

Toronto ETO celebrates Year of Snake at joint reception with HKTB (with photos)

â€‹The Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (Toronto) (Toronto ETO) welcomed over 120 guests and friends to celebrate the Year of the Snake together at a spring reception jointly hosted with the Hong Kong Tourism Board (Canada) (HKTB) on January 23 (Toronto time) in Toronto. Business, cultural, academia and community partners came together and learned about the latest developments of Hong Kong on its economic and cultural fronts.

In her welcoming speech at the reception, the Director of the Toronto ETO, Ms Emily Mo, said that Hong Kong achieved a series of encouraging results in 2024.

"We shone brightly on the world stage," she said. "Hong Kong is recognised as the world's freest economy and the third-largest international financial centre. It has risen two places to fifth in world competitiveness, and re-entered the top 10 for talent competitiveness. The city continues to maintain the world's top position in investment environment, international trade, business legislation, and air freight volume."

The International Monetary Fund Executive Board just published a Staff Report today acknowledging Hong Kong's economic recovery and resilient financial system. The Report recognised that Hong Kong's economy is on a path of gradual recovery, reaffirmed Hong Kong's status and function as an international financial centre and recognised that Hong Kong's financial system remains resilient, supported by robust institutional frameworks, ample room for policy buffers, and the smooth functioning of the Linked Exchange Rate System.

Looking ahead to the Year of the Snake, Ms Mo added that Hong Kong will better leverage its unique advantages under the "one country, two systems" arrangement. The city will continue to be a "super-connector" and "super value-adder," bridging traditional and emerging markets and creating opportunities for global investors, including Canadian businesses.

At the reception, the Senior Manager of Marketing and Public Relations of the HKTB, Mr Jorge Lee, shared with participants the HKTB's achievements in 2024 and tourism publicity initiatives in 2025.

"In 2024, Hong Kong welcomed almost 45 million travellers, with 1.2 million visitors from North America. For our Canada market, over 320,000 Canadians visited Hong Kong last year, reflecting an impressive year-on-year growth rate of nearly 50 per cent. We introduced unique offerings centred around iconic events with our trade partners, bringing Canadians closer to Hong Kong's vibrant culture. To our trade partners, we extend our deepest gratitude to and appreciation for their continued collaboration.

"In the coming years, visitors to Hong Kong can expect a vibrant and evolving destination that seamlessly blends its 'East-meets-West' cultural identity with sustainable tourism initiatives. Hong Kong will continue to showcase distinctive experiences by integrating culture, art, sports, nature, and mega events, appealing to diverse interests."

This year, the Toronto ETO invited internationally renowned Hong Kong sand artist Hoi Chiu to showcase his skills at the spring reception. Through sand and his exquisite technique, the artist told the traditional story of the Lunar New Year. His performance was a perfect fusion of skill, art, and storytelling, drawing the audience into an engaging narrative world.

In closing, Ms Mo invited the guests to visit Hong Kong to experience its unique East-meets-West culture and seize the tremendous opportunities presented by Asia's world city.

The Toronto ETO and the HKTB will jointly host a spring reception in Vancouver on January 28, celebrating the Lunar New Year with local guests and friends.

