

Hong Kong e-News Bulletin

May 20, 2020



SPECIAL NOTICE

In response to the local government's appeal for concerted efforts to contain the spread of COVID-19, the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (Toronto) (HKETO) has been closed temporarily until further notice. Users may continue to reach us via the following channels:

Toronto

Phone: (416) 924-5544 or

Email: info@hketotoronto.gov.hk

Vancouver

Phone: (604) 331-1300 or

Email: info_vancouver@hketotoronto.gov.hk

For urgent assistance outside office hours, Hong Kong residents in Canada may call the 24-hour hotline of the Assistance to Hong Kong Residents Unit of the Immigration Department in Hong Kong at +852 1868. In the event that Hong Kong residents who need assistance are not able to call the hotline due to the service settings of their telecommunication services operators or other reasons, they may try adding "0000" after entering "1868". Hong Kong residents in Canada in need of consular assistance may contact the Chinese Embassy or Consulate Offices in your province (<http://ca.china-embassy.org/eng/zlqj/>).

UPCOMING ACTIVITY

Director of the HKETO, Ms Emily Mo, will speak at the webinar titled "Think Asia, think Hong Kong in the new normal" hosted by the Hong Kong-Canada Business Association (HKCBA) (Toronto Section) at 12pm ET on May 28, 2020.

She will join other panellists from the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, HKCBA and a Canadian company to discuss the latest development of the Hong Kong platform and advantages for Canadian companies to leverage the online and offline marketplaces and services in Canada and Hong Kong, and how Canadian companies can pursue business diversification to Asia through Hong Kong. Audience will be able to learn the experience of how a Canadian entrepreneur turns the challenges into opportunities in Hong Kong.

The webinar is free-of-charge. Pre-registration can be made at

<https://toronto.hkcba.com/events/webinar-think-asia-think-hong-kong-in-the-new-normal>

RECENT ACTIVITY

HKETO Director joins Canada-Asia business online discussion session

Director of the HKETO, Ms Emily Mo, joined the “Canada-Asia Business Update: Preparing Canadian Companies for the New Normal” webinar hosted by Gowling WLG as a panellist on May 7.

Speaking at the webinar, Ms Mo first updated participants on the COVID-19 situation in Hong Kong. She noted that the comprehensive and coordinated control measures implemented by the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government has successfully contained the spread of COVID-19 while maintaining the city’s position as an international city and aviation hub.

On the business front, Ms Mo remarked that the HKSAR Government has launched a package of measures which costs over CAD \$48 billion (HK\$287.5 billion) to preserve the vitality of the economy.

Besides, Hong Kong’s resilience and innovation have been helping the city to withstand and overcome the COVID-19 challenges.

Ms Mo encouraged Canadian companies to get prepared to expand their businesses to Asia through Hong Kong.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.hketotoronto.gov.hk/newsroom/hketo-director-joins-canada-asia-business-online-discussion-session.html>

HONG KONG NEWS

Government announces latest social distancing measures under Prevention and Control of Disease Ordinance

The HKSAR Government gazetted on May 19 directions and amendments under the Prevention and Control of Disease (Requirements and Directions) (Business and Premises) Regulation (Cap. 599F) and the Prevention and Control of Disease (Prohibition on Group Gathering) Regulation (Cap. 599G) to extend the social distancing measures in relation to catering businesses, scheduled premises and group gatherings in public places, as well as make appropriate adjustments to these measures having regard to the latest situation.

The Food and Health Bureau of the HKSAR Government said that in light of the more

stabilised situation in Hong Kong in terms of the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the recent weeks, the “suppress and lift” strategy adopted to contain the epidemic and the impending school resumption, some of the social distancing measures can be lifted or maintained subject to refinements to meet the operational needs of some businesses, and reviewed further depending on the future development of the epidemic situation. Updates are as follows:

(1) The scope of existing exempted group gatherings will be expanded to cover religious gatherings during which no food or drink is served (except food or drink as part of a religious ritual). The exempted religious activities must be held at premises constructed as or converted into a place of worship or premises regularly used as a place of worship. Measures must be in place for restricting the number of participants in the activity to not more than 50 per cent of the number of persons that may normally be accommodated on the premises as a place of worship.

(2) The prohibition of group gatherings with more than eight persons in public places under Cap. 599G will remain in force for 14 days until June 4, 2020.

In addition, the Government will take this opportunity to make adjustments to the directions under Cap. 599F, the latest relevant social distancing measures are as follows:

(3) For catering business, the requirements currently in force will be extended for 14 days i.e. effective from May 22 to June 4, 2020. Any mahjong-tin kau playing facility provided therein must comply with the applicable directions applicable to mahjong-tin kau premises.

(4) For scheduled premises such as fitness centres and place of public entertainment which may continue to operate, key adjustments will be made to the conditions currently in force effective from May 22 to June 4, 2020 for a period of 14 days.

(5) The following scheduled premises will be required to remain closed from May 22 to 28, 2020 for a period of seven days:

- (a) bathhouse;
- (b) party room;
- (c) club or night club; and
- (d) karaoke establishment.

The above measures have balanced the oft-competing factors of public health protection, economic impact and social acceptance. They would help maintain social distancing while allowing room for gradual resumption of social activities. The Government will continue to closely monitor the epidemic situation and review the

various measures in place from time to time with a view to suitably adjusting them taking into account all relevant factors.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202005/19/P2020051900837.htm>

First tranche of wage subsidy under the Employment Support Scheme to receive application from May 25

The HKSAR Government announced earlier the launch of the Employment Support Scheme (ESS) of HK\$81 billion to provide time-limited financial support to employers to retain their employees, hence maintaining the strength for Hong Kong. The Chief Executive of the HKSAR, Mrs Carrie Lam, announced on May 12 the first tranche of the ESS will receive application from May 25.

Mrs Lam said the government has largely finalised the details of the ESS. The first tranche of the ESS will provide wage subsidies for three months from June to August 2020. The application will commence on May 25 and last for three weeks.

Mrs Lam at the same time announced four improvement measures in respect of the ESS:

- (1) Extending the coverage of the ESS to employees aged 65 or above under the Mandatory Provident Fund (MPF) schemes;
- (2) Extending the coverage of the ESS to two MPF Industry Schemes (tailor-made for the construction industry and catering industry) which were previously excluded;
- (3) Relaxing the eligibility of self-employed persons (SEPs) that they should have made MPF contributions between January 1, 2019 and March 31, 2020; and
- (4) The amount of wage subsidies provided by the HKSAR Government will be calculated based on 50 per cent of the actual wages paid to each employee in the “specified month” at the choice of the employers based on the situation of the enterprises, with a wage cap at HK\$18,000 per month.

Mrs Lam stressed that the measures under the Anti-epidemic Fund should fulfill the five principles including simple to understand, easy to access, quick to disburse funds, sufficiently broad-based benefitting large numbers of individuals and businesses, and paving the way for economic recovery.

Hong Kong e-News Bulletin

May 20, 2020



Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202005/12/P2020051200764.htm>

In addition, the HKSAR Government announced on May 18 and 19 respectively the mechanism for the following categories of persons to apply for exemption from compulsory quarantine arrangement:

- (1) The University of Hong Kong - Shenzhen Hospital and Hong Kong enterprises providing medical or dental services in the Mainland;
- (2) Persons engaged in technological research and development co-operation-related activities in the Mainland, Macao or Taiwan;
- (3) Enterprises with provision of construction-related professional services in Mainland;
- (4) Certified public accountants (practising), partners, directors or employees of registered practice units of the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants who are required to travel to the Mainland to conduct audit work for companies listed in Hong Kong with Mainland operations; and
- (5) Legal practitioners, arbitrators or mediators providing necessary professional services in arbitration, mediation or litigation proceedings.

The Compulsory Quarantine of Certain Persons Arriving at Hong Kong (Amendment) (No.2) Regulation 2020 commenced on April 29, 2020, amending the Compulsory Quarantine of Certain Persons Arriving at Hong Kong Regulation (Cap. 599C) (amended Regulation). The expiry date of the amended Regulation is June 7, 2020. In accordance with section 4(1)(b) in the amended Regulation, the Chief Secretary for Administration of the HKSAR Government may designate any person or category of persons for exemption from the compulsory quarantine arrangement if he is satisfied that the person's or category of persons' travelling is necessary for purposes relating to the provision of professional services in the interest of Hong Kong's economic development.

An exempted person must only travel to and stay in the areas/cities where the services are provided for the purpose of provision of the intended services as approved, and must take every precautionary measure to ensure personal hygiene and avoid unnecessary social contact. After returning to Hong Kong, the exempted person will be subject to medical surveillance arranged by the Department of Health for a period of 14 days. The person will be required to wear masks and check body temperature daily, and report to the Department of Health on any discomfort.

Click the following links for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202005/18/P2020051800825.htm>

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202005/18/P2020051800724.htm>

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202005/18/P2020051800599.htm>

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202005/18/P2020051800541.htm>

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202005/19/P2020051900564.htm>

Government to distribute free reusable masks to all citizens

The Innovation and Technology Bureau (ITB) of the HKSAR Government announced on May 5 that the Government will distribute free reusable CuMask+™ to all Hong Kong citizens.

The CuMask+™ is developed by the Hong Kong Research Institute of Textiles and Apparel (HKRITA). It is a six-layer mask with special ergonomic features. Two of its layers contain copper which is capable of immobilising bacteria, common viruses and other harmful substances. The mask complies with the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) F2100 Level 1 Standard in terms of particle filtration efficiency (PFE), bacterial filtration efficiency (BFE), resistance to penetration by synthetic blood, flammability and pressure resistance, and is reusable for up to 60 washes.

Except for babies and infants, all holders of valid Hong Kong identity cards are eligible to obtain a CuMask+™. Citizens simply need to register on the CuMask+™ website (qmask.gov.hk) from May 6 to June 6. Each registration can cater for a maximum of six persons. In general, upon successful registration, the CuMask+™ will be delivered to the door by Hongkong Post within two weeks.

ITB updated on May 7 that the CuMask+™ online registration system had received over 720 000 registrations, covering two million registrants in total on the first day of registration. The response is overwhelming. It is encouraging to see support for local invention.

The HKRITA is a non-profit-making R&D centre fully subsidised by the Government. Most of their R&D projects are funded by the Innovation and Technology Fund. The HKRITA oversees the CuMask+™ project on a non-profit-making basis. All expenses will be reimbursed to the HKRITA on the basis of actual spending.

Click the following links for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202005/05/P2020050500692.htm>

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202005/10/P2020050900752.htm>

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202005/07/P2020050700642.htm>

In addition, the HKSAR Government has signed funding agreements of 19 production lines under the Local Mask Production Subsidy Scheme, and nine of them have obtained certification certifying that the masks produced comply with the ASTM F2100

Level 1 standard or above. These production lines will gradually commence supplying masks to the Government starting from late May.

The Commerce and Economic Development Bureau said on May 19 that the Government estimates that, when all the 20 subsidised production lines under the Scheme are in full production, every month they would collectively supply 34.25 million masks to the Government and a further 7.65 million to the local market.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202005/19/P2020051900391.htm>

CE's response to thematic study report by Independent Police Complaints Council

The Independent Police Complaints Council (IPCC) chaired by Mr Anthony Neoh, SC, submitted to the Chief Executive, Mrs Carrie Lam, its “Thematic Study Report on the Public Order Events arising from the Fugitive Offenders Bill since June 2019 and the Police Actions in Response” on May 15. The report is also available for viewing by members of the public.

Mrs Lam said that the IPCC has examined a large volume of information and has made detailed and objective representation of facts in the report. The report is comprehensive, objective, fact-based and weighty. Overall speaking, the HKSAR Government accepts the 52 recommendations proposed by the IPCC. She has requested the Secretary for Security to set up a task force and to supervise it personally to study and follow up on every recommendation, as well as to consult the IPCC when necessary and report to her on a regular basis.

Mrs Lam stressed that the rule of law is the cornerstone of Hong Kong's success, and one of the indispensable elements of the rule of law is that members of the public have to abide by the law. The opening remarks (Chinese only) of the Chief Executive at the press conference on the thematic study report are available at the following link:

www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202005/15/P2020051500787.htm

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202005/15/P2020051500786.htm>

UK design studio opens first international outlet in Hong Kong

UK design studio, Bompas and Parr, announced on May 12 that it has opened its first international studio in Hong Kong to capitalise on the city's dynamic cultural and creative industries to expand its business in Asia.

The new Hong Kong studio is situated in the Central business district, a convenient location for the company to connect to existing clients and reach out to new ones. The company has realised projects across Asia, notably in Hong Kong, Singapore, Seoul, Kuala Lumpur, Beijing, Taipei, Tokyo and Bangkok.

Founded in 2007, Bompas and Parr is a London-based design studio, operating globally, to experiment, develop, produce, and install projects, artworks and exhibitions. It works with commercial brands, artistic institutions, private clients and governments to deliver emotionally compelling experiences to a wide variety of audiences.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202005/12/P2020051200316.htm>

Hong Kong Immigration Department wins 2020 Skytrax Award for Best Airport Immigration Service

The Hong Kong Immigration Department (ImmD) has been voted the winner of the 2020 best airport immigration service award in the World Passenger Survey commissioned by Skytrax, an international specialist research agent of the air transport industry. This is the fourth time for the ImmD to receive the award after winning it in 2015, 2016 and 2019.

The award is an appreciation and recognition from international travellers and the professionalism and dedication of frontline staff.

Skytrax, a world-renowned specialist research agent and advisor of the air transport industry based in the UK, mainly undertakes qualitative audits and research studies for airports and airlines services across the globe. The survey was conducted between September 2019 and February 2020, covering over 550 airports worldwide, and the survey questionnaires were collected from air passengers of more than 100 nationalities.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202005/11/P2020051100320.htm>

New call-up programme for Hong Kong residents born in 1957 to 1963 and 1970 to 1976 to apply for new smart identity cards

The Hong Kong ImmD announced on May 6 that in light of the more stabilised epidemic situation, the operation of all nine Smart Identity Card Replacement Centres (SIDCCs) under the Territory-wide Identity Card Replacement Exercise (Replacement Exercise) has been fully resumed from May 11, 2020.

To avoid the increased risk of the spread of COVID-19 due to excessive crowding, the ImmD earlier suspended the replacement of Hong Kong identity cards (HKICs) at nine SIDCCs under the Replacement Exercise. To arrange for those persons affected by the service suspension to replace their HKICs in an orderly manner, the Secretary for Security has made an Amendment Order to revise the specified periods for persons born in 1957 to 1963 and 1970 to 1976, and the arrangement for members of the sixth term of District Councils, which are as follows:

Eligible persons	Revised application period
Holders of existing HKICs born in 1957, 1958 or 1959	November 16, 2019 - July 27, 2020
Holders of existing HKICs born in 1960 or 1961, and members of the sixth term of District Councils	February 18 - July 27, 2020
Holders of existing HKICs born in 1962 or 1963	July 28 - September 22, 2020
Holders of existing HKICs born in 1970, 1971 or 1972	September 23 - December 7, 2020
Holders of existing HKICs born in 1973 or 1974	December 8, 2020 - January 28, 2021
Holders of existing HKICs born in 1975 or 1976	January 29 - March 19, 2021

If the call-up programme has to be further adjusted for public health reasons, it will make announcement in advance as far as possible through various channels to inform the public of the latest arrangement.

To reduce crowd gatherings, applicants who have not made appointment bookings previously should do so via the Internet (www.gov.hk/newicbooking), the ImmD mobile application or the 24-hour telephone booking hotline 2121 1234. The ImmD also appeals to applicants to pre-fill the application form when making appointment bookings through the Internet or mobile application to save the waiting time.

For details of the replacement exercise, please visit the website www.smartid.gov.hk or call the ImmD's enquiry hotline at 2824 6111.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202005/06/P2020050600653.htm>

Updates on COVID-19 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

Hong Kong e-News Bulletin

May 20, 2020



community while maintaining Hong Kong's position as an international city and aviation hub.

An information page "Latest Situation of Novel Coronavirus Infection in Hong Kong" has been added to the official website of HKETO. Information in the page includes the latest local situation, reported cases, health tips, travel advice etc.

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

<https://www.coronavirus.gov.hk/eng/index.html>

Hong Kong places as Asia's Art Hub

The Economist, in partnership with the Hong Kong Information Services Department, produced a video entitled "The evolution of Asia's Art Hub" to shed light on how Hong Kong has cemented its place and reputation as the most important hub for contemporary art in Asia. Please click the link below for details.

<https://hkglobalconnections.economist.com/the-evolution-of-asias-art-hub/>

Recruitment of qualified doctors outside Hong Kong

The Hong Kong Department of Health is recruiting qualified doctors outside Hong Kong for the positions of Non-civil Service Contract Doctor (without Full Registration) and Contract Doctor (without Full Registration) (Child Assessment). Applications for the above two posts are accepted all year round. Eligibility requirements are set out in the attached recruitment notices of the Department of Health.

Enquiries can be made to the Department of Health at appts_registry1@dh.gov.hk and online application can be made through the Civil Service Bureau's website at <http://www.csb.gov.hk>. Job numbers are 40221 (Contract Doctor (without Full Registration)) and 40248 (Contract Doctor (without Full Registration) (Child Assessment)).

[Click here to read the details of Contract Doctor \(without full registration\)](#)

[Click here to read the details of Contract Doctor \(without full registration \(Child Assessment\)\)](#)

Hong Kong e-News Bulletin

May 20, 2020



To stay tuned to updates on HKETO and Hong Kong, please follow us at

HKETO Toronto Facebook Page www.facebook.com/TorontoHKETO

HKETO Toronto Twitter Page <https://twitter.com/TorontoHKETO>

Brand Hong Kong Facebook page www.facebook.com/brandhk.isd or

Brand Hong Kong Instagram page www.instagram.com/brandhongkong/

Brand Hong Kong Twitter page https://twitter.com/Brand_HK

This message was sent from the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Toronto, 174 St. George Street, Toronto, ON M5R 2M7.

For enquiries, please contact:

Miss Hilda Chow, Public Relations Officer, at

hilda_chow@hketotoronto.gov.hk or 416-924-5544.

For help setting up your business in Hong Kong, please contact:

Mr. Christopher Chen, Head of Investment Promotion at

christopher_chen@hketotoronto.gov.hk or visit www.InvestHK.gov.hk

You are receiving this e-mail for information only. You may at any time unsubscribe from receiving our communications by contacting us at info@hketotoronto.gov.hk; or, simply click [here](#) to unsubscribe.