

Hong Kong e-News Bulletin

October 21, 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) is closed 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 webinar to promote cleantech opportunities in Hong Kong

Director of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (Toronto) (HKETO), Ms Emily Mo, joined the "Virtual Window of Opportunity for Canadian CleanTech and Green Building Companies" webinar hosted by the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC) office in Canada on October 8.

In delivering the opening remarks, Ms Mo remarked that the HKSAR Government is committed to developing Hong Kong into a regional hub for innovation. Funding support is available under the Innovation and Technology Fund for environmental technology-related projects.

Besides, the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA) development is designed to become a clean energy and low-carbon region. With the abundant business opportunities presented by the GBA development and in Hong Kong, Ms Mo encouraged Canadian cleantech companies to make use of the Hong Kong platform and its favourable business environment to expand to the GBA and other regions in Asia.

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Moderated by Hong Kong-Canada Business Association (HKCBA) National Chair Mr Arthur Chan, the webinar was also joined by other speakers including representatives of Export Development Canada, Consulate General of Canada in Hong Kong and Macao, HKTDC and Messe Frankfurt (HK) Ltd.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.hketotoronto.gov.hk/newsroom/hketo-director-joins-webinar-to-promote-cleantech-opportunities-in-hong-kong.html>

HKETO Director joins webinar to promote the commercial property market in Hong Kong

Director of the HKETO, Ms Emily Mo, joined the “Canadian Commercial Property Market with a Hong Kong Highlight” webinar to examine the current situation and trend of the commercial property markets in Canada and Hong Kong. The webinar was hosted by the HKCBA (Greater Toronto Area Section) on October 13.

In delivering the welcome remarks, Ms Mo first updated the participants that Hong Kong has succeeded in minimising infections without resorting to a city lockdown through continual deployment of anti-epidemic and social-distancing measures.

Ms Mo noted that the commercial real estate market in Hong Kong continues to navigate through turbulent times. Earlier in August, the Hong Kong Monetary Authority allowed banks to increase their lending for non-residential property. The gradual improvement in business momentum in Hong Kong suggests a possible pick up in market activity in the second half of 2020.

Ms Mo encouraged Canadian companies to tap on the opportunities offered by Hong Kong’s real estate sector. Head of InvestHK Canada Mr Christopher Chen, also participated in a panel discussion, together with some industry experts, to introduce the services offered by InvestHK for companies that are interested in real estate investment in Hong Kong.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.hketotoronto.gov.hk/newsroom/hketo-director-joins-webinar-to-promote-the-commercial-property-market-in-hong-kong.html>

HKETO Director speaks at ACCE’s virtual forum

Director of the HKETO, Ms Emily Mo, spoke at the virtual forum organised by the Association of Chinese Canadian Entrepreneurs on October 15. This forum aims to

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explore business pivots and innovation strategies to prepare businesses and entrepreneurs for the new economy.

In delivering the opening remarks, Ms Mo updated participants the COVID-19 situation in Hong Kong and the comprehensive and co-ordinated approach adopted by the HKSAR Government to contain the spread of virus.

As regards the economy, Hong Kong's strong economic fundamentals and ample reserves enable its economy to navigate through the current challenges and ensure continued macroeconomic stability. The city is also supported by the solid economic recovery of the Mainland of China and some Asian regions.

Ms Mo further stressed 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 HKSAR Government and community.

Before closing, Ms Mo encouraged companies at the forum to make use of the Hong Kong platform to expand to China and the rest of Asia.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.hketotoronto.gov.hk/newsroom/hketo-director-speaks-at-access-virtual-forum.html>

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

“Opportunities for Canadian Companies: The Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area” webinar

The Hong Kong-Canada Business Association (Ottawa Section) will host a webinar on October 22 at 12 noon (EDT) to discuss new opportunities arising from the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area development and how Canadian businesses and individuals can tap into the open markets in this exciting new global economic zone. HKETO is a sponsor of the webinar. Speakers include Director and Head of Investment Promotion of HKETO, and Hong Kong Trade Development Council Director for Canada, Mr Andrew Yui.

For more details and registration, please click the following link:

<https://ottawa.hkcba.com/events/opportunities-for-canadian-companies-the-guangdong-hong-kong-macao-greater-bay-area>

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Yee Hong 9-Hour Online Singing Marathon

Supported by HKETO, the Yee Hong Community Wellness Foundation will host the "9-Hour Online Singing Marathon" on October 25. The programme will feature over 50 artists from Hong Kong, with a special section of Hong Kong popular oldies. A re-arranged version of the song "Hong Kong Memories", which won an award at a song-writing competition organized by HKETO several years ago, will be performed at the show.

For more information, please visit:

<https://www.yeehong.com/foundation/events-campaigns/9-hour-online-singing-marathon/>

Toronto Reel Asian International Film Festival

The 24th Toronto Reel Asian International Film Festival will be held virtually from November 12 to 19. HKETO will sponsor the screening of a short Hong Kong film "THE LAST FERRY FROM GRASS ISLAND" (島嶼故事). Directed by Linhan Zhang, the film tells the story of a Hong Kong hitman retiring as a fisherman on the peaceful Grass Island.

For details, you can visit the official website of the Festival:

<https://www.reelasian.com/>

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Government to gazette latest legislative amendments, directions and specifications under the Prevention and Control of Disease Ordinance

Having regard to the development of the COVID-19 epidemic situation in Hong Kong, the HKSAR Government gazetted on October 20 the latest legislative amendments, directions and specifications under the Prevention and Control of Disease Ordinance (Cap. 599) to continue to relax social distancing measures in a gradual and orderly manner.

After taking into account the latest public health risk assessment and having struck a balance with economic needs and level of acceptance of the society, the HKSAR Government amends the Prevention and Control of Disease (Prohibition on Group Gathering) Regulation (Cap. 599G) to expand the scope of the existing exempted group gatherings to cover local tours and relax the restrictions on the number of persons allowed at wedding ceremonies and meetings that are held in accordance with any Ordinance or other regulatory instrument that governs the operation of the company or its business. The amendments will come into effect on October 23, 2020. For other social distancing

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measures, apart from minor refinements, the Government will largely maintain the measures currently in place for a period of seven days effective from October 23, 2020 till October 29, 2020.

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

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202010/20/P2020102000807.htm>

Besides, the HKSAR Government announced on October 20 that the Executive Council has approved conditional exemption for licensed travel agents to organise local group tours of not more than 30 persons (inclusive of working staff) under the group gathering restrictions as stipulated in the Prevention and Control of Disease (Prohibition on Group Gathering) Regulation (Cap. 599G) starting from this Friday (October 23). Such local group tours must be in strict compliance with the undertakings on anti-epidemic measures to safeguard public health.

For details, please visit:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202010/20/P2020102000880.htm>

In addition, in view of the developments of the COVID-19 epidemic situation worldwide and in Hong Kong, the HKSAR Government gazetted on October 16 the latest specifications to include France and Russia as specified places under the Prevention and Control of Disease (Regulation of Cross-boundary Conveyances and Travellers) Regulation (Cap. 599H) starting from October 26 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 to reduce the health risk they may bring to Hong Kong and has previously published in the Gazette specifications on the relevant measures applicable to 11 specified places (i.e. Bangladesh, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, South Africa, the United Kingdom and the United States of America) and adjusted the relevant conditions having regard to the circumstances on the ground since the implementation of the regulation.

According to the latest specifications, 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.

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Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202010/16/P2020101600615.htm>

Meanwhile, with the support of the Central Government, the community treatment facility expansion at AsiaWorld-Expo (AWE) was successfully completed. A ceremony was conducted on October 9. The relevant construction works commenced on September 19 and were swiftly completed within three weeks, providing an addition of nearly 1 000 beds in Halls 8 to 11 of AWE, with some equipped with negative pressure facilities.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202010/09/P2020100900533.htm>

HKSAR Government strongly opposes US Secretary of State's report

The Government of the HKSAR on October 15 voiced strong opposition to a report released by the United States (US) Secretary of State on October 14 under the so-called "Hong Kong Autonomy Act".

A Government spokesman said that the US has been increasingly blatant in its interference in Hong Kong's affairs in recent months, including passing successive laws, pronouncing an executive order and imposing "sanctions" against Hong Kong's officials under the pretext of human rights, democracy and autonomy. The Government strongly reprimand the US authorities for publishing a report that contains totally groundless and irresponsible accusations against the HKSAR.

The spokesman stressed that the government takes great exception to the comments in the report that smear and demonise The Law of the People's Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (National Security Law). Safeguarding national security through legislation is in line with international practice. National security has always been a matter that falls under the purview of the Central Authorities. The enactment of the National Security Law is lawful and constitutional. It is both timely and necessary to uphold the principle of "One Country, Two Systems" in Hong Kong.

He also remarked that contrary to the report's claims that Hong Kong's high degree of autonomy and freedoms have been undermined, since the implementation of the National Security Law, stability has been restored to society while national security has been safeguarded in Hong Kong, and the Hong Kong people can continue to enjoy their basic rights and freedoms in accordance with the law.

The spokesman further dismissed comments in the report that question, without grounds, law enforcement by Hong Kong authorities. Hong Kong is governed by the rule of law and law enforcement agencies are duty-bound to take action against unlawful acts.

Regarding the US' threat to impose "sanctions" on financial institutions and HKSAR Government officials, the spokesman said it is another example of US hegemony.

The spokesman reiterated that the HKSAR Government will not interfere with the law enforcement actions of other jurisdictions. By the same token, the US is also urged to stop interfering in Hong Kong affairs, which are internal matters of the People's Republic of China.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202010/15/P2020101500791.htm>

HKSAR Government commences amendment to the National Flag and National Emblem Ordinance

The 22nd session of the Standing Committee of the 13th National People's Congress on October 17 endorsed the amendments to the Law of the People's Republic of China on the National Flag (National Flag Law) and the National Emblem (National Emblem Law).

The HKSAR Government will suitably introduce amendments to the National Flag and National Emblem Ordinance, with a view to implementing provisions that are applicable to the HKSAR and fulfilling the constitutional responsibility of the HKSAR Government.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202010/17/P2020101700769.htm>

Hong Kong and Singapore reach in-principle agreement to establish bilateral Air Travel Bubble

Hong Kong and Singapore reached an in-principle agreement during a videoconference on October 14 to establish a bilateral Air Travel Bubble (ATB). This milestone arrangement will help revive cross-border air travel between the two aviation hubs, in a safe and progressive way.

Hong Kong and Singapore enjoy strong trade, investment, finance, tourism and people-to-people ties. The key features of the ATB are as follows:

- (a) there are no restrictions on travel purpose;
- (b) travellers under the ATB will be subject to mutually recognised COVID-19 polymerase chain reaction tests and would need to have negative test results;

- (c) travellers under the ATB will not be subject to any quarantine or Stay-Home Notice requirements, or a controlled itinerary;
- (d) travellers under the ATB will be required to travel on dedicated flights; and
- (e) the ATB can be scaled by adjusting the number of dedicated flights upwards or downwards, or even suspended, in line with the latest developments and COVID-19 situation in the two cities.

The launch date of the Hong Kong-Singapore ATB and other implementation details will be announced in due course.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202010/15/P2020101500440.htm>

Hong Kong residents born in 1970, 1971 or 1972 should apply for new smart identity cards between November 2, 2020, and April 30, 2021

The Immigration Department (ImmD) of the HKSAR Government announced on October 19 that Hong Kong residents born in 1970, 1971 or 1972 should apply for a new smart identity card in person at a Smart Identity Card Replacement Centre (SIDCC) from November 2, 2020 to April 30, 2021.

The Territory-wide Identity Card Replacement Exercise covers all Hong Kong residents whether they are permanent residents or non-permanent residents taking up employment, investment, residence or study in Hong Kong.

Eligible applicants may make appointment bookings via the ImmD mobile application, the Internet (www.gov.hk/newicbooking), or the 24-hour telephone booking hotline 2121 1234. Applicants need to bring along their old form of smart identity card when they proceed to the SIDCCs.

For this replacement exercise, the ImmD is implementing a caring arrangement under which each eligible applicant for identity card replacement may bring along up to two persons with disabilities, in addition to two family members or friends aged 65 or above, to replace their identity cards together during the same visit to an SIDCC.

If eligible Hong Kong residents are absent from Hong Kong during their call-up period, they can apply within 30 days of their return to Hong Kong. For details of the replacement exercise, please visit the website www.smartid.gov.hk.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202010/19/P2020101900495.htm>

Limited registration approved for non-locally trained doctors

The Hospital Authority (HA) spokesperson on October 14 announced that confirmation had been received from the Medical Council of Hong Kong (MCHK) on the approval of four applications of non-locally trained doctors for practice with limited registration in public hospitals to help relieve the frontline workload. Among the four applications, three are new applications while the other one is for renewal. The four doctors will be serving in anaesthesia, ophthalmology and paediatrics departments.

Currently, there are 27 non-locally trained doctors working in public hospitals under limited registration to relieve manpower shortage and workload pressure of frontline doctors in the specialties of anaesthesia, cardiothoracic surgery, emergency medicine, family medicine, internal medicine, neurosurgery, obstetrics and gynaecology, paediatrics, radiology and surgery. The HA spokesperson said that the recruitment of non-locally trained doctors will continue.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202010/14/P2020101400365.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 \(Child Assessment\)\)](#)

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