

Hong Kong e-News Bulletin

October 7, 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 ACTIVITIES

HKETO Director joins "Travel with a Touch of Business Class" webinar

Director of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (Toronto) (HKETO), Ms Emily Mo, attended and spoke at the "Travel with a Touch of Business Class" webinar organised by the Hong Kong-Canada Business Association (Greater Toronto Area Section) on September 29.

In delivering the opening remarks, Ms Mo updated participants that the COVID-19 situation in Hong Kong is largely under control. The theme parks, including the Ocean Park and Hong Kong Disneyland, just opened their doors again to receive local visitors under special COVID-control measures. The HKSAR Government is discussing with several countries to set up travel bubbles and the relevant protocol.

Besides, Ms Mo addressed concerns of general and business travellers regarding Hong Kong's rule of law and freedoms. Ms Mo stressed that the new national security law preserves the security and stability needed for Hong Kong to prosper. The public and

Hong Kong e-News Bulletin

October 7, 2020



travellers can continue to freely engage as usual in international exchanges, academic exchanges and businesses.

Before closing, Ms Mo shared that the world's first and largest virtual event dedicated to cities, the "WRLDCTY" will be held from October 22 to 24. Co-hosted by Hong Kong, Toronto, New York, Los Angeles, London and Singapore, the festival will explore all facets of urban life, stewardship and creativity.

Moderated by Executive Editor for Baxter Travel Media, Mr Robert Mowat, the webinar was also joined by representatives from Hong Kong Trade Development Council, Hong Kong Tourism Board, Cathay Pacific Airways, BCD Travel and GLP Worldwide.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.hketotoronto.gov.hk/newsroom/hketo-director-joins-travel-with-a-touch-of-business-class-webinar.html>

HKETO Director attends MRVCBA's Mid-Autumn Festival reception

Director of the HKETO, Ms Emily Mo, attended the Mid-Autumn Festival reception hosted by the Markham, Richmond Hill and Vaughan Chinese Business Association (MRVCBA) on September 25.

In delivering the opening remarks, Ms Mo congratulated the Association's newly elected President and board members and its success in building a strong business community in the York region over the years.

Ms Mo updated participants on the COVID-19 situation in Hong Kong and emphasised that Hong Kong remains a dynamic global business and financial centre with a high degree of competitiveness and openness. She remarked that the rule of law as well as the various legitimate rights and freedoms are the fundamental core values of Hong Kong and are much cherished by the government and the community.

Ms Mo looked forward to continue working with MRVCBA to promote business relations between Hong Kong and Canada.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.hketotoronto.gov.hk/newsroom/hketo-director-attends-mrvcbas-mid-autumn-festival-reception.html>

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

“Virtual Window of Opportunity for Canadian CleanTech and Green Building Companies” webinar

The Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC) office in Canada will host a webinar on October 8 at 11 am (EDT) to discuss and explore opportunities in the cleantech market of Hong Kong and nearby regions in Asia. Speakers include Director of HKETO and representatives of Export Development Canada, Consulate General of Canada in Hong Kong and Macao, HKTDC and Messe Frankfurt (HK) Ltd. The webinar will also provide details of the Canadian Virtual Cleantech Mission for local companies to showcase their latest solutions and projects at the Canadian Pavilion in the Eco Expo Asia Online Platform organised by HKTDC in November.

You can go to this page for registration: <https://bit.ly/30kOPrM>

“Canadian Commercial Property Market with a Hong Kong Highlight” webinar

The Hong Kong-Canada Business Association (Greater Toronto Area Section) will host on October 13 at 1 pm (EDT) a webinar to examine the current situation and trend of the commercial property markets in Canada and Hong Kong, as businesses are gradually re-opening or making new plans in the face of the ongoing pandemic. Speakers include Director and Head of Investment Promotion of HKETO, as well as representatives of CBRE and RBC.

You can go to this page for registration:

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_45xpKUWWRFiX9KwzoKEFBg

ACCE Virtual Forum

The Association of Chinese Canadian Entrepreneurs (ACCE) will organise its first virtual forum on October 15, from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm to explore business pivots and innovation strategies to prepare businesses and entrepreneurs for the new economy. The forum will also connect participants with leading thinkers, industry influences and business experts through keynote speech, panel discussion and breakout sessions. HKETO is a sponsor of the forum. Director of HKETO, Ms Emily Mo, will give opening remarks at the event, whereas Head of Investment Promotion, Mr Christopher Chen, will host a breakout session to introduce the services and support offered by InvestHK for Canadians companies that are planning to set up in Hong Kong.

You can go to this page for registration:

<https://hopin.to/events/access-acce-virtual-forum>

HONG KONG NEWS

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

In view of the developments of the COVID-19 epidemic situation worldwide and in Hong Kong, the HKSAR Government gazetted the latest specifications under the Prevention and Control of Disease (Regulation of Cross-boundary Conveyances and Travellers) Regulation (Cap. 599H) on September 24 to more effectively combat the epidemic.

The HKSAR Government has earlier introduced Cap. 599H to impose testing and quarantine conditions on travellers coming to Hong Kong from very high-risk places (i.e. Bangladesh, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, South Africa and the United States of America) to reduce the health risk they may bring to Hong Kong. Taking into account the latest public health risk assessment, and the changes and developments of the epidemic situation, the HKSAR Government has published in the Gazette new specifications to maintain the conditions imposed and to include the United Kingdom as a new specified place with effect from October 1 until further notice.

A traveller who, has stayed in the above specified place(s) within 14 days before boarding the flight arriving in Hong Kong would be required to provide relevant COVID-19 test report, documentary proof, and make 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. 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/202009/24/P2020092400560.htm>

In addition, the HKSAR Government gazetted on September 29 the latest legislative amendments, directions and specifications under the Prevention and Control of Disease Ordinance (Cap. 599).

In light of the fact that local epidemic wave has continued to subside, the HKSAR Government has relaxed social distancing measures in phases under a refined and sophisticated approach in a gradual and orderly manner over the past few weeks. The

Government has amended the relevant regulations to enhance the related statutory framework to further reduce non-compliance with relevant requirements and restrictions at catering business and scheduled premises, as well as to extend the expiry date of the regulation related to the wearing of masks.

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/202009/29/P2020092900903.htm>

FS attends APEC Finance Ministers' Meeting 2020

The Financial Secretary of the HKSAR Government, Mr Paul Chan, attended the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Finance Ministers' Meeting (FMM) 2020 on September 25. The event was, for the first time, convened virtually due to the global spread of COVID-19.

Mr Chan addressed the meeting on the challenges and opportunities presented by COVID-19 for the global economy. He also described to the meeting Hong Kong's policy response to the unprecedented crisis and shared his views on prescriptions for economic recovery in the region.

Mr Chan remarked that Hong Kong had adopted a "suppress and lift" strategy. Through the considered deployment of anti-epidemic and social-distancing measures, Hong Kong has succeeded in minimising infections, allowing many economic activities to continue without resorting to a total lockdown. Several relief packages of unprecedented scale have also rolled out to support businesses and to protect employment. The strategy has largely worked to contain socio-economic fallout.

The FMM 2020 was hosted by Malaysia. Participating ministers exchanged views on fiscal and monetary responses to mitigate the impact of COVID-19, and the role of digitalisation in keeping businesses afloat during the pandemic.

The meeting concluded with the issuance of an FMM Statement, in which finance ministers reaffirmed their commitment to continue policy efforts in fostering economic recovery, leveraging the proliferation of digital technologies to drive financial inclusion, and striving for shared prosperity through co-ordinated multilateral responses.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202009/25/P2020092500917.htm>

Government launches iBond

The HKSAR Government announced on October 5 the launch of the 2020 inflation-linked retail bond, or iBond, under the retail part of the Government Bond Programme for subscription by Hong Kong residents.

The target issue size of the iBond will be up to HK\$10 billion. The authorities may consider increasing the issue size to a maximum of HK\$15 billion subject to market response. The bond will have a tenor of three years. Bond holders will be paid interest once every six months at a rate linked to inflation in Hong Kong, subject to a minimum rate of 2 per cent.

The subscription period of the iBond will start from 9am on October 23 and end at 2pm on November 5 (Hong Kong time). The iBond will be issued on November 16 and listed on the Stock Exchange of Hong Kong on the following business day (November 17).

Details of the offering terms and subscription arrangements of the iBond are available at www.hkqb.gov.hk

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202010/05/P2020100500447.htm>

Free Trade Agreement and Investment Agreement between Hong Kong and ASEAN enter into force for Brunei Darussalam

A HKSAR Government spokesman said on September 28 that the part relating to Brunei Darussalam under the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and the Investment Agreement (IA) between Hong Kong and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) will enter into force on October 20.

On trade in goods under the FTA, Brunei Darussalam will progressively reduce and eliminate customs duties on goods originating from Hong Kong. The tariff commitments made by Brunei Darussalam cover different kinds of Hong Kong commodities, including jewellery, articles of apparel and clothing accessories, watches and clocks as well as toys, etc.

On trade in services, Hong Kong service providers will enjoy better business opportunities and legal certainty in market access for an extensive range of services sectors in Brunei Darussalam under the FTA. These services sectors include business services, telecommunications services, construction and related engineering services, educational services, tourism and travel related services and transport services.

Under the IA, Brunei Darussalam will provide Hong Kong enterprises investing in its area with fair and equitable treatment of their investments and physical protection and security of their investments, as well as the assurance of the free transfer of their investments and returns.

With the entry into force for the part relating to Brunei Darussalam, the FTA and the IA for a total of nine ASEAN member states (viz Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam) will have come into effect. The date of entry into force for the remaining ASEAN member state (viz Cambodia) will be announced as soon as it is confirmed.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202009/28/P2020092800327.htm>

Hong Kong and Georgia enter into tax pact

The Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury, Mr Christopher Hui, on behalf of the HKSAR Government, signed a comprehensive avoidance of double taxation agreement (CDTA) with Georgia on October 5, signifying the Government's sustained efforts in expanding Hong Kong's tax treaty network.

This CDTA is the 45th 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-Georgia CDTA, double taxation will be avoided in that any tax paid in Georgia 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 Georgian companies, the tax paid in Hong Kong will be allowed as a deduction from the tax payable on the same income in Georgia.

The Hong Kong-Serbia CDTA also provides various tax relief arrangements.

This CDTA will come into force after the completion of ratification procedures by both jurisdictions. Details of the Hong Kong-Georgia CDTA can be found at www.ird.gov.hk/eng/pdf/Agreement_Georgia_HongKong.pdf.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202010/05/P2020093000286.htm>

Hong Kong students triumph at international competitions

A team of Hong Kong students has brought home one gold and two bronze medals against contestants from 87 countries or regions from all over the world at the 32nd International Olympiad in Informatics (IOI 2020). The contest is the most recognised worldwide computer science competition aimed at secondary students under 20 years of age.

One of the three students, who won at the IOI 2020, scored 592.62 out of 600 and ranked third overall, which is the highest rank a Hong Kong student has achieved in this competition.

IOI is one of the International Science Olympiads under UNESCO. It aims at promoting coding education that helps nurture students' computational thinking and problem-solving skills. The 32nd IOI was held online from September 13 to 19. Each student was given a range of problems and tasks during the competition week to demonstrate their problem-solving skills and programming techniques by designing and writing computer programmes.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202009/24/P2020092400672.htm>

In addition, a team of six students representing Hong Kong achieved outstanding results in the 61st International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO 2020), winning three silver medals and three bronze medals. There were 616 contestants from 105 countries or regions participating in the virtual competition from September 18 to 28.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202009/28/P2020092800761.htm>

Online version of yearbook “Hong Kong 2019” available

The latest government yearbook, “Hong Kong 2019”, has been published and the internet version is now available at www.yearbook.gov.hk.

The yearbook contains a wealth of facts and figures about Hong Kong in 2019. The 22 chapters feature Hong Kong's constitution and legal system, the economy, commerce and industry, innovation and technology, health, housing and transport, among many other topics. There are also 10 colour photo sections comprising about 90 pictures of events, people and places.

Hong Kong e-News Bulletin

October 7, 2020



The online version is available in English, traditional Chinese and simplified Chinese.

www.yearbook.gov.hk

Article of “How traditional Chinese medicine is helping to fight COVID-19”

SCMP, in partnership with the Information Services Department, created an article “How traditional Chinese medicine is helping to fight COVID-19” to show how traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) has helped Hong Kong fight COVID-19 and TCM’s important role in promoting healthcare.

Please click the link below for details:

<https://www.scmp.com/presented/news/hong-kong/health-environment/topics/worlds-lab/article/3100990/how-traditional>

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

Hong Kong e-News Bulletin

October 7, 2020



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.