

SCED promotes HK business opportunities in Washington, DC

October 13, 2016

The Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Mr Gregory So, started his visit to Washington, DC, the United States (US) on October 12 (Washington, DC time) to enhance trade and economic co-operation between Hong Kong and the US.

After his arrival, Mr So attended a lunch meeting with Vice President for Monetary Studies and Editor of the Cato Journal of the Cato Institute, Mr Jim Dorn. The Cato Institute is a think tank and public policy research organisation in Washington, DC, which co-publishes the Economic Freedom of the World report with the Canada-based Fraser Institute. Hong Kong has been ranked as the freest economy every year since the first report came out in 1996, including the latest one released in September this year.

During the meeting, Mr So underlined the long-standing ties between Hong Kong and the US, and welcomed US companies to continue taking part in Hong Kong's economic development and investing in the city.

Mr So then paid a courtesy call on the Chinese Ambassador to the US, Mr Cui Tiankai.

In the evening, Mr So attended a reception hosted by the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Washington, DC, for US government officials, congressional staffers and members of the local business and Hong Kong communities.

Addressing the guests at the reception, Mr So shared his thoughts on how Hong Kong might help US enterprises capitalise on the wealth of opportunities emerging from the Belt and Road Initiative.

He said, "Hong Kong is an international gateway to Mainland China, offering unique physical and intangible connectivity to the Mainland with privileged trade and social access. In addition, Hong Kong has a well-established system that connects us to the international community in terms of our legal system, language, trade practices as well as lifestyle which international traders are familiar with. Traders in all sectors, and from all jurisdictions, can trade freely in Hong Kong." He encouraged US enterprises to make full use of the city's advantages to venture into the markets of the Belt and Road countries.

Mr So will continue his visit programme in Washington, DC, on October 13 (Washington, DC, time) and meet with senior officials of the Department of Commerce and the US Chamber of Commerce.