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WEEKLY UPDATE

Dear members and friends,

As we reflect on the past year here at AustCham we're particularly grateful for the support from the Australian Consulate General in Hong Kong. Last week Consul General Elizabeth Ward hosted AustCham Board Members, Platinum Patrons, Corporate Sponsors and Committee Chairs for a special Christmas celebration. At the event Elizabeth expressed her thanks to the Chamber and the Australian business community for their resilience and resourcefulness despite a challenging 2021. Robert Quinlivan, AustCham Chairman of the Board of Directors thanked the Consul General and all Consulate staff for their support, with a special mention to Shannon Powell, Austrade Senior Trade Commissioner and ex-officio AustCham Board Director.

Speaking with Shannon last week at our regular Support Australia Group meeting I was thrilled to hear her latest statistics on Hong Kong's food imports, with the value of Australian food and beverage imports over the preceding four months returning to levels last seen in 2018. This is a huge milestone and reflective of the demand and value of Australia's exports. You can find more news and follow Austrade on their [LinkedIn](#).

In another milestone for Hong Kong, the Stock Exchange of Hong Kong and Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing's (HKEX) release of Consultation Conclusions on its [Review](#) of the Corporate Governance Code and Related Listing Rules. The amendments are significant and include that single gender boards will no longer be acceptable. These amendments reflect AustCham's submission to HKEX on the consultation and we welcome the results.

AustCham was in the Australian news this week with coverage of our event and engagement on the Greater Bay Area. While noting the difficulties many are facing with ongoing border restrictions in Hong Kong, the [article](#) highlighted how the Chamber is working to find ways to continue our work representing members and supporting their business. If your business is operating in the Greater Bay Area or interested in

exploring expansion I encourage you to join the GBA Committee to build your network and expertise.

In case you missed it, the [Hong Kong Health Code](#) system opened for registration on December 10. The system will adopt a 'traffic light' system, reflecting that in place in Guangdong Province, with the system generating colour codes to identify their level of contact with Covid-19 cases. [SCMP](#) reported an initial 187,000 people signing up to the app that will enable travel to mainland China, with reopening expected for business and other travelers after the December 19 Hong Kong Legislative Council elections. There are reports of approximately 1,000 persons per day being allowed entry with priority on business groups.

Back in Australia we're seeing the long-awaited re-opening of Queensland today to inter-state and international arrivals, with Western Australia's so-called 'hard border' set to reopen from February 5, 2022. While Covid-19 outbreaks continue to flare up across the country, the opportunity for many members to visit family and friends will be welcome.

In further positive news the pause on international student entry to Australia will be lifted from 15 December 2021, with fully vaccinated eligible visa holders, including students, able enter Australia without needing to apply for a travel exemption. Different States and Territory have own quarantine and testing requirements. Study Australia has a very useful page with [latest info](#) on student arrivals.

Making the trip difficult on return to Hong Kong will be the continuing arrival restrictions for inbound travelers into Hong Kong, with ongoing implications for hotel quarantine. Along with more than 60 countries Australia remains in Group A (High-risk) classification with 21 days of compulsory hotel quarantine for vaccinated Hong Kong residents. We've had many members spend time in quarantine over the past year and have tips and networks we can offer. If you're going to be in quarantine during January/February – shout out to us! We're here to help support you during this difficult time.

Wishing you a productive and meaningful week,

Stefanie Evennett

Chief Executive

AustCham Hong Kong

COMMITTEES SPOTLIGHT

Looking Back

It was a busy week last week with Committees 'wrapping' up for 2021!

On Thursday 9 December, AustCham's Construction, Property, and Infrastructure Committee (CPI) held a year-end celebratory breakfast, themed 'Rethink and Reset'. In his introductory remarks, Chair of CPI, Michael Camerlengo reflected on the year, noting active participation of members throughout another challenging 12 months. He also welcomed new faces joining the committee for 2022. Congratulations to Aino Kavantera, Senior Associate and Studio Leader at PMDL appointed as Vice Chair of the Committee. She joins Paul Scott and Paul Scroggie as Vice Chairs and Michael as Chair in the leadership team.

Later that evening, AustCham's Food, Beverage and Hospitality Committee hosted their last meeting for 2021, inviting guest speakers from the Altum group to talk about the future of the Cannabinoids industry. Hosted by our friends at the Grand Hyatt, the group learned about the origins of Cannabinoids, myth-busting popular beliefs and gaining insight about this growing industry in Hong Kong. Afterwards, conversations were continued in the Waterfall bar for some festive drinks.

Lastly, the Women in Business Network, in partnership with the Spanish Chamber and Girls Just Wanna Have Fund\$, hosted the last session of the Financial Wellness series at Macquarie's offices in One IFC. Themed as a 'Closing Party', the group celebrated the end of this incredible journey together in strengthening their knowledge and learning insights, as well as being part of a close-knit community of financially savvy individuals! It was a successful program, which we plan to run again in 2022. Congratulations to all the content organisers and participants!

UPCOMING MEETINGS

TUES 14 DEC | 12.30pm-1.30pm | Finance, Legal & Tax Committee Meeting

FRI 17 DEC | 8.00am-9.00am | Women in Business Network Committee Meeting

The Chamber has active volunteer committees providing members with access to a network of industry peers, senior government and business decision makers, industry insights and briefings. Committees provide the opportunity to shape the public voice of the Chamber on business issues, and develop sector-specific events and activities. Committees meet regularly, typically monthly.

Membership of a Committee maximises the value of your AustCham membership. If you would like to be involved in a committee, please contact [Chloe Taylor](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

AustCham Events:

SUN 23 JAN | IN-PERSON | [Australia Day Family BBQ](#)

FRI 28 JAN | IN-PERSON | [Australia Day Lunch](#)

Training & Professional Development:

OCT 2021 - SEPT 2022 | WEBINAR | [ASFIMA Training Series Season 2: Asia Financial Markets Explained](#)

AUSTCHAM EVENT INFORMATION



Australia Day Family BBQ

SUN 23 JAN | IN-PERSON | 11.00am - 4.00pm

Join us for a true Aussie BBQ experience right here in Hong Kong. Hosted at an exclusive hidden courtyard location, Vibe at The Mira Hotel, this promises to be an afternoon of family

entertainment, catching up with friends and enjoying the lead up to Australia Day.

Enjoy family activities including face painting and a special visit by Hong Kong's very own, Big Koala!

Ticket pricing includes food and entertainment only - menu can be found [here](#).

Sponsorship opportunities are available - contact [AustCham Events](#) for details.

REGISTER HERE



Australia Day Lunch 2022

FRI 28 JAN | IN-PERSON | 12.00pm - 3.00pm

The Australian Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong is pleased to present the Australia Day Lunch 2022.

Australia Day is the official national day of Australia. Celebrated annually on 26 January, it is the day to reflect on what it means to be Australian, to celebrate contemporary Australia and to acknowledge our history.

As an Australian business association, AustCham Hong Kong recognises the importance of Australia Day to our community by hosting an annual luncheon with invited speakers giving an address to our predominately corporate audience.

In 2022 we aim to create an event that celebrates the diverse and unique Australian experiences of Hong Kong people, as

well as celebrate the impact and importance of the relationship between Australia and Hong Kong. The theme for the event is - **My Hong Kong-Australia Story**.

We are delighted to invite you to join the Australia Day Lunch on January 28th from 12pm till 3pm at the JW Marriott Hotel.

The spectacular lunch will feature live performances, keynote speakers and a panel as well as a three course meal and free-flow drinks.

Sponsorship opportunities: [here](#).

To find out how to book a table, please reach out to: sponsorships@austcham.com.hk

REGISTER HERE

TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT EVENT INFORMATION



ASIFMA Training Series Season 2: Asia Financial Markets Explained

OCT 2021 - SEPT 2022 | WEBINAR | 6.30pm- 8.30pm HKT

Following the highly successful [pilot ASIFMA Training Series](#) with more than 450 registrants from over 90 firms and supported by 17 Partner Organisations, we are excited to bring to you our Training Series **Season 2!**

- Series of monthly interactive training sessions on key emerging topics relevant to the Asian financial industry
- Delivered by expert trainers from our network of leading Financial Institutions. Participants will be confident they are learning from a source accredited by the industry
- Aimed at getting junior and intermediate professionals up to speed on emerging areas in financial markets within Asia.

Monthly Training Session Format:

- Interactive virtual live training session of 60-90 mins in English
- Introduction to the topic in a dynamic format, including use of polling, Q&A and surveys
- Exclusive access to an online repository containing educational resources for each topic, including session presentation provided by the trainers, background materials and videos on-demand

Topics, Schedule:

The first monthly session on Sustainable Finance/ESG in Asia will be held on **Tuesday 26 October 2021**. The full list of topics is as follows. (Note these are subject to change if more relevant topics emerge over the year).

- Sustainable Finance/ESG in Asia (26 Oct 2021, 12pm-1:15pm HKT)

To enjoy a member discount, please select 'Non-members' category and enter Discount Code : 'AUSTCHAM'.

Register Here



Forward

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