

Calendar of Events 2019

January

- 1 The non-means-tested Public Transport Fare Subsidy Scheme is launched, granting eligible commuters a subsidy of 25 per cent of actual public transport expenses in excess of \$400, subject to a cap of \$300 per month.
- 5 Cardinal John Tong Hon, Bishop Emeritus and immediate predecessor of Bishop Michael Yeung Ming-cheung, is appointed Apostolic Administrator of the Catholic Diocese of Hong Kong after the death of Bishop Yeung two days earlier at the age of 73.
- 8 The Report of the Independent Review Committee on Hong Kong's Franchised Bus Service is released in response to a traffic accident on Tai Po Road in February last year that killed 19 people and injured 65 others. The government pledges to take proactive steps to enhance the operational safety of franchised buses.
- 12 Ms Vivian Kong Man-wai becomes the first Hong Kong fencer to claim a world cup title, in the women's epee at the International Fencing Federation's (FIE) World Cup series in Havana, Cuba.
- 14 At the ceremonial opening of the legal year, the Chief Justice of the Court of Final Appeal, Mr Geoffrey Ma Tao-li, speaks about the important facets of Hong Kong's legal system with a view to providing the necessary context to enable the public to properly appraise and comment on the work of the courts, in particular decisions on matters which greatly concern the community. He also emphasises that as contained in the Basic Law, Hong Kong's legal system is characterised by an independent judiciary where judges are independent from any outside interference in the discharge of their constitutional duties, and the essence of fairness and justice also lies in everyone's entitlement to equal treatment under the law.
- 20 The Xiqu Centre, the first major performance venue of the West Kowloon Cultural District, opens, followed by Freespace in June.
- 21-25 The Chief Executive, Mrs Carrie Lam, attends the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting in Davos, Switzerland. She meets the Prime Minister of Luxembourg, Mr Xavier Bettel; the Prime Minister of Vietnam, Mr Nguyen Xuan Phuc; and the Prime Minister of the Netherlands, Mr Mark Rutte, in Davos.
- 22 The Acting Chief Executive, Mr Matthew Cheung Kin-chung, presents a 103-strong Hong Kong delegation with the Regional Flag ahead of the 2019 Special Olympics World Summer Games, to be held in March in the United Arab Emirates.
- 25 The US-based Heritage Foundation rates Hong Kong as the world's freest economy for the 25th consecutive year.

- 31 The Avenue of Stars reopens following a revitalisation project begun in October 2015.

February

- 5-7 Hong Kong experiences its warmest Lunar New Year since records began in 1884, registering a new high of 21.8 degrees Celsius in mean temperature across the first three days, with the third day reaching up to 25.8 degrees.
- 9-10 Ms Vivian Kong wins her second gold medal of the FIE World Cup series in a month, triumphing in Barcelona, Spain, and later becomes the first Hong Kong fencer to be ranked world No 1. Mr Cheung Ka-long captures the first Hong Kong men's foil medal, a silver, at the FIE Grand Prix series in Turin, Italy, a day after Ms Kong's victory.
- 11 The government announces the decision to switch off analogue television services at 11.59pm on 30 November 2020 and the full digitalisation of TV broadcasting in Hong Kong at 12am on 1 December.
- 13 The Hong Kong, China-Georgia Free Trade Agreement enters into force, the first with a country in Caucasus.
- The government invites the public to provide views on its proposed amendments to the Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters Ordinance and the Fugitive Offenders Ordinance.
- 18 The Central People's Government (CPG) promulgates the Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area.
- 19 The Chief Executive in Council approves an expansion of the terms of reference of the Commission of Inquiry into the Construction Works at and near the Hung Hom Station Extension under the Shatin to Central Link Project, to cover construction works at the North Approach Tunnels, South Approach Tunnels and Hung Hom Stabling Sidings under the same works contract and related matters. The commission submits an interim report based on the original terms of reference to the Chief Executive on 25 February.
- 24 The 4.5km Central-Wan Chai Bypass and Island Eastern Corridor Link is fully commissioned, shortening the drive between Central and North Point to about five minutes.
- 27 The Financial Secretary, Mr Paul Chan Mo-po, in his 2019-20 Budget, announces measures to relieve people's burden and support enterprises to help counter challenges facing Hong Kong's economy.
- At the Union Cycliste Internationale's Track Cycling World Championships in Pruszkow, Poland, Ms Sarah Lee Wai-sze becomes the first Hong Kong cyclist to own three rainbow jerseys, which denote world champion in a cycling discipline, by winning the women's sprint and keirin events, six years after getting her first rainbow jersey in the time trial.
- 28 The Chief Executive opens the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Bangkok, the government's third office in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) region. She also meets the Prime Minister of Thailand, Mr Prayut Chan-o-cha.

The city ends its warmest winter to date, with a mean temperature of 19.1 degrees between December 2018 and February 2019, 2.1 degrees above normal, and only three cold days with minimum temperatures of 12 degrees or below, the fewest on record.

March

- 1 The Chief Executive attends the second plenary meeting of the Leading Group for the Development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, hosted and convened by the Vice-Premier of the State Council, Mr Han Zheng, in Beijing. She welcomes the eight policy measures introduced by the CPG to help Hong Kong residents develop, work and live in Greater Bay Area cities and to strengthen the flow of people and goods within the area.
- 15 The Chief Secretary for Administration, Mr Matthew Cheung, attends the United Nations (UN) Human Rights Council plenary meeting in Geneva, Switzerland, as Deputy Chairman of the People's Republic of China (PRC) delegation and elaborates on the full protection of human rights and freedom in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) under the Basic Law, Hong Kong Bill of Rights Ordinance and other safeguards.
- 18 Two MTR trains collide near Central Station on the Tsuen Wan Line during non-traffic hours, causing services between Central and Admiralty stations to be suspended. The MTR Corporation puts aside \$25 million for fare concessions to passengers under the Service Performance Arrangement.
- 25 The Chief Executive attends the China Development Forum, organised by the Development Research Centre of the State Council in Beijing.

The Intangible Cultural Heritage Funding Scheme is launched to support projects that strengthen the safeguarding, research and promotion of local intangible cultural heritage and education about it and support its transmission by local bearers and bearer organisations.
- 26 Hong Kong and Australia sign a free trade agreement and an investment agreement, which replaces the one inked in 1993.
- 27 The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) grants the first three virtual banking licences in Hong Kong, followed by another five in April and May.
- 28 The Chief Executive attends the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference in Hainan.
- 29 The Fugitive Offenders and Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters Legislation (Amendment) Bill 2019 is published in the Gazette, with the first reading on 3 April in the Legislative Council (LegCo). The bill seeks to address a Taiwan homicide case and plug loopholes in Hong Kong's overall mechanism in juridical assistance.

- 31 The mean temperature and mean maximum and minimum temperatures between January and March are 19.7 degrees, 22.1 degrees and 18.1 degrees respectively, all the highest on record for the same period.

April

- 1 The Voluntary Health Insurance Scheme is implemented fully to regulate indemnity hospital insurance plans offered to individuals by participating insurance companies and to facilitate consumer use of private healthcare services.
- 2 The Chief Executive meets the President of Panama, Mr Juan Carlos Varela Rodriguez, at Government House. Mr Varela Rodriguez is visiting to officiate at the opening of the Consulate General of Panama in Hong Kong.
- The Chief Secretary for Administration and the Mayor of the Shenzhen Municipal Government, Mr Chen Rugui, co-chair the Hong Kong/Shenzhen Cooperation Meeting in Shenzhen.
- 4 The Court of Final Appeal dismisses appeals arising from judicial review applications against the Director of Immigration's refusal to grant extensions of permission to remain in Hong Kong to two foreign nationals, Ms Milagros Tecson Comilang and Ms Desiree Rante Luis, to take care of their respective child in Hong Kong. The children, all minors, are Hong Kong permanent residents or have Hong Kong resident status. The court rules that if a person with no right to enter and remain in Hong Kong is able to overcome that position by relying on someone else's rights, it would upset the Basic Law and the purpose of the immigration reservation in the Hong Kong Bill of Rights Ordinance.
- 7-9 The Chief Executive visits Tokyo to attend the Symposium on the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, organised jointly by the governments of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao, and meets the Prime Minister of Japan, Mr Shinzo Abe.
- 16 The Mainland announces five relaxation measures to facilitate the entry of Hong Kong films and practitioners into the Mainland market.
- 18 The Chief Executive releases a report submitted to the CPG on the HKSAR Government's prohibition of the operation of the Hong Kong National Party in accordance with the law and related circumstances, after the CPG issued a letter to the Chief Executive on 26 February supporting the prohibition and requesting her to submit a report.
- 19-20 Hong Kong lives through its wettest Good Friday, recording 75.8mm of rain at the Hong Kong Observatory. Severe squally thunderstorms rage across the city the next day. Gusts reaching 117km/h buffet King's Park in Ho Man Tin, the strongest apart from tropical cyclones since the automatic weather station in King's Park started operation in 1992. About 9,090 cloud-to-ground lightning strokes are detected, the most for April since the lightning location system was launched in 2005. One hiker is killed by lightning and two people drown after their sampan capsized.
- 21-24 The Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs, Mr Patrick Nip Tak-kuen; the Secretary for Innovation and Technology, Mr Nicholas W. Yang; and the Secretary

for Financial Services and the Treasury, Mr James Henry Lau Jr, join a LegCo joint-panel duty visit to the Yangtze River Delta region to see the latest developments of Shanghai and Hangzhou in innovation and technology, economy and finance, culture and conservation, education, and tourism and learn about the progress of the region's integrated development.

- 25 The Chief Executive leads a high-level HKSAR delegation comprising senior government officials and members of various sectors of Hong Kong to participate actively in the thematic forums of the second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation in Beijing.

The Communications Authority administratively assigns a total of 1,200 MHz of spectrum in the 26 GHz and 28 GHz bands to three mobile network operators for the provision of fifth-generation (5G) mobile services.

- 29 Chan Tong-kai is sentenced to 29 months' imprisonment after pleading guilty to four charges of money laundering that involved dealing with the belongings of his girlfriend, whom he admitted killing in Taiwan during a Hong Kong police interview.

May

- 1 The statutory minimum wage is updated from \$34.50 to \$37.50 per hour.
- 5 Fencers Cheung Ka-long, Cheung Siu-lun, Choi Chun-yin and Yeung Chi-ka win Hong Kong's first world cup team medal, a silver in the men's foil, at the FIE World Cup series in St Petersburg, Russia.
- 7 The HKMA unveils three sets of measures to support Hong Kong's green finance development through green and sustainable banking, responsible investment by the Exchange Fund, and the launch of the Centre for Green Finance for capacity building.
- 8 The Medical Council of Hong Kong votes in favour of shortening the six-month assessment period for non-locally trained doctors to two to three days if they have worked in the Hong Kong public healthcare system for three years and passed the licensing examination during that time.
- 10 Hong Kong confirms its first case of African swine fever in a pig and culls 6,000 pigs at Sheung Shui Slaughterhouse.
- 14 The Council of the Hong Kong Laureate Forum launches at Government House the Hong Kong Laureate Forum, which aspires to be a world-class academic exchange event to connect the current and next generations of scientific leaders and to promote understanding of, and interest in, science and technology among the young generation in Hong Kong and around the world. The inaugural forum will be held in November 2021 in Hong Kong.
- 17 An outbreak of measles affecting 29 workers at Hong Kong International Airport ends, about two months after the first three cases were identified.
- 22 The government announces that the global offering of its inaugural Green Bond, with a five-year tenor, under the Government Green Bond Programme has drawn orders totalling more than four times the issuance size of US\$1 billion. Proceeds

raised under the programme will be credited to the Capital Works Reserve Fund to finance or refinance public works that provide environmental benefits and support the sustainable development of Hong Kong.

- 26-Jun 2 Gymnast Shek Wai-Hung clinches two golds in the men's vault events of the International Gymnastics Federation's World Challenge Cup, first in Osijek, Croatia, then a week later in Koper, Slovenia.
- 29 Hong Kong continues to rank second globally in the *World Competitiveness Yearbook 2019* published by the Swiss-based International Institute for Management Development.

June

- 6 The Court of Final Appeal allows the appeal of Mr Leung Chun-kwong, an immigration officer, in a judicial review against decisions denying spousal benefits to his same-sex spouse under the Civil Service Regulations and rejecting their application for joint tax assessment under the Inland Revenue Ordinance. While accepting that the protection of the institution of marriage in Hong Kong, being the voluntary union for life of one man and one woman to the exclusion of all others, is a legitimate aim, the court holds that denying Mr Leung the said civil service spousal benefits and tax benefits has no rational connection to achieving the said legitimate aim and unlawfully discriminates him on the grounds of his sexual orientation.
- 9 A large march takes place to protest the Fugitive Offenders and Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters Legislation (Amendment) Bill 2019. The government notes that the march is generally peaceful and orderly. It says the murder of a Hong Kong resident in Taiwan brought into sharper focus deficiencies in dealing with mutual legal assistance in criminal matters and the surrender of fugitives, that the bill covers only the most serious crimes punishable by seven years' imprisonment or more, that none of these serious criminal offences relate to the freedom of assembly, of the press, of speech or of academic freedom or publication, and that executive and judicial safeguards built into the system protect all human rights enshrined in the Basic Law and Hong Kong Bill of Rights Ordinance and ensure any requests for assistance or surrender are lawful and amenable to challenge and review by the Judiciary up to the Court of Final Appeal.
- 11 The free trade agreement between Hong Kong, China and ASEAN enters into force for Hong Kong and five ASEAN member states, namely Laos, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.
- 12 Thousands of protesters gather outside and try to storm the LegCo complex, leading to the suspension of the second reading debate on the Fugitive Offenders and Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters Legislation (Amendment) Bill 2019. The protest turns violent and police take resolute action to restore law and order.
- 15 The Chief Executive announces the suspension of the legislative exercise of the Fugitive Offenders and Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters Legislation (Amendment) Bill 2019. The government pledges to restart communication with all sectors of society and listen to different views with an open mind.

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- 16 Hong Kong and the UAE sign an investment promotion and protection agreement.
Another large protest march takes place. The government notes the peaceful and rational manner in which the people have expressed their views.
- 26 The Court of Final Appeal allows an appeal lodged by former Chief Executive Donald Tsang against his conviction of one count of misconduct in public office, concerning his failure to declare to the Executive Council his dealings with the major shareholder of a company over a Shenzhen residential property while he was involved in decision making related to applications made by that company. The court finds the trial judge's directions to the jury were inadequate and quashes Mr Tsang's conviction and sentence.
The Hong Kong Academy of Finance is inaugurated to develop financial leadership and host monetary and financial research resources, including applied research.
- 30 The first half of the year ends with new highest records in the mean temperature, of 23 degrees, and the mean minimum and maximum temperatures, of 21.3 degrees and 25.4 degrees respectively, between January and June.

July

- 1 The police conduct a dispersal action after rioters storm and vandalise the LegCo complex. The substantial damage sustained by the complex causes the cancellation of all remaining meetings of LegCo and its committees in the 2018-19 legislative session. Repairs and restoration of essential meeting facilities and critical systems are completed in the following three and a half months, enabling the 2019-20 session to begin on 16 October.
- 3 'The Road to Modernisation – 70 Years of the People's Republic of China' opens at the Hong Kong Museum of History with nine grade-one national treasures among the exhibits.
- 5 The Independent Police Complaints Council passes a motion to proactively conduct a fact-finding study of the public order events from 9 June to 2 July and to submit a report of the study to the Chief Executive. The council agrees on 16 August to extend the scope of the study to cover events after 2 July and to publish its findings in phases.
- 18 Ms Vivian Kong becomes the first Hong Kong athlete to win a medal in the world championships, with a bronze in the women's epee in the FIE World Fencing Championships in Budapest, Hungary.
- 20 A team of four secondary school students win a gold, two silvers and a bronze at Hong Kong's first participation in the International Biology Olympiad in Szeged, Hungary.
- 21 Protesters throw petrol bombs at police in Sheung Wan and a group of people attack protesters and commuters at Yuen Long Station.

- 31 The monthly mean minimum temperature of 27.7 degrees is 0.9 degrees above normal and the highest for July.

August

- 13 The Airport Authority Hong Kong obtains an interim injunction order from the High Court to restrain people from interfering with the proper use of the airport. Access control to the terminal buildings is implemented from the next day. A second court order is obtained on 23 August that maintains the status quo until the matter comes to trial or the court makes a further order.
- 15 To counter the challenging external and local economic environments, the Financial Secretary announces a package of measures to support enterprises, especially small and medium enterprises (SMEs), to safeguard jobs and relieve people's financial burden, costing a total of about \$19.1 billion.
- 23 The MTR Corporation secures a High Court interim injunction order to restrain people from interfering with the proper use of the railway stations and trains and with the comfort or convenience of MTR staff members. A second court order is secured on 30 August to continue the interim order until the matter comes to trial or the court makes a further order.
- 25 Police use specialised crowd management vehicles equipped with a water cannon for the first time, during violent protests in Tsuen Wan where rioters block roads and cause destruction.
- Mr Chu Man-kai and Mr Wong Chun-yim take gold in the men's doubles in the Badminton World Federation's Para-Badminton World Championships in Basel, Switzerland, where Hong Kong also wins two silvers.
- 26 Dr Ng Yun-hau, associate professor and environmental scientist at the City University of Hong Kong, is the sole winner of the annual Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Science Prize for Innovation, Research and Education, which recognises young scientists from across the Pacific Rim region. Dr Ng's research involves using zero-pollution technology to generate renewable energy.
- 31 Violence breaks out inside Prince Edward Station. The government repeatedly dismisses claims that the incident resulted in protester deaths. The Hong Kong Police Force says the rumours are totally false and unfounded. The Fire Services Department says the seven casualties in Prince Edward Station needing ambulance services were all escorted by ambulance personnel to Lai Chi Kok Station by a specially arranged train and then transferred by ambulance to Caritas Medical Centre and Princess Margaret Hospital, and that it is common to update the initial headcount for a multiple casualty incident. The Hospital Authority confirms all casualties in the incident have been treated and discharged, and no fatality is recorded.

September

- 4 The Chief Executive announces that the Fugitive Offenders and Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters Legislation (Amendment) Bill 2019 will be formally withdrawn in order to fully allay public concerns.

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The Financial Secretary announces enhancements to the SME Financing Guarantee Scheme and a new guarantee product under the scheme to provide timely support to SMEs which are facing weakening cash flow amidst economic uncertainties.

- 6 The Financial Secretary says the government disagrees with Fitch's assessment in relation to the downgrading of Hong Kong's credit rating to AA from AA+, and its outlook to negative from stable. Despite the social incidents over the preceding months, the government does not agree that this should lead to Fitch's calling into question the effective implementation of the 'one country, two systems' principle in Hong Kong.
- 8 The 6,000 square metre Cattle Depot Art Park is opened after the completion of the Kowloon City District Signature Project Scheme, which revitalised the rear portion of the former Ma Tau Kok Animal Quarantine Depot, commonly called the Cattle Depot, a Grade 2 historic building.
- 12 Hong Kong is again ranked as the world's freest economy by the Canadian-based Fraser Institute, retaining the top position since 1996.
- 13 The hottest Mid-autumn Festival takes place as the maximum temperature at the Observatory reaches 33 degrees. There are seven consecutive hot nights – defined by a minimum of at least 28 degrees – from 8 to 14 September, the longest period on record for the month.
- 16 The Financial Secretary says the government disagrees with Moody's Investors Service's decision to change Hong Kong's credit outlook to negative from stable on the grounds that the social incidents might have eroded the city's institutional strength. He adds that despite concerns over the social incidents, Hong Kong's financial markets and banking system have been functioning normally, and that Hong Kong's deeper economic and financial ties with the Mainland are a positive driver for the city's long-term development.
- 17 Three train carriages derail near Hung Hom Station on the East Rail Line, causing a suspension of services between Hung Hom and Mong Kok East stations. The MTR Corporation sets aside \$25 million as fare concessions to passengers under the Service Performance Arrangement.
- 24 The first district health centre, Kwai Tsing District Health Centre, opens as part of efforts to establish a district-based, prevention-centred primary healthcare system.
- 26 The Chief Executive holds a Community Dialogue session at Queen Elizabeth Stadium, Wan Chai, with 150 participants chosen randomly from an open application process to help the government fathom the discontent in society and look for solutions.
- 28 The minimum allowable wage for foreign domestic helpers rises from \$4,520 to \$4,630 per month, and the food allowance in lieu of free food from not less than \$1,075 to not less than \$1,121 per month, for all contracts signed from this day.

- 30-Oct 1 The Chief Executive leads a delegation to participate in activities to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the founding of the PRC in Beijing, where the HKSAR takes part in the National Day Parade with a float themed 'Hong Kong In'.

October

- 1 The Arrangement between Hong Kong and the Mainland Concerning Mutual Assistance in Court-ordered Interim Measures in Aid of Arbitral Proceedings comes into operation. It is a game-changing, ground-breaking arrangement that makes Hong Kong the first and only jurisdiction outside the Mainland where, as a seat of arbitration, it allows parties to arbitral proceedings administered by eligible arbitral institutions to apply to Mainland courts for interim measures.
- 2 The Employees Retraining Board launches the Love Upgrading Special Scheme to provide employees affected by the economic downturn with training and an allowance.
- 5 The Chief Executive in Council puts in place the Prohibition on Face Covering Regulation under the Emergency Regulations Ordinance, prohibiting the use of facial covering in riots, unlawful assembly, unauthorised assembly, and public meetings and processions regulated under the Public Order Ordinance. The constitutionality of the ordinance and regulation is later challenged in a judicial review.
- 12-19 Swimmers Chan Long-tin, Hui Ka-chun and Chan Yui-lam collect a total of seven individual golds for Hong Kong in the International Sports Federation for Persons with Intellectual Disability's Global Games in Brisbane, Australia, while the table tennis pair of Fan Ka-ho and Ng Mui-wui win a mixed doubles gold. Altogether, Hong Kong swimmers take home nine golds, 10 silvers and six bronzes and the table tennis players capture one gold, two silvers and three bronzes.
- 13 Protesters set off a radio-controlled improvised explosive device in Mong Kok, the first time such a device is used during the ongoing social unrest.
- 14 The Secretary for Justice and the Commissioner of Police obtain an interim injunction order from the High Court to restrain people from trespassing and interfering with Police Officers' and their family members' use and enjoyment of Disciplined Services Quarters and Police Married Quarters. By a second court order on 25 October, the interim injunction is continued until the matter comes to trial or the court makes a further order.
- Tai Kwun – Centre for Heritage and Arts, the former Central Police Station compound revitalised in a partnership between the government and the Hong Kong Jockey Club, receives the top honour of Award of Excellence at the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation, Hong Kong's second built heritage conservation project to be so honoured after the Viva Blue House in 2017.
- The Office of the Communications Authority starts auctioning a total of 380 MHz of spectrum in the 3.3 GHz, 3.5 GHz and 4.9 GHz bands to four mobile network operators for the provision of 5G services over 15 years, concluding the exercise at total spectrum utilisation fees of more than \$1.9 billion.

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- 16 The Chief Executive delivers the third policy address of her tenure to members of the public through video, under the theme 'Treasure Hong Kong: Our Home', to help local businesses overcome hurdles during the economic downturn and target the unresolved disputes and ongoing violence with a view to restoring calm in society and embarking on the road to reconciliation.
- 18 The \$500 million Countryside Conservation Funding Scheme is launched to provide dedicated funding for non-profit-making organisations and villagers to carry out sustainable and holistic conservation projects in the remote countryside, except Lantau, covering the natural environment and habitat, non-graded built heritage and cultural and historic assets, as part of \$1 billion earmarked for the Countryside Conservation Office to implement initiatives.
- 19-24 Wushu athletes Chen Suijin, He Jianxin, Samuei Hui Tak-yan, Liu Xuxu and Yuen Ka-ying collect five golds for Hong Kong in the World Wushu Championships in Shanghai, where the Hong Kong team also wins four silvers and a bronze.
- 22 To counter the increasingly challenging economic environment, the Financial Secretary announces a further round of relief measures costing about \$2 billion in total to support enterprises and safeguard jobs, particularly in sectors hit hard by the social unrest.
- 23 The Secretary for Security, Mr John Lee Ka-chiu, formally withdraws the Fugitive Offenders and Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters Legislation (Amendment) Bill 2019 at a LegCo meeting.
- 25 The Secretary for Justice and the Commissioner of Police obtain an interim injunction order from the High Court to restrain people from, inter alia, doxxing and harassing Police Officers, Auxiliary Officers and their families. By a second court order on 8 November, the interim injunction is continued with variations until the matter comes to trial or the court makes a further order. On 10 December, the High Court amends the interim injunction such that Special Constables are also protected.
- 31 The Secretary for Justice obtains an interim injunction order from the High Court to restrain, inter alia, the wilful dissemination, circulation, publication or republication of messages on an internet-based platform or medium promoting, encouraging or inciting the use or threat of violence, intended or likely to cause bodily injury or damage to property. By a second court order on 15 November, the interim injunction is continued with variations until the matter comes to trial or the court makes a further order.
- The Chief Justice announces his decision to retire on 11 January 2021 upon reaching the statutory retirement age of 65.
- October registers the highest monthly mean maximum temperature of 29.5 degrees, 1.7 degrees above the norm for the month.

November

- 3 Rowers Winnie Hung Wing-yan, Leung King-wan, Leung Wing-wun, Tse Yan-man and Wong Sheung-yee win Hong Kong's first gold in the women's coxed quadruple sculls

- in the World Rowing Coastal Championships on home ground, where the Hong Kong team also clinches a bronze.
- 4 The first Hong Kong Legal Week is inaugurated, comprising the 3rd UNCITRAL Asia Pacific Judicial Summit, the inaugural Hong Kong Mediation Lecture and the 32nd LAWASIA Conference, attracting over 800 government officials, judges, academics, legal professionals and businessmen from some 30 jurisdictions.
- 5 The Chief Executive attends the opening ceremony of the second China International Import Expo in Shanghai, where Hong Kong sets up an exhibition area themed 'Hong Kong In' to demonstrate the city's edge as the leading international commerce and trading platform in Asia and its role in bringing in foreign investment to the Mainland.
- 6 The Chief Executive attends the meeting of the Leading Group for the Development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area in Beijing. She welcomes the 16 policy measures introduced by the CPG after the Leading Group meeting, which would benefit people from all walks of life and facilitate the development of various sectors in the Greater Bay Area.
- 'Glistening Treasures in the Dust – Ancient Artefacts of Afghanistan' opens at the Museum of History, featuring rare artefacts unearthed in the country that attest to the important role played by ancient Afghanistan, as the cultural intersection of the Silk Road, in promoting the exchange and integration of world civilisations.
- 9 Ms Ng On-yea lifts her third International Billiards and Snooker Federation world title at the World Snooker Championships in Antalya, Turkey, nine years after emerging victorious in Syria.
- 11 The police take law enforcement action outside the Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU), Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) and University of Hong Kong (HKU) following rioters' violent acts. In Hung Hom, rioters barricade the Cross-Harbour Tunnel, then escape into PolyU and throw petrol bombs, glass bottles and hard objects at the nearby footbridge, where police are making arrests. At CUHK, rioters throw objects from a footbridge at vehicles driving along Tolo Highway below. At HKU, arsonists set fire to the MTR station entrance. Over the next three days, rioters at the three locations throw objects onto the Kowloon exit of the Cross-Harbour Tunnel, Tolo Highway and Pok Fu Lam Road.
- 24 A record 2,943,842 registered electors cast their votes in the 2019 District Council Ordinary Election, a record high turnout rate of 71.23 per cent.
- 26 The Chief Secretary for Administration announces that the Cross-Harbour Tunnel will reopen to traffic the next day after a two-week closure owing to severe damage by rioter-initiated arson and vandalism earlier in the month. An inter-departmental action task force chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration coordinated the collaboration amongst government departments and contractors in the extensive and urgent repairs of the tunnel. During the closure, the government arranged free ferry services between Wan Chai and the piers in Hung Hom and Kowloon City.
- 27 The Cross-Harbour Tunnel reopens to traffic.

- 28-29 The Chief Executive leads a delegation to attend a high-level meeting in Bangkok to discuss collaboration between Hong Kong and Thailand, and meets the Prime Minister of Thailand.
- 29 The police remove all dangerous goods from PolyU, comprising 3,989 bottles of petrol bombs, 1,339 explosives, 601 bottles of corrosive liquid and 573 weapons, after two days of crime scene investigation and hand the campus back to the university management.
- 30 The Hong Kong Museum of Art reopens with 11 exhibitions after closing in August 2015 for major expansion and renovation works that increased the total exhibition area by about 40 per cent, including a two-storey gallery that can display large artworks. Two of the new galleries present the works of Chinese artist Wu Guanzhong and the Chih Lo Lou collection of paintings and calligraphy that date from the Ming dynasty to the 20th century.
- The first edition of the Yim Tin Tsai Arts Festival is launched, presenting the island of Yim Tin Tsai as an 'open museum' that integrates arts, religion, culture, heritage and green elements through collaboration among local artists, youngsters and Yim Tin Tsai villagers while introducing other tourist attractions of Sai Kung.
- The autumn ends with a mean temperature of 26.1 degrees, 1.1 degrees above the norm from September to November, tying the record set in 2015.

December

- 4 With the social and economic environment of Hong Kong facing unprecedented challenges, the Financial Secretary announces the government's fourth package of relief measures since August to support enterprises and employment, involving over \$4 billion in total.
- 6 The Judicial Officers (Extension of Retirement Age) (Amendment) Ordinance 2019 takes effect, in general extending by five years the retirement ages of judges at the High Court and above as well as magistrates.
- 8 Rioters throw petrol bombs at the entrances of the Court of Final Appeal in Central and the High Court in Admiralty and spray the High Court's exterior walls with paint during a massive march marking six months since the start of the social incidents. At a flat in North Point, the police seize firearms, comprising one genuine handgun, 105 bullets and five magazines, in connection with the ongoing protests for the first time.
- 14-16 The Chief Executive meets President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang separately on her duty visit to Beijing to brief state leaders on the latest economic, social and political situation in Hong Kong.
- 21 The MTR's University Station reopens with basic services after extensive works to repair the serious damage caused by repeated acts of vandalism and arson. Since the start of the public order events in June, 85 of the 93 heavy rail stations and 62 of the 68 light rail stops have been vandalised, involving platform screen doors, closed-circuit TVs, lifts, escalators and other facilities. Fires were set to station exits and trains, fire hoses were abused to flood station floors, and miscellaneous objects and petrol

bombs were hurled at overhead lines, tracks and trains in operation. The destructive acts posed serious threats to the safety of passengers, MTR employees and the railway.

23 The first batch of five young HKSAR public officers recommended by the CPG to the UN is introduced at the Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, marking the first time the HKSAR is taking part in the UN Junior Professional Officer Programme. The officers are expected to start a two-year tenure at UN agencies in New York, Geneva and Vienna in 2020.

30 The International Monetary Fund (IMF) releases a Staff Report, following its annual Article IV consultation, that affirms Hong Kong's position as a global financial centre, a regional trading hub and one of the world's most open economies. The IMF recognises that Hong Kong continues to maintain its competitiveness in the financial sector, marked by the free movement of capital and information, a simple tax system, a sound regulatory system, the rule of law and quality professional services. It also commends Hong Kong for its strong regulatory framework and prudential supervision which helps ensure the resilience of the financial sector, and reaffirms its long-standing support for the Linked Exchange Rate System as an anchor of financial stability for Hong Kong.

31 The Centre for Health Protection says it is monitoring closely a cluster of pneumonia cases in Wuhan, Hubei Province, and has contacted the National Health Commission for information. Frontline healthcare staff members of public hospitals are reminded to pay special attention to clinical information, including fever and acute respiratory illness, or pneumonia, and a travel history to Wuhan within 14 days before the onset of symptoms.

With 11 out of the 12 months warmer than usual, Hong Kong wraps up its warmest year since 1884 with the annual mean temperature reaching 24.5 degrees and the annual mean maximum and minimum temperatures of 27.1 degrees and 22.6 degrees also setting new records. There were 46 hot nights and only one cold day, respectively the most and the least on record. Overall, the year registered 30 new and joint records in high temperatures.