

Hong Kong signs MOU with Bordeaux on co-operation in wine-related education and manpower training

The Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Mr Edward Yau, today (October 27) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Co-operation in Wine-related Education and Manpower Training between Hong Kong and Bordeaux with the visiting President of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Bordeaux Gironde, Mr Patrick Seguin.

The MOU seeks to strengthen education and training on wine-related subjects through encouraging partnership between relevant training institutes in Bordeaux and Hong Kong and provision of training by educational institutions, chateaux and wine businesses in the two places with a view to meeting industry manpower needs. Possible areas of collaboration include networking, student and staff exchange programmes, scholarships and study missions.

"Bordeaux wines have a strong presence in Hong Kong. The MOU will build on that foundation and broaden the scope of wine business-related cooperation between the two places," Mr Yau said.

"Hong Kong is Asia's wine hub and a wine free-port, and has a strong demand for talents with expertise in fine wines and culinary arts. We look forward to aspiring young people in Hong Kong making the best out of new training opportunities in Bordeaux," he added.

The Chamber of Commerce and Industry Bordeaux Gironde is an institution representing the interests of the trade and services sectors in the region, including its wine industry.

Since August 2008, Hong Kong has entered into relevant wine co-operation agreements with Argentina, Australia, Chile, France (and its Bordeaux, Burgundy and Champagne regions), Germany, Hungary, Italy, New Zealand, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain and the United States (and its Oregon and Washington states).