

[CE arrives in Hainan to attend Boao Forum annual conference \(with photos/video\)](#)

The Chief Executive, Mr John Lee, arrived in Hainan today (March 25) to attend the Global Free Trade Port Development Forum at the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2025.

Addressing the forum, Mr Lee said that Hong Kong, as an international financial, shipping, and trade centre, enjoys a strategic location and world-class connectivity, championing free and multilateral trade. Under the principle of "one country, two systems", Hong Kong is the only world city that combines the China advantage with the global advantage. It boasts a long tradition of the rule of law and has an established common law regime that aligns with major global financial hubs.

Mr Lee noted that as a participant in the Global Free Trade Zone (Port) Partnership Initiative, Hong Kong will continue to collaborate with Hainan in promoting the vast opportunities that free trade and market liberalisation could bring to the world.

In the evening, Mr Lee attended a dinner with leaders of Hainan Province to exchange views on deepening Hong Kong's co-operation with Hainan.

Additionally, the Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry, Professor Sun Dong, attended the "Enhance Digital Capacity Building & Bridging Digital Divide" forum this afternoon. He outlined Hong Kong's move to accelerate digital economy development through strengthening digital infrastructure and fostering digital transformation. The Government is pressing ahead with the Digital Corporate Identity Platform project at full speed. By adhering to the principle of "promoting technology with talent, leading industries with technology, and attracting talent with industries", the Government will provide more quality jobs and development opportunities for innovation and technology (I&T) and digital talent in Hong Kong and for those coming to Hong Kong, thereby pooling I&T talent from around the globe.

Mr Lee will meet with leaders of Hainan Province and attend the signing ceremony of Memoranda of Understanding between the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government and the People's Government of Hainan Province tomorrow (March 26).



Correctional officers stop remand person in custody attacking staff member of Social Welfare Department

Correctional officers at Siu Lam Psychiatric Centre stopped a male remand person in custody attacking a staff member of the Social Welfare Department (SWD) today (March 25).

At 11.13am today, a 14-year-old male remand person in custody suddenly became emotional and attacked a staff member of the SWD inside an official visit room. Officers at the scene immediately stopped the assailant.

During the incident, neither the staff member of the SWD nor the assailant sustained any injuries.

The case has been reported to the Police for investigation.

The assailant was remanded for the offence of wounding in March 2025.

SJ to visit Beijing

The Secretary for Justice, Mr Paul Lam, SC, will depart for a four-day visit to Beijing tomorrow morning (March 26).

Upon arrival, Mr Lam will call on the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council to report on the developments of the Department of Justice's major policy initiatives.

During his visit, Mr Lam will join an exchange session and a seminar to be held at the Supreme People's Court and the Supreme People's Procuratorate respectively. He will also meet with senior officials and representatives of the authorities to exchange views on Hong Kong's common law system under the principle of "one country, two systems" and other relevant topics.

Mr Lam will return to Hong Kong on March 29. During his absence, the Deputy Secretary for Justice, Dr Cheung Kwok-kwan, will be the Acting Secretary for Justice.

Speech by CE at Global Free Trade Ports Development Forum of Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2025 in Hainan (English only) (with photos/video)

Following is the speech by the Chief Executive, Mr John Lee, at the Global Free Trade Ports Development Forum of the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2025 in Hainan today (March 25):

Honourable Ban Ki-moon, Chairman of the Boao Forum for Asia; Honourable Zhou Xiaochuan, Vice Chairman (Vice Chairman of the Boao Forum for Asia); Honourable Akylbek Japarov, Former Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

Before I address the audience, I would also like to thank Honourable Liu Xiaoming (Governor of Hainan Province) for organising this very successful forum and taking care of all of us. It gives me great pleasure to join you at the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference, a beacon of dialogue and co-operation.

I have decided to speak in English today because I am addressing a global audience, and I want to speak to you directly in the business language that Hong Kong always uses, in addition to Chinese, when we speak to the world. The Boao Forum for Asia is an international organisation, jointly initiated by over 20 member states and headquartered here in China, our country.

Hong Kong is a global city that thrives on connecting the world. That's why I'm pleased to share with you in today's forum on the global free trade port development. For over a century, Hong Kong has thrived as a free port. Now an international financial, shipping and trade centre, Hong Kong is celebrated for its strategic location and world-class connectivity.

As a founding member of the World Trade Organization, Hong Kong champions free and multilateral trade. A city of just over 1 100 square kilometres in area and 7.5 million in population, Hong Kong is the world's 10th largest merchandise trading entity. We are also the world's fourth-largest destination for foreign direct investment.

Last year, Hong Kong was once again ranked the world's freest economy. In the latest Global Financial Centres Index published just last week, Hong Kong maintained its third place globally, and first in Asia. In the latest World Competitiveness Yearbook, Hong Kong ranked fifth globally, up two places from the previous year.

These are all for good reasons. Under the unique "one country, two systems" principle, Hong Kong is the only world city that combines the China advantage with the global advantage. We boast a long tradition of the rule of law, and have an established common law regime that aligns with major global financial hubs.

Both Chinese and English are our official languages, and our professionals are well-versed in international as well as Mainland Chinese business practices. Our wide range of talent admission schemes, coupled with a simple and low tax regime that maxes out at 15 per cent for income tax and 16.5 per cent for corporate tax, ensures that we welcome a world of professionals who are keen to develop their full potential .

But, as is evident in the theme of this year's conference, "Asia in the Changing World: Towards a Shared Future", this is indeed a changing world, and a challenging world as well. From geopolitical shifts and supply chain disruptions, to poverty and the urgent call for sustainability, the unprecedented challenges we face have left many at sea. Yet, within these challenges lie opportunities. Asia, now an engine of global growth, must promote multilateralism and reject protectionism.

We are devoted to deepening international exchange and collaboration. Hong Kong has signed investment agreements covering 33 economies, and free trade agreements covering 21 economies. We aspire to add the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership – the world's largest free trade pact – to our free trade agreements soon, and better contribute to regional co-operation.

Recently, we signed an amendment to the Agreement on Trade in Services of CEPA, the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement. It contains policy breakthroughs that grant Hong Kong enterprises and professionals unparalleled, and timely, access to the Mainland market.

In the latest Report on the Work of the Government, delivered by Premier Li Qiang earlier this month, our country will step up the implementation of core policies for the Hainan Free Trade Port, and enhance the performance of pilot free trade zones.

Hong Kong is proud to be a part of the Global Free Trade Zone (Port) Partnership Initiative, launched at this very forum two years ago. We will continue to join hands with our friends in Hainan in promoting the vast opportunities, and benefits, that free trade and market liberalisation could bring to the world.

Ladies and gentlemen, in this changing world, it is important to unite our efforts as a whole to pursue a brighter future. As responsible economies, we could all do our part in expanding free trade, streamlining customs, and harmonising standards.

As the saying goes, "a rising tide lifts all boats" – its Chinese equivalent would be "同舟共济". Today, we are all gathered in Hainan, a tranquil island blessed with the beauty of nature. But far from being on its own, this place is surrounded by a sea of opportunities and connectivity. Go alone; you may go fast. Go together; we go far. Together, we can bring about positive changes to our shared future. Together, we can achieve so much more.

On that note, I wish you a very fruitful Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference – one that is full of fruits for thoughts, fruits for actions and, of course, also fruits to eat, in this charming tropical city. Thank you!



Fraudulent websites, internet banking login screens and phishing emails related to Dah Sing Bank, Limited

The following is issued on behalf of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority:

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) wishes to alert members of the public to a press release issued by Dah Sing Bank, Limited relating to fraudulent websites, internet banking login screens and phishing emails, which have been reported to the HKMA. A hyperlink to the press release is available on the [HKMA website](#).

The HKMA wishes to remind the public that banks will not send SMS or emails with embedded hyperlinks which direct them to the banks' websites to carry out transactions. They will not ask customers for sensitive personal information, such as login passwords or one-time password, by phone, email or SMS (including via embedded hyperlinks).

Anyone who has provided his or her personal information, or who has conducted any financial transactions, through or in response to the websites, login screens or emails concerned, should contact the bank using the contact information provided in the press release, and report the matter to the Police by contacting the Crime Wing Information Centre of the Hong Kong Police Force at 2860 5012.