

Hong Kong 2004 Stamp Expo
Hall 1, HKCEC
10:30am 1 February 2004

Speech of the Acting Commissioner for Tourism, Mr Duncan Pescod

Mrs Choi, ladies and gentleman

Good Morning. I am delighted to be the officiating guest for this important event.

The Stamp Expo is an important event for Hong Kong as it attracts both exhibitors and buyers from overseas. It is also a particularly popular event among local philatelists.

This year I understand the event has grown to include exhibitors covering a wide range of different products such as security printing, stamp and coin dealers and others. I want to take this opportunity to welcome all visitors.

Tourism is one of the important economic pillars for Hong Kong and I am absolutely delighted that Hongkong Post has decided to issue a series of tourism-themed stamp sheetlets, covering our “Nightlife”, “Green Hong Kong”, “Gourmet Kitchen”, “Chinese New Year Parade”, “Shopping Fun” and “Hong Kong – Live it, Love it!”, which feature the diverse historical, cultural, ecological, and heritage attractions in Hong Kong. Today we are revealing the “Shopping Fun” sheetlet showcasing one of my personal favourite past times!

Through the use of these stamps, local and overseas recipients of mail will be given a glimpse of the wonderful attractions that Hong Kong has to offer.

Last year was a challenging one for all sectors of our economy, but especially for the local tourism industry. I am pleased to say that the resilience of the industry has helped to ensure a remarkably rapid recovery from the worst effects of the SARS crisis.

To sustain the growth of the industry, Hong Kong is investing in new tourism attractions, the Hong Kong Disneyland; the Tung Chung Cable Car System;

Hong Kong Wetland Park; and District-based Enhancement programme, to mention just a few.

We are also supporting major events such as Harbour Lighting Plan – “Symphony of Lights”. (Don’t forget this takes place every night at 8pm. The best place to watch it being the piazza outside the Cultural Centre in Tsim Sha Tsui. Do go and see it if you have time.)

For any visitors here today, I can promise a completely new experience every time you come back. Not just new attractions but each month in the year has its own unique appeal from the Chinese New Year Parade to the Rugby Sevens, from the dragon boat races to the Arts Festival, there is always something to see or do while you are here.

I can see from the attendance today that the 17th Asian International Stamp Exhibition has been a great success. I want to congratulate all those concerned, in particular my colleagues in Hongkong Post. I also want to say “well done” to Mr Jason Chum for the wonderful stamps he has created for the tourism series. I am sure these will be very popular additions to many collections. Thank you.