

**Hong Kong** is to host the World Trade Organization's Sixth Ministerial Conference at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre (HKCEC) from December 13-18. Preparations to support the smooth conduct of this very important international event. This pamphlet is designed to help you understand more about the Conference and to help you prepare for some of the events that may take place during it.

### Free Trade and YOU

Free trade is important to Hong Kong. Trade accounts for over three times our Gross Domestic Product. It also benefits you:

- Free and open trade is the lifeblood of Hong Kong. It is crucial to our continued economic growth and to the well-being of our people.
- Free trade benefits all consumers by lowering the prices of goods and services.
- Free flow of foreign investment brings in resources for local services and creates new jobs.

### World Trade Organization (WTO)

Established on January 1, 1995, the WTO is the largest organization dealing with the rules of trade between Member countries, making it a unique global intergovernmental organization, functioning and promoting international trade among WTO Members. The WTO currently has 142 members.

### Hong Kong and the WTO

Hong Kong is a founding member of the WTO. Our separate membership has continued, under the name of "Hong Kong, China", after reunification on July 1, 1997.

## Hong Kong Ministerial Conference

The Ministerial Conference is the WTO's highest decision-making body. A Minister of its holds at least once every two years. Since the establishment of the WTO, five Ministerial Conferences have been held.

By hosting the Sixth Ministerial Conference,

Hong Kong can:

- Make a significant contribution to the Doha Round of international trade liberalization, which is due to be concluded by the end of 2006. The World Bank estimates that a successful conclusion to the round could add US\$300 billion annually to the global economy over the next 10 years, and potentially US\$40 billion to the world's poorest people out of poverty.
- Demonstrate our commitment as a world city – organizing such a large and complex event.

- Underline our commitment and constructive contribution to the WTO as a full and responsible member.
- Raise our international profile as a host of the conference every two years. Since the establishment of the WTO, five Ministerial Conferences have been held.
- Urge the successful implementation of "One Country, Two Systems".
- Showcase Hong Kong as "Asia's world city", an excellent tourist destination and a model of international cooperation.

We expect some 11,000 participants to attend the Ministerial, including 6,000 delegations, 3,500 journalists and 2,500 representatives of non-government organizations (NGOs). The Ministerial will last over a 24-hour period. The opening session will be held on the second day on December 13.

At home, we are working in partnership with all stakeholders to ensure that the Conference will be conducted smoothly, while keeping you informed about the public and closed areas of the event.

## Preparation by the Government

Since the WTO in 2001 chose Hong Kong as the host of its Sixth Ministerial Conference in 2005, the Government has made a lot of preparations, including:

- Establishing the Hong Kong Ministerial Conference Coordinating Office to plan and coordinate the extensive arrangements necessary for a successful conference.

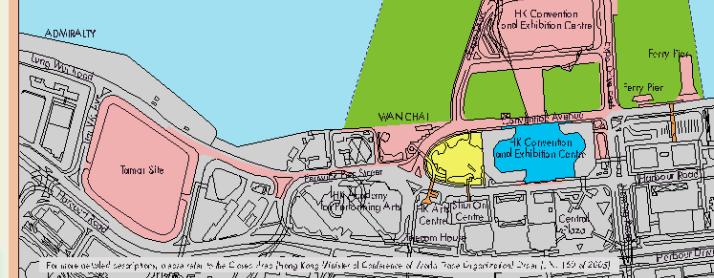
- Setting up committees and working groups to oversee and implement the preparation work.
- Ensuring there are appropriate arrangements for international events held in other places.
- Thoroughly preparing on the security aspects of the Conference.
- Arranging special traffic and transport arrangements.

- Drawing up comprehensive plans to prepare for possible contingencies.
- Facilitating the conduct of various activities planned by NGOs.
- Maintaining a dialogue with NGOs on the issues and areas negotiations in the WTC.

### Land Closure

- All inclusive
- Covers only the podium in the 7th floor
- Covers the podium adjacent to the Grand Hyatt Hotel (the carpark below the podium is not included)
- Covers the footbridge

### Sea Closure



For more detailed descriptions, please refer to the Circular from Hong Kong Ministerial Conference Organizing Committee No. 159 of 2005.

### Closed Area

Hong Kong is a busy city. In order to safeguard public safety and public order, a closed area covering the conference venue and its vicinity will be set up to restrict access to those with special permission.



### Coverage

On the land side, the closed area includes the HKCEC and its connecting roads. On the sea side, the closed area includes the stretch of water around the HKCEC Perimeter.

### Duration

The closed areas will be effective from 1800 hours on December 12 (Wednesday) to 0500 hours on December 19, 2005 (Monday).

### Permission

Accreditation badges will be issued to all conference participants and support staff to enter or leave the closed areas during the closure periods. The Police will issue permits to other individuals who need to enter the closed areas for justifiable purposes.

### Demonstrations and Other Public Activities

The Wan Chai Space Ground and the Wan Chai Public Corps Walking Area in Wan Chai North will be designated as public activity areas for demonstrations.

In addition, Victoria Park and the Southern Playground will be used by NGOs for holding public activities relating to the Conference. These may also be processions organized by NGOs before and during the conference period.



# Understanding the Hong Kong Ministerial Conference

December 13-18, 2005



## Further Information and Enquiries

### Hong Kong Ministerial Conference

Website : [www.wtoconf.gov.hk](http://www.wtoconf.gov.hk)

### Hong Kong Police Force

Website : [www.info.gov.hk/police](http://www.info.gov.hk/police)

E-mail : [ppib@police.gov.hk](mailto:ppib@police.gov.hk)

### Transport Department

Website : [www.td.gov.hk](http://www.td.gov.hk)

Hotline : +852 2804 2600 (24 hours);  
+852 183 4557 (international line;  
December 2 to 19, 24 hours)

E-mail : [tcsd@td.gov.hk](mailto:tcsd@td.gov.hk)

### Home Affairs Department

Website : [www.had.gov.hk](http://www.had.gov.hk)

Hotline : +852 35 1473

### Hong Kong Tourism Board

Website : [www.DiscoverHongKong.com](http://www.DiscoverHongKong.com)

Hotline : +852 1234 1111 (international line;  
Daily 8 am to 5 pm, extended hours:  
8 am to 10 pm during December 10 to 19)

- Ensure that the whole organization is in touch with the Conference site in our concerned parties of the security, traffic and other arrangements during the Conference.

- Allow for possible delays in arriving for work or for meetings due to special traffic arrangements.

- Arrange for venue arrangements to be easily accessible to handle contingencies.

- Watch out for media announcements and news broadcast on latest traffic arrangements and conditions.

### For Individuals

- We appeal for you understanding and support.
- We understand the special traffic arrangements may cause some inconvenience.
- We would like to thank you in advance for your cooperation.

### For Individuals

- Avoid going to the vicinity of the HKCEC unless really necessary.
- Avoid using the Cross Harbour Tunnel. During the conference period, the Eastern and Western Harbour Crossings will charge lower tolls.
- Use public transport where possible.
- Allow more time for travelling from one place to another.
- Watch out for media announcements and news broadcasts on latest traffic arrangements and conditions.

### For Schools, Institutions and Businesses

- Assess your organization's situation taking into account factors such as the nature of operation, geographical setting, neighbourhood, organization's profile, etc.
- Review the need for additional measures to ensure both physical and cyber security.
- Devise contingency plans to mitigate these plans among all concerned.



### Our Appeal

- We appeal for you understanding and support.
- We understand the special traffic arrangements may cause some inconvenience.
- We would like to thank you in advance for your cooperation.

- Relocation of the terminus of the cross-boundary coach service: The terminus of the cross-boundary coach service from Wan Chai to Fung Hoong will be relocated to the Central (Macao) Ferry Pier, Circular.

- Suspension of ferry services: Ferry services from Wan Chai Ferry Pier to Tai Sto Tsui and Hung Hom will be suspended.

Depending on circumstances and traffic conditions, other co-located transport arrangements may be introduced during the Conference.

The Transport Department will announce detailed arrangements in advance. For further details, please visit [www.td.gov.hk](http://www.td.gov.hk) or call the department's hotline in the "Further Information and Enquiries" section.



2A	2K	8	2P	25A
25G	40	45W	45X	621
905	914X	920	931	N8

During the period from December 12 to 19, the following traffic management arrangements will be put in place:

- **Closed Area:** All roads and ferry piers in the closed sites will be closed to all traffic except with permission from the Police.

- **Suspension of transport facilities:** Bus termini, bus stops, taxi stands, loading bays in Wan Chai north of Gloucester Road, one off-street parking spaces in Wan Chai north of Hennessy Road will be suspended.

- **Diversion of 29 bus routes:**
  - 13 routes will be diverted to stop at Gloucester Road (outside/opposite Immigration Tower). They are route numbers:

5P	18	18P	104	373A
521	720	720A	M722	780
788	914X	918P		

- 15 routes will be diverted from Wan Chai North to stop at Hennessy Road near Stewart Road/Hennessy Road. They are route numbers:

2A	2K	8	2P	25A
25G	40	45W	45X	621
905	914X	920	931	N8

- Cross Harbour route number 117 will proceed directly to the Cross Harbour Tunnel from Central Road, West.

December 2005

Prepared by the Infrastructure Services Department  
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