

## Hong Kong & Mainland China News – Jun-2026

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### **HK can drive two-way business between mainland and Central Asia, says HKTDC chair**

by [www.thestandard.com.hk](http://www.thestandard.com.hk)

Jun 03, 2026

Hong Kong can serve as a two-way business platform linking mainland enterprises with Central Asia, while helping Central Asian companies tap into the mainland market, Frederick Ma Si-hang said as a delegation led by Chief Executive John Lee Ka-chiu arrived in Uzbekistan.

Speaking to the press on Wednesday, the Hong Kong Trade Development Council chairman said Hong Kong, as a financial, treasury and trade hub equipped with international professional service, can help mainland companies establish a presence in Tashkent, the Uzbek capital.

He added that Hong Kong is also attractive to Central Asian enterprises seeking to tap into the vast mainland market through the city's unique advantages.

Ma said Uzbekistan's latest development blueprint, the "Uzbekistan 2030 Strategy," makes the country an ideal destination for mainland enterprises expanding overseas.

The strategy aims to accelerate the upgrading of Uzbekistan's industrial structure, with a focus on developing the digital economy and artificial intelligence sector centered around its IT Park, as well as advancing renewable energy and building a regional logistics hub.

The delegation is scheduled to meet Uzbek government officials on Thursday. During the meetings, it will further promote Hong Kong's role as a two-way platform connecting mainland enterprises with markets along the Belt and Road Initiative.

According to the International Monetary Fund's April forecast, Uzbekistan's GDP is projected to grow by 6.5 percent this year, reaching an economic size of about US\$181.5 billion.

## Treasury centre plan unveiled

by news.gov.hk  
Jun 09, 2026

Secretary for Financial Services & the Treasury Christopher Hui today unveiled the “Action Plan to Promote the Development of Corporate Treasury Centres in Hong Kong”.

The action plan sets out targeted strategies to strengthen Hong Kong as a premier hub for multinational corporate treasury centres (CTCs), elevating Hong Kong as a major base for CTCs, and reinforcing its role as a platform for “bringing in and going global”.

Jointly formulated by the Financial Services & the Treasury Bureau, the Inland Revenue Department, the Monetary Authority and Invest Hong Kong, the action plan has two major objectives: to attract more multinational corporations to establish CTCs in Hong Kong, and to enable existing CTCs operating in Hong Kong to scale up their operations and fully leverage the city's comprehensive financial ecosystem.

Unveiling the action plan at the Corporate Treasury Centre Forum, Mr Hui highlighted that the plan adopts a “4T” framework - tax revamp, tax agreements, targeted promotion, talent and dialogue - to encourage multinational corporations from around the world to centralise their fund management, asset allocation and risk management in Hong Kong.

Specifically, the Government will revamp the existing tax concession regime applicable to corporate treasury activities and introduce a more competitive tiered system. Measures include refining the existing concession regime and introducing a pre-approval mechanism.

It will continue to expand the network of Comprehensive Avoidance of Double Taxation Agreements, with a particular focus on engaging economies along the Belt & Road.

It will also will take a proactive approach in conducting targeted market promotion, with strategic focus on enterprises from the Chinese Mainland and Asia, particularly those in new economy sectors.

Furthermore, the Government will work with the industry to strengthen the training of professional talent, as well as build a high-quality talent pool for the long-term development of the sector through continuous market education and professional development.

Mr Hui said: “Amid the prevailing uncertainties in the global landscape, Hong Kong offers multinational corporations a business platform that is as steady as a rock - safe, stable and highly predictable.

“I urge enterprises to capitalise on these opportunities ahead and utilise Hong Kong’s unique edge in ‘bringing in and going global’ to consolidate the management of their capital and business operations in Hong Kong.”

## **Hong Kong signs double taxation avoidance agreement with Cyprus**

by [www.thestandard.com.hk](http://www.thestandard.com.hk)

Jun 12, 2026

Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury Christopher Hui Ching-yu on Friday signed on behalf of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government a comprehensive avoidance of double taxation agreement (CDTA) with the Government of Cyprus.

This marks the 58th CDTA that Hong Kong has concluded and also the third one this year, signifying the government's ongoing achievements in expanding the CDTA network, Hui said.

"We will continue to actively seek to sign CDTAs with more tax jurisdictions to enhance the attractiveness of Hong Kong as a business and investment hub," he added.

Hui pointed out that Cyprus is a participant in the Belt and Road Initiative and an important trading partner of Hong Kong in Europe.

This CDTA sets out the allocation of taxing rights between Hong Kong and Cyprus, which will enable investors to better assess their potential tax liabilities from cross-boundary economic activities and avoid double taxation, and will help promote bilateral trade and investment, Hui said.

In accordance with this CDTA, any tax paid by Hong Kong residents in Cyprus will be allowed as a credit against the tax payable in Hong Kong in respect of the same income, subject to the provisions of the Inland Revenue Ordinance (Cap. 112) (IRO).

Moreover, Cyprus' withholding tax rates for Hong Kong residents on royalties, currently at up to 10 percent, will be reduced to 3 percent.

The CDTA will come into force after completion of ratification procedures by both sides. In Hong Kong, the Chief Executive in Council will make an order under the IRO, which will be tabled at the Legislative Council for negative vetting.

Meanwhile, expansion of CDTA network represents one of the key strategies of the Action Plan to Promote the Development of Corporate Treasury Centres in Hong Kong that announced this week, which sets out targeted strategies to elevate Hong Kong as a major base for corporate treasury centres, he said.

Going forward, the government will focus on engaging economies along the Belt and Road, while this will provide Hong Kong-based enterprises with greater tax certainty and avoidance of double taxation when expanding their businesses overseas, Hui added.

## **HK to consolidate as IFC under its 5-year plan**

by [www.rthk.hk](http://www.rthk.hk)  
Jun 15, 2026

The government on Monday said Hong Kong would work to deepen connectivity with the mainland and the world, as part of efforts to further consolidate its status as an international financial centre (IFC) and a hub for global trade under its own five-year plan.

According to official documents released on Monday, the SAR government would also work to deepen the "cooperative development" of the equity, bond, asset and wealth management sectors, as well as the insurance and risk management markets, so as to enhance the city's role as a global offshore renminbi centre.

The release of the documents came as Hong Kong kicked off its two-month public consultation for its first-ever five-year blueprint, which is expected to be published in the third quarter of the year.

In the consultation paper, officials noted Hong Kong's development plan should seize opportunities arising from the changing global economy, geopolitical risks, supply chain restructuring, and digital transformation, to drive high-quality growth of major sectors, including finance, trade, as well as the maritime and aviation industries.

"Hong Kong needs to continuously deepen its financial market, strengthen connectivity with the mainland and international markets, expand its international trade network, and step up efforts to attract businesses and investment," the paper said.

Among the proposals is the enhancement of the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement to ramp up trade with the mainland.

Officials would also work on assisting more mainland enterprises to "go global" while luring overseas firms to set up shop on the mainland, and attracting international investment into the country.

To enhance the city's financial competitiveness, officials also proposed promoting the "Finance plus" strategy, which aims to integrate financial services with high-growth sectors, such as artificial intelligence and green energy.

Hong Kong would also work to build a commodities trading ecosystem.

Elsewhere, Hong Kong would expand its collaboration with cities in the Greater Bay Area to advance technological innovation and develop so-called "emerging industries".

Such collaboration would not only cover "hard connectivity" in building infrastructure, but also cover "soft connectivity" in aligning rules and standards and cross-border transport.

On the deepening of regional and international cooperation, Hong Kong would work to participate in high-quality collaboration efforts with member states under the Belt and Road Initiative as well as Association of Southeast Asian Nations in areas such as trade, commerce, finance, I&T, education, culture, and professional services.

*Edited by Tony Sabine*

## **HK ranks second on competitiveness**

by news.gov.hk

Jun 18, 2026

Hong Kong's global competitiveness has risen for a third consecutive year, up one place to second globally this year, the highest since 2019, in the World Competitiveness Yearbook (WCY) 2026, published by the International Institute for Management Development (IMD).

In terms of the yearbook's four competitiveness indicators, Hong Kong ranks second globally in government efficiency, third in business efficiency, eighth in infrastructure, and 11th in and economic performance.

With regard to sub-factors, Hong Kong tops the rankings in tax policy and business legislation, ranks second globally in finance, third globally in international trade, international investment, management practices and education, and fourth in public finance and basic infrastructure.

The Government said that the WCY 2026 reaffirms Hong Kong as one of the most competitive economies in the world, noting that Hong Kong's rise to second globally sustains the strong upward trajectory from 2024.

It added that Hong Kong continues to rank second globally in government efficiency, reflecting the Government's ongoing efforts to promote free and open, stable, predictable and business-friendly economic policies, as well as the international community's trust in Hong Kong's legal and regulatory environment.

Hong Kong's business efficiency is ranked third globally, reflecting the strong support for industry development rendered by the city's robust financial ecosystem, as well as the seamless alignment of the city's business practices and environment with international best standards.

The Government added that amid rapidly evolving geopolitical dynamics, Hong Kong, with its close connectivity to both the Chinese Mainland and the world under the "one country, two systems" principle, and its sound institutions, open markets and sustained investments in innovation, has become a value hub that offers both security and growth opportunities.

Hong Kong is currently formulating its first Five-Year Plan at full speed to proactively align with the National 15th Five-Year Plan. The Government said that with the staunch support of central authorities, it will work together with all sectors of society to strengthen the city's functions as a super connector and super value-adder.

## **Paul Chan cautiously optimistic about HK's economic performance in second half**

by [www.thestandard.com.hk](http://www.thestandard.com.hk)

Jun 22, 2026

Financial Secretary Paul Chan Mo-po is cautiously optimistic about Hong Kong's economic performance in the second half of the year, noting that the impact of the Middle East situation driving up oil prices is relatively small compared to other economies.

Based on preliminary data, export performance in the second quarter was solid, Chan said in an interview with RTHK.

The retail and catering sectors are showing steady improvement, and the asset market is stable, he said.

Coupled with the mega-event economy, he believes consumer spending power can be sustained.

He added that he believes the property market is also showing steady improvement and the government has sufficient land supply and can accelerate its rollout if necessary.

Chan is confident that the operating account for the current financial year will record a surplus.

However, because the development of the Northern Metropolis needs to be accelerated, it is estimated that the capital account will still record a deficit.

He emphasized that the government's borrowing ratio remains very low, with outstanding debt equivalent to about 14 percent of the gross domestic product (GDP)—a very stable and safe level.

He reiterated that the proceeds from bond issuance are investments for the future and will absolutely not be used for recurrent expenditure, ensuring that future public finances will remain highly robust.

Chan also stated that there are three engines driving Hong Kong's future economic development worth noting, which include trade, finance, and the innovation and technology (I&T) industries.

## HK IPO market among the world's top 2 in 2026: EY

by [www.rthk.hk](http://www.rthk.hk)

Jun 24, 2026

Accounting firm, EY, on Wednesday forecast that Hong Kong's initial public offering (IPO) market would continue to be ranked second globally this year, after coming in second place in the first half of 2026.

In releasing its half-year report on global fundraising activities, EY estimated that 84 IPOs were expected in the SAR in the first half of this year, double the amount from the same period last year.

Total proceeds, meanwhile, were expected to reach HK\$209.8 billion (US\$26.8 billion), up 92 percent year on year, boosted by "hard tech" offerings from artificial intelligence language models, semiconductor and biotech firms .

The amount of proceeds raised in the SAR during the period marked its highest level in five years, though it was still overshadowed by the US\$111.3 billion of proceeds recorded on the Nasdaq — following the record-breaking offering by SpaceX.

In an interview with RTHK, Jacky Lai, EY Hong Kong capital market services spokesperson, was still hopeful the SAR would maintain its current ranking in the coming months, despite the expected new mega listings by AI firms in the United States later in the year.

"While the global mega listings in the US or other markets are there, they tap into entirely different capital systems which will not [affect] Hong Kong's liquidity," he told RTHK.

"Hong Kong's primary market ... has a distinct liquidity pool backed by mainland capital channels that Western markets cannot replicate.

"The global asset allocators would also not abandon Asian expansion strategies to fund a US IPO. So we are cautiously optimistic about the outlook in the second half of the year," he added.

Other than the "hard-tech" sectors, which significantly contributed to local fundraising activities, companies from the consumer sector and emerging industries also showed increasing interest in listing on the stock market, he added.

The report also noted around a third of the world's IPO deals between January and June came from the mainland and Hong Kong, with proceeds from the two markets accounting for around 22 percent of the global total.

Eight of the 10 largest IPOs in Hong Kong, meanwhile, were from companies which went public both in the SAR and on the mainland under the so-called "A+H listings" regime.

Lai noted that "A+H listings" were becoming a "driving force" for the SAR's fundraising market, as many leading mainland-listed firms aimed to further diversify their equity components while attracting overseas investors.

*Edited by Tony Sabine*

## **InvestHK attracts over \$53b**

by news.gov.hk

Jun 25, 2026

Invest Hong Kong said it has assisted 413 overseas and Mainland enterprises in setting up or expanding their business in Hong Kong in the first half of 2026, and expects these to bring in over \$53 billion in foreign direct investment.

InvestHK today hosted its annual welcome reception for international and Mainland businesses, thanking them for their trust and confidence in Hong Kong's business environment. It announced its investment promotion results for the first half of this year at the event.

Officiating at the reception, Chief Executive John Lee said Hong Kong's rising international rankings, together with its strong performance in attracting investment and enterprises, reflect the city's robust advantages and immense opportunities.

"In the first half of this year, we welcomed 413 companies establishing or expanding their operations in Hong Kong – a year on year increase of some 10%.

"Together, they are expected to bring in over \$53 billion in foreign direct investment and also create more than 8,600 new jobs."

The Chief Executive added that Hong Kong is expediting development of the Northern Metropolis, which will unlock abundant opportunities and shape a prosperous future for the city.

InvestHK revealed that among the 413 overseas and Mainland enterprises it assisted in setting up or expanding in Hong Kong, about 60% came from the Chinese Mainland, while the rest spanned various markets across Europe and Asia.

The top five sectors included innovation and technology, financial services, and transport and logistics.

The reception drew more than 380 guests from global enterprises. Representatives from global logistics and financial technology firms expressed enthusiasm about what Hong Kong continues to offer.

"We do intend to expand and that may well be in the Northern Metropolis as well," said Nina Barton, Director of Sustainability for Asia Pacific at a logistics company. "We are looking at the first Hong Kong five-year plan, which is obviously going through at the moment, how much of a pivotal role logistics takes in that.

"We want to continue to focus on Hong Kong as an aviation hub, and the development within the GBA (Greater Bay Area), which will help from a customer's perspective as well, help trade to be much smoother between Hong Kong and the GBA region."

Sean Abbott, Director of APAC Banking & Infrastructure at a financial technology company, said: "We are very much keen to continue to see initiatives that encourage Chinese businesses, or anywhere in the world really, to come to Hong Kong, set up shop, and use it as a base to do business internationally.

“We will be here to help them get paid basically without having to go to every country and every place in the world and open up a bank account and figure out how to do that or use the traditional rails where it is expensive and slow.

“And then things like the Stable Coin Initiative, ideas like that that are kind of pushing the envelope a bit and really encouraging innovation in the economy.”