

## Hong Kong e-News Bulletin

February 10, 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](mailto:info@hketotoronto.gov.hk)

#### Vancouver

Phone: (604) 331-1300 or

Email: [info\\_vancouver@hketotoronto.gov.hk](mailto: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.

### **Lunar New Year Greetings from the Chief Executive of HKSAR**

On the occasions of the Lunar New Year, the Chief Executive of the HKSAR, Mrs Carrie Lam, would like to send her greetings overseas wishing you good fortune and good health. In addition, she also expressed her thanks to your continued support to the work

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of the HKETO. Once again, Mrs Lam wishes you all a very successful and happy Year of the Ox.

Please click the link below for the greetings:

English:

[https://www.dropbox.com/s/cvqge3r5ahlzkd2/FB\\_CE%20CNY%20%28210211%29.mp4?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/cvqge3r5ahlzkd2/FB_CE%20CNY%20%28210211%29.mp4?dl=0)

Chinese:

[https://www.dropbox.com/s/kqc7puhqebaqw6/FB\\_CE%20CNY%20%28210111%29chi.mp4?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/kqc7puhqebaqw6/FB_CE%20CNY%20%28210111%29chi.mp4?dl=0)

### RECENT ACTIVITY

#### **HKETO Director promotes Hong Kong as an ideal gateway for Canadian companies**

Director of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (Toronto) (HKETO), Ms Emily Mo, joined the “Your 2021 Think Asia, Think Hong Kong Business Strategies” webinar hosted by the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC) on January 27 to promote Hong Kong as an ideal gateway to access to the huge and fast-growing markets of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area development (GBA) and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

In delivering the welcome remarks, Ms Mo updated the participants that the COVID-19 situation in Hong Kong is expected to improve gradually, with the epidemic prevention and control work at different levels yielding effects and mass vaccination to be carried out in phases.

On the economic front, Hong Kong’s financial system demonstrated its strengths and resilience. Ms Mo pointed out that among the latest GBA facilitation measure is Wealth Management Connect, in which Canadian financial institutions set up in Hong Kong will be able to assess to the huge potential investor base in the GBA under the measure.

Ms Mo also mentioned the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (RCEP) that Hong Kong is looking forward to be the first batch of new members of RCEP in future.

Besides, Ms Mo addressed concern on the new national security law’s implications for the long-term stability and prosperity of Hong Kong. She stressed that the law has no impact on the normal functioning of the financial markets, nor the normal conduct of businesses in Hong Kong. Looking forward, Hong Kong’s economy will continue to

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prosper with the unique advantages and maintain its status as an international financial centre.

The webinar, moderated by Hong Kong-Canada Business Association (Toronto GTA section) First Vice-President Ms Teresa Tazumi, was also joined by other panelists from HKTDC, InvestHK Canada and C4P Inc.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.hketotoronto.gov.hk/newsroom/hketo-director-joins-webinar-to-promote-hong-kong-as-an-ideal-gateway-for-canadian-companies.html>

### UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

#### Lunar New Year Virtual Extravaganza

The Hong Kong-Canada Business Association (Toronto) will organise the Lunar New Year Virtual Extravaganza at 12noon (EST) / 9am (PST) on February 18. Participants will celebrate the Year of the Ox together and enjoy game shows about Hong Kong, dragon dance, singing performance, cooking show, silent auction and lucky draw with premium economy flight tickets as the grand price. HKETO is a sponsor of the event.

Free registration can be made at:

<https://www.hkcbagta.com/>

#### 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 Masterchef Canada winner Eric Chong; two spectacular dance performances by the Hong Kong Dance Company namely "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 and starch-dough figurine making demonstrations. HKETO is a sponsor of the event.

For more details, please click the link below:

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

### HONG KONG NEWS

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

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In view of the global development and the severity of the COVID-19 epidemic, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government announced on January 27 that it gazetted the specifications under the Prevention and Control of Disease (Regulation of Cross-boundary Conveyances and Travellers) Regulation (Cap. 599H) to include Switzerland and the United Arab Emirates as very high-risk Group B specified places, effective from February 2, to more effectively combat the epidemic.

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. Persons arriving at Hong Kong who have stayed in Group B specified places on the day they board for Hong Kong or during the 21 days before that day are required to present before boarding 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, and confirmation of a room reservation in a designated quarantine hotel in Hong Kong for not less than 21 nights starting on the day of the arrival of the relevant traveller in Hong Kong.

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](http://www.coronavirus.gov.hk/eng/high-risk-places.html).

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202101/27/P2021012700720.htm>

In addition, the HKSAR Government announced on February 2 that it has 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 most of the social distancing measures already in place. The directions and specifications will take effect till February 17.

A government spokesman said that taking into account the latest public health risk assessment, and to reduce the infection risks arising from frequent social activities during the Lunar New Year, the HKSAR Government will maintain existing requirements and restrictions applicable to catering business premises and most of the 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/202102/03/P2021020300042.htm>

To enhance the implementation of the COVID-19 infection control strategy of “preventing the importation of cases and the spreading of the virus in the community”, the HKSAR Government has also appointed the Airport Authority Hong Kong to implement a series of testing schemes to strengthen protection of the health of the staff and users of the Hong Kong International Airport. The schemes include a one-off compulsory test for airport staff, a voluntary regular testing scheme for specified frontline staff and a free voluntary testing scheme for all airport staff.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202102/02/P2021020100628.htm>

### **HKSAR Government follows up on China’s countermeasures against British Government’s handling of issues related to British National (Overseas) passport**

The HKSAR Government announced on January 29 the non-recognition of the British National (Overseas) (BN(O)) passport as a valid travel document and proof of identity. With effect from January 31, BN(O) passports cannot be used for immigration clearance and will not be recognised as any form of proof of identity in Hong Kong.

The spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said earlier that the act of the United Kingdom (UK) Government disregards China’s solemn position and openly violates the British pledge. The so-called BN(O) passport mentioned by the UK is no longer the BN(O) passport as originally understood by China and the UK. The move of the UK has seriously infringed on China’s sovereignty and blatantly interfered in Hong Kong affairs and China’s internal affairs. It has also severely violated international law and the norms governing international relations. The spokesperson announced that with effect from January 31, China will no longer recognise the BN(O) passport as a valid travel document and proof of identity and reserve the right to take further actions.

The HKSAR Government spokesperson said that the Chinese and British Governments reached a consensus long ago on how to deal with the issue of Hong Kong residents holding BN(O) passports and exchanged memoranda on the understanding in 1984. In its memorandum, the UK clearly pledged not to confer the right of abode in the UK on holders of the BN(O) passport who are Chinese nationals in Hong Kong. The current move of the British side has substantively changed the nature of BN(O) passport, and is a fundamental violation of its pledge in its memorandum.

As for the possibly very few Hong Kong permanent residents who are not of Chinese nationality and who may only hold BN(O) passport but not any other valid travel

document, they may apply to the Immigration Department for Document of Identity for Visa Purposes for international travel.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202101/29/P2021012900763.htm>

In addition, the Chief Executive of the HKSAR, Mrs Carrie Lam, at a media session on February 9 reiterated there was an exchange of memorandum between the two governments about how the holders of the BNO passports will be treated after 1997. That is, the BNO passport is a travel document and is a proof of identity and nothing else. It is not a form of nationality, and the UK government has pledged that it will not grant right of abode or nationality status to holders of BNO, and this understanding has now been breached. As far as visits by the consulates to their nationals in Hong Kong institutions, there are two authoritative documents that one has to refer to. One is the Vienna Convention, which governs this sort of dual nationality. Where a person has dual nationality - which is accepted and recognised in some places, not all places, certainly not recognised in the Chinese Nationality Law - if that particular person is in one of the places or countries which he possesses one of his national status, then he will not be eligible for this sort of consular protection, including consular visits. That is a general rule applied to all countries and places.

Secondly is the 1996 explanations by the National People's Congress Standing Committee about the application of the Chinese Nationality Law in the HKSAR after 1997. That has a very specific provision that where people have a foreign nationality or right of abode elsewhere, unless they have renounced and have been approved to renounce that Chinese nationality, they are regarded as Chinese nationals in Hong Kong. Likewise, they will not be eligible for consular protection, including consular visits. That is very clear. We are strictly enforcing or implementing that particular policy.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202102/09/P2021020900423.htm?fontSize=1>

### **CE addresses European business community on Hong Kong development**

The Chief Executive of the HKSAR, Mrs Carrie Lam, on February 5 highlighted Hong Kong's unique advantages for doing business and shared prospects for overseas firms establishing in Hong Kong during an online dialogue with more than 700 entrepreneurs and business executives from different corners of continental Europe.

During the session, Mrs Lam said that Hong Kong with its strategic location and unique advantages under "One Country, Two Systems" is the ideal gateway for European companies to access the vast market in the Mainland of China, in particular, the GBA.



As Hong Kong continues to integrate into the national development, there will be ample opportunities for Hong Kong as well as the European enterprises that invest in the city. Mrs Lam invited European enterprises to seize the business opportunities as the Mainland of China and Hong Kong move towards green and sustainable development. She also added that Hong Kong is leveraging on its strengths as an international financial centre, and will continue to promote green finance.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202102/05/P2021020500844.htm>

## **New call-up programme for Hong Kong residents born in 1962 to 1963, 1973 to 1976, 2005 to 2007 and 2012 to 2018 to apply for new smart identity cards**

The Immigration Department (ImmD) of the HKSAR Government announced on February 3 that an Amendment Order has been made to revise the call-up programme for persons born in 1962 to 1963 to apply for new smart Hong Kong identity cards, and announce the call-up programme for persons born in 1973 to 1976, 2005 to 2007 and 2012 to 2018. The details are as follows:

Eligible persons	Application period
Holders of the old form of smart HKIC born in 1962 or 1963	July 28, 2020 - February 20, 2021 (Revised)
Holders of the old form of smart HKIC born in 1973, 1974, 1975 or 1976	February 22 - July 9, 2021
Holders of the old form of smart HKIC born in 2005, 2006, 2007, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 or 2018	May 3 - September 18, 2021

To avoid the gathering of crowds, the ImmD appeals to applicants who have not previously made appointment bookings to do so via the Internet ([www.gov.hk/newicbooking](http://www.gov.hk/newicbooking)), the ImmD mobile application or the 24-hour telephone booking hotline. Applicants can also pre-fill the application form when making appointment bookings through the Internet or the mobile application to save waiting time.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202102/03/P2021020300374.htm>

## **Articles showcasing Hong Kong's enduring strengths**

Xinhua News Agency, in partnership with the Information Services Department, produced an advertorial (Chinese version only) on the Greater Bay Area Youth Employment Scheme. It is published in the Xinhua Daily Telegraph.

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Please click the link below for details:

<http://mrdx.cn/content/20210129/Page06DK.htm>

In addition, the Hong Kong Monetary Authority shared an article on Hong Kong's enduring strengths as an international financial centre which also debunks a few misperceptions on issues such as capital flows, money being funneled into offshore accounts, financial institutions leaving Hong Kong etc.

Please click the link below for details:

<https://www.hkma.gov.hk/eng/news-and-media/insight/2021/02/20210208/>

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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](mailto: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](mailto:christopher_chen@hketotoronto.gov.hk) or visit [www.InvestHK.gov.hk](http://www.InvestHK.gov.hk)

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