

## Hong Kong e-News Bulletin

November 18, 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](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.

### RECENT ACTIVITY

#### **Hong Kong films featured at Toronto Reel Asian International Film Festival**

The Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (Toronto) (HKETO) supported the virtual screening of a short Hong Kong film at the 24th Toronto Reel Asian International Film Festival from November 12 to 19, 2020.

Speaking before the virtual screening of "The Last Ferry From Grass Island", Director of HKETO, Ms Emily Mo, noted that Hong Kong has long been a favourite location for moviemakers around the globe and the HKSAR Government has been very supportive of the film industry development. She also remarked that a number of government-sponsored films have successfully made their way to various international film festivals across Canada.

Ms Mo said HKETO would continue to bring more Hong Kong films to participate in various film festivals held in Canada.

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Directed by Linhan Zhang, “The Last Ferry From Grass Island” tells the story of a Hong Kong hitman retiring as a fisherman on the peaceful Grass Island. This short film has been selected for Toronto Reel Asian Film Festival, the 2020 Cannes Film Festival, and many others.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.hketotoronto.gov.hk/newsroom/hong-kong-films-featured-at-toronto-reel-asian-international-film-festival.html>

### UPCOMING ACTIVITY

DramaOne will host a virtual programme “Reading Book, Sipping Coffee” (睇好書、嘆咖啡), which is sponsored by HKETO, to introduce the unique genres of Hong Kong literature to audience in Canada. Programme hosts Mr Peter Poon, Ms May Soo and guest host Mr Ong Yi Hing (王貽興) will join ten renowned Hong Kong authors in sharing their signature books at the programme. The programme consists of ten episodes which will be broadcast on DramaOne’s facebook page, youtube channel and official website every Monday from December 7, 2020 to February 12, 2021. For details, please click the following link:

<https://www.dramaone.ca/what-s-news>

### HONG KONG NEWS

#### Government tightens social distancing measures

In view of the development of COVID-19 in Hong Kong and around the world, the HKSAR Government announced on November 14 that social distancing measures will be tightened till November 26, 2020.

On prevention of importation of cases, the HKSAR Government has extensively tightened testing and quarantine requirements for inbound travellers and exempted persons since July, as well as announcing further infection control measures and targeting at risks brought about by mask-off gathering activities in particular, including gatherings in hotels (the so-called staycation). The visiting arrangement for confinees under hotel quarantine is also tightened, with a view to stopping the transmission of virus by imported cases in the community.

You can click the following link for the latest details of requirements and restrictions.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202011/14/P2020111400766.htm>

In addition, the HKSAR Government published the Prevention and Control of Disease (Compulsory Testing for Certain Persons) Regulation (Cap. 599J) in the Gazette on

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November 14, which provides the legal framework for the government to require certain categories of persons to undergo COVID-19 testing, and for specified medical practitioners to require symptomatic patients to undergo COVID-19 testing.

Examples include persons who live or work in specified premises with outbreak of cases, persons of a particular occupation, or persons who are close to completion of the compulsory 14-day quarantine upon their arrival at Hong Kong.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202011/14/P2020111400767.htm>

### **Government announces Return2hk - Travel Scheme for Hong Kong Residents returning from Guangdong Province or Macao**

The HKSAR Government on November 11 announced the introduction of Return2hk - Travel Scheme (Return2hk Scheme) for Hong Kong residents returning from Guangdong Province or Macao without being subject to quarantine under the Compulsory Quarantine of Certain Persons Arriving at Hong Kong Regulation. Starting from November 23, Hong Kong residents who, upon fulfilment of the conditions specified under sections 12(2) and 12A of the Regulation, including not having been to places other than Hong Kong, Guangdong Province or Macao in the past 14 days, could be exempted from the 14-day compulsory quarantine requirement when they return to Hong Kong under the Return2hk Scheme.

Hong Kong residents who wish to return to Hong Kong under the Return2hk Scheme should apply for a quota using the online booking system. Successful applicants should present the proof of a valid negative COVID-19 (RT-PCR) nucleic acid test result upon arrival in Hong Kong.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202011/11/P2020111100640.htm>

### **Launch of “LeaveHomeSafe” COVID-19 exposure notification mobile app**

The HKSAR Government announced on November 11 the launch of the “LeaveHomeSafe” COVID-19 exposure notification mobile app which aims to encourage the public to keep a more precise record of their whereabouts, minimising the risk of further transmission of the virus and protect Hong Kong together.

There are currently over 6 000 public and private venues that have pledged support for the scheme. The mobile app can also be used directly in over 18 000 taxis.

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Development of the mobile app is led by the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer. Characterised by voluntary participation and recording visits at users' discretion, it is a digital tool to record accurately the date and time for checking into and leaving different venues. The app is easy to use and can be downloaded for free. The mobile app upholds the principle of protecting personal data privacy, and user registration is not required. Venue check-in data will be encrypted and saved on users' devices only. Such data will not be uploaded to the Government or any other systems.

More details are available on the "LeaveHomeSafe" website:  
([www.leavehomesafe.gov.hk](http://www.leavehomesafe.gov.hk)).

Click the following links for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202011/11/P2020111100367.htm>

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202011/16/P2020111600904.htm>

### **Designated flights under HK-Singapore Air Travel Bubble**

The Governments of Hong Kong and Singapore on November 11 announced the detailed arrangements of the bilateral Air Travel Bubble (ATB), with designated flights to be launched on November 22, taking a significant step forward in resuming cross-border air travel between the two places in an orderly manner.

The Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (SCED) of the HKSAR Government, Mr Edward Yau, said that Hong Kong and Singapore are similar in terms of epidemic control. Both are regional aviation hubs and international cities, enjoying strong trade, investment, finance, tourism and people-to-people ties. It is hoped that aviation, tourism, hotel, retail and catering businesses can benefit from it, thereby enabling Hong Kong's economy to recover gradually.

Under the ATB arrangement, travellers between the two places will not be subject to any quarantine arrangements upon arrival, nor restrictions to their travel purposes or itineraries on the condition that they comply with a set of anti-epidemic protocols.

There are stringent measures in place to safeguard public health under the arrangement, including mutually recognised COVID-19 tests, designated flights for ATB passengers as well as a scalable mechanism to adjust the ATB arrangement having regard to the epidemic situation.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202011/11/P2020111100217.htm>

### **CE stresses that NPCSC's decision on the disqualification of four legislators is constitutional, lawful and reasonable arrangement**

The Chief Executive of the HKSAR, Mrs Carrie Lam, on November 11 explained the decision made after deliberation by the Standing Committee of the 13th National People's Congress (NPCSC) on the qualification of members of the Legislative Council (LegCo) of the HKSAR.

Mrs Lam said that the National People's Congress (NPC) is the highest organ of state power, whereas the NPCSC is the NPC's permanent body. It has the authority to interpret the Basic Law, to monitor the implementation of the Basic Law, and to handle any constitutional problems arising from the implementation of the Basic Law in accordance with the law. The decision made by the NPCSC in accordance with the law is legally binding on the HKSAR.

Article 104 of the Basic Law clearly stipulates that LegCo members "must, in accordance with law, swear to uphold the Basic Law of the HKSAR of the People's Republic of China and swear allegiance to the HKSAR of the People's Republic of China. According to the Interpretation of Basic Law Article 104 made by the NPCSC on November 7, 2016, if a person, after taking the oath, engages in conduct in breach of the oath, the person shall bear legal responsibility in accordance with the law."

In light of the NPCSC's decision, the HKSAR Government announced that the four members of the sixth-term LegCo, namely Mr Alvin Yeung, Dr Kwok Ka-ki, Mr Dennis Kwok and Mr Kenneth Leung, whose nominations for the election of the seventh-term Legislative Council originally scheduled for September 6 were invalidated in accordance with the law, have lost their qualification as members of the Legislative Council with immediate effect. This announcement, together with the NPCSC's decision, has been gazetted.

Mrs Lam stressed that the NPCSC's decision is a constitutional, lawful and reasonable arrangement. It is necessary and complies with the relevant stipulations of the Basic Law. The HKSAR Government is not targeting any LegCo member. The current arrangement is purely based on the Interpretation of Basic Law Article 104 made by the NPCSC and its decision made on August 11, and is to ensure that LegCo members who continue to serve comply with the legal requirements and preconditions under BL Article 104.

Mrs Lam said the NPCSC's decision is very significant as it will help ensure the resolute and faithful implementation of "One Country, Two Systems".

Click the following links for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202011/11/P2020111100864.htm>

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202011/11/P2020111100779.htm>

Meanwhile, in response to the recent groundless accusations by the governments and entities of foreign countries against the decision, HKSAR Government expressed its staunch opposition and strongest condemnation. The spokesperson said that such accusations were politically motivated with the ulterior motive to undermine the relationship between the Central Authorities and the HKSAR under “One Country, Two Systems”. They were also flagrant interference by a country or government into the internal affairs of another country or government, breaching the basic guiding principles of international relations.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202011/14/P2020111400483.htm>

### **HKSAR Government strongly opposes to the so-called US sanctions**

The HKSAR Government on November 10 strongly opposed the so-called “sanctions” by the United States (US) Government against four officials of the Central People’s Government (CPG) and the HKSAR Government.

The Government spokesperson stressed 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 and comes directly under the CPG. The repeated blatant and barbaric interference in the internal affairs of the HKSAR by the US Government is another vivid example of unreasonable bullying act against the CPG and the HKSAR Government officials who safeguard national security.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202011/10/P2020111000752.htm>

### **Hong Kong is keenly interested in joining RCEP**

The SCED of the HKSAR Government, Mr Edward Yau, said at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Ministerial Meeting on November 16 that the signing and launching of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) is an important milestone for economic integration in the region that sends a strong and clear message in support of an open, inclusive and rules-based trade and investment arrangement.

Mr Yau remarked that with the high-standard Free Trade Agreements with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, Australia and New Zealand already in place on top of the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement, Hong Kong is

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keenly interested in joining the RCEP and stands ready to start dialogues on accession with its member economies when the time is ripe for the RCEP to take on new partners.

Mr Yau also highlighted the importance of the rules-based multilateral trading system (MTS) amid the pandemic, with the World Trade Organization (WTO) as its core, in maintaining stability for international trade and bringing back economic growth. Hong Kong is committed to engaging in constructive dialogue with all APEC member economies in supporting the WTO as the city has always done throughout the years.

At the virtual meeting, participating ministers shared their views on various key issues related to global trade and regional economic integration, including support for the MTS and WTO, responses to the COVID-19 pandemic and economic recovery, and efforts to promote the development of the digital economy.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202011/16/P2020111600779.htm>

### **Hong Kong FinTech Week 2020 attracts over 1.2 million viewers, sets agenda for year ahead**

Hong Kong FinTech Week 2020 came to a successful close on November 6 after a high-level three-day main conference and over 30 satellite events featuring important announcements, thought-provoking debates and panel sessions covering all aspects of financial technology.

Co-organised by Invest Hong Kong, the Hong Kong Monetary Authority, the Securities and Futures Commission and the Insurance Authority, and supported by the Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau of the HKSAR Government, this year's fully virtual event drew over 1.2 million viewers, had more than 100 hours of content, saw over 18,000 total business contacts made, and had more than 500 exhibitors, over 350 speakers, 230 journalists and 29 delegations from over 130 economies.

Hong Kong FinTech Week 2020 focused on the golden opportunity to humanise fintech to reignite growth, build trust and financially empower society and businesses in the post-COVID-19 world. Throughout the week, hot topics, including the development of central bank digital currencies, virtual asset regulation, virtual banking and addressing algorithmic bias in artificial intelligence to enable more inclusive fintech applications, were discussed.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202011/11/P2020110900391.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](mailto: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 \(Child Assessment\)\)](#)

To stay tuned to updates on HKETO and Hong Kong, please follow us at

HKETO Toronto Facebook Page [www.facebook.com/TorontoHKETO](http://www.facebook.com/TorontoHKETO)

HKETO Toronto Twitter Page <https://twitter.com/TorontoHKETO>

Brand Hong Kong Facebook page [www.facebook.com/brandhk.isd](http://www.facebook.com/brandhk.isd) or

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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