

Hong Kong e-News Bulletin

January 13, 2021



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.

In addition, 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](https://www.coronavirus.gov.hk) 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

The 7th Transpacific Entrepreneurial Virtual Conference on January 21-22

The Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong and the Hong Kong-Canada Business Association will co-organise on January 21-22 the 7th Transpacific Entrepreneurial Virtual Conference, which is supported by the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (Toronto) (HKETO).

In this annual event, business and industry leaders, entrepreneurs, start-ups and government representatives will share how Canadian businesses can use Hong Kong as a platform to tap into the vast investment opportunities presented by China and Canada.

Highlights of the conference:

- Current opportunities for expanding into Canada and/or China
- Greater Bay Area (GBA) Initiatives - the impact & possibilities to Hong Kong
- Strategies for ensuring business success in China
- Practical knowledge and experience about the start-up and venture capital ecosystems
- Future growth prospects for SMEs despite global disruptions
- End-of-day networking sessions with speakers, moderators and attendees

Click the link below for registration:

<https://www.cancham.org/7th-transpacific-entrepreneurial-conference/>

“Your 2021 Think Asia, Think Hong Kong Business Strategies” webinar on January 27

The Hong Kong Trade Development Council office in Canada will organise on January 27 at 12:00 noon -1:00 pm (EST) a webinar to discuss the latest developments in Hong Kong and opportunities for businesses in Canada to prosper in 2021. Registrants can also hear from the experience of a Canadian company in leveraging the Hong Kong platform. The webinar is supported by HKETO, Invest Hong Kong and the Hong Kong-Canada Business Association. For registration, click this link here: <http://bit.ly/2021TATHKBiz>

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 to review a series of Cantonese opera seminars hosted by belated Dr Lam Kar-sing. 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

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

The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government announced on January 4 that it gazetted 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 already in place. The directions and specifications will take effect till January 20, 2021.

The Government spokesman said that although the number of confirmed cases declined slowly in recent days, the speed of decline was clearly slower than that in the former wave of epidemic.

You can click the following link for details about the extended requirements and restrictions:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202101/04/P2021010400721.htm>

In addition, the HKSAR Government announced on January 7 that in view of the developments of the global COVID-19 epidemic situation, it is necessary to maintain the measure under the Prevention and Control of Disease (Regulation of Cross-boundary Conveyances and Travellers) Regulation (Cap. 599H) to restrict persons who have stayed in the United Kingdom (UK) or South Africa from boarding flights for Hong Kong,

as well as the tightened 21-day compulsory quarantine requirement 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 Cap. 599H for persons arriving in Hong Kong who have stayed in places outside China.

Due to the emergence of different new virus variants in the UK and South Africa which may be much more transmissible according to experts' preliminary assessment, and in view of their already prevalent spread in those places, as a precautionary measure, the HKSAR Government had gazetted the relevant specification at the end of December last year, that any person who has stayed in the UK or South Africa for more than two hours on the day of boarding or during the 21 days before that day are not allowed to board for Hong Kong.

The Government had also required that from December 25, 2020, all persons arriving in Hong Kong (either via the airport or land boundary control points) who have stayed in places outside China on the day of arrival in Hong Kong or during the 21 days before that day have to undergo compulsory quarantine for 21 days in designated quarantine hotels.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202101/07/P2021010700561.htm>

Acceptance of applications for return to Hong Kong from non-permanent residents under the pandemic

Immigration Department (ImmD) of the HKSAR Government on December 31 announced that in view of the COVID-19 pandemic, Hong Kong non-permanent residents who are currently outside Hong Kong with their limit of stay about to expire/expired may apply for a visa/entry permit to return to Hong Kong.

In general, persons admitted into Hong Kong under various immigration policies/schemes may apply for extension of stay within four weeks before their limit of stay expires. Applicants should be physically present in Hong Kong both at the time of applications and collection of the relevant labels.

Due to the pandemic, if persons (except foreign domestic helpers and imported workers) are outside Hong Kong, with limit of stay expiring within four weeks/expired for less than 12 months, and are not able to return to Hong Kong timely to apply for extension of stay, they may submit a duly completed application form together with the required supporting documents for application for extension of stay under the relevant immigration policy/scheme. For details on the arrangement, please visit the Homepage of ImmD: www.immd.gov.hk.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202012/31/P2020123100764.htm?fontSize=1>

HKSAR Government refutes joint statement by three foreign ministers and US Secretary of State

In response to the joint statement on arrests in Hong Kong made by the foreign ministers of Australia, Canada and the United Kingdom, and the United States Secretary of State, a HKSAR Government spokesman on January 10 remarked that it is the HKSAR's constitutional responsibilities to safeguard national security.

The Government spokesman said that since enactment of the Law of the People's Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (the National Security Law) by the National People's Congress Standing Committee on June 30, 2020 and promulgation for its application in Hong Kong on the same day in accordance with the Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China (the Basic Law), the HKSAR Government has been discharging its duty to safeguard national security in Hong Kong lawfully and dutifully.

He also noted that safeguarding national security through legislation is in line with international practice, and this national obligation should be fully respected in the international arena. Contrary to allegations that the National Security Law undermines the "One Country, Two Systems" framework, the National Security Law fully and faithfully implements the principles of "One Country, Two Systems", "Hong Kong people administering Hong Kong" and a high degree of autonomy. At the same time, the National Security Law contains specific provisions upholding Hong Kong people's rights and freedoms under the Basic Law as well as the relevant provisions of international covenants on human rights as applied to Hong Kong.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202101/10/P2021011000311.htm>

Free Trade Agreement and Investment Agreement between Hong Kong and ASEAN enter into force in full

A HKSAR Government spokesman said on January 8 that the part in relation to Cambodia under the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and the Investment Agreement (IA) between Hong Kong and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) will take effect on February 12, signifying that the FTA and the IA signed between Hong Kong and the 10 member states of ASEAN will come into effect in full. Hong Kong enterprises and service

Hong Kong e-News Bulletin

January 13, 2021



providers will be able to enjoy the full benefits as committed to by all 10 ASEAN member states under the agreements. Their business opportunities in ASEAN markets will be greatly enhanced.

ASEAN was Hong Kong's second largest trading partner in merchandise trade in 2019 and the fourth largest in services trade in 2018. Total merchandise trade between Hong Kong and ASEAN amounted to HK\$1,018 billion in 2019 and total services trade between the two sides was HK\$137 billion in 2018.

The agreements are comprehensive in scope, encompassing trade in goods, trade in services, investment, economic and technical co-operation, dispute settlement mechanisms and other related areas. They bring about legal certainty and better market access for Hong Kong enterprises. They also help reduce the restrictions in doing business and expand business opportunities for Hong Kong enterprises, thus creating a more conducive environment for the development of Hong Kong's economy.

Hong Kong has signed eight FTAs with 20 economies.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202101/08/P2021010700484.htm>

Hong Kong-Serbia tax treaty in force

The Comprehensive Avoidance of Double Taxation Agreement (CDTA) between Hong Kong and Serbia signed in August this year came into force on December 30, 2020, after the completion of the relevant ratification procedures. The CDTA will have effect in respect of Hong Kong tax for any year of assessment beginning on or after April 1, 2021.

Serbia participates in the Belt and Road initiative, and was the 89th largest trading partner of Hong Kong in 2019. The CDTA will bring a greater degree of certainty on tax liabilities for those who engage in cross-border business activities, and help promote bilateral trade and investment activities.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202012/31/P2020123000692.htm>

New Chief Justice sworn in

The new Chief Justice of the Court of Final Appeal, Mr Andrew Cheung Kui-nung, was sworn in at Government House on January 11.

The Chief Justice took the Judicial Oath which was administered by the Chief Executive,

Hong Kong e-News Bulletin

January 13, 2021



Mrs Carrie Lam. In solemnity, the Chief Justice swore that he will uphold the Basic Law of the HKSAR of the People's Republic of China (PRC), bear allegiance to the HKSAR of the PRC, serve the HKSAR conscientiously, dutifully, in full accordance with the law, honestly and with integrity, safeguard the law and administer justice without fear or favour, self-interest or deceit.

On the first day of his assumption of office, the Chief Justice expressed that he would endeavour to maintain the independence and impartiality of the Judiciary and safeguard the rule of law.

The Chief Executive congratulated Mr Cheung on his assumption of office and pledged her continued support for the Judiciary.

Click the following links for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202101/11/P2021011100312.htm>

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202101/11/P2021011100416.htm>

Greater Bay Area Youth Employment Scheme launched

The HKSAR Government announced on January 8 the launch of the Greater Bay Area Youth Employment Scheme for which interested enterprises can apply to offer job vacancies for young people.

The scheme is one of the measures announced by the Chief Executive in the 2020 Policy Address. It aims to encourage and support young people to work and pursue their careers in the Mainland cities of the GBA, help them understand the latest developments of both Hong Kong and those cities and leverage the opportunities for career advancement in the GBA.

Enterprises with operations in Hong Kong and GBA Mainland cities are welcome to join the scheme to offer job vacancies. Participating enterprises shall employ the eligible graduates locally under Hong Kong laws, and shall station the graduates in GBA Mainland cities to work and receive on-the-job training. The scheme provides 2 000 places, around 700 of which are designated for innovation and technology posts. The Government will grant a monthly allowance of HK\$10,000 to enterprises for each graduate employed for up to 18 months.

To join the scheme, eligible graduates should be Hong Kong residents lawfully employable in Hong Kong and hold bachelor's degrees or above awarded locally or by institutions outside Hong Kong from 2019 to 2021. Interested enterprises may visit the dedicated website (www.jobs.gov.hk/gbayes) for more information.

Hong Kong e-News Bulletin

January 13, 2021



Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202101/08/P2021010700723.htm>

Video on Hong Kong as Asia's Cultural Metropolis

The Hong Kong Information Services Department in partnership with the Home Affairs Bureau produced a new thematic video to showcase Hong Kong as Asia's Cultural Metropolis.

A fusion of influences from East and West, Hong Kong's arts and culture are flourishing. While the development of art tech is gaining traction, an array of performances and events, from Cantonese opera to orchestra, lion dance to ballet, and public art to art fairs demonstrate Hong Kong's unique creative flair all year round. Please click the shareable link below to the video and see how Asia's cultural metropolis is evolving and gearing up to scale new heights thanks to the city's world-class arts and cultural infrastructure.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EFr5qKRBcgQ&t=3s>

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

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.