

# Hong Kong gears up for 100-day Expo opening countdown

By ER RAN

There are just 106 days to go before the opening of the largest World Expo ever staged. Some 242 countries and international organizations have confirmed their participation in the Shanghai Expo, which is expected to attract 70 million visitors, following its official opening on May 1.

## Pre-Expo forum

Hong Kong's own Expo preparations are proceeding at full steam and include a number of pre-Expo publicity activities, notably a pre-Expo forum entitled: "Vertical Density, the Public Dimension: A Dialogue between Hong Kong - Shanghai - New York".

To mark the start of the 100-day countdown to the Expo as of January 21, a major pre-Expo Forum will be staged at the Grand Hyatt in Hong Kong.

This high-level Forum will feature planning and urban design experts from three of the world's most vertical cities - Hong Kong, Shanghai and New York.

"Vertical Density, the Public Dimension: A Dialogue between

Hong Kong - Shanghai - New York" will explore how the vital concentration and growth of global cities can be balanced with an enlargement of the civic realm.

This international event is being organized by the Hong Kong SAR Government and the World Expo 2010 Shanghai China Executive Committee. It is being presented by the Hong Kong/New York Urban Exchange Group, AIA Hong Kong and The Skyscraper Museum.

The forum will bring together government and city officials, developers, planners, and architects from Hong Kong, Shanghai, and New York to discuss the comparative architecture, urbanism, and public spaces in the three cities - and what each can learn from the other.

The morning session will discuss the theme: "Hong Kong, Shanghai and New York - A view from the top", while the afternoon session will focus on "Creating, Enhancing and Maintaining Public Space".

Speakers will include the Chief Secretary for Administration, Henry Tang, Vice-Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, Shanghai cum

Vice-Chairperson of the World Expo 2010 Shanghai China Executive Committee, Zhou Hanmin and Secretary for Development, Carrie Lam.

New York speakers will include Professor Hilary Ballon, associate vice chancellor, New York University, Abu Dhabi, UAE.

This Pre-Expo Forum has been especially designed for an audience of professionals in the building, architectural, construction, development and planning industries.

Registration is free but advance sign-up is necessary. To register and receive further information, please visit the official conference website: [www.hk-ny.com](http://www.hk-ny.com)

## Lecture series for the education sector

To consolidate knowledge and understanding about the Shanghai Expo, the Education Bureau is planning a series of National Educational activities in the 2009/2010 school year.

One of the key activities is the "World Expo 2010 Shanghai China" National Education Expert Talk Series.

The first talk, held on November 10, 2009, included represent-



An artist's impression of the proposed Hong Kong Pavilion, taking the theme of "Hong Kong - A City with Unlimited Potential".

atives from the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau and the Architectural Services Department. The panel highlighted Hong Kong's participation in the Shanghai Expo and outlined the design concept of the Hong Kong Pavilion.

The second talk, scheduled for January 20, 2010, will be held on the eve of the 100-day countdown beginning.

The key speaker will be the Vice-Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, Shanghai cum Vice Chairperson of the World Expo 2010 Shanghai China Executive Committee, Zhou Hanmin.

He will share his experience in bidding and preparing for the staging of the Shanghai Expo, as well as illustrating the challenges and opportunities arising from this mega event.

The Vice President of Tongji University, Shanghai and Former Deputy Director General of Shanghai Municipal Urban Planning Administration Bureau, Professor Wu Jiang, also a renowned architect and

expert in city planning, will then talk about the design and concepts behind the Shanghai Expo site, as well as the sustainable development features of the site in the post-Expo era.

A short film highlighting the concept and development of the Shanghai Expo and a promotional video outlining Hong Kong's activities at Expo will also be shown.

The talk will be held from 2 pm to 5 pm at the Kowloon Tong Education Services Centre, 19 Suffolk Road, Kowloon Tong.

For enquiries, please contact the Moral and Civic Education Section, Curriculum Development Institute, Education Bureau (Miss Wong: 2153 7476, or Miss Tsang: 2153 7425).

Other Expo-related activities organized by the Education Bureau include an e-card design competition, a Shanghai Expo project competition and a "Build

a Nice Community" design competition. Prizes include a trip to the Shanghai Expo.

## Hong Kong at World Exposition 2010 Shanghai China

The World Exposition 2010 Shanghai China (Shanghai Expo) will be held at the waterfront areas on both sides of Huangpu River from May 1 to October 31, 2010.

Under the theme "Better City, Better Life", the Shanghai Expo will provide a platform for participating countries, regions and international organizations to share their experiences of urban development, discuss advanced ideas on cities, and explore new approaches to eco-friendly lifestyles and working conditions, as well as sustainable development.

Hong Kong's participation is in four key areas:

► Constructing and operating a stand-alone Hong Kong Pavilion, under the theme of "Hong Kong - A City with Unlimited Potential" to showcase the city's connectivity and the creativity

of Hong Kong people.

► Taking part in the Urban Best Practices Area (UBPA) Exhibition under the theme "Smart Card, Smart City, Smart Life". The exhibition will showcase how the extensive and innovative use of modern smart card and Radio Frequency Identification technology have improved the quality and efficiency of urban city life in Hong Kong.

► Taking part in Expo Shanghai Online by building a "virtual Hong Kong Pavilion" and a "virtual UBPA Hong Kong Exhibition" to provide netizens with a realistic, virtual experience of Hong Kong's participation in the Shanghai Expo.

► Organizing events and activities before and during the Expo period, including a "Hong Kong Week" in October 2010. Activities and performing arts programs will promote Hong Kong's innovation and creativity in cultural and other different fields.

For more details, please visit [www.hkexpo2010.gov.hk](http://www.hkexpo2010.gov.hk).



Hong Kong's UBPA Exhibition at the Shanghai Expo will also be available on-line.

