

US law firm expands in Asia-Pacific region via Hong Kong (with photo)

US law firm Seyfarth Shaw LLP officially launched its regional office in Hong Kong today (May 17), tapping into the growing demand for cross-border legal services by multinational companies in Hong Kong as well as in the Asia-Pacific region.

Seyfarth Shaw provides thoughtful, strategic and practical legal counsel to its client companies and legal teams of all sizes. The Hong Kong office will work across local rules and practices to assist clients in key areas, including employment, corporate and commercial, according to Partner and Chair of Seyfarth Shaw LLP's International Practice Mr Darren G Gardner.

He said, "Prompted by the continued rise of Asia as one of the world's key economic zones, together with Seyfarth's strong base of work and demand by large multinationals in Hong Kong and the Asia-Pacific region more broadly, the firm established its on-the-ground presence in Hong Kong."

He added, "Hong Kong serves as our regional hub to service clients' growing cross-border specialist employment and corporate and commercial needs on a pan-Asian basis as well as locally in Hong Kong. The Hong Kong office will assist the firm in continuing to scale its International Employment Law and International Corporate and Commercial Law practice in the region."

Associate Director-General of Investment Promotion, Dr Jimmy Chiang said, "Hong Kong as an international business hub is strategically located at the heart of Asia. Together with its independent judiciary and solid and transparent regulatory framework, it is the ideal place for Seyfarth Shaw to set up its presence in the city, serving its clients both locally and regionally."

About Seyfarth Shaw LLP

Headquartered in Chicago, Illinois, Seyfarth Shaw has more than 850 attorneys in 15 offices providing a broad range of legal services in the areas of labour and employment, employee benefits, litigation, corporate and real estate. Seyfarth's clients include over 300 of the Fortune 500 companies and reflect virtually every industry and segment of the economy. For more information, please visit www.seyfarth.com.

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/72157691103481560.



LD launches exhibition on Employment Ordinance and Minimum Wage Ordinance

Members of the public are invited to visit an exhibition on the Employment Ordinance and the Minimum Wage Ordinance organised by the Labour Department in Tung Chung on May 19 and 20.

The exhibition will feature the main provisions of the Employment Ordinance and the Minimum Wage Ordinance as well as good human resource management measures, employment rights and the benefits of foreign domestic helpers. Related publications and souvenirs will be distributed and promotional videos will be shown.

The exhibition will be held at Sales Venue A, G/F, Yat Tung Shopping Centre, 8 Yat Tung Street, Tung Chung from 11am to 6pm. Admission is free.

Global market research company establishes foothold in Hong Kong (with photo)

Global market research company Euromonitor International officially opened its Hong Kong office today (May 17) with the aim of capturing new business opportunities, including those arising from the Belt and Road Initiative.

Euromonitor International provides in-depth market research, analysis and consulting across 100 countries. The Hong Kong office is the company's 14th office worldwide and will manage business in Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan, including a focus on new services that are related to financial technology, digital and e-commerce sectors, according to the General Manager in Hong Kong, Mr Agilson Valle.

"We see a lot of growth potential coming from the Belt and Road Initiative, as well as significant infrastructure investment gaining momentum in Hong Kong. The city has always been and will continue to stay strong in logistics, construction and real estate, and will always be the financial centre and service hub for the Asia region. We are confident in the vast development in the Asian continent where abundant opportunities can be found, and we want to be part of it.

"The expansion not only addresses the growing demand in serving long-term customers, but also strengthens Euromonitor International's research in Hong Kong with analysts on the ground. Our new office demonstrates our commitment to growing in Asia as well as our desire to support customers locally," said Mr Valle.

The Associate Director-General of Investment Promotion, Dr Jimmy Chiang, said, "With the Central Government's Belt and Road Initiative there are tremendous opportunities for business and professional services including legal, accounting, human resources, consultancy, education and training and more. We are happy to see Euromonitor International seizes the opportunities and makes use of Hong Kong to expand its business in the region."

About Euromonitor International

Euromonitor International is the one of the world's leading providers of global business intelligence and strategic market analysis. It has more than 40 years of experience publishing international market reports, business reference books and online databases on consumer markets. For more information, please visit www.euromonitor.com.

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[CE visits Huizhou and Guangzhou \(with photos/video\)](#)

The Chief Executive, Mrs Carrie Lam, commenced her trip to the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area in Huizhou and Guangzhou today (May 16).

Accompanied by the Director of the Chief Executive's Office, Mr Chan Kwok-ki, Mrs Lam met with the Acting Mayor of Huizhou, Mr Liu Ji, and attended a lunch hosted by him. She said at the meeting that given the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government attaches great importance to the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area, she visited Huizhou today following her trip to three other Bay Area cities, namely Shenzhen, Zhongshan and Zhuhai, in March. Noting that the ties between Hong Kong and Huizhou have been close, she said frequent contacts between the people in the two places provide a good foundation and strong impetus for co-operation between the two places. With Hong Kong's heavy investment in Huizhou over the years, she expressed the hope that the two cities will explore more collaboration in various industries in the future to seize together the opportunities brought about by the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area. She added that in particular in innovation and technology (I&T), Hong Kong, whose strength lies in scientific research, can be complemented by Huizhou which is large in area and can provide land for the transformation of achievements of scientific research of Hong Kong for mutual benefit.

In the afternoon, she visited a large-scale Hong Kong enterprise to know more about its successful experience in the transformation from being an investor in the manufacturing sector in the early period of the reform and opening up in the Mainland to a modern service provider. She also visited Tonghu Ecological and Smart Zone which is under planning to learn about its plan to develop smart industries with the protection of the ecological environment in mind. She was told that the zone is poised to be a cluster of I&T industries and a university from Hong Kong will participate in a project to explore collaboration with Huizhou in academic and scientific research

aspects.

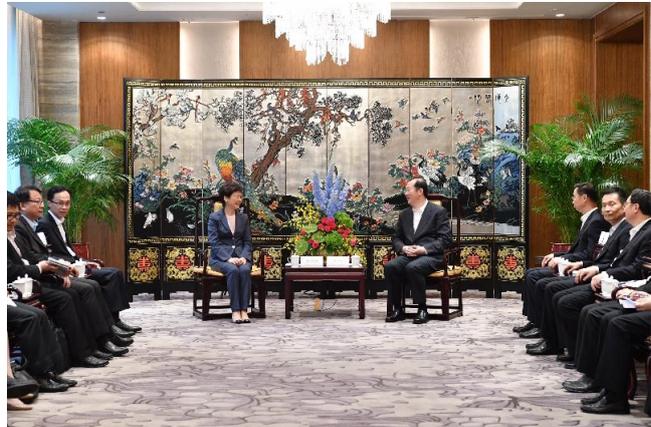
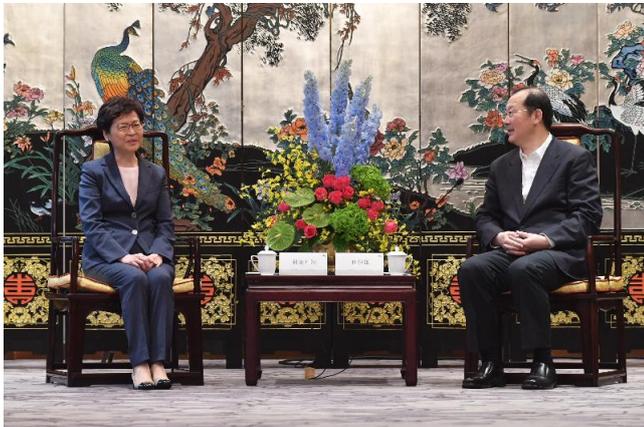
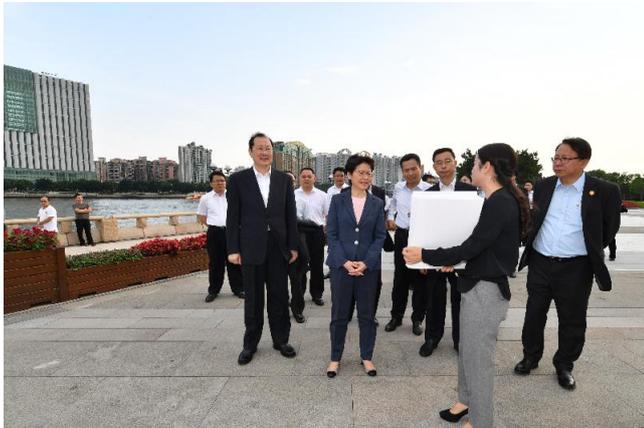
While in Huizhou, Mrs Lam also visited a residential project where many Hong Kong people live to know more about the project's planning and the lives of Hong Kong people who reside in the Mainland.

Mrs Lam concluded her visit to Huizhou in the afternoon and headed for Guangzhou. Accompanied by the Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs, Mr Patrick Nip, and Mr Chan, Mrs Lam visited Ershadao Art Park with the Secretary of the CPC Guangzhou Municipal Committee, Mr Ren Xuefeng, to know the ecological development and city environment of Guangzhou.

Mrs Lam and other officials then had a meeting with Mr Ren and attended a dinner hosted by him. During the meeting, Mrs Lam said that she was pleased to visit Guangzhou for the first time in the capacity of the Chief Executive and note the remarkable progress the city has made in various aspects. She said that the relationship between Hong Kong and Guangzhou has always been close. Along with the opening of the Hong Kong section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link in September this year, she said she believes that the level of co-operation between the two places will be enhanced, allowing them to jointly promote the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area and helping Hong Kong better integrate into the overall development of the country. She also believed that the economy in various cities in the Bay Area will be boosted and people's livelihood will be improved.

Mrs Lam will continue her visit tomorrow (May 17).





Overloading of Public Light Buses endangers safety of members of public

The Transport Department (TD) said today (May 16) that the TD is very concerned about the recent illegal cases of overloading of Public Light Buses (PLBs).

A spokesman for the TD said, "Overloading a PLB is an offence and it poses threats seriously to road safety and the lives of members of the public. We strongly condemn this illegal act. We have liaised with the Police and requested them to actively take enforcement actions and step up prosecutions against drivers committing the offence so as to achieve deterrent effects. Meanwhile, we will strengthen the site and on-board surveys and will immediately follow up with the Police if any illegal driving behaviours, such as overloading, is observed."

The spokesman also reminded PLB drivers and passengers, "Overloading may

constitute a breach of conditions of the third party insurance. Therefore, drivers should not overload a PLB and members of the public should not board a PLB which is fully loaded."

Regarding the recent media reports about overloading of PLBs, TD has issued letters to the trade instructing them to urge frontline drivers not to overload PLBs. TD will continue to deliver the messages of safe PLB service to the trade and the public through various channels, which include issuing of PLB newsletter, organising PLB road safety seminars for PLB drivers to enhance safe driving, and appealing to the PLB trade to promote safe driving and quality PLB service at trade conferences.

Moreover, the TD will also review the provision of public transport service in the areas where the PLB services were found involved in overloading, and will consider service adjustments to cater for the passenger demand.

The TD in collaboration with the Police will continue to combat the overloading malpractice of PLBs.