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Hong Kong Hosts Ever-Astounding Musical Fireworks to Welcome 2018 Award-winning European Fireworks and Australian Performances to Heat up the Harbourfront

Media can download photos and animation video from the HKTB website:

- FTP (valid until 31 January 2018): <ftp://NYCD2017-b:445566@ftpsvr01.hktb.com/>

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 will be held on New Year's Eve (31 December). The Countdown Celebrations will be a 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).

Two key highlights of this year's Countdown Celebrations include a musical fireworks display over the Victoria Harbour, and performing arts that take place at the Tsim Sha Tsui Star Ferry Pier. Presented in an unprecedented scale, the 10-minute pyrotechnic extravaganza will feature a rainbow of pyrotechnics and fireworks cascading from various heights around the Victoria Harbour. Furthermore, fireworks of an award-winning European fireworks maker will be used for the first time to create a breathtaking visual effect, in which Hong Kong's skyline will be illuminated by "Magical Star Dusts" to signify blessings to the city. An Australian performing arts group "Strange Fruit" will bring reveling performances that incorporate elements from theatrical, choreographical and circus entertainments to locals and visitors.

HKTB Chairman Dr Peter Lam said, "Over the years, Hong Kong's New Year Countdown Celebrations have become one of the most anticipated countdown events across Asia and received impressive coverage from media worldwide. This year, the Musical Fireworks event will be expanded in scale, exhibiting more gradation and complexity. New effects and patterns will also be displayed with the involvement of an award-winning fireworks maker. We are also pleased to bring to the event the Australian performing arts group "Strange Fruit" for the first time and their performance for the event will be a global debut."

Ms Jiang Yan, Director & Chief Executive Officer of China National Travel Service Group Corporation (China Travel Service (Holdings) Hong Kong Limited), which is the title sponsor of the Hong Kong New Year Countdown Celebrations 2018, said, “2018 will be particularly significant to the CTS. Firstly, after returning to our country for 20 years, Hong Kong has entered into a new era, growing with our country hand-in-hand. Also, since its establishment in 1928, CTS has become one of the largest travel conglomerates in China. We are determined to become a world-class enterprise, as we approach our centenary anniversary. With our mission to serve the community and bring enjoyment, we are very honoured to join hands with the Hong Kong Tourism Board, our long-standing working partner, to bring the largest-ever musical fireworks to visitors and Hong Kong people.”

Introduction of Fireworks from Award-winning European Maker

The Musical Fireworks this year will be presented in an unprecedented scale, spanning across a 35% wider display area, and incorporating a fascinating collection of pyrotechnic, fireworks, sound and lighting effects. Palettes of pyrotechnics and fireworks will be launched from barges at the Victoria Harbour, and rooftops of buildings on the Hong Kong Island. Launched at various elevations above the sea level, the stunning fireworks display is to dazzle our skyline with vibrant colours.

Besides, Hong Kong’s skyline will be illuminated with “Magical Star Dusts” by using the fireworks from a European award-winning fireworks maker for the first time. The scene is inspired by dancing fairies scattering magical star dust over the iconic Victoria Harbour, signifying New Year’s blessings to the city. Fireworks and pyrotechnics will be launched in synchrony with a soundtrack composed and produced anew by renowned music director Mr Chiu Tsang Hei.

Performances and Pyrotechnic “Shooting Stars” to Steam up Celebrations

On New Year’s Eve, the HKTB will present a spectacle of performance by the Australian performing arts group “Strange Fruit” from 10:00pm at the Tsim Sha Tsui Pier (near Star House). The award-winning group had made appearances at various events worldwide and they will greet Hong Kong with a global debut of their brand-new performance “Deco-Sphere”. Performers will sway and dance with elegance on gigantic orbs of a 2-metre diameter on 5-metre poles, delivering an exotic feat incorporating theatrical, choreographical and circus entertainments.

Members of the public will get a chance to “make a wish” upon the pyrotechnic “shooting stars” presented in four different colours, which symbolise love, health, happiness and wealth respectively. The sparkling stars will be launched every 15 minutes from 11:00pm onwards from the rooftops of five participating buildings on Hong Kong Island: CITIC Tower, Harbour Centre, Harcourt House, Queensway Government Offices and Revenue Tower.

Best Vantage Points

On New Year's Eve, the CTS Hong Kong New Year Countdown Celebrations can be viewed from a number of spots across Hong Kong and Kowloon. The best vantage points in Tsim Sha Tsui are the Tsim Sha Tsui Promenade and the Hong Kong Cultural Centre Open Piazza. The best vantage points on Hong Kong side are the Central Harbourfront, Central Piers 9 and 10, and Bauhinia Square in Wanchai.

Special traffic arrangements will be made at various locations in Central, Tsim Sha Tsui and Wanchai on New Year's Eve. Vessels will be prohibited from sailing into the central area of the Victoria Harbour, and the Kowloon public pier will be temporarily closed. The HKTB urges members of the public to pay attention to announcements made by relevant government departments.

For more information about the CTS Hong Kong New Year Countdown Celebrations 2018, please visit the HKTB's website: www.discoverhongkong.com/countdown.

Photo Captions 1 to 2 (mock-up photos)



This year's fireworks display features a new pattern symbolising "Blossoming Hearts", as well as a splash of "Magical Star Dusts" from an award-winning European maker.

Photo Caption 3



The Australian performing arts group "Strange Fruit" will stage their debut performance "Deco-Sphere" at the Tsim Sha Tsui Star Ferry Pier. The group performed in Sochi Winter Olympics in Russia in 2014.

Photo Caption 4 (mock-up photo)



The 10-minute musical fireworks display will kick off when the clock strikes midnight. The numerals "2018" will be displayed on the façade of the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre when fireworks are launched.

Photo Caption 5



(from left) Mr Anthony Lau, HKTB Executive Director; Dr Peter Lam, HKTB Chairman; Ms Jiang Yan, Director & Chief Executive Officer of China National Travel Service Group Corporation and Mr Yiu Si Wing, Legislative Council member, officiating at the “CTS Hong Kong New Year Countdown Celebrations” press conference.

Photo Caption 6



(from left) Group photo of Mr Anthony Lau, HKTB Executive Director; Ms Monica Lee-Müller, Managing Director, Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre (Management) Limited; Dr Peter Lam, HKTB Chairman; Ms Jiang Yan, Director & Chief Executive Officer of China National Travel Service Group Corporation and Mr Yiu Si Wing, Legislative Council member.

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