



BHKS

Belgium Hong Kong Society

WINTER 2018 #10

HONG KONG



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Chairman's Words



Piet Steel,
Chairman, Belgium-Hong Kong Society

I was struck by an exclusive interview with Ms Carrie Lam, the new Chief Executive of Hong Kong, delivered on the side-lines of the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in Danang last November. Her election as Chief Executive – for the first time a woman! - was confirmed earlier in the summer for a 5 year term.

What a fantastic woman and public servant she is, with more than 37 years of experience with the Hong Kong Government, having been Chief Secretary for Administration from 2012 to 2017. There is no doubt, she is the right woman at the right place ...and at the right time. Her election is the result of meritocratic process, which brings the "brightest and the best" to the top of Government. In Europe, we could learn a few lessons from Hong Kong in terms of governance and efficiency.

In the interview, she lives up to her nickname "The Fighter", clearly outlining the many challenges Hong Kong is facing and the pragmatic manner in which she wants to "get things done". She promotes an active government style with a focus on new engines for growth in the Territory. Hong Kong should not solely rely on financial services, but ought to invest in "innovation and technology" partnering up, where possible, with the other economic powerhouse, Hong Kong's neighbour Shenzhen. Her ultimate goal is to transform Hong Kong into a more inclusive society, to the benefit of all the people. In this respect, she does not shy away of tackling even the most difficult issues in

Hong Kong such as housing, conscious that past governments, given the shortage of land in Hong Kong, have never been successful in reaching a sustainable solution.

She wants to reshape Hong Kong. She talks about the "connectivity" of Hong Kong, not only physically with the new bridge to Macau and the third runway at CLK Airport, but also financially by promoting stronger links with the world's biggest financial centres, and socially, by promoting people to people contacts with a view of making Hong Kong a cultural hub where East and West meet and work together.

Carrie Lam is the type of woman who can steer and deliver this agenda of hope. She has the government experience and the wherewithal to pay for it. But, equally, she has the political acumen and charisma to leave behind, eventually, an amazing legacy for Hong Kong, continuing to build on the successes of the past in order to mutate Hong Kong into the most awesome city of the world.

I have met Carrie Lam several times, as recently as 2015, when I hosted a business lunch for her in Brussels. She told me how much she valued the work of the Belgium Hong Kong Society" in promoting with success full economic, social and educational exchanges between Belgium and Hong Kong". She was due to come last September to Brussels for her first official trip as the new Chief Executive of Hong Kong and to give extra lustre to the celebration of 20th Anniversary of the foundation of the Hong Kong Administrative Region. Unfortunately, and reluctantly, she had to

cancel her official visit due to the fact that she had to stay in Hong Kong to attend “critical matters”.

I hope that we have a chance to welcome the Chief Executive of Hong Kong in Brussels in 2018. Such a prestigious visit would be another

token of her appreciation of the role Brussels is playing in the international diplomacy, but, also, very modestly, a recognition of the Belgium Hong Society’s longstanding loyalty to Hong Kong and its people. Happy New Year! Kung Hey Fat Choy 2018, the year of the Dog.

Message from the Consul General of Belgium in Hong Kong



Ms Michèle Deneffe
*Consul General of Belgium to Hong Kong
and Macau*

First of all, Best Wishes to the Belgium Hong Kong Hong Society -for 2018, the “Year of the Dog”.

In Hong Kong, 2017 was a very special year with the 20th Anniversary of the Handover, many official and cultural events as well as the designation of the new Chief Executive, Carrie Lam who started her mandate on July 1st 2017, with a lot of dedication and ambition.

The focus will clearly be on socio-economic issues, with economic diversification and “smart re-industrialisation” as the ultimate objectives. New projects have been defined and more resources and incentives will be allocated to innovation and new technologies. Hong Kong will position itself to play an active role in the new Chinese plans of “Belt & Road” and “Pearl River Delta Greater Bay Area”. Synergies with Shenzhen (the “Silicon Valley” of China) as well as with other Guangdong cities will inevitably be growing. The future “Innovation and Technology Park” in the “Lok Ma Chau Loop” on Hong Kong territory, along the border with Shenzhen is a symbol of this new dynamic. Hong Kong plans to become an international center for art, culture and sport, as well as for the creative industries such as design and fashion).

Last year, the Consulate General of Belgium and the Belgium-Luxemburg Chamber of Commerce (BLCC) organized a second edition of “Belgium Week” with 4 main events : the traditional King’s Day, a Gala Dinner for BLCC’s 25th anniversary (with a sensational presentation in “3D” of

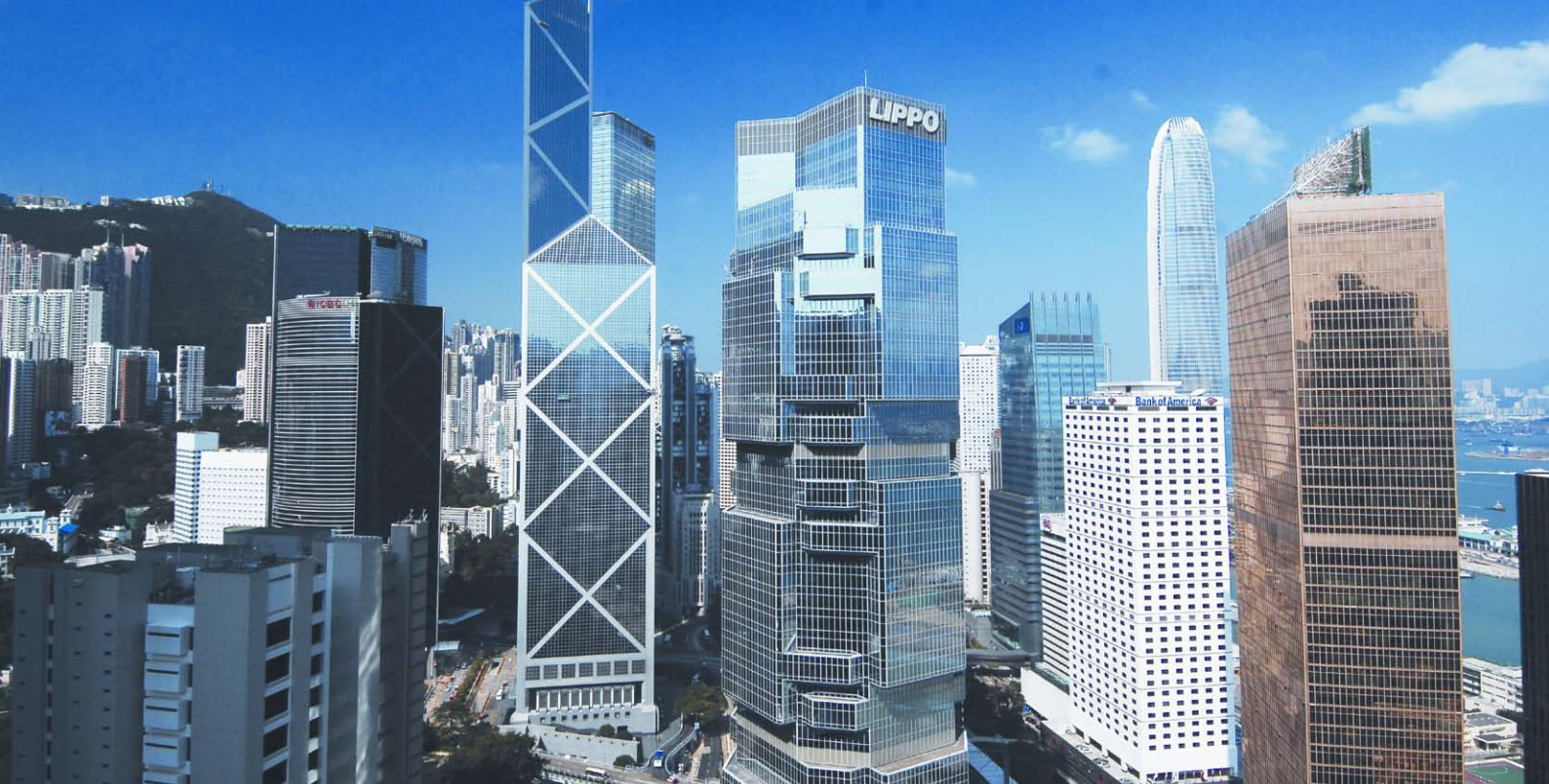
Magritte paintings) as well as an interesting Business Seminar on «Innovative and disruptive Technologies - an insight in Financial and Retail industries». Support was also given by the Consulate and some Belgian sponsors to the very successful exhibition “The World of Tintin”, organized by the HOCA Foundation, in close cooperation with the Hergé Museum.

Great news for Belgium and Hong Kong was the announcement by Cathay Pacific to launch a four-weekly direct flight between Hong Kong and Brussels, starting from March 25th 2018. Similarly, Air Belgium has great ambitions for 2018. These initiatives, undoubtedly, will contribute to the further promotion of business and tourism in both directions.

The number of young Belgian entrepreneurs (start-ups) arriving in Hong Kong has increased and one Belgian company recently won a huge contract for the construction of the first integrated waste management facility in HKG.

In the cultural sector, Belgian “Comics” (including, with contemporary artists) has a lot of potential for development in Hong Kong, in “concert” with Hong Kong artists. In the framework of the “Magritte Year”, a photo and film exhibition about Magritte takes place in Hong Kong from January 19th until February 19th 2018. Other interesting Belgian cultural projects are in the pipeline for 2018.

To conclude, the Consulate General of Belgium would like to recommend to the Belgian Business Community to follow closely the developments in Hong Kong in this period of economic transition. The organization of a multi-sectoral economic mission and/or a Fintech mission is also encouraged.



Updates on Hong Kong's Economy

Recent economic situation

The Hong Kong economy continued to expand notably in the third quarter of 2017, by 3.6% over a year earlier. This marked the fourth consecutive quarter of above-trend growth. External demand stayed vibrant, whereas domestic demand attained solid growth. In the first three quarters of 2017 combined, the economy grew by 3.9% over a year earlier.

Domestic demand stayed firm in the third quarter of 2017. Private consumption expenditure expanded notably by 6.7% in the third quarter of 2017, following the growth of 4.7% in the first half of the year. Local consumer sentiment continued to be underpinned by favourable job and income conditions, with additional support from a stronger boost from the positive wealth effects. Retail sales volume resumed growth in the second quarter of 2017, and the upward trend picked up in recent months, with year-on-year growth for July to October averaging 4.2%, reflecting upbeat local consumption sentiment and improvement in inbound tourism.

On the labour market of Hong Kong, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell to 3.0% in

September – November 2017, the lowest level in almost 20 years, while the underemployment rate also stood at a mere 1.1%, signifying a tight manpower situation. Growth in both labour force and total employment picked up pace, and their year-on-year increases continued to be appreciable.

Inflation pressure was largely contained, thanks to slow increases in import prices and moderate rises in local costs. Underlying consumer price inflation averaged 1.7% in the first eleven months of 2017, down from the average of 2.3% in 2016 as a whole, representing the sixth consecutive year of easing.

Taking into account the actual growth outturn of 3.9% in the first three quarters of 2017, and as the economy is expected to have grown solidly in the fourth quarter of 2017, the economic growth for 2017 as a whole is expected to reach 3.7%. On inflation, the underlying and headline consumer price inflation rates for the first eleven months averaged 1.7% and 1.5% respectively, as increases in import prices and local costs remained moderate. The forecast rates for underlying and headline consumer price inflation for 2017 as a whole are 1.7% and 1.5% respectively, lower than those of 2.3% and 2.4% in 2016.

Economic Outlook for 2018

The global economy is expected to maintain moderate expansion in 2018. In October 2017, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) forecast global economic growth at 3.7% in 2018, slightly higher than that of 3.6% in 2017. At the same time, the IMF pointed out that the global economic outlook is still subject to various uncertainties.

Thanks to the revival in global demand, performances of emerging Asian economies have been generally solid, with regional trading and manufacturing activities turning more vibrant in 2017. Within Asia, the Mainland economy has sustained solid momentum and stable development, with domestic demand remaining robust and exports growing visibly. The Mainland economy picked up somewhat to grow by 6.9% over a year earlier in the first three quarters of 2017, and should easily achieve the full-year official growth target of around 6.5% set in early 2017. Separately, as the Central Government further deepens supply-side structural reforms, steers the economy to be more service-oriented, promotes innovation and upgrading of the economy, and continues to strictly control financial risks, the Mainland economy is expected to maintain growth at medium-high speed in the period ahead. Overall, the global economy is expected to grow moderately, rendering growth impetus for exports in Asia and Hong Kong. Yet, there remain some uncertainties surrounding the external outlook, including the pace of US monetary policy normalisation, the changes in direction of monetary policies by some other major

central banks, the risks of rising protectionist sentiment, as well as the heightened geopolitical tensions. These factors need to be watched over.

On the local front, domestic demand would be supported by factors including the prevailing optimistic economic sentiment, favourable job and income conditions as well as the ongoing infrastructure works. However, as the global monetary environment will turn more complicated in 2018, there exist risks of abrupt tightening in global liquidity conditions. Moreover, the US monetary policy normalisation will continue. These uncertainties may affect local asset prices and economic sentiment.

On prices, the price trend will hinge on a host of factors, including exchange rates, international commodity prices, inflation in our major import sources and local costs. Global inflation has remained low of late, which should help ease the upward pressure on import prices. Together with the moderate rises in local costs recently, inflation pressure should remain limited in the near term. Yet, local inflation pressure will trend somewhat upwards in the period ahead as the local economy continues to expand.

The Hong Kong Government will closely monitor the developments on the domestic and external fronts, take into account the relevant factors. IMF in October 2017 forecast economic growth for Hong Kong in 2018 to be 2.7%, while the latest forecasts from private sector analysts were mostly in the range of 2.5-3.5%.



BHKS Activities 2017

On the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the establishment of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (Hong Kong SAR), BHKS successfully organised, co-organised and supported many activities to celebrate this special milestone for Hong Kong during the year 2017. Highlights were, amongst others, the annual Chinese New Year Reception, the Special Hong Kong Night at the Brussels International Fantastic Film Festival (BIFFF), the Hong Kong SAR Establishment Day Reception; the Ceremony of Dressing-up Manneken Pis in Hong Kong costume; the Special Concert by the Asian Youth Orchestra; the Dragon Boat Event in Antwerp, and the Hong Kong Gala Dinner. We would like to take the opportunity to thank all our members who participated in these events and for their unfailing support.

The BHKS Annual Dinner 2017

January 16, 2017

The BHKS Annual Dinner 2017 took place on 16 January at the Royal Ballroom at the Tangla Hotel Brussels, gathering BHKS members and friends for a highly enjoyable evening.



The Legends of Lion Dance Exhibition

January 28, February 16, 2017

To celebrate the Chinese New Year, a special and colourful exhibition was held at the Permeke Bibliotheek, in Antwerp: the Legends of Lion Dance. This unique exhibition in Belgium started

on 28 January and ended on 16 February with a grand opening on 27 January at which all BHKS members were invited to join. 12 lionheads made in Hong Kong were presented at the exhibition.



Chinese New Year Reception

February 7, 2017

The Chinese New Year 2017 took place at the Albert Hall, Brussels, on 7 February. Over 400 VIPs, including the guest of honour, Belgian Deputy Prime Minister Didier Reynders, attended the event. The lucky draw at the reception successfully raised EUR 2,100 for the BHKS Education Fund.

Adding the EUR 3,000 sponsorship in cash, the total amount raised for the BHKS Education Fund in 2017 was EUR 5,100. We would like to take the opportunity to thank all our faithful sponsors of this year 2017!



Special Hong Kong Night at BIFFF

April 12, 2017

BHKS Members were invited to the Special Hong Kong Night at BOZAR organised during the BIFFF on 12 April. Members enjoyed the cocktail reception followed by the screening of the Hong Kong film “Mermaid” which won the Silver Raven 2017, the Special Prize of the Jury which is BIFFF’s second highest award.



Hong Kong SAR Establishment Day Reception

June 29, 2017

BHKS co-organised the Hong Kong SAR Establishment Day Reception at the Official Residence of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office on 29 June to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Hong Kong SAR. BHKS members were invited to attend the reception at which a photo exhibition on Hong Kong’s achievements over the

past 20 years was staged. The talented Yat Po Singers, the first professional a cappella choral theatre company in Hong Kong gave warmly applauded performances of a series of songs, including the theme song of the Hong Kong SAR 20th anniversary – Hong Kong Our Home.

Dressing of Manneken Pis in Hong Kong costume

June 30, 2017

The Manneken Pis was dressed in his Hong Kong costume on 30 June. A traditional "Salute to Manneken Pis" ceremony was held. BHKS was the partner of this event by sponsoring the cost of the beer which came out from the Manneken Pis. The talented Yat Po Singers gave warmly applauded performances of a series of songs, including the theme song of the Hong Kong SAR 20th anniversary – Hong Kong Our Home after the ceremony which vowed the crowd of guests, tourists and passers-by.



Play! Hong Kong Comix Touring Exhibition

September 1-3, 2017



BHKS supported the staging of the Hong Kong Comics Touring Exhibition at the 8th Brussels Comic Strip Exhibition at the Royal Park in Brussels during 1-3 September. BHKS members were invited to join the cocktail reception on 3 September followed by live comics drawing demonstrations and thematic talk by Hong Kong comics artists.

Special Concert by the Asian Youth Orchestra

September 5, 2017

BHKS members were invited to attend the cocktail reception followed by the Special Concert by the Asian Youth Orchestra at BOZAR on 5 September which was the grand-finale concert of the Orchestra's world tour 2017. This Orchestra comprised 110 finest young musicians from ten

countries/regions across Asia and they were chosen through highly competitive auditions and put together for six weeks comprising a three-week Rehearsal Camp in Hong Kong before they went on tour for three weeks with celebrated conductors and solo artists.



Hong Kong Dragon Boat Festival in Antwerp

September 16, 2017

BHKS sponsored a dragon boat team comprising paddles from a group of students from KU Leuven competing in the Hong Kong Dragon Boat Festival in Antwerp organised by the Antwerp-West Rotary Club on 16 September. BHKS members and their family and friends were invited to join this traditional Chinese sport-cum-cultural event with interesting indoor and outdoor activities and

performances. To enhance the festive ambience, a group of Hong Kong Rope Skipping elites (namely S/L/A/S/H) was invited to perform at the Festival and to interact with the spectators. These award-winning rope-skipping athletes in Hong Kong won various titles in Asian and World Rope Skipping Championships and received overwhelming review by the crowd on the day.



Hong Kong Gala Dinner

October, 2017

As the grand-finales of the celebrations on the 20th anniversary of the establishment of Hong Kong SAR, a high-level Hong Kong Gala Dinner was held at the Tangla Hotel Brussels on 24 October. BHKS members were invited to join. The Hong Kong Chinese Culinary Institute was invited to create and prepare a refined menu inspired by the Jin Yong's novel "The Legend of the Eagle-Shooting Heroes". Gold medalists from the Hong Kong Wushu Union were invited to perform at the gala dinner.





Hong Kong's Trade Outlook for 2018



Martin Evans

Hong Kong Trade Development Council

The Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC) expects Hong Kong exports to increase in value by six percent, while the volume of exports is anticipated to grow by four percent in 2018. The rise is attributed to broad-based expansion in investment, trade and consumption, coupled with strengthening consumer and business confidence.

Overall demand will remain sturdy with the expansion in both developed and emerging economies. The positive export trend seen in 2017 will likely carry on in 2018, though the pace of growth is expected to slow. But there are formidable challenges facing Hong Kong exporters, such as rising Sino-US trade tensions, the possibility of a faster-than-expected tightening of US monetary policy and escalating geopolitical tension."

The latest *HKTDC Export Index* shows the confidence level of Hong Kong exporters has improved substantially compared to the previous year.

Growth in the United States has been driven by both private consumption and equipment investment. Another positive development is the rise in business investment, making US economic expansion increasingly broad-based across sectors. The promised pro-growth tax overhaul is making headway and is expected to provide an additional boost.

Economic growth has surpassed expectations in the European Union, propelled by private

consumption amid lowering unemployment, while investment has also showed signs of picking up, thanks to low borrowing costs.

Rising consumption in developed nations will boost export-oriented emerging economies. The Chinese mainland is expected to maintain its current growth level. Supply-side reforms will continue to be a priority to improve the efficiency of the economy. As part of the strategy to rebalance the economy, using private consumption as a growth driver appears to be gaining ground. China is also adopting policies to bring in more imports to help satisfy domestic consumer demand.

Electronics and toys outperformed other sectors and the new-tech products are in the spotlight.

To gauge the impact of the impending departure of the UK from the European Union on business, HKTDC Research recently conducted a survey during the Council's flagship event *Think Asia, Think Hong Kong*, in London. The survey results found that most of the UK enterprises interviewed had either adopted a "wait and see" approach (30%) or intended to focus/invest more in non-EU markets in the future (35%), with developing Asia (including the Chinese mainland, India and the ASEAN bloc) high on their agenda. "

This is in line with the finding that 75 per cent of respondents were interested in capitalising on the opportunities emerging from the Belt and Road Initiative.

Nearly half of the respondents indicated they would seek professional services support from Hong Kong (24%), the Chinese mainland (15%) or Singapore (10%) as an initial step.

Hong Kong Forum

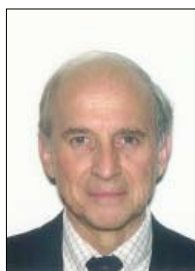
The 18th Hong Kong Forum, December 5-6, 2017



Image trouvée sur : [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Hong_Kong_Convention_and_Exhibition_Centre_\(1330646432\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Hong_Kong_Convention_and_Exhibition_Centre_(1330646432).jpg)

Image libre de droit, La résolution est bonne

la résolution est trop faible



Paul Roeseler

Board member, BHKS

Hong Kong Forum is hosted by the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, the annual flagship event of the Federation of Hong Kong Business Association Worldwide.

As in previous years, we had quite an interesting number of speakers during these two days.

The program was split into various sessions where young entrepreneurs shared their views on subjects such as “Innovation and Creation”, the emphasis of Hong Kong being a unique gateway to Mainland China and the rest of the world, new ventures and inauguration of the E-tailing summit which promoted the latest trends, practices, strategies and technologies in e- tailing.

We were privileged to welcome The Honorable Carrie Lam, Hong Kong’s new chief Executive as our keynote luncheon speaker. Her speech was just excellent, positive, driven by the latest and grandiose development projects with two new links that will make travel even easier: a 40 km long bridge joining Hong Kong – Zhuhai – Macao and a high speed rail service between Hong

Kong and Guangzhou the capital of Guangdong province.

To support her action, Carrie Lam presented various slides covering an insider’s look at Hong Kong latest socio-economic and political developments amid continued opening of the Chinese mainland economy. She did elaborate on the importance of Hong Kong as a unique financial and legal system platform for the “One Belt, One Road” initiative and the importance of the City as an Asian service center. As she recalled, Hong Kong would not be such a dynamic city without an efficient and competitive education system. In view of keeping the continuous competitiveness and attraction for this city, Carrie Lam has explained a tax incentive program for small - medium sized enterprises and start-ups.

Her speech didn’t hide the basically good relationship with Beijing where the “one country, two systems” was playing its role. She continuously stressed the “win – win” strategy for China and Hong Kong.

It was a fruitful and rewarding Hong Kong Forum 2017.

Happy New Year of the Earth Dog. *Gong Xi Fa Cai!*

“In conversation with Duncan Pescod, CEO of the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority”

Image trouvée sur : <http://www.culture.hku.hk/west-kowloon.html> Je ne sais pas si elle est libre de droit ?
Sinon La résolution est bonne



Sheila Arora

BHKs Board Member

Hong Kong's veteran expatriate civil servant Duncan Pescod, makes for an unlikely head of the West Kowloon Cultural District,

Hong Kong's new mega Arts Centre. But sitting in his offices, on a rapidly-changing wasteland of some 40 hectares, it soon becomes very clear why. “I was with the government for 33 years, an administrator who knows the community well. I’m not just looking at individual aspects of museums or art or theatre. I’m trying to look across all those different aspects plus deliver on construction plus deal with the politics as well as building up the team”.

A challenge indeed for Hong Kong's former Permanent Representative in Brussels between 2006-8, a tenure the family very much enjoyed, clearly. My wife has family in Antwerp, Pescod claimed proudly, admitting they even hesitated leaving. We're definitely looking for partnerships within Belgium's dynamic creative sector he went on to say, referring to design aspect at M+ Museum, just one element of what is set to be the most ambitious of Art's complexes in the world.

The Government's vision is for a creative hub in WKCD that will rival London and New York. With the epicentre in Hong Kong, our catchment area extends to the Pearl River Delta, East Asia and everything within five hours flying-time if you include India, that's half the world's population, said Pescod, calmly. A former deputy director of Tourism, he knows what it takes to promote Hong Kong – the Stanley waterfront, Disneyworld and the upgrade of Ocean Park all fell under his watchful eye. WKCD will certainly be the next big, very big reason to visit Hong Kong. Comprising the M+ Pavilion and the Palace Museum, 5 theatre spaces in the Lyric Theatre



complex and the Xiqu centre for Chinese Opera, the Art Park and Freespace for ‘happenings’, the scale of the facilities is staggering. Add the commercial elements, offices, hotels, and a small amount of residential units within the District, small wonder that this government-funded complex is so high on the Chief Executive's list of most favourite additions to Hong Kong's ever-increasing attractions.

It's all starting to come together and seeing is believing, said Pescod in a reassuring nod to the final deadlines fast approaching. His only regret? Honestly, he says, I just wish I had more time just to enjoy all that's already going on, exhibitions and happenings have been flooding Hong Kong-wide and Internationally-too for some five years now. I have a large project to deliver, but we really do have the best environment, this is fundamentally what Hong Kong does really well. Almost no taxation in Hong Kong in terms of art and culture and freedom of expression, the visa requirements are not onerous, and artists are welcome. These fundamentals not only make Hong Kong unique but give us the opportunity to make art and culture really central to our offering. It's happening, soon, we are very nearly there.



Updates from Cathay Pacific Airways Flying from Brussels to Hong Kong in 2018



Justin Chang
Cathay Pacific

Greetings from Cathay Pacific and what better way to start my association with the BHKS than to be able to share with you the exciting news of the commencement of our 4 times weekly, non-stop service between Brussels and Hong Kong from the 25th of March 2018.

Belgium is a country that is simultaneously cosmopolitan and provincial. With its beautiful coast and picturesque medieval cities, the country can easily be explored within two hours from Brussels. This convenience, coupled with its rich history and culture, makes the city of Brussels a perfect destination for Cathay Pacific to operate into.

We are excited to be able to tap into the unserved market between the vibrant cities of Brussels and Hong Kong and we have no doubt this will attract customers from the world over, who will be able to experience Cathay Pacific's signature heartfelt service onboard our state-of-the-art A350 aircraft.

The A350 provides extra-wide cabins, windows affording panoramic views and state-of-the-art technology. You will be able to sleep better with our redesigned seats and headrests along with

intelligent mood lighting and reduced noise levels whilst improved cabin pressure and humidity levels will reduce the effects of jetlag.

There's also a brand new inflight entertainment system – with high definition monitors and an interactive menu featuring a more intuitive navigation and for the first time on our flights, you can stay connected while travelling. One can now use our Wi-Fi portal to go to our partners' websites, catch up on news around the globe with our satellite TV or access the internet for work or leisure and keep in touch with family and friends, when you're on the go.

We will also commence seasonal non-stop flights between Copenhagen and Hong Kong during the 2nd of May until 12th of October 2018 and from the 2nd of June, a 4 times weekly service between Dublin and Hong Kong will commence as well.

This shows Cathay Pacific's confidence in Europe and further reinforces our commitment to the region after successful launches to Barcelona, Madrid and London Gatwick.

Cathay Pacific's long-haul fleet of aircraft averages just five years of age, making it one of the youngest in the industry and this enables us to help our customers relax and enjoy their long-haul journeys, allowing them to live a Life Well Travelled.



Background of BHKS

Founded in 1986, the objective of the Belgium-Hong Kong Society (BHKS) is to promote bilateral economic, social and cultural exchanges between Belgium and Hong Kong through the organisation of a variety of business and cultural activities. BHKS is also a member of the Federation of Hong Kong Business Associations Worldwide.

Our focus is to promote Hong Kong as an economic gateway into China, a hub of the modern lifestyle and a model of good governance. We offer unique networking opportunities and first-hand information.

Our Members all share the passion for Hong Kong. As a member, you will be invited to the annual Chinese New Year Reception in Brussels, a highlight of the Brussels' social calendar. We celebrate the Chinese New Year in style with additional Chinese entertainment and authentic Chinese food, together with many friends of Hong Kong, officials of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Brussels and the EU diplomatic corps. This is just one of our many attractive activities throughout the year.

We are truly grateful to the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Brussels for their continued support in co-organising a variety of Hong Kong events in Belgium.

BHKS belongs to all friends of Hong Kong and your participation is essential in helping us improve. Please do contact us directly if you have any feedback or comments on the newsletter or on BHKS as a whole.

LinkedIn presence

BHKS has launched its LinkedIn account to allow more friends of Hong Kong to discover and connect with BHKS. As at to-date, the BHKS LinkedIn account is connected to some 100 people.

The BHKS LinkedIn provides updates on BHKS and Hong Kong events, as well as events organised by BHKS members, to be viewed online. Get connected with us now! Search: Belgium-Hong Kong Society.



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The BHKS Education Fund

BHKS Education Fund applications are open for 2018!

The BHKS Education Fund was established by the BHKS in 2010 to sponsor exchange activities of young people between Belgium and Hong Kong with a view to promoting stronger and more sustainable ties between the two places. The BHKS Education Fund aims at supporting the following projects:

- a) Familiarisation visits to Hong Kong;
- b) Short-term academic exchange programmes between Belgium and Hong Kong; and
- c) Other projects to enhance cultural exchange between Belgium and Hong Kong.

As a reference, these activities can take the form of a study tour to Hong Kong or a project to promote Hong Kong culture and arts in Belgium. The proposed projects must be non-profit-making. Any student organisations/associations formed in universities and other tertiary institutions in Belgium are welcome to apply. Application made by individual students will only be considered under very exceptional circumstances. In considering the applications, the BHKS will take into account the following factors:

- a) Effectiveness in promoting a better understanding between the younger generations from Belgium and Hong Kong;
- b) Effectiveness in fostering closer bilateral academic, social and cultural exchanges between Belgium and Hong Kong;
- c) Innovation of the project e.g. whether the project involves innovative ideas in promoting the ties between the two places; and
- d) Number of students to be benefitted from the project.

Application is open throughout the year. Interested applicants can submit the completed application form, together with the supporting documents to the BHKS Secretariat. Applications will be vetted by the Board of the BHKS. Applicants will be informed of the outcome by the BHKS Secretariat in writing within three months after the submission of the application. Interested applicants can contact the Secretariat for any enquiries. You might also wish to check out our website at www.bhks.be to find out more information.

www.bhks.be

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