

Photo Competition Regulations

1. Organizer

These regulations apply to the Photo Competition (“the Competition”) organized by **the Consulate General of Belgium in Hong Kong** (“the Organizer”).

2. Eligibility

- The Competition is open to individuals aged **18 years** and above.
- Employees, contractors, and immediate family members of the Organizer may **not participate**.

3. Theme

Participants must submit photographs related to the Competition’s theme:

Historical ties between Belgium and Hong Kong.

Entries that do not correspond to the theme may be disqualified.

4. Submission Requirements

- Each participant may submit up to **10** photographs.
- Photographs must be submitted in **JPEG/PNG/TIFF**.
- Images may be in color or black-and-white.
- Basic editing (brightness, contrast, cropping, color correction) is allowed. Heavy manipulation, AI-generated images, or composites are **not allowed**.
- Each submission must include:
 - Participant’s full name
 - Title of the photograph
 - Brief description
 - Contact information

5. Submission Method & Deadline

- Submissions must be sent via **email to hongkong@diplobel.fed.be**
- Deadline: **Friday 1st May 2026, 12am (HKT)**
- Late submissions will not be accepted.

6. Judging Criteria

Photographs will be judged based on:

1. Relevance to the theme
2. Technical quality
3. Composition and visual impact

Judging will be conducted by a panel appointed by the Organizer. The judges' decisions are final.

7. Prizes

The Organizer will award the following prizes:

- **1st Prize:** 2 tickets for the Exclusive Diner organised at the Grand Hyatt, Hong Kong on Thursday 19th November as part of the Belgian Days 2026 (value: HKD 4000) OR A gastronomic lunch for 2 people at the restaurant l'Horizon in Chaumont-Gistoux in Belgium, prepared for you by chef Alexandre Ciriello – valid in autumn 2026 (value: EUR 450).
- **2nd Prize:** A private concert at your home, during autumn 2026, by one of the Belgian Days artists. (value: HKD 2500)
- **3rd Prize:** A basket filled with souvenirs and delicacies from Belgium, delivered at your doorstep – valid for any address in Hong Kong SAR or Belgium. (value: HKD 1500)

Prizes are non-transferable and cannot be exchanged for cash unless otherwise stated.

We hope to present the most outstanding photographs from this competition in a special exhibition organized during the Belgian Days 2026.

8. Rights & Usage

By entering the Competition, participants grant the Organizer a **non-exclusive, royalty-free, worldwide license** to:

- Display submitted photographs on the Organizer's website and social media
- Use the images for promotional and educational materials related to the Competition
- Exhibit winning photographs at events or publications organized by the Organizer

Participants retain full copyright over their work.

This license is granted explicitly for promotion of the Competition and related activities only, in accordance with GDPR principles of purpose limitation and data minimization.

Participants may withdraw this license at any time by contacting the Organizer. However, withdrawal does not affect materials already published before the withdrawal date.

9. Consent & Ethical Requirements

- Entries must not depict illegal, violent, discriminatory, or otherwise inappropriate content.
- The Organizer reserves the right to disqualify entries that violate ethical standards.

The Organizer processes personal data under the following lawful bases:

- **Article 6(1)(b)** GDPR — performance of a contract (competition participation)
- **Article 6(1)(a)** GDPR — consent, for use of photographs and personal data in promotional materials

The Organizer may collect:

- Name
- Contact information (email, telephone if provided)
- Submitted photographs (which may include personal data or identifiable individuals)
- Consent forms where applicable

Data will be stored securely on the server of the consulate general of Belgium in Hong Kong. Only authorized personnel will have access. Personal data will be retained for **2 years** after competition completion, then deleted unless otherwise required by law.

Under GDPR, participants have the right to:

- Access their personal data
- Request correction or deletion
- Withdraw consent at any time
- Object to processing
- Request restriction of processing
- Request data portability
- Lodge a complaint with a supervisory authority

Requests can be made via **mail to hongkong@diplobel.fed.be**

10. Disqualification

The Organizer may disqualify any entry that:

- Contains plagiarized material
- Violates copyright or privacy laws

- Does not meet the technical or thematic requirements
- Includes AI-generated or manipulated content beyond accepted limits

11. Announcement of Winners

Winners will be announced on **Friday May 29th** via **the Facebook page of the Consulate General of Belgium in Hong Kong**

Winners will also be contacted directly through the provided contact information.

12. Liability

The Organizer is not responsible for:

- Lost, corrupted, or incorrectly submitted files
- Technical issues affecting submissions
- Any infringement committed by participants

Participants assume full responsibility for their submissions.

13. Acceptance of Regulations

Participation in the Competition constitutes full acceptance of these Regulations.