

Hong Kong e-News Bulletin

September 23, 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.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

"Career and Further Education Opportunities in Hong Kong" webinar

HKETO will host two webinars, on September 23 at 5pm (EDT)/2pm (PDT) and September 24 at 5pm (PDT)/8pm (EDT) respectively, to introduce career and further education opportunities in Hong Kong. The webinars will cover the civil service recruitment exercises, as well as various talent admission and scholarship schemes of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government. The content of the two webinars will be the same as the webinars are intended to cater for the different zones across Canada. Below are the registration links:

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_U_rLjTA8RViGXmy_uuGhxQ (for the September 23 webinar)

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_5xbOxxDsRCO4Q22hNDouvg (for the September 24 webinar)

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Vancouver International Film Festival

The 39th Vancouver International Film Festival will be held virtually from September 24 to October 7. HKETO sponsors the screening of two Hong Kong films, 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, at the Festival.

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>

“Travel with a Touch of Business Class” webinar

The Hong Kong-Canada Business Association (Greater Toronto Section) will host a webinar on September 29 to discuss travel between Hong Kong and Canada. Panelists include representatives of Hong Kong Trade Development Council in Toronto, Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTB) in Canada, Cathay Pacific Airways, BCD Travel and GLP Worldwide. The webinar will be moderated by Mr Bob Mowat, editor of Canadian Travel Press, and there will be opening remarks by Ms Emily Mo, Director of HKETO, Mr Dane Cheng, Executive Director of HKTB, Mr Philippe Lacamp, Senior Vice President for Americas of Cathay Pacific Airways.

Please click the following link for details and registration:

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/3115930443606/WN_30qrT_zrQ26631Q4cY5ZfQ

HONG KONG NEWS

Hong Kong once again ranked as world’s freest economy

The HKSAR Government on September 10 welcomed that the Fraser Institute once again ranked Hong Kong as the world’s freest economy in the Economic Freedom of the World 2020 Annual Report. Hong Kong has gained the top rank since the inception of the report. Among the five areas of assessment, Hong Kong was ranked top in “Freedom to Trade Internationally” and “Regulation”.

The Government spokesman said that this is an unambiguous recognition of Hong Kong’s long-standing and steadfast commitment to building a free economy with a level playing field.

As regards the enactment of the National Security Law and relevant enforcement actions mentioned in the Report, the HKSAR Government reiterated that safeguarding national security through legislation is in line with international practice. The National Security Law

does not affect the legitimate rights and freedoms (including the freedoms of speech, of the press, of publication, of association, of assembly, of procession and of demonstration, etc.) of HKSAR residents. The Law is vital in bringing Hong Kong back on track and safeguarding its long-term prosperity and stability. Also, the rule of law is a fundamental core value of Hong Kong and much cherished by the community.

Free market principles have long been essential considerations of the HKSAR Government's policies and the cornerstone of the Hong Kong economy. The HKSAR Government is fully committed to upholding Hong Kong's institutional strengths, including the rule of law and independence of the judiciary, a free trade and investment regime, a simple and low tax system, a favourable business environment and an efficient government. These strengths have provided a consistent and conducive environment for businesses to thrive, and enabled the economy to prosper.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202009/10/P2020091000829.htm>

CS at UN Human Rights Council session stresses National Security Law contributes to Hong Kong's progress

The Chief Secretary for Administration of the HKSAR Government, Mr Matthew Cheung Kin-chung, in his capacity as the deputy head of the China delegation, delivered a video message on the situation in Hong Kong and the National Security Law at the 45th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council held in Geneva, Switzerland on September 15.

Mr Cheung stressed that National Security Law is designed to bolster the successful "one country, two systems" principle, which will continue to drive Hong Kong's progress. He remarked that the Law is vital in bringing Hong Kong back on track and safeguarding the country's sovereignty, security and development interests.

In addition, the National Security Law seeks to preserve Hong Kong's core values, including rights and freedoms, the rule of law and judicial independence, while fundamental rights and freedoms remain intact under the Basic Law and the relevant provisions of international covenants as applied to Hong Kong.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202009/15/P2020091500872.htm>

HKSAR Government formally takes issue with US Government over its new requirement on origin marking

The HKSAR Government on September 16 formally took issue with the United States (US) Government over the new requirement announced by US Customs and Border Protection on August 11 in respect of the origin marking of Hong Kong products, and requested that the requirement be withdrawn immediately.

The Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development of the HKSAR Government, Mr Edward Yau, met the Acting US Consul General to Hong Kong and Macau, Mr Paul Horowitz. Mr Yau said that the US' unilateral and irresponsible attempt to weaken Hong Kong's status as a separate customs territory is highly inappropriate. Such a move also confuses the market and undermines the rules-based multilateral trading system.

As a responsible WTO member, Hong Kong always abides by WTO rules. The action taken by the HKSAR Government is in accordance with the spirit and practices of the WTO. It is an important step before taking action against the US under the WTO framework with a view to resolving the matter first at a bilateral level.

Mr Yau reiterated that pursuant to Articles 116, 151 and 152 of the Basic Law, the HKSAR is a separate customs territory and may, using the name "Hong Kong, China", participate in international organisations such as the WTO and Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation as a separate member, and develop mutually beneficial economic and trade relations with economies around the world. The special status of Hong Kong has been widely recognised and respected by the international community, and Hong Kong's economic and trade status is on par with that of other WTO members.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202009/16/P2020091600513.htm>

Government stays vigilant to cope with next wave of COVID-19 epidemic

The HKSAR Government on September 18 announced its work plan and a range of preparations for preventing and combating the next wave of COVID-19 epidemic.

While the Government will spare no efforts in containing the spread of the disease, it is expected that the fourth wave of the epidemic will arrive this winter and it will likely be more severe than the third wave. The HKSAR Government will take into account experts' advice and collaborate with medical schools of universities to map out the strategies in tackling the next wave of epidemic and to launch a series of preparatory work right away.

The Government will continue to adopt the "suppress and lift" strategy and make

adjustments to the various epidemic control measures in phases in a gradual and orderly manner under a refined and sophisticated approach, having regard to the actual development of the epidemic situation.

Control measures to prevent the spread of disease under the multi-pronged approach include:

- (1) stringent implementation of cross-boundary epidemic control measures;
- (2) comprehensive enhancements to epidemic surveillance and testing;
- (3) enhancements to manpower and efficiency in contact tracing;
- (4) additional backup quarantine and isolation facilities;
- (5) strengthened infection prevention and control measures for residential homes and catering businesses;
- (6) procurement and preparation for administration of vaccine; and
- (7) social distancing measures.

Click the following links for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202009/18/P2020091800996.htm>

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202009/19/P2020091900029.htm>

Meanwhile, the HKSAR Government gazetted 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) on September 16 to continue to relax social distancing measures in a gradual and orderly manner. The relevant measures took effect till September 24.

Taking into account the latest assessment of public health risk, starting from September 18, the Government further extends the hours when dine-in services are allowed at catering business premises to midnight, and re-open those catering premises and scheduled premises which have not been allowed to open under the last three phases owing to the higher infection risk involved. The Government also relaxes the restrictions applicable to some scheduled premises, including those concerning wearing of mask and arrangement of groups in fitness centres and sports premises, 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.

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/202009/16/P2020091500937.htm>

Universal Community Testing Programme concludes successfully

The 14-day Universal Community Testing Programme (UCTP) in Hong Kong concluded successfully on September 14. A total of about 1 719 000 specimens had been tested. Specimens tested with positive COVID-19 result will be referred to the Public Health Laboratory Services Branch of the Department of Health for confirmatory tests. Confirmed cases will be followed up.

A spokesman for the HKSAR Government said that the successful and smooth operation of the UCTP hinged on the full support of the Central Government by establishing quickly a nucleic acid test support team to enhance the testing capability of Hong Kong in a short period of time. More than 570 members of the support team have completed their mission by working zealously days and nights at the temporary air-inflated laboratories.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202009/14/P2020091400853.htm>

Government to distribute second CuMask+™ to residents for free

The Innovation and Technology Bureau (ITB) of the HKSAR Government announced on September 11 that the Government will distribute the second adult-sized CuMask+™ to eligible citizens for free starting from September 14.

For Hong Kong residents who registered online for the CuMask+™ during the period from May 6 to June 6 this year, the Government will deliver the second mask to them if they have given consent during registration to the Government for using their registration data for distribution of other masks, and have had the first mask successfully delivered to them by Hongkong Post.

Upon completion of the second round of delivery from Hongkong Post, citizens who have not collected the CuMask+™ may collect it at the designated collection points in person or authorise others to do so on their behalf starting early October. Details and the exact date will be announced later.

The CuMask+™ was developed by the Hong Kong Research Institute of Textiles and Apparel. Prior to the first round of distribution, the CuMask+™ had undergone testing by an internationally accredited laboratory, which confirms that the mask complies with the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) F2100 Level 1 standard in terms of Particle Filtration Efficiency (PFE), Bacteria Filtration Efficiency (BFE), resistance to penetration by synthetic blood, flammability, and pressure resistance, and is reusable for up to 60 times.

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Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202009/11/P2020091100764.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 Immigration Department (ImmD) of the HKSAR Government announced on September 10 that in order to arrange for persons who were affected by previous service suspension of the Smart Identity Card Replacement Centres (SIDCCs) due to the epidemic to replace their Hong Kong identity cards (HKICs) in an orderly manner, the call-up programme for persons born in 1957 to 1963 and 1970 to 1976 has been revised. For details of the Replacement Exercise and the new arrangements, please visit the website www.smartid.gov.hk.

To avoid the gathering of crowds, the ImmD appeals to applicants to make appointment bookings via the Internet (www.gov.hk/newicbooking), the ImmD mobile application or the 24-hour telephone booking hotline 2121 1234.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202009/10/P2020091000514.htm>

Recruitment for four civil service graduate grades starts

The HKSAR Government started a recruitment exercise on September 19 for appointment as Administrative Officer, Executive Officer II, Assistant Trade Officer II and Transport Officer II in 2020-21. The recruitment is open to all permanent residents of the HKSAR who meet the relevant entry requirements. Current final year undergraduates may also apply. The application period for the above posts closes at 5pm on October 9 (Hong Kong time).

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; 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 in the assessment of their suitability.

Candidates residing or studying outside Hong Kong may take the CRE, BLT, and Joint Administrative Officer/Executive Officer/Trade Officer/Transport Officer Recruitment Examination (JRE) tentatively on December 5 in seven cities namely Beijing, London,

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San Francisco, New York, Toronto, Vancouver and Sydney, subject to the regulations and prevailing measures in that particular city in light of the development of the COVID-19.

Applicants can make online applications directly through the CSB's website at www.csb.gov.hk. Each applicant should submit only one application, either online or by post.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202009/19/P2020091800606.htm>

Recruitment of qualified doctors outside Hong Kong

Department of Health of the HKSAR Government 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 \(without full registration\) \(Child Assessment\)\)](#)

A New Normal: Resilience of a Digital Economy

CNBC, in partnership with the Hong Kong Information Services Department, created an article "A New Normal: Resilience of a Digital Economy" to showcase Hong Kong's digital ecosystem, which helps the city's economy brave the difficulties brought by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Please click the link below for details:

<https://www.cnbc.com/advertorial/a-new-normal-resilience-of-a-digital-economy/>

ICAC updates international communities on anti-corruption efforts

The latest issue of the ICAC's electronic newsletter, *ICAC Post*, has been uploaded on the ICAC corporate website.

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Highlights of this issue are:

- Hong Kong veteran graft-fighter takes on new international role
- Anti-Graft Work Goes Online under COVID-19
- Young children to learn positive values from ICAC picture books
- Global recognition on HK anti-corruption efforts

Click here to read the details:

<https://www.icac.org.hk/icac/post/issue40/en/index.html>

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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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Mr. Christopher Chen, Head of Investment Promotion at

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

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