



ASIA PACIFIC CHAPTER MEETING 2025

HONG KONG

Wednesday 3 December – Sunday 7 December



SOCIAL PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY 3 DECEMBER

Victoria Peak Walking Tour

1.30 – 3.30 pm

\$72

Begin your “Welcome to Hong Kong” with a short walk from the Murray Hotel to the Peak Tram Station to board the iconic Peak Tram, a historic funicular railway that ascends steeply through lush hillsides, offering panoramic views of Hong Kong’s dynamic skyline and harbour.

At the summit your guide will take you on the Lugard Road Loop, a peaceful nature walk along a shaded trail, surrounded by tropical greenery and scenic lookouts of many iconic spots in Hong Kong. The route (3.2 km) is flat and will be done at a leisurely pace with plenty of time for photos. After exploring the Peak, return to the hotel via the Tram.



WEDNESDAY 3 DECEMBER

Welcome Reception & Dinner at the Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club for All

4.45 – 10.30 pm

No charge, cost included in the registration fee

Established in 1849, today the RHKYC aims to be the ultimate club in Asia and one of the best in the world for sailing and rowing. Our Welcome Reception and Dinner will be held on the Rooftop at Kellet Island, the Club’s main base, and offers stunning views overlooking the harbour and Causeway Bay. The coaches will depart from the Murray in time for us to arrive to watch the sun set – a spectacle not to be missed! Coaches will return to the Murray at 10 pm and 10.30 pm (15 minute drive).



THURSDAY 4 DECEMBER

Feng Shui Walk, Tea Ceremony & Asia Society Gallery Visit for Accompanying Guests

9 am – 12.15 pm

\$75

Start your morning with a fascinating guided Feng Shui walking tour through Central Hong Kong and discover how the ancient principles of energy flow shape the city's skyline, as you explore the Feng Shui secrets behind some of Hong Kong's most iconic buildings and landmarks. Next, step into a tranquil Chinese tea house for an authentic Tea Ceremony where you will learn the graceful rituals of tea pouring – refined, deliberate and rich with meaning in Chinese society. Don't forget to tap two fingers on the table when your tea is served - a charming gesture of thanks in Cantonese tradition. On the walk back to the hotel you will have the opportunity to visit the Asia Society Gallery, nestled in a beautifully restored heritage site and explore curated exhibitions blending art, culture and history.



THURSDAY 4 DECEMBER

Hong Kong Court of Final Appeal Tour for IAFL Fellows

Tour 1: 3 – 3.45 pm OR Tour 2: 4 – 4.45 pm

Fellows will have the rare opportunity of touring the Hong Kong Court of Final Appeal (“CFA”), located in the heart of Central, a 5 to 10-minute walk from The Murray Hotel. Places are limited and will be allocated strictly on a “first-come, first-served” basis.

The Court of Final Appeal (“CFA”) was established on 1 July 1997, replacing the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in London as the highest appellate court in Hong Kong after 30 June 1997. It plays an important part in the development of the common law in Hong Kong.

The CFA may, as required, invite judges from other common law jurisdictions to sit on the court and a number of distinguished judges from the United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand have sat and continue to sit as members of the court.

Final appeals are heard by the full Court consisting of 5 judges comprising:

- The Chief Justice
- 3 permanent judges
- 1 non-permanent judge

The home of the CFA is the impressive neo-classical building, at 8 Jackson Road. With tall columns, granite arches, and an iconic dome, it was designed by leading British Architects Webb and Bell in 1898, during Victorian times. To this day, the blindfolded statue of goddess Themis, symbolising impartial justice, stands atop a pediment. Opened at a ceremony on 15 January 1912, it has been used as the Supreme Court of Hong Kong from 1912 to 1984, save for 2 periods: firstly, during the Japanese occupation of Hong Kong (1942 – 1945) when it was the Headquarters of the Kempeitai (Military Police); and secondly, between 1978 and 1982, when it was evacuated after cracks appeared during the construction of the underground Mass Transit Railway. From 1984 to 2011, it was occupied by the Legislative Council. Thereafter, extensive renovations were done and in 2015, this grand building became the home of the CFA.



THURSDAY 4 DECEMBER

Happy Hour for All

6 – 7 pm

Pondside

No charge, cost included in the registration fee

Located just 5 minutes' walk from The Murray, in Hong Kong Park, Pondside is an urban oasis with a scenic waterfall where you can enjoy a drink with friends and colleagues before heading off for dinner.



THURSDAY 4 DECEMBER

Dine Arouds for All

After the happy hour, the Asia Pacific Chapter has organized a number of Dine Arouds. These are purposefully offered at different price points so that there will be something for everyone. In order that we do not run the risk of having empty seats, a non-refundable deposit payment is required to reserve your space. At the end of the Dinner, the final bill (minus the deposits) will be shared and settled by all attendees. Please note that the prices quoted do not include any transport costs. You will meet your hosts at the happy hour and travel together as a group to your Dine Around venue.

| Hosts/Price Point | Venue/Location | Cuisine |
|---|---|------------------------------|
| USD 100+ per person | | |
| Sharon Ser Sindy Wong Sam Gershon | <u>Carlyle Club</u> <i>Above Rosewood Hotel 18 Salisbury Rd Tsim Sha Tsui (Uber & Star Ferry)</i> | Western/Modern Asian |
| Rita Ku Jeremy Chan Lay Lian Kee | <u>A Smoking Affair</u> <i>27/F Midtown Soundwill Plaza II 1 Tang Lung St Causeway Bay (Uber)</i> | Hot Pot Chinese & Karaoke |
| Azan Marwah Joanne Brown Peter Barnes | <u>McKay's the American Club</u> <i>Floor 48-49 Two Exchange Sq Central (10-15 mins walk from The Murray)</i> | Steak House |
| Robin Egerton | <u>Shek O Country Club</u> <i>5 Shek O Rd, Shek O (Uber)</i> | International/Asian |
| USD \$65 - \$100 per person | | |
| Lisa Wong Sherlynn Chan | <u>Peking Garden (Central)</u> <i>B-1, 7-15 Des Voeux Rd Central (10 mins walk from The Murray)</i> | Chinese |
| Caroline McNally Jennifer Ip | <u>Ruam</u> <i>Shop 9 1/F J Senses 60 Johnston Rd Wan Chai (Uber)</i> | Thai |

| Hosts/Price Point | Venue | Cuisine |
|--|--|--|
| USD \$65 - \$100 per person | | |
| Billy Ko TL Yap | <u>New Dim Siu Yi</u> Shop A, G/F 14 Tsat Tsz Mui Road North Point (Uber) | Chinese (Tai Pai Dong style) |
| Jocelyn Tsao Anisha Ramanathan Ivan Cheong | <u>Madam Fu</u> <i>3/F Barrack Tai Kwun 10 Hollywood Rd Central (15 mins walk from The Murray)</i> | Contemporary Chinese and crafted cocktails |
| USD \$38 – \$50 per person | | |
| Karen Lam Sasha Allison Shu Mei Hoon | <u>Lin Heung Tea House (TST)</u> <i>25 Kimberley Road 1-2/F Cheung Lee Commercial Building Tsim Sha Tsui (Uber & Star Ferry)</i> | The Dim Sum Experience |
| Derek Ho Kay Chan | Street Food Temple Steet Kowloon (MTR & Star Ferry) | Chinese |

FRIDAY 5 DECEMBER

Lantau Island Discovery Tour for Accompanying Guests

9 am – 2.30 pm

\$145

Escape the city and spend some time immersed in the natural beauty and spiritual heritage of Lantau Island, Hong Kong's lush and tranquil retreat. Your journey begins with a scenic ride on the Ngong Ping 360 cable car from Tung Chung, Asia's largest cableway, taking you through breathtaking landscape with 360-degree views of North Lantau Country Park, the South China Sea and the majestic Big Buddha.

Upon arrival at the Ngong Ping plateau, explore the revered Po Lin Monastery, founded in 1924 and often referred to as the "Buddhist Kingdom in the South." The monastery's grand halls, bell and drum towers, and intricate architecture reflect the elegance of the Song, Ming, and Qing dynasties. Just beside the monastery stands the awe-inspiring Big Buddha, the world's largest seated outdoor bronze Buddha. Towering at 34 meters and weighing 250 tonnes, this iconic statue invites visitors to climb 256 steps for a closer look and to enjoy panoramic views of the surrounding mountains and sea. Before returning to the city, enjoy a peaceful vegetarian lunch at the monastery, prepared by the resident monks.



FRIDAY 5 DECEMBER

Cocktails and Dinner at the Jewish Community Centre for All (including a tour of the Ohel Leah Synagogue)

5.15 – 10 pm

\$105

The evening will start with a tour of the beautiful Ohel Leah Synagogue which serves the Jewish community of Hong Kong. You will learn about the history of the Synagogue which was built in 1901 and meticulously renovated in the late 1990s and recognized with a UNESCO outstanding project award in 2000 for cultural heritage conservation. If desired, there will be the optional opportunity to attend evening services. This will be followed by cocktails and an extensive buffet style dinner. Photo ID is required for entry. The Synagogue is located 2 km from the Murray Hotel (a 5 minute taxi ride away) and transport will be arranged for those attending.



FRIDAY 5 DECEMBER

Happy Hour for All

6.30 – 7.30 pm

Dragonfly Bar

No charge, cost included in the registration fee

Located within a 15 minute walk of The Murray, in the historic chambers of Tai Kwun, the former Central Police Station. Visitors to Tai Kwun can get a glimpse of heritage stories from the late 19th century in Hong Kong through the painstakingly restored buildings and large courtyards. One of the most popular sections of the compound are the tiny, cramped cells which imprisoned thousands of people.

Located within the historic chambers is Dragonfly, a boutique bohemian cocktail lounge inspired by the Art Nouveau movement from the late 19th to early 20th centuries. The

bar brilliantly captures the artistry of the era, with its eye-catching soft turquoise hues from stained-glass lamps that hang from the ceiling, alongside handcrafted iron dragonflies and a delicately patterned mosaic floor. Come along for the happy hour and enjoy the timeless ambiance of this unique venue.



SATURDAY 6 DECEMBER

OPTION 1

Boat Trip and Lunch at Fat Kee Seafood Restaurant, Po Toi O Village for All

9.30 am – 4.30 pm

\$185

The boat trip on a Hong Kong “junk” will take Fellows and Guests through the stunning Hong Kong Harbour and out through the Eastern entrance to the Clear Water Bay peninsula. We’ve scheduled in a stop for a swim!

Tucked around the corner is Po Toi O (meaning “*cloth pouch bay*”), which is a small sack-shaped inlet of the South China Sea, carved into the ruggedly majestic east coastline of Kowloon. Po Toi O has a long history, dating back to 1663, when a temple was erected to Hung Shing, a deity worshipped by fisherfolk. Until the 1970s Po Toi O was an unassuming fishing village, a natural harbour from the prevailing east winds which carry in the rollers from the open sea – next stop: Hawaii. Many lived on their boats and the village was inaccessible save by water.

Today, there are two rustic restaurants in Po Toi O, clinging to the shoreline of the “pouch”, serving the freshest seafood you have ever tasted and our favourite is **Fat Kee Seafood Restaurant**.

Angelina Jolie filmed parts of *Lara Croft Tomb Raider: The Cradle of Life* here in 2003: having jumped off a skyscraper in Central, she re-appears in Po Toi O Village.

Australian TV Chef Kylie Kwong filmed “*Hong Kong Island Hideaway*” (*Simply Magic*) at Po Toi O. In that episode, she was met off a sampan at the end of the old pier by a “local village woman”. They went into Fat Kee Seafood Restaurant, chose live seafood swimming in the tanks, which was cooked and eaten with gusto.

Bring a big appetite, your swimsuit and something warm to wear in case it turns chilly. After lunch, return by boat back to Central.



SATURDAY 6 DECEMBER

OPTION 2

West Kowloon Cultural District Experience for All

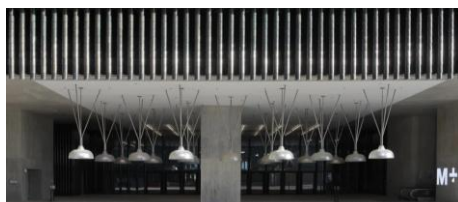
10 am – 4 pm

\$160

Immerse yourself in Hong Kong's vibrant arts and heritage scene with a tour of the West Kowloon Cultural District, featuring two of the city's most iconic museums. Begin your cultural journey at M+, Asia's first global museum of contemporary visual culture with its thought-provoking exhibitions that span visual art, design, architecture, and moving image.

Next, step into the grandeur of the Hong Kong Palace Museum, with its exquisite collections of Chinese art and imperial treasures. Discover rare artifacts and stories that trace centuries of history, culture, and craftsmanship, beautifully presented in a space that bridges tradition and innovation.

To complete your experience, enjoy a traditional dim sum lunch at King Lung Heen, located within the Palace.



SATURDAY 6 DECEMBER

President's Dinner and Dancing for All at the China Club

7 pm – Midnight

\$120

The President's Dinner will take place at the beautiful China Club, located in the Old China Bank Building, a 5 to 10 minute walk from The Murray Hotel.

The China Club is an elegant, members-only club, the inimitable brain-child of the late Sir David Tang ("Shanghai Tang"). It is full of art and antiques from the 1930s Shanghai era. With a sweeping art-deco staircase, a mahjong room, an extensive library, private salons, the exquisite Long Bar and the open-air terrace overlooking Hong Kong – the visitor is transported to a bygone era.

A Traditional Chinese Wedding

The theme of the President's Dinner is "A Traditional Chinese Wedding (for international divorce lawyers)". Red and gold are the colours for the night.

A Traditional Chinese Wedding is the culmination of a series of ancient rituals:

- *The Betrothal Ceremony* - the families meet and choose an auspicious date
- *Preparing the Bridal Bed* – the bed is covered with red bedding and lai sees (red packets containing money)
- *The Hair Combing Ceremony* – this is performed by the matriarch to signify the Bride's transition from youth
- *Leaving the Bride's Home and Tea Ceremony* – as he tries to enter the Bride's Home to collect her, the Groom is subjected to trials and tribulations, which he must overcome to prove his love and sincerity. Once in her home, to show respect for the elders, the couple pour tea for the Bride's family
- *Entering the Groom's Home and Tea Ceremony* – the Bride is taken to the Groom's home and the couple pour tea for his family, likewise to show respect and symbolise the avoidance of disputes
- *Meal for the bridal party* – the sweet meal foreshadows a sweet and blissful marriage.

At the wedding banquet, the Bride is bedecked in gold jewellery, some are heirlooms, others are gifts, the more gold, the better. By the end of the evening, she will have changed her attire several times. Seating at the round tables will have been planned months in advance. The meal will consist of 8 to 12 courses (*never* 7 courses). During the meal, the new couple and their in-laws will visit each table in turn, toasting all the guests and thanking them for being there to witness the splendid event, uniting 2 families.

The modest price of the President's Dinner is the result of the hospitality of a group of Hong Kong Fellows who are covering the cost of all the drinks during the Banquet and the After-Party. They have also paid for the entertainment; the **VoSSa Girls** are a live band who will have you up and dancing until late!

This will be a fun evening, and a suitable end to the Hong Kong Meeting.

