

FS' speech at Chinese New Year Night Parade

Following is the speech by the Financial Secretary, Mr John C Tsang, at the 2013 Cathay Pacific International Chinese New Year Night Parade at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre in Tsim Sha Tsui tonight (February 10):

Dear friends,

Good evening.

On this festive occasion, I am delighted to extend my best wishes to you all - Kung Hei Fat Choy!

It's a great pleasure for me to welcome you to the International Chinese New Year Night Parade organised by the Hong Kong Tourism Board. Tonight is the 18th year of the Night Parade. This year's event carries the theme "Happy @ Hong Kong" to spread joy and festive cheer to visitors and local residents as we welcome the Year of the Snake. With a line-up of spectacular floats and energetic performing groups representing different cultures, this colourful spectacle has become a tradition in itself, showcasing the fun, vibrancy and diversity of Hong Kong, Asia's world city.

Tonight's Parade, together with other celebratory activities, such as the fireworks display tomorrow, makes Chinese New Year in Hong Kong a one-of-a-kind experience. I invite all of you to take this opportunity to immerse yourselves in the seasonal traditions and unique culture of this amazing city.

Later this year, the new Kai Tak Cruise Terminal will begin operations. This, together with new facilities at our two major theme parks and other attractions, will help to enhance Hong Kong's reputation as the most popular tourist destination in the region.

Ladies and gentlemen, I hope that you all will enjoy the Chinese New Year Night Parade, and you all will come back and visit us again very soon.

I wish you all a happy, healthy and prosperous Chinese New Year of the Snake. Thank you and have a great evening.

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