

新聞稿

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

New U.S. diplomatic effort engages Hong Kong kids in shared China-U.S. history

The U.S. Consulate General, Hong Kong-America Center and Hong Kong Maritime Museum are pioneering a joint educational initiative utilizing the popularity of on-line gaming so youngsters can experience the shared history and long-standing commercial ties between the two superpowers

Hong Kong, 4 June, 2019 – The U.S. Consulate General is supporting an exciting new diplomatic initiative aimed at 10-14 year-old school students in Hong Kong, which combines education, on-line gaming and local maritime history.

A new on-line game called the *Canton Trade Game* is being developed by one of Hong Kong's leading coding academies on the highly popular *Roblox* gaming platform. It creates a virtual replica of the early trading relationship between the U.S. and China, in the early 19th century.

The game, designed by local STEM academy, Koding Kingdom, is now in an advanced stage of development and students are regularly invited to test the game and make their own contributions to the final version. It is already proving very popular with youngsters and allows them to create 'game assets' such as ships, money and crews before voyaging from the east coast of the United States in sailing ships. They must evade pirates and storms to engage in trade with Chinese merchants in old Canton (Guangzhou). Players can compete with friends on-line to see who can create the most successful trading company. Very few of the thirty or so school students involved in the game development know they are part of an innovative diplomatic initiative, but they learn about trade and the shared commercial history of the U.S. and China, while having fun.

The game was the brainchild of the Hong Kong-America Center, and the U.S. Consulate General obtained resources for the project from a special U.S. Department of State fund to encourage innovation in public diplomacy. The fund was created in 2010 to quickly identify and publicize innovative ideas by supporting pilot programs carried out by U.S. embassies and consulates around the world. The Hong Kong project was one of only 29 in the world to be approved in 2018 and is the only one currently being run in China.

The Hong Kong Maritime Museum have been on hand to verify the game's historical authenticity and host student testing sessions, but the emphasis has been on learning history by gaming.

The Game's official launch is scheduled for end of 2019 and might also become a permanent interactive exhibit at the Hong Kong Maritime Museum.

"We are excited about bringing to life our shared history with Hong Kong through this fun and innovative project. This collaboration is a great way to celebrate the 175th anniversary our Consulate General in Hong Kong," says U.S. Consul General Kurt Tong.

"Young people often think things happening now are for the first time. Not so. There are old stories repeating themselves, with slight variations, in current events, including in the Sino American trade disputes under negotiation today," says Glenn Shive, Executive Director of the Hong Kong America Centre.

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“This is proving to be a highly successful way of engaging youngsters in an important part of the shared maritime history of the U.S. and China,” says Richard Wesley, Director of the Hong Kong Maritime Museum.

“Popular digital gaming platforms like Minecraft and Roblox are powerful education tools and can easily be adapted to engage and fully immerse young people in historical subjects.” says John Huen, Founder and Chief Executive of Koding Kingdom.

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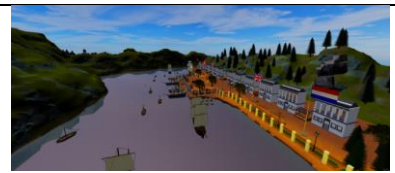
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School students work together at the beta testing event for the new *Canton Trade Game*.



Students and parents test out the *Canton Trade Game* at the HKMM.



Scenery of the *Canton Trade Game*.



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About U.S. Consulate General Hong Kong & Macau

The U.S. Consulate General serves the needs of the many U.S. visitors to and residents in Hong Kong and Macau and promotes the diplomatic goals of the United States government in the Hong Kong and Macau Special Administrative Regions (SARs) of China. Hong Kong plays a unique role as a financial gateway to Mainland China and is home to close to 1,400 subsidiaries of U.S. companies, many of which serve as the regional headquarters or office. Hong Kong is among the largest U.S. export markets for goods and agricultural products, and the United States is one of the top foreign investors in Macau. The U.S. Consulate also supports educational, cultural, and professional exchanges between the United States and both SARs.

About Hong Kong-America Center

The HKAC is a consortium of universities in Hong Kong that promotes education exchange between Hong Kong and the U.S., and between China and the U.S. over the bridge of Hong Kong. We assist with the administration of the Fulbright program in HK, with support from both U.S. and HK governments, and local donors such as the Lee Hysan Foundation. We send and receive student interns and study tours going in both directions. Other programs focus on innovations in teaching and learning. Our third program area is climate change education, supported by the Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF). Our office is based at the Chinese University in Shatin, but we serve students in all universities. The Center also works with schools to design experiential learning to promote international skills and attitudes in HK students. Contact us at www.hk-ac.org.hk.

About Koding Kingdom

Koding Kingdom is a trusted kids coding partner for both parents and academics. Since our inception in 2013, we have provided coding courses for over 10,000 students from the ages 4-18 through our centers, partnering schools and affiliated organizations.

As the largest professional kids coding teaching institution in Hong Kong, our aim is to provide children with a set of skills that will prepare them for a successful future. We have a comprehensive curriculum designed to enhance digital literacy, develop interdisciplinary skills and stimulate different types of intelligence.

About Hong Kong Maritime Museum

The Hong Kong Maritime Museum (HKMM), an independent, non-profit registered charity supported by the shipping industry, the business community, private individuals and the Hong Kong SAR Government, is a vibrant cultural institution dedicated to preserving, collecting and displaying objects that tell the story about trade and maritime in Hong Kong and the Pearl River Delta, and the vital roles that ships and the sea play in our past, present and future. The Museum displays nearly 1,000 objects in 15 galleries and attracts more than 130,000 visitors annually. HKMM also houses various event spaces, resource centre, roof-top social enterprise café, and a gift shop. For more information, please visit www.hkmaritimemuseum.org.

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