

Hong Kong e-News Bulletin

August 26, 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) 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

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>

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.

RECENT ACTIVITY

Hong Kong films featured at Fantasia International Film Festival

The Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (Toronto) (HKETO) supported the virtual screening of six Hong Kong films at the 24th Fantasia International Film Festival held from August 20 to September 2, 2020. This year the Fantasia Festival is presenting its program online for the benefit of film lovers in Canada.

Speaking before the virtual screening of the Hong Kong films, Director of HKETO, Ms Emily Mo, noted Hong Kong has long been a favourite location for moviemakers around the globe and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government has been very supportive of the industry development.

The six Hong Kong films presented at the Festival this year included "The Secret Diary of a Mom to Be" (BABY 復仇記), "A Witness Out of the Blue" (犯罪現場), "Legally Declared Dead" (死因無可疑), "SPL (aka Kill zone)" (殺破狼), "A Hero Never Dies" (真心英雄), and "Chasing Dream" (我的拳王男友). More information about the Festival is available in Fantasia's official website <https://fantasiafestival.com/en/program>

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The information about the Hong Kong films is available at <https://fantasiafestival.com/en/program/movies?countryId=581708>.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.hketoronto.gov.hk/newsroom/hong-kong-films-featured-at-fantasia-international-film-festival-2020.html>

UPCOMING ACTIVITY

Vancouver International Film Festival

The 39th Vancouver International Film Festival will be held virtually from September 24 to October 7. Two Hong Kong films will be screened at the Festival, namely "Twilight Kiss", formerly known as "Suk Suk" (叔.叔), directed by Ray Yeung, and "My Prince Edward" (金都) directed by Norris Wong Yee Lam and starring Stephy Tang (鄧麗欣).

The screenings of both films at the Festival are sponsored by HKETO. The Festival's programme will be geo-blocked to British Columbia.

Please visit the official website of the Festival for details:

<https://viff.org/Online/default.asp>

HONG KONG NEWS

CE appeals to public to fight virus together with confidence

The Chief Executive of the HKSAR, Mrs Carrie Lam, led six Principal Officials to hold a press conference on August 21 to review the development of the COVID-19 epidemic situation in Hong Kong, the anti-epidemic strategy and the future work priorities of the HKSAR Government. She also appealed to the public to fight against the disease with concerted efforts.

Mrs Lam said that the HKSAR Government has strived to prevent imported cases by reducing the cross-boundary flow of people and prevent the spread in the community by maintaining social distancing. It has also adopted the "suppress and lift" strategy taking into account the epidemic situation.

The Government's follow-up work will include completing the virus tests and follow-up work for the clusters involving the container terminal and foreign domestic helper dormitories, reviewing the test results of the expanded targeted groups, discussing with the relevant sectors arrangements for resumption of business in an orderly manner and

preparing for the launch of the large-scale Universal Community Testing Programme on September 1 to provide a one-off free virus testing service for members of the public.

The large-scale Universal Community Testing Programme is made possible with the support from the Central Government, which will be responsible for the laboratory test services required. Except for children under 6 years old and people not suitable for the test, all holders of valid Hong Kong identity cards or birth certificates who are asymptomatic can participate in the programme on a voluntary basis. All testing will be conducted in Hong Kong. Specimens will not be transported outside Hong Kong and they will be destroyed after testing.

For further details about the Universal Community Testing Programme, please click the link below:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202008/21/P2020082100711.htm>

Mrs Lam also said that given the anti-epidemic experience over the past eight months, Hong Kong has strengthened its capability in various areas including testing, tracing the sources of infections, quarantine facilities, treatment facilities, production of protective equipment and application of technology, and that Hong Kong is much better prepared to cope with another potential wave of the epidemic down the road. The HKSAR Government has also proactively followed up on the procurement of vaccines.

Looking ahead, the HKSAR Government will launch the work to rebuild the economy immediately, including leveraging the health code system to resume normal contact between people in Hong Kong and in the Mainland, exploring the setting up of “travel bubbles” and working in other areas such as commerce and trade, finance, innovation and technology, public works projects and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. The HKSAR Government will also strive to support the sectors hardest hit by the epidemic, including continuing to implement the second tranche of the Employment Support Scheme and other support programmes as well as rolling out the third round of the Anti-epidemic Fund.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202008/21/P2020082100923.htm>

Government gazetted latest legislative amendments and specifications under Prevention and Control of Disease Ordinance and announced latest immigration control measures

In view of the COVID-19 epidemic situation in Hong Kong, the HKSAR Government on August 21 gazetted the latest legislative amendments and specifications under the

Prevention and Control of Disease Ordinance (Cap. 599) to more effectively combat the epidemic.

The HKSAR Government has amended the Prevention and Control of Disease (Disclosure of Information) Regulation (Cap. 599D) to empower authorised officers to require a person to provide or disclose information relevant to the handling of the public health emergency in order to strengthen the work of tracing close contacts of confirmed cases.

Given the epidemic situation locally and in places outside Hong Kong and the need to reduce cross-boundary movement of people and impose compulsory quarantine in the near future, the Government has also extended the expiry date of the Compulsory Quarantine of Certain Persons Arriving at Hong Kong Regulation (Cap. 599C) by one month to October 7, 2020.

The Government also gazetted with effect from August 28 until further notice the latest specifications under the Prevention and Control of Disease (Regulation of Cross-boundary Conveyances and Travellers) Regulation (Cap. 599H) to add Ethiopia as one of the very high-risk places whereby travellers who have stayed in specified place(s) (i.e. Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, South Africa and the United States of America) within 14 days before boarding the flight arriving in Hong Kong would be required to bring along relevant documentary proof, undergo a test for the virus, and make a hotel reservation for the purpose of quarantine.

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 the Department of Health (DH)'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/202008/21/P2020082100940.htm>

In addition, the HKSAR Government gazetted on August 25 amendments to the Prevention and Control of Disease (Wearing of Mask) Regulation (Cap. 599I) to expressly provide that engaging in any strenuous physical activity, including sports activity, in public places (except indoor areas) would be a reasonable excuse for not wearing a mask. The relevant amendment will take effect from August 28.

In the meantime, the Government has been closely monitoring the latest development of the epidemic situation in Hong Kong and has decided to, unless the epidemic situation takes a sudden downturn, issue the new directions and specifications before this Friday to relax social distancing measures in a gradual and orderly manner. These directions and specifications would take effect from 0.00am August 28, 2020. The social distancing measures 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) currently in place (see press release issued on August 17) will be extended until August 27.

You can click the following link for details about the detailed requirements and restrictions under the latest directions and specifications:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202008/25/P2020082500904.htm>

Ensuring a stable supply of personal protective equipment

The HKSAR Government on August 21 issued a report on the concerted efforts of the Government and the community in ensuring a stable supply of personal protective equipment (PPE) in the fight against COVID-19.

The report summarises the multi-pronged approach to strengthen government procurement, efforts devoted to supporting frontline medical staff, ways to enhance local PPE supply, and efforts made to meet urgent community needs in terms of PPE.

The report has been submitted to the Legislative Council. The HKSAR Government stressed that it will continue to use PPE prudently, share the items with the needy in the community and help all to fight the virus together.

Please click below for details of the report:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202008/21/P2020082100682.htm>

HKSAR Government strongly reprimands unilateral decision by the US on suspension or termination of bilateral agreements

The HKSAR Government issued a severe reprimand on August 20 against the United States (US) administration for its unilateral decision to suspend or terminate three bilateral agreements with the HKSAR.

As part of the so-called “ongoing implementation measures” following the US President’s Executive Order issued on July 14, the US Department of State announced on August 19 the suspension or termination of three bilateral agreements signed

between the HKSAR Government and US Government, namely the Agreement on the Surrender of Fugitive Offenders, the Transfer of Sentenced Persons Agreement and the Agreement concerning Tax Exemptions from the Income Derived from the International Operation of Ship.

The HKSAR Government said that these agreements are bilateral agreements negotiated in good faith to benefit the peoples and businesses of both sides in areas of law and order, shipping and tax treatment. The US' unilateral decision reflects its disrespect for bilateralism and multilateralism under the current administration and should be condemned by the international community. The HKSAR Government strongly objects to and deplores the US' action, which is widely seen as a move to create troubles in China-US relationship, using Hong Kong as a pawn.

The spokesman of the HKSAR Government pointed out that the HKSAR is an inalienable part of the People's Republic of China and a local administrative region which enjoys a high degree of autonomy under "One Country, Two Systems" and comes directly under the Central People's Government (CPG). The Basic Law confers special status to Hong Kong under "One Country, Two Systems". The Government urged the US administration to immediately stop interfering in HKSAR's internal affairs, and retract its baseless allegations against The Law of the People's Republic of China (PRC) on Safeguarding National Security in the HKSAR (National Security Law).

Click the following links for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202008/20/P2020082000265.htm>

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202008/20/P2020082000769.htm>

Implementation of agreement on surrender of fugitive offenders between HKSAR and Germany suspended and commencement of agreement on surrender of fugitive offenders between HKSAR and France shelved

In accordance with the instruction of the CPG, the HKSAR Government issued notices to the German Consulate General Hong Kong and the Consulate General of France in Hong Kong and Macau respectively on August 12 to suspend the implementation of the Agreement between the Government of the HKSAR of the PRC and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany for the Surrender of Fugitive Offenders (SFO) and to shelve the Agreement between the Government of the HKSAR of the PRC and the Government of the French Republic Concerning Surrender of Accused or Convicted Persons which is pending entry into force.

A Government spokesman said that it is an international practice to safeguard national security through enactment of laws. Germany and France have put in place relevant legislation, but have suspended the implementation of the SFO agreement with the

HKSAR and halted the ratification of the relevant agreement with the HKSAR respectively on a unilateral basis, citing the enactment of the National Security Law among the excuses. The HKSAR Government firmly objects to the moves of Germany and France. The two countries have politicised juridical co-operation, thereby damaging the basis of juridical co-operation between the HKSAR and Germany and France.

For this reason, in accordance with the instruction of the CPG, the HKSAR Government has suspended the implementation of the SFO agreement between the HKSAR and Germany and shelved the SFO agreement between the HKSAR and France.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202008/12/P2020081200545.htm>

Hong Kong and Indonesia hold joint webinar to foster bilateral partnerships

The Commerce and Economic Development Bureau of the HKSAR Government and the Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia in Hong Kong jointly held a webinar entitled Riding Ups and Downs: Hong Kong-Indonesia Partnership on August 18 to strengthen partnerships in trade, investment, professional services and technology. A major agenda item of the webinar was exploring the business opportunities of the Mainland's overseas Economic and Trade Cooperation Zones (ETCZs) in Indonesia for interested Hong Kong businesses.

The Chief Executive of the HKSAR, Mrs Carrie Lam, delivered a welcoming speech at the webinar. Highlighting that digital innovation has helped Hong Kong contain the spread of the virus and, in doing so, minimise community disruption, Mrs Lam said the HKSAR Government launched in June a business-promotion platform featuring applications for testing, contact tracing, e-health, e-learning, e-commerce, e-communications and other smart innovations, and that these are open for sharing with overseas partners, including those from Indonesia.

The Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Mr Edward Yau, delivered introductory remarks at the webinar. He stressed that Hong Kong is an attractive location for Indonesian companies to expand to the Mainland of China and elsewhere in the Asia-Pacific region, and he looked forward to even closer collaboration. Indonesian investors can establish businesses in Hong Kong to take full advantage of the preferential treatment and most favourable conditions under the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement to tap the business opportunities on the Mainland, especially in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area.

A panel discussion session entitled "Discovering New Partnership Opportunities" and a presentation on Indonesia's ETCZs also featured in the webinar. With more than 900

business leaders and professionals from both Hong Kong and Indonesia registered, the webinar concluded with closing remarks given by Mr Yau and the Consul General of Indonesia in Hong Kong, Mr Ricky Suhendar.

Click the following links for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202008/18/P2020081800679.htm>

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202008/18/P2020081800661.htm>

HK-Macao tax arrangement in force

The HKSAR Government announced on August 20 that the Comprehensive Avoidance of Double Taxation Arrangement (CDTA) with Macao signed in November 2019 has entered into force after the completion of the relevant approval procedures. The CDTA will be in effect in Hong Kong in respect of taxes on income derived for any year of assessment beginning on or after April 1, 2021.

Macao was the 19th largest trading partner of Hong Kong in 2019. The CDTA will bring about a greater degree of certainty on tax liabilities for those who engage in cross-boundary business activities, and will help promote bilateral trade and investment activities.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202008/20/P2020082000455.htm>

CE launches Policy Address consultation session

The public consultation exercise for the 2020 Policy Address was launched on August 18. The Chief Executive of the HKSAR, Mrs Carrie Lam, on August 24 attended the first consultation session, held via video conferencing, to listen to the views of stakeholders of the aviation, maritime and logistics sectors on the upcoming Policy Address. More than 20 stakeholders participated online, consisting of Legislative Council members and representatives of trade organisations, local aviation and maritime companies, and enterprises of the relevant industries.

Mrs Lam stressed that the HKSAR Government is committed to maintaining Hong Kong's status as an international aviation hub, an international maritime centre and a regional logistics hub, and that she would consider in full numerous valuable views raised by the stakeholders on related issues while she formulates the Policy Address.

Mrs Lam will continue to hold the rest of the 11 theme-based consultation sessions via video conferencing in the month ahead. Areas to be covered range from people's

livelihoods, finance, economy, innovation and technology, education, land and housing to medical and health services, sports, arts and culture and sustainable development.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202008/24/P2020082400779.htm>

Video series on 30th anniversary of promulgation of Basic Law rolls out

To celebrate the 30th anniversary of promulgation of the Basic Law and enhance the public's understanding of the Basic Law provisions, the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) of the HKSAR Government on August 22 rolled out a video series on the 30th anniversary of the promulgation of the Basic Law.

The video series on the 30th anniversary of the promulgation of the Basic Law features:

- (1) a comprehensive short film for the 30th Anniversary of the Promulgation of the Basic Law; and
- (2) six thematic videos focusing on different topics, namely
 - (i) "Origin of the Basic Law";
 - (ii) "Drafting and Consultation";
 - (iii) "Rights and Freedom";
 - (iv) "Rule of Law";
 - (v) "International Financial Centre"; and
 - (vi) "Looking Ahead".

The CMAB spokesman said that the video series reviews the guidelines of "one country, two systems" and the origin of the Basic Law, examines the safeguard of institutions under the Basic Law, and analyses the ways that the Basic Law enables the HKSAR to preserve its strengths and maintain its prosperity and stability, and its citizens to enjoy their pleasant livings in some 20 years since the return to the motherland.

The videos had been uploaded to the CMAB's webpage (www.cmab.gov.hk), the thematic webpage of the 30th anniversary of the promulgation of the Basic Law (www.basiclaw.gov.hk/en/anniversary30/activities.html), and the Facebook page of the CMAB (www.facebook.com/cmab.gov.hk).

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202008/22/P2020082200367.htm>

Recruitment of qualified doctors outside Hong Kong

DH in Hong Kong 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 \(Child Assessment\)\)](#)

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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/

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