Country Profile: Hong Kong

Hong Kong, a Special Administrative Region (SAR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC) since July 1, 1997, has a high degree of autonomy, except in the areas of defense and foreign policy, and retains its own currency, laws, and border controls. It is composed of three geographic areas: the New Territories, Kowloon Peninsula, and Hong Kong Island. Hong Kong SAR is cosmopolitan and highly developed. Tourist facilities and services are widely available. The Hong Kong SAR Government web site provides Hong Kong Fact Sheets on a comprehensive range of subjects. Read the Department of State Background Notes on Hong Kong for additional information.

COUNTRY OVERVIEW

Country Name:	Hong Kong SAR
Continent:	Asia
Capital City:	Hong Kong
Boundary Countries:	China
Recommended Hospitals in Capital:	
Main Cities:	
Country Size:	1,104.3 sq km
Population:	7.0 million

COUNTRY GENERAL INFORMATION

Language:	Cantonese and English
Currency:	Hong Kong Dollar (HKD)
Predominant Religions:	
National Holidays:	
Economic Status:	Hong Kong is one of the world's most open and dynamic economies. Hong Kong per capita GDP is comparable to other developed countries. In 2008 Hong Kong's real economic growth slipped to 2.5% as a result of the global financial turmoil. External trade, a significant part of Hong Kong's economy, was severely hit as Hong Kong's major trading partners fell into recession in the second half of the year. Domestic demand also slackened amidst declining asset prices and increasing unemployment. The unemployment rate surged to 4.6% in November 2008-January 2009, the highest level since the fourth quarter of 2006. The Hong Kong Government announced it would tap its significant fiscal reserves to fund an economic stimulus package to reinvigorate the economy. The surplus for fiscal year 2008-2009 was estimated at $620.3 million or 0.3% of GDP.
Security:	
US Presence:	**U.S. Consulate General in Hong Kong** 26 Garden Road, Central Hong Kong Tel: (852) 2523-9011
Major Airports:	

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