

## **RECENT ACTIVITIES**

### **HKETO Director attends Chinese New Year galas**

Director of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (Toronto) (HKETO), Ms Emily Mo, attended the annual Chinese New Year Gala Dinners hosted by the Confederation of Greater Toronto Chinese Business Association and Hong Kong-Canada Business Association (Greater Toronto Area Section) on February 1 and February 8 respectively. She also attended a series of Chinese New Year celebration events organised by various business associations in Ontario, including Toronto Chinese Business Association, Markham, Richmond Hill & Vaughan Chinese Business Association and Association of Chinese Canadian Entrepreneurs in the week of January 27.

On these occasions, Ms Mo promoted the unparalleled business advantages of Hong Kong and the city's role as the gateway for Canadian companies to enter the markets of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area and Asia. With the strong fundamentals underpinning Hong Kong's economy, she is confident that Hong Kong will soon step out of the challenges the city is facing.

Ms Mo updated the guests about Hong Kong's accomplishments in 2019, including that the city remained as the world's top market for IPO funds raised, the freest economy and the second most competitive economy.

Ms Mo also introduced the "Hong Kong Week" event to be hosted by HKETO in June, which comprises a series of activities, such as a contemporary cheongsam touring exhibition, business reception, Hong Kong themed dramas, and dragon boat activities, to promote Hong Kong's business advantages and vibrant art and cultural scene.

Ms Mo looks forward to continuing the work with these Canadian Chinese business associations to promote closer Canada-Hong Kong relations.

Click the following links for details.

<https://www.hketotoronto.gov.hk/newsroom/hketo-director-attends-cgtcbas-chinese-new-year-gala-dinner-2.html>

<https://www.hketoronto.gov.hk/newsroom/hketo-director-attends-chinese-new-year-celebrations-in-ontario.html>

## **HONG KONG NEWS**

### **Compulsory Quarantine of Certain Persons Arriving at Hong Kong Regulation and Prevention and Control of Disease (Disclosure of Information) Regulation gazetted**

A Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government spokesman said on February 9 that the implementation of a 14-day compulsory quarantine on people entering Hong Kong from the Mainland starting February 8, 0.00am has been smooth in general, with the cross-boundary flow of people between Hong Kong and the Mainland reduced significantly as expected and that the requirement for people issued with quarantine orders to stay at home will help reduce the risk of the spread of the virus in the community.

The Government published in the Gazette on February 7 the Compulsory Quarantine of Certain Persons Arriving at Hong Kong Regulation and the Prevention and Control of Disease (Disclosure of Information) Regulation to combat the spread of the novel coronavirus infection with resolute and stringent measures, so as to reduce cross-boundary people flow.

The specific measures include:

#### ***Compulsory Quarantine of Certain Persons Arriving at Hong Kong Regulation***

All persons having stayed in the Mainland for any period during the 14 days preceding arrival in Hong Kong, regardless of nationality and travel documents used, will be subject to compulsory quarantine for 14 days.

To ensure sufficient supply of supplies and food in Hong Kong, the exemption is applicable to the following four categories of people from the quarantine requirement:

- supplying goods or services required for the normal operation of Hong Kong or the daily needs of the people in Hong Kong;
- for governmental operation;
- for the protection of the safety or health of the people of Hong Kong or the handling of public health emergency; or
- cases of exceptional circumstance that serves the public interest of Hong Kong.

Contravening the quarantine requirement would be a criminal offence. Offenders are subject to a maximum fine of HK\$25,000 and imprisonment for six months.

### ***Prevention and Control of Disease (Disclosure of Information) Regulation***

A health officer will be empowered to require a person to disclose or furnish any information relevant to the handling of a state of the public health emergency, such as travel history. The relevant power is extended to other medical practitioners who would have encountered with a person involved in such public health emergency. It would be a criminal offence for any person to provide false or misleading information to the health officer/medical practitioners concerned. The maximum penalty for failure to comply is a fine of HK\$10,000 and imprisonment for six months.

The spokesman said the smooth implementation of compulsory quarantine and the substantially reduced cross-boundary passenger flow can help reduce the risk of transmission and spread of the disease in the community. However, it is also important for the public to beware of social distancing. The spokesman appeals to members of the public to stay united to win together the battle against the disease. In particular, members of the public should stay at home as much as possible and refrain from going to crowded places and pay attention to personal hygiene.

Click the following links for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202002/09/P2020020900715.htm>

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202002/07/P2020020700674.htm>

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202002/07/P2020020700775.htm>

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202002/07/P2020020700667.htm>

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202002/05/P2020020500793.htm>

### **HKSAR Government further reduces cross-boundary people flow**

In response to the situation of the novel coronavirus infection and having considered the advice of experts, the HKSAR Government on February 3 announced that cross-boundary passengers by land or by sea will be converged to Shenzhen Bay and Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge control points, while passenger clearance services at four control points - Lo Wu, Lok Ma Chau Spur Line, Lok Ma Chau and Macau Ferry Terminal - will be suspended.

The spokesman said that, from a public health point of view, the spread of the virus occurs regardless of race, nationality and residency status. It is necessary to reduce as much as possible the flow of people across the border, which should cover Hong Kong residents, Mainland residents and other travellers.

Hong Kong has a robust, multi-faceted and well-tested system that is open and transparent to tackle the current situation. The Government takes the view that suspending air passenger services to Hong Kong or drastic measures such as restrictions against entry of Hong Kong residents are unjustified and unwarranted, and it will maintain close contact with various governments on the issue.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202002/04/P2020020400025.htm>

### **Updates on Novel Coronavirus Infection in Hong Kong**

The HKSAR Government has implemented a comprehensive and co-ordinated approach to contain the spread of the novel coronavirus and protect the health of the community while maintaining Hong Kong's position as an international city and aviation hub. The Government response is guided by three key principles: responding promptly, staying alert to the situation, and working in an open and transparent manner. A fact sheet on "HKSAR Government's Multi-pronged Response to the Novel Coronavirus" has been produced. Please click the link below for details:

[https://www.brandhk.gov.hk/uploads/brandhk/files/factsheets/Hong\\_Kong\\_Theme\\_s/Songsheet-coronavirus\\_\(Feb%2010\)\\_E.pdf](https://www.brandhk.gov.hk/uploads/brandhk/files/factsheets/Hong_Kong_Theme_s/Songsheet-coronavirus_(Feb%2010)_E.pdf)

In addition, an information page “Latest Situation of Novel Coronavirus Infection in Hong Kong” has also been added to the official website of HKETO. Information in the page includes the latest local situation, reported cases, preventive measures etc.

You are invited to browse the page by clicking the banner on top of HKETO website or the following link:

<https://www.chp.gov.hk/en/features/102465.html>

### **Government launches enhanced Technology Talent Admission Scheme**

The Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC) on January 30 launched the enhancement measures of the Technology Talent Admission Scheme (TechTAS) as announced in the Chief Executive’s 2019 Policy Address. Eligible companies are welcome to apply for the enhanced scheme.

When it was launched, TechTAS covered tenants and incubatees of the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation and Hong Kong Cyberport Management Company Limited which conducted research and development (R&D) activities in seven technology areas, i.e. artificial intelligence, biotechnology, cybersecurity, data analytics, financial technologies, material science and robotics. With the enhancements, TechTAS now covers six new technology areas, namely 5G communications, digital entertainment, green technology, integrated circuit design, the Internet of Things and microelectronics, and its coverage is extended to all companies conducting R&D activities in the aforementioned 13 technology areas in Hong Kong.

The enhancements of TechTAS will allow more companies to benefit from the certainty and streamlined procedures offered by the scheme, thus expediting the admission of technology talent from different parts of the world to undertake R&D work in Hong Kong, encouraging cross-fertilisation of local and non-local talent and contributing to Hong Kong’s innovation and technology development.

More information is available on the TechTAS website ([techtas.itc.gov.hk](https://techtas.itc.gov.hk)).

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202001/30/P2020012900480.htm>

### **Enhanced funding arrangements for Enterprise Support Scheme announced**

ITC on January 31 announced the arrangements for disbursing partial funding in advance for projects funded by the Enterprise Support Scheme (ESS). The arrangements aim to ease the cash-flow requirements faced by small and medium-sized enterprises and start-ups when they conduct the funded projects.

Under the new arrangements, the ITC will disburse an advance payment of up to 50 per cent of the matching fund approved under the Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF) for the first six months or up to HK\$500,000, whichever is lower, to the recipient company upon request and on the condition that the recipient company has contributed the same amount on a matching basis. The remaining payment will be disbursed in instalments upon the recipient company's fulfilment of the obligations stated in the agreement.

The ESS aims to encourage more private sector investment in R&D through funding support for enterprises to conduct in-house R&D work. Funding of up to HK\$10 million will be provided on a dollar-for-dollar matching basis for each approved R&D project with a duration of about two years in general.

Further information is available on the ITF website ([www.itf.gov.hk](http://www.itf.gov.hk)).

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202001/31/P2020012900573.htm>

In addition, ITF is inviting applications for the 2020 Innovation and Technology Support Programme from February 10 until May 8 (Hong Kong time).

The Programme provides funding support for two types of R&D projects undertaken by designated local public research institutes and R&D centres, namely Platform and Seed projects. Platform projects are applied R&D projects that are industry-oriented and have potential for commercialisation, while Seed projects are exploratory and forward-looking projects.

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Further information is available on the ITF website ([www.itf.gov.hk](http://www.itf.gov.hk)).

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202002/10/P2020020700497.htm>

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[www.InvestHK.gov.hk](http://www.InvestHK.gov.hk)

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