

Hong Kong e-News Bulletin

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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) is not receiving walk-in visitors temporarily. You may 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 (<http://ca.china-embassy.org/eng/zlqij/>).

For the latest entry restrictions and quarantine requirements in Hong Kong, please refer to the webpage <https://www.coronavirus.gov.hk/eng/inbound-travel.html> for details.

The "COVID-19 Thematic Website" of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government has been added to the official website of HKETO. 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>

UPCOMING ACTIVITY

FANTASIA International Film Festival virtual screening

FANTASIA International Film Festival 2020 will take place online from August 20 to September 2 this year. In partnership with HKETO, FANTASIA will present six Hong Kong films including:

- Legally Declared Dead (死因無可疑)
- Baby : The Secret Diary of A Mom To Be (BABY 復仇記)
- A Witness out of the Blue (犯罪現場)

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- Chasing Dream (我的拳王男友)
- SPL (殺破狼)
- A Hero Never Dies ([真心英雄](#))

Tickets are on sale now. Please click the following link for details:

<https://fantasiafestival.com/en/>

Information about the six Hong Kong films is available at

<https://fantasiafestival.com/en/program/movies?countryId=581708>

HONG KONG NEWS

HKSAR Government resents double standards and hypocrisy in joint statement by five foreign ministers

A spokesman for the HKSAR Government on August 10 firmly opposed the joint statement by the foreign ministers of Canada, Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom (UK) and the United States (US) in which they made deliberate misrepresentation and told falsehoods marked by brazen contempt for facts regarding the postponement of the Legislation Council (LegCo) General Election due to the severe epidemic, the Returning Officers' decisions on the validity of the nominations for the election made in accordance with the law, and the enactment of the Law of the People's Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (National Security Law).

The Government spokesman remarked that the health and wellbeing of the people is the overriding concern of any responsible government. The HKSAR Government has repeatedly stressed that the postponement of the LegCo General Election in 2020 is entirely based on public health grounds amidst a new wave of the COVID-19 epidemic in the city. The decision to postpone the election is therefore to protect public health and to protect the voting rights of all registered voters.

In fact, many countries, including the UK, New South Wales of Australia, many states of the US, have postponed their elections due to the severe epidemic. In mid-March, New Brunswick of Canada also decided to postpone the municipal elections that were planned for May 2020 to not later than May 2021 to avoid the spread of COVID-19.

It is utterly regretful that the five foreign ministers in their joint statement have criticised the decision made by the HKSAR Government for safeguarding public health and wellbeing of the people, when their own governments were making similar decisions to postpone scheduled elections on similar grounds.

The HKSAR Government reiterated that safeguarding national security through legislation is in line with international practice. Canada, Australia, New Zealand, the UK and the US have all enacted laws to safeguard national security and sovereignty, and formed relevant decision-making and enforcement bodies. The inappropriate comments by the five foreign ministers on the National Security Law smack of political manipulation and double standards. These comments were blatant interference in Hong Kong matters which are internal affairs of the People's Republic of China, and it is a grave violation of basic norms governing international relations. The HKSAR Government strongly opposes the comments.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202008/10/P2020081000737.htm>

LegCo General Election postponed for a year

The HKSAR Government announced on July 31 that, amid the severe COVID-19 epidemic situation, the Chief Executive in Council has decided to postpone the 2020 LegCo General Election, originally scheduled for September 6, 2020, for a year to September 5, 2021, in order to protect public safety and public health as well as ensure elections are conducted openly and fairly.

For this, the Chief Executive in Council has invoked the Emergency Regulations Ordinance (Cap. 241) to make the Emergency (Date of General Election) (Seventh Term of the Legislative Council) Regulation. The Regulation specifies the new election date, brings the current electoral process to an end, and deals with such matters as election expenses and donations.

A Government spokesman said that the epidemic situation has been extremely severe since the outbreak in early July. There is an increasing risk of a major community outbreak that may lead to a collapse of the local public hospital system, which would be a significant public crisis.

The LegCo General Election is massive in scale. A situation with millions of voters casting their votes on the same day will create a very high infection risk. Under the existing regulation to prohibit group gatherings, it would not be possible for candidates to carry out any meaningful rallying activities. Further, a large number of voters are living, working and studying in the Mainland, while many are stranded overseas. These voters will not be able to return to Hong Kong to vote in view of the border control measures. In addition, elderly voters may refrain from voting amid the severe epidemic situation due to their higher infection risk.

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In view of the above factors, if the election is held on September 6 as scheduled, it will be difficult for the election to be a fair and open one. It may also undermine the safety of the voters, the candidates and their supporters as well as the polling staff. Therefore, the HKSAR Government had to make the difficult but necessary decision to postpone the election.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202007/31/P2020073100898.htm>

The Chief Executive, Mrs Carrie Lam, on August 11 expressed her heartfelt gratitude to the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPCSC) for its decision for the sixth-term LegCo of the HKSAR to continue to discharge duties, resolving the problem of a lacuna in the legislature arising from the postponement of the LegCo General Election for a year.

According to the decision made by the NPCSC, the sixth-term LegCo of the HKSAR will continue to discharge its duties for no less than one year until the commencement of the seventh-term LegCo. The decision also stated clearly that the seventh-term LegCo of the HKSAR will have a term of four years after it has been formed in accordance with the law.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202008/11/P2020081100677.htm>

Mrs Carrie Lam met with the President of the LegCo, Mr Andrew Leung, to relay to him the decision of the Standing Committee of the NPCSC for the sixth-term LegCo to continue to discharge duties and exchange initial views on the resumption of operation of the LegCo on August 11. She will also meet the current-term LegCo members in batches gradually to listen to their views.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202008/11/P2020081100686.htm>

HKSAR Government calls so-called US sanctions shameless and despicable

The HKSAR Government on August 8 vehemently criticised the so-called "sanctions" by the United States (US) Government against 11 officials of the Central People's Government and the HKSAR Government as shameless and despicable.

A HKSAR Government spokesman said that imposed under the so-called Office of Foreign Assets Control's Specially Designated Nationals List of the US Department of the Treasury, the latest US Government measure represents blatant and barbaric interference in the internal affairs of the People's Republic of China (PRC), using Hong

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Kong as a pawn in its ploy to create troubles in China-US relationship, out of self-serving interests of some US politicians.

The spokesman further remarked that the White House had passed successive laws and pronounced executive order targeting the HKSAR under the pretext of human rights, democracy and autonomy. It should be obvious to and resented by many people, locally and around the world, that the US acts are displaying double standards and hypocrisy, let alone blatantly breaching international laws and basic norms governing international relations.

National security is a matter of utmost importance to any state, including the US. Laws governing national security are matters for the central government, regardless of whether it is a unitary or federal system of government. Enforcement of national security is likewise under the purview of the central authorities. The National Security Law enacted on June 30, 2020 by the National People's Congress Standing Committee fulfils all these general features and in recognition of the HKSAR's special status, authorises the HKSAR Government to be the main enforcement party. Article 4 of the National Security Law specifies that human rights shall be respected and protected in safeguarding national security in the HKSAR and the rights and freedoms enjoyed by Hong Kong residents under the Basic Law as well as the provisions in international covenants as applied to Hong Kong shall be protected in accordance with the law.

The legal provisions, coupled with the rule of law and an independent judiciary in the HKSAR, are clearly ignored by relevant US officials who have chosen to make unsubstantiated and sweeping comments to serve their own interest.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202008/08/P2020080800317.htm>

In response to the "sanctions" against 11 officials of the Central People's Government and the HKSAR Government, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the PRC announced on August 10 sanctions against 11 persons from the US. The HKSAR Government said that it fully supports the Central Government's counter-measure against the US and will facilitate its enforcement in accordance with the law.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202008/10/P2020081000669.htm>

HKSAR Government strongly objects to US' new rule on origin marking of Hong Kong products

The HKSAR Government strongly objects to the notice published on August 11 on the US Federal Register by the Customs and Border Protection in relation to origin marking of Hong Kong products.

A Government spokesman said, "The new rule on origin marking of Hong Kong products originates from the US President's Executive Order issued on July 14 and reflects that the US ignores Hong Kong's status as a separate member of the World Trade Organization (WTO). The rule may not be consistent with WTO rules, and it will also not help protect consumers' interest. In fact, it will only cause confusion and affect the interests of all parties, including the US."

According to the notice, the new rule will be implemented after 45 days. The HKSAR Government is clarifying certain important implementation details with the US authorities through the Economic and Trade Office in Washington in order to decide on the way forward. The HKSAR Government will maintain liaison with and provide clarification to the trade. The HKSAR Government will also carefully consider if the US' measures contravene WTO rules, and does not rule out the possibility of taking action under WTO rules if necessary to protect Hong Kong's interests.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202008/11/P2020081100732.htm>

Government extends social distancing measures

The HKSAR Government gazetted on August 10 the directions and specifications under the Prevention and Control of Disease (Requirements and Directions) (Business and Premises) Regulation (Cap. 599F), the Prevention and Control of Disease (Prohibition on Group Gathering) Regulation (Cap. 599G) and the Prevention and Control of Disease (Wearing of Mask) Regulation (Cap. 599I) to extend the social distancing measures currently in place. The above directions and specifications will take effect at 0.00am on August 12 for a period of seven days till August 18.

The HKSAR Government has all along adopted the "suppress and lift" strategy in order to quickly adjust epidemic control measures having regard to the development of the epidemic situation. In view of the latest public health risk assessment, it is necessary to extend social distancing measures, including requiring the cessation of dine-in services at catering businesses during specific periods, continuing to require closure of scheduled premises, as well as requiring any person to wear mask at all times when entering or being present in any public place.

Please click the following link for details about the requirements and restrictions under the latest directions:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202008/10/P2020081000774.htm>

Specifications under the Prevention and Control of Disease (Regulation of Cross-boundary Conveyances and Travellers) Regulation gazetted

In view of the development and severity of the COVID-19 epidemic situation in Hong Kong, the HKSAR Government earlier made the Prevention and Control of Disease (Regulation of Cross-boundary Conveyances and Travellers) Regulation (Cap. 599H) and the Secretary for Food and Health (SFH) subsequently gazetted specifications under Cap. 599H to impose conditions based on public health grounds on travellers who have visited specified high-risk places within 14 days before arrival in Hong Kong in order to reduce the health risk they may bring to Hong Kong, thereby further strengthening epidemic control efforts.

Currently, a traveller who, on the day on which the traveller boarded a civil aviation aircraft that arrives at, or is about to arrive at Hong Kong (specified aircraft), or during the 14 days before that day, has stayed in Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, South Africa and the United States of America, must provide documents relating to a nucleic acid test for COVID-19 and room reservation in a hotel in Hong Kong.

The relevant specifications came into effect on August 10, 2020, and will remain effective until further notice.

All travellers to Hong Kong should note that they will be mandated to wait for their test results at a designated location after their deep throat saliva samples are collected for conducting testing for COVID-19 at Department of Health's Temporary Specimen Collection Centre.

If their test results are negative, they will be allowed to go to the hotel for which they made the reservation to continue the 14-day compulsory quarantine until completion. If their results are positive, the travellers will be transferred to hospital for isolation and treatment.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202008/07/P2020080700851.htm>

Members of the public to pay attention to Guangdong Province's and Macao's adjustment of prevention and control measures for persons travelling from Hong Kong

Regarding the announcement made by the Guangdong (GD) Provincial Government and the Macao Special Administrative Region (Macao SAR) Government on August 5 and August 6 respectively concerning the COVID-19 nucleic acid test requirement for persons entering Guangdong or Macao from Hong Kong, the HKSAR Government urged members of the public to ensure that they can meet the requirement when travelling to both places to avoid hiccups when crossing the border.

The GD Provincial Government announced that, starting from August 7, save for persons who received prior approval by GD for performing essential official and business duties and cross-boundary goods vehicle drivers who would continue be subjected to the prevailing policies applicable to them, all other persons who are entering GD via the Shenzhen Bay and Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge control points would be required to present a valid proof of a negative COVID-19 nucleic acid test result issued by one of the testing institutions recognised by the HKSAR Government. The negative test result would be valid within 24 hours from issue time of the report.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202008/05/P2020080500718.htm>

Apart from GD Province, the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Centre of Macao also announced that, starting from August 7, all persons entering Macao are required to present a valid proof of a negative COVID-19 nucleic acid test result issued by one of the testing institutions recognised by the HKSAR Government. The negative test result would be valid within 24 hours. They are also required to undergo the compulsory quarantine of 14 days after entry into Macao.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202008/06/P2020080600769.htm>

HKSAR Government explains work plan of Support Team from Central Government

A spokesman for the HKSAR Government on August 7 said the Mainland nucleic acid test support team (Support Team) formed in response to the request of the HKSAR Government has commenced work to assist in enhancing virus testing capacity, establishing temporary hospital as well as expanding the scale of the Community Treatment Facilities.

The HKSAR Government expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Central Government for its

proactive support to Hong Kong's anti-epidemic work and provision of needed assistance. The support team was co-ordinated by the Central Government and formed by the National Health Commission. The relevant departments of the HKSAR will work closely with members of the support team to formulate a concrete work plan which includes:

- a) Enhancing Hong Kong's virus testing capacity by introducing Targeted Group Testing Scheme and Community Testing Scheme. The government stressed that personal information provided by members of the public who voluntarily participate in testing will be encrypted and stored in the servers of the Government's data centres. They will not be transferred beyond the boundary of Hong Kong.
- b) Establishing temporary treatment facilities, including a temporary hospital, and community Treatment Facilities (mobile field hospitals).

The HKSAR Government is actively pursuing the above work. With the Central Government's support and the community's joint efforts in fighting the virus, it is hoped that the spread of epidemic will be curbed as soon as possible.

Click the following links for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202008/07/P2020080700861.htm>

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202008/02/P2020080200666.htm>

InvestHK unveils Global Fast Track Programme to boost fintech development with Hong Kong's proven market resilience and fintech opportunities

Invest Hong Kong on August 10 unveiled the Global Fast Track Programme, a business-driven programme within Hong Kong Fintech Week (November 2 to 6), to help local and global fintech enterprises leverage Hong Kong's proven resilience and fintech opportunities to scale business and accelerate innovation.

The Fast Track programme plugs fintech enterprises directly into Hong Kong's diverse ecosystem of world-class regulators, business leaders, corporates and investors to propel their ventures across Hong Kong and elsewhere in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area and Asia where digitisation and fintech adoption are surging.

Fast Track is now inviting companies from nine key fintech verticals (trade finance, capital markets, retail banking, commercial banking, insurance, regtech, wealthtech, payments and enterprise resource planning) to submit applications from now till August 31. About 10 companies per vertical with the most outstanding ideas will showcase their solutions for an opportunity to join an extensive tailored B2B matchmaking programme with the Corporate Champions and investors to explore further deals and investment partnerships.

Over 10 selected finalists will then pitch virtually at the FintechHK Global Final for extra prizes at this year's Hong Kong Fintech Week.

Hong Kong Fintech Week is Asia's global financial technology event, having attracted over 12 000 of fintech entrepreneurs, investors, regulators and visionaries from over 60 economies in 2019. This year, it will take place virtually in Hong Kong from November 2 to 6. The week-long event will feature multi-track conferences with prominent speakers, the FintechHK Global Final, the Global Fast Track Programme, exhibitions, deal floors, networking events, demo shows and more.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202008/10/P2020080700494.htm>

Candidates interested in applying for AO, EOII, ATOII and TOII posts reminded to apply for Common Recruitment Examination and Basic Law Test

The HKSAR Government announced on August 6 that the next round of recruitment exercises for the posts of Administrative Officer (AO), Executive Officer II (EOII), Assistant Trade Officer II (ATOII) and Transport Officer II (TOII) will begin in September.

As part of the entry requirements, applicants for these posts will need to have obtained:

- a) Level 2 in the two language papers (Use of Chinese and Use of English) in the Common Recruitment Examination (CRE) or equivalent results; and
- b) a Pass in the Aptitude Test paper in the CRE.

In addition, candidates' performance in the Basic Law Test (Degree/Professional Grades) (BLT) will be one of the considerations to assess their suitability.

Prospective applicants for civil service posts at degree or professional level can apply from August 7 to sit the CRE and BLT in Hong Kong tentatively scheduled to be held on October 10 and 17, or another date within October if necessary.

For the convenience of those studying or residing outside Hong Kong, the CRE and BLT is also tentatively scheduled to be held on December 5 in seven other cities, namely Beijing, London, San Francisco, New York, Toronto, Vancouver and Sydney. The call for applications for taking the examination outside Hong Kong will be made later this year. Persons applying to sit the examination in Hong Kong will not be allowed to apply again for sitting the examination outside Hong Kong.

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In light of the evolving situation of COVID-19, the Civil Service Bureau will adjust arrangements of the examination if necessary. Examinations to be held outside Hong Kong are subject to regulations and prevailing measures in that particular city and they may be deferred or cancelled in light of situation of COVID-19. Candidates who wish to take the coming CRE and BLT should refer to the website of Civil Service Bureau at www.csb.gov.hk/eng/cre.html for any updates of the examination arrangements.

Click the following links for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202008/06/P2020080600372.htm>

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202008/06/P2020080600245.htm>

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