



100

Major Events
of

Hong Kong

1841-2011

Foreword



Hong Kong is entering its 15th year after its reunification with the motherland. A small fishing village to start with, Hong Kong came under British colonial rule and then emerged a Special Administrative Region of China. All along Hong Kong has been closely related to its motherland while retaining its characteristic features. Since its opening up as a trading port, Hong Kong has made use of its unique identity to serve as Chinese Mainland's bridge with the world. Until today, Hong Kong has never ceased to play an important role but instead acquired a wider scope of expansion: in the overall economic development of China, Hong Kong has functioned as the nation's important centre of finance, shipping and trade. All this can be attributed to Hong Kong's history. For more than a century, Hong Kong and its people have weathered countless storms, emerged unscathed but wiser, learning its lessons and becoming more mature.

What Hong Kong is today is rooted in its past, and everything can be traced to its history. Our young generation represents Hong Kong's future. To herald in a brighter future, we must not only cherish today but also try to have a good understanding of yesterday. Only by doing so can we learn from our past experiences and open up new vistas. A saying has it that "History is neither a concept nor a conclusion; history is the sum of details and history is the process." Strictly speaking, *100 Major Events of Hong Kong* is not an overview of the city's history, but comprises static shots of Hong Kong at different historic moments; on closer look, you will be enlightened.

Using an objective and pragmatic approach, we have researched extensively into the past and selected 100 events of significance to Hong Kong over the past 170 years. They are bare facts of what actually transpired without commentary or summary. It is hoped that our readers would piece these events together, read into their significance with a view to know the real Hong Kong and better understand Hong Kong. Should there be any errors or omissions, which is inevitable, please kindly let us know. We invite readers to share with us your valuable opinions; we will accept your views with an open mind and look for improvements in future.

Since this publication is meant for the youth of Hong Kong, we endeavour to relate the events concisely, with the aid of photographs and charts. It is our sincere wish that our younger generation will be able to get a clearer understanding of how Hong Kong has developed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Annie S C Wu". The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

Annie S C Wu
December 2011

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100

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100 Major Events of Hong Kong



- 29 August 1842
Hong Kong Came under British Colonial Rule
- 26 June 1843
The First Governor of Hong Kong Pottinger Took Office
- 24 October 1860
The Qing Court Ceded the Kowloon Peninsula South of Boundary Street
- 3 March 1865
Opening of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation
- 14 February 1872
Completion and Inauguration of Tung Wah Hospital
- 19 January 1880
The First Chinese Legislative Councillor in the Legislative Council
- May 1894
Outbreak of the Great Plague – Hong Kong Became a Plague Port
- 21 February 1895
Dr. Sun Yat Sen Established the Headquarters of the Revive China Society
- May 1898
Star Ferry Commenced Services
- 9 June 1898
Britain Leased the New Territories
- 1926
The First Chinese Councillor Joined the Executive Council
- 19 June 1925
Outbreak of the Guangzhou-Hong Kong Strike
- 24 January 1925
Opening of the Kai Tak Airport
- 20 February 1923
Dr. Sun Yat Sen Addressed the University of Hong Kong
- 13 February 1918
Hong Kong Affected by the 1918 Shantou Earthquake
- 11 March 1912
Founding of the University of Hong Kong
- 15 January 1912
Supreme Court Building Inaugurated
- 1 October 1910
The Kowloon-Canton Railway Commenced Services
- 18 September 1906
The Great Typhoon of 1906 took 15,000 Lives
- 30 July 1904
Hong Kong Tramways Commenced Services
- 28 June 1928
Founding of Radio Hong Kong
- 9 November 1935
The Hong Kong Dollar Became a Legal Tender
- 1 January 1936
Founding of the Urban Council
- 13 April 1937
Inauguration of Queen Mary Hospital
- 25 December 1941
Japanese Occupation of Hong Kong
- 15 August 1945
Liberation of Hong Kong
- 1 October 1949
The Founding of New China
- 18 May 1951
Hong Kong Imposed Embargo on China
- 30 May 1952
The First Step to Democratic Elections
- 24 December 1953
The Great Shek Kip Mei Fire
- 17 October 1963
Founding of the Chinese University of Hong Kong
- 1 June 1963
Rigorous Water Restrictions to Cope with Water Shortage
- 1 September 1962
Hong Kong Hit by Typhoon Wanda
- 2 March 1962
Opening of the Hong Kong City Hall
- 25 February 1961
Hong Kong Government Launched a Full-scale Population Census
- 15 November 1960
Shenzhen Reservoir Supplies Water to Hong Kong
- 2 March 1960
Implementation of the "3-Eight" Work Hour System
- 29 May 1957
Rediffusion Television Commenced Broadcasting
- 28 April 1957
Zhou Enlai Spoke on the Issue of Hong Kong
- 10 October 1956
"Double Ten Riots" Broke out
- February 1965
Bank Runs in Many Banks in Hong Kong
- 4 April 1966
Star Ferry's Fare Increase Led to Disturbances
- 16 November 1966
Hong Kong Carried out its Last Death Sentence
- 6 May 1967
Outbreak of Anti-British Riots
- December 1968
Government of Hong Kong Implemented Plans to Establish District Offices
- 2 July 1969
Legalization of the Mini-bus
- 1 September 1971
Implementation of Free Education
- 18 June 1972
June 18 Rain Disaster Causing nearly 300 Casualties
- 2 August 1972
Cross-harbour Tunnel Commenced Services
- 25 October 1972
The Government Launched the "Ten-year Housing Programme"

13 July 1983
The Legislative Council Passed the 3-year University System

23 October 1980
The Government Abolished the Touch Base Policy

7 July 1980
Founding of the Stock Exchange of Hong Kong

1 October 1979
The MTR Commenced Services

10 January 1977
Opening of the Hong Kong Ocean Park

15 February 1974
Founding of the Independent Commission Against Corruption

5 January 1974
Chinese Became an Official Language

1973
Commencement of Plans to Develop New Towns

November 1972
United Nations Removed Hong Kong and Macau from the List of Colonies

31 October 1972
Clean Hong Kong Campaign Launched

17 October 1983
Hong Kong Dollar Pegged to the US Dollar

18 July 1984
Green Paper on the Further Development of Representative Government Published

19 December 1984
Signing of the Sino-British Joint Declaration

18 November 1985
Completion and Inauguration of the HSBC Main Building

16 April 1987
Deng Xiaoping Elaborated on "One Country, Two Systems"

1 July 1987
Issue of the British National (Overseas) Passport

16 June 1988
Screening of Vietnamese Boat People Implemented

May and June 1989
Hong Kong people Voiced Support for the Student Movement in Beijing

4 April 1990
Adoption of the Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

8 June 1991
Hong Kong Bill of Rights Came into Effect

6 July 1998
Inauguration of the Hong Kong International Airport

August 1997
The Government of Hong Kong Defended the Hong Kong Dollar against Speculative Attacks

1 July 1997
Hong Kong's Reunification with the Motherland

11 December 1996
Tung Chee Hwa Elected Chief Executive

29 July 1996
The First Olympic Gold Medal for Hong Kong

17 September 1995
The Last Legislative Council Election

June 1995
US Magazine Fortune Predicted "The Death of Hong Kong"

1 April 1993
Founding of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority

27 July 1991
The Entertainment Circle Raised Funds for Flood Victims in East China

4 July 1991
Agreement Reached on the Issue of the New Airport

26 June 1999
The National People's Congress Ruled against the Right-of-Adobe Seekers

1 January 2000
Dissolution of the Provisional Urban Council and the Provisional Regional Council

1 July 2002
Accountability System for Principal Officials Implemented

March 2003
Outbreak of the SARS Epidemic in Hong Kong

29 June 2003
Signing of CEPA in Hong Kong

1 July 2003
Protests against Hasty Legislation under Article 23 of the Basic Law

28 July 2003
Implementation of the "Individual Visit Scheme" for Mainland Residents

10 March 2005
Resignation of Tung Chee Hwa

12 September 2005
Opening of Hong Kong Disneyland

17 December 2005
Anti-Globalization Protests Spun out of Control

11 December 2011
Election of the Fourth Election Committee

August 2011
Central Government Launched New Policies to Support Hong Kong

1 May 2011
Implementation of Minimum Wage

March 2011
Hong Kong First Featured in a Separate Chapter in the Nation's 5-Year Plan

5 to 13 December 2009
Hong Kong Hosted the 5th East Asian Games

1 May 2009
The First Imported Case of H1N1

8 January 2009
Development of the Pearl River Delta Included in the National Strategy Plans

8 to 24 August 2008
Hong Kong Host to Olympic Equestrian Events for the First Time

March 2006
Hong Kong Included in the Nation's Overall Development Plans for the First Time

21 December 2005
Political Reform Package Vetoed

29 August 1842

26 June 1843

Hong Kong Came under British Colonial Rule

On 21 January 1841, the British Navy occupied the Shajiao Fort and Dajiao Fort at Chuenpee Yang. Qishan, the Governor-general of Guangdong and Guangxi, was forced to sign the *Convention of Chuenpee* with British Plenipotentiary Charles Elliot, which led to the cession of the Island and Port of Hong Kong to Britain. On the 25th, the British Navy landed near Possession Street at Sheung Wan; the following day, a ceremony of possession was held. Thereafter, the Qing Imperial Court removed Qishan from office for his unsanctioned cession of Hong Kong, replacing him with Governor General Yishan. The British authorities, on the other hand, considering the indemnity far from adequate, sent Henry Pottinger to China to lead a northward invasion. He first took Wusong, then Shanghai and Zhenjiang, and finally arrived at Xiaguan of Nanjing.

On 29 August 1842, the Qing Court sent Keying and Yilibu as the Imperial Inspector Ministers to board the British naval vessel HMS Cornwallis to sign with the British representative Henry Pottinger the first unequal treaty in China's early modern history – the *Treaty of Nanjing*, which officially ceded Hong Kong to Britain in perpetuity.



On 29 August 1842, the Qing Court signed the *Treaty of Nanjing* which ceded Hong Kong to Britain.



The *Treaty of Nanjing* in part.

The First Governor of Hong Kong Pottinger Took Office

On 4 May 1843, Queen Victoria of Britain promulgated the Letters Patent and proclaimed the establishment of the Colony of Hong Kong. On the next day, Queen Victoria further promulgated the Royal Instructions ordering the establishment of the Hong Kong Government, and granting the highest ruler of Hong Kong – the Governor of Hong Kong – the power to preside over the executive, legislative and military affairs of the colony. On 26 June, Henry Pottinger became the first Governor of Hong Kong. Soon afterwards, he formed a government structured around the Executive Council and Legislative Council, and promulgated the first *Charter of the Colony of Hong Kong*.



The first Governor of Hong Kong Henry Pottinger.

Do you know:

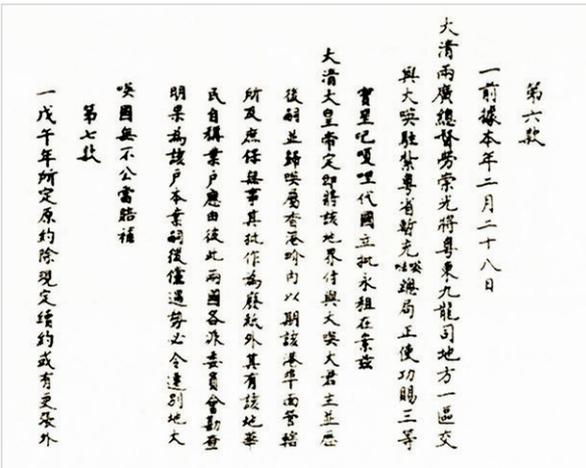
Governors of Hong Kong

1st	1843-1844	Henry Pottinger
2nd	1844-1848	John Davis
3rd	1848-1854	George Bonham
4th	1854-1859	John Bowring
5th	1859-1865	Hercules Robinson
6th	1866-1872	Richard Graves MacDonnell
7th	1872-1877	Arthur Kennedy
8th	1877-1882	John Pope Hennessy
9th	1883-1885	George Bowen
10th	1887-1891	William Des Voeux
11th	1891-1898	William Robinson
12th	1898-1903	Henry Arthur Blake
13th	1904-1907	Matthew Nathan
14th	1907-1912	Frederick Lugard
15th	1912-1919	Francis Henry May
16th	1919-1925	Reginald Edward Stubbs
17th	1925-1930	Cecil Clementi
18th	1930-1935	William Peel
19th	1935-1937	Andrew Caldecott
20th	1937-1940	Geoffrey Northcote
21st	1941-1947	Mark Young
22nd	1947-1957	Alexander Grantham
23rd	1958-1964	Robert Brown Black
24th	1964-1971	David C.C. Trench
25th	1971-1982	Murray MacLehose
26th	1982-1986	Edward Youde
27th	1987-1992	David Wilson
28th	1992-1997	Chris Patten

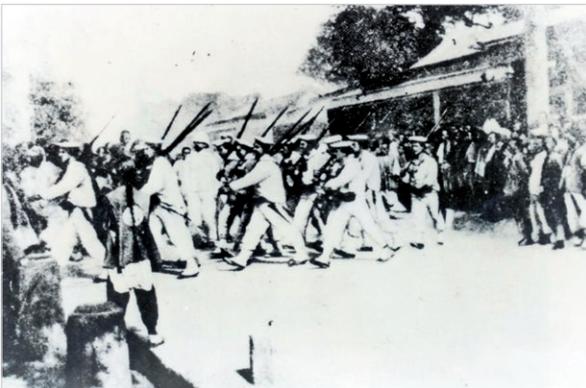
Note: During 1885 to 1887, Colonial Administrator Sir William Marsh and British Army Commander William Cameron were successive Acting Governors.

● The Qing Court Ceded the Kowloon Peninsula South of Boundary Street

On 24 October 1860, the Qing Court suffered another defeat at the Anglo-French Expedition to China (i.e. Second Opium War), and was forced to sign the *Treaty of Peking* with the British and the French in Peking (Beijing). The Qing Court officially ceded the Kowloon Peninsula south of Boundary Street to Britain.



The *Treaty of Peking* signed between China and Britain, in part.



Beijing invaded by the Anglo-French Expedition.

● Opening of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation

On 3 March 1865, Thomas Sutherland from Scotland founded the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) with its headquarters at the Central District of Hong Kong. It became the largest note-issuing bank of Hong Kong. In April of the same year, the bank opened its Shanghai Branch to provide funding for the frequent trade activities between China and Europe.

After the World War II ended, HSBC expanded its market share through acquisitions and alliances. In 1959, it acquired the Bank of England in the Middle East and Mercantile Bank of India, London and China; in 1965, it further acquired Hang Seng Bank Limited, establishing its monopoly of Hong Kong's banking sector. In 1991, HSBC Holdings Plc was established and listed on the Stock Exchange of Hong Kong and the London Stock Exchange. In July 1992, HSBC Holdings acquired Midland Bank Plc of England, and became one of the largest banking and financial services corporations in the world.



First generation Headquarters of the HSBC.

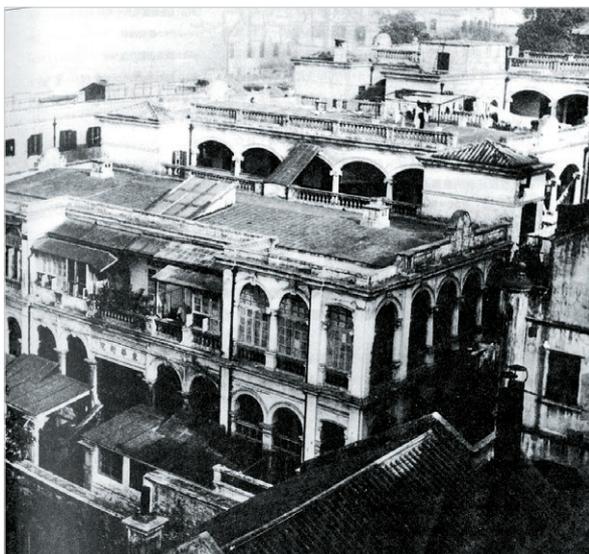
14 February 1872

19 January 1880

● Completion and Inauguration of Tung Wah Hospital

In March 1870, the Legislative Council of Hong Kong passed the *Tung Wah Hospital Incorporation Ordinance* under which Tung Wah Hospital was founded, with the aim of providing Chinese medical services to Chinese patients with limited means. On 14 February 1872, Tung Wah Hospital at Po Yan Street of Sheung Wan was completed and inaugurated to offer free medical services to the poor and infirm. It was the first hospital built to serve Chinese citizens. To cope with a booming population and growing demand for medical services, Kwong Wah Hospital and Tung Wah Eastern Hospital were established in 1911 and 1929 respectively. Legislation was also amended in 1931 by the Legislative Council to bring the three hospitals under the governance of the same Board of Directors, forming an umbrella organization called the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals. The name has remained in use until today.

Over the past century, in response to a changing society and the needs of local residents, the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals has continuously improved and extended its services to include social welfare and education, thus developing into the biggest and a trustworthy charitable organization in Hong Kong.



Tung Wah Hospital in its early days.

● The First Chinese Legislative Councillor in the Legislative Council

On 19 January 1880, Governor of Hong Kong John Pope Hennessy appointed Wu Tingfang as the Acting Unofficial Member of the Legislative Council (LegCo), making him the first Chinese LegCo Councillor.

During his term in office, Wu Tingfang gave staunch support to the Government's policies such as opposing to discrimination against the Chinese, abolishing public caning, and suppressing the trade and trafficking of young girls. He also contributed greatly to the political and commercial developments of Hong Kong. In his youth, Wu Tingfang studied in Britain and became a barrister after graduating from the Department of Law at University College London. Upon his return to Hong Kong, he was permitted to set up his own practice and became the first practising Chinese barrister. Later, he was appointed Justice of the Peace – the first Chinese to take on this title.

In 1883, upon leaving office, Wu Tingfang returned to the Mainland and became advisor to Li Hongzhang. He participated in the negotiations leading to the *Treaty of Tientsin* of 1885 and *Treaty of Shimonoseki* of 1895. He also travelled to the United States and Japan in the capacity of ambassador. Later, as he supported the 1911 Revolution, he resigned on health grounds. After the founding of the Republic of China, he was successively Minister of Justice for the Nanjing Provisional Government, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Premier of the Beiyang Government, and Foreign Minister of the Protection Movement. He followed Dr. Sun Yat Sen until his death.



First Chinese Councillor of the LegCo Wu Tingfang.

May 1894

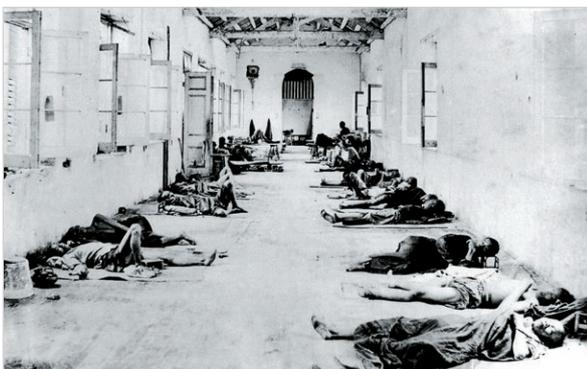
21 February 1895

● Outbreak of the Great Plague – Hong Kong Became a Plague Port

In May 1894, a full-blown bubonic plague swept across Hong Kong killing over 2,000 people. It was the single most severe epidemic with the highest death toll in the history of Hong Kong.

On 9 May 1894, Hong Kong recorded its first case of bubonic plague which soon spread. About one-third of the population left Hong Kong to escape from the epidemic. The Government then designated Hong Kong as a Plague Port. At the time, Tai Ping Shan District was the most densely populated and unhygienic place of all, thus aggravated spread of the epidemic. Governor of Hong Kong William Robinson ordered the Hong Kong Garrison of the British Army Corps to assist in the eradication of the epidemic by seeking out cases of bubonic plague and sterilizing affected households. Meanwhile, the Department of Health took strict precautions by quarantining the infected on board a special vessel “Hygeia”, and transformed the Kennedy Town Police Station into a temporary hospital.

To prevent further spread of the epidemic, in June 1894 the Government ordered evacuation from the Tai Ping Shan District, and levelled the entire area to the ground. The Government also promulgated the *Public Health & Municipal Services Ordinance*, and regularly had non-compliant residences inspected and rodent infestations eradicated.



In 1894, bubonic plague broke out in Hong Kong. The Government set up a temporary hospital in Kennedy Town.

● Dr Sun Yat Sen Established the Headquarters of the Revive China Society

On 21 February 1895, Dr Sun Yat Sen called upon like-minded allies to join forces with the Chinese Patriotic Mutual Improvement Association. Together they established the Headquarters of Revive China Society in Hong Kong to reinforce connections with the Mainland, and to facilitate the planning of armed uprisings. The constitution of the society exposed and reprimanded the Qing court for its obstinacy, ignorance and ineptitude, which disgraced the whole nation. It also pointed out the perils the Chinese race was facing and called upon all people to rise up to revive China.

In 1903, Dr Sun Yat Sen proposed his revolutionary principles: “the overthrow of the Manchus, the restoration of China, the adoption of a republican regime, and the equalisation of land rights”. These formed the basis of the “Three Principles of the People” and gave the revolutionary movement a clear direction. In 1905, the Chinese Revolutionary Alliance was founded in Tokyo with a total of 5 branches in China. Hong Kong was the southern branch, charged with the revolutionary activities in the four southern provinces: Yunnan, Guangdong, Guangxi and Fujian. During the 16 years from 1895 to 1911 when the revolution succeeded, Dr Sun Yat Sen had used Hong Kong as a base numerous times to plan and put into motion revolutionary activities.

Do you know: ■

What are the Revive China Society and the Chinese Revolutionary Alliance?

The Revive China Society was founded on 24 November 1894 in Honolulu with the purpose of overthrowing the corrupted Qing Court. In the following year, the Society’s headquarters was established in Hong Kong to carry out revolutionary movements under the banner “the overthrow of the Manchus, the restoration of China, the founding of a republican government”. The Chinese Revolutionary Alliance was founded on 20 August 1905 in conjunction with other Chinese revolutionary groups. The Alliance proposed four principles: “the overthrow of the Manchus, the restoration of China, the adoption of a republican regime, the equalisation of land rights”, which won the support of revolutionists all across China. From that point onwards, the revolutionary movement steered full steam ahead.

May 1898

9 June 1898

● Star Ferry Commenced Services

In May 1898, Arminian merchant Sir Catchick Paul Chater founded the Star Ferry Company Limited, the precursor of which was Kowloon Ferry Company. All ferries of Star Ferry bore the character “star” in their names and serviced the two shores of the Victoria Harbour, mainly ferrying passengers between Tsim Sha Tsui, Central and Wanchai. The company is now a subsidiary of the Wharf (Holdings) Limited.



First generation Star Ferry.



Star Ferry Pier in Central, Hong Kong (1888-1903).



Star Ferry Pier in Central, inaugurated in the 1950s (1958-2006).

● Britain Leased the New Territories

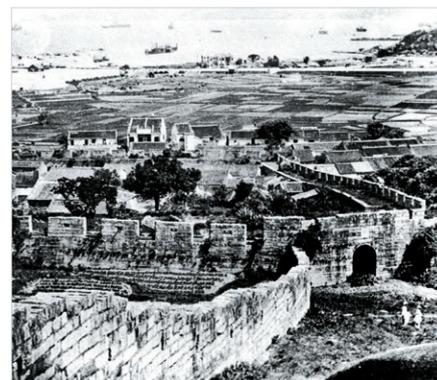
After the First Sino-Japanese War, the British, on the pretext of counteracting French expansion in South China to fortify defence of the territory, forced the Qing Court to sign *the Convention for the Extension of Hong Kong Territory* on 9 June 1898.

The British further wrestled the region south of Shenzhen River and north of Boundary Street at Kowloon Peninsula together with the outlying islands under a 99- year lease effective from 1 July 1899. The Chinese authorities, however, retained control over the Kowloon Walled City, and the Chinese officials inside the city were free to go about their usual business. The land route that led to Xin’an County (now Bao’an) remained open to the Chinese officials and the locals.

On 19 March 1899, the Qing Court appointed the official Wang Cunshan to work with Colonial Secretary James-Steward Lockhart in the joint survey to delimit the boundary of the newly leased New Territories in Hong Kong. Representing both sides, they signed the *Memorandum on the Delimitation of the Northern Boundary of the New Territories*, to confirm the boundary and the area under lease.



In 1899, the Chinese and British officials worked to delimit the boundary between Guangdong and Hong Kong.



Kowloon Walled City in 1910.

30 July 1904

18 September 1906

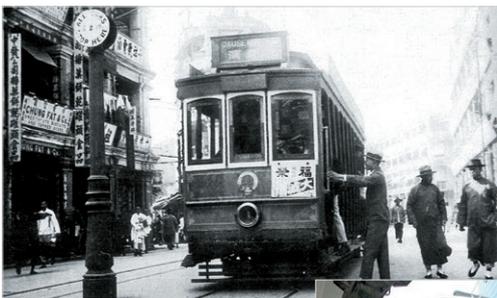
● Hong Kong Tramways Commenced Services

On 30 July 1904, Hong Kong Tramways formally entered into service. Hitherto, the tram has remained the longest serving means of transport in Hong Kong as well as a popular tourist attraction. Passengers nicknamed trams as ‘ding ding’, after the sound made by moving trams. In 1902, the Hong Kong Tramway Electric Company was founded in London to take charge of the building and operation of the tramway system; its responsibilities were later taken over by the Hong Kong Electric Traction Company. In 1903, works began to lay a single track linking Kennedy Town to Causeway Bay; later, the tracks were extended to Shau Kei Wan.

In 1910, the company was renamed the Hong Kong Tramways Limited, and its headquarters was relocated from England to Hong Kong in 1922. The franchise of operation was also handed over to the Hong Kong company.

From 1924 to 1949, an additional track was added to the existing system to provide for a dual carriageway and the entire length expanded to about 13 kilometres. The first trams were single-deckers with first class and third class seats; double-decker trams were introduced later.

In 2000, locally developed “Millennium tram cars” were introduced to Hong Kong.



In 1904 trams commenced services. At the time a single-decker design was adopted; a first class ticket cost 10 cents and a third class ticket 5 cents.



“Millennium tram cars” launched in the year 2000.

● The Great Typhoon of 1906 Took 15,000 Lives

On 18 September 1906, Hong Kong was hit by a severe typhoon. At 8 o’clock that morning, a devastating typhoon struck Hong Kong without prior warning from the Observatory, catching inhabitants unprepared. The 2-hour storm incurred heavy losses, leaving 15,000 dead, 1,349 missing, and 220 injured. It was the gravest natural disaster in the history of Hong Kong and the typhoon with the highest recorded death toll.

Tung Wah Hospital and other charitable individuals from all quarters quickly reacted by donating money to bring relief to victims of the disaster. Overseas Chinese also wired money from abroad to assist in disaster relief efforts. The Hong Kong Government allocated HK\$20,000 to the Public Works Department to repair the roadways followed by a monthly funding of HK\$1,000 to the Observatory for weather forecast work.



Numerous sampans and motorized boats were sunk and grounded in the typhoon.



Streets in Yau Ma Tei after the typhoon disaster.

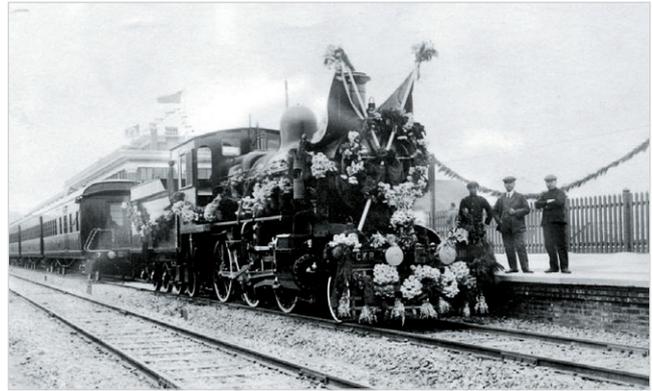
1 October 1910

● The Kowloon-Canton Railway Commenced Services

On 1 October 1910, the Kowloon-Canton Railway (KCR) commenced services between Tsim Sha Tsui and Lo Wu (British section). On 5 October 1911, the Lo Wu to Guangzhou section (Chinese section) also commenced services, marking the beginning of through-train services connecting Kowloon to Guangzhou. In the early years two services were provided each day, with first class and second class seats on offer. This was the first intercity railway system connecting Hong Kong to Guangzhou, extending to a total of 179 kilometres. At the time, the railway section in Hong Kong was called the British section, while the one on the Mainland was called the Chinese section; the two sections were managed by the respective local governments. In 1973, to meet the needs of the rapidly developing New Towns in the New Territories and to cope with the transportation of cargo between Hong Kong and the Mainland, the Hong Kong Government upgraded the section between Kowloon and Shatin Stations by laying multiple-track lines. 1978 saw the modernization of the entire British section and electrification of all the trains.

In 1982, the Government corporatized the operation of the railway and established the Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation (KCRC). Significant expansion of its railroad network began since then. In September 1988, the Light Rail Transit was launched providing services between new towns including Tuen Mun, Yuen Long and Tin Shui Wai. In December 2003, the West Rail Line was launched connecting Tuen Mun and Yuen Long to urban Kowloon. The KCR Rail Line was renamed East Rail.

On 2 December 2007 when the *Rail Merger Ordinance* came into effect, KCRC merged with Mass Transit Railway (MTR). Operation of the existing trains was handed over to MTR Corporation Limited and KCR was assimilated into the MTR railway system.



Through-train services of the KCR began on 5 October 1911. The picture shows the first train to arrive at Dashatou Train Terminus in Guangzhou on that day.



Tsim Sha Tsui Terminus in the early years. Now only the clock tower remains standing.



Kowloon-Canton Railway under construction in 1909.

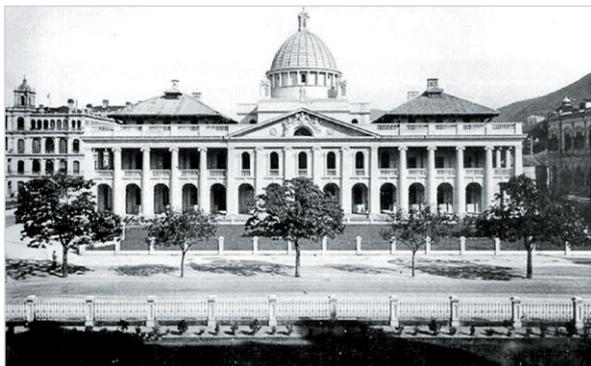
15 January 1912

11 March 1912

● Supreme Court Building Inaugurated

On 15 January 1912, the Supreme Court building was inaugurated and an opening ceremony was officiated by Governor Frederick Lugard. The building was built of granite, and on its top stood a statue of Goddess Themis, portrayed with a scale in her right hand to symbolize justice; and a sword in her left hand to symbolize power. The goddess was blind-folded to symbolize the impartiality of law. In the early years of its opening, the Supreme Court Building housed only 3 courts. The number of courts increased to 7 after multiple modifications. The space however remained barely sufficient.

In 1978, as the building suffered structural damages due to the construction work of the MTR Island Line, the Supreme Court was relocated to the Victoria Magistrates' Court. In 1984, it was relocated again to Supreme Court Road in Admiralty where it stands until the present day.



The Supreme Court Building, completed in 1912, housed the Legislative Council in 1985-2011.



Supreme Court Building, located in the Admiralty, was inaugurated in the 1990s.

● Founding of the University of Hong Kong

On 11 March 1912 the University of Hong Kong (HKU) was formally established with "wisdom and virtue" as its motto. It is the first University of Hong Kong. Formerly the Hong Kong College of Medicine, at its founding HKU only housed the Faculty of Medicine, the Faculty of Engineering, and the Faculty of Arts. The Faculty of Science, the School of Business Administration, the Faculty of Social Sciences, and Faculty of Law, the Faculty of Dentistry, the Faculty of Education and the Faculty of Architecture were added over the years.

In 1956, HKU began organizing extra-mural programmes and in 1992 grouped all extra-mural programmes under the School of Professional and Continuing Education (SPACE), which to this day still offers both full-time and part-time programmes.

For years, HKU was ranked among the world's top universities. In 2010, it was ranked the world's 21st top university by *Times Higher Education* and the 22nd top university by QS World University Ranking – both the highest ranks scored by universities in Asia.



Main Building of the University of Hong Kong in the 1910s.



On 18 December 2011, HKU hosted its Centenary Anniversary Dinner. The scale of celebrations was unprecedented.

13 February 1918

20 February 1923

● Hong Kong Affected by the 1918 Shantou Earthquake

On 13 February 1918, an earthquake measuring magnitude 7 on the Richter Scale hit Shantou, which was located over 300 kilometres east-northeast of Hong Kong. Hong Kong not only felt the tremors, but also found some of the local buildings damaged. It was the most severe earthquake in the history of Hong Kong and the only earthquake that caused any damage.



The earthquake that hit Nan'ao of Shantou on 13 February 1918 was the most severe earthquake recorded in the history of Hong Kong.



Severe damages at Nan'ao of Shantou caused by the earthquake.

● Dr Sun Yat Sen Addressed the University of Hong Kong

In February 1923, Dr Sun Yat Sen visited Hong Kong for the last time and visited his alma mater the University of Hong Kong (HKU) on 20 February upon the invitation of the Students' Union. He gave a public address in the hall of the Main Building (Loke Yew Hall) under the title "Why I became a Revolutionist". Among the attending guests were Colonial Secretary Claud Severn, local business leader Robert Hotung, and over 400 of HKU's teachers and students.

In his address, Dr Sun Yat Sen pointed out that his intellectual birth place was Hong Kong, and the University of Hong Kong for that matter, implying that his revolutionary ideas and new thinking originated from Hong Kong.



Dr Sun Yat Sen



On 20 February 1923, enroute Hong Kong on his way back to Guangzhou, Dr Sun Yat Sen was invited to deliver a public address at the University of Hong Kong.

24 January 1925

19 June 1925

● Opening of the Kai Tak Airport

On 24 January 1925, the Kai Tak Airport recorded its first flights. Kai Tak began as both a civilian and military airport, and was used by flying training schools as well as by the British Air Force.

In 1935, the first flight control tower and hangar were built. On 24 March 1936, the first passenger flight arrived at Hong Kong, which marked the beginning of public air transport services.

In 1954, the Government passed the *Hong Kong International Airport Master Plan*, which provided for the completion of a new 2,529-metre long runway in September 1958, turning Kai Tak into the Hong Kong International Airport. The runway was extended to 3,390 metres in 1975 to facilitate the take-off and landing of large passenger aircrafts.

In 1976, the Hong Kong Air Cargo Terminal was completed and commenced services. The cargo traffic volume rose rapidly. Through continuous development and expansion over time, the Hong Kong International Airport continued to boost its passenger and cargo traffic volume in response to growing air traffic demands. In 1996, the airport was ranked third in the world in terms of international passenger volume; the world's first in terms of international cargo traffic volume. On 6 July 1998, with the opening of the new international airport at Chek Lap Kok, the Kai Tak Airport closed down after over 70 years of operation.



Aerial view of the Kai Tak Airport in the 1920s. The 3-storey building on the lower left was an upscale apartment complex, while the hangar and air force quarters were on the right. In the middle was the Great Nullah (now Kai Tak Nullah). The vast expanse of vacant land was the aerial space of Kai Tak.

● Outbreak of the Guangzhou-Hong Kong Strike

On 19 June 1925, the Nationalist and Communist parties jointly instigated the large scale Guangzhou-Hong Kong Strike in Hong Kong. Earlier on, on 30 May, students in Shanghai joined a demonstration to protest against the killing of union leader Gu Zhenghong. The Police of the British settlement opened fire on the protestants – this incident was known as the May 30th Massacre and incited widespread public anger. The Nationalist Party called upon the general public to launch an anti-British movement and urged the workers of Hong Kong to go on strike. In just 2 weeks some 200,000 people returned to Guangzhou, and students of many schools also ceased to attend classes.

On 22 June, the British authorities in Hong Kong issued a public notice to outlaw the strike and sent naval vessels to station outside Shamian of Guangzhou. The next day, large scale protests and demonstrations were held in Guangzhou. As the crowds reached Shakee, the British forces fired upon and bombarded them, leading to 52 deaths and over 170 injured. This was known in history as the “Shakee Massacre”.

On 6 July, the Nationalist Government established the “Guangzhou-Hong Kong Strike Committee” to oversee the strike, and imposed an embargo on Hong Kong banning the import and export of goods and provisions. In November, the Governor of Hong Kong Cecil Clementi backed down and had his colonial secretary go to Guangzhou to negotiate with the Nationalist Government to resolve the strike.

On 10 October 1926, the Nationalist Government lifted the embargo on Hong Kong. The Guangzhou-Hong Kong Strike hence came to an end.



During the Guangzhou-Hong Kong Strike of 1925, Hong Kong workers went on strike in response to the calls.

● The First Chinese Councillor Joined the Executive Council

In 1926, the Governor of Hong Kong Cecil Clementi appointed British Chinese Chow Shou-son to be an Unofficial Member of the Executive Council. He was the first Chinese Councillor to join the Executive Council, serving as a bridge between the Government and the Chinese public.

Chow Shou-son was born in Wong Chuk Hang, Hong Kong in 1861 and was among the third batch of students sent by the Qing Court to study in the United States. Upon his return to China, he worked at the China Merchants Group and was for a time overseer at Shanhaiguan. When the 1911 Revolution broke out, he resigned and returned to Hong Kong. In 1919, he was appointed Councillor of the Sanitary Board. In 1921, he was appointed Legislative Councillor. During the Guangzhou-Hong Kong Strike of 1925, he travelled between Hong Kong and the Mainland as a Chinese leader attempting to defuse the situation. In 1936, Chow Shou-son stepped down from the Executive Council and was conferred the lifelong title of “The Honourable” by the King of Britain.



First Chinese Executive Councillor the Hon Chow Shou-son.

● Founding of Radio Hong Kong

On 28 June 1928, Radio Hong Kong was established. It is the oldest radio broadcasting station and the only official public broadcasting organization in Hong Kong. In the early years, Radio Hong Kong operated only two broadcasting channels: Chinese and English, which were mainly used to promote Government policies and produce educational and information programmes.

In 1970, the Public Affairs Television Unit was established. The Unit began to produce public affairs and news programmes, which were aired on commercial TV stations. TV dramas *Hong Kong Memories* and *Below the Lion Rock* were the two most popular classics.

Today, Radio and Television Hong Kong (RTHK) is a department under the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau of the HKSAR Government. It operates 7 radio channels and produces a diversity of multimedia programmes, providing information, education and entertainment, and reportage on local and international affairs, promoting culture in Hong Kong, and offering a channel of free expression.



The former General Post Office in Central in the 1920s. It housed the first broadcast studio of Radio Hong Kong.

9 November 1935

1 January 1936

● The Hong Kong Dollar Became a Legal Tender

On 9 November 1935, the Government passed the *Currency Ordinance* making the Hong Kong Dollar (HKD) the unit of currency in Hong Kong. The “silver standard” was abandoned, and the exchange rate of the Hong Kong Dollar was fixed at HK\$16.8 to 1 British Pound. With its exchange rate linked to the Pound, the Hong Kong Dollar became the legal tender of Hong Kong.



The “Silver dollar” of Spain, used in early Hong Kong as a common currency.



One Hong Kong dollar bank note issued by the Hong Kong & Shanghai Banking Corporation on 1 July 1913.

● Founding of the Urban Council

On 1 January 1936, the Legislative Council passed the *Urban Council Ordinance*, under which the Sanitary Board was formally restructured to form the Urban Council. In as early as 1883, the Sanitary Board was formed to oversee affairs relating to environmental and public hygiene as well as to manage markets and slaughter houses. Since its inception, the Urban Council had offered a full range of leisure, culture and municipal services, including the building and management of public recreational and sports facilities, cultural venues, museums and public libraries. The Council was also charged with the management of environmental hygiene and cleaning of the streets.

In April 1986, The Government established the Regional Council in response to the rapid development of the New Towns. On account of the reunification of Hong Kong with the Chinese Mainland, the Chinese and British Governments were unable to come to a consensus regarding the transition of the Urban and Regional Councillors. It resulted in the dissolution of both councils on 1 July, 1997. Chief Executive Tung Chee Hwa appointed the entire body of existing Councillors and added a number of new Councillors to form the Provisional Urban Council and the Provisional Regional Council.



The Urban Council took charge of affairs relating to environmental hygiene. The picture shows the shops at Bonham Strand in the 1930s.

13 April 1937

25 December 1941

● Inauguration of Queen Mary Hospital

On 13 April 1937, Queen Mary Hospital was completed and inaugurated. Named after Queen Mary, consort to King George the Fifth of Britain, the hospital was then the largest of its kind in the Far East, and the teaching hospital of the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Hong Kong. During the Japanese Occupation, Queen Mary Hospital was seized by Japanese troops and used as a military hospital. It was restored and resumed its normal operations on 1 October 1945.

Over the years, after numerous expansions and modifications, Queen Mary Hospital has a total of 14 buildings. Block K, a 28-storey building completed in 1980, was the 2nd tallest hospital building in the world and the tallest in Asia. In 2003, 2008 and 2011 respectively, Liver Transplant Centre, Heart and Lung Transplant Centre, Paediatric Cardiology Centre, and Laboratory for the Unit on Transplant, Immunology and Genetics were established. They are all medical facilities unique to hospitals in Hong Kong.



Queen Mary Hospital in 1937.

● Japanese Occupation of Hong Kong

On 8 December 1941, the Japanese invaded Hong Kong from Shenzhen and began an 18-day siege. The Japanese first air raided the Admiralty Barracks, Kai Tak Airport, and the Taikoo Dockyard, gaining full air superiority over Hong Kong. The ground troops then assaulted the main defences at Gin Drinkers Bay, taking over the New Territories and Kowloon. They demanded the British troops to surrender but the demand was rejected by the Governor of Hong Kong Mark Young.

On 18 December 1941, the Japanese landed on the Hong Kong Island under night cover. Unable to withstand the assault, the British troops kept retreating. Troops that stationed at the reservoir at Wong Nai Chung Gap also suffered defeat, and the British forces were beset by water and rations shortage. Mark Young finally surrendered to the Japanese on 25 December at the Peninsula Hotel. This marked the beginning of Japanese occupation lasting 3 years and 8 months, during which all business dwindled and the population dropped from 1.6 million to 600,000. The city of Hong Kong was plunged into a dark period.

On 20 February 1942, the Japanese founded the “Governor's Office of the Captured Territory of Hong Kong”, and Japanese Lieutenant General Rensuke Isogai became the first Governor.

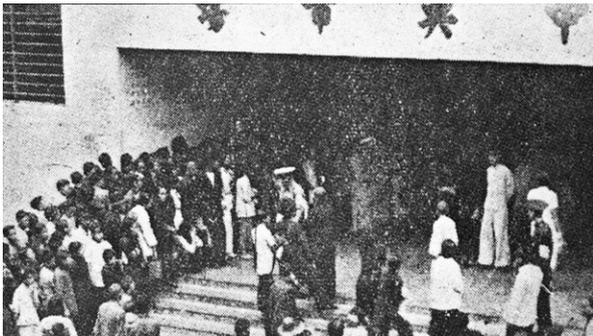
Do you know: ■

Hong Kong's War of Resistance against Japan:

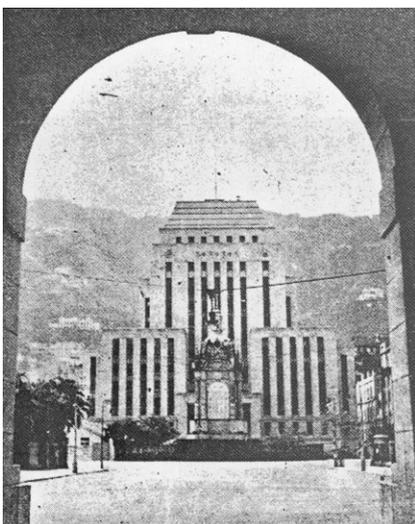
During the Japanese occupation of Hong Kong, the local Chinese provided different means of support to their compatriots on the Mainland fighting the war of resistance. They turned Hong Kong into an important centre for the anti-Japanese movement and a mid-way station for transmitting resources of aid from around the world. The Hong Kong and Kowloon Garrison of the Guangdong People's Anti-Japanese East River Guerrillas was also established. They launched deadly attacks on the Japanese troops and became an important part of China's War of Resistance against Japan. Under the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party, the Hong Kong and Kowloon Garrison comprised over 500 members at its peak, organized into 6 squadrons: Tai Po, Sai Kung, Yuen Long, the Sea, Lantau and Urban. They operated by regions and fought independently through guerrilla warfare. Their missions involved launching assaults on Japanese troops and Chinese traitors, rescuing key persons stranded in Hong Kong, collecting intelligence on the Japanese, and sabotaging Japanese military facilities.



Japanese troops entered Hong Kong and passed through Queens' Road upon the surrender of the British forces.



During the Japanese occupation of Hong Kong, there was panic buying of provisions. The picture shows crowds gathered at the Central Market.



The Japanese army took over the headquarters of HSBC, and used it as the Government House.

● Liberation of Hong Kong

On 15 August 1945, the War of Resistance against Japan ended in victory. On 30 August, British Navy Admiral Cecil Harcourt reclaimed Hong Kong from the Japanese. Hong Kong was liberated.

Although at the time there were Chinese troops stationed at Kowloon Tong, after negotiations between the Chinese and British authorities, Chinese troops returned to northern China on US navy vessels.

Admiral Cecil Harcourt promulgated a public notice to establish a military government in Hong Kong, and to enforce policies of governance. His first tasks were to regain control over the government departments and dockyards, release imprisoned Allied troops and British civilians, maintain public order, restore the functioning of urban facilities, and maintain public stability.

On 1 May 1946, Mark Young returned to Hong Kong after a long term of imprisonment. The colonial government was reinstated and Mark Young became the Governor of Hong Kong once again.



Ceremony celebrating the Liberation of Hong Kong at Statue Square attended by both Chinese and British representatives.



Japanese army officer handing over his sword of command at the ceremony of surrender.

1 October 1949

18 May 1951

● The Founding of New China

In 1949, when the field troops of the People's Liberation Army headed south, Mao Zedong and Zhou Enlai ordered the troops to “stop short of Zhang Mutou”, to cease their march toward Shenzhen, so that peace along the Guangzhou-Hong Kong boundary would not be disturbed.

On 1 October, the Founding Ceremony of New China was held at Tiananmen Square of Beijing. The first 5-star red flag was hoisted. Chairman Mao Zedong then announced the formal establishment of the Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China.



On 1 October 1949, people at the capital gathered at Beijing's Tiananmen Square to celebrate the founding of the People's Republic of China.



Chairman Mao Zedong solemnly announced the founding of the People's Republic of China.

● Hong Kong Imposed Embargo on China

On 18 May 1951, owing to the outbreak of the Korean War, the United Nations passed a resolution to impose an embargo and economic sanction on the Chinese Mainland. In addition, an embargo of strategic materials was imposed on Hong Kong to prevent them from entering China. Pressurized by the United States, the Hong Kong Government also announced its embargo against China. As a result, entrepot trade between China and Hong Kong suffered greatly. No longer able to support its economic development through entrepot trade, Hong Kong began to develop itself into a centre for manufacturing industries. After the Korean War ended, the nations lifted their embargo on China.

Do you know: ■■

Economic Transitions of Hong Kong:

The first transition (1950-1970): In the early 1950s, the Korean War and the Western embargo against China put Hong Kong's economy in jeopardy. Entrepot trade no longer thrived, and many commercial and industrial businesses closed down. Entrepreneurs of Hong Kong dedicated themselves to developing labour-intensive manufacturing industries, and strove to open up US and European markets. In the 1960s, Hong Kong succeeded in breaking away from the century-old tradition of entrepot trade, and turned its efforts to manufacturing. The 1970s was the golden era of Hong Kong's manufacturing industry.

The second transition (1971-1981): Beginning from the 1970s, momentous changes in the local and international scenes presented the industries of Hong Kong with great challenges. The commercial and industrial sectors actively explored new products, new businesses and new markets, and blazed a trail of diversity. Thereafter both the economy and industries moved towards diversification and opened up a new horizon. For a time Hong Kong was top of the four “Small Dragons of Asia”. It grew into a centre for Asian and international finance, trade, shipping, as well as for tourism, light industries and information services.

The third transition (1982-present): In the early 1980s, world economy was in the doldrums and competition among the peripheral regions intensified. Constrained by its inherent features—being “light, small-scaled, reliant on external supply, and labour intensive” — the industrial sector met with the crisis of survival. Meanwhile, as China began to open its doors to the world, Hong Kong entrepreneurs moved their production base northwards and freed themselves from the shortage of land and labour, which enhanced their competitive edge in the international arena. This served not only as a foundation for Hong Kong's development into an international financial centre, trade centre, and shipping centre, but also facilitated the development of tourism and real estate business. Using this as a starting point, Hong Kong has developed itself into a world class “city of service industries”.

30 May 1952

24 December 1953

● The First Step to Democratic Elections

On 30 May 1952, the Urban Council organized its first election of Unofficial Councillors. Brook Bernacchi and Louey Sui-tak were elected. While this election was not by universal suffrage, voters were required to be direct taxpayers, thus setting the stage for democratic elections in the years ahead. In January 1953, Brook Bernacchi advocated increasing the number of seats for Unofficial Members in the Legislative Council, and strove for the allocation of more seats generated through elections.



Brook Bernacchi, elected Urban Councillor in the 1950s.



Urban Council Meeting in 1973.



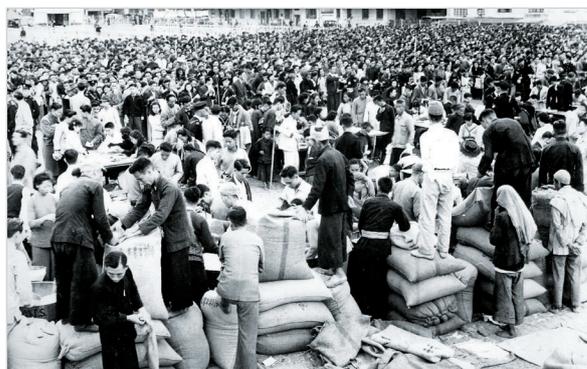
Emblem of the Urban Council

● The Great Shek Kip Mei Fire

On 24 December 1953, a great fire ravaged the squatters at Shek Kip Mei. In the course of one night, the squatters of six villages (Upper Pak Tin Village, Lower Pak Tin Village, Shek Kip Mei Village, Upper Wo Chai Village, Lower Wo Chai Village and Tai Po Village) were burnt down. The fire that blazed for over 6 hours destroyed 7,000 squatter huts, rendering 60,000 residents homeless. To provide accommodation for the residents, the Government implemented the resettlement programme by constructing two-storey bungalows near the scene of the disaster, to be demolished later to make way for 29 blocks of 7-storey high resettlement housing. The initiative was later expanded to other districts. This was the first attempt to provide public housing welfare to the grassroots.



On Christmas Eve of 1953, a fire broke out at the Shek Kip Mei squatter area, rendering 60,000 residents homeless.



The Yue-Sui (Guangdong-Guangzhou) Branch of the People's Relief Administration of China donated RMB¥1 billion (then HK\$230,000) and 700,000 catties of rice to help the fire victims. The Federation of Trade Unions and the Chinese General Chamber of Commerce were commissioned to help distribute rice at the present Mong Kok Stadium at Boundary Street and Cheung Sha Wan Sports Ground at Maple Street on 14 January 1954.

● “Double Ten Riots” Broke out

On 10 October 1956, people with affinities to the Nationalist Party (Kuomintang) launched what was known as the ‘Double Ten Riots’ (or the 1956 riots) in Kowloon and Tsuen Wan.

The riots were provoked by two resettlement officers who removed the Nationalist flags displayed and big “Double Ten” banners (to celebrate National Day of the Republic of China) hung outside the Li Cheng Uk Resettlement Estate. Two thousand citizens joined in a standoff with the police. The anti-riot police threw smoke grenades in an attempt to disperse the crowds. In the evening, the crowds gathered again and charged the police defence line, trying to spread the riot. Some triad members also gathered at Tai Po Road and Castle Peak Road. At night, the riots spread to Cheung Sha Wan and Mong Kok; some of the rioters attempted to break into leftist unions and schools.

Riots in Kowloon and Tsuen Wan continued into the next day. The Government decided to enlist the Hong Kong Garrison of the British Army to help suppress the riots. A curfew was imposed until the 14th.

The riots resulted in over 300 injuries and deaths; economic losses incurred due to the incident totalled more than HK\$3 million.



The “Double Ten Riots” of 1956 first erupted in Sham Shui Po and spread to other parts of Kowloon and Tsuen Wan.



Injured workers treated in hospital.

● Zhou Enlai Spoke on the Issue of Hong Kong

On 28 April 1957, Premier of China Zhou Enlai gave an important address regarding the issue of Hong Kong in a seminar for the commercial and industrial sectors held in Shanghai. Zhou said explicitly that China was in no hurry to recover the sovereignty of Hong Kong. He further pointed out, “Hong Kong must operate within the framework of capitalism in order to survive and thrive. This is beneficial to us. We will eventually recover the sovereignty of Hong Kong – even the British will think likewise.”

On the issue left by history, the Chinese Government was consistent: When an opportune moment came, the issue of Hong Kong would be resolved peacefully through negotiations. Their approach toward Hong Kong was “to make long term plans, to make full use of Hong Kong”.



Zhou Enlai made it clear that China was in no hurry to recover the sovereignty of Hong Kong.

29 May 1957

2 March 1960

● Rediffusion Television Commenced Broadcasting

On 29 May 1957, Rediffusion Television commenced broadcasting. This was the first television station in Hong Kong and the first television station to operate in the world's Chinese community.

Rediffusion Television was a paid cabled TV station. It operated an English channel in black and white, broadcasting only 4 hours per day. The programmes were in English and covered news and sports news. A Chinese channel was added in 1963.

On 19 November 1967, the Television Broadcasting Corporation Limited (TVB) was established as Hong Kong's first free wireless television station. Since TVB's inception, it has maintained a leading position until today, always scoring top audience ratings. "Enjoy yourself tonight", the variety show that made its debut in 1967, became the world's longest running TV programme.

In 1973, Rediffusion Television switched to free, wireless broadcast, with Chinese and English Language channels. In 1982, it was renamed Asia Television Limited.



Headquarters of Rediffusion Television (old Asia Television headquarters) at Broadcast Drive, Kowloon Tong.



Headquarters of Television Broadcasting Corporation Limited in the 1960s.

● Implementation of the "3-Eight" Work Hour System

On 2 March 1960, Kenneth Kinghorn, Commissioner for Labour, announced the implementation in all Hong Kong factories the system of "3-Eight" work hours, i.e. 8 hours of work, 8 hours of rest, and 8 hours of sleep. The system was introduced in an attempt to improve the welfare of workers and to prevent excessively long work hours. All cotton mills, weaving factories, garment factories and silk factories gave their support. Meanwhile, the Labour Department provided as much assistance as possible to proprietors that implemented the system, to encourage adoption across the board.



The garment industry once thrived in Hong Kong.



Off-work crowds in the industrial district in the 1960s.

15 November 1960

25 February 1961

● Shenzhen Reservoir Supplies Water to Hong Kong

On 15 November 1960, the Hong Kong Government arrived at a water supply agreement with the Guangdong Province whereby the latter will export 5 billion gallons of water from Shenzhen reservoir to Hong Kong each year, at a cost of HK\$1.06 per thousand gallons. Guangdong Province undertook to provide Hong Kong with long-term uninterrupted supply of water from Shenzhen Reservoir, in order to solve Hong Kong's water shortage. Meanwhile, the Hong Kong Government made haste to build reservoirs to collect water for self-sufficiency.

In June 1963, Hong Kong and the Mainland signed the "Dongjiang - Shenzhen Water Supply Project Agreement". On 1 March 1965, engineering work for the project commenced. After the water of Dongjiang was routed to the Shenzhen Reservoir, it would be pumped to Hong Kong through a network of pipelines. The project proved instrumental in alleviating the city's water shortage.



Signing of the Water Supply Project Agreement between the Hong Kong Government and the Guangdong authorities on 15 November 1960.



Pipelines laid in Hong Kong for the Dongjiang Water Supply Project.

● Hong Kong Government Launched a Full-scale Population Census

On 25 February 1961, the Government of Hong Kong conducted its first full-scale population census in 30 years. Its aims were to obtain data on the size of the local population, detailed information regarding the socio-economic features, and accurate statistical data as reference for the Government's future planning. The authorities divided Hong Kong into eight districts, then into 49 sub-districts, ensuring that residents in every part of Hong Kong would be covered. This comprehensive population census lasted 11 days and involved over 12,000 census officers.



The first population census conducted in 1961. The pamphlet above shows the objective, duration, content of the questionnaire, and interview arrangements of the census, aimed at addressing the concerns of the citizens.



A typical Hong Kong family in the old days, with children aplenty.

2 March 1962

1 September 1962

● Opening of the Hong Kong City Hall

On 2 March 1962, the Hong Kong City Hall was inaugurated. The Governor of Hong Kong Robert Brown Black officiated at the opening ceremony. The City Hall, which was located at Edinburgh Place of Central on Hong Kong Island, took up a plot area of some 11,000 square metres and was built at the cost of HK\$20 million. In its days, it was the most important cultural and arts centre of Hong Kong, and it witnessed the growth and development of local art and culture.

The City Hall comprises the Low Block and the High Block. The Low Block housed a concert hall that has a capacity of over 1,400 people, a theatre with 465 seats, and an exhibition hall. The High Block housed a recital hall, two committee rooms, an art gallery, an exhibition gallery, a public library and a marriage registry, providing the public with a diverse selection of cultural and leisure activities.



Hong Kong City Hall in 1962.



In the old days, the Hong Kong City Hall was a city landmark. Citizens thronged to the Low Block for a visit.

● Hong Kong Hit by Typhoon Wanda

On 1 September 1962, Typhoon Wanda made landfall on Hong Kong. It was the first severe typhoon to hit Hong Kong directly in 50 years. Typhoon signal number 10 was hoisted, and storm winds of average speed 133 km per hour were recorded. Hong Kong suffered extensive damages, with 183 deaths, several hundred houses destroyed and over 70,000 people homeless.

Torrential rain, aggravated by storm winds, flooded the low-lying regions in the New Territories. Damage to crops was extensive, and some 70 percent of farm animals were drowned. Shatin and Tai Po were particularly hard hit by high storm surges brought by Typhoon Wanda.



During the passage of Typhoon Wanda, many vessels sank while others collided and capsized. They included cargo vessel Tung Fang and two tugs 'Kowloon Dock' and 'Dorothy'.



At Ming Yuen Western Street at North Point, dozens of vehicles were swept down the slope by the flood.

1 June 1963

17 October 1963

● Rigorous Water Restrictions to Cope with Water Shortage

In 1963, Hong Kong suffered the most severe water shortage in 60 years. On 1 June, the Government was forced to supply tap water only once every 4 days, for 4 hours each time.

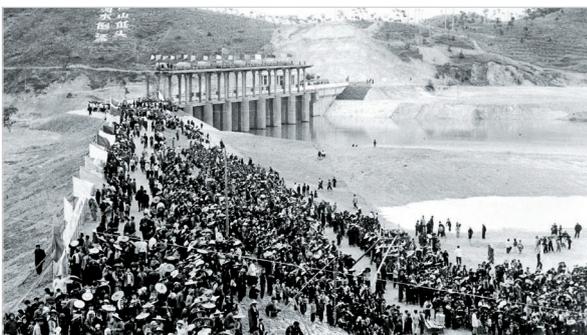
The public suffered great inconvenience because of water rationing. Whole families queuing up for fresh water became an important part of life.

To alleviate the water crisis, the authorities called upon the public to conserve water while implementing more measures, such as sending ships to fetch water from the Pearl River estuary, banning overseas sea vessels from restocking their water supplies at Hong Kong, and encouraging public servants to go to work in casual wear, so that less water would be used for laundry.

In 1964, the Central Government allocated funding to complete the Dongjiang-Shenzhen Water Supply Project, sending limited fresh water to Hong Kong to help alleviate the water shortage crisis.



In the 1960s, water rationing was common and the public was required to queue up in the streets for fresh water.



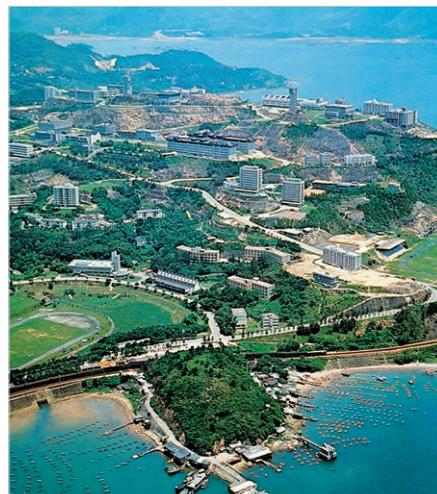
On 27 February 1965, completion of the Dongjiang-Shenzhen Water Supply Project was celebrated at Tongtouxia.

● Founding of the Chinese University of Hong Kong

On 17 October 1963, the Chinese University of Hong Kong was formally established. It was formed by grouping the New Asia College, Chung Chi College and United College to become the only collegiate university in Hong Kong. The Governor of Hong Kong Robert Brown Black officiated at the founding ceremony in the capacity of Chancellor. In November, the Government announced the appointment of Professor Li Choh-ming as the first Vice-Chancellor and President.

Since 1959, the Government has enlisted the expert advice of John Fulton on the development of the three colleges. Meanwhile, to respond to requests from local Chinese secondary school students regarding the lack of higher education opportunities, the Government announced the establishment of a university that mainly used Chinese as its medium of instruction. In 1961, the University Preparatory Committee was formed to coordinate the affairs of the founding of the University.

After years of development, the Chinese University has now become a top university not only in Hong Kong but also in Asia. On the basis of the three founding colleges, in 1986 a fourth college was established: Shaw College. To provide for quality education and implement the four-year University education system, in 2006 Morningside College and S H Ho College were founded; in 2007 C W Chu College, Wu Yee Sun College and Lee Woo Sing College were added, making up a total 9 colleges in the Chinese University.



The Chinese University of Hong Kong is located in the north of Shatin and overlooks the Tolo Harbour.

● Bank Runs in Many Banks in Hong Kong

On 26 January 1965, when Ming Tak Bank, a small bank, closed down due to over-lending, the public lost confidence in Chinese banks. This triggered off a banking crisis. On 6 February, the Canton Trust and Commercial Bank was besieged by bank runs. On the 8th, all 24 branches of the Bank in Hong Kong ceased operation. Bank runs spread to Hang Seng Bank and many other Chinese banks.

The Government promptly put in place an emergency order limiting the amount of withdrawal from each account to HK\$100 per day. It also announced that British pounds would be air-lifted to Hong Kong to alleviate the shortage of bank notes. Meanwhile, the Hong Kong Association of Banks also proposed an agreement to ban the withdrawal of fixed deposits ahead of due time.

After the implementation of several emergency measures, the bank run crisis was resolved. Subsequently, Canton Trust and Commercial Bank closed down, and Hang Seng Bank was acquired by Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.



On 6 February 1965, Canton Trust and Commercial Bank was hit by bank runs. On 8 February, the Government announced its takeover of the bank.

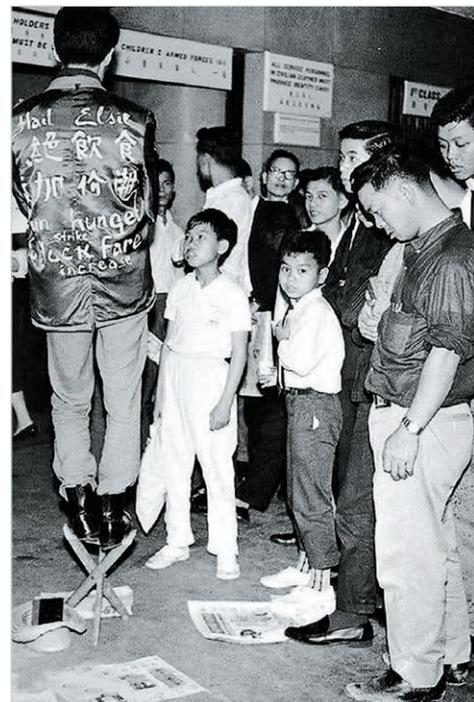


On 8 February 1965, bank runs in Hang Seng Bank continued into the evening. The bank was surrounded by thousands of people.

● Star Ferry's Fare Increase Led to Disturbances

On 4 April 1966, Star Ferry announced that its fare would be increased from 20 cents to 25 cents. The public considered the rise significant enough to drive up inflation, and thus started widespread criticism. Protests and riots followed and lasted days. To protest against the fare increase, a group of ten young men including So Sau Chung initiated a hunger strike at the Star Ferry Pier in Central and gained the support of several thousand citizens. Later, So Sau Chung was arrested by the police, which triggered off more widespread protests.

On 6 April, the protests escalated with several tens of thousands of people joined in demonstrations and protests in Kowloon. Bad elements took the chance to run rampant, looting shops, setting fires and burning vehicles. The police suppressed the riots and imposed a curfew, banning all night activities. The curfew was lifted on the 10th. The riots resulted in 1 death, 18 injured, and over 1,800 arrests. Losses incurred on tourism amounted to over HK\$10 million.



In 1966, So Sau Chung went on a hunger strike at the Star Ferry Pier to protest against the 5-cent price hike.

16 November 1966

6 May 1967

Hong Kong Carried out its Last Death Sentence

On 16 November 1966, Hong Kong carried out its last death sentence. A Vietnamese defendant named Huang Qi-ji, found guilty of murdering a Chinese man, was put to death by hanging. Later, the Hong Kong Government followed the steps of Britain and abolished the death penalty. Criminals sentenced to death shall be automatically pardoned by the Queen of Britain or the Governor of Hong Kong, with their death sentence changed to life imprisonment.



After 1966 Hong Kong no longer sends anyone to the gallows. Later, death penalty was abolished. The picture shows a simulation of the gallows and the detention chamber.



Wen Wei Pao reported on the last act of execution.

Outbreak of Anti-British Riots

On 6 May 1967, some workers' unions, under the influence of the Cultural Revolution, followed the example of anti-Portuguese riots in Macau in an attempt to overthrow British colonial rule. Taking the labour disputes in an artificial flower factory in San Po Kong as a pretext, the workers' unions instigated large-scale protests and riots, which the police cracked down on and left many either injured or arrested.

The leftists soon instigated the public to launch an "anti-British, anti-violence" movement, organizing demonstrations and strikes to show their support. On 12 July, the Government imposed a curfew on Hong Kong and Kowloon. On 28 July, bombs were discovered in many locations in Hong Kong and Kowloon; the public was seized with panic. On 4 August, the police raided a Chinese department store in North Point, seized various kinds of weaponry and explosives and arrested a number of suspects.

The riots, which lasted half a year, caused great social turmoil and incurred great economic loss. Many Hong Kong citizens migrated overseas. On the other hand, it pushed the Government to improve its governance, improve communication with the public, and resolve social dilemmas.

In 1978, Liu Chengzhi, Director of the Overseas Chinese Affairs Office of the State Council, reiterated at the Hong Kong and Macau work meeting convened in Beijing that: "The so-called 'anti-British, anti-violence' riots that broke out in Hong Kong in 1967, and the ensuing series of moves, were attempts to force China to reclaim ownership of Hong Kong through military force. This was against China's stand on this issue (editor's note: i.e. "to make long term plans, to make full use of Hong Kong"), and could result in grave consequences."



On 22 May 1967, crowds, holding little red books above their heads, staged a protest outside the Government House.

● Government of Hong Kong Implemented Plans to Establish District Offices

In December 1968, the Governor of Hong Kong David Trench forged ahead with the District Offices Scheme in a bid to innovate the ineffective local administrative structure and to promote government-public relations.

The Government turned the Secretariat for Chinese Affairs into the Home Affairs Department and set up District Offices on Hong Kong Island and in Kowloon. It also encouraged the founding of District Committees and Area Committees. Meanwhile, private home owners were encouraged to form Owners' Corporations and Mutual Aid Committees, the latter to be jointly run by owners and tenants. Similar policies were later fully implemented in the New Territories.

The above measures formed the basis for a grassroots-based administrative structure, and promoted communication between the Government and the public. It also built the foundation for the implementation of district administration scheme.



24th Governor of Hong Kong Sir David C C Trench.



Public Enquiry Service Centre, Wanchai District Office.

● Legalization of the Mini-bus

On 2 July 1969, the Legislative Council enacted legislation to legalize the operation of mini-buses, and relaxed the limit on the number of seats. The number was increased from 9 to 14 in a bid to expand public transportation services.

Mini-bus is also known as 'vans'. In the 1967 riots, most means of transport halted and some of the bus routes suspended. The Government was then urged to legalize the operation of mini-buses to carry passengers in the urban area, turning them into a means of public transportation.

As of today, the total number of mini-buses in Hong Kong is capped at 4,350. Among these are green mini-buses, which serve fixed routes, and red mini-buses, which serve non-fixed routes. Both types of mini-bus carry 16 seats each.



In the 1970s, the public mini-bus (14-seater), serviced the route from Central to the Peak, at the cost of HK\$1.



Mini-buses in Hong Kong are categorized into green and red mini-buses.

1 September 1971

18 June 1972

● Implementation of Free Education

On 30 July 1971, the Education Department announced that 6-year free primary education would be provided in all public schools in Hong Kong as from 1 September of the same year. In 1978, the Governor of Hong Kong Murray MacLehose extended free education to junior secondary schools, hence the implementation of 9-year (6 years of primary education and 3 years of junior secondary education) free education.

In 2007, in its Policy Address, the Government announced the extension of free education to senior secondary level. From the academic year 2008 to 2009 onwards, students would enjoy 13 years of free education, i.e. 6 years of primary school and 7 years of secondary school education (As from the academic year 2009-2010, it will be 6 years of primary school and 6 years of secondary school according to the new 3-3-4 academic structure to be implemented).



A primary school classroom in the 1970s.

● June 18 Rain Disaster Causing nearly 300 Casualties

On 18 June 1972, in Kwun Tong of Kowloon and at the Mid-levels in Hong Kong, continuous torrential rain caused severe land slides, leading to over 250 casualties and destroying the homes of several thousand people.

Starting from 16 June, there was continuous torrential rain with an average daily rainfall measuring over 200 millimetres. In the afternoon of the 18th, the embankments of Hiu Kwong Street of Kwun Tong crumbled and the mudslide buried over 70 squatter huts at the Sau Mau Ping resettlement area at Tsui Ping Road. At night, another devastating landslide occurred at Po Shan Road of the Mid-levels, damaging several buildings. The torrent of mud and water, mixed with building debris, created a debris flow that smashed into and collapsed the 12-storey Kotewall Building. Both the Fire Services and the British Army Hong Kong Garrison were summoned to the scene to search for and rescue survivors at the Kwun Tong and Mid-levels disaster sites.

After the disasters, the Government founded the Civil Engineering Department in 1977 to monitor dangerous slopes in Hong Kong, and to gradually build up a “Slope Safety System”.



Landslides at Sau Mau Ping on 18 June 1972.



Landslides at Po Shan Road on 18 June 1972.

● Cross-harbour Tunnel Commenced Services

On 2 August 1972, the first Cross-harbour Tunnel connecting Kowloon and the Hong Kong Island officially commenced services.

Work for the Cross-harbour Tunnel began on 1 September 1969 using the immersed tube tunnel method. Construction for the 1.9 km tunnel took 3 years and cost HK\$320 million. The tunnel, which passes under the Victoria Harbour, is a two-tube and four-lane construction that connects the road networks at Causeway Bay on Hong Kong Island and around Hung Hom and Tsim Sha Tsui East on the Kowloon Peninsula. It is the busiest and most utilized tunnel in Hong Kong.

On 31 August 1999, the “build-operate-transfer” franchise agreement of the Cross-Harbour Tunnel was due, and the tunnel has been under government management ever since.



On 2 August 1972, the opening ceremony of the Cross Harbour Tunnel was held within the tunnel.



The opening of the Cross-Harbour Tunnel led to the decline in vehicular ferry services. The picture shows a vehicular ferry plying between North Point and Kowloon City in the 1970s.

● The Government Launched the “Ten-year Housing Programme”

On 25 October 1972, the Government announced the “Ten-year Housing Program”. With a budget of HK\$8 billion, it was the largest public housing and development project in the history of Hong Kong. Under the project, 72 public housing estates were built in the 10-year period between 1973 and 1982, in a bid to reduce the population density within the urban area and to meet housing needs for 1.8 million people.

In December 1976, the Government launched the “Home Ownership Scheme” (HOS), to help families of mid-to-low income and public housing tenants to purchase their own homes. The Scheme involved the building of low-priced and practical apartment buildings for individuals who looked forward to buying their own homes but were unable to afford private housing.

The Scheme succeeded in assisting many Hong Kong citizens to purchase their own homes. Later, in 2002, the Government announced the indefinite suspension of the building of HOS units. The society has repeatedly called for resumption of the scheme ever since.

In 2010 and 2011, Chief Executive Donald Tsang announced in his Policy Address two schemes to meet housing needs of the mid-to-low income groups: “My Home Purchase Scheme” and “new Home Ownership Scheme (new HOS)”. Under “My Home Purchase Scheme”, the Government will provide practically designed small-to-medium sized units for rent to members of the public, who can then prepare for the purchase of their own homes in the future. The new HOS targets families who are first-time home-owners and whose net family income is below HK\$30,000 per month. The Government will offer units of 400 to 500 sq ft in size which will be sold at affordable prices.



Resettlement housing estate in the 1950s. It is the blueprint for Hong Kong's public housing.

● Clean Hong Kong Campaign Launched

On 31 October 1972, at the opening of the Clean Hong Kong Campaign, the Governor of Hong Kong Murray MacLehose called upon the Hong Kong public to support the Clean Hong Kong initiative and presided over the ceremony of burning the “Lap Sap Chung” (literally, “litter bugs”).

In as early as December 1970, relevant Government Departments had already formed the Keep Hong Kong Clean Campaign Committee. Beginning in August 1972, promotional and educational activities in relation to the campaign began; “blitz” squads were formed to clean out rubbish black spots in response to public complaints.

The Government also designated 1975 as the “Year of Cleanliness”, and directed their promotional efforts to the younger generation.

In the 1980s, the Police joined in for the first time to prosecute “lap sap chung”. Offenders found guilty were liable to a fine of HK\$5,000 and 6 months’ imprisonment.

In the 1990s, the Government launched a promotional song *Let's Do This Together*, to encourage public participation to help clean Hong Kong.

In the 2001 Policy Address, the Government announced the creation of nearly 3,000 temporary jobs in support of the “Clean Hong Kong Campaign”.

In March 2003, the SARS epidemic broke out, following which “Keep Hong Kong Clean Steering Committee” was established. In May 2009, after the outbreak of the swine flu, the authorities launched the “Clean Hong Kong Day” campaign.

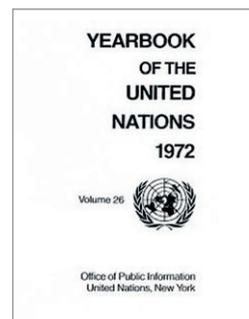


In 1972, the Government forged ahead with the “Clean Hong Kong Campaign”. The classic icon Lap Sap Chung took up an important role in the promotion.

● United Nations Removed Hong Kong and Macau from the List of Colonies

In November 1972, China proposed at the 27th United Nations (UN) General Assembly to delete Hong Kong and Macau from the UN List of Non-Self-Governing Territories. This proposition received the widespread support of the third world countries, and was passed by a landslide victory of 99 for and 5 against.

Hence, Chinese sovereignty over Hong Kong and Macau was ascertained by international law, laying the cornerstone for the subsequent unification of the territories with the Chinese Mainland.



The United Nation’s resolution that Hong Kong is a part of China is recorded in the Yearbook of the United Nations 1972.



Chinese representative at the UN General Assembly. On the left was Qiao Guanhua, Vice-minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; on the right was Huang Hua, Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations.

● Commencement of Plans to Develop New Towns

In 1973, the Government announced the “New Town Development Programme”, to be executed by the New Territories Development Department.

In 1950, the Government had plans to develop Kwun Tong and Tsuen Wan into satellite cities, as an extension of the Kowloon urban area. In the early 1970s, 3 new towns were built in Tsuen Wan, Shatin and Tuen Mun. In addition to building public housing, complementary facilities including public amenities, leisure areas, hospitals, schools and road networks were also built, in an attempt to create viable communities.

In the late 1970s, the Government decided to develop 3 additional new towns: Tai Po, Fanling and Sheung Shui and Yuen Long. Ma On Shan was also developed as an extension of the Shatin New Town. This led to a rapid expansion of the scale of new towns.

In the 1980s and 1990s, development projects were launched to build Tseung Kwan O, Tin Shui Wai and Tung Chung as new towns.

At present, the 9 new towns house a total population of some 3.3 million, which is expected to grow to 3.5 million by 2016.



Kwun Tong under development in 1964.



The satellite city of Tsuen Wan in 1962.

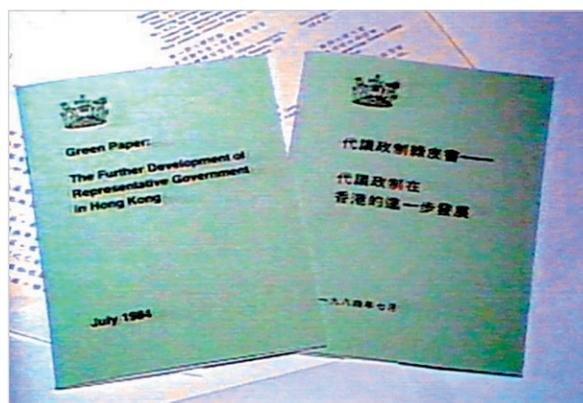
● Chinese Became an Official Language

On 5 January 1974, the Government enacted legislation to grant the Chinese language equal legal status with the English language. Thus, Chinese became an official language of Hong Kong.

After Hong Kong came under British colonial rule in 1841, English had been the sole official language of Hong Kong. All legislation, notices and documents of the Government were written in English only.

In 1970, students of tertiary institutions launched the campaign entitled “Strive for the designation of Chinese as an official language”. In 1971, the Government established a “Research Committee on using Chinese in official business” to study the status of the Chinese language in the Hong Kong society. Later, the Government announced that Chinese and English languages should enjoy equal legal status. In 1974, the Government amended the *Official Languages Ordinance*, pointing out that “in the exchange of affairs between the Government or public officials and members of the public, and in legal proceedings, Chinese and English are official languages of Hong Kong”.

In 1987, the law required that all legislation be drafted and promulgated in two languages. “Authentic Chinese Texts” were created for ordinances hitherto written only in English. Since then, all new ordinances were created and promulgated bilingually.



Government publications of the old days came in both Chinese and English versions.

15 February 1974

10 January 1977

● Founding of the Independent Commission Against Corruption

On 15 February 1974, with the Government's enactment of the *Independent Commission Against Corruption Ordinance*, the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) was formally established. Through a three-pronged approach – enforcement, prevention, and education, the ICAC aimed to crack down on all acts of corruption and bribery. The Commissioner of ICAC reported directly to the Governor of Hong Kong.

In the 1950s and the 1960s, corruption was a widespread social evil – members of the public often resorted to “backdoors” to maintain their livelihood and secure better priorities in obtaining public services.

In the early 1970s, corruption became increasingly rampant. Even police officers were party to crimes such as prostitution, gambling and drugs, seriously undermining law and order.

In 1973, Chief Superintendent of Police Peter Godber was implicated in bribery. He was found to be in possession of undocumented assets worth a total HK\$4.3 million. He later fled to Britain. The event incited widespread public outcry and posed a serious threat to the credibility of the government. Citizens took to the streets in protest of the Government's failure to tackle corruption, and organized mass gatherings to “fight corruption, capture Godber”. To pacify public anger, Governor Murray MacLehose appointed Sir Alastair Blair-kerr, Senior Puisne Judge, to lead a Commission of Inquiry into the Godber case. Later, Blair-Kerr advised the Government to establish an independent organization to fight corruption in order to restore public confidence in local governance. This marked the opening of a new, corruption-free era in Hong Kong.



At its inception, the ICAC Headquarters was located in Central.



The new ICAC Headquarters in North Point completed in 2007.

● Opening of the Hong Kong Ocean Park

On 10 January 1977, the Hong Kong Ocean Park in the South District of Hong Kong Island was opened as the first ocean-themed park in Hong Kong, covering an area of over 870,000 square metres. Construction of the park was funded by the Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club and took about HK\$150 million to complete; the land was allocated at no cost by the Hong Kong Government.

On 1 July 1987, the Government passed the *Ocean Park Corporation Ordinance*, under which the Jockey Club allocated HK\$200 million to set up a trust fund for the Park. The Ocean Park would gain independence as a non-profit organization, adopting a self-financed model of operation.

With continuous development of the Park over the years, facilities in the Ocean Park have become more and more diversified, bringing together entertainment, education and preservation. The Park has become a highly popular attraction for tourists and the public alike. In 2006, it was selected “The World's Top Ten Most Popular Theme Parks” by the Forbes website, and later named “The World's Top 50 Tourist Destinations” by *Forbes Traveler*.



Opening of the Hong Kong Ocean Park on 1 October 1977.



Cable cars in the Ocean Park.

1 October 1979

7 July 1980

● The MTR Commenced Services

On 1 October 1979, Mass Transit Railway (MTR) commenced services along the Kwun Tong – Shek Kip Mei section. In December, MTR services were extended to Tsim Sha Tsui. In 1980, construction work for the MTR Tsim Sha Tsui to Central section was complete – this was the first cross-harbour railway service in Hong Kong. In 1982, services commenced for the Tsuen Wan – Prince Edward section. In 1985, the Admiralty – Chai Wan section commenced services; later services were also extended to Sheung Wan.

In 1989, the Kwun Tong – Quarry Bay section (via Lam Tin) commenced services, providing an alternative route to cross the harbour. In 1998, the Tung Chung Line commenced services; in July in the same year, the Airport Express Line was also inaugurated providing passenger service between the Airport and downtown areas. In 2002, the Tseung Kwan O Line commenced services; the original cross-harbour route was changed from Lam Tin – Quarry Bay to Yau Tong – North Point. In 2005, the Disney Line was also completed to carry passengers between downtown and Disney.

The MTR is a highly utilized mass transport system. Its network is comprised of 6 underground lines – Tsuen Wan, Kwun Tong, Island, Tung Chung, Tseung Kwan O, and Disney – and one Airport Express Line, covering over 50 stations on Hong Kong Island and in Kowloon and the New Territories. It aims to provide a fast and convenient service for both the Hong Kong public and the tourists.

In the near future, 5 new railway projects including the West Island Line, Guangzhou-Hong Kong High Speed Rail - Hong Kong section, the Shatin-Central Line, the Extension to the Kwun Tong Line, and South Island Line (East Section) are slated for completion. The MTR network is expected to continue its expansion.



On February 1980, Princess Alexandra of Britain and her husband visited Hong Kong. They officiated at the launch of MTR's Kwun Tong to Central section of services. She was accompanied by Governor Murray MacLehose and Chairman of the MTR, Sir Norman Thompson.

● Founding of the Stock Exchange of Hong Kong

On July 7 1980, the Stock Exchange of Hong Kong was established. Since 1972, there had been four stock exchanges in Hong Kong; in 1980, the Government implemented measures to merge the four stock exchanges to benefit from economy of scale and to raise the quality of services. On 7 July 1980, the authorities registered and founded the Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited, granting the organization monopoly of operating a stock and securities market. They invited all members of the four existing stock exchanges to apply for a stock share. On 7 August, the Government enacted the *Stock Exchanges Unification Ordinance*, which helped to effect better management of the stock market and more stringent monitoring of stock brokers. This move has expanded the Hong Kong stock market and generated significantly more interest among overseas investors.



The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong in the 1980s.

Do you know: ■

How is the Securities and Futures market monitored?

The Securities and Futures Commission (SFC) is charged with monitoring the operation of the securities and futures market of Hong Kong. The Commission strives to maintain market order, safeguard the interests of the investors, and promote Hong Kong's development into an international financial centre. Its main functions include formulating and implementing regulations that monitor the market, implementing a licensing system for market participants, monitoring market operators, approving publicly-sold investment products and their sales documents, monitoring corporate activities of listed companies in accordance with *Codes on Takeovers and Mergers and Share Repurchases*, and providing the public with knowledge regarding the market, investment products and relevant risks.

● The Government Abolished the Touch Base Policy

On 23 October 1980, the Government promulgated the newly amended *Immigration Ordinance* to abolish the Touch Base Policy.

Since the implementation of the “Touch Base Policy”, 6,000 illegal immigrants from the Chinese Mainland arrived at and stayed in Hong Kong every year. In 1978, the number of illegal immigrants rose sharply to well over 100,000, putting great pressure on the Hong Kong society. The Hong Kong Government announced on 23 October 1978 the abolition of the “Touch Base Policy”. All illegal immigrants from the Chinese Mainland were banned from staying in Hong Kong. Those who were already staying in Hong Kong before this date were allowed to apply for a Hong Kong Identity Card (HKID card) at the Immigration Department within a 3-day grace period. During this period, a queue of over several thousand people formed outside the Immigration Department. Starting from 24 October, illegal immigrants under arrest would be immediately repatriated to the Chinese Mainland.

Meanwhile, the Government also implemented new laws to deter other individuals intending to enter Hong Kong illegally. Under the new law, all adult Hong Kong residents were required to carry their HKID cards or other identifying documents with them at all times. When hiring employees, employers must also request applicants to verify their identities and ask to see their identity cards.



In 1980, the Government promulgated new immigration laws and abolished the “Touch Base Policy”. Large groups of illegal immigrants queued up to apply for a HKID card before the new law took effect.

Do you know: ■■

What is the “Touch Base Policy”?

In 1974, to deter large groups of Chinese immigrants from staying in Hong Kong, the Government implemented the “instant repatriation” policy on all illegal immigrants arrested at the border. However, if these illegal immigrants were able to enter the urban area and successfully meet up with their relatives or friends, or secure an abode, they would be allowed to stay. The policy was intended to avoid repatriating illegal immigrants who had already established a livelihood in Hong Kong, and also to minimize their need to participate in criminal activities out of an inability to lead a normal social life.

● The Legislative Council Passed the 3-year University System

On 13 July 1983, the Legislative Council passed a number of educational reforms including the implementation of a 3-year university system in all local universities.

The Government commissioned a group of independent international consultants to review the Hong Kong education system in 1980 and their report was completed in 1983. In May, the Government published the report titled “A Perspective on Education in Hong Kong” (also known as the “Llewellyn Report”) in which the findings of the consultant group were detailed. The report was also debated in the LegCo. The report’s suggestions included the following: an Education Commission should be established; the mother tongue (Chinese) should be adopted as the medium of instruction; the junior secondary qualifying examinations should be abolished; kindergarten education should be integrated as part of the Government-funded education system; promote and improve training of kindergarten teachers; increase resources for training of teachers; provide funding to students aspiring to complete secondary five studies after 9 years’ mandatory education; provide more opportunities to students looking to obtain a University degree and receive high-level technical training; and implement a 3-year university system across the board. All these suggestions were later implemented.

In 2007, the Government implemented further reforms to the academic structure. It announced the implementation of the 3-3-4 New Academic Structure in the 2009 to 2010 academic year (3 years’ junior secondary education, 3 years’ senior secondary education, 4 years’ university education)



Graduates tossing their Bachelor’s hats to the air in celebration of their graduation.

17 October 1983

18 July 1984

● Hong Kong Dollar Pegged to the US Dollar

On 17 October 1983, a Linked Exchange Rate System between the Hong Kong Dollar and the US Dollar was implemented, with 1 US dollar (USD) pegged against 7.8 Hong Kong Dollars (HKD).

By the summer of 1983, negotiations between China and Britain regarding the future of Hong Kong were still at a stalemate. Hence, the gradual depreciation of the Hong Kong dollar which started since 1977 continued unabated. On 24 September 1983, the exchange rate between the Hong Kong Dollar and the US Dollar dropped to historical low of US\$1 to HK\$9.6. On 27 September, the HKD kept falling against the USD, leading to a bank run in Hang Lung Bank. The LegCo convened a special meeting on that day and passed with 3 readings the *Hang Lung Bank (Acquisition) Ordinance 1983*. The Government took over Hang Lung Bank to protect the interests of the depositors, and to minimize the impact of the incident on the society and financial market. In order to stabilize the HKD, the Government implemented the Linked Exchange Rate System on 17 October. This link rate has remained in effect until today.



On 24 September 1983, the exchange rate between the HKD and the USD dropped to historical low, leading up to a bank run in Hang Lung Bank.

● Green Paper on the Further Development of Representative Government Published

On 18 July 1984, the Government of Hong Kong published the *Green Paper: The Further Development of Representative Government in Hong Kong*, which suggested that the Government should gradually adopt a new political system to consolidate its governance – authoritative enough to represent the views of the people of Hong Kong, while answering more directly to the public. It also suggested that the advantages of the existing political system should be maintained, including the retention of long-established methods of governance designed to answer the public's requests.

On 20 November, referring to the consultation results, the Government drafted a White Paper to make concrete suggestions on the electoral colleges and election methods of the Legislative Council, and the forming of the Executive Council.

On 26 September 1985, the first indirect election was held for the Legislative Council of Hong Kong, which signified the beginning of the era of representative government. Seats in the LegCo were increased to 56 to accommodate social needs. Appointed unofficial members took up 22 seats, while other seats were returned through indirect elections. Meetings of this newly generated Legislative Council were held in the new LegCo Building, repurposed from the old Supreme Court. 24 indirectly elected LegCo members took their vows in Cantonese to symbolize their allegiance to the Hong Kong public – a first since the founding of the LegCo in 1843.

Do you know: ■

What is representative government?

The Legislative Council under a representative government is generated by electoral colleges representing the public will. Electoral colleges consisted entirely of publicly elected and appointed councillors in the Urban Council and Regional Council, as well as publicly elected and appointed District Board members. All citizens who were registered voters and had lived in Hong Kong for ten years were eligible to be nominated as candidates and were not limited to internal voting within electoral colleges.

As the economic and professional sectors were instrumental to future prosperity and confidence, they should be fully represented. Functional constituencies were created according to their social functions, from which representatives would be elected into the Legislative Council. The earliest Functional Constituencies include Commerce, Industry, Finance, Labour, Social Services, Education, Legal, Medical, Engineering and associated professions.

19 December 1984

● Signing of the Sino-British Joint Declaration

On 19 December 1984, the Chinese and British Governments engaged in the official signing of the *Sino-British Joint Declaration on the Question of Hong Kong*, which declared that the Chinese Government will resume the exercise of its sovereignty over Hong Kong on 1 July 1997. On that day, Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher signed the Declaration as representatives of their respective governments. Deng Xiaoping, Chairman of Central Advisory Commission, and Li Xiannian, President of the PRC, were also present at the signing.

Back in September 1982, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher visited China upon the Chinese Government's invitation. Diplomatic talks between the Chinese and British Governments were launched regarding the issue of the sovereignty of Hong Kong. On 26 September 1984, after 2 years of negotiations, Zhou Nan, Vice Minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Richard Evans, Ambassador of the United Kingdom to China, conducted an initial signing ceremony for the Sino-British Joint Declaration at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, signalling a consensus was reached between two nations regarding the issue of the future of Hong Kong. Later, the two countries formed the Sino-British Joint Liaison Group and began work on various affairs regarding the return of Hong Kong to Chinese sovereignty.



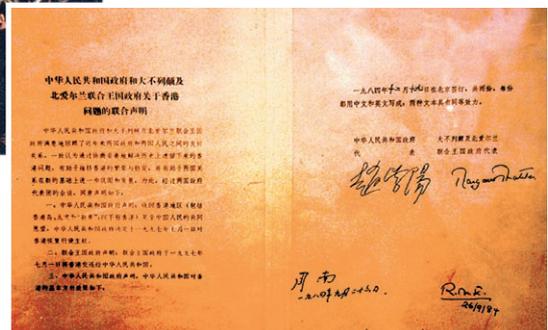
Deng Xiaoping, Chairman of Central Advisory Commission, met with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.



Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher signed the Joint Declaration.



On 19 December 1984, the Chinese and British Governments signed the *Sino-British Joint Declaration on the question of Hong Kong* at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.



The Chinese version of the *Sino-British Joint Declaration*.

18 November 1985

16 April 1987

● Completion and Inauguration of the HSBC Main Building

On 18 November 1985, the new Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) Main Building at 1 Queen's Road Central was completed.

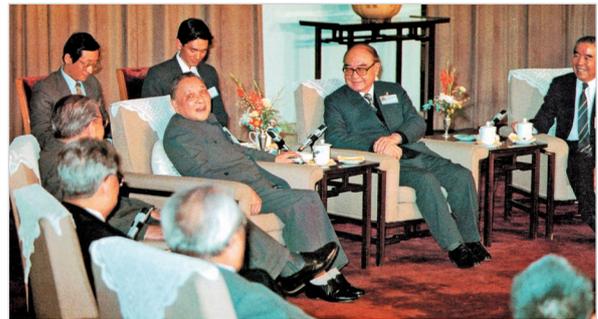
Construction work for the HSBC Main Building commenced in July 1982 and was completed on 18 November 1985. The Main Building formally began operations in April of 1986. It could accommodate up to 3,500 staff members, and was equipped with state of the art facilities required for an international bank and ready for business development for the coming 50 years. The building costs HK\$5.2 billion to build and, upon completion, was the most expensive building in the world at that time. It still stands proud as a symbol of the advancement, prosperity and achievements of the city of Hong Kong to this day.



The HSBC Main Building.

● Deng Xiaoping Elaborated on “One Country, Two Systems”

On 16 April 1987, the Basic Law Drafting Committee convened its fourth general meeting at Beijing. When meeting with the Hong Kong members of the Committee, Deng Xiaoping restated the principle of “One Country, Two Systems”. He stressed, “The Central Government will not interfere with the actual affairs of the Special Administrative Region; there is no need to do so.” He trusted that the Hong Kong people would be fully capable of managing Hong Kong, but also added, “Don’t think that we should leave all matters of Hong Kong in the hands of the Hong Kong people, and the Central Government should contribute nothing. This won’t work.” He pointed out that after the reunification of Hong Kong with the Chinese Mainland, the Central Government would retain the power to exercise its sovereignty over the region.



On 16 April 1987, Deng Xiaoping met and had a friendly talk with Hong Kong members of the Basic Law Drafting Committee Pao Yue-kong and Ann Tse-kai.

1 July 1987

16 June 1988

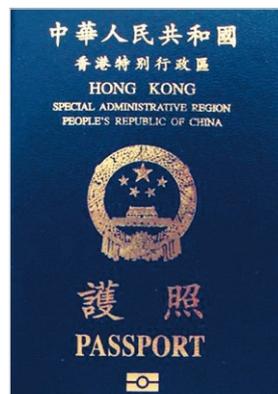
● Issue of the British National (Overseas) Passport

On 1 July 1987, the Immigration Department officially began to process applications for the British National (Overseas) Passport (BN(O)). Marked on the BN(O) passport and the Certificate of Identity is a note certifying that the passport/certificate holder is in possession of a Hong Kong Permanent Identity Card. It also specifies that the passport/certificate holder enjoys the right of abode in Hong Kong.

As from the same day, in accordance with the law, individuals who became British Dependent Territories citizens through Hong Kong may acquire the new identity of the British National (Overseas) Citizen. It is to implement the agreement reached by the Sino-British Joint Liaison Group regarding the right of abode of the Hong Kong people and their travel documents.



British National (Overseas) Passport



The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Passport

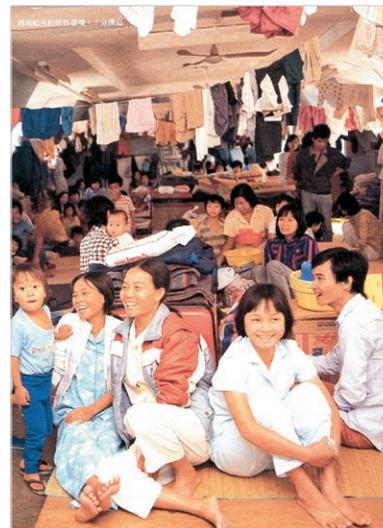
● Screening of Vietnamese Boat People Implemented

On 16 June 1988, the Government of Hong Kong began to implement the policy of screening the Vietnamese boat people, whereby those who were not bona fide refugees would be repatriated immediately. Vietnamese who arrived at Hong Kong by boat after zero hour of 16 June must be screened according to internationally accepted criteria. Only those found to qualify for “political refugees” status would receive help to relocate overseas; “non-political refugees” would be repatriated. Since October 1988, arrangements had been made to effect voluntary repatriation of Vietnamese boat people in batches.

Involuntary repatriation of “non-political refugees” began in February 1990.

On 9 January 1998, the Government abolished the Policy of “Port of First Asylum” for the Vietnamese.

On 1 June 2000, the last Vietnamese refugee camp in Hong Kong – Pillar Point Vietnamese Refugee Centre – was closed down. The issue of the Vietnamese boat people that had beset Hong Kong for 25 years finally came to an end.



Living conditions in Vietnamese transit centres were crowded.

Do you know: ■

Definition of a refugee

According to criteria set out by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, only those “who had a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political group” meets the definition of a refugee.

● Hong Kong People Voiced Support for the Student Movement in Beijing

In **May and June 1989**, the people of Hong Kong took to the streets to show their support for the student movement in Beijing.

Beginning on 15 April 1989, students from many universities in Beijing initiated memorial activities to mourn the passing of Hu Yaobang, former General Secretary of the Communist Party of China. These later turned into mass student demonstrations against corruption and bribery. Crowds of several thousand gathered at Tiananmen Square for days on end, with no intention of dispersing. On 21 and 28 May, the people of Hong Kong took to the streets and voiced their support.

In the early morning of 4 June, the Central Government ordered the army to evacuate Tiananmen Square, leading to casualties. Candlelight vigils were held in many places in Hong Kong to mourn the deceased in the incident.



On 28 May 1989, over 1 million Hong Kong people took to the streets to voice their support for the students of Beijing.

● Adoption of the Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

On **4 April 1990**, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress formally adopted the Basic Law, as well as the designs for the regional flag and regional emblem of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR). According to the Sino-British Joint Declaration, the basic policies of the People's Republic of China (PRC) regarding Hong Kong shall be stipulated in the *Basic Law* promulgated at the National People's Congress (NPC) of the PRC. After 5 years of reviewing and consultation, the NPC promulgated the *Basic Law* in April 1990, and also announced the designs of the regional flag and regional emblem of the HKSAR. Thereafter, the *Basic Law* has become the constitutional document of the HKSAR, ensuring that Hong Kong enjoys a high degree of autonomy and that the existing systems and ways of life are preserved.



In 1990, Deng Xiaoping and leaders of the Chinese Government took a group photo with the Drafting Committee for the Basic Law of the HKSAR.



Design of the regional flag and regional emblem of the HKSAR was decided upon by the Drafting Committee for the Basic Law in February 1990.

8 June 1991

4 July 1991

● Hong Kong Bill of Rights Came into Effect

On 8 June 1991, the *Hong Kong Bill of Rights Ordinance* came into effect. Since 1976, the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* has been applicable to Hong Kong. The Sino-British Joint Declaration has guaranteed that the Covenant would remain in force after 1997.

In the past, these provisions were implemented in Hong Kong through common law and executive action. However, many citizens demanded that the fundamental civil and political rights be written into a Bill of Rights enforceable by the court. As a result, the authorities promulgated the *Hong Kong Bill of Rights Ordinance* on 8 June 1991.



According to the *Hong Kong Bill of Rights Ordinance*, the people of Hong Kong enjoy the right of peaceful assembly.

Do you know: ■

What is the Bill of Rights?

As set out by the *Hong Kong Bill of Rights Ordinance*, clauses in the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* hitherto applicable to Hong Kong shall continue to be valid under the laws of Hong Kong. If anyone believes that his civil or political rights as delineated in the Covenant are infringed upon, or are suspected to be infringed upon, he may take his case to the courts. The Ordinance came into effect on 8 June 1991, and became binding on the Government and public bodies. The Ordinance also provided temporary savings to the *Immigration Ordinance*, *Societies Ordinance*, *Crimes Ordinance*, *Prevention of Bribery Ordinance*, *Independent Commission Against Corruption Ordinance* and *Police Force Ordinance*, which means for a period of one year, the above laws are not affected by the Bill of Rights, in order to avoid any disruption.

● Agreement Reached on the Issue of the New Airport

On 4 July 1991, the Chinese and British authorities reached an agreement by way of a Memorandum of Understanding on the issue of the new airport of Hong Kong. On 3 September in the same year, British Prime Minister John Major visited China and signed with the Chinese Premier Li Peng the *Memorandum of Understanding Concerning the Construction of the New Airport in Hong Kong and Related Questions*. This demonstrated China's clear support of the infrastructural projects under the Airport Core Programme for the new airport. Thereafter the Government of Hong Kong began infrastructural work for the new airport.



On 3 September 1991, British Prime Minister John Major and Chinese Premier Li Peng signed the *Memorandum of Understanding Concerning the Construction of the New Airport in Hong Kong and Related Questions*.

Do you know: ■

What is the Airport Core Programme?

According to the Memorandum, from the time of signing up to 30 June 1997, the Government of Hong Kong would do their utmost to complete the following projects under the Airport Core Programme, to facilitate the development of the new airport:

- The Airport (the first runway and auxiliary facilities)
- North Lantau Expressway
- Land Reclamation in West Kowloon
- Western Harbour Crossing
- Route 3 (certain sections)
- Airport Railway connecting Hong Kong, Kowloon and the Airport
- Central and Wanchai Reclamation related to the Airport Railway
- Lantau Link
- Phase I of the Town of Tung Chung

27 July 1991

1 April 1993

● The Entertainment Circle Raised Funds for Flood Victims in East China

On 27 July 1991, the local entertainment circle worked selflessly for a grand variety show at the Happy Valley Racecourse in order to raise funds for the relief of flood victims in east China. From May to June, devastating floods dealt a grave blow to 18 provinces and cities in east China, the most hard-hit being the Anhui and Jiangsu provinces. Local television and movie stars united to perform in a non-stop variety show and raised over HK\$100 million in donations, to be used mainly for purchasing supplies to be sent to the affected regions.

The variety show was aired live all over the world via satellite, in the hope that Chinese around the world would be moved by the plight of the flood victims and give their helping hand. Flood relief initiatives by Hong Kong reflected the close ties and intimate bonds between the people of both Hong Kong and the Mainland.



The local entertainment circle worked selflessly for a grand variety show to raise funds for the flood victims in east China in 1991.



Federation of Trade Unions raised funds to help relieve victims of the east China flood disaster.

● Founding of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority

On 1 April 1993, the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) was established by merging the Office of the Exchange Fund with the Office of the Commissioner of Banking. HKMA reports directly to the Financial Secretary.

The HKMA's main functions are to maintain currency stability, manage the reserves and monitor local banks. It is responsible for keeping up with the developments of the local financial sector and maintaining Hong Kong's status as an international financial centre.

The HKMA is also charged with managing the Exchange Fund in accordance with the *Exchange Fund Ordinance*; it monitors closely banks, limited licensed banks and deposit-taking companies under the *Banking Ordinance*, protects the interests of the account holders and promotes the stability and efficient operation of the banking system.



Joseph Yam Chi-kwong, Chief Executive of the HKMA, led representatives of the banking sector to visit Beijing. He was received by Vice Premier Qian Qichen.

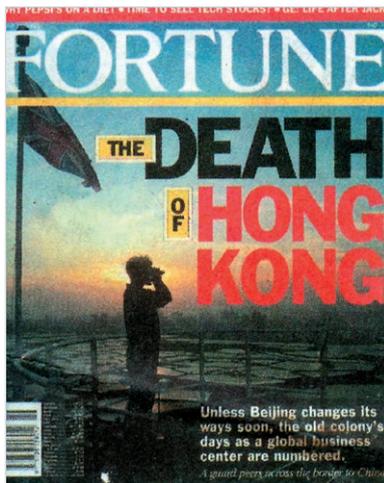


HKMA Information Centre.

● US Magazine Fortune Predicted “The Death of Hong Kong”

In June 1995, *Fortune*, a US magazine, published a cover story entitled ‘The Death of Hong Kong’, predicting the downfall of Hong Kong if it was handed back to China. This represented the pessimistic outlook held by some quarters regarding the return of Hong Kong to Chinese rule.

In June 2007, *Fortune* once again published a feature article titled ‘Oops! Hong Kong is hardly dead’, admitting that Hong Kong was even more vibrant than it was in its colonial years. The magazine even apologized for publishing the article ‘The Death of Hong Kong’ 12 years ago, saying “We were wrong!”



The cover story of US Magazine *Fortune* predicted the death of Hong Kong after the handover.



In June 2007 *Fortune* published an article entitled ‘Oops! Hong Kong is hardly dead’. The picture shows the article as transcribed by the CNN website in the US.

● The last Legislative Council Election

On 17 September 1995, colonial Hong Kong held its last LegCo elections, during which all seats were returned by election for the first time.

The election generated 60 seats, out of which 20 were returned through election in geographical constituencies, 30 through functional constituencies, and 10 through election committees comprising 283 publicly-elected District Board members.

In the elections, over 920,000 members of the public voted in the elections for geographical constituencies, exceeding all previous records both in terms of voting rate and the number of candidates. This was the first full-scale election for the LegCo, which helped to build a solid foundation for representative government.



The seat of the LegCo Chairperson in the colonial era.



During the LegCo elections in 1995, the electronic media organized election forums which were broadcast live in Hong Kong. The picture shows candidates Jasper Tsang Yok-sing and Bruce Liu Sung-lee.

● The First Olympic Gold Medal for Hong Kong

On 29 July 1996, Lee Lai Shan, the Hong Kong representative in the Olympic Games in Atlanta of the United States, became the champion of the Women's Surfing Event. She won the first Olympic Gold Medal for Hong Kong.

At the post-event interview, Lee Lai Shan spoke against the social indifference about sports, and stressed, "Hong Kong sportsmen are no garbage!" She hoped to boost the morale of the Hong Kong athletes, arousing public concern for local sports and sportsmen.

In the Paralympic Games that followed, the Hong Kong team performed brilliantly and won 5 gold, 5 silver and 5 bronze medals in a historic achievement. Benny Cheung Wai Leung, wheelchair fencer, won 4 gold medals all by himself – truly the pride of Hong Kong.



Hong Kong's first Olympic gold medalist Lee Lai Shan.



On 13 December 1998, Lee Lai Shan stayed ahead of her rivals throughout the competition and won Hong Kong's first gold medal for that year's Asian Games.



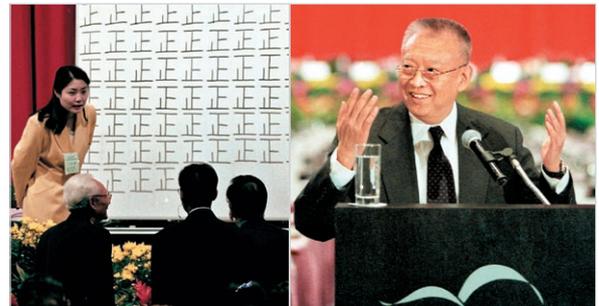
The Hong Kong Team attending the Olympic Games in Atlanta in 1996.

● Tung Chee Hwa Elected Chief Executive

On 11 December 1996, Tung Chee Hwa was elected the first Chief Executive of the HKSAR.

On 15 August, the 800-strong Election Committee made open nominations of candidates for the office of the Chief Executive. This Election Committee elected both the Chief Executive Designate and the Provisional Legislative Council. On 2 November, the Preparatory Committee of the HKSAR announced the members' list for the Election Committee and the list of nominees for the Chief Executive. Tung Chee Hwa was elected by a vast majority on 11 December, and visited Beijing on the 18th to receive the appointment by Chinese Premier Li Peng and to meet President Jiang Zemin. He became the first Chief Executive of HKSAR for a term of 5 years.

On 21 December in the same year, the Election Committee met in Shenzhen and returned 60 members of the Provisional Legislative Council which started to function in the place of the old Legislative Council as from 1 July 1997.



On 11 December 1996, Tung Chee Hwa was elected the first Chief Executive of the HKSAR by a majority vote. Picture on the right shows Tung Chee Hwa giving an address after his victory.

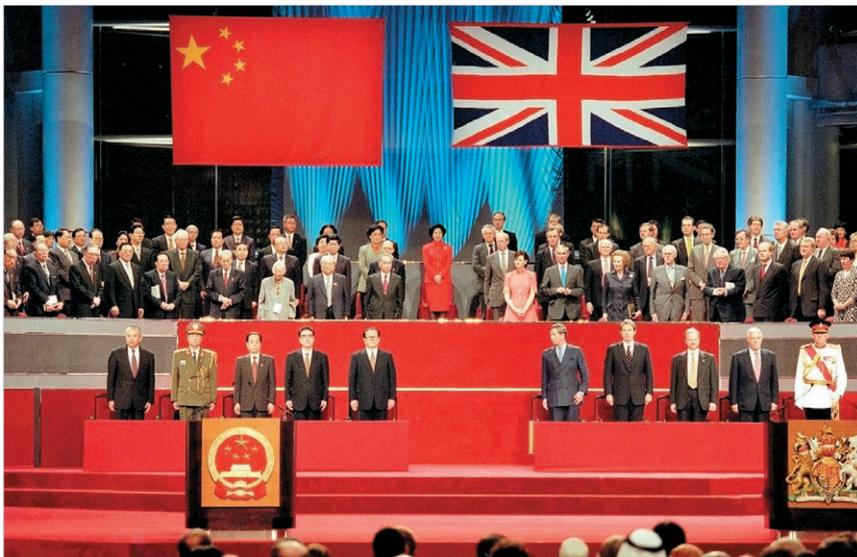


On 21 December 1996, the Election Committee returned members to the Provisional Legislative Council.

● Hong Kong's Reunification with the Motherland

At zero hour on 1 July 1997, the handover ceremony for Hong Kong was held at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, marking the resumption of the exercising of sovereignty of China over Hong Kong. President of the PRC Jiang Zemin, Premier of the State Council Li Peng, Prince Charles of Britain, British Prime Minister Tony Blair and 4,000 guests and political figures from around the world attended the ceremony. On the occasion Jiang Zemin restated that the principles of “one country, two systems”, “Hong Kong people ruling Hong Kong”, and “a high degree of autonomy” shall remain unchanged for 50 years.

At 1:30am, the Ceremony for the Establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China and the Inauguration of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region was held. President Jiang Zemin announced the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. The first Chief Executive of Hong Kong and the principal officials of the first HKSAR Government, members of the Executive Council, the Legislative Council, and the Judiciary took the oath of office in succession. Before daybreak, over 4,000 members of the Hong Kong Garrison of the People's Liberation Army entered Hong Kong through sea, air and land routes and stationed in the region. They would be responsible for the defence of Hong Kong.



From midnight of 30 June to the early morning of 1 July, the ceremony of the Transfer of the Sovereignty of Hong Kong between Britain and China was held at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre as the world looked on.

Do you know: ■

What is “one country, two systems”?

This idea was conceived by Deng Xiaoping in the late 1970s with the aim of keeping the prosperity and stability of Hong Kong after taking into consideration Hong Kong's actual history and situation. According to Article 31 of the *Constitution of the People's Republic of China*, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region was established. Under the principle of “one country, two systems”, nationalist systems and policies would not be implemented in Hong Kong.



Tung Chee Hwa



Donald Tsang Yam-kuen

Do you know: ■

Chief Executives of Hong Kong

	Term in Office	Chief Executive
1st	1997-2002	Tung Chee Hwa
2nd	2002-2005	Tung Chee Hwa
	2005-2007	Donald Tsang Yam-kuen
3rd	2007-2012	Donald Tsang Yam-kuen



In the early morning of 1 July 1997, the Hong Kong Garrison of the People's Liberation Army entered Hong Kong. The picture shows the Armoured Personnel Transport Vehicles passing through Sheung Shui and Fanling. Soldiers saluted to the welcoming citizens on both sides of the street in the heavy rain.



At 8:35am on 1 July 1997, the Air Assault Battalion of the PLA arrived at Shek Kong Airport by helicopter.

● The Government of Hong Kong Defended the Hong Kong Dollar against Speculative Attacks

During August 1997 to August 1998, international speculators mounted several attacks against the Hong Kong Dollar in the Hong Kong financial market. The Government of Hong Kong defended the Hong Kong Dollar against four such attacks successfully.

The Asian Financial Crisis first broke out in Thailand in July 1997, later sweeping across the ASEAN nations, Japan and Korea. Hong Kong was not immune to the crisis. On 11 August, the Financial Secretary announced that Hong Kong would join in an international bailout package organized by the International Monetary Fund, by allocating US\$1 billion from the Exchange Fund to help Thailand's financial restructuring efforts.

At the end of October 1997, international speculators launched the first attack on the Hong Kong Dollar. The interest rates of Hong Kong were under great pressure to go up, the stock and property markets suffered downward adjustment while domestic demands were severely weakened. The Hang Seng Index saw a 1,438 point drop, the steepest single-day drop thus far.

On 7 August 1998, the Hong Kong Dollar was again attacked and stock prices fell to their lowest point in 3 years. The Hang Seng index reported 7,018 points at market close. One week later, the stock market set its lowest record in 5 years with the Hang Seng Index closing at 6,660 points. On 14 August, the Hong Kong Monetary Authority made an unprecedented move to inject vast amounts of money in the stock and futures markets, in order to curb currency speculation. Finally, with the support of the Central Government and the People's Bank of China, the Government retaliated against the speculators through continuous capital injection totalling HK\$108 billion over two weeks, accumulating large positions in local blue-chip stocks. Finally, it succeeded in defending the Hong Kong Dollar against the international speculators.

On 11 November 1999, the Hong Kong Government used the stocks it purchased during the Asian Financial Crisis to set up the Tracker Fund of Hong Kong, which was listed on the Hong Kong Stocks Exchange.

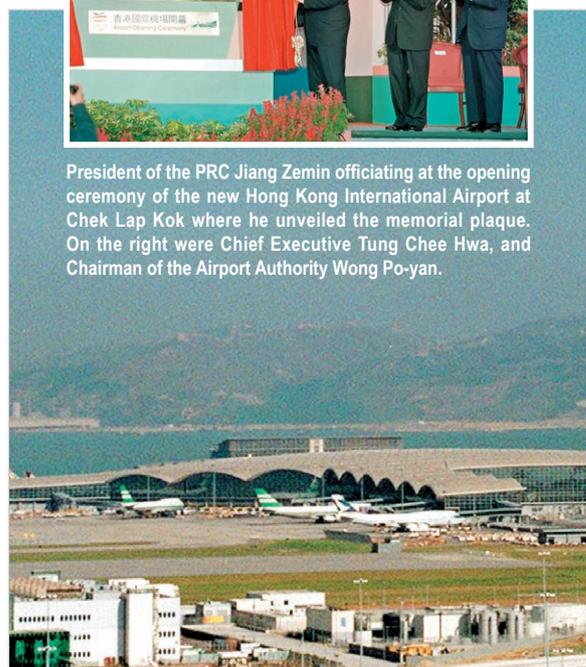
● Inauguration of the Hong Kong International Airport

On 6 July 1998, the Hong Kong International Airport officially commenced operations. President of the PRC Jiang Zemin came to Hong Kong to preside over the opening ceremony. He flew back to Beijing soon after. US President Bill Clinton arrived several hours later at the new airport to start an official visit.

On that day, after the last Cathay Pacific aircraft departed for London, a light-out closing ceremony was held at the Kai Tak Airport to mark the end of its service spanning over 70 years. Later, as the new airport encountered technical issues at the initial running, which affected passenger services, Hong Kong Air Cargo Terminals Limited had to reopen its facilities at Kai Tak; these were finally closed down in late August. With Kai Tak closed, the height limit imposed on buildings to protect the safety of the air routes was abolished.



President of the PRC Jiang Zemin officiating at the opening ceremony of the new Hong Kong International Airport at Chek Lap Kok where he unveiled the memorial plaque. On the right were Chief Executive Tung Chee Hwa, and Chairman of the Airport Authority Wong Po-yan.



The Hong Kong International Airport at Chek Lap Kok.

● The National People’s Congress Ruled against the Right-of-abode Seekers

On 26 June 1999, the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress (NPC) made its first interpretation of the *Basic Law* on the issue of the right of abode.

Since July 1997, in order to enable Mainland-born children who enjoyed the right of abode in Hong Kong to come to Hong Kong in an orderly manner, the authorities had amended the *Immigration Ordinance*. Under the Ordinance, individuals who wanted to claim the right of abode through blood relations are required to provide proof of their claim, and obtain a one-way permit from the Mainland authorities. Over a thousand parents protested against the scheme, claiming that it was against the *Basic Law*.

On 26 January 1998, the Court of First Instance ruled that the newly amended *Immigration Ordinance* was in contravention of the *Basic Law*. The reason was that according to the law, if, upon birth, a child’s parents had yet to become permanent residents of Hong Kong, the child should not enjoy the right of abode in Hong Kong. Later, many people were worried that this would lead to a huge influx of immigrants to Hong Kong. The Secretary of Justice thus submitted an appeal for the court’s decision. On 2 April, the Court of Appeal confirmed the legality of the scheme to verify the claim of right of abode, and ruled that Mainland children whose parents were permanent residents of Hong Kong (including illegitimate children) and who had come to Hong Kong before 1 July 1997 were entitled to the right of abode. This entitlement applied only if at least one of the parents was a permanent resident of Hong Kong.

In January 1999, the Court of Final Appeal made a ruling claiming that the scheme was in contravention of the *Basic Law*. Based on statistical calculations, the Government estimated that around 1.6 million people would be able to claim the right of abode according to the ruling of the Court of Final Appeal, which would impose a heavy burden on the society. Chief Executive Tung Chee Hwa thus submitted a request to the State Council asking the NPC to interpret Clause 4 of Article 22 and Clause 2 of Article 24 of the *Basic Law*. On 26 June, the Standing Committee of the NPC made an interpretation of the law to clarify the original intent of the Articles. This helped Hong Kong to avert a potential population crisis.



Interpretation of Clause 4 of Article 22 and Sub-paragraph (3), Clause 2 of article 24 of the *Basic Law* of the HKSAR was adopted by the 10th Plenary Session of 9th NPC on 26 June 1999.



At the press conference on 18 May 1999, Chief Executive Tung Chee Hwa, Chief Secretary for Administration Anson Chan Fang On-sang, Secretary for Justice Elsie Leung Oi-sie, Secretary for Security Regina Ip Lau Suk-ye, Secretary for Constitutional Affairs Michael Suen Ming-yeung and Law Officer (Civil Law) Ian Wingfield answered questions on the right of abode of Mainland children.

Do you know: ■

What is interpretation of the law by the National People’s Congress (NPC)?

Under Clause 4 of Article 6 of the Constitution of the PRC and Clause 1 of Article 158 of the *Basic Law*, the power of interpretation of the *Basic Law* shall be vested in the Standing Committee of the NPC. It is part of the new constitutional structure of Hong Kong as stipulated by the *Basic Law*, and is also a building component of the Hong Kong legal system. Besides the instance in 1999, the NPC Standing Committee had also made interpretations of the relevant articles in the *Basic Law* in April 2004 and April 2005. The interpretation in 2004 was to clarify the amendment to the method for the selection of the Chief Executive and the formation of the Legislative Council. The interpretation in 2005 clarified that when the office of the Chief Executive became vacant, the newly selected Chief Executive would serve the remaining period of the original term of office of his/her predecessor.

1 January 2000

1 July 2002

● Dissolution of the Provisional Urban Council and the Provisional Regional Council

On 1 January 2000, the Provisional Urban Council and the Provisional Regional Council announced their dissolution after the enactment of the *Provision of Municipal Services (Reorganization) Ordinance*. The new framework officially commenced operations to provide municipal services. According to the Ordinance, the powers, functions and duties of the two councils shall be vested in the Government and official organizations. Two new departments, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Bureau and the Leisure and Cultural Services Department were established at the same time to take over the functions from the two dissolved Councils.



Urban Council Meeting in the 1990s.



On 1 January 2000, the Provisional Urban Council and the Provisional Regional Council became history. The picture shows the paper flower bouquet made in the past to promote the elections of the two Councils.

● Accountability System for Principal Officials Implemented

On 1 July 2002, the Government introduced the “Accountability System”. A month earlier, the Legislative Council passed a resolution to implement an “Accountability System” for the Principal Officials of the Government, which was scheduled to come into effect in the second term of the HKSAR Government. The existing 16 Bureaux would be consolidated to form 11 Bureaux; the top ranking officials would be employed on contract and come under the “Accountability System”. In addition to leading their respective bureaux, the accountable officials would have to promote their policies and participate directly in the formulation of policies within the Executive Council.



On 1 July 2002, the Government implemented the “Accountability System”. The picture shows the second Cabinet of the HKSAR Government.

Do you know: ■

What is the Accountability System?

The Accountability System is different from the normal terms and conditions of employment applied to civil servants in general, and is applicable only to top ranking officials who report directly to the Chief Executive, i.e. secretaries and directors of Bureaux. The new system has no effect on the existing recruitment, appraisal, promotion, posting and disciplinary proceedings of the civil service. Appointment under the accountability system is highly flexible: the Chief Executive may select suitable individuals from within the civil service or different sectors of the community to become principal officials. They will manage their respective policy areas and answer directly to the Chief Executive. It enables them to be held more directly accountable and answerable to the Legislative Council and to the public. It is aimed at cultivating a political culture that values public opinion and accountability.

● Outbreak of the SARS Epidemic in Hong Kong

In March 2003, Hong Kong was struck by the outbreak of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) epidemic. On 13 March, Yeoh Eng-kiong, Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food, announced that after studying the virus that affected the patients and staff of the Prince of Wales Hospital, the authorities had named it “Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome” (SARS), and had it confirmed as a fatal disease.

Soon after, the number of human infected cases rose steeply, and many patients died. The Government, fearing that the epidemic might spread rapidly in the community, implemented a series of measures including the general suspension of schools in Hong Kong to contain the epidemic. On 1 April, as the spread of the epidemic became unchecked, and with initial evidence indicating that defects in the sewage system of Block E of Amoy Gardens was related to the vertical spread of the epidemic in the building, the whole building block was locked down and the residents moved to holiday bungalows for quarantine. On 2 April, the World Health Organization (WHO) issued a travel warning calling upon tourists to avoid going to Hong Kong. On 23 May, the spread of the epidemic came under control and the warning was cancelled by WHO.

On 11 June, the authorities confirmed that with the closing of last SARS case, the epidemic that had ravaged Hong Kong for 3 months was finally contained. In the period, 1,755 people fell ill and 299 died. They included medical staff who caught the virus during their contact with the patients.



As the SARS epidemic ravaged Hong Kong in 2003, members of the public were used to wearing masks when out in the streets.



SARS cases broke out at Amoy Gardens in 2003. The Department of Health announced on 1 April the lock-down of the entire Block E for investigation and sterilisation.

29 June 2003

1 July 2003

● Signing of CEPA in Hong Kong

On 29 June 2003, the *Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement* (CEPA) was signed in Hong Kong. It is the first free trade agreement signed between Hong Kong and the Mainland. Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao arrived at Hong Kong for a visit and officiated at the signing ceremony of the CEPA with the Chief Executive of the HKSAR Tung Chee Hwa. The remaining 6 annexes were signed on 29 September in the same year. Under the agreement, Hong Kong businessmen could expand the scope of cross-border trade, services and investments, opening up further business opportunities between Hong Kong and the Mainland. From 2004 onwards, export to the Mainland of Hong Kong goods which satisfy the criteria of place or origin and fall within the 374 tax categories, shall enjoy zero tariff. Meanwhile, companies engaging in the 18 service categories were allowed to enter the Mainland market more widely and readily, and to set up wholly-owned subsidiaries on the Mainland or hold a majority share in joint ventures.



On 29 June 2003, CEPA was signed by Vice Minister of Commerce of PRC An Min and Financial Secretary Anthony Leung Kam-chung at the Hong Kong Government House.

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao, Chief Executive Tung Chee Hwa and people from various sectors of Hong Kong were present to witness this historic moment.

● Protests against Hasty Legislation under Article 23 of the Basic Law

On 1 July 2003, some non-government groups organized a demonstration against the hurried legislation of *National Security (Legislative Provisions) Bill* under Article 23 of the *Basic Law*. Back in late 2002, the Government announced that it would legislate under Article 23 of the *Basic Law*. However, because of the broad coverage and vague terms of the Bill, there was widespread social consensus against hasty legislation. Non-government groups organized the “July 1 Demonstration” to express their discontent, which was joined by over 500,000 people. The matters of legislation have been shelved ever since.



On 1 July 2003, 500,000 people took to the streets to protest against the hasty legislation under Article 23 of the Basic Law.

Do you know: ■

What is Article 23?

Article 23 of the *Basic Law* stipulates that “The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region shall enact laws on its own to prohibit any act of treason, secession, sedition, subversion against the Central People’s Government, or theft of state secrets, to prohibit foreign political organizations or bodies from conducting political activities in the Region, and to prohibit political organizations or bodies of the Region from establishing ties with foreign political organizations or bodies.” This is the basis which enables the HKSAR Government to legislate on its own to protect national security when necessary. The actions listed in the article were, however, covered by many of the existing laws. That was why many academics, professionals and members of the public found immediate legislation to be unnecessary.

28 July 2003

10 March 2005

● Implementation of the “Individual Visit Scheme” for Mainland Residents

On 28 July 2003, the “Individual Visit Scheme” for Mainland Residents was enforced. The Chinese authorities first implemented the Individual Visit Scheme at four cities in Guangdong (Dongguan, Zhongshan, Jiangmen, Foshan), allowing Mainland residents to visit Hong Kong on individual basis. This was a great impetus for the tourism industry in Hong Kong, and promoted the development of retail and service industries.

The scheme was later expanded to cover 49 cities in 22 provinces and regions including Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Zhuhai and Huizhou.

Up until March 2010, visitors coming to Hong Kong under the Individual Visit Scheme totalled 49 million. In the 5-year period between 2004 and 2009, visitors under the Scheme brought Hong Kong an additional income of HK\$84.8 billion from consumption. It was a great boost to the development of the retail, catering and hotel industries, and to the overall economic environment of Hong Kong.



Tourists visiting under the Individual Visit Scheme thronged the Bauhinia Square.



Many tourists visiting under the Individual Visit Scheme went to the Peak Tower to enjoy the view of the Victoria Harbour by night.

● Resignation of Tung Chee Hwa

On 10 March 2005, the first Chief Executive of the HKSAR Tung Chee Hwa tendered his resignation to the Central Government citing health reasons. His resignation was endorsed by the Central People’s Government of the PRC on 12 March. Donald Tsang Yam-kuen, then Chief Secretary for Administration, became acting Chief Executive of the HKSAR Government.

Later, voting stations in different districts of Hong Kong carried out subsector by-elections for the Election Committee, to prepare for the by-election of the Chief Executive. On 25 May, Donald Tsang Yam-kuen resigned from office as Chief Secretary for Administration to participate in the election. At the same time, the Legislative Council passed the *Chief Executive Election (Amendment) (Term of Office of the Chief Executive) Bill*, stipulating that the second Chief Executive would serve out the remaining period of the original term of office of his/her predecessor.

On 13 June, Donald Tsang Yam-kuen was elected the second Chief Executive uncontested. He travelled to Beijing on 24 June and took his oath at the Chief Executive Inauguration Ceremony officiated by Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao.



On 10 March 2005, Tung Chee Hwa left the Government Secretariat after his resignation.

12 September 2005

17 December 2005

● Opening of Hong Kong Disneyland

12 September 2005 saw the grand opening of Hong Kong Disneyland, which was officiated by Vice-President of PRC Zeng Qinghong.

Construction began in as early as 12 January 2003 when a ground-breaking ceremony was held. It was presided over by Chief Executive Tung Chee Hwa and senior management of Walt Disney Company. Four themed lands including Adventureland, Fantasyland, Tomorrowland, and Main Street, U.S.A. were completed in 2005. This is the world's fifth Walt Disney theme park, attracting many Chinese and overseas visitors each year. As of today, expansion to the Hong Kong Disneyland is still underway,



On 12 September 2005, Vice-President of PRC Zeng Qinghong officiated at the opening ceremony of Hong Kong Disneyland.



Performances at the opening ceremony of Hong Kong Disneyland.

● Anti-Globalization Protests Spun out of Control

In December 2005, Hong Kong hosted the Sixth World Trade Organization (WTO) Ministerial. It was met with days of anti-globalization protests which turned into street violence. On 17 December, as the Ministerial neared its end, about a thousand South Korean protesters broke through the police defence line and closed in on the meeting venue. Holding iron rods and self-made javelins, they clashed with the anti-riot police, paralyzing nearby traffic. To avoid unnecessary injuries, the police sent SMS messages to call on the public to stay away from Wanchai, the district of the meeting venue. MTR stations and two cross-harbour tunnels were also cordoned off. 2,000 police officers were called to the scene to force the protesters away from the meeting venue. Some 900 protestors were detained during the clashes. It was the worst street violence Hong Kong had seen since the 1967 Riots.



On 17 December 2005, on the fifth day of the Sixth World Trade Organization (WTO) Ministerial, anti-globalization protests spun out of control. The police used water cannons to disperse the protestors.

Do you know: ■

How do the anti-globalization movement come about?

Anti-globalization groups mainly came from South Korea, the Philippines, Thailand, Indonesia, India and Vietnam, and were made up mostly of farmers, workers and fishermen. They protested against the developed world for exploiting the developing countries through globalization, using cheap imports to edge out the agricultural and fisheries industries of developing countries, depriving them of the ability to compete and leading them down the road of decline.

● Political Reform Package Vetoed

On 21 December 2005, the Legislative Council casted votes regarding the “Proposals for the methods for selecting the Chief Executive in 2007 and for forming the Legislative Council in 2008”. The proposal was vetoed, having failed to obtain the support of a two-third majority of councillors. A few years later, after widely consulting the public, the Government submitted two amendment proposals to the LegCo. They were passed by a two-third majority on 23 June 2010.



The Political Reform Package was discussed in the LegCo in 2005, but was vetoed in the end.

● Hong Kong Included in the Nation's Overall Development Plans for the First Time

In March 2006, the 4th Plenary Session of the 10th National People's Congress adopted the outline of the Eleventh Five-year Plan, and for the first time included Hong Kong and Macau in the state's overall development plans. Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao pointed out at the press conference for the Joint Session of the People's Congress that “With the implementation of the ‘11th Five-year plan’, the advantages and functions of Hong Kong shall be put into full play.” The inclusion of Hong Kong in the overall plans was an indication that the Central Government valued the unique role to be played by Hong Kong in the future development of the Nation. The inclusion was a great help to consolidating and promoting Hong Kong's status as an international financial centre and a regional hub for trade and shipping.



On 5 March 2006, the 4th Plenary Session of the 10th National People's Congress was convened at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing. President Hu Jintao met with Hong Kong's Chief Executive Donald Tsang Yam-kuen.

Do you know: ■

What is the 11th 5-year plan?

The 11th 5-year plan was a major event in the economic development of the Chinese nation. It was a five-year plan formulated and implemented once every 5 years. In accordance with requirements of “one country, two systems”, concrete plans were not laid out for Hong Kong, but in the outline there was mention of “supporting Hong Kong's developments of the service industries, which included finance, logistics, tourism and information.”

● Hong Kong Host to Olympic Equestrian Events for the First Time

From 8 to 24 August 2008, Beijing hosted the 29th Olympic Games under the slogan of “one world, one dream”. Concurrently, co-host cities Qingdao and Hong Kong organised the sailing events and equestrian events.

The equestrian events held in Hong Kong included Dressage, Jumping and Eventing. The majority of the events were held at the new competition arena specially built by modifying the Hong Kong Sports Institute in Shatin; while the cross-country section of Eventing took place at Hong Kong Jockey Club's Beas River Country Club and the adjacent Hong Kong Golf Club located in Sheung Shui, New Territories. The main venue boasted a total of 18,000 seats and attracted a sizable audience from the local public. The event aroused great public interest in equestrian sport, and helped to involve the public more in this event of national importance.



On 8 August, the opening ceremony of the Beijing Olympic Games was held. As the Olympic Flame was ignited at Beijing's Bird's Nest Stadium, at the main venue of the equestrian games in Shatin, Hong Kong over a thousand miles away, the Olympic Flame also burnt brightly. The picture shows Chief Secretary for Administration Henry Tang Ying-yen and Deputy Mayor of the Olympic village Elsie Leung Oi-sie attending the ceremony.



Patrick Lam, Hong Kong representative in the equestrian events, successfully jumped over the fence.

● Development of the Pearl River Delta Included in the National Strategy Plans

On 8 January 2009, the National Development and Reform Commission announced the Framework for Pearl River Delta Region's Development and Reform Planning (2008-2020), which raised the economic development of the Pearl River Delta to a National Strategic Level. In the Framework there was mention of support for in-depth cooperation between the Pearl River Delta Region and Hong Kong-Macau District particularly in the areas of finance, exhibition and convention, logistics, information services, technology services, commercial services, outsourcing services, culture and creativity, overall economics and tourism. It also proposed that corresponding infrastructure and policies be provided to facilitate these developments, further ascertaining the crucial role Hong Kong plays in the development of the nation, while bringing about significant benefits for local economic development.



On 19 February 2009, the three parties from Guangzhou, Hong Kong and Macau participating in the liaison and coordination meeting for joint implementation of the Framework for Pearl River Delta Region's Development and Reform Planning took a group photograph.



The developments of financial industries of Hong Kong to be consolidated and upgraded to national strategic level.

1 May 2009

5 to 13 December 2009

● The First imported Case of H1N1

On 1 May 2009, Hong Kong recorded its first imported case of human swine influenza (H1N1). The patient was a Mexican male. The medical authorities took immediate action and imposed a 7-day quarantine at Metropark Hotel Wanchai where the Mexican male was staying. Later, with the virus spreading to the community, the authorities switched its focus from “containment” to “mitigation”, to focus on monitoring severe cases and schools and residential homes. Gradually, the spread of the virus was held in check.



On 8 May 2009, a tourist taking residence at Metropark Hotel Wanchai was confirmed to be infected with human swine influenza. The hotel was cordoned off and the tourists quarantined.



Medical personnel delivered sanitized provisions to the quarantined Metropark Hotel in Wanchai.

● Hong Kong Hosted the 5th East Asian Games

From 5 to 13 December 2009, Hong Kong hosted the 5th East Asian Games. It was the first-ever international multi-sports event of such magnitude held locally. Hong Kong played host to over 2,100 athletes from 9 participating countries and regions, namely China, South Korea, North Korea, Japan, Macau, Mongolia, Chinese Taipei, Guam and Hong Kong. They contested in 22 competitive events.

The Hong Kong Team achieved its biggest success ever in its Games history, collecting 110 medals, out of which 26 were gold. Special mention must be made of the outstanding Hong Kong soccer team. They played against Japan in the final match on 12 December, holding them to a 1:1 draw within the regulation time. During overtime, no goals were scored; and in the penalty shoot-out, Hong Kong prevailed over Japan with a score of 4:2, securing a final winning score of 5:3. It was the first time that the Hong Kong soccer team had won a gold medal at a major multi-sports event. This brilliant performance sparked renewed interest of the Hong Kong public in the development of soccer sport.



On 5 December 2009, the 5th East Asian Games opened in Hong Kong. The picture shows the grand opening ceremony.



During the opening ceremony, the ceremonial flame burnt brightly.

● Hong Kong First Featured in a Separate Chapter in the Nation's 5-Year Plan

In March 2011, the 4th Plenary Session of the 11th National People's Congress adopted the outline of the 12th 5-Year plan. For the first time, plans regarding Hong Kong and Macau featured in a separate chapter, reflecting the emphasis the Central Government attached to the development of Hong Kong. The outline stressed that "Central Government will continue to support Hong Kong in its development of finance, shipping, logistics, tourism, professional services, information and other high value-added services. It will also give support to Hong Kong's development into an offshore renminbi (RMB) business centre and an international asset management centre; as well as into a high-value goods inventory management and regional distribution centre. Through consolidating and enhancing Hong Kong's position as an international financial, trade and shipping centre, the Central Government aimed to bolster Hong Kong's global influence as a financial centre." This outline not only provided a strategic guideline for the development of Hong Kong, but also promoted the exchange and development between Hong Kong and the Mainland, helping to promote Hong Kong's developments in finance and trade.



In the 12th 5-Year plan, Hong Kong was for the first time mentioned in a separate chapter. This helped to reinforce the city's status as an international financial, shipping and trade centre.

● Implementation of Minimum Wage

On 1 May 2011, Minimum Wage was formally implemented. To guarantee an acceptable standard of living for grassroots citizens, workers' organizations had been advocating the implementation of a minimum wage for many years. Discussions finally began in the LegCo in March 2010. After months of discussions and amendments, the *Minimum Wage Ordinance* was finalized in November 2010 and put into effect on 1 May 2011 (Labour Day). On that day, 310,000 workers of the grassroots level would receive a pay rise. The standard of the official minimum wage was set at a minimum of HK\$28 per hour.



The implementation of the *Minimum Wage Ordinance* had great impact on low-wage industries including the catering industry.



Sanitary workers are among the low-income groups in Hong Kong.

● Central Government Launched New Policies to Support Hong Kong

From 16 to 18 August 2011, Li Keqiang, Vice-Premier of the State Council of the PRC, visited Hong Kong. During his visit, he announced on behalf of the Central Government several tens of new policies and measures to support the further development of Hong Kong and to further Mainland-Hong Kong cooperation in such areas as finance and trade. Li Keqiang stated the Central Government's support to develop Hong Kong as an offshore renminbi (RMB) business centre; to expand the scale of issuance of RMB Bonds in Hong Kong by PRC institutions; to allow Qualified Foreign Institutional Investors (QFII) to invest in the stock market in China, with a start-up capital limit of 20 billion yuan; to consolidate and promote Hong Kong's status as an international financial centre as well as an international assets management centre. Li Keqiang also stated that networking should be strengthened between Guangzhou and Hong Kong in the areas of water, electricity and natural gas supply, with plans to supply natural gas to Hong Kong in 2012.



On 17 August 2011, Vice-Premier Li Keqiang was given a red vest with the number 6632 during his visit to the Hong Kong Stock Exchange.



The Central Government supported Hong Kong's development into an offshore RMB business centre.

● Election of the Fourth Election Committee

On 11 December 2011, subsector elections were held to return members to the Election Committee for selecting of the Chief Executive. A total of 38 subsectors were involved. 1,300 candidates ran for 766 seats in 24 sub-sectors, while the candidates in the remaining 14 sub-sectors went uncontested. The forming of this Election Committee bore special significance: the number of committee members was increased from the previous 800 to the new 1,200, which, combined with the Political Reform Package passed in 2010 that greatly increased the number of publicly elected District Board members, enhanced the representativeness and element of democracy of the election. Election for the new Chief Executive was held on 25 March 2012. In accordance with the *Basic Law* and the 2010 Political Reform Package – this would be the last instance where the Chief Executive would be generated through an Election Committee. Starting from the next term beginning in 2017, the Chief Executive of the HKSAR will be returned through universal suffrage.



Voting was completed for the subsector elections of the Election Committee for the Chief Executive. In the early morning of 12 December 2011, Raymond Tam Chi-yuen, Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (2nd from the left, front row) opened the ballot box.



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"100 Major Events of Hong Kong" was compiled after substantial research into articles and files in archives, newspapers, publications and web-pages. Owing to the wide range of materials covered with limited space, it is impossible to list the specific sources of information. While every effort has been made to ensure accuracy, there may be mistakes and there is definitely room for improvement. In this regard, readers' feedback and suggestions are most welcome.