

SCED's speech at Welcome Ceremony for the 40-Millionth Visitor to Hong Kong  
(English only)

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Following is a speech by the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Mr Gregory So, at the Welcome Ceremony for the 40-Millionth Visitor to Hong Kong today (December 21):

James (Tien), distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

Good afternoon. On behalf of the people of Hong Kong, I would like to extend a warm welcome to Ms Nancy Ryan, our 40-millionth visitor, and her family members.

Over the years, hundreds of millions of visitors have been drawn by our city's vibrant and dynamic appeal. This year, we welcomed a record 40 million visitor arrivals, almost six times our population. This speaks volumes on the resilience of our tourism industry and, in particular, Hong Kong's strong appeal as a business and leisure destination.

The Hong Kong SAR Government is committed to driving further development of Hong Kong's tourism. On top of constructing a cruise terminal at Kai Tak, we have been expanding our two theme parks, which have been bringing fun and laughter to more and more visitors. The Ocean Park is implementing its Master Redevelopment Plan. Upon completion of this phased project next year, it will become a world-class marine-themed park featuring more than 70 attractions. With its new Toy Story Land just opened, the Hong Kong Disneyland's expansion is scheduled to be completed in phases by 2013. Just three months ago the Hong Kong National Geopark was accepted as a member of the Global Geoparks Network, and it is now an international icon. We and the Hong Kong Tourism Board will continue our efforts in promoting these exciting new attractions to our visitors in the years ahead.

Lastly, I hope the lucky family will have a wonderful time in Hong Kong and come visit us again with their friends soon.

Thank you.

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