

Hong Kong e-News Bulletin

January 27, 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 21 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.

RECENT ACTIVITY

HKETO Director promotes the Hong Kong platform for overseas businesses

Director of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (Toronto) (HKETO), Ms Emily Mo, spoke at the 7th Annual Transpacific Entrepreneurial Virtual Conference hosted by the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong and the Hong Kong-Canada Business Association (HKCBA) on January 22. The conference discussed how Canadian entrepreneurs can make use of Hong Kong as a platform to expand their business into Asia and vice versa.

In delivering opening remarks at the panel session entitled “Accessing Capital in Canada & Asia”, Ms Mo first introduced the unique business advantages offered by Hong Kong, including how Hong Kong offers a fertile start-up environment supported by various public and private initiatives which help entrepreneurs turn great ideas into reality.

In addition, Ms Mo highlighted the pivotal role that Hong Kong is set to play in China’s game-changing economic development strategies, namely the Belt and Road Initiative and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development. Ms Mo added that Hong Kong’s Free Trade Agreement and related Investment Agreement with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations can boost business and investment opportunities.

Ms Mo invited overseas companies, including Canada’s, to make use of the Hong Kong platform to tap into the vast investment opportunities presented by the mainland of China, Asia and beyond.

The panel session was joined by Head of InvestHK Canada Mr Christopher Chen who provided an overview of the public funding avenues through the different government funding schemes, and other speakers from Royal Bank of Canada, Saltagen Ventures and Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.hketotoronto.gov.hk/newsroom/hketo-director-joins-webinar-to-promote-the-hong-kong-platform-for-overseas-businesses.html>

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

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 now until 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>

Dragon Ball 2021

The 32nd Dragon Ball hosted by the Yee Hong Community Wellness Foundation will be held virtually on February 13. This year's event will feature a cooking demonstration by Hong Kong "Demon chef" Alvin Leung together with Toronto Masterchef Eric Chong; two spectacular dances by the Hong Kong Dance Company namely a dance drama "Mazu" (舞劇《媽祖》) and "Convergence" 舞X武劇場《凝》, which is a crossover of Chinese Dance with Martial Arts; a singing performance by Hong Kong singer Joyce Cheng (鄭欣宜) as well as Hong Kong milk tea making and dough figurine demonstration. HKETO is a sponsor of the event.

For more details, please click the link below:

<https://www.yeehongdragonball.org/>

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 19 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 February 3, 2021.

A government spokesman said that 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 extended requirements and restrictions:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202101/27/P2021012700006.htm>

In addition, the HKSAR Government announced on January 23 that under the Prevention and Control of Disease (Regulation of Cross-boundary Conveyances and Travellers) Regulation (Cap. 599H), any person who has stayed in the extremely high-risk Group A specified places (i.e. Brazil, Ireland, South Africa and the United Kingdom) 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.

Apart from the boarding restrictions for the extremely high-risk Group A specified places, the Government considers that the current boarding and compulsory quarantine requirements for the very high-risk Group B specified places, including Canada, and the medium to high-risk Group C specified places should continue. 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 in Hong Kong or during the 21 days before that day have to undergo compulsory quarantine for 21 days in designated quarantine hotels. For persons arriving at Hong Kong who have stayed in Group B specified places, they also have to present proof of a negative result of a nucleic acid test for COVID-19 conducted within 72 hours before the scheduled time of departure of the aircraft.

Hong Kong e-News Bulletin

January 27, 2021



Details on the grouping of specified places and their respective boarding and compulsory quarantine requirements can be found at www.coronavirus.gov.hk/eng/high-risk-places.html

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202101/23/P2021012300050.htm>

In addition, the HKSAR Government announced on January 18 the list of the designated quarantine hotels for the second cycle. A total of 36 hotels will provide about 10 000 rooms of various types and rates for selection in the new cycle, with the contract period lasting from February 20 to April 20. Under the Designated Quarantine Hotel and Designated Transportation Scheme, all travellers arriving from countries outside China are required to undergo compulsory quarantine for 21 days at designated quarantine hotels.

The list of designated hotels in the second cycle and related details such as room rates have been uploaded to the thematic webpage www.designatedhotel.gov.hk

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202101/18/P2021011800517.htm>

Besides, the Beijing Municipal Government recently announced that the COVID-19 nucleic acid test requirement for persons entering Beijing from Hong Kong would be adjusted with effect from January 27. The HKSAR Government on January 25 urged members of the public to pay attention and ensure that they can meet the requirement when travelling to Beijing to avoid hiccups when crossing the border.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202101/25/P2021012500596.htm>

Asian Financial Forum examines opportunities and challenges in new global economic landscape

The 14th Asian Financial Forum (AFF), jointly organised by the HKSAR Government and the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, opened on January 18 with more than 5 000 influential global policymakers, financial experts, business leaders, economists, investors and entrepreneurs from some 70 countries and regions to participate online for the first time. Under the theme “Reshaping World Economic Landscape”, the two-day forum this year offers a timely opportunity to foster dialogue and collaboration among participants to build more resilient, sustainable and innovative economies in face of the changing landscape shaped by the COVID-19 pandemic, trade disputes, climate change and waves of technological advances.

The Chief Executive of the HKSAR, Mrs Carrie Lam pointed out in her opening address that Hong Kong's fundamentals remain strong amidst the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. The liquidity in the capital markets of the city is also remarkable. She added that with its unique advantages as the international financial centre of China and one of the world's major financial cities, Hong Kong will continue to see enormous opportunities when the pandemic is over.

As the HKSAR Government is working to expand the flow of capital and people to create new markets and business opportunities in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Greater Bay Area), Mrs Lam said that the Wealth Management Connect will attract a wealth of international financial institutions given the huge potential investor base in the Greater Bay Area.

Also among the highlights of the first-day programme was the keynote speech delivered by 2018 Nobel Laureate for Economic Sciences, Professor Paul Romer. He analysed the current state of the global economy and posited the path towards a new and sustainable growth engine.

Click the following links for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202101/18/P2021011800472.htm>

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202101/18/P2021011800183.htm>

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202101/19/P2021011900246.htm>

HKSAR Government denounced so-called US sanctions imposed on six PRC and HKSAR government officials and the European Parliament's resolution

The HKSAR Government on January 16 sternly denounced the "coercive measures" taken by the United States (US) Department of State under the so-called "The President's Executive Order on Hong Kong Normalization" against six officials of the Central People's Government and the HKSAR Government in response to the 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) on June 30, 2020.

The spokesman reiterated that safeguarding national security through legislation is in line with international practice. 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.

Hong Kong e-News Bulletin

January 27, 2021



Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202101/16/P2021011600360.htm>

In addition, the HKSAR Government on January 22 strongly objected to the European Parliament's "resolution" relating to Hong Kong.

The National Security Law is in no violation of the Sino-British Joint Declaration. The basic policies regarding Hong Kong declared by China in the Joint Declaration were China's statement of policies, not commitment to the United Kingdom (UK) or an international obligation as some claim. With the resumption of the exercise of sovereignty by China over Hong Kong and the completion of follow-up matters, all UK-related provisions have been fulfilled. The international community should fully acknowledge this fact and stop interfering in Hong Kong affairs which are internal affairs of China.

The rule of law in Hong Kong has a strong basis. The HKSAR Government is appalled by the call contained in the "resolution" that suspects arrested by law enforcement agencies in the HKSAR, some already convicted by independent courts, should be immediately released, suggesting that people with certain political beliefs should be immune to legal sanctions.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202101/22/P2021012200689.htm>

200 internship jobs created in collaboration with international chambers and HKFYG

The Commerce and Economic Development Bureau of the HKSAR Government announced on January 24 the launch of two internship programmes, namely the Future International Talent (FIT) programme and the Telecommunications Opportunities Programme (TOP) in collaboration with six international chambers of commerce in Hong Kong, including the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong, and the Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups (HKFYG) respectively. The programmes will create some 200 full-time entry-level job opportunities for young people in the creative industries and telecommunications sectors.

Under FIT, the six participating chambers will help recruit their member companies to offer over 100 internship or job opportunities to young people. Priority will be accorded to creative industries. As for TOP, it will provide about 100 internship placements offered by various telecommunications-related companies to young people through the HKFYG's strong networks.

Hong Kong e-News Bulletin

January 27, 2021



For the two internship programmes, the HKSAR Government will provide monthly salary subsidies under the Job Creation Scheme funded by the Anti-epidemic Fund. Candidates must be a Hong Kong identity card holder over 18 years old and a holder of an accredited certificate, diploma or degree obtained in a programme of a post-secondary or tertiary institute with no more than five years of work experience or a to-be graduate.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202101/24/P2021012200700.htm>

Articles showcasing Hong Kong's advantages

Bloomberg, in partnership with the Hong Kong Information Services Department, created an article "[How Hong Kong's financial leadership can power the Greater Bay Area](#)" to showcase how Hong Kong is powering the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area to become driving force for Asia's economic growth.

Please click the link below for details:

https://sponsored.bloomberg.com/news/sponsors/features/brand-hong-kong/introducing-the-new-dawn/?adv=13788&prx_t=X2EGA1B5KAU8PA

In addition, the Financial Times also created an [online hub](#) to examine how Hong Kong calls on entrepreneurial spirit to fight COVID-19. Adopting an insight-led approach to content, the Financial Times has conducted a short pulse survey to shed light on how Hong Kong multinationals approached the COVID-19 crisis and whether their resilience throughout was exemplified internationally. Over 100 Hong Kong-based business leaders employed by multinational organisations responded to the survey. Two articles were published with findings from [the survey](#):

(1) [Staying Safe: Rising to the challenge](#)

(2) [The new normal: Moving forward](#)

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.

Hong Kong e-News Bulletin

January 27, 2021



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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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

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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

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