

PRESS RELEASE 新聞稿

Date: 1 January 2018

Total Pages: 4

CTS Hong Kong New Year Countdown Celebrations 2018 Concluded with Success

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Organised by the Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTb) and title-sponsored by the China National Travel Service Group Corporation (CTS), the CTS Hong Kong New Year Countdown Celebrations 2018 was concluded with success. The Countdown Celebrations were the finale to a series of events that HKTb organised to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR). It also served to kick off the 90th anniversary celebrations of CTS.

Since its establishment in 1928, CTS has grown from strength to strength to become one of the largest travel conglomerates in China. By title-sponsoring the Countdown Celebrations this year, CTS wishes to extend its gratitude to the support from all sectors in Hong Kong, as well as to deliver its best wishes for the future development of the tourism industry.

The launch ceremony of the Musical Fireworks was graced by The Hon Mrs Carrie Lam Cheng Yuet-ngor, Chief Executive of the HKSAR; Mr Xie Feng, Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China in the HKSAR; Mr He Jing, Deputy Director of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the HKSAR; Dr Bernard Chan Pak-li, Acting Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development; Dr Peter Lam, Chairman of the HKTb; Mr Wan Min, Chairman of CTS; and Ms Jiang Yan, Director & Chief Executive Officer of CTS.

When midnight struck, the numerals "2018" lit up the façade of the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, while dazzling fireworks and pyrotechnics were launched at various elevations to illuminate the Victoria Harbour. The Musical Fireworks this year were presented in an unprecedented scale, spanning across an area 35% wider than the previous year. The 10-minute show featured distinguishing fireworks patterns including the "Blossoming Hearts" and "Smiley Faces". Halfway through the show, splashes of "Magical Stardust" scattered by dancing fairies using fireworks from an award-winning European fireworks maker, created a splendid vista over the iconic Victoria Harbour. Spectacular pyrotechnics and fireworks, together with vibrant lighting

effects and a refreshed soundtrack, extended a warm welcome to a joyful New Year in Hong Kong.

In addition to the Musical Fireworks, an Australian performing arts group “Strange Fruit” staged their global debut performance of “Deco-Sphere” near the Tsim Sha Tsui Star Ferry Pier from 10pm onwards on New Year’s Eve. A mesmerising mix of theatrical, choreographical and circus performances created a unique celebratory ambience for the audience, as five gigantic orbs each with a 2-metre diameter were transformed into dynamic performance spaces. From 11pm onwards, locals and visitors were able to make New Year’s wishes upon the pyrotechnic “shooting stars” of four different colours launched from the rooftops of five buildings on Hong Kong Island.

In addition to broadcasting the event live via satellite to major media organisations around the world, the HKTB also offered real-time coverage of the Musical Fireworks on its social media and video streaming platforms to spread the festivity worldwide.

Photo Caption 1



Officiating at the launch ceremony of the CTS Hong Kong New Year Countdown Celebrations 2018 were The Hon Mrs Carrie Lam Cheng Yuet-ngor, Chief Executive of the HKSAR (fourth left); Mr Xie Feng, Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China in the HKSAR (third left); Mr He Jing, Deputy Director of the Liaison Office of the Central People’s Government in the HKSAR (second left); Dr Bernard Chan Pak-li, Acting Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (first left); Dr Peter Lam, Chairman of the HKTB (third right); Mr Wan Min, Chairman of CTS (second right) and Ms Jiang Yan, Director & Chief Executive Officer of CTS (first right).

Photo Captions 2



The 10-minute Musical Fireworks kicked off as the clock struck midnight. The numerals “2018” were displayed on the façade of the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, with fireworks and pyrotechnics launched at various elevations.

Photo Caption 3



The Countdown Celebrations fireworks display featured fireworks from an award-winning European fireworks maker for the first time, to create a splendid vista of “Magical Stardust” scattered by dancing fairies over the iconic Victoria Harbour.

Photo Caption 4



New patterns including “Blossoming Hearts” were introduced in this year’s Musical Fireworks.

Photo Captions 5 & 6



An Australian performing arts group “Strange Fruit” staged the global debut performance of “Deco-Sphere” in Tsim Sha Tsui.

Photo Caption 7



Sessions to make a wish upon “shooting stars” were again offered this year. Pyrotechnic shooting stars of four different colours were launched every 15 minutes from the rooftops of participating buildings on Hong Kong Island, signifying love, health, joy and fruitfulness.

– Ends –

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