

Hong Kong e-News Bulletin

December 16, 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 webinars to promote business opportunities in Hong Kong

Director of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (Toronto) (HKETO), Ms Emily Mo, joined the "Cross Border M&A: A Discussion" webinar hosted by the Hong Kong-Canada Business Association (Montreal Section) and "Unlock the Financial and Investment Opportunities in Asia via the Hong Kong Platform" webinar hosted by the Hong Kong Trade Development Council on December 8 and 9 respectively.

In delivering welcome remarks at both webinars, Ms Mo said that while many countries had been hard hit by COVID-19, Hong Kong has responded swiftly to the challenges by setting out various strategies and initiatives for business development and community building. Ms Mo quoted the example that the merger and acquisition activities continued to be active in Hong Kong.

Besides, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government has rolled out relief measures totalling nearly 40 billion USD and three rounds of Anti-epidemic Fund which helped keep business running and employees working.

Ms Mo noted the concerns about the National Security Law. She clarified that following the enactment of the law, violence has subsided, and Hong Kong people could once again enjoy their basic rights, freedoms and social order.

Ms Mo invited participants of both webinars to join the Asian Financial Forum in Hong Kong to be held virtually on January 18-19, 2021, to connect with global thought leaders and experts.

Click the following link for details.

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

HKETO supports virtual Cantonese opera seminars in Canada

The HKETO supported a series of virtual seminar entitled “Breadth, Virtuosity, Depth and Innovation - a Review of Cantonese Opera Talks by belated Dr Lam Kar-sing” (林家聲之「博精深新」粵劇講座回顧) organised by the Starlight Chinese Opera Performing Arts Centre in Toronto. The seminar series showcased Hong Kong’s cultural heritage and promote Cantonese opera to Canadian audience, thereby enhancing cultural exchanges between Hong Kong and Canada.

In delivering welcome remarks at the virtual seminars, Director of HKETO, Ms Emily Mo, noted that the seminars would review Dr Lam’s stage career and his commitment to revitalising the art of Cantonese opera.

Ms Mo also mentioned that the HKSAR Government is committed to continuing the promotion of traditional Chinese culture through the Intangible Cultural Heritage Funding Scheme and the Cantonese Opera Development Fund. In addition, the Government has been actively developing the West Kowloon Cultural District, which is one of the largest cultural projects in the world.

Before closing, Ms Mo encouraged the audience to include Xiqu Centre in their itinerary when they next visit Hong Kong.

The series of five seminars will be broadcast every two weeks at Starlight’s Facebook and Youtube channel starting December 11, 2020. Five guest speakers who are Cantonese Opera artists in Hong Kong will share the history and inheritance of Cantonese opera with the audience. For details, please click the link of <http://www.starlightopera.com/news.html>

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Click the following link for details.

<https://www.hketotoronto.gov.hk/newsroom/hketo-supports-virtual-cantonese-opera-seminars-in-canada.html>

UPCOMING ACTIVITY

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>

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Government announces latest development of COVID-19 vaccine procurement

The HKSAR Government announced on December 11 that it had been adopting a "two-pronged" strategy to procure vaccines for protecting members of the public against COVID-19, including joining the COVAX Facility led by the World Health Organization and directly making advance purchases of vaccines from individual vaccine developers.

The HKSAR Government has reached a preliminary agreement with Sinovac Biotech (Hong Kong) Limited to provide 7.5 million doses of vaccine to Hong Kong. The first batch of one million vaccine doses is expected to be delivered to Hong Kong in January 2021 the earliest. After the vaccine obtains approval from the Government, arrangement will be made for the public to receive vaccination as soon as possible.

The Government has also reached an agreement with Fosun Pharma to procure a maximum of 7.5 million doses of the vaccine developed by Fosun Pharma in collaboration with the German drug manufacturer BioNTech (Pfizer is the collaboration partner of BioNTech in regions outside of Greater China). The first batch of one million doses is expected to be delivered in the first quarter of 2021 the earliest.

Moreover, the Government will soon enter into an agreement with AstraZeneca to procure 7.5 million doses of the vaccine it developed in collaboration with the University of Oxford. The doses are expected to start arriving in Hong Kong by batches by the end of the second quarter of 2021 the earliest.

As regards the arrangements for vaccination, the Government's goal is to provide vaccines for the majority of the Hong Kong population within 2021 through vaccination programmes led by the Government. Members of the public can receive the vaccines on a voluntary basis free of charge. The Government will announce the details of the vaccination programme in due course.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202012/12/P2020121200031.htm>

Government announces details of Designated Quarantine Hotel Scheme

To further enhance the prevention of importation of cases and reduce the contact between returnees from overseas and local community, the HKSAR Government will implement a new measure with effective from 0.00am on December 22, mandating all returnees from countries outside China to undergo 14-day compulsory quarantine at the designated quarantine hotels in accordance with the directions under the Prevention and Control of Disease (Regulation of Cross-boundary Conveyances and Travellers) Regulation (Cap. 599H).

As a designated quarantine hotel, the hotel must pass the inspection conducted by the Hong Kong Department of Health and relevant departments for ensuring that the design, facilities and workflow of the hotel fulfill the infection control requirements. The designated quarantine hotels can solely be serving guests under quarantine.

Under the new measure, the Government will, starting from December 18, arrange dedicated transportation to send travellers to the designated quarantine hotels from airport and the Holding Centre for Test Result, for further reducing their contact with the community.

Travellers, who are arriving in Hong Kong on December 21, are reminded to reserve hotel booking at a designated quarantine hotel before departure, otherwise they will be refused to board the flight.

So far, there are 36 hotels in the first batch of designated quarantine hotels, altogether providing some 12 000 rooms of various prices and types. Details of the Designated Quarantine Hotel Scheme and a list of the designated quarantine hotels are available at www.designatedhotel.gov.hk.

Click the following links for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202012/13/P2020121300563.htm>

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202012/11/P2020121100774.htm>

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

In view of the global developments and severity of the COVID-19 pandemic situation, the HKSAR Government announced on December 10 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 Ukraine as a specified place starting from December 17 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, Germany, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Romania, 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 are also reminded that if, with effect from November 13, 2020, on the day on which they boarded a specified aircraft, or during the 14 days before that day, has stayed in a place outside China, should also provide confirmation of room reservation in a hotel in Hong Kong for not less than 14 nights for the purpose of quarantine.

All 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/202012/10/P2020121000609.htm>

In addition, the HKSAR Government announced on December 8 to further tighten social distancing measures with effect from December 10, 2020 for a period of 14 days to December 23, 2020, and will extend the expiry dates of various regulations under the Prevention and Control of Disease Ordinance (Cap. 599) to March 31, 2021.

The HKSAR Government strongly appeals to the public to stay at home to fight against the epidemic together, dine out less often, and avoid unnecessary social activities

including private gatherings. The Government also strongly appeals to private employers to arrange employees to work from home as far as possible. Maintaining social distancing and good personal hygiene at all times are also keys to prevention of infection and the spread of the virus in the community.

You can click the following link for details about the latest social distancing measures and group gatherings as well as mask-wearing requirements:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202012/08/P2020120800780.htm>

CE assures international business community on “One Country, Two Systems”

The Chief Executive of the HKSAR, Mrs Carrie Lam, on December 9 assured the international business community that the rule of law, judicial independence and people’s rights and freedoms, the core values underpinning Hong Kong’s success, will continue to be upheld under “One Country, Two Systems”.

Speaking during an interview by The Wall Street Journal (WSJ) as part of the programme of the WSJ CEO Council Summit held on December 7 and 8 online, Mrs Lam stressed that the Central People’s Government would unswervingly implement the policy of “One Country, Two Systems”. She elucidated, among others, the constitutional arrangement of the HKSAR under “One Country, Two Systems”, and the enactment of the Law of the People’s Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the HKSAR (the National Security Law).

Mrs Lam pointed out that as an innovative concept aiming at preserving as much as possible the way of life and the systems in the city, the policy of “One Country, Two Systems” is also built on the firm foundation of Hong Kong being an inalienable part of the People’s Republic of China (PRC) and must not move away from the principle of “One Country”. She stressed that under “One Country, Two Systems”, Hong Kong will continue to uphold its core values, including the rights and freedoms of the people, the rule of law and independence of the judiciary.

Mrs Lam noted that under the National Security Law, Hong Kong people’s rights and freedoms under the Basic Law as well as the relevant provisions of International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights as applied to Hong Kong will continue to be protected. Important legal concepts including the presumption of innocence, fair and open trial and non-retrospectivity are embedded in the National Security Law.

Mrs Lam said that, with law and order in the city restored by the implementation of the National Security Law, and that Hong Kong will play an active role in the national development with the support of the Central People’s Government, with particular

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reference to the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, Hong Kong has promising prospects and it is an opportune time for businesses to invest in Hong Kong.

The WSJ CEO Council Summit was participated by hundreds of leaders of multinational enterprises.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202012/09/P2020120900014.htm>

HKSARG vehemently refutes groundless accusations of report by United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission

The HKSAR Government on December 2 vehemently refuted the report issued by the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission (USCC) (Report) and firmly opposed the sweeping attacks and unfounded accusations in the Chapter on Hong Kong.

A Government spokesman said that the Report is another vivid example of the blatant interference by the US in Hong Kong's affairs, following the US Congress' successive passage of a host of laws against the HKSAR. It is hypocritical for the US to introduce measures to attack China by creating issues in the HKSAR using the excuse of human rights, democracy and autonomy.

Referring to the report's misguided views on Hong Kong's role as an international financial centre, the Government spokesman pointed out that Hong Kong's financial markets and linked exchange rate system had continued to operate in a stable and orderly manner following the implementation of the National Security Law. The banking system remained robust. The stock market stayed vibrant and orderly, with a continuous flow of initial public offering activities attracting strong market interest.

The spokesman stressed that the HKSAR Government has the determination and capability to safeguard Hong Kong's long-term prosperity, stability and financial security for investors to continue operating there. Capitalising on the strengths of "One Country, Two Systems", Hong Kong will harness the tremendous opportunities presented by the sustained reform and opening up of the Mainland market buttressed by Hong Kong's adherence to and connectivity with international rules and standards. Hong Kong's status as an international financial centre will not change.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202012/02/P2020120100995.htm>

In addition, the HKSAR Government on December 8 strongly condemned the so-called “sanctions” imposed by the US Government against the 14 Vice Chairmen of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress (NPCSC). The spokesman of the HKSAR Government said that the US Government has clearly ignored the constitutional order of the HKSAR and the facts relevant to the NPCSC’s decisions. The so-called “sanctions” arbitrarily imposed by the US Government smacks of political manipulation and double standards. It is also blatant interference in the internal affairs of the PRC, violating international law and basic norms governing international relations.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202012/08/P2020120800562.htm>

Government releases Smart City Blueprint for Hong Kong 2.0

The HKSAR Government released the Smart City Blueprint for Hong Kong 2.0 (Blueprint 2.0) on December 10 with more than 130 smart city initiatives.

The Government published in December 2017 the Smart City Blueprint for Hong Kong (Blueprint), setting out 76 initiatives under six smart areas, with a view to addressing the challenges of city management and improving people’s livelihood through innovation and technology (I&T). Among them, more than 40 initiatives are completed or under completion in stages.

The Secretary for Innovation and Technology, Mr Alfred Sit, said that implementation of smart city aims to bring benefits and convenience to members of the public by making use of the research and development results to drive Hong Kong forward.

Blueprint 2.0 includes initiatives that are under implementation or of an ongoing nature such as open data and on-street parking meters supporting remote payment. In addition, over 60 new initiatives were implemented after the first Blueprint was published in the end of 2017. These include:

- Smart Mobility
- Smart Living
- Smart Environment
- Smart People
- Smart Government
- Smart Economy

Blueprint 2.0 has also put forward the idea of smart village pilot initiatives to explore the use of technologies to address daily life issues faced by residents living in the countryside

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and further remote areas, such as medical consultation for the elderly and traffic arrangements. It will also provide a new chapter on “Use of I&T in combating COVID-19”.

Blueprint 2.0 has been uploaded to the dedicated smart city portal (www.smartcity.gov.hk).

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202012/10/P2020121000626.htm>

Publication on Hong Kong’s Supply Chains

The Economist, in partnership with the Hong Kong Information Services Department, created a video “[The Smartest Link in the Chain](#)” and an infographic “[Building Supply Chains of the Future](#)” to demonstrate how Hong Kong, with its unique strengths, is set to bounce back as an even more resilient regional and global logistics hub.

Please click the link below for details:

<https://asiahubhk.economist.com/>

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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