

Hong Kong e-News Bulletin

December 2, 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

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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

HKETO Director joins webinar to explore economic prospects in Hong Kong

The Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (Toronto) (HKETO) and the Hong Kong-Canada Business Association (HKCBA) co-hosted a webinar on November 17 to discuss the economic prospects in Hong Kong and ways to maximize business return through Hong Kong. Director-General of Investment Promotion of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government, Mr Stephen Phillips, and Director of the HKETO, Ms Emily Mo, gave opening remarks at the webinar entitled "Structuring Your Asia Business Expansion for Maximum Return".

Ms Mo remarked that with the rebound of business in Asia, Hong Kong is also making good progress. She encouraged Canadian companies to consider diversifying their businesses to Asia through Hong Kong which has a powerful combination of favourable business advantages.

Regarding some recent speculation of Hong Kong's rule of law being possibly undermined in light of the introduction of the National Security Law and disqualification of Legislative Council Members, Ms Mo clarified 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.

Other speakers at the webinar including representatives of Ernst & Young Canada and Hong Kong Corporate Services Group, as well as Head of InvestHK Canada Mr Christopher Chen who introduced the services offered by InvestHK for Canadian companies.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.hketotoronto.gov.hk/newsroom/hketo-director-joins-webinar-to-explore-economic-prospects-in-hong-kong.html>

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

DramaOne's virtual programme "Reading Book, Sipping Coffee"

DramaOne will host a virtual programme "Reading Book, Sipping Coffee" (睇好書、嘆咖啡), which is sponsored by HKETO, to introduce 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 and they 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>

Webinar on cross-border M&A

HKCBA will host on December 8, from 9 am to 10 am (EST) a webinar to examine and discuss the state of M&A activity between Hong Kong, Mainland China and North America during this time of COVID and international trade tensions. This webinar will feature legal and financial practitioners from Asia and Canada, and will provide registrants with a current depiction and outlook for cross-border transactions between these markets. For registration:

<https://montreal.hkcba.com/events/cross-border-ma-a-discussion?fbclid=IwAR2rscPIGOggsr-OfX3Z8bdLkI8TzYuvkbUwjYEOcBCAaFddDjiuJbWe0Z0>

Webinar on investment opportunities in the Greater Bay Area and Mainland China

The Hong Kong Trade Development Council will host on December 9, from 1 pm to 2 pm (EST), a webinar featuring insights, success stories and advice on how Canadian businesses can leverage the Hong Kong platform to capitalise on the business and

investment opportunities in the Greater Bay Area and Mainland China. Registrants can also find out how to join the upcoming virtual Asian Financial Forum 2021 in Hong Kong. For registration:

https://form.hktdc.com/ui_registrationsite/Registration/RegistrationForm.aspx?FORMID=aeaff83e-6052-454b-8aa1-6fcfd27242b0&BYPASS=YES&LANGID=1&URLEVENTNAME=Webinar%20on%20Unlock%20the%20Financial%20and%20Inve&URLFORMNAME=Online%20Registration%20Form&URLDATESCODE=00&fbclid=IwAR19sWbBf95SeSVTJbbGGDIqp2QaRk_Gwz9OCRJHnIM_r9hVawazmSh1ftw

Starlight's virtual seminar to review Cantonese opera talks by belated Dr Lam Kar-sing

Starlight Cantonese Opera will host a virtual seminar starting from December 11 to revisit a series of Cantonese opera seminars conducted by the late Dr Lam Kar-sing in 2013 (林家聲之「博精深新」粵劇講座回顧). Five guest speakers from Hong Kong will share the history and inheritance of Cantonese opera in Hong Kong. The seminar is supported by HKETO. Five episodes will be broadcast every two weeks at Starlight's Facebook and Youtube channel. For details, please click the following link:

<http://www.starlightopera.com/news.html>

HONG KONG NEWS

Policy Address: Striving Ahead with Renewed Perseverance

The Chief Executive of the HKSAR, Mrs Carrie Lam, delivered her annual Policy Address on November 25, with measures to support Hong Kong to strive ahead with renewed perseverance, following last year's social unrest and amid the ongoing global COVID-19 pandemic.

Mrs Lam said that the Policy Address seeks to restore Hong Kong's constitutional order, consolidate and enhance Hong Kong's strengths and diversify its economic development, and build on the past efforts to continue to improve people's well-being, with a view to resolving the immediate and long-term social problems.

The Chief Executive outlined ways that the HKSAR Government would strengthen publicity and education to enhance Hong Kong people's understanding of national security and law-abiding awareness. She stressed that benefiting from its proximity to the Mainland and the Central Government's long-standing support under the "One Country, Two Systems" principle, Hong Kong's economic development will be given new impetus.

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Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202011/25/P2020112500511.htm>

Mrs Lam further revealed wide-ranging strategies to make full use of the city's advantages under the "One Country, Two Systems" principle, reboot Hong Kong's economy, create new opportunities in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area and further promote innovation and technology.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202011/25/P2020112500513.htm>

Besides, Mrs Lam underlined her commitment to meeting the housing needs of the people. She said that 330 hectares of land has been identified, which could provide 316,000 public housing units to meet the demand for about 301,000 public housing units in the coming 10 years.

Mrs Lam used her Policy Address to set out an innovative, multi-pronged approach to tackle the challenges, ranging from development of transitional housing to the launch of an "unprecedented" cash allowance scheme.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202011/25/P2020112500527.htm>

In addition, Mrs Lam set out the Government's strategies and proposals to achieve carbon neutrality, promote green transport and energy efficiency and to enhance the quality of life in districts across Hong Kong. She noted that the HKSAR Government will explore strategies such as different types of zero-carbon energy and decarbonisation technology, enhancing the energy efficiency of both new and existing buildings, promoting zero-carbon vehicles and green transportation, and building large-scale waste-to-energy facilities.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202011/25/P2020112500544.htm>

With the global COVID-19 pandemic impacting Hong Kong's economy and people's livelihoods, the Chief Executive unveiled various measures to support people in need to cope with the current challenges. The government is committed to making every effort to restore the economy, create more jobs, increase training and retraining opportunities, step up manpower matching and enhance the safety net of the social welfare system.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202011/25/P2020112500559.htm>

The Policy Address also announced the provision of close to HK\$600 million of additional support to further help the tourism industry, which has been among the hardest hit by the pandemic, to tide the industry over the prolonged challenges in the future.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202011/25/P2020112500431.htm>

For the full text and highlights of “The Chief Executive’s 2020 Policy Address” as well as the Policy Address Supplement, please visit the link below:

<https://www.policyaddress.gov.hk/2020/eng/index.html>

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

In view of the global development and severity of the COVID-19 pandemic situation, the HKSAR Government announced on November 19 and 30 respectively that it will gazette the specifications under the Prevention and Control of Disease (Regulation of Cross-boundary Conveyances and Travellers) Regulation (Cap. 599H) to include Ecuador, Germany and Romania as specified places to more effectively combat the epidemic.

The 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, Belgium, Ethiopia, France, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Russia, South Africa, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States of America) to reduce the health risk they may bring to Hong Kong.

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.

Click the following links for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202011/19/P2020111900545.htm>

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202011/30/P2020113000821.htm>

In addition, the HKSAR Government announced on November 30 to further tighten social distancing measures under the Prevention and Control of Disease (Requirements and

Directions) (Business and Premises) Regulation (Cap. 599F), as well as endorsed amendments to the Prevention and Control of Disease (Prohibition on Group Gathering) Regulation (Cap. 599G) to tighten requirements on group gatherings.

You can click the following links for details about the latest social distancing measures and group gatherings requirements:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202012/01/P2020120100068.htm>

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202012/01/P2020120100979.htm>

The HKSAR Government on November 21 also announced that testing and isolation arrangement for air crew members and other exempted persons who are exempted from quarantine requirement upon arriving Hong Kong will be tightened with effect from November 22. Please click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202011/21/P2020112100885.htm>

On November 27, the HKSAR Government gazetted the specifications under the Prevention and Control of Disease (Compulsory Testing for Certain Persons) Regulation (Cap. 599J), which during a period of 14 days from November 28 to December 11, 2020 empower a registered medical practitioner to require any person whom he clinically suspects has contracted COVID-19 to undergo a test. Persons who receive the written direction should undergo a test within two days after the issue date of the written direction (the testing deadline).

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202011/27/P2020112700911.htm>

Inaugural flights under HK-Singapore Air Travel Bubble deferred

The Government announced on November 21 that in view of the recent epidemic situation in Hong Kong, the Governments of HKSAR and Singapore have decided to defer the inaugural flights under the Hong Kong-Singapore Air Travel Bubble (ATB).

The Government of HKSAR and Singapore will continue to closely monitor the epidemic situation of both places, exchange relevant data and statistics, and maintain close communication. The new date of inaugural flights will be announced in early December.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202011/21/P2020112100656.htm>

HKSAR Government strongly condemns the joint statement by the foreign ministers

A spokesman for the HKSAR Government on November 19 firmly opposes and strongly condemns the joint statement by the foreign ministers of Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States in which deliberate misrepresentation was made regarding the decision by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPCSC) on the qualification of members of the Legislative Council (LegCo) of the HKSAR. He said that these comments, irresponsible to the point of malice, are vivid proofs of blatant interference in Hong Kong matters which are squarely internal affairs of the People's Republic of China (PRC).

The spokesperson stressed that the NPCSC decision made on November 11 is constitutional, lawful and necessary. It set out clearly the consequences of LegCo members violating the legal prerequisites of "upholding the Basic Law of the HKSAR of the PRC" and "swearing allegiance to the HKSAR of the PRC". By stipulating that such consequences were applicable to LegCo members who were confirmed in accordance with the law to be ineligible to become candidates for LegCo election, it provided the solid legal basis for the HKSAR Government to announce their disqualification. The decision does not affect the rights and freedom, including freedom of speech and freedom of the press, enjoyed by the citizens of Hong Kong. The HKSAR Government denounces any such irresponsible remarks by foreign political figures.

The HKSAR Government yet again solemnly reminds the international community that foreign governments should stop their scaremongering and interfering in any form in the internal affairs of the HKSAR. They should respect the importance attached to peace, stability and prosperity by the Hong Kong people under the principle of "One Country, Two Systems".

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202011/19/P2020111900800.htm>

CE attends APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting

The Chief Executive of the HKSAR, Mrs Carrie Lam, attended the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) 2020 Economic Leaders' Meeting via video conferencing on November 20, where she exchanged views with leaders of the other economies on fighting against COVID-19, boosting the economic recovery and promoting sustainable and inclusive development.

The theme of APEC this year is "Optimising Human Potential towards a Resilient Future of Shared Prosperity: Pivot. Prioritise. Progress". Owing to the epidemic situation, this

was the first virtual Economic Leaders' Meeting hosted by the Prime Minister of Malaysia and Chair of APEC 2020, Mr Muhyiddin Yassin.

Noting in her remarks that COVID-19 has brought about unprecedented challenges to the world, Mrs Lam said that it is the duty of various economies to resolutely direct the fight against the virus. She also pointed out that Hong Kong has operated in an open and transparent manner throughout the pandemic with the extensive use of innovative technology and continuous enhancement of virus testing. The results have been largely successful to date.

Mrs Lam stressed that reviving the economy calls for co-operation among economies and that they must stand firm against unilateralism and protectionism. She congratulated the 15 member economies on the signing of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement, which is a testament to free trade and regional co-operation. She said that as a separate customs territory and a member of the World Trade Organization, the HKSAR supports the principles of the Agreement. She expressed the hope that Hong Kong can join the Agreement early and appealed for the support of member economies.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202011/20/P2020112000973.htm>

Government increases annual quota of Quality Migrant Admission Scheme

The HKSAR Government announced on November 26 that the annual quota of the Quality Migrant Admission Scheme (QMAS) has been increased from 1 000 to 2 000.

The QMAS has been an important channel for Hong Kong to attract highly skilled or talented persons globally to settle in the city, thereby enhancing Hong Kong's international competitiveness. The Government has decided to increase the annual quota of the QMAS to 2 000 with a view to enlarging Hong Kong's talent pool and strengthening its role as Asia's World City.

Following the release of the first Talent List in August 2018, applications under the QMAS have increased significantly. The quota allotted under the QMAS increased from 411 in 2017 to 874 in 2019. The Government will continue to launch various measures to attract highly skilled or talented persons globally to develop their careers in Hong Kong.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202011/26/P2020112600279.htm>

“Three Hong Kong hi-tech firms’ rapid response helps detect signs of Covid-19”

SCMP, in partnership with the Hong Kong Information Services Department, created an article “Three Hong Kong hi-tech firms’ rapid response helps detect signs of Covid-19” to demonstrate how Hong Kong entrepreneurs have been quick to respond to the challenges of COVID-19 by developing a range of technologies to help reduce transmission rates and detect signs of the virus.

Please click the link below for details:

<https://www.scmp.com/presented/tech/innovation/topics/worlds-lab/article/3108541/3-hong-kong-hi-tech-firms-rapid>

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