



Hong Kong: The Place to Be

Recent surveys of international businesses in Hong Kong indicate that the city is more of a magnet than ever for multinationals and startups as new regional economic development strategies take shape. – By Stephen Phillips

The Belt and Road Initiative and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area development are two critical national economic development strategies which provide the British business community with tremendous opportunities in Hong Kong. The city continues to attract a wide array of leading companies from around the globe, as is fully reflected in our latest annual surveys.

According to the 2018 Annual Survey of Companies in Hong Kong with Parent Companies Located outside Hong Kong, there are 8,754 companies in the city with parent companies located outside Hong Kong, representing a robust 6.4% year-on-year growth. The growth is even more prominent in

the number of companies using Hong Kong as their regional headquarters, which now reaches 1,530, up 8.3% as compared with the same period last year.

The companies tell us that the favourable factors are Hong Kong's simple tax system and low tax rate, free flow of information, free port status, and geographical location. According to the survey, the UK is ranked fourth as the major sources of parent companies in Hong Kong.

Robust Startup Ecosystem

Hong Kong's business appeal was also shown in our "2018 Startup Survey". Our startup ecosystem has skyrocketed in the last few years. The survey saw

2,625 startups operating in Hong Kong's various co-work spaces, private or government incubators. This is an 18% year-on-year increase, while jobs created surged by 51% year-on-year. The startup community is also highly international in nature with 35% of founders coming from outside Hong Kong. The UK is the top origin of non-local founders, followed by the US, mainland China, Australia, and France. They are engaged in businesses such as fintech, e-commerce, supply chain management, logistics technology, professional or consultancy services, information, computer and technology, etc.

Spearheaded by InvestHK, Hong Kong's annual StartmeupHK Festival (21-25 January 2019) drew well over 17,000 delegates and more than 300 speakers this year. It brought together multiple sectors within the technology and start-up community not just from Hong Kong, but from around the world, to exchange ideas and do business.

Collaboration on Innovation and Technology

Under the "one country, two systems" principle, Hong Kong retains its common law system and independent judiciary, providing effective legal protection to individuals and businesses. Hong Kong's advanced infrastructure includes world-class transport networks, and it is a communications hub in the Asia-Pacific region with a well-developed information and communications infrastructure. On top of this, the city offers a pool of highly educated and multi-lingual professional talents with both mainland and international business know-how and expertise, supplemented by several admission schemes for attracting talents, entrepreneurs, and professionals.

Hong Kong-UK collaboration in innovation and technology is going from strength to strength. Precision Robotics, one of Hamlyn Centre of the Imperial College London's spin-offs, initiated Surgical Robotics R&D in Hong Kong in March 2018 to address global health challenges through technological innovation. It is also one of the partners in the transdisciplinary medical robotics research partnerships between the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) and overseas institutes.

And as one of the world's top three financial centres, Hong Kong is a strategic platform for fundraising and financial and professional services that companies from the Chinese mainland and other parts of the world tap into for their regional operations, and

more and more in pursuit of projects along the Belt and Road.

The Greater Bay Area development is creating many new opportunities for both B2C and B2B businesses in serving the population of close to 70 million people as well as the vibrant and innovative companies based in the area.

It's an exciting time in Hong Kong for British companies and entrepreneurs. We look forward to working more closely with the British Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong to help British world-class institutes and companies to leverage the Belt and Road Initiative and the Greater Bay Area development. 



InvestHK
The Government of the Hong Kong
Special Administrative Region

InvestHK is the department of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government responsible for attracting foreign direct investment and supporting overseas and mainland Chinese businesses to set up or expand in Hong Kong. It provides free advice and customised services for overseas and mainland companies.

Contact us now to discover the business opportunities in Hong Kong.

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