

The 34th International Travel Expo
第三十四屆香港國際旅遊展

The 15th MICE Travel Expo
第十五屆商務及會獎旅遊展

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Hong Kong panel navigates troubled times

ILEA chapter seasonal launch discusses effects of prolonged protests

EVENT organisers in Hong Kong gathered for a year-end panel discussion and 2020 launch to reflect on a tumultuous six months for the city's hospitality and business event community in a networking evening that featured a mind reader.

It was third-time lucky for the local chapter of the International Live Events Association in attempting to organise its combined Event Industry Outlook and seasonal "kick-off" cocktail at The Hive, in Central.

The event – based on the theme "Navigating through Troubled Times" – had been postponed twice due to tension in the city from ongoing protests that turned violent, including the occupation and subsequent siege of two universities.

No representatives from either side of the ongoing conflict, or the tourism board, were available on the night for mentalist Stuart Palm to probe, but the evening gave event organisers from Hong Kong and Macau an opportunity to gather and offer encouragement during what has been a difficult 2019 for the industry.

Hugo Cheng, F&B director with The Park Lane Hong Kong, a Pullman Hotel, told how the Sars outbreak led to an economic downturn and the hotel industry being among those that had to take precautions. However, in July 2003, when the World Health Organisation declared that the disease had been contained, economic activity began to pick up with an increase in visitors. KS Tong and his team at KS Exhibitions



told how they kept "negative influences" to a minimum with buyers and suppliers happy to meet at a secure location, Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre.

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