



# AUSTRALIA NEEDS SKILLS FACT SHEET

## HONG KONG EXPO

Hong Kong is a bustling east Asian trade centre, the city is a shipping and banking emporium making it a perfect location for an Australia Needs Skills expo.

The Australian Government is looking to attract skilled migrants to the expo and provide an opportunity for Australian employers to recruit skilled workers for their businesses. Skilled workers from Hong Kong can also learn more about living and working in Australia.

The expo may also attract people from neighbouring Guangzhou. Among the largest cities in the country, Guangzhou is the transportation, industrial, financial, and trade centre of South China. It is a special economic development zone and an important trading point for Hong Kong. It has an integrated steel complex, paper mills, a long-established textile industry (silk, cotton, jute, and more recently synthetic fibres) and factories producing tractors, machinery, machine tools, newsprint, refined sugar, small appliances, tires, bicycles, sports equipment, porcelain, cement, and chemicals.

The textile and garment industry is the largest industry in Hong Kong. Other industries include the manufacture of plastics, electrical and electronic equipment, appliances, metal products, rubber products, chemicals, watches, jewellery, and toys. Shipbuilding, machine tooling, and other heavy industries are also important. As the city has grown, large sections of nearby Victoria Harbour have been filled in to provide space for office buildings, a convention centre, and highways.

Although about 98 per cent of the people in Hong Kong are ethnic Chinese, Hong Kong has substantial British and American communities. Cantonese and English are widely spoken. About 90 per cent of the population practise traditional Chinese religions and some 10 per cent are Christian.

In 2004-05, the top 10 occupations in demand in Australia, behind IT professionals, filled by migrants from Hong Kong, were:

1. Accountants
2. Civil engineers
3. Physiotherapists
4. Nurses
5. Radiographers
6. Chemical engineers
7. Medical practitioners
8. Mechanical engineers
9. Pharmacists
10. Motor mechanics