



We set up the regional office in Hong Kong to serve our members who are increasingly working in the Asia Pacific and Middle East regions. Through them we aim to achieve our belief that civil engineers are at the heart of society, delivering sustainable development through knowledge, skills and professional expertise.

*Dr Patrick W T Chan
Regional Director for Hong Kong, Institution of Civil Engineers*



Sector Snapshot

Hong Kong is a popular location for international industry, cultural, advocacy and charitable organisations as well as professional institutes to set up their regional base. As of March 2010, there were over 23,300 non-profit organisations in Hong Kong, of which 6,380 were approved charitable organisations.

Hong Kong is a very charitable and generous society. By year-end 2009, there were nearly 2,000 registered volunteer organisations and more than 880,000 individuals registered as volunteers.

Donations to approved charitable organisations can be tax exempt. Since the 2008-09 financial year, individuals or businesses can claim a tax deduction for approved charitable donations of an amount up to 35 percent of their income or profits. In 2007-08, the total tax-deductible donations approved by the Inland Revenue Department were HK\$4.52 billion (under Salaries Tax) and HK\$2.51 billion (under Profits Tax).

In addition, there is increasing awareness among companies large and small of corporate social responsibility. In 2009-10, 2,082 companies were given "Caring Company" status by the Hong Kong Council of Social Service, which in 2002 launched the campaign to recognise private companies that demonstrate good corporate citizenship.

The Professional Services Development Assistance Scheme (PSDAS) is a HK\$100 million fund that provides financial support for professional organisations aimed at increasing the competitiveness of the professional service sector. This helps equip many professional bodies to build capacity for their members in Hong Kong.

Advantages

- Freedom of information, expression and the press is guaranteed under the Basic Law
- Government is politically neutral and transparent, giving rise to a better foundation for dialogue between society and the public sector
- Located within five hours' flight time of half the world's population, Hong Kong is an ideal base from which to conduct initiatives in the Asia-Pacific region
- There is an active and efficient academic community with strong links to Chinese institutions and an ever-growing wealth of reliable Mainland China knowledge
- The presence of a large range of local, Mainland and international firms provides a cluster of decision makers increasingly aware of their corporate social responsibility
- The extensive financial, legal and professional services network gives rise to a pool of corporate funding and the opportunity for pro bono work
- International standards are rigorously applied and maintained with the mature business community willingly participating in business and industry associations that promote professional development

Some Leading International Charitable and Cultural Organisations in Hong Kong

- Amnesty International
- Asia Foundation
- Asia Society
- Enlighten for Epilepsy
- Half the Sky Foundation
- Medecins San Frontieres
- Orbis
- Oxfam
- Red Cross
- Room to Read
- UNICEF
- World Vision

Some Leading International Industry and Advocacy Organisations in Hong Kong

- Certified Financial Analysts Institute (RHQ)
- Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (China HQ)
- Institution of Civil Engineers
- Institution of Electrical Engineers (RHQ)



- Committee of 100 (RHQ)
- Computing Technology Industry Association (RHQ)
- Conference Board (RHQ)
- CPA Australia (China HQ)
- Pacific Basin Economic Council (International HQ)
- Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RHQ)
- Women in Technology International (RHQ)
- The World Gemological Institute

Case Study

Organisation: Leading International Business Advocacy Group

Objective: To relocate its international headquarters to Hong Kong in order to increase its standing and membership base in Asia, in particular in Mainland China

Assistance provided by InvestHK:

- Supplied supporting documents for Hong Kong chapter's pitch to attract the association's international HQ to Hong Kong
- General information on Hong Kong's business environment
- Liaised with the association's legal counsel regarding registration of its business in Hong Kong
- Expedited substantially the company registration process to meet the association's urgent needs
- Assistance to facilitate its vice president's employment visa application. Followed up with Immigration Department regarding status of application
- Networking opportunities by inviting association representatives to social functions including Rugby Sevens and other business conferences
- Information on how and where to obtain a business visa for Mainland China
- Advice and contact details for relevant government departments and research facilities for proposed research programmes

Useful Contacts

Companies Registry

Tel: (852) 2234 9933
www.cr.gov.hk

Inland Revenue Department

Gen Tel: (852) 187 8088
Email: taxinfo@ird.gov.hk
www.ird.gov.hk

Professional Services Development Assistance Scheme (PSDAS)

Secretariat

Tel: (852) 2918 7593
Email: psdas@cedb.gov.hk
www.cedb.gov.hk/citb/psdas/

Hong Kong Council of Social Service

Tel: (852) 2864 2948
www.hkcss.org.hk

Community Business Ltd

Tel: (852) 2152 1889
Email: shalini@communitybusiness.org.hk
www.communitybusiness.org

Protocol Division, Government Secretariat

Tel: (852) 2810 2055
Email: protocol@csd.gov.hk
www.protocol.gov.hk

Societies Office

Tel: (852) 2860 3573
Email: societies-office@police.gov.hk

Social Welfare Department

Tel: (852) 2832 4311
Email: eoifc@swd.gov.hk
www.swd.gov.hk

Volunteer Movement

Tel: (852) 2234 0100
Email: covs1@swd.gov.hk
www.volunteering-hk.org

Association of Fundraising Professionals

Tel: (852) 9840-0096
Email: vkmlaw@netvigatator.com
www.afpnet.org

Community Investment and Inclusion Fund (CIIF) Secretariat

Tel: (852) 2136 2711
Email: ciif@lwb.gov.hk
www.ciif.gov.hk

For more information, please visit our website: www.investhk.gov.hk
or contact us NOW to access our free, customised and confidential services.

Invest Hong Kong is the department of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government responsible for Foreign Direct Investment, supporting overseas, Mainland and Taiwanese businesses to set up and expand in Hong Kong. We partner with clients on a long-term basis and are available at any stage of their business development process.

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