

Hong Kong e-News Bulletin

December 30, 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

Currently, except for Hong Kong residents, all travellers arriving Hong Kong by flights from overseas countries/territories will be denied entry. The same restriction also applies to non-Hong Kong residents travelling to Hong Kong from the Mainland of China, Macao and Taiwan who have been to any overseas countries/territories in the past 14 days. These temporary restrictions will remain in force until further notice. Please refer to the webpage <https://www.coronavirus.gov.hk/eng/inbound-travel.html> for details.

Starting from 00.00 a.m. on December 25, 2020 (HK time), travellers from Canada are required to present test report, in English or Chinese, showing a negative COVID-19 nucleic acid test administered within 72 hours of the scheduled time of departure, before boarding the flight. They are required to present documentary proof in English to show that the laboratory or healthcare institution is recognized/ approved/ ISO15189 accredited. The same requirements apply to a Hong Kong resident who has stayed in Canada during the 14 days before boarding the flight to Hong Kong. Please refer to the webpage <https://www.coronavirus.gov.hk/eng/high-risk-places.html> for details.

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.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Hong Kong New Year Countdown Celebration

The Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTB) will share the festive cheers and the appeal of Hong Kong with the rest of the world in a new way this year. For the first time, the signature “Hong Kong New Year Countdown Celebrations” on December 31, 2020 will go online. Everyone around the world including all Canadians can join Hong Kong to count down to the new year in the comfort of their home.

On the New Year Eve, HKTB’s website (discoverhongkong.com) and social media platforms (Facebook and YouTube) will begin showing a live countdown clock at 11pm (10am EST/7am PST) and 11:30pm (10.30am EST/7.30am PST), respectively. Once the clock strikes midnight, a two-minute video featuring views of Victoria Harbour and landmarks of Hong Kong will follow, along with festive greetings sending blessings to the world.

For details, please refer to the following links:

<https://www.facebook.com/DiscoverHongKong>

<https://www.youtube.com/user/hongkong/>

DramaOne’s virtual programme “Reading Book, Sipping Coffee”

DramaOne is hosting 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) join with ten renowned Hong Kong authors in sharing their signature books at the programme. The programme consists of ten episodes and they are 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>

Starlight’s virtual seminar “Cantonese Opera Seminar Review by Belated Dr Lam Kar-sing” (「林家聲之『博精深新』粵劇講座回顧」)

Starlight Cantonese Opera is conducting a virtual seminar starting from December 11 to review a series of Cantonese opera seminars hosted by belated Dr Lam Kar-sing in 2013. Five guest speakers from Hong Kong are invited to share online the history and inheritance of Cantonese opera in Hong Kong. The seminar is supported by HKETO. Five episodes are conducted and broadcast every two weeks at Starlight’s Facebook and Youtube channels. For details, please click the following link:

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

HONG KONG NEWS

Canada included as a specified place gazetted under Prevention and Control of Disease (Regulation of Cross-boundary Conveyances and Travellers) Regulation

In view of the global developments and severity of the COVID-19 pandemic situation, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government has gazetted the specifications under the Prevention and Control of Disease (Regulation of Cross-boundary Conveyances and Travellers) Regulation (Cap. 599H) to include Canada as a specified place starting from December 25 to more effectively combat the epidemic.

Persons who arrive at Hong Kong via the airport from specified high-risk places, including Canada, need to present a negative result of a nucleic acid test for COVID-19 done within 72 hours of boarding the flight and room reservation in a designated quarantine hotel, as well as undergo the “test-and-hold” arrangement upon arrival in Hong Kong. Only with the negative test result can the travellers take designated transportation to the designated quarantine hotel to undergo 21 days of compulsory quarantine.

Click the following links for details.

<https://www.coronavirus.gov.hk/eng/high-risk-places.html>

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202012/18/P2020121800522.htm>

In addition, the HKSAR Government has gazetted the specifications under the Compulsory Quarantine of Certain Persons Arriving at Hong Kong Regulation (Cap. 599C), the Compulsory Quarantine of Persons Arriving at Hong Kong from Foreign Places Regulation (Cap. 599E) and the Prevention and Control of Disease (Regulation of Cross-boundary Conveyances and Travellers) Regulation (Cap. 599H), and published the latest compulsory testing notice under the Prevention and Control of Disease (Compulsory Testing for Certain Persons) Regulation (Cap. 599J), to tighten the compulsory quarantine requirements for persons arriving at Hong Kong who have stayed in places outside China, and restrict the boarding of persons who have stayed in the United Kingdom (UK) and South Africa for Hong Kong. Starting from December 25, the following requirements have been tightened or made:

- 1) all persons arriving at Hong Kong (either via the airport or land boundary control points) who have stayed in places outside China on the day of arrival at Hong Kong or during the 21 days before that day have to undergo compulsory quarantine for 21 days in designated quarantine hotels;
- 2) all persons who have stayed in the UK and South Africa for more than two hours in the past 21 days will not be allowed to board for Hong Kong; and

- 3) apart from the requirement to undergo testing at the community testing centres or the designated quarantine hotels on the 19th or 20th day following their arrival at Hong Kong, the relevant persons have to stay at their place of residence, private premises or the place of quarantine specified on the quarantine order until the test result is available.

All travellers to Hong Kong should note that they will be mandated to wait for their test results at a designated location after their combined throat and nasal swab specimens 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 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/202012/25/P2020122500012.htm>

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202012/24/P2020122400141.htm>

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202012/18/P2020121800850.htm>

Members of public are also reminded that with effect from January 5, 2021, persons entering Shenzhen from Hong Kong via the Shenzhen Bay Port are required by the Shenzhen Municipal Government to present a hotel reservation confirmation for the 14-day period of centralised quarantine and medical surveillance, in addition to a valid proof of a negative COVID-19 nucleic acid test result issued within 24 hours.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202012/29/P2020122900798.htm>

Government extends social distancing measures under Prevention and Control of Disease Ordinance

The HKSAR Government announced on December 21 that it will gazette directions and specifications under the Prevention and Control of Disease (Requirements and Directions) (Business and Premises) Regulation (Cap. 599F), the Prevention and Control of Disease (Prohibition on Group Gathering) Regulation (Cap. 599G) and the Prevention and Control of Disease (Wearing of Mask) Regulation (Cap. 599I) to maintain the social distancing measures currently in place. These measures will take effect till January 6, 2021.

Taking into account the latest public health risk assessment, the HKSAR Government will maintain existing requirements and restrictions applicable to catering business premises and scheduled premises, as well as the requirements for group gatherings and mask

wearing. 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/202012/21/P2020122100978.htm>

Chief Executive officiates at Tuen Mun-Chek Lap Kok Link Northern Connection Commissioning Ceremony

The Chief Executive of the HKSAR, Mrs Carrie Lam, officiated at the commissioning ceremony of the Tuen Mun-Chek Lap Kok Link (TM-CLKL) Northern Connection on December 26.

The toll-free Northern Connection is 5.5 kilometres long, of which about 5km is the Tuen Mun-Chek Lap Kok Tunnel, a subsea road tunnel connecting Tuen Mun South and the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (HZMB) Hong Kong Port. The driving distance between Tuen Mun South and Hong Kong International Airport will be reduced by some 22 kilometres and the journey time by about 20 minutes.

Mrs Lam said that the commissioning of the Northern Connection has created an opportunity for the “Quota-free scheme for Hong Kong private cars travelling to Guangdong via the HZMB”. In addition, the commissioning of the Northern Connection will provide better and more reliable transport infrastructure to Lantau, the aviation and land transport “double gateway” connecting Hong Kong to Mainland cities of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202012/26/P2020122600176.htm>

HKSAR and Hague Conference on Private International Law sign memorandum of understanding on secondment of legal professionals

The Secretary for Justice of the HKSAR Government, Ms Teresa Cheng, SC, signed a memorandum of understanding with the Secretary General of the Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH), Dr Christophe Bernasconi, for the technical and administrative arrangements relating to the secondment of legal professionals on December 22 at a virtual signing ceremony.

Addressing the ceremony, Ms Cheng said that it was the Department of Justice’s policy initiative to nurture legal talents through continuous provision of training opportunities. Thanking the HCCH’s strong support for this scheme, lawyers in both the public and private sectors have opportunities to gain experience at the HCCH under the secondment arrangement, which would expand their knowledge of the operation of international

Hong Kong e-News Bulletin

December 30, 2020



organisations, broaden their horizons through learning from international law experts, and inject a Hong Kong perspective into shaping the development of international law.

The virtual signing ceremony was held at the former French Mission Building, an important part of the Hong Kong Legal Hub where the HCCH's Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific in the HKSAR has recently been relocated.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202012/22/P2020122200709.htm>

The launch of “iAM Smart” mobile app

The HKSAR Government announced on December 29 the launch of a one-stop personalised digital services platform, “iAM Smart”, to provide a new experience for the public to login and use online services with a single digital identity with their personal mobile phone. Hong Kong residents living in Canada can also use the “iAM Smart” app for accessing the relevant online services.

Development of the “iAM Smart” platform is led by the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) to provide four major functions, namely:

- authentication (e.g. login online services),
- form filling (e.g. address, contact phone number and email),
- personalised notification (e.g. notification of billing deadlines), and
- digital signing.

Members of the public will be able to access more than 20 commonly used online services of the Government and the public utilities once they register for “iAM Smart”. It is expected that by mid-2021, the number of public services accessible through the platform will increase to more than 110.

The OGCIO has also conducted the “iAM Smart” pilot sandbox programme in collaboration with Cyberport and the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks. More than 180 companies in the financial sector and the FinTech tenants and incubatees have joined the programme. The OGCIO is currently working with the Hong Kong Monetary Authority in assisting financial institutions to adopt “iAM Smart” in their online services.

The OGCIO stressed that the “iAM Smart” platform strictly adheres to government policies and guidelines on information technology security as well as the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance.

Hong Kong e-News Bulletin

December 30, 2020



Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202012/29/P2020122900647.htm>

Hong Kong team triumphs at international competitions

A team of eight students representing Hong Kong achieved excellent results in the 5th International Olympiad of Metropolises (IOM 2020), winning two gold medals, five silver medals and one bronze medal, as well as a gold award in the team competition.

The IOM is an international competition covering four disciplines: informatics, mathematics, physics and chemistry. Due to the COVID-19 epidemic, contestants participated within each participating country or city from December 16 to 22 for IOM 2020. There were around 230 contestants from 31 countries or cities participating in the competition.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202012/23/P2020122300319.htm>

In addition, another team of six students representing Hong Kong also attained excellent results at the 36th China Mathematical Olympiad (CMO 2020) related to science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), winning one gold medal, four silver medals and one bronze medal.

CMO 2020 was held in Changsha, Hunan Province, from November 22 to 28. There were 456 contestants from 32 provinces and autonomous regions, including HKSAR, participating in the competition. Due to the COVID-19 epidemic, Hong Kong contestants attempted the question papers in Hong Kong, in parallel with the Mainland, on November 24 and 25 under online monitoring.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202012/17/P2020121600252.htm>

ICAC updates international communities on anti-corruption efforts

The latest issue of the ICAC's electronic newsletter, ICAC Post#41, has been uploaded on the ICAC corporate website.

Highlights of this issue are:

- Anti-corruption and the Rule of Law
- 25 Years of Commitment to Promoting Business Ethics
- Probity Messages for People of Diverse Race

Hong Kong e-News Bulletin

December 30, 2020



Click here to read the details:

<https://www.icac.org.hk/icac/post/issue41/en/index.html>

Celebration of 30th anniversary of the promulgation of the Basic Law

To celebrate the 30th anniversary of the promulgation of the Basic Law, the Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee has produced a promotional video “We Fly Because We Can” (行穩致遠 無盡前景). Please click the link below to watch the video:

<https://youtu.be/TUIG6Fdsox8>

Publication on Hong Kong’s innovation supply chains

The Economist, in partnership with the Hong Kong Information Services Department, created a briefing paper to discuss how Hong Kong became Asia’s global supply chain hub.

Please click the link below for details:

<https://asiahubhk.economist.com/how-hong-kongs-innovative-supply-chains-keep-asia-connected/>

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

December 30, 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.