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## Hong Kong Focus

### **Hong Kong Banks Enjoy Burgeoning Presence (March 05)**

HSBC Bank USA recently celebrated the grand opening of two new branches in Pasadena and downtown Los Angeles. As the U.S. component of one of the world's largest financial services companies, HSBC Bank USA continues to expand in Southern California, providing a full range of services and a multilingual staff to clients.

HSBC Bank USA's new Pasadena and downtown LA branches bring its total number of California branches to eight.

Along with HSBC Bank, additional Chinese banks have been enjoying rapid expansion in Southern California. Wing Lung Bank plans to open a new branch at the end of 2005.

Those seeking to take advantage of the comprehensive financial, mortgage, and insurance services offered by Chinese banks may wish to visit Alhambra's Valley Boulevard, nicknamed the "Wall Street" of Chinese banks by media. Valley Boulevard is home to the Los Angeles branches of numerous Hong Kong banks, including Wing Lung Bank, Shanghai Commercial Bank, CITIC Ka Wah Bank, HSBC, and the Bank of East Asia.

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### **Crown Worldwide Group Transcends Global Borders (March 05)**

As the Crown Worldwide Group celebrates its fortieth anniversary, Chairman Jim Thompson can look back to what began as a small business with a \$1000 start-up to what is now a multinational corporation with branches worldwide. Established by Thompson in 1964 to provide quality international moving services, by the 1980s the company had become the leading mover in Asia. Increasing global mobility has seen its continued expansion, with

offices established across America, Australia and Europe. Today, Crown Worldwide is the world's largest privately held group of international moving companies.

Two recent groundbreaking developments for Crown Worldwide are the construction of the Crown Wine Cellars in Hong Kong and a new state-of-the-art facility in Shanghai. Opened in 2003, the Crown Wine Cellars mark a tranquil and elegant retreat for Hong Kong's coterie of wine lovers. The cellars boast innovative storage capacity and technology, while a conservatory, library and Member's Club offer gourmet dining options. Members can also enjoy wines from their stored collections at the cellar Clubhouse.

Joining Crown Worldwide's network of Chinese branches in Hong Kong, Beijing, Shekou, Xiamen and Taipei is a new state-of-the-art facility to be opened in Shanghai in May. The 74,000 square foot building is located in the city's Logistics Development Zone in Taopu, and will provide services including moving and relocation, storage, records management, logistics, and estate management. Thompson calls the Shanghai office "the most advanced removals and records management facility in China" and adds that the company "look[s] forward to building additional facilities in other major cities throughout China in the years ahead."

For additional information on the Crown Worldwide Group, please visit their website at <http://www.crownworldwide.com/>

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#### **HKETO Welcomes New Director (March 05)**

The Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office, San Francisco, welcomed its new Director, Doris Cheung, on March 10, 2005. Ms. Cheung brings a wealth of HK Special Administrative Region Government experience to her position. The variety of posts Ms. Cheung has previously held include Assistant Director-General of Trade (Regional Cooperation) and Deputy Secretary for the Environment. Ms. Cheung will oversee HKETO San Francisco's activities in the nineteen Western states, including Hawaii and Texas.

HKETO San Francisco is one of several West Coast organizations strengthening business, trade, and cultural ties between Hong Kong and the U.S.A. The HK Tourism Board and the HK Trade Development Council both maintain branches in Los Angeles, while the HKETO has additional offices in Washington, D.C. and New York.

Invest Hong Kong, a sub-department of HKETO, is staffed by specialists with technological and industrial experience who

provide a full range of free and confidential services to entrepreneurs interested in establishing operations in Hong Kong. For more information, please visit the HKETO website at <http://www.hongkong.org/>

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### **Upcoming Musical Treats**

The annual Hollywood Bowl Tchaikovsky Spectacular will be held on July 23, 2005. HKASC and the Hong Kong Schools Alumni Federation will organize a picnic to be followed by the concert.

This year's Tchaikovsky Spectacular features Jennifer Koh on violin and the USC Marching Band, in addition to the concert-ending 1812 Overture, accompanied with stunning pyrotechnics.

Internationally renowned erhu instrumentalist Karen Han will be featured in a solo concert on November 5, 2005, at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium. Karen Han has performed on numerous soundtracks, including those of "Anna and the King," "The Last Emperor," and "The Passion of the Christ." She is bringing the poignant music of her erhu to Los Angeles after a successful series of performances in Germany, Japan, and New York City. HKASC members are offered a 10% discount on concert tickets to Karen Han's November 5th concert.

For Karen Han's personal profile, please visit <http://www.karenhan.com/>.

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### **2005 New Year Gala Celebrates Year of the Rooster in Style (Feb 05)**

The Thirteenth HKASC Chinese New Year Gala, held February 19th at the Hilton Universal City, continued the Gala tradition of surrounding guests with festive entertainment, fine cuisine, and lively good wishes for an auspicious year ahead.

The evening began with welcoming remarks from Dinner Committee Chairman Wilson Tang and continued with an opening address by HKASC President Raymond Cheng.

Plaques were presented to this year's Corporate Banquet Chair, United Commercial Bank, as well as to the following sponsors: Cathay Pacific, Chong Hing Jewelers/Chopard, CIT Commercial Services, Jaguar Cars of North America, BioCalth International Corporation, Conrad Hong Kong, the HK Tourism Board, Lee Kum

Kee, Regent Café, Sing Tao Newspapers, and Superspeed Transportation.

The evening's entertainment program began when the Yau King Mon Kung-Fu Institute delighted guests with a Lion Dance. TropiDanza presented a Latin Dance showcase, and a virtuoso display of Chinese acrobatics came by way of Jason Jiang, Hu Yong, and Sha Sha Luo. Under veteran emcee Miranda Ho's guidance, the program concluded with a musical performance courtesy of Margaret Au.

The evening finished off with dancing, a lucky draw, and a sparkling crystal rooster for each guest.  
Happy Chinese New Year from the HKASC!

For photo shots, please visit  
<http://www.hkfederation.org.hk/events/show.asp?ID=681>