individual category A; table tennis players Ng Mui-wui in the women's TT11 singles and Li Hiu-tung, Ng Mui-wui and Wong Ka-man in the women's TT11 team; swimmers Hui Ka-chun and Chan Yui-lam in the men's 100m backstroke S14 and women's 100m butterfly S14 respectively; lawn bowls athletes Tang Shun-ye in the mixed B3 open singles, Tang Shun-ye and Kwok Wing in the mixed B4 pairs and Tang Mei-yi and Li Ying-wing in the mixed B8 pairs; badminton player Chu Man-kai in the men's SS6 singles; and boccia athletes Tsang Ling-yan, Ho Yuen-kei and Tse Tak-wah in the mixed BC3 pairs.
- 6-18 Hong Kong collects its first athletic track medal in the Youth Olympic Games, a bronze by Mr Addis Wong Lok-hei in the men's 110m hurdles in Buenos Aires. Ms Kaylin Hsieh clinches two silvers, in the women's épée individual and mixed continental team fencing events.
- 10 The Chief Executive says in her second Policy Address, under the theme 'Striving Ahead, Rekindling Hope', that the government is determined to identify and produce land and build a land reserve, including by launching the 'Lantau Tomorrow Vision', developing brownfield sites, utilising private land and revitalising industrial buildings.
- The Chief Executive in Council approves granting the second 10-year operating rights of the Peak Tram to the Peak Tramways Company Limited starting on 1 January 2026.

Calendar of Events

2018

- The company will implement an upgrading plan of over \$650 million to improve facilities.
- 17 Hong Kong is placed seventh in the WEF's *Global Competitiveness Report 2018*.
- 20-21 Ms Sarah Lee picks up a gold and a bronze in the women's sprint and keirin respectively in Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines, France, during the first of the six-leg 2018-19 UCI Track World Cup series, which will wrap up in Hong Kong in January 2019.
- 23 The President opens the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge, at 55km the world's longest bridge-and-tunnel sea crossing, on an artificial island in Zhuhai Port. Various types of cross-boundary transport are put in place, including shuttle buses, coaches, hire cars, private cars and goods vehicles.
- 24 The first interim report of the Expert Adviser Team on the Shatin to Central Link project is released, following the appointment of three senior retired government officers in the areas of engineering and buildings to the team on 15 August. Based on the team's recommendations, the MTR Corporation agrees to formulate a holistic strategy to assess the built structures in the Hung Hom Station extension, including opening up the structures to carry out physical checks instead of relying solely on load tests.
- 25 LegCo passes the Employment (Amendment) Bill 2018 to increase paternity leave entitlement from three days to five.
- 26 The government is highly concerned about the leakage of 9.4 million Cathay Pacific Airways customers' personal details. The Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data and the police's Cyber Security and Technology Crime Bureau each opens an investigation.
- 27 A probationary constable of the Northern Territory Police in Australia, Mr Zachary Brian Rolfe, becomes the first foreigner to be recognised under the HKSAR Honours and Awards system for an act of gallantry outside the city. He is awarded a Medal for Bravery (Bronze) for overcoming treacherous conditions and enduring extreme risk and danger on his own on 27 December 2016 to search for and rescue a Hong Kong woman who had been washed away in heavy flooding.
- 28 Ms Ng On-yei defeats compatriot Ms Katrina Wan Ka-kai at the Australian Women's Open in Sydney, the first all-Hong-Kong final on the World Women's Snooker Tour since 2012.
- 29- The Chief Executive visits Japan to officiate at activities of the Hong Kong Week. Hong
2 Nov Kong and Japan issue a joint statement expressing the aspirations of both parties to deepen and broaden cooperation.
- 31 In a first for Hong Kong, a patient undergoes his second heart transplant surgery after a similar operation in 2005.

November

- 1-2 The Competition Commission holds its first international conference, Hong Kong Competition Exchange 2018, to share best practices and experiences in competition law and policy.

Calendar of Events

2018

- 4 Mr Yip Kin-ling, 18, becomes Hong Kong's first world junior snooker champion, defeating Mr Robbie Capito at an all-Hong-Kong final in the World Pool-Billiard Association's World Juniors 9-Ball Championships in Moscow.
- 5-10, 14-24 The Chief Executive attends the opening of the inaugural China International Import Expo in Shanghai, in which Hong Kong participates actively, showcasing its unique role as a strategic gateway and important hub for the opening up of the country.
- 6-9 The Chief Secretary for Administration attends meetings of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva, Switzerland, as Deputy Chairman of the PRC delegation and elaborates on the full protection of human rights and freedoms in the HKSAR under the Basic Law, Hong Kong Bill of Rights Ordinance and other laws.
- 8 A Memorandum of Understanding on Establishing Affiliated Institution by the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Hong Kong is signed to confirm the setting up of an affiliated institution of the academy to help its Guangzhou Institutes of Biomedicine and Health and Institute of Automation establish a presence respectively in Health@InnoHK and AIR@InnoHK, two upcoming research clusters on healthcare technology and on artificial intelligence and robotics at the Science Park. The institution will also serve as the Secretariat of the Greater Bay Area Academician Alliance, to be set up in Hong Kong.
- The West Kowloon Mediation Centre opens in conjunction with the launch of a Pilot Mediation Scheme, which is operated by an independent coordinator to provide services to litigants of Small Claims Tribunal cases that are suitable for mediation and other suitable cases.
- 9 The People's Bank of China issues RMB bills in Hong Kong for the first time, totalling RMB20 billion, half with a three-month tenor and the other half with a one-year tenor.
- 10-12 The Chief Executive leads a delegation of more than 160 people to Shenzhen and Beijing to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the reform and opening up of the country.
- 10 Ms Grace Lau Mo-sheung captures Hong Kong's first World Karate Championships medal with a bronze in Madrid.
- 12 Trial projects of municipal solid waste charging, which is central to the government's overall waste management strategy, are rolled out in public housing estates, rural areas, shopping centres and restaurants to prepare the community for waste charging.
- 15 LegCo passes the Private Healthcare Facilities Bill to protect patient safety and consumer rights through a new regulatory regime for four types of private healthcare facilities, namely hospitals, day procedure centres, clinics and health services establishments.
- 17-19 The Chief Executive attends meetings of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation in Port Moresby and meets the Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea, Mr Peter O'Neill. On the sidelines of the meetings, Mrs Lam meets separately with the Prime Minister of Malaysia, Dr Mahathir Mohamad; the Prime Minister of Australia, Mr Scott Morrison;

and the Prime Minister of Vietnam, Mr Nguyen Xuan Phuc, to explore opportunities for further cooperation.

- 25 Ms Chan Hoi-yan wins the LegCo Kowloon West geographical constituency by-election triggered by the court invalidation of a LegCo oath taken by Ms Lau Siu-lai. A total of 216,522 electors cast votes for a field of five, a turnout of 44.45 per cent.
- 26 The Immigration Department starts to issue the new form of smart Hong Kong identity cards, with the four-year territory-wide identity card replacement exercise beginning on 27 December.
- 28 WTO members commend Hong Kong, China, for the city's free and open trade regime at a Trade Policy Review meeting in Geneva. The last review took place in 2014.
- 29 LegCo passes the Travel Industry Bill to establish a Travel Industry Authority to regulate travel agents, tourist guides and tour escorts in a holistic manner.
- 30 The Dutiable Commodities (Amendment) Ordinance 2018 comes into operation to prohibit the sale or supply of intoxicating liquor to people under the age of 18 in the course of business and the sale of alcoholic beverages in vending machines.

December

- 3 The civil jurisdictional limits of the District Court and Small Claims Tribunal are increased from \$1 million to \$3 million and from \$50,000 to \$75,000 respectively.
- 5 The government accepts the holistic assessment strategy proposed by the MTR Corporation regarding the platform slabs and diaphragm walls in the Hung Hom Station extension, including a physical investigation of at least 16 weeks that requires breaking open and then re-installing the built structures.
- 9 For the first time, Hong Kong makes a clean sweep of all four Group One horse races in the Hong Kong International Races.
- 10 The Hong Kong Open is voted the best international tennis tournament of 2018 by players of the Women's Tennis Association for the first time.
- 12 The large-scale Hong Kong International Tourism Convention is held for about 1,000 participants to explore the tourism potential of the Belt and Road Initiative and the Greater Bay Area together for the first time.
- 13 The government announces assigning about 4,500 MHz of spectrum for fifth-generation mobile services, more than eight times the spectrum being used for 2G, 3G and 4G services.
- 14 The Agreement on Trade in Goods is signed under the framework of the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement, providing for the full implementation of zero tariffs on goods of Hong Kong origin imported into the Mainland and expediting customs clearance to facilitate the movement of goods in the Greater Bay Area.
- 15 Ms Doo Hoi-kem and Mr Wong Chun-ting make history as the first champions of the inaugural mixed doubles event in the International Table Tennis Federation's World

- Tour Grand Finals in Incheon, beating Unified Korea duo Cha Hyo-sim and Jang Woo-jin. Mr Wong also wins a silver with Mr Ho Kwan-kit in the men's doubles.
- 17 The Chief Executive meets the President and Premier Li Keqiang separately on her duty visit to Beijing to brief the state leaders on the latest economic, social and political situation in Hong Kong.
- 18 Four Hong Kong people are among 100 Chinese people awarded by Beijing for their outstanding contributions to the country's reform and opening up, namely former World Health Organisation director general Margaret Chan Fung Fu-chun and businessmen Tsang Hin-chi, the late Henry Fok Ying-tung and the late Wong Kwan-cheng.
- Hong Kong Children's Hospital, a tertiary referral centre in Kowloon Bay for paediatric patients under 18 with serious, complex and uncommon conditions, starts clinical services by phases.
- 22 The city marks its warmest Winter Solstice on record with a daily mean temperature of 22.2 degrees.
- 23 The police's new counterterrorism Railway Response Team starts patrolling 93 MTR stations. Officers are trained with the expertise required and equipped with specialised gear to provide a speedy response to terrorist and other major incidents in the railway system.