

CE to visit Beijing

The Chief Executive, Mrs Carrie Lam, will visit Beijing from August 14 to 16 to attend the first meeting of the leading group for the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area as a member on August 15. The Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs, Mr Patrick Nip, and the Director of the Chief Executive's Office, Mr Chan Kwok-ki, will join the visit.

Mrs Lam will return to Hong Kong in the morning on August 16. During her absence, the Chief Secretary for Administration, Mr Matthew Cheung Kin-chung, will be the Acting Chief Executive.

Director-General of Investment Promotion visits ASEAN to promote Hong Kong's role in Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area

The Director-General of Investment Promotion, Mr Stephen Phillips, today (August 13) embarked on visits in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, and Bangkok, Thailand, in the latest promotion activity to update Association of Southeast Asian Nations investors on the business opportunities Hong Kong has to offer in the context of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area development.

In Ho Chi Minh City, Mr Phillips will participate in a roundtable discussion on business opportunities in Hong Kong relating to the Bay Area and the Belt and Road Initiative, jointly organised by Invest Hong Kong and the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The session will highlight to a group of targeted Vietnamese companies the latest economic trends and developments in Hong Kong and the ease of setting up a business in the city. It will also shed light on cross-boundary initiatives that Hong Kong has undertaken to propel its economy and create greater opportunities for businesses. While in Vietnam, Mr Phillips will also meet with major companies in various industries.

Mr Phillips said, "Hong Kong is seeing unprecedented business opportunities lying ahead in the context of China's Belt and Road Initiative and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area development strategy. This is the most opportune time for foreign investors to come and leverage Hong Kong's advantages to drive business growth arising from these huge opportunities."

The roundtable event is supported by the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Singapore. Its Director, Mr Bruno Luk, said, "In view of the immense opportunities presented to businesses by the Belt and Road and the Bay Area initiatives, I am sure the Vietnamese companies participating at the event will benefit from learning about Hong Kong's unparalleled advantages as their ideal investment destination."

In Bangkok, Mr Philips will meet leaders in the real estate, retail and textiles sectors, as well as restaurant operators and service providers. He will also talk to major local media on the benefits of entering the Hong Kong market for Thai businesses and promote the upcoming StartmeupHK Festival and other trade exhibitions in Hong Kong.

The Belt and Road Initiative is offering a long-term prospect of transnational and intercontinental connectivity and will give rise to rewarding business prospects including new air, sea and land routes; additional ports; railways and roads connecting different regions; economic and trade pacts; and increased investment flow.

The Bay Area will serve as a powerful connection point for the Belt and Road. A cluster of nine flourishing cities in Guangdong Province together with the Hong Kong and Macao Special Administrative Regions, the Bay Area has a collective population of over 68 million and a combined GDP of some US\$1.5 trillion.

The "one country, two systems" arrangement ensures that Hong Kong retains its enduring advantages including the rule of law and the independence of the judiciary, the free market mechanism, a low-tax regime and free flow of capital and information. "This makes Hong Kong an international city in China that can help connect the country with the rest of the world," Mr Phillips said.

He added that the city can also help in the country's drive to become a technology leader in the context of the Bay Area. Hong Kong has very strong research and development capacity, which combined with Shenzhen's advanced manufacturing will turn the Bay Area into an international innovation and technology hub.

About Invest Hong Kong

Invest Hong Kong is the department of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government to attract foreign direct investment and support overseas and Mainland businesses to set up or expand in Hong Kong. It provides free advice and customised services for overseas and Mainland companies enrolled as its clients. For more information, please visit www.investhk.gov.hk.

Red flag hoisted at Repulse Bay Beach

Attention TV/radio announcers:

Please broadcast the following as soon as possible:

Here is an item of interest to swimmers.

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department announced today (August 13) that due to big waves, the red flag has been hoisted at Repulse Bay Beach in Southern District, Hong Kong Island. Beach-goers are advised not to swim at the beach.

Red flags hoisted at several beaches

Attention TV/radio announcers:

Please broadcast the following as soon as possible:

Here is an item of interest to swimmers.

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department announced today (August 13) that due to big waves, red flags have been hoisted at St Stephen's Beach, Stanley Main Beach, Shek O Beach and Big Wave Bay Beach in Southern District, Hong Kong Island; Hung Shing Yeh Beach, Lo So Shing Beach, Cheung Chau Tung Wan Beach, Pui O Beach, Upper Cheung Sha Beach, Lower Cheung Sha Beach and Tong Fuk Beach in Islands District; and Hap Mun Bay Beach, Clear Water Bay First Beach and Clear Water Bay Second Beach in Sai Kung District. Beach-goers are advised not to swim at these beaches.

Task Force on Land Supply to hold fourth public forum

The Task Force on Land Supply will hold its fourth and last public forum (Kowloon) to gauge public views on land supply options. Details and enrolment arrangements of the public forum are as follows:

Date: August 25 (Saturday)

Time: 2pm to 5pm

Venue: Lecture Theatre, 4/F, West Block, Education Bureau Kowloon Tong
Education Services Centre
(19 Suffolk Road, Kowloon Tong, Kowloon)

The forum will be conducted in Cantonese. Simultaneous interpretation in English will be available. Interested members of the public may register from tomorrow (August 13) at 9am by using the following methods:

- (i) Online: www.landforhongkong.hk/en/participation/engage_act.php;
- (ii) Email/fax: Download the registration form from the above website for return via email (pflandforhongkong.hk@a-world.com.hk) or fax (2865 2559); or
- (iii) Telephone: 2114 4972 (9am to 5pm).

Registration will close on August 17 (Friday) at 5pm. In view of the limited seating capacity at the venue, only one seat can be reserved for each registration, and requests will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis.

The dates and venues of the roving exhibitions to be held by the Task Force from September 7 to 26 are as follows. The exhibition period is 11am to 8pm.

Date	Venue
September 7 to 9	Kowloon Park, Tsim Sha Tsui
September 7 to 9	Yat Tung Shopping Centre, Tung Chung
September 13 to 15	Stanley Plaza (Exhibition period is 10am to 7pm)
September 14 to 16	Fu Shin Shopping Centre, Tai Po
September 21 to 23	Dragon Centre, Sham Shui Po
September 22 to 24	Fitfort, North Point
September 23 to 25	Yuen Long Jockey Club Town Square (Exhibition period is 10am to 7pm)
September 24 to 26	MTR Mong Kok East Station

For enquiries, please contact the Public Engagement Director for the Task Force by telephone at 2114 4972 (9am to 5pm from Monday to Friday (except public holidays)) or email (pflandforhongkong.hk@a-world.com.hk).

The five-month public engagement exercise of the Task Force on Land Supply will end on September 26. Comments on land supply options and other issues related to land supply from all sectors of society are welcome. For more information on activities of the public engagement exercise, please visit the dedicated website (www.landforhongkong.hk).