Calendar of Events 2025

January

1 The homegrown C919 passenger aircraft lands in Hong Kong from Shanghai, marking its inaugural scheduled commercial flight outside the Chinese Mainland. The daily Hong Kong-Shanghai route demonstrates the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region's (HKSAR) strength as an international aviation hub which can facilitate the Mainland's aviation technological breakthroughs to go global.

6 The Hong Kong Breast Milk Bank at the Hong Kong Children's Hospital in Kowloon City, starts service, with its initial phase being to recruit donors and accept breast milk donations. The second phase, distributing the donor milk to premature or critically ill newborns, starts on 30 March. The milk bank aims to collect approximately 1,000 litres of breast milk each year, benefiting 450 to 600 premature or critically ill newborns. It officially opens on 16 June.

10 A 67-year-old man suffering from respiratory failure in Shenzhen becomes the first patient to be transferred to Hong Kong under the Pilot Scheme for Direct Cross-boundary Ambulance Transfer in the Greater Bay Area and is admitted to Tuen Mun Hospital. The pilot scheme is extended to designated hospitals in Zhuhai and Nansha from 9 November.

13-14 The two-day 18th Asian Financial Forum with the theme 'Powering the Next Growth Engine', brings more than 3,600 participants from 60 countries and regions to discuss global economic and financial development, growth potential of emerging markets such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the Middle East, and advancements in new financial areas such as artificial intelligence (AI), fintech, sustainable development, family offices and philanthropy.

15 HKSAR passport holders are eligible to apply for a tourist visa upon arrival at six designated control points in Saudi Arabia, while the visa-free period for nationals of Saudi Arabia to visit Hong Kong is extended from 30 to 90 days. It means all six member states of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, have now granted visa-free access or visa-on-arrival to HKSAR passport holders.

February

6-14 Hong Kong, China sends its largest delegation to date to the ninth Asian Winter Games in Harbin, with 74 athletes taking part in various events, including alpine skiing, curling, ice hockey, figure skating, short track speed skating and speed skating. The Chief Executive, Mr John Lee, and his wife, Mrs Janet Lee, visit Harbin and attend a welcome banquet for international dignitaries hosted by President Xi Jinping and his wife, Peng Liyuan.

9 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 the Hong Kong Park of the Hetao Shenzhen-Hong Kong Science and Technology Innovation Co-operation Zone and the Qianhai Shenzhen-Hong Kong Modern Service Industry Co-operation Zone.

15 The first pair of giant panda cubs born in Hong Kong at Ocean Park in 2024 make their public debut at a ceremony officiated by the Chief Executive and his wife. Following a naming competition which receives almost 36,000 entries, the cubs are officially named Jia Jia and De De on 27 May.

26 The Financial Secretary, Mr Paul Chan, delivers his 2025-26 Budget, unveiling measures aimed at accelerating the cultivation of new quality productive forces to capitalise on the opportunities presented by technology reform and AI development, which are leading to the emergence of new industries, new forms of business, new products and new services.

March

1 The Kai Tak Sports Park officially commences operation, the largest sports infrastructure project ever commissioned in Hong Kong. As the city's first integrated sports, leisure and entertainment landmark, the sports park provides world-class and multi-purpose sports and recreation facilities, including the 50,000-seat Kai Tak Stadium, 10,000-seat Kai Tak Arena and 5,000-seat Kai Tak Youth Sports Ground. There are also over 700,000 square feet of retail, catering as well as leisure and entertainment facilities. The sports park becomes a focal point for both local and international audiences, with more than 1.6 million spectators attending events at the stadium alone, and over 7 million visitors to the precinct overall by end-2025.

1 Enhancements to the New Capital Investment Entrant Scheme take effect, to further strengthen Hong Kong's status as an international asset and wealth management centre. Under the new measures, applicants need only show that they had net assets or net equity with a market value of not less than HK$30 million net for the last six months, rather than two years before the enhancement. Net assets or net equity jointly owned with family members can also now be taken into consideration.

5 The Chief Executive attends the opening meeting of the third session of the 14th National People's Congress, during which Premier Li Qiang delivers the government work report. Premier Li expresses support for Hong Kong in strengthening economic development and improving people's livelihood, deepening international exchanges and cooperation, with a view to better integrating into the overall national development and maintaining the long-term prosperity and stability of Hong Kong. He also highlights the need to enhance the innovation capabilities and influence of economically advantaged areas, including the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA).

18 The founding ceremony of the Hong Kong New Industrialisation Development Alliance is held at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre. More than 500 distinguished guests from the government, industry, academia, research and investment sectors attend to demonstrate their support.

19 The first of five community living rooms to launch during the year opens in Shau Kei Wan, providing facilities to households from more than 330 subdivided flats. The 2,700 square foot area is also the first such facility to open on Hong Kong Island. Further community living rooms will open throughout the year, including Ko Shan Road in April, Sham Shui Po East in June, Prince Edward in July and Ma Tau Kok in September.

20 The first batch of 38 Low-altitude Economy Regulatory Sandbox pilot projects is announced to foster low-altitude economy applications in diversified scenarios.

25 The government announces the details of the fees and charges reform for public healthcare. The reform aims to guide the public to make optimal use of healthcare resources, reduce wastage and abuse, and enhance healthcare protection for poor, acute, serious, critical patients on all fronts, thereby enhancing the sustainability of the healthcare system. The new structure will be implemented from January 2026.

28-30 The Hong Kong Sevens rugby tournament is the first large-scale event held at Kai Tak Stadium. The event is awarded the 'M' Mark status by the Major Sports Events Committee and attracts more than 110,000 spectators.

29-9 Apr A 51-strong search and rescue team is deployed to quake-stricken areas in Myanmar, where it conducts joint operations with the China search and rescue teams and successfully rescues a survivor.

30 A special flight demonstration takes place over Victoria Harbour to commemorate a century since the first flight took off from Kai Tak Airport.

31 The governments of Guangdong and Hong Kong hold the Commemoration Ceremony of the 60th Anniversary of Dongjiang Water Supply to Hong Kong and the Launching Ceremony of Dancing Water Drops Exhibition.

April

8 The Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises holds the Enterprises Signing Ceremony to welcome a new batch of strategic enterprises establishing or expanding their operations in Hong Kong. The new batch includes 18 strategic enterprises from high-tech industries such as advanced manufacturing and new energy technology, AI and data science, fintech, and life and health technology.

8-11 The Joint Meeting of Four Expert Groups of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Energy Working Group and its associated workshops are held in Hong Kong for the first time. Over 100 experts and delegates from 18 APEC member economies, as well as three international organisations, gather to share and exchange experiences on topics such as energy security, clean energy, renewable energy, energy efficiency, energy data and analysis, and sustainable development.

14-15 The World Internet Conference Asia-Pacific Summit is held in Hong Kong for the first time, with the theme 'Integration of AI and Digital Technologies Shaping the Future – Jointly Building a Community with a Shared Future in Cyberspace'. The two-day summit attracts nearly 1,000 participants to exchange views in promoting high-quality development in innovation and technology (I&T), strengthening regional digital collaboration, and creating new momentum and new advantages for the development of the region.

14-17 The World Tourism Cities Federation Hong Kong Fragrant Hills Tourism Summit is held for the first time in Hong Kong. It attracts about 800 local and international participants from more than 60 cities and over 40 countries, including city mayors, deputy mayors, ambassadors, representatives of international organisations, the industry's leaders, and tourism-related stakeholders.

15 The Digital Policy Office releases the Hong Kong Generative Artificial Intelligence Technical and Application Guideline to balance AI innovation, application and responsibility, thereby constructing a governance framework with local characteristics that is suitable for all stakeholders in the AI ecosystem.

22-23 The Asia Cultural Co-operation Forum+ 2025 gathers cultural ministers and senior officials from a record-high number of 17 countries to exchange views on strategies in promoting arts and cultural development. Five countries, including Belt and Road ones from outside Asia, participate for the first time, demonstrating Hong Kong's role as a super-connector and East-meets-West centre for cultural exchange.

28 The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) establishes the Expert Panel on Project Cargo[X] to enhance the digital ecosystem for trade finance by harnessing the power of cargo and trade data. The panel, comprising industry experts and key stakeholders from cargo and trade data providers, trade associations, banks, credit reference agencies and government agencies, will formulate a roadmap for digitising cargo and trade data (encompassing sea, road and air transportation data), and integrating relevant cargo and trade data sources across jurisdictions with the Commercial Data Interchange data infrastructure.

May

1 The abolition of using accrued benefits of employers' mandatory contributions under the Mandatory Provident Fund (MPF) System to offset severance payment and long service payment takes effect. To tie in with the abolition, the Labour Department launches the 25-year Subsidy Scheme for Abolition of MPF Offsetting Arrangement to share out employers' expenses after the abolition.

The Statutory Minimum Wage rate is raised from $40 per hour to $42.10, an increase of 5.3 per cent.

2 The government announces the extension of the Elderly Health Care Voucher Greater Bay Area Pilot Scheme to include 12 additional medical institutions in the GBA, bringing the total to 19 and covering all nine Mainland cities in the GBA. Together with the two existing service points, a total of 21 service points in the GBA will be allowed to use the vouchers, benefiting more than 1.78 million eligible Hong Kong elderly persons.

7 The Stamp Duty (Amendment) Bill 2025 passes, raising the maximum value of properties chargeable to the $100 stamp duty from $3 million to $4 million, aiming to ease the burden on buyers of properties at lower values.

8 The Institute for Medical Advancement and Clinical Excellence is established, bringing together different areas of expertise from the healthcare sector to serve as a professional platform for the development of evidence-based clinical guidelines and explore the feasibility of devising service quality and efficiency standards for public and private healthcare services.

8-9 Hong Kong hosts the fourth 6G Global Summit – and the first to be held in the Asia-Pacific region – to explore future of next-generation communications and bring together top-level industry and policy representatives from around the world to explore the potential of sixth-generation (6G) mobile communications technology in shaping a better future.

10-15 The Chief Executive leads a business delegation to visit Qatar and Kuwait, aiming to further strengthen exchanges and connections with the Middle East region in areas such as finance, trade, investment and I&T, and to promote the latest advantages and opportunities in Hong Kong to local business communities.

15 A seminar is held for National Security Education District Tutors to further support them to effectively promote national security education in the community and enhance public awareness of safeguarding national security. Around 700 district tutors from the 18 districts attend the seminar at the Central Government Offices to mark the fifth anniversary of the promulgation and implementation of the Hong Kong National Security Law.

26 The Community Dental Support Programme is launched, providing dental services to the underprivileged with financial difficulties, in addition to the existing dental grants under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme and the emergency dental services provided by government dental clinics. The programme is expected to provide a service capacity of at least double that of the current quotas of dental general public sessions at government dental clinics (about 40,000 participants every year).

30 The signing ceremony of the Convention on the Establishment of The International Organization for Mediation and the Global Forum on International Mediation is held in Hong Kong. Thirty-three countries, including China and countries from Asia, Africa, Latin America and Europe, jointly sign the convention and more than 50 countries and nearly 20 international organisations, including the United Nations, also send senior representatives to witness the signing ceremony.

31 The government takes over the Tai Lam Tunnel and implements time-varying, reduced tolls for all vehicle types.

31-1 Jul The inaugural Hong Kong Intangible Cultural Heritage Month is launched to let citizens and tourists experience the rich array of Hong Kong's heritage and to foster a deep understanding of Chinese culture. A series of programmes is presented, including carnivals, performances, interactive experiential booths and field trips.

June

2 The Greater Bay Area Aircraft, with a promotional design livery reading 'Leveraging Hong Kong's Strengths, Developing a First-class Greater Bay Area', is unveiled at Hong Kong International Airport. The aircraft will operate on flights between Hong Kong and Chinese Mainland and overseas cities to promote the GBA and Hong Kong to the world.

10 A memorandum of understanding is signed between the Financial Services Development Council and TheCityUK to establish a partnership in sharing insights and best practices to advance transition finance, collaborating on workforce development to address evolving market requirements, as well as establishing a framework to conduct an annual review to assess progress in collaboration and explore new opportunities.

12 The first Women Wellness Satellite in Chai Wan begins operation, providing prevention-based and personalised primary healthcare services to women aged 64 or below. Further satellites in Lam Tin and Tuen Mun commence operation in September.

13 The Chinese Culture Festival 2025 opens at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre, launching over 280 events which run until September. The festival promotes Chinese culture and enhances the public's national identity and cultural confidence. It also attracts top-notch artists and arts groups from the Chinese Mainland and other parts of the world for exchanges in Chinese arts and culture.

17-18 The Financial Secretary visits Shanghai and attends the opening ceremony and plenary session of the 2025 Lujiazui Forum. He also witnesses the signing of the Action Plan for Collaborative Development of Shanghai and Hong Kong International Financial Centres. He meets with officials of the relevant central ministries and Shanghai, as well as economic and financial leaders from various places, to discuss the strengthening of cooperation and exchanges.

18-22 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, arrives in Hong Kong to attend the fifth Anniversary of Promulgation & Implementation of Hong Kong National Security Law Forum on 21 June. Mr Xia also inspects the latest economic and social developments of Hong Kong.

21 Renowned legal experts and academics review the legislative intent and background of the Hong Kong National Security Law, and discuss the fruitful achievements since the implementation of the law, in the afternoon session of the fifth Anniversary of Promulgation & Implementation of Hong Kong National Security Law Forum.

23 Sir William Gillow Gibbes Austen Young, a former Permanent Judge of the Supreme Court of New Zealand, is appointed as a non-permanent judge from another common law jurisdiction of the Court of Final Appeal.

23-26 The Financial Secretary leads a delegation from the I&T sector to attend the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting of the New Champions 2025 in Tianjin and attends the 10th Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank in Beijing.

28 The 'Tang Vogue Beyond the Horizons: A Golden Era of Multicultural Integration and Openness' exhibition, jointly organised by the Development Bureau and the National Cultural Heritage Administration, opens, featuring significant Tang dynasty artefacts unearthed on the Chinese Mainland and in Hong Kong to showcase the inclusiveness, diversity and openness of the prosperous Tang dynasty, and introduce Hong Kong's pivotal role in the Maritime Silk Road.

30 The first Digital Education Week is launched at Central Government Offices, part of a strategy to dovetail with the national development of digital education and to nurture talents for the I&T sector.

July

1 A series of special offers and activities covering public transport, culture and arts, leisure, food and consumption, among others, is launched by the government and different sectors to celebrate the 28th anniversary of Hong Kong's return to the motherland.

3 The Infrastructure x Education Exhibition and the first phase of achievement of the STEAM Up project is launched. It is the first time the construction industry has worked with the education sector to organise a large-scale exhibition featuring infrastructure projects in Hong Kong to promote STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics) education relating to the construction industry, thereby helping students apply STEAM knowledge through practical examples and encouraging the younger generation to join the construction industry.

3-7 A naval fleet from the People's Liberation Army, including the *Shandong* aircraft carrier, two missile destroyers *Yan'an* and *Zhanjiang*, as well as missile frigate *Yuncheng*, arrive in the city for a five-day visit to mark Hong Kong's return to the motherland. Members of the public tour the aircraft carrier and missile destroyers, while other cultural activities and national defence seminars are also held.

7 The Subsidy Scheme to Extend 5G Coverage in Rural and Remote Areas is launched. Under the scheme, participating mobile network operators will install new subsidised radio base stations in various locations, including country parks, outlying islands and other rural and remote areas, to enhance mobile network coverage and capacity in these areas.

14-16 The Chief Secretary for Administration, Mr Chan Kwok-ki, visits Hainan province and Harbin, Heilongjiang province to meet with local leaders to discuss matters of mutual concern and explore ways to strengthen exchanges and cooperation.

14 The first Taxi Fleet Licence is issued to SynCab Taxi for a period of five years. Licences for four other fleets – Big Boss Taxi, Amigo, Big Bee and Joie – are issued on 28 July. The launch of five taxi fleets is an important step in enhancing the service quality of and injecting a new impetus to the taxi trade.

19 The 'She Inspires' Mentorship Programme is launched, welcoming its first cohort of more than 80 local female university students who aspire to pursue a career in the professional or business sectors. They will be matched with over 50 women leader mentors, and receive relevant training and activities to help them enhance their skills, build confidence and network to thrive in their future career.

21 The Hostels in the City Scheme starts accepting applications. Through the scheme, the government has streamlined development control procedures to encourage and facilitate the market to convert commercial buildings into student hostels on a self-financing privately funded basis to increase the supply of hostel places, thereby strengthening Hong Kong's position as an international hub for post-secondary education.

23 The Chief Executive officiates at the Chief Executive's Award for Exemplary Performance Presentation Ceremony to present award certificates to two award-winning teams, namely the HKSAR Search and Rescue Team that went to quake-stricken areas in Myanmar in March and the Inter-departmental Preparation Team for Kai Tak Sports Park Commissioning.

23 Fencer Ryan Choi wins a gold medal in the men's foil individual event of the 2025 Fencing World Championships. It is also Hong Kong's first-ever gold medal in the championships.

26 English Premier League champions Liverpool play against Italian giants AC Milan at Kai Tak Stadium in the first of two matches that make up the Hong Kong Football Festival – an international football exhibition match series. The second match, on 31 July, sees Arsenal and Tottenham Hotspur contest the first-ever North London derby outside the United Kingdom. The stadium also welcomes its millionth guest during the latter match.

30 The government releases the Report on Hong Kong's Business Environment: Unique Strengths under 'One Country, Two Systems'. The report provides all sectors of the community and Chinese Mainland and overseas investors with details on Hong Kong's latest developments and strengths, comprehensively showcasing Hong Kong's open, safe, stable, efficient and internationalised business environment.

31 The government replaces the term 'space oil drug' with 'etomidate' in its publicity to eradicate any positive perceptions or glamour that had been associated with this dangerous drug.

August

1 The Stablecoins Ordinance takes effect, establishing a licensing regime for fiat-referenced stablecoins issuers in Hong Kong and further enhancing the city's regulatory framework on digital asset activities, thereby fostering financial stability, encouraging financial innovation and providing better protection for the public and investors.

15 The government holds the National Ecology Day 2025 Launching Ceremony cum Symposium, commencing a series of activities related to environmental protection and ecological conservation with representatives from the Chinese Mainland and HKSAR governments, and non-governmental organisations, scholars and experts to exchange ideas on ecological civilisation concepts and conservation work.

25 The Chief Executive witnesses the presentation of plaques to 15 State Key Laboratories in Hong Kong by the Minister of Science and Technology. Since being accredited the status of State Key Laboratories by the Ministry of Science and Technology in 2018, these labs have demonstrated their world-class capabilities in basic research, technological innovation, and the development of key core technologies. The ministry approved the restructuring of the Hong Kong laboratories in January, which came into effect on 1 July.

25 Coleman Wong becomes the first man from Hong Kong, China to win a Grand Slam tennis match in the Open Era in the US Open, and then the first to reach the third round of a major tournament.

September

1 The Shenzhen-Hong Kong-Guangzhou innovation cluster is ranked top worldwide in the *Global Innovation Index 2025 Top 100 Innovation Clusters*, published by the World Intellectual Property Organization.

2-4 The Chief Executive leads a 360-strong delegation comprising members from various sectors of the community to Beijing to attend the commemorative activities of the 80th Anniversary of Victory in the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War, which includes a commemorative rally and military parade, and a cultural gala. The HKSAR Government also holds an official ceremony at the Hong Kong City Hall Memorial Garden, and diverse forms of commemorative and educational activities to help the community to better appreciate the value of peace and foster national spirit.

5 The Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Anti-drug Summit, jointly organised by the Narcotics Division of the Security Bureau and Action Committee Against Narcotics, is held in Hong Kong. It marks the first anti-drug summit hosted by Hong Kong that is focused on the GBA.

7 The 2025 Election Committee Subsector By-elections are held, with 28 candidates contesting a total of 21 seats in six subsectors. About 3,500 votes are cast with a cumulative turnout rate of 97.33 per cent.

10-11 The two-day Belt and Road Summit attracts around 6,200 participants, including more than 90 government and business speakers, as well as over 100 delegations, to explore the opportunities arising from areas such as trade and commerce, investment, I&T and green development, and yields 45 government and business memorandums of understanding, highlighting Hong Kong's role as the functional platform for the Belt and Road Initiative.

17 The Chief Executive delivers his fourth policy address, entitled 'Deepening Reforms for Our People and Leveraging Our Strengths for a Brighter Future' and sets out a range of initiatives anchored in two pillars – the economy and people's livelihood – to enable citizens to enjoy better quality of life.

19 The Tobacco Control Legislation (Amendment) Ordinance 2025 is gazetted to implement a new phase of tobacco control measures. The primary focus of the measures is to combat illicit cigarettes and prevent a new generation from smoking.

An American aerial bomb from World War II, approximately 150cm in length, weighing about 1,000 pounds and containing 500 pounds of high explosives is discovered on a construction site in Quarry Bay. A major government operation is staged to swiftly and safely dispose of the bomb and also evacuate 18 nearby residential or commercial buildings. The operation is successfully completed before noon on 20 September, just under 24 hours after the initial report.

23 The 15th China-ASEAN Prosecutors-General Conference takes place. Around 80 participants including prosecutors general, attorneys general, and representatives from prosecution authorities from China and the ASEAN member states attend the conference for high-level exchanges between prosecution authorities of China and ASEAN member states on issues of common interest, with a view to enhancing capacities in combatting transnational crimes, protecting people's livelihoods and maintaining regional stability.

October

1 The government conducts a flag-raising ceremony cum National Day Reception to celebrate the 76th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. Celebrations are staged in various districts by the government in collaboration with various sectors of the community.

2 The IADS Developer Hackathon is launched, a joint collaboration between the HKMA and Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation, bringing together banking industry and fintech firms to collaborate and create innovative, secure, customer-consented solutions, leveraging the Interbank Account Data Sharing (IADS) initiative to drive digital transformation in the banking sector.

6 The Task Force on Supporting Mainland Enterprises in Going Global is established, serving as a one-stop platform to formulate comprehensive support services to better support Chinese Mainland enterprises to go global via Hong Kong. The steering committee, chaired by the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, holds its first meeting on 14 October and its first large-scale promotional event, the Hong Kong – The Ideal Platform for Mainland Enterprises in Going Global Promotion Conference is held in Shanghai on 6 November.

11 The Hospital Authority's General Out-patient Clinic and Family Medicine Specialist Clinic services are unified under the name Family Medicine Out-patient Services. The aim is to coordinate the authority's repositioning of services to focus on serving underprivileged groups and to highlight the development direction of primary healthcare services, which is to provide people-oriented services based on family medicine principles with a focus on prevention.

20 At the first Governing Council meeting, the International Organization for Mediation is authorised to commence its operations with immediate effect. The Chief Executive attends the inauguration ceremony with representatives of the eight contracting states, as well as 87 senior officials from 31 of the 37 signatory states.

21-24 The Financial Secretary leads a delegation of more than 40 members to Beijing to study the development experiences of major new areas on the Chinese Mainland and to advance the planning, construction and investment promotion for the Northern Metropolis.

27 The Unmanned Aircraft System (Private) Licence is launched to support the development of low-altitude economy, allowing organisations participating in the Low-altitude Economy Regulatory Sandbox pilot projects to apply to use dedicated spectrum, with a view to supporting Hong Kong as a major hub for low-altitude innovative applications.

27-31 The Financial Secretary leads a delegation of around 40 members to Saudi Arabia to promote collaboration between Hong Kong and Chinese Mainland enterprises in going global and seizing new business opportunities together. Multiple memorandums of understanding and cooperation agreements are signed, covering areas such as smart mobility, green energy, AI, robotics and digital transformation.

29-2 Nov The Chief Executive travels to Korea to attend the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting and other related activities in Gyeongju, including the APEC Economic Leaders' Informal Dialogue with Guests, the APEC Business Advisory Council Dialogue with APEC Economic Leaders, and the Gala Dinner hosted by the organiser for participating leaders.

November

2 The 15th National Games' torch relay in the Hong Kong competition region is held, with 50 torchbearers representing various sectors, including sports, sponsors, volunteers, the youth, persons with disabilities and ethnic minorities, taking part and showcasing Hong Kong's open, diverse, and inclusive character.

3 The unveiling ceremony of the East Kowloon Cultural Centre is held, marking the cultural centre's formal opening. As a performance venue, it is committed to promoting world-class integration of arts and technology, and is equipped with cutting-edge professional stage technology and flexible stage setups to facilitate experimentation and innovation. The Hall of the East Kowloon Cultural Centre is specifically reserved for long-running performances to facilitate the staging of iconic productions for a longer period of time and foster the sustainable development of the performing arts industry.

3-7 The Hong Kong FinTech Week x StartmeupHK Festival 2025 is held, commemorating the 10th anniversaries of both flagship events and attracting a record high of over 45,000 visitors from over 120 economies and featuring over 1,000 distinguished speakers, over 800 exhibitors and more than 30 Chinese Mainland and international delegations. The main conference showcases 11 themed forums, including the Policy Forum, Visionary Forum, InsurTech Forum, HealthTech Forum, Wealth & Investment Management Forum, Digital Finance Forum, Digital Assets Forum, Blockchain & Web3 Forum, AI & Advanced Tech Forum, China-Global Innovation Forum, and TechX Forum.

4 Four new features are launched for the 18111 Mental Health Support Hotline, including WhatsApp support, multi-language support, scheduled callback and additional optional services. The new features offer more thoughtful, convenient, and comprehensive services, to further enhance mental health support for the public.

4-6 The Chief Executive leads a delegation to visit Shanghai and attends the eighth China International Import Expo. He also officiates at the Hong Kong – The Ideal Platform for Mainland Enterprises in Going Global Promotion Conference and meets with leaders of Shanghai. More than 350 Hong Kong enterprises from various industries exhibit at the expo.

4-7 The Housing · I&T Summit with the theme 'Pioneering Innovative Housing for a Sustainable Future' brings together government representatives, experts, scholars and industry leaders from around the world to explore innovation and developments in housing construction technology. It features symposium sessions, followed by site visits to a smart factory in Zhuhai and Light Public Housing in Hong Kong.

9-21 The 15th National Games is co-hosted for the first time by Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao. Hong Kong stages eight competition events, namely basketball (men's U22), track cycling, fencing, golf, handball (men), rugby sevens, triathlon and beach volleyball, as well as the mass participation event of bowling. A total of 602 athletes from the HKSAR compete in 28 competition events and win 19 medals, comprising nine gold, two silver and eight bronze medals. The Chief Executive signs an agreement on strengthening sports cooperation and the promotion of integrated development with the Director of the General Administration of Sport of China, Mr Gao Zhidan, the Governor of Guangdong Province, Mr Meng Fanli, and the Chief Executive of the Macao Special Administrative Region, Mr Sam Hou-fai, in Shenzhen on 21 November.

15 Under the Southbound Travel for Guangdong Vehicles arrangement, the Airport Authority's 'Park & Fly' service begins operation. It enables self-driving travellers from Guangdong and Macao to park at the automated car park on the Hong Kong Port Island of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge and transfer to a flight from Hong Kong International Airport.

17 The first batch of 'partner ports' are announced, including Guangxi and Dalian from the Chinese Mainland and San Antonio Port in Chile. The ports are of strategic importance and will help Hong Kong connect the Chinese Mainland with the world and deepen the exchanges and collaboration between Hong Kong and international maritime networks.

18 The Chief Executive in Council approves in principle the establishment of the third medical school and for it to be established by the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology.

20 A trial version of HKChat, an intelligent chatbot application, developed by the Hong Kong Generative Artificial Intelligence Research and Development Center, is launched to the public. It supports the integration of Cantonese, Putonghua and English, as well as a local knowledge base.

24-25 The government holds two separate seminars on promotion of the spirit of the Fourth Plenary Session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China. Nearly 1,000 people attend over the two days, including principal officials of the HKSAR government, representatives of the Executive Council, the Legislative Council and the Judiciary, heads of major statutory bodies and various sectors of the community.

26 A No 5 alarm fire breaks out at Wang Fuk Court, Tai Po, resulting in 168 deaths and 79 injuries. On 12 December, the government establishes an independent committee to examine the cause and circumstances that led to the fire and whether there were systemic problems regarding large-scale building maintenance and renovation works.

December

1 The Electronic Health Record Sharing System (Amendment) Ordinance 2025 comes into effect, expanding and enhancing the legal framework for the data collection, sharing, usage and protection mechanism of the eHealth platform.

2 The seventh Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Conference on the Inheritance, Innovation, and Development of Traditional Chinese Medicine is held in Hong Kong for the first time. About 800 Chinese medicine experts, academics, health officials and industry representatives from Hong Kong, the Chinese Mainland, Macao and overseas attend.

3-5 The inaugural Hong Kong LawTech Fest is held as part of Hong Kong Legal Week 2025, focusing on the development of the integration of lawtech and AI and featuring a dynamic blend of a thematic conference, a lawtech exhibition, live demonstrations and expert dialogues.

7 The 2025 Legislative Council General Election is held, during which 1,317,682 votes are cast in the geographical constituencies, 76,942 votes in the functional constituencies and 1,458 votes in the Election Committee constituency. The election returns a total of 90 members of the eighth term of Legislative Council.

8-15 The 12th National Games for Persons with Disabilities and the 9th National Special Olympic Games are co-hosted for the first time by Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao. Hong Kong stages four competition events, namely boccia, wheelchair fencing and table tennis (TT11) for the National Games for Persons with Disabilities, and table tennis for the National Special Olympic Games. In addition, Hong Kong organises one mass participation event of para dance sport. A total of 286 athletes from the HKSAR compete at the games, and win 136 medals, comprising 49 gold, 47 silver and 40 bronze medals.

11 The Chinese Medicine Hospital of Hong Kong commences its services in phases, offering outpatient and day-patient services, as well as fully launching six specialised Chinese medicine services, along with 12 special disease programmes in its first year. The permanent premises of the Government Chinese Medicines Testing Institute in Tseung Kwan O also commences phased operations, which will enhance Hong Kong's ability to develop Chinese medicines testing methods and standard development capabilities.

The General Assembly of the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT) decides to establish the UNIDROIT Asia-Pacific Liaison Office in Hong Kong. The office, expected to open in 2026, will mark the first regional presence of UNIDROIT outside its seat in Rome in its 100-year history.

15-17 The Chief Executive pays a duty visit to Beijing to brief state leaders on the latest economic, social and political situation in Hong Kong.

18 The government releases the first Chinese Medicine Development Blueprint of Hong Kong, outlining the vision of Chinese medicine development in Hong Kong which will seek to inherit the wisdom of Chinese medicine, leverage the motherland's development experience and resources, and utilise Chinese medicine to provide Hong Kong citizens with higher quality and more comprehensive healthcare services, all while establishing Hong Kong as a bridgehead for the global expansion of Chinese medicine.

The Hong Kong Aircraft Engineering Training Centre is launched. Operated jointly by the Hong Kong International Aviation Academy and leading French aviation services company Elior Group Derichebourg Aeronautics Services, the centre marks a new milestone in developing Hong Kong into the first aircraft parts processing and trading centre in Asia.

21 The Central Kowloon Bypass (Yau Ma Tei Section) is commissioned. It is a dual three-lane carriageway with a total length of 4.7 kilometres, including a tunnel about 3.9km long. The bypass connects Yau Ma Tei Interchange in West Kowloon to the Kai Tak Development Area and Kowloon Bay in East Kowloon, forming an important trunk road across central Kowloon and shortening peak-hour journey times from Yau Ma Tei to Kowloon Bay from approximately 30 minutes to about five minutes.

22 The opening ceremony of the Hong Kong Park of the Hetao Shenzhen-Hong Kong Science and Technology Innovation Co-operation Zone takes place, officiated by the Chief Executive. There will be eight buildings in the first batch of the Hong Kong Park's Phase 1 development, of which two wet-laboratory enabled buildings and a talent accommodation building have already been completed, providing about 32,000 square metres of floor area and 100 apartment units respectively. Construction works of the foundation and superstructures for the remaining five buildings have begun.

23 The Southbound Travel for Guangdong Vehicles (Entry into Urban Area) comes into operation, allowing approved Guangdong vehicles with confirmed travel bookings to enter Hong Kong's urban areas via the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge for up to three days per visit, subject to a daily quota of 100.

24 Further enhancement measures to the Technology Talent Admission Scheme are launched, with a view to expediting the admission of I&T talent from around the world. Measures include streamlining application procedures to allow technology companies and eligible talent to submit applications for quotas and visas/entry permits in parallel, lifting the requirement of engaging in research and development in 14 designated technology areas to better address the ever-changing I&T development, and launching a new dedicated application channel for the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Park.

29 The Development Bureau announces the establishment of the Hung Shui Kiu Industry Park Company Limited responsible for the development and operation of the around 23-hectare industry park to accelerate the development of industries in Northern Metropolis.

The eastern section of the East Coast Boardwalk in North Point opens, marking the final connection of the approximately 13km-long harbourfront development from Kennedy Town to Shau Kei Wan. The boardwalk is divided into two sections. Together with the western section, which opened in January, the 2.2km-long boardwalk features a shared path for strolling, jogging and cycling. A special feature in the eastern section is the experiential glass observatory deck that provides visitors with views of the harbour below.