

## Hong Kong e-News Bulletin

September 9, 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](mailto:info@hketotoronto.gov.hk)

#### Vancouver

Phone: (604) 331-1300 or

Email: [info\\_vancouver@hketotoronto.gov.hk](mailto: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.

### HKETO JOB VACANCY

#### Deputy Head, Investment Promotion

Applications are invited for the position of Deputy Head, Investment Promotion at the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Toronto (HKETO). Reporting to the Head of Investment Promotion, the Deputy Head will be responsible for identifying, attracting and supporting companies to set up or expand in Hong Kong by engaging in strategic planning and execution of investment promotion activities, visits to top level executives of leading companies and providing assistance to potential investors in Canada and markets covered by HKETO.

Applicants are invited to send a covering letter with full curriculum vitae in English, and copies of academic qualification certificates/transcripts and available references from previous employment to 174 St. George Street, Toronto, ON, Canada M5R 2M7 (by post), or [info@hketotoronto.gov.hk](mailto:info@hketotoronto.gov.hk) (by email) on or before September 22, 2020 (Toronto time).

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.hketotoronto.gov.hk/assets/pdf/jd/JA-2020-08-26.pdf>

### RECENT ACTIVITY

#### **CHASING DREAM won a jury award for best actor at Fantasia International Film Festival**

Actor Mr Jacky Heung (向佐) won the Best Actor Award for his performance in the Hong Kong movie “CHASING DREAM” (我的拳王男友) at the Fantasia International Film Festival 2020.

Regarded as the “Tiger in CHASING DREAM” by the Fantasia jury, Mr Heung is recognized for his exceptionally demanding physicality, heart-pounding special skills, dynamic and compelling emotion and the absolutely beautiful embodiment of a flawed but timeless hero.

Click the following link for details.

<https://filmpulse.net/fantasia-2020-award-winners-announced/>

### 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.

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

#### **Government continues to relax social distancing measures in a gradual and orderly manner**

The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government gazetted on September 8 amendments, 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)

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Regulation (Cap. 599I) to continue to relax social distancing measures in a gradual and orderly manner. The relevant measures will take effect at 0.00am on September 11 for a period of seven days till September 17.

Under the measures of the new phase of relaxation starting from September 11, Hong Kong will relax the number of persons allowed in group gatherings in public places from two to four; increase the number of persons allowed to be seated together at one table to four in catering business premises; re-open the sports premises which have not been allowed to open under the last two phases in order to provide more opportunities for the general public to exercise to maintain physical and mental health so that they will be fit to continue to combat the epidemic; and re-open some entertainment premises where the infection risks can be considerably reduced through enhanced prevention and control measures in order to allow more social and economic activities to resume.

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

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202009/08/P2020090800764.htm>

In addition, the HKSAR Government has decided to extend the Universal Community Testing Programme (UCTP) to September 14 after reviewing the data and experience from the operation of the community testing centres as well as the public's demand for the testing service. A total of 122 community testing centres across all of the 18 districts will continue to provide the testing service to members of the public who can make online appointments for testing. 65 centres will cease operation after September 11.

To cut the transmission chain of COVID-19 in the community, the HKSAR Government launched the UCTP on September 1 to provide a one-off free virus testing service for all citizens so as to identify asymptomatic COVID-19 patients as early as possible and to achieve the target of early identification, early isolation and early treatment.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202009/09/P2020090900639.htm>

### **Government to join COVID-19 vaccine Global Access Facility**

The HKSAR Government on September 4 announced that it had submitted the expression of interest to participate in the COVID-19 vaccine Global Access Facility (COVAX Facility), being part of Hong Kong's two-pronged strategy for procurement of vaccines. The COVAX Facility, co-led by the Vaccine Alliance (Gavi), the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations and the World Health Organization, aims to foster research and development (R&D) as well as production of COVID-19 vaccines, to

ensure fair and equitable distribution of vaccines to places around the world and to protect the most vulnerable populations. The aim is to have the vaccines delivered to the participating countries/economies by end 2021.

In view that the COVAX Facility would only be able to serve a proportion of Hong Kong's population and the vaccines may only be delivered to Hong Kong by end 2021, the HKSAR Government will pursue additional supplies through Advance Purchase Agreements with individual vaccine developers. To this end, the Department of Health is trying to learn more about the situation of R&D as well as preparation for production of vaccines in other places (including the Mainland), so as to facilitate study and discussion by the scientific committees.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202009/04/P2020090400833.htm>

### **SCED co-chairs video conference with ASEAN economic ministers to further co-operation**

The Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development of the HKSAR Government, Mr Edward Yau, co-chaired via video conference the Fourth Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Economic Ministers - Hong Kong, China Consultations with the Minister of Industry and Trade of Vietnam, Mr Tran Tuan Anh on August 28.

At the meeting, economic ministers from the 10 ASEAN Member States (AMS) and Hong Kong exchanged views on a response to the economic impact of the pandemic, discussed possible areas for co-operation and collaboration, and took stock of the implementation of the ASEAN-HKC Free Trade Agreement (AHKFTA) and the ASEAN-HKC Investment Agreement (AHKIA).

Mr Yau said that the AHKFTA and the AHKIA serve as solid platforms for closer economic co-operation and collaboration between AMS and Hong Kong, noting that parts of the Agreements relating to eight out of 10 AMS have come into force. He looked forward to the full implementation of both Agreements early so as to take the co-operation to the next level.

During the meeting, Mr Yau also reiterated Hong Kong's eagerness to pursue deeper regional economic integration in the region through joining the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, and he called on all AMS to continue to render their full support for Hong Kong's early accession.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202008/28/P2020082800212.htm>

### **Hong Kong and Serbia enter into tax pact**

The Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury, Mr Christopher Hui, on behalf of the HKSAR Government, on August 27 signed a comprehensive avoidance of double taxation agreement (CDTA) with Serbia, signifying the Government's sustained efforts in expanding Hong Kong's tax treaty network.

This CDTA is the 44th such agreement that Hong Kong has concluded. It sets out the allocation of taxing rights between the two jurisdictions and will help investors better assess their potential tax liabilities from cross-border economic activities.

Under the Hong Kong-Serbia CDTA, double taxation will be avoided in that any tax paid in Serbia by Hong Kong companies in accordance with the CDTA will be allowed as a credit against the tax payable in Hong Kong on the same income, subject to the provisions of the tax laws of Hong Kong. Likewise, for Serbian companies, the tax paid in Hong Kong will be allowed as a deduction from the tax payable on the same income in Serbia.

Moreover, the Hong Kong-Serbia CDTA also provides various tax relief arrangements.

The CDTA will come into force after the completion of ratification procedures by both jurisdictions. Details of the Hong Kong-Serbia CDTA can be found on the Inland Revenue Department's website ([www.ird.gov.hk/eng/pdf/Agreement\\_Serbia\\_HongKong.pdf](http://www.ird.gov.hk/eng/pdf/Agreement_Serbia_HongKong.pdf)).

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202008/28/P2020082700582.htm>

### **New Zealand-based education consultancy opens Hong Kong office**

New Zealand-based education consultancy, Skills International, announced on September 7 that it has opened its Hong Kong office as part of its expansion plans to enhance its presence in Asia.

Skills International offers a wide range of workforce development and vocational education consultancy services as well as education management services. It has built programmes alongside government agencies, training providers and key industry players around the world, from the Asia Pacific region to Africa and North America, often navigating complex environments to find tailor-made solutions for its clients for over 14 years.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202009/07/P2020090100508.htm>

### **SCS encourages university students to join AO grade**

The Secretary for the Civil Service of the HKSAR Government, Mr Patrick Nip, on August 31 met with university students participating in the Administrative Service Summer Internship Programme to learn about their internship experience. He encouraged them to apply for the Administrative Officer (AO) Grade after graduation.

Mr Nip said that the Administrative Service Summer Internship Programme has been conducted for years. This year, the number of placements has increased to a record high of 85, offering more opportunities for university students who wish to pursue an AO career to better understand the work of AOs and get hands-on experience of working in the Government, thereby facilitating their future career planning.

AOs play a key role in the HKSAR Government. They are regularly posted to different bureaux and departments to undertake different areas of work in the Government, including assisting in the formulation of public policies, managing the operations of departments, and co-ordinating and monitoring the implementation of programmes.

The new round of the AO recruitment exercise will commence in mid-September.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202008/31/P2020083100664.htm>

### **Hong Kong battles Covid-19's third wave with local innovations**

South China Morning Post, in partnership with the Hong Kong Information Services Department, created an article "Hong Kong battles Covid-19's third wave with local innovations" to explain how Hong Kong's innovative hi-tech companies have been quick to offer products that are helping people around the world respond to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

Please click the link below for details:

<https://www.scmp.com/presented/tech/innovation/topics/worlds-lab/article/3091225/hong-kong-battles-covid-19s-third-wave>

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Brand Hong Kong Instagram page [www.instagram.com/brandhongkong/](http://www.instagram.com/brandhongkong/)

Brand Hong Kong Twitter page [https://twitter.com/Brand\\_HK](https://twitter.com/Brand_HK)

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