MORE ABOUT HONG KONG
CLIMATE AND DRESS

Hong Kong has a sub-tropical climate, the summer from June to August is hot, humid and sunny, with occasional showers, thunderstorms and even typhoons. When a typhoon is approaching, various degrees of warning signals issued by the Hong Kong Observatory (http://www.weather.gov.hk/contente.htm). *(Please ref to the table on next page)*

When the no. 8 signal is in place, most businesses and shops close down and flights may be cancelled. There is a separate warning system for heavy rain.

Daytime temperatures can exceed 31°C (87.8°F) and evenings temperatures linger around 26°C (78.8°F) but high humidity (+80%) levels can make it feel even hotter.

Short sleeves and cotton work best for outdoors, but with a lightweight jacket, sweater, scarf or cardigan for arctic air-conditioning indoors or on transports. A suit is suitable for business.

An umbrella for outside is suggested. Always pay attention to the weather forecast to avoiding being caught out by the rain.

Source: http://www.weather.gov.hk/cis/climahk_e.htm
**SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS DURING TYPHOON, RAINSTORMS OR OTHER ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Typhoon / Rainstorm Warning Signal</th>
<th>Arrangements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Typhoon Signal No.1 or No.3 / Amber or Red Rainstorm Warning is in force.</td>
<td>The Conference will proceed as scheduled.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Typhoon Signal Pre-No.8 or above / Black Rainstorm Warning issued:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At or after 7:00 AM</td>
<td>Morning sessions with commencement time before 2:00 PM will be suspended.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At or after 12:00 noon</td>
<td>Afternoon sessions with commencement time at or after 2:00 PM but before 6:30 PM will be suspended.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At or after 4:00 PM</td>
<td>Evening activities / sessions with commencement time at or after 6:30 PM will be suspended.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Rainstorm Warning is in force when the Conference already in progress.</td>
<td>The sessions will continue. All conference participants and staff are advised to remain indoors in a safe environment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Typhoon Signal Pre-No.8 or above Warning is issued when the Conference already in progress.</td>
<td>Conference will be terminated as soon as practicable. All conference participants and staff are advised to leave as soon as possible.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**If Typhoon Pre-No.8 or above or Black Rainstorm warning are raised:**

- Check ISA Conference official website repeatedly. More information will be uploaded as soon as we know.
- Sessions may be rescheduled – either with more rooms (where available) booked or sessions run in lunchtimes or in the evenings (as possible).
- Participants need to be aware that options for rescheduling will be explored but that the restrictions imposed by adverse weather are defined by Labour Department of the Government of the HKSAR.
TIME ZONE
The local time in Hong Kong is Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) +8.

LANGUAGES
Chinese (Cantonese is widely spoken) and English are the official languages of Hong Kong. Street signs, menus and tourist publications are bilingual.

Cantonese is the most widely spoken local dialect and Mandarin is becoming more popular. English is widely spoken in Hong Kong and is the language of preference in the government, professional, business and tourism sectors. Most taxi drivers, salespeople, tourism industry employees and police are able to communicate in English.

The legal tender is the Hong Kong dollar (HKD), which is linked to the US dollar (USD) at a rate of about 7.80 HKD to 1 USD, although exchange rates may fluctuate slightly. Interestingly, Hong Kong banknotes are issued by three banks (HSBC, Standard Chartered Bank and Bank of China), and vary in design and colour for each denomination.

- Notes are in denominations of $1,000, $500, $100, $50, $20, $10.
- Coins (issued by the government) are in denominations of $10, $5, $2, $1, 50¢, 20¢, 10¢.

Currency can be exchanged at authorised money exchangers in town, or at Hong Kong International Airport, where the currency exchange counters are open from early morning to late at night.

24-hour automated teller machines (ATMs) accept most international cards and are also conveniently located throughout the territory.

All leading banks and hotels accept traveller’s cheques. Major credit cards such as American Express, VISA, MasterCard, Diners Club and UnionPay are also widely acceptable at hotels, retail shops and restaurants.

Major banks are open from 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM on weekdays. Some banks also open on Saturdays. Banking services (Hang Seng Bank, CityU Branch) are available within the campus (9:00 AM – 5:00 PM on weekdays only).

It is advised to have local currency on hand prior to arriving.

http://www.discoverhongkong.com/au/plan-your-trip/traveller-info/good-to-know/money.jsp
VALUE ADDED TAXES (VAT) AND TIPPING

No VAT or sales tax.

Hotels, most restaurants and bars add a 10% service charge automatically and waiters also expect to pick up loose change. Larger gratuities are expected when there is no service charge. Small tips are common for bellboys, doormen and cloak room attendants. Taxi drivers also tend to pick up loose change.

ELECTRICITY

The standard voltage frequency of electrical current in Hong Kong is 220 volts and 50 Hz respectively. Most hotel bathrooms also have outlets for 100 volts, but if not, you will need a transformer for any appliance or electrical equipment. The majority of electrical outlets in Hong Kong take a three-pronged UK-style plug. You can buy an inexpensive adaptor for your electrical equipment at most convenience stores.

Source: http://www.discoverhongkong.com/au/plan-your-trip/traveller-info/good-to-know/electricity-and-voltage.jsp#ixzz466R6xxEe
Local private landline calls are free and cost only HK$1 for five minutes from public telephones. International Direct Dial (IDD) service to most countries and regions of the world is available at most hotels for a fee. The IDD code for Hong Kong is +(852) and there are no area codes in Hong Kong, local calls are made directly to the stated number.

Most of the world’s mobile telecommunications systems operate in Hong Kong, including GSM 900, PCS 1800, CDMA and WCDMA. Check if your service provider has a roaming agreement with a Hong Kong operator. And be sure to pay attention to the roaming rates!

Most hotels provide charged broadband Internet access service. Many coffee shops and popular shopping arcades also offer free Internet access through Wireless Broadband service. The government, MTR and Hong Kong International Airport also offer free Wi-Fi service.

Free Wi-Fi service will be available for delegates throughout the conference venue.* The log-in details will be contained in the conference pack.

*Please bear with us if you have trouble connecting to the Wi-Fi, as this may be due to the volume of people and number of devices being used.

DRINKING WATER

Hong Kong tap water is soft in character and conforms to the World Health Organisation’s recommended guidelines for drinking-water quality. Bottled water, including major imported brands, is readily available from supermarkets and convenience stores.


SMOKE-FREE ENVIRONMENT

Under the Smoking (Public Health) (Amendment) Ordinance (CAP371) which has been effect on 1 January 2007, smoking is prohibited in all indoor public places in Hong Kong, including restaurants, bars, malls, karaoke venues and other designated premises. The smoking ban is also implemented on indoor workplaces, public transport carriers, within public transport facilities, bus interchanges, and in both the indoor and outdoor public places, including public beaches and swimming pools, escalators, schools and specified training centre and universities, including City University of Hong Kong.

Any person smoking or carrying a lighted cigarette, cigar, or pipe in a designated no-smoking area will be liable to a fixed penalty of HK$1,500.

SAFETY AND HEALTH

Hong Kong is a remarkably safe city day or night. Police officers patrol frequently and they are very helpful.

Hong Kong has maintained good public health standards. Public and private sectors provide world-class and comprehensive range of medical and health services to clients. Visitors requiring accident and emergency services in the city’s public hospitals are charged a set fee of $990 per attendance. English is spoken by most public and private sector medical professionals.

There is currently no vaccination requirement for travellers visiting Hong Kong. Check with your local embassy because requirements can change.

Pharmacies (Watsons and Mannings) can be found in Festival Walk (at the entrance to the MTR).

# EMERGENCY, USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS & LINKS

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<tr>
<th>Emergency Calls</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Emergency services (police, fire, ambulance)</td>
<td>999</td>
<td>992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Fax for Deaf and Dumb)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police Hotline</td>
<td>2527 7177</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Information / Enquiries</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HKSAR Government Hotline</td>
<td>1823</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hong Kong Observatory</td>
<td>187 8200</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dial-a-Weather</td>
<td>18501 (English)</td>
<td>18503 (Cantonese)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time &amp; Temperature Service</td>
<td>18501 (English)</td>
<td>18503 (Cantonese)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone Directory Enquiries</td>
<td>1081 (English)</td>
<td>1083 (Cantonese)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hong Kong International Airport</td>
<td>2181 8888</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hong Kong Tourism Board Visitor Hotline</td>
<td>2508 1234</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hong Kong Immigration Department</td>
<td>2824 6111</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consumer Council</td>
<td>2929 2222</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Health</td>
<td>2961 8989</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Customs and Excise Department 24-Hour Hotline</td>
<td>2815 7711</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Services</td>
<td>10010</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Enquiries Service (Country Codes &amp; World Time Inquiries)</td>
<td>10013</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Links:**
1. Department of Health
2. Discover Hong Kong, Hong Kong Tourism Board
3. Festival Walk
4. Getting to CityU
   [http://www6.cityu.edu.hk/wayfinder/GettingToU/bymtr-er1.htm](http://www6.cityu.edu.hk/wayfinder/GettingToU/bymtr-er1.htm)
5. Hong Kong International Airport
6. Hong Kong Monetary Authority
7. Hong Kong Observatory
8. Hospital Authority
9. MTR Corporation Limited
10. Octopus Card
11. Public Transport in Hong Kong, Transport Department