

Shilla Duty Free redefines retail experience at Hong Kong International Airport (with photo)

The Shilla Duty Free announced today (June 28) the official opening of its retail store chain at Hong Kong International Airport, taking an important step in the Korean travel retailer's continuous expansion plan in East Asia.

Following a six-month soft launch, the Shilla Duty Free features Beauty&You concept stores at the Hong Kong International Airport that emphasise the shopping experience for customers. To further enhance the brand's commitment to deliver a comprehensive beauty shopping experience, the retail spaces feature interactive engagement zones deploying digital technologies, virtual reality and in-house-developed beauty apps, according to the Managing Director of Shilla Travel Retail Hong Kong Limited, Ms Alice Woo. With around 200 brands on offer, the Shilla Duty Free also brings a list of premium brands new to Hong Kong International Airport.

Ms Woo said, "We are very pleased to announce the grand opening of the Shilla Duty Free's brand-new retail stores at one of the busiest airports in the world. Hong Kong International Airport hosts significant numbers of regional and international passengers and is an ideal location to expand our presence.

"With the launch of Beauty&You, we hope to redefine the airport retail experience and customer journey with a comprehensive brand profile presented in an interactive and engaging environment. Our aim is to deliver the ultimate shopping experience to a diverse audience in one of the most robust travel markets in the world."

Associate Director-General of Investment Promotion Dr Jimmy Chiang welcomed the opening of the Shilla Duty Free stores at Hong Kong International Airport. He said, "Hong Kong is a top shopping destination for international visitors and an important transportation and logistics hub. We are excited to see new beauty and fashion technologies being deployed in-store to enhance the retail experience. I look forward to the Shilla Duty Free's further expansion in Hong Kong and beyond."

About the Shilla Duty Free

An affiliate company of Samsung, the Shilla Duty Free is a travel retailer offering over 1,300 world-famous brands in fashion, jewellery, cosmetics, perfumes, watches and more. In Korea, it operates four duty free outlets – two in downtown Seoul and Jeju and two at airports in Incheon and Jeju. It also has downtown duty free stores in Phuket, Thailand, and Tokyo, Japan, as well as the new shops at Hong Kong International Airport. For more

information, please visit www.shilladfs.com/comm/kr/en/main or www.beautyandyou.com.hk/en.

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.

For an event photo, please visit www.flickr.com/photos/investhk/albums/72157696783709161.



Results of applications for seventh-round funding exercise of Arts Capacity Development Funding Scheme announced

The Home Affairs Bureau today (June 28) announced the results of applications for the seventh-round funding exercise of the Arts Capacity Development Funding Scheme. A total of 13 successful applications for Project Grants will be funded to a total amount of around \$24.97 million.

A total of 43 applications were received for the seventh-round funding exercise. The successful applications are of high standard and with diverse representation across genres covering music, dance, theatre, visual arts, media arts, arts education, community arts and multi-disciplinary arts.

The successful applicants (in alphabetical order) are as follows:

Name of Organisation

Title of Proposal

The Chopin Society of Hong Kong Limited	The Fifth Hong Kong International Piano Competition/Joy of Music Festival 2019
Drip Music	Ensemble Transience: Composition & Improvisation
H.D. X International Festival Limited	Hong Kong Dance Exchange
Hong Kong New Music Limited	CARAVANSERAI
Hong Kong Open Printshop Limited	IMPACT 11 International Printmaking Conference Print Art: a Hub of Legend and Legacies @ JCCAC
Institute of Chinese Martial Studies Limited	Safeguarding the Community: A New Media Intangible Cultural Heritage Exhibition (working title)
Kunst EXA Limited x Kunst Intermodal Arts Therapy Centre	Art Flow in Senses
Make a Difference Institute Limited	Community Record Company
Opera Hong Kong Limited	To Foster Cultural Exchanges between Hong Kong and the Mainland through Hong Kong Young Talents
Pants Theatre Production Limited	Theatre in Society: 2nd Documentary Theatre Festival
Rooftop Institute Limited	Hok Hok Zaap (HHZ): 15 Initiatives of Engaged Learning in Art
Theatre Space Foundation Limited	The Detective House of Agatha Christie
Wong Fai Puppet Shadow Company Limited	Not The Puppets You Used To Know – Chinese Traditional Puppet Festival

Note: The award of grants is subject to the successful applicants' signing of funding agreements with the Government.

Introduced in 2011, the Arts Capacity Development Funding Scheme of the Home Affairs Bureau is administered on the advice of the Advisory Committee on Arts Development. Members of the Committee take part in the assessment of applications together with the Expert Advisers. The funding scheme aims to provide funding support for innovative and impactful proposals that contribute to the objectives of capacity development, programme/content development, audience building and arts education. It also seeks to provide an avenue of support for large scale and cross-year arts and cultural initiatives/activities so as to enhance capacity development for promising arts groups and arts practitioners as well as to encourage the community and the private sector to support and sponsor the arts.

Labour Department to hold occupational health public talks

The Labour Department (LD) will hold a public talk entitled "Occupational stress" on July 5 (Thursday) to introduce the symptoms and health impacts of occupational stress, and explain through case illustrations some effective stress-coping strategies.

The talk, to be given by the LD's occupational health nurse, will be held at 3pm in the Lecture Hall of the Hong Kong Space Museum, 10 Salisbury Road, Tsim Sha Tsui.

The LD will hold another talk entitled "Occupational safety and health (OSH) for confined space workers" on July 13 (Friday). To enhance workers' OSH awareness in confined spaces, the talk will explain the related OSH hazards as well as their preventive measures.

The talk, to be given by the LD's occupational hygienist, occupational safety officer and occupational health nurse, will be held at 3pm in the Lecture Hall of the Hong Kong Space Museum, 10 Salisbury Road, Tsim Sha Tsui.

Both talks will be conducted in Cantonese. Admission is free. For enquiries or registration, please call 2852 4040.

Hong Kong and Georgia sign Free Trade Agreement

Hong Kong and Georgia signed a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) today (June 28), which will not only bring to our traders and businessmen legal certainty and better market access to the Georgian market, but also enhance the trade and investment flows between the two economies.

The Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Mr Edward Yau, and the Deputy Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia, Mr Genadi Arveladze, signed the FTA at a signing ceremony in the Belt and Road Summit that was held today in Hong Kong.

"This is the first FTA between Hong Kong and a country in the Caucasus. Georgia is a close trading partner of Hong Kong in the Caucasus and an emerging market with great potential for further growth. The FTA is comprehensive in scope, encompassing trade in goods, trade in services, investment, dispute settlement mechanism and other related areas. It will

provide a platform for both parties to take their bilateral economic and trade relations to a new level, while offering ample opportunities for Hong Kong businessmen to tap the Georgian market and the Caucasus covered under the Belt and Road Initiative," Mr Yau said.

"The expansion of our FTA network into the Eurasia region will further strengthen Hong Kong's role as an international trade, commerce and financial hub, and a gateway between the Mainland and our overseas trading partners," he said.

The following are the key features of the FTA:

- On trade in goods, Georgia will eliminate import tariffs on 96.6 per cent of its tariff lines for Hong Kong's originating products upon the entry into force of the FTA.
- On trade in services, the FTA opens the doors of markets for sectors where Hong Kong has traditional strengths or has potential for further development. Sectors standing to benefit include financial services, telecommunications services, various business services, wholesale and retailing services, arbitration services, audiovisual services, construction and related engineering services, environmental services, various transport services and printing and publishing services.
- On investment in non-services sectors, Georgia will accord Hong Kong investors with treatment and other safeguards that are no less favourable than those enjoyed by its local investors. This will enhance investors' confidence and facilitate two-way investment flows between Hong Kong and Georgia.

The FTA also contains provisions to ensure effective protection of intellectual property rights, promote competition, and enhance protection of the environment. The two sides have also agreed to establish a transparent mechanism for consultations and settlement of possible disputes arising under the FTA.

The FTA will become effective after completion of the necessary procedures.

The total merchandise trade between Hong Kong and Georgia was HK\$320 million in 2017. Georgia ranked 121st among Hong Kong's worldwide trading partners for trade in goods in 2017. Reciprocally, Hong Kong ranked 26th among Georgia's trading partners for trade in goods in 2016.

The full text of the FTA will be uploaded to the Trade and Industry Department's website (www.tid.gov.hk).

Speech by CE at Belt and Road Summit (English only)

Following is the speech by the Chief Executive, Mrs Carrie Lam, at the Belt and Road Summit today (June 28):

Deputy Prime Minister Somkid (Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand, Dr Somkid Jatusripitak), Mr Xiao (Chairman of State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission of the State Council, Mr Xiao Yaqing), Mr Ning (Vice Chairman of National Development and Reform Commission, Mr Ning Jizhe), Madam Gao (Vice Minister of Commerce, Ms Gao Yan), Vincent (Chairman of Hong Kong Trade Development Council, Mr Vincent Lo), ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning. It's a great pleasure to be here, to be taking part in the opening of the third Belt and Road Summit, and to do so for a second time in my capacity as Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

Following the resounding success of the first and second Summits held in May 2016 and September 2017 respectively, I'm delighted to hear that close to 5 000 participants have signed up for this Summit, coming from Hong Kong, Mainland China, ASEAN and throughout the Asian region, as well as from other parts of the world. A wide participation from different parts of the world is important for the successful implementation of this Initiative, as its pursuit requires a high degree of cooperation between countries, establishment of sound bilateral and multi-lateral mechanism, as well as participation from different sectors. And this reminds me of a Chinese saying that "A common will is strong as the bulwarks" which resonates well with our theme today – "Collaborate for Success".

I've just returned from nearly two weeks in Europe, with most of the time spent in Belgium and France. I can tell you that the Belt and Road was a common focus among the many people I met. It was also the subject of a well-attended business seminar I spoke at in Paris. So I'm pleased to note that today's Summit features a variety of European missions and associations, including the Greater Paris Investment Agency and Association France Hong Kong. Also here is Italy's Confindustria, which represents many of the nation's manufacturing and service industries, as well as the United Kingdom Department for International Trade – Hong Kong and Macau, and the Russian-Chinese Business Council. I welcome you, and your vote of confidence in the Belt and Road and in Hong Kong. I am particularly grateful to Dr Somkid, Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand for gracing this occasion. This is already the third occasion that Dr Somkid and I have met in a year, signifying the growing importance of relationship between Hong Kong and Thailand in the context of both the Belt and Road Initiative and the Hong Kong-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement signed last November. This relationship is destined to grow even stronger as we are in advance planning for setting up Hong Kong's third ASEAN economic and trade office in Bangkok.

Ladies and gentlemen, the Belt and Road Initiative is giving us a long-term promise of transnational and intercontinental connectivity and will give rise to rewarding business prospects. They will take different permutations and shapes, including new air, sea and land routes, additional ports, rails and roads connecting isolated regions, economic and trade pacts, and increased investment flow. Hong Kong, being the world's freest economy and China's most international city, is destined to play a significant role in the Belt and Road Initiative.

Last December, I signed on behalf of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region an Arrangement with the National Development and Reform Commission for advancing Hong Kong's full participation in and contribution to the Belt and Road Initiative. The Arrangement covers six key areas ranging from finance and investment to people-to-people bond. An annual Joint Conference mechanism was also agreed upon. The Conference gives Hong Kong a unique and direct dialogue with central authorities regarding the Belt and Road Initiative and our participation in it. I'm pleased to say that the first meeting of the Joint Conference was held in Beijing just over two weeks ago.

While the details are being worked out, I can tell you that Hong Kong will contribute to the Initiative across all areas of its wide-ranging connectivity, from policy coordination, financial integration and trade, to infrastructure and people-to-people bonds.

Hong Kong's singular most important advantage in playing an active role in the Belt and Road Initiative is, of course, the "One Country, Two Systems" framework that propels our development in the past 21 years. It allows us to expand our traditional strengths as an international financial, trade and logistics centre, while deepening our economic integration with the Mainland.

An international financial centre, and one of the world's great trading economies, Hong Kong has long served as a regional hub and a business bridge connecting the Mainland, Asia and the rest of the world. We also embrace the free flow of capital, of goods, information and talent. That fluid connectivity will prove indispensable long down the Belt and Road, a point driven home at a seminar held at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing in February this year, the theme of which is "Strategies and Opportunities under the Belt and Road Initiative – Leveraging Hong Kong's Advantages, Meeting the Country's Needs". Some 380 chief executives and senior management from more than 170 state-owned enterprises took part, along with four state leaders and 80 other central officials. Such an impressive turn-out would not have been possible without the strong support of Chairman Xiao Yaqing of the State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission of the State Council. I am extremely grateful to Chairman Xiao taking time out of his busy schedule to attend the Summit today, along with his colleagues, Vice Chairman Ning from the National Development and Reform Commission and Vice Minister Gao from the Ministry of Commerce.

Coming back to that February seminar on Belt and Road, I led the Hong

Kong delegation. With me were three policy secretaries and a number of professional and prominent players from our finance and investment sector, as well as legal, arbitration and construction professions. At the seminar, Mr Zhang Dejiang, then Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, emphasised Hong Kong's indispensable role in the Belt and Road Initiative, adding that, and I quote him, "the country will continue to need Hong Kong, as well as incorporate Hong Kong in the Belt and Road."

Capital formation will be critical to that role. With liquid capital flow and a deep pool of global financial talent, Hong Kong is the natural centre from which to raise funds for infrastructure, investment and production projects. We are also ideally suited to provide the risk management, insurance and dispute-resolution services that Belt and Road partners and their projects may need.

Similarly, I envision an increasing role for Hong Kong as a fund-raising hub for green projects, particularly in promoting sustainable Belt and Road development. Earlier this year, my Government announced a three-year Pilot Bond Grant Scheme. I'm confident it will encourage more Belt and Road investors and issuers to participate in the Hong Kong bond market.

A Hong Kong Government green bond issuance programme – with a borrowing ceiling of US\$13 billion (HK\$100 billion) – is also in the pipeline. It will support green projects under the Government's public works programme. We believe the programme will help provide benchmark pricing and stimulate market development.

In addition, the Hong Kong Quality Assurance Agency launched its Green Finance Certification Scheme in January this year. The programme provides third-party conformity assessments for issuers of green bond instruments. Eligible green bond issuers using the scheme will be subsidised, with a view to supporting green development financing.

In short, I believe green finance can only expand our financial diversity and formidable international standing. The Hong Kong Stock Exchange, to take one example, has been ranked among the top five, globally, in initial public offerings for the past eight years. Last year, funds raised through IPOs amounted to US\$16.5 billion.

In April last year, our Securities and Futures Commission set out eligibility criteria for infrastructure project companies looking to list on our stock exchange. The criteria provide a clear pathway for Belt and Road projects and companies looking to Hong Kong for equity and debt financing.

Hong Kong is the world's largest offshore Renminbi centre, handling about 76 per cent of offshore Renminbi transactions. We are, as well, the leading centre for offshore Renminbi asset management. Importers and exporters in Belt and Road countries can settle their trade in Renminbi through our payment system, good at more than 200 banks from all over the world. And investors can tap our Renminbi liquidity through bank loans or "dim sum" bond issuance. They can also invest their surplus renminbi

liquidity in a wide range of Renminbi products, all available right here in Hong Kong.

More than a financial capital, Hong Kong is the region's logistical and transport hub. Hong Kong International Airport is the world's busiest airport for international cargo. And we are determined to expand on that hub role, with construction of a three-runway system for the airport continuing. On completion, the new airport will have the capacity to handle 100 million passengers and nine million tonnes of cargo a year, compared to 70 million passengers and five million tonnes of cargo last year. To strengthen our air cargo hub position, earlier this month, the Hong Kong Airport Authority announced the granting of rights to develop a major logistics centre of 380 000 square metres GFA (gross floor area) at the airport.

Our land connectivity is also developing at an extraordinary rate. And the flow of people and trade, and opportunity between Hong Kong and the Mainland is about to soar, thanks to the opening, later this year, of the 42-kilometre Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge and the 26-kilometre Hong Kong section of the Guangdong-Shenzhen-Hong Kong high-speed rail. Each, in its own way, will slash travelling time between Hong Kong and the Mainland. Together, they will surely fast-track development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Bay Area.

The Bay Area, another major national development priority, will serve as a powerful connection point for the Belt and Road. A cluster of nine flourishing cities in Guangdong province together with Hong Kong and Macao, the Bay Area unites a collective population of over 68 million and a combined GDP of some US\$1.5 trillion, which is comparable to Australia's GDP.

Taking advantage of the varying expertise that abounds in the 11 cities, the Bay Area is expected to rise as a global centre for finance, high-end services and innovation and technology. In doing so, it will also boost interaction and integration within the region, encouraging strategic partnerships between Hong Kong, Guangdong and the larger Belt and Road region.

Beyond all that promising business and investment, the "Silk Road spirit" will also thrive, with its emphasis on the promotion of community and people-to-people bonds. In this regard, Hong Kong, Asia's world city, has much to offer. Culture, of course, will be central to this. But we will also be pleased to share our experience and knowledge in other areas as well, including corruption prevention, dispute resolution, city management involving firefighting, flood prevention, slope stabilisation as well as aviation safety, railway operations and more.

The Hong Kong International Aviation Academy, for example, is now forging closer ties with ASEAN countries. Sponsorships are being offered to students from Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam to help develop expertise in regional air transport management. Our Independent Commission Against Corruption has been sharing its long experience in fighting corruption with regions and countries along the Belt

and Road.

And my Government is committed to expanding educational cooperation and exchanges with Belt and Road countries. We have already launched a Hong Kong Scholarship for Belt and Road students. It supports outstanding students from Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand, helping them pursue undergraduate studies here in Hong Kong. We have also introduced a new subsidy scheme to encourage students in Hong Kong to participate in the Belt and Road region exchange programmes.

The Hong Kong Government, in short, is committed to being both a "facilitator" and a "promoter" of the Belt and Road – today, tomorrow and long down that road of transformative connections and boundless opportunities.

Finally, my thanks to Vincent and the Hong Kong Trade Development Council for organising the third Belt and Road Summit with the Hong Kong SAR Government. I wish you all the best of business at today's Summit and a very rewarding future on the Belt and Road.

Thank you very much.