

Singapore ETO holds Chinese New Year dinner to promote Hong Kong (with photos)

The Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office, Singapore (Singapore ETO) hosted a dinner at the Fullerton Bay Hotel Singapore in Singapore yesterday (February 11) to celebrate Chinese New Year and to promote Hong Kong. Over 200 guests from the government sector, foreign embassies in Singapore, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, business associations, academic institutions and cultural organisations attended, as well as the local Hong Kong community.

Speaking at the dinner, the Director of the Singapore ETO, Mr Owin Fung, reviewed the work and achievements of Hong Kong and Singapore collaboration in recent years, including the visit by the Chief Executive, Mr John Lee, to Singapore in 2023, during which he led a Hong Kong Special Administrative Region business delegation and signed seven Memoranda of Understanding. In January this year, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade and Industry of Singapore, Mr Gan Kim Yong, also led a high-level business delegation to Hong Kong, engaging in high-level discussions on traditional and emerging business sectors. Furthermore, 23 Singaporean companies expanded or established operations in Hong Kong in 2023, demonstrating Singapore enterprises' investment interest and confidence in Hong Kong. Both sides expect to further build bilateral ties.

Mr Fung also took the opportunity to introduce, through a video, the Kai Tak Sports Park which is set to open on March 1. Major events and activities will be held at the park. Projects such as the Kai Tak Sports Park and the West Kowloon Cultural District exemplify Hong Kong's cultural and soft power.

During the dinner, Hong Kong singer-songwriter Chet Lam, along with four band members, performed as guest artists. They delivered a selection of Cantonese, English, and Putonghua songs, including "Singapore Pie", a piece by Liang Wern Fook, a renowned Singaporean lyricist, composer and Xinyao singer. Earlier, they and other Hong Kong musicians participated in an outdoor concert and talk under the "Hong Kong Pop Culture Festival @ Huayi" held in Singapore. The events were sponsored and supported by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Singapore.

Mr Fung concluded that the Association of Southeast Nations (ASEAN), as Hong Kong's second-largest merchandise trading partner, presents significant opportunities. Amid global economic challenges, Hong Kong has emphasised its unique advantages under the "one country, two systems" arrangement, serving as a gateway between Mainland China and global markets, while reinforcing connectivity with traditional markets and exploring emerging markets in ASEAN and the Middle East, with the Greater Bay Area as a key focus for

collaboration.

Looking ahead, Singapore ET0 will host its first Chinese New Year dinner in Ho Chi Minh City on February 28 to celebrate the Year of the Snake and the 30th anniversary of the Office, while enhancing communication with local communities in Vietnam.

