

# FINANCIAL BRIDGEHEAD



A powerful combination of factors – prime location, rule of law, high-speed communications, free flow of information and capital, a low and simple tax system and a pro-business government – makes Hong Kong a leading international business and financial centre. Canada's Fraser Institute has again ranked Hong Kong the world's freest economy in 2024.

## A magnet for foreign firms

Overseas and Mainland companies in Hong Kong (2023):



Total number of operations:

**9,039**



Regional  
Headquarters:

**1,336**



Regional  
Offices:

**2,311**



Local  
Offices:

**5,392**



Staff  
engaged:

**468,000**

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## Start-up Hub

- The city hosted 4,257 start-ups in 2023
- Support for start-ups: Excellent package of advantages, incubators and accelerators, government funding support and private venture capital

## Leading capital market

- World No.6 for Initial Public Offering (IPO) funds raised in 2023
- World No.1 for arranging Asian international bond issuances
- Asia's largest hedge fund hub and Asia's 2<sup>nd</sup> largest private equity fund centre
- Leading investment hub
- One of the world's leading fundraising hubs for healthcare sector



With its unique advantage of "one country, two systems", Hong Kong has become the premier international financial centre connecting the Middle East with the Chinese market, particularly in three key areas: a deep and broad fund-raising market, asset and wealth management, and green and sustainable finance. They provide diverse investment offerings for investors and enterprises in the Middle East, and providing financial support to regional economic development and green transformation.

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## Premier international banking centre

- 72 of the world's 100 top banks operate in Hong Kong
- Robust, well-capitalised banking sector:
  - ~ Free flow of capital underpinned by a rule-based, transparent regulatory environment
  - ~ World-class banking regulation and supervision in line with international standards
- State-of-the-art financial infrastructure

## Green finance hub

- Premier financing platform for international and Mainland green enterprises/projects
- A total of about US\$28 billion worth of green bonds under the Government Sustainable Bond Programme covering multiple currencies and different tenors was issued

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## Islamic Finance



Middle East investors could make use of Hong Kong's Islamic finance infrastructure and the role as a major capital formation centre to raise fund.

To promote the development of Islamic finance (including the sukuk market), Hong Kong has taken concrete steps to build a conducive platform for sukuk issuance.

Three sukuk of different structures and tenors totalling US\$3 billion were issued under the Government Bond Programme to demonstrate to the global market the strengths of Hong Kong's Islamic finance platform, and that the legal, regulatory and taxation framework of the city can readily support sukuk issuances, including sukuk of different structures. These market development efforts are expected to help enhance the attractiveness of Hong Kong's sukuk platform vis-a-vis other financial centres in the region.

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An array of Islamic financial products and services have been introduced in Hong Kong, including the listing of global sukuk on the Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited, Islamic funds, Shariah-compliant equity indices and Islamic banking windows.

On new products, the first Saudi Arabian Exchange-Traded Fund (ETF) in Asia was listed in Hong Kong in November 2023, and the largest ETF in the Middle East that invests in Hong Kong stocks was listed in Saudi Arabia in October 2024. More diversified products will emerge in the future, providing investors from the Middle East with convenient channels to invest in Hong Kong and Mainland China, and enhancing the two-way flow of capital between Hong Kong and Saudi Arabia, and fostering greater connectivity and more vibrant development of the capital markets in both regions, creating a win-win situation.



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## Hong Kong welcomes talent

- The Top Talent Pass Scheme engages talents with a one-stop platform Hong Kong Talent Engage ([www.hkengage.gov.hk](http://www.hkengage.gov.hk)) to provide support services for incomers
- Two-time NBA All-Star Stephon Marbury and seven-time world snooker champion Ronnie O'Sullivan are granted admission under the Top Talent Pass Scheme and Quality Migrant Admission Scheme respectively to expand their ventures in Hong Kong



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