



THE 10TH HONG KONG FORUM & RELATED ACTIVITIES

The Forum

The 10th Hong Kong Forum was held from December 1-2 2009. The Association sent four delegates to the event. The two day program was filled with informative speeches by government officials and politicians (Henry Tang, Chief Secretary; Ip Lau Suk Yee Regina, Legislative Councilor; Carrie Lam, Secretary of Development; Jack So, Chairman of TDC), movers and shakers of Hong Kong economy (Gordon Wu of Hopewell; Vincent Lo of Shui On; Ronnie Chan of Hang Lung Developments) and a collage of other successful entrepreneurs.

Luncheon with NZ Consul General and NZTE Chief

HKNZBA President Eva Ho attended a luncheon hosted by the NZ Consul General to HK, Adele Bryant and NZTE chief in HK, Sharon-May McCrostie on November 26. The NZ Consulate is organising a NZ film festival in HK in the first half of 2010.

Focus Centre / David Whitwam / Invest HK

Eva visited the NZ Focus Centre and spoke with Wendy Yuen and Polly Chan. She visited David Whitwam of the NZ HK Chamber of Commerce. David seeks advertisers in NZ for the NZ HK Business Directory, 6000 of which will be printed in 2010.

Simon Galpin and Charles Ng of Invest Hong Kong also met with Eva on November 30. Simon took over from Mike Ross in April 2009. Simon acknowledges that the relationship between the two organisations was under-utilised and we can both benefit from working closer together in future. Eva enquired about the possibility of Invest Hong Kong sponsoring the HK Week in 2010.

Twilight Winery

Eva met with Johnny Leung and his parents at the new Twilight Winery shop next to Times Square. NZ wines are "premium" wines in HK because of its price. Competition is fierce. Drinkers seem to think there is better value in French wines which are sold in similar price brackets. Although tariffs between NZ and HK have been abolished, imports from HK to China are still faced with a 40%+ tariff making NZ wines a RMB400+ premium consumer product.

Top Wine China will hold a Wine Fair from June 1-3 2010 in Beijing. In the next HKNZBA meeting, executive members will discuss whether HKNZBA will assist Top Wine to promote the fair.

2009 PUBLIC HOLIDAY ENTITLEMENTS

This year Christmas Day and New Year's Day fall on a Friday, and Boxing Day and 2 January fall on a Saturday.

There are no special rules for Christmas Day or New Year's Day this year; these public holidays are observed on the days they fall. Special rules will apply to Boxing Day and 2 January because they fall on a Saturday.

For employees who normally work on a Saturday, Boxing Day and the 2 January are observed on that day. For employees who normally do not work on a Saturday, Boxing Day and 2 January are transferred to the following Monday (28 December 2009 and 4 January 2010), if Monday would be a normal working day for the employee.

An employee cannot be entitled to more than four public holidays over the Christmas and New Year period, regardless of his or her work pattern.

Click here for more information on [public holiday entitlements](#), [holidays](#) and [annual leave](#).

Use our [Holidays Online Tool](#) to work out entitlements for public holidays, and sickness and bereavement leave.

NZ-HK TRADE DEAL WELCOMED

The announcement of a closer economic partnership (CEP) between Hong Kong and New Zealand is warmly welcomed by the Hong Kong New Zealand Business Association (HKNZBA).

Initial CEP negotiations stalled in 2002 over rules of origin, but were recommenced in May this year on the back of the Free Trade Agreement signed between New Zealand and China.

Prime Minister John Key and Hong Kong Chief Executive Donald Tsang made the announcement that the negotiations were concluded in Singapore on the margins of the APEC Economic Leaders Meeting. It is the first free trade agreement for Hong Kong with a foreign economy, although it has a Closer Economic Partnership Agreement with Mainland China.

A NZ Government release after the announcement says with both economies strongly committed to trade liberalisation, it is hoped that the CEP will act as a platform to help pave the way forward for shared economic growth and carry trade and investment linkages to a new level.

"While merchandise trade between the two economies has grown by an annual average of 7.4 per cent for the past five years and is in excess of NZ\$1 billion, there is also considerable potential in the service sector, in particular in the areas of education, tourism, business and environmental services as well as in investment with Hong Kong, China seen as a hub for investment in the region," the statement reads.

HKNZBA President Eva Ho says NZ Trade Minister Tim Groser's comments that 'Hong Kong is an extremely sophisticated market and its proximity and special relationship with mainland China makes it a very important strategic partner in the region for New Zealand', go straight to the core of the agreement's importance in New Zealand's trading portfolio.

Ms Ho says the detail of the agreement has yet to be released and the formal signing of the CEP is not expected until early 2010. But as soon as the signing is complete the HKNZBA will be helping the NZ Government to disseminate information.

UPCOMING EVENTS



HKNZBA CHRISTMAS PARTY

You are cordially invited to help us celebrate a terrific year!

Tuesday December 15 / 6:00 - 7:30 pm (food and bar tab)
Copthorne Hotel, 196-200 Quay Street, Auckland City

Members free. Guests \$20 each.

RSVP by December 5 to Cyrus Cheng at hk@hongkong.org.nz

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