

Calendar of Events 2024

January

- 1 Members of the seventh term District Councils take oaths and assume office. The oath-taking ceremony is attended by the Chief Executive, Mr John Lee, with the Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs, Miss Alice Mak serving as the oath administrator.

The Second Phase Opening-up of Sha Tau Kok begins. Initially, up to 1,000 tourists per day are allowed to visit all parts of Sha Tau Kok, except Chung Ying Street, after applying online for a Closed Area Permit, allowing more people to learn about the history, culture and natural geological features of Sha Tau Kok and nearby outlying islands, and promoting cultural and eco-tourism.

- 3 Hong Kong karate athlete Grace Lau Mo-sheung becomes the city's first martial artist to reach world number one in women's kata.

- 10 Hong Kong's first teacher training and exchange base on the Mainland is established at South China Normal University in Guangzhou to develop regular teacher training, exchange and collaboration projects.

- 24 The government welcomes six new measures announced by the People's Bank of China to deepen the financial cooperation between the Mainland and Hong Kong, which include facilitative measures for Hong Kong and Macao residents to make remittances for property purchase in the Mainland cities of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA) and the expansion of the e-CNY digital currency pilot scheme in Hong Kong, among other things.

- 24-25 The two-day Asian Financial Forum brings together more than 140 elite speakers from around the world and attracts over 3,600 participants from more than 50 countries and regions, including over 70 overseas and Mainland China delegations, participating in thought leadership and discussions while witnessing the latest fintech advancements, emerging business strategies and expanding their professional networks. It is the first time for the forum to be held entirely in person since 2020.

- 26 The government announces a range of measures to promote the mega event economy, with a view to strengthening the coordination mechanism, attracting mega events and facilitating the smooth organisation of these events.

- 28 A series of activities under the ‘Day x Night Vibes @ 18 Districts’ campaign are rolled out progressively, aiming to provide the public with a wide range of cultural and leisure events, and to showcase local diversity or traditional cultural connotations in various districts, so as to promote a vibrant atmosphere in the community.
- 29 The Mainland Judgments in Civil and Commercial Matters (Reciprocal Enforcement) Ordinance and the Arrangement on Reciprocal Recognition and Enforcement of Judgments in Civil and Commercial Matters by the Courts of the Mainland and of the HKSAR comes into operation. Under the new mechanism, the courts of the two places may recognise and enforce reciprocally effective judgments in civil and commercial matters that are made by the courts of the other place and are covered by the arrangement.
- 31 The Stamp Duty (Amendment) (Residential Properties) Bill 2023 passes, implementing adjustments to demand-side management measures for residential properties, which include shortening the applicable period of the Special Stamp Duty from three years to two years; reducing the respective rates of the Buyer’s Stamp Duty and the New Residential Stamp Duty from 15 per cent to 7.5 per cent; and providing a mechanism for the suspension of payment of the Buyer’s Stamp Duty and the New Residential Stamp Duty for incoming talents’ acquisition of residential properties in Hong Kong.

February

- 19 The groundbreaking ceremony for the government’s first Light Public Housing project, which will provide about 2,100 units, takes place at Yau Pok Road, Yuen Long. Phase 1 applications for Light Public Housing open on 24 June.
- The government announces seven medical institutions in the GBA under the Elderly Health Care Voucher GBA Pilot Scheme, offering eligible Hong Kong elderly persons additional services points for using the vouchers in the GBA. By September, eligible Hong Kong elderly persons can use the vouchers at these medical institutions and it is estimated that around 1.7 million eligible Hong Kong elderly persons will benefit from the scheme.

- 21 Around 600 distinguished guests from local and international communities gather at the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) Building to witness the inauguration of the Hong Kong International Academy Against Corruption, marking a new chapter of the city's anti-corruption work. The ICAC also celebrates the 50th anniversary of its founding this month, and organises a variety of events throughout the year, inviting various sectors to uphold the integrity of Hong Kong and promote international anti-corruption cooperation.
- 22-28 The Director of the Hong Kong and Macao Work Office of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council, Mr Xia Baolong, visits Hong Kong to gain a better understanding of Hong Kong's latest situations, including economic developments and district governance.
- 23 The government sets up the first Hong Kong Cross-boundary Public Services self-service kiosk and iAM Smart self-registration kiosk in Guangzhou, enabling enterprises and residents in Mainland cities of the GBA to access Hong Kong public services and register for iAM Smart without the need for cross-boundary travel. Five other sets of self-service kiosks are subsequently set up in Shenzhen, Zhuhai, Foshan and Huizhou in the year.
- 25 The first hydrogen double-deck bus commences public service in Hong Kong.
- 26-2 Mar The inaugural Hong Kong Green Week, one of the mega events in Hong Kong in the year, is held, featuring a series of seminars, roundtable meetings, and expert discussions organised by different institutions, to explore ways to promote green economy globally for achieving sustainable development and to support Hong Kong's development of green technology and green finance.
- 28 The Financial Secretary, Mr Paul Chan, delivers his 2024-25 Budget, emphasising the need to advance with confidence, seize opportunities, and promote high-quality development amid a complicated and ever-changing international environment. The measures unveiled include those aimed at bolstering business confidence and creating favourable conditions for recovery, the cancellation of all demand-side management measures for residential properties, and a continued focus on boosting tourism through hosting more mega events.

March

- 1 The New Capital Investment Entrant Scheme opens for application, with an aim to further enrich the talent pool and attract new capital to Hong Kong. Eligible applicants who invest a minimum of \$30 million in the permissible investment assets may apply to reside and pursue development in Hong Kong. As of end-2024, over 800 applications were received.

Robin's Nest Country Park, occupying an area of about 530 hectares at Sha Tau Kok in the northeastern New Territories, is established as the 25th country park in Hong Kong.
- 3-10 Following successful showings in Jakarta and Bangkok in 2023, the third Immersive Hong Kong roving exhibition opens in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Through art-tech installations, visitors experience the best of Asia's world city, from its flourishing financial centre to its blossoming arts and sports, as well as its great outdoors and infrastructure. The exhibition makes two more stops in the year, arriving in Guangzhou in August and Dubai in December.
- 4-5 The Chief Executive visits Beijing to attend the opening meeting of the second annual session of the 14th National People's Congress. During the visit, he also calls on central ministries to enhance cooperation and exchange, and witnesses the signing of healthcare cooperation documents between the Hong Kong Jockey Club and the National Health Commission and the Health Bureau.
- 6 The Central People's Government, in response to the HKSAR Government's proposal on enhancing the Individual Visit Scheme, expands the eligible cities of the scheme to Xi'an in Shaanxi Province and Qingdao in Shandong Province. The scheme is further enhanced on 27 May to include eight more cities. The applicable cities of the scheme is increased to 59, covering all provincial capitals in the country.
- 8 The Safeguarding National Security Bill is introduced into the Legislative Council for first reading. The Safeguarding National Security Ordinance is passed on 19 March and comes into effect on 23 March. The ordinance fully implements the constitutional duty as stipulated under Article 23 of the Basic Law, the Decision of the National People's Congress on Establishing and Improving the Legal System and Enforcement Mechanisms for the HKSAR to Safeguard National Security and the Hong Kong National Security Law, in order to ensure the effective safeguarding of national security.

The Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Three-Places-One-Lock Scheme launches with the first batch of transshipment cargo delivered to the Macao clearance point via the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Hong Kong Port. By allowing the customs of all three places to conduct real-time monitoring on transshipments using e-locks and GPS technology, duplicate inspections by customs authorities are avoided and cargo clearance efficiency is enhanced.

- 12-14 The International Air Transport Association World Cargo Symposium, the largest annual global event in the air cargo industry, is held in Hong Kong for the first time.
- 14 The Chinese Culture Promotion Office is established to promote Chinese culture through planning programmes, exchanges and collaborations, with a view to enhancing citizens' cultural confidence and national identity.
- 21 Hong Kong Metropolitan University becomes the first university of applied sciences in Hong Kong. Subsequently, Saint Francis University becomes the second such university on 1 November.

April

- 8 The Working Group on Patriotic Education, under the Constitution and Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee, is established to coordinate the work of government departments and non-governmental organisations in taking forward patriotic education and dovetailing with the Patriotic Education Law of the People's Republic of China, with a view to enhancing education on the country's history, culture and current affairs on different fronts, promoting patriotism and ensuring its continuity from generation to generation. Four sub-groups are set up under the group, on school education; local community; history, politics, economy and culture; and media publicity.
- 8-12 The nation's first indigenously built polar scientific research icebreaking vessel, Xuelong 2, and the 40th Chinese Antarctic scientific expedition team arrive in Hong Kong for a five-day visit, making Hong Kong its first port of entry on their return journey to the country. The vessel is opened to the public to explore the advanced facilities onboard, while its crew members and scientists join sharing sessions with Hong Kong students.
- 12 The Department of Justice releases the Action Plan on the Construction of Rule of Law in the GBA to set forth the guiding principle, the development direction and specific policy measures on the construction of rule of law in the GBA in the future.

- 12-16 The government organises the Business of Innovation and Technology Week, which includes the government-funded Digital Economy Summit and the InnoEX, as well as the inaugural Hong Kong World Youth Science Conference. The Xiangjiang Nobel Forum is also held with the full support of the government. The events bring together local talent and those outside Hong Kong covering some 20 regions and over 3,000 exhibitors to showcase to the world Hong Kong's unique edge and strong innovation and technology (I&T) capabilities.
- 18 The Hong Kong-Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Park Limited signs memorandums of understanding with the first batch of around 60 world-class enterprises, academia and research institutes from nine economies to solidify their strategic partnership, marking a significant milestone of the park entering the operational phase.
- 19 The China Securities Regulatory Commission announces a series of measures to further expand the mutual access between the capital markets of the Mainland and Hong Kong, which include expanding the eligible product scope of equity exchange-traded funds under Stock Connect and encouraging more leading Mainland industries to list on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, among other things.
- 22 With a view to integrating a culture of 'plastic-and-disposable-free' into daily lives, the first phase of the regulation on disposable plastic tableware and other plastic products comes into effect, prohibiting the sale and/or free distribution of a range of disposable plastic products, including disposable plastic tableware, plastic stemmed cotton buds, umbrella bags and hotel toiletries.
- The Customs and Excise Department signs the Authorised Economic Operator Mutual Recognition Arrangement with Bahrain Customs Affairs, which allows cargo from both places to enjoy prioritised or reduced customs inspection. It is 15th such agreement Hong Kong has signed with trading partners and the 16th is signed with the South African Revenue Service in December.
- 30 The Chief Executive in Council accepts the recommendations of the Minimum Wage Commission on enhancing the review mechanism of the Statutory Minimum Wage (SMW), including reviewing the SMW rate once a year, adopting a formula for implementing the annual review and reviewing the new review mechanism five to 10 years after its implementation. The first SMW rate derived under the new review mechanism is expected to take effect on 1 May 2026.

May

- 4 Hong Kong fencing athletes Cheung Ka-long, Ryan Choi, Leung Chin-yu and Aaron Lee win their first ever gold medal, in the men's foil team event of the FIE Foil World Cup – Hong Kong, China, which is hosted in Hong Kong for the first time.
- 6 The Mainland authorities extend the period of stay for holders of an exit endorsement for business visit travelling to Hong Kong from seven days to 14 days and expands the application of the exit endorsement for talents to Beijing and Shanghai. The new measures facilitate Hong Kong's further integration into the national development and the southbound and northbound two-way flow of talents.
- 7-8 The government hosts the inaugural two-day talent-themed international forum and exhibition, the Global Talent Summit · Hong Kong, aiming to showcase Hong Kong's distinctive advantages of enjoying strong support from the motherland and being closely connected to the world under 'one country, two systems' as well as the charm of an international talent hub to the world.
- 16 The government unveils its enhanced strategies and measures to cope with extreme weather. Among others, trains already in open sections when a No 9 or above signal is raised will be arranged, under safe conditions and as far as possible, to continue to the original destinations, or stations with larger capacity for accommodating stranded passengers.
- 24 James Leslie Bain Allsop, former Chief Justice of the Federal Court of Australia, is appointed as a non-permanent judge from another common law jurisdiction of the Court of Final Appeal.

June

- 5 The Preparatory Office for the Hong Kong Centre for Medical Products Regulation (CMPR) is set up to put forward proposals and steps for the formal establishment of the CMPR to strengthen the regulatory and approval regimes for drugs and medical devices.
- 7 The inaugural Chinese Culture Festival opens at the Sha Tin Town Hall, kicking off nearly 100 events over about three months. The festival, attracting top-notch artists and arts groups from both the Mainland and other parts of the world for exchanges in Chinese arts and culture, aims to enhance the public's appreciation of Chinese culture and cultivate citizens' national identity and cultural confidence.

An updated Civil Service Code is promulgated, spelling out the core values and standards of conduct that civil servants should uphold. They include: upholding the constitutional order and national security; people-oriented; passion for public service; dedication to duty; commitment to the rule of law; integrity; political neutrality; professionalism; team spirit; outcome-focused; accountability for performance; and confidentiality.

- 11 A payload specialist from Hong Kong is selected by the China Manned Space Agency during its recruitment of the fourth batch of preparatory astronauts. This is the first time that a HKSAR citizen is selected as a preparatory astronaut under the National Manned Space Programme.
 - 12 The Hong Kong Investment Corporation Limited (HKIC) signs its first strategic partnership agreement with an I&T enterprise, SmartMore Corporation Limited. The HKIC, wholly owned by the HKSAR Government, identifies investment opportunities and strategically promotes the development of target industries, so as to enhance the long-term competitiveness and economic vitality of Hong Kong while generating investment returns. By the end of 2024, there are over 90 invested projects, which include BioMap, Galbot, Spark EV, GeneSense Technology, Emaldo Limited and EcoCeres.
 - 13 The Supreme People's Court and the Department of Justice sign a memorandum of understanding in Beijing on establishing a standing interface platform on judicial and legal cooperation in the GBA, to deepen high-level exchanges and cooperation, and take forward the work on the interfaces of mechanisms, regulatory frameworks and talent.
- The Shenzhen-Hong Kong Financial Co-operation Committee is established and convenes its first meeting, bringing together official members from the Central Authorities, Shenzhen and Hong Kong, as well as leaders of the financial industry in both places as non-official members, to provide insights on Shenzhen-Hong Kong financial cooperation and the development of financial infrastructure of the GBA.
- 15 A high-speed sleeper train service connecting Hong Kong West Kowloon Station with Beijing and Shanghai is launched, running from Fridays to Mondays. The sleeper trains significantly reduce rail travel times, almost by half, between Hong Kong and Beijing from over 24 hours on the ordinary-speed trains, to about 12.5 hours; and between Hong Kong and Shanghai from 19.5 hours to about 11 hours.

- 17 The government announces the Strategy of Hydrogen Development in Hong Kong which sets out four major strategies – improving legislation, establishing standards, aligning with the market, and advancing with prudence to create an environment conducive to the development of hydrogen energy in Hong Kong in a prudent and orderly manner – so that Hong Kong can capitalise on the environmental and economic opportunities brought about by the recent developments of hydrogen energy.
- 18 The Task Force on Basic Law Article 23 Legislation comprising the Department of Justice, the Security Bureau, and the Hong Kong Police Force is awarded the Chief Executive's Award for Exemplary Performance. A presentation ceremony is held on 26 June.
- 24 The Cultural and Creative Industries Development Agency is launched, restructured from Create Hong Kong. The agency strives to establish an ecosystem that is conducive to the development of the culture, arts and creative industries.
- 26 The eMPF Platform commences operation. It enhances operational efficiency, reduces administration fees and provides greater convenience in managing Mandatory Provident Fund accounts by standardising, streamlining and automating various Mandatory Provident Fund scheme administration tasks.

July

- 1 The Chief Executive announces that the Central People's Government will gift another pair of giant pandas to the HKSAR. The giant pandas An An and Ke Ke arrive in the city on 26 September and make their public debut on 8 December.
- In response to the HKSAR Government's proposal, the Central People's Government increases the duty-free allowance for luggage articles brought into the Mainland from Hong Kong by visitors who are Mainland residents from RMB5,000 to RMB12,000. The new measure is applicable to six land ports from 1 July and is then implemented at all ports from 1 August.
- 5 The Social Workers Registration (Amendment) Ordinance 2024 and the appointments to the Social Workers Registration Board take effect. The ordinance improves the governance of the board so that it will more effectively serve the interests of the wider community and safeguard national security.

- 10 The Mainland authorities start issuing card-type Mainland Travel Permits to non-Chinese Hong Kong permanent residents. Cardholders can travel to and from the Mainland multiple times within the five-year validity period of the card, without the need to apply for a separate visa to enter the Mainland. They can enjoy self-service clearance at control points of the Mainland, facilitating their visit to the Mainland for business, travelling and visiting relatives.

The Dentists Registration (Amendment) Bill is passed, creating new pathways for admitting qualified non-locally trained dentists to practise in Hong Kong; introducing an internship for local dental graduates and a period of assessment for non-locally trained dentists to enrich their clinical experience; as well as establishing a statutory registration system for dental hygienists and dental therapists.

- 15 The Primary Healthcare Commission under the Health Bureau is officially established to continue fostering primary healthcare development by developing new services and coordinating the primary healthcare services provided by various parties.

- 17 The coverage of the Single E-lock Scheme extends to Fujian province, covering over 85 clearance points in total and enhancing cargo clearance efficiency.

The Nurses Registration (Amendment) Bill is passed to create new pathways for admitting eligible non-locally trained nurses to practise in Hong Kong.

- 25 The Digital Policy Office, a merging of the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer and the Efficiency Office, is set up to promote data-driven, people-centric and outcome-based digital policies within the government and across various sectors to enhance efficiency and services.

- 26-11 Aug A total of 35 Hong Kong athletes compete in 13 events at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games and win two gold and two bronze medals, marking the first time the city has won more than one gold at the same Olympic Games. Fencer Cheung Ka-long successfully defends the gold medal in the men's foil individual event, becoming the first Hong Kong athlete to win Olympic gold in consecutive games while fencer Vivian Kong also wins the gold medal in the women's épée individual event. Swimming athlete Siobhan Bernadette Haughey wins bronze medals in both the women's 200m freestyle and women's 100m freestyle. The HKSAR Government procured the broadcasting rights of the Paris 2024 Olympic Games in Hong Kong, allowing all citizens to watch the games for free.

28-2 Aug The Chief Executive leads a delegation to visit Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam to introduce the strengths and latest developments of Hong Kong to local political and business communities, with a view to exploring business opportunities and establishing more extensive connections and networks. This is the first official visit by the Chief Executive of HKSAR to these three Association of Southeast Asian Nations member countries. A total of 55 agreements or memorandums of understanding are signed during the trip.

August

- 1 The Chief Executive, on behalf of the HKSAR, expresses his heartfelt gratitude to President Xi Jinping for his reply letter to a group of Hong Kong entrepreneurs of Ningbo descent, conveying his recognition and warm encouragement to the entrepreneurs for inheriting their ancestors' fine tradition of patriotism, as well as for their contributions to the development of their home town and the country.
- 6 The National Security Exhibition Gallery, at the Hong Kong Museum of History in Tsim Sha Tsui, opens to the public. It is divided into six zones, including a theatre showing a short video that allows viewers to review the modern history of China and understand the importance of national security.
- 10 Hong Kong hosts the inaugural Youth Development Summit, with the theme 'Set Sail for New Horizons', attracting over 2,400 young people to register to participate, including those from the Mainland and overseas locations such as Singapore, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Indonesia and Thailand.
- 15 Ying Ying and Le Le, the giant pandas gifted by the Central People's Government in 2007, succeeded in natural mating and Ying Ying gives birth to a pigeon pair of cubs at Ocean Park. At just a day shy of her 19th birthday, Ying Ying is the world's oldest first time giant panda mother.

- 28-8 Sep A total of 23 Hong Kong athletes are sent to the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games to take part in eight competition events, namely archery, athletics, badminton, boccia, equestrian, swimming, table tennis and wheelchair fencing. The Hong Kong team wins a total of eight medals, including three golds, all in boccia events. Mr John Loung wins gold in the men's individual BC1 event, while Ms Ho Yuen-kei triumphs in both the women's individual BC3 event and the mixed pairs BC3 event alongside Mr Tse Tak-wah. Silver medals are won by swimming athlete Chan Yui-lam in the women's 100m butterfly S14; boccia athlete Cheung Yuen in both the women's individual BC4 event and mixed pairs BC4 event alongside Mr Leung Yuk-wing; and badminton athlete Chan Ho Yuen in the men's singles WH2 event. Swimming athlete Ng Cheuk-yan wins a bronze medal in the women's 100m breaststroke SB6 event.
- 29-31 A 2024 Paris Olympic Games Mainland Olympians delegation, which includes 65 athletes and eight coaches from 16 sports events, visits Hong Kong to attend sport demonstrations and a gala show.

September

- 3 The government launches a trial scheme providing a one-off special allowance to help households in need that will be moving into Light Public Housing adapt to challenges such as transferring their children's school, buying furniture and electrical appliances, and re-establishing community networks. It is estimated that as many as 21,000 households will benefit from the scheme.
- The Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence is officially converted into the Hong Kong Museum of the War of Resistance and Coastal Defence, as one of the important cultivation bases for promoting patriotism. The first thematic exhibition focuses on the War of Resistance activities of the East River Column in Hong Kong and Shenzhen.
- 10 The People's Government of Guangdong Province issues its first offshore RMB bond in Hong Kong, further enriching the RMB financial products suite in the Hong Kong market, promoting the city's status as a bond centre and supporting RMB internationalisation.
- 12 The resident-oriented well-being design guide is launched to serve as a reference for the future design of new public housing estates and the improvement works of existing estates. It consists of eight booklets, covering well-being concepts such as Health and Vitality, Green Living and Sustainability, and Age-Friendliness, as well as over 50 well-being strategies and more than 170 design suggestions derived from them.

- 13 The HKIC hosts its inaugural ‘Hong Kong Start-up Investment and Development Summit’, bringing together top international talents in the I&T field from investment, industry, academia and research sectors, to foster closer collaboration and synergistic development.
- 16 The \$10 billion New Industrialisation Acceleration Scheme is launched to provide funding support for enterprises in industries of strategic importance to set up new smart production facilities in Hong Kong.
- 19 The HKSAR Government and the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology sign the Co-operation Agreement on the Development of New Quality Productive Forces and the Promotion of New Industrialisation to support Hong Kong in developing new quality productive forces and promoting new industrialisation according to local conditions.
- 22 The Taxi-Driver-Offence Points Ordinance comes into operation, covering 11 taxi-driver-related offences that affect taxi service quality, including overcharging, wilfully refusing or neglecting to accept a hire and driving to a destination other than by the most direct practicable route. It is one of the initiatives to enhance the overall quality of personalised point-to-point transport services and promote the healthy development of the taxi industry in the long run.
- 23 Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited implements severe weather trading in securities and derivatives markets to allow Hong Kong’s securities and derivatives markets to remain open during severe weather conditions.
- 24-26 The three-day 5th Belt and Road Initiative Tax Administration Cooperation Forum gathers about 500 tax officials, tax experts, as well as representatives from international organisations, academic institutions and enterprises from nearly 50 countries and regions to discuss emerging tax issues and exchange tax administration experiences. It is the first time that Hong Kong has hosted this annual mega event in the international tax community, showcasing the city’s unique gateway role in fostering partnerships and creating value for economies, businesses and people along the Belt and Road.

October

- 1 The HKSAR celebrates the 75th anniversary of the founding of the People’s Republic of China with a fireworks display and a series of diverse celebratory activities and special offers for members of the public to participate in and celebrate the National Day together. Elements and features of the number 75 are incorporated into various signature events.

The Deposit Protection Scheme is enhanced with the passage of the Deposit Protection Scheme (Amendment) Bill 2024. In the first phase, among other measures, the protection limit is raised from \$500,000 to \$800,000.

- 7 To promote the development of the artificial intelligence (AI) ecosystem, the government launches the three-year, \$3 billion AI Subsidy Scheme to provide subsidies to local universities, research and development (R&D) institutes and AI-related enterprises.
- 9 The HKSAR Government and Ministry of Commerce sign the Second Agreement Concerning Amendment to CEPA Agreement on Trade in Services, introducing new liberalisation measures across different service sectors where Hong Kong enjoys competitive advantages.
- 14-18 The inaugural Hong Kong Performing Arts Expo brings together over 1,600 arts leaders and practitioners from around 60 countries and regions, with the total number of audience and participants surpassing 31,000, providing a comprehensive platform for showcasing top-notch performing arts productions and enhancing exchanges to create business opportunities for these programmes and creative talents.
- 16 The Chief Executive delivers his third Policy Address, entitled 'Reform for Enhancing Development and Building Our Future Together', and sets out a range of initiatives to create new impetus for economic development, improve people's livelihood and enhance quality of life.
- 19-24 Nov The fourth Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Culture and Arts Festival opens at the Hong Kong Coliseum, with over 260 events taking place in Hong Kong, Macao and the nine Mainland cities in the GBA. It is the first time Hong Kong has hosted the festival that presents the arts and culture of the GBA.
- 23 It is announced that dinosaur fossils have been discovered for the first time in Hong Kong, at a site on Port Island in the Hong Kong Unesco Global Geopark in the city's northeastern waters. The discovery is the inaugural project under the Framework Agreement on Deepening Exchange and Collaboration regarding Stratigraphy, Palaeontology and Prehistoric Sites signed by the Development Bureau and the Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. The excavated dinosaur fossils, together with previously discovered animal and plant fossils, are showcased to the public at the Dinosaur Parlour in the courtyard of the Hong Kong Heritage Discovery Centre from 20 December.

- 28 The Financial Secretary leads a delegation of more than 100 financial, business and I&T leaders to Saudi Arabia on the first direct flight between Hong Kong and Riyadh since 2017, marking the restoration of a route with significant potential to enhance business, finance, and technology connections. This flight route revitalises travel and opens new opportunities for collaboration and investment between the regions.

November

- 1 Six Hong Kong scientists are among the expedition team aboard the icebreakers Xuelong and Xuelong 2, departing from the Guangzhou Nansha International Cruise Home Port as part of China's 41st Antarctic expedition. It is the first time Hong Kong scientists have been included in the nation's polar exploration missions.

The '1+' drug approval mechanism is extended to all new drugs, including vaccines and advanced therapy products, facilitating good drugs for use in Hong Kong. It will attract more new drugs from different parts of the world seeking approval for registration in the city, and further strengthen the local capacity for drug evaluation with a view to progressing towards 'primary evaluation'.

The North Lantau Marine Park is established as Hong Kong's eighth, and largest, marine park, covering about 2,400 hectares.

- 4-8 The Hong Kong Legal Week, an annual flagship event of the legal sector, to showcase Hong Kong as an international legal and dispute resolution services centre is held.

- 5-10 The Chief Executive leads a delegation to attend the opening ceremony and relevant events of the seventh China International Import Expo in Shanghai, in which more than 300 Hong Kong enterprises participate to promote quality Hong Kong products and services, representing almost one-tenth of the total number of exhibitors at the Enterprise and Business Exhibition.

- 8 The Chief Executive leads a delegation to attend Hong Kong Business Leaders Symposium 2024 organised by the Hong Kong and Macao Work Office of the CPC Central Committee, and the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council in Shenzhen.

- 9 A one-year countdown event for the 15th National Games, 12th National Games for Persons with Disabilities and ninth National Special Olympic Games is held. The National Games, held once every four years, is the nation's highest-level and the largest national multi-sport event. To raise public awareness of the games, roving exhibitions will be held in various districts and promotional activities will be launched in community and schools.
- The Long Valley Nature Park in Sheung Shui opens to the public, integrating wetland conservation, eco-friendly farming, and nature education over an area of about 37 hectares.
- 13-17 The Chief Executive conducts a five-day visit to Peru, where he attends the 31st Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Meeting as well as exploring business opportunities and promoting Hong Kong's development opportunities. During his visit, Hong Kong and Peru sign a free trade agreement encompassing trade in services, including electronic commerce, trade in goods, investment and other related areas.
- 18-20 More than 350 global and regional leaders from over 120 financial institutions attend the three-day Global Financial Leaders' Investment Summit themed 'Sailing through Changes' held by the Hong Kong Monetary Authority. More than 100 institutions are represented by their group chairmen or CEOs.
- 20 The government promulgates the Development Outline for the Hong Kong Park of the Hetao Shenzhen-Hong Kong Science and Technology Innovation Co-operation Zone to promote and plan the Hong Kong park's development and implement 'one zone, two parks' with the Shenzhen park.
- 21 The GBA International Clinical Trial Institute opens in the Hong Kong Park of the Hetao Shenzhen-Hong Kong Science and Technology Innovation Co-operation Zone to coordinate clinical trial resources in the public and private sectors, serve as a one-stop clinical trial support platform for medical research institutions while streamlining workflow, and drive training for talent and collaboration across the GBA.
- 24 The 2024 Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Road Cycling Race and the 15th National Games road cycling test event are organised. A men's individual road cycling race, with 71 participants, is held along the North Lantau Highway, and passing through the Hong Kong Disneyland Resort, to act as a test event for the road cycling event at the 15th National Games in 2025.

- 25-27 A HKSAR Government delegation and senior representatives of the business sectors, led by the Chief Executive, travel to Guangzhou for a three-day visit to the Mainland cities of the GBA, with a view to further promoting the cooperation between the HKSAR, Guangdong Province and various GBA cities in business, trade and different industries.
- 26 The Blueprint for Arts and Culture and Creative Industries Development is promulgated, setting out a clear vision, principles and strategic directions for the future development of the arts, with a view to consolidating Hong Kong's position as an East-meets-West Centre for International Cultural Exchange.
- 28 The Three-runway System at Hong Kong International Airport is commissioned and all three runways start operating simultaneously, marking a new milestone in Hong Kong's aviation development. With the new capacity, Hong Kong's position as a major international aviation hub is further strengthened.
- 29 The Chief Executive witnesses more than 80 enterprise representatives sign a memorandum of understanding on supporting and participating in the Northern Metropolis development at the signing ceremony at the Enterprise Participation in Northern Metropolis Development event held by the government. During the ceremony, 35 of the 80 enterprise representatives in attendance also signed agreements among themselves to collaborate in the Northern Metropolis development, with a total investment of over \$100 billion.
- 30 The one-year Pilot Scheme for Direct Cross-boundary Ambulance Transfer in the GBA is launched, with its first phase arranging direct cross-boundary ambulance transfer of patients from designated hospitals in Shenzhen and Macao to designated public hospitals in Hong Kong.

December

- 1 The multiple-entry Individual Visit Endorsements for Shenzhen residents resumes, allowing them to visit Hong Kong more conveniently and freely, further adding momentum to Hong Kong's tourism, catering, retail, and other industries. The arrangement is also expanded to cover Shenzhen residence holders.
- 4-7 The HKSAR again ranks first among 15 participating economies at the Asia Pacific Information and Communications Technology Alliance Awards 2024, held in Brunei, winning eight Winner Awards, four First Runner-up Awards, three Second Runner-up Awards and three Merit Awards.

- 5 The Chief Executive announces, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Basic Law and the Central People's Government, upon his nomination and recommendation, the appointment of Ms Mable Chan as the Secretary for Transport and Logistics, and Miss Rosanna Law Shuk-pui as the Secretary for Culture, Sports and Tourism.
- 6 The government releases the final report of the Working Group on Oral Health and Dental Care, and formulates a corresponding Oral Health Action Plan to develop community-wide preventive primary oral healthcare while providing essential dental care services targeting underprivileged groups.
- 8 To mark the one-year countdown to the 12th National Games for Persons with Disabilities and the ninth National Special Olympic Games, as well as to kick off the annual Hong Kong Paralympic Day, the National Games Coordination Office (Hong Kong) and the China Hong Kong Paralympic Committee hold a ceremony at the Hong Kong Sports Institute.
- 9 The first-phase facility of the Cyberport's Artificial Intelligence Supercomputing Centre commences operations to enhance Hong Kong's R&D capabilities and promote the development of the AI industry.
- 11-14 The Chief Executive pays a duty visit to Beijing to brief state leaders on the latest economic, social and political situation in Hong Kong. During the visit, the Chief Executive meets with members of the Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce in China, representatives from higher education institutions in Beijing and the Minister of Human Resources and Social Security.
- 23 The reprovisioned Chung Ying Street Checkpoint in Sha Tau Kok is opened, along with a pilot scheme for facial recognition technology that allows people living or working at Chung Ying Street to access the area through contactless channels without having to stop and produce their Closed Area Permit or use their fingerprint to verify their identity.
- 30 The Development Blueprint for Hong Kong's Tourism Industry 2.0 is released, seeking to reinforce Hong Kong's role as an international tourism hub, highlight its irreplaceable and unique local characteristics and make good use of its positioning as an East-meets-West centre for international cultural change. The blueprint contains a total of four positions, four development strategies and 133 measures.