

Hong Kong e-News Bulletin

February 24, 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.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

“Paddles Up! The Canadian International Dragon Boat Festival Exhibit”

Thanks to the original gift of six teak dragon boats by Hong Kong to Vancouver for Expo 86, dragon boat has spread across Canada from Vancouver into a popular celebration of culture and sport. “Paddles Up! The Canadian International Dragon Boat Festival Exhibit” in Vancouver explores the dragon boat festival’s history in Canada. Unique artifacts, including two full-sized dragon boats, are being exhibited at BC Sports Hall of Fame until October 2, 2021. The exhibition was produced in partnership between the [Canadian International Dragon Boat Festival Society](https://www.ciddragonboatfestival.com/) and the BC Sports Hall of Fame. Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (Toronto) (HKETO) is a sponsor of the exhibition.

Please refer to the following website for details and ticket reservation:

<https://bcsportshall.com/exhibit/dragon-boat/>

RECENT ACTIVITIES

HKETO Director joins Lunar New Year Celebrations in Ontario

Director of HKETO, Ms Emily Mo, joined a series of virtual Lunar New Year celebration events hosted by the Hong Kong-Canada Business Association (Toronto, Ottawa and Atlantic Sections), Association of Chinese Canadian Entrepreneurs, and various Chinese business associations in Ontario, including Toronto, Mississauga, Hamilton and Brampton from February 11 to 18.

In her greetings at the events, Ms Mo highlighted the close business ties between Hong Kong and Canada, and said that she is optimistic in more vibrant business activities between the two places in the coming year with worldwide vaccination underway.

Ms Mo also highlighted the distinctive advantages of doing business in Hong Kong under the “one country, two systems” principle such as free flow of capital and goods, and a simple and low tax system. Noting that Hong Kong plays a pivotal role in the growth of China’s economy, Ms Mo emphasised the vast business opportunities presented by the mainland of China, Asia and beyond. She encouraged Canadian businesses to make use of the Hong Kong platform to expand or seize these new opportunities.

Ms Mo took the opportunity to wish all participants a healthy and prosperous Year of the Ox.

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Click the following links for details.

<https://www.hketotoronto.gov.hk/newsroom/hketo-director-joins-lunar-new-year-celebrations-in-toronto.html>

<https://www.hketotoronto.gov.hk/newsroom/hketo-director-attends-chinese-new-year-celebrations-in-ontario-2.html>

HKETO supports Dragon Ball 2021

Director of the HKETO, Ms Emily Mo, joined the 32nd Dragon Ball hosted virtually by Yee Hong Community Wellness Foundation on February 13. The event was to celebrate the Year of the Ox with the business, political and community organisations in Canada.

In an interview for Dragon Ball, Ms Mo noted that Hong Kong is an international cultural metropolis where the eastern and western cultures meet. The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government is committed to strengthening the city's position as an international arts and culture metropolis. The West Kowloon Cultural District, one of the world's largest cultural infrastructure projects, is an example.

This year's Dragon Ball featured two spectacular dance performances namely "Mazu" and "Convergence" by the Hong Kong Dance Company, a cooking demonstration by Hong Kong "Demon Chef" Alvin Leung together with Masterchef Canada winner Eric Chong, a singing performance by Hong Kong singer Joyce Cheng as well as Hong Kong milk tea and starch-dough figurine making demonstrations. HKETO is a sponsor of the event.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.hketotoronto.gov.hk/newsroom/hketo-supports-dragon-ball-2021.html>

HONG KONG NEWS

Government begins to relax social distancing measures in gradual and orderly manner

The HKSAR Government gazetted on February 17 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 relax social distancing measures in a gradual and orderly manner. The above directions and specifications will take effect till March 3.

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A spokesman for the Food and Health Bureau of the HKSAR Government said that the pandemic situation has been gradually improving in the past month. With the epidemic situation under control, the HKSAR Government decided to relax social distancing measures in a gradual and orderly manner to allow social and economic activities to resume.

You can click the following link for details of the latest requirements and restrictions:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202102/17/P2021021700662.htm>

In addition, it is expected that many Hong Kong residents are returning to Hong Kong from the Guangdong Province after the Lunar New Year festive period. The HKSAR Government reminded eligible residents who wish to return to Hong Kong under “Return2hk - Travel Scheme for Hong Kong Residents returning from Guangdong Province or Macao without being subject to quarantine under the Compulsory Quarantine of Certain Persons Arriving at Hong Kong Regulation (Cap. 599C)” (Return2hk Scheme) should use the online booking system to apply for quotas (www.quotabooking.gov.hk/cbt_booking/index_hk.jsp).

Details of the Return2hk Scheme are available on the dedicated website (return2hk.gov.hk).

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202102/18/P2021021800698.htm>

Government launches COVID-19 Vaccination Programme

The HKSAR Government announced on February 18 the arrangements for the territory-wide COVID-19 Vaccination Programme.

A Government spokesman said that the HKSAR Government had purchased three different vaccines with a total of 22 500 000 doses, which would be sufficient for vaccinating all people in Hong Kong. As the vaccines will arrive in Hong Kong in batches, there is a need for the Government to identify priority groups for vaccination with a view to taking forward the programme in a gradual and orderly manner.

The five priority groups are:

1. Healthcare staff and staff involved in anti-epidemic work;
2. Persons aged 60 or above (A maximum of two carers who accompany elderly people aged 70 or above can also receive vaccination);
3. Residents and staff of residential care homes for the elderly and persons with disabilities;
4. People providing essential public services;

5. People providing cross-boundary transportation or working at control points and ports.

The first batch of COVID-19 vaccines was delivered smoothly to Hong Kong on February 19. People belonging to the priority groups for vaccination may make appointments online starting from February 23 to receive the Sinovac vaccine at five Community Vaccination Centres. It is expected that private doctors who participate in the Vaccination Programme can start providing the administration of Sinovac vaccine to members of the public before mid-March.

Members of the public can select the vaccine to be inoculated, and reserve the time and place of their first and second doses through the 24-hour online booking system on the designated website (www.covidvaccine.gov.hk).

Click the following links for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202102/18/P2021021800767.htm>

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202102/19/P2021021900729.htm>

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202102/23/P2021022300042.htm>

The Chief Executive of the HKSAR, Mrs Carrie Lam, and a number of Principal Officials on February 22 took the lead to receive their first dose of the vaccine. They appealed to the public to get vaccinated against COVID-19 early to protect themselves and others, with a view to safeguarding public health in the community and restoring the local economy and people's livelihood to normal later.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202102/22/P2021022200784.htm>

SCED shares insights on trade landscape under COVID-19 pandemic at Asia Trade Week 2021

The Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development of the HKSAR Government, Mr Edward Yau, gave a keynote interview at Asia Trade Week 2021 themed "Reviving trade: the way forward" on February 22, sharing his insights on the trade landscape under the COVID-19 pandemic.

During the online interview, Mr Yau said that the pandemic has brought an uneven impact on the trade in Hong Kong, as commodity trade has not been much affected but trade in services has taken a heavier toll. Nevertheless, some areas such as financial services and information and technology have still achieved robust growth. Hong Kong's situation may resemble the situation globally.

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Mr Yau stressed that Hong Kong stands ready to join the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). Among the 15 economies of the RCEP, Hong Kong has had direct free trade agreements with 13 members including the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, Australia and New Zealand, on top of the Mainland and the Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement, which provides a very good platform for Hong Kong to start a meaningful and constructive discussion with RCEP members.

Organised by The Economist Events, Asia Trade Week 2021 was held from February 22-25. Policymakers, business leaders, trade negotiators, academics and economists had discussions on major factors that will shape the future of trade in Asia and beyond.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202102/22/P2021022200267.htm>

NAMCO opens first overseas DOCODOCO indoor digital adventure playground in Hong Kong

Japanese game centre operator NAMCO officially opened its first indoor digital adventure playground, DOCODOCO The LOHAS, in Hong Kong on February 18, bringing a brand new entertainment experience to the city.

DOCODOCO The LOHAS is the company's first overseas DOCODOCO branch outside Japan and measures about 5 000 square feet. The playground has interactive elements incorporating the latest digital technology that creates immediate and true responses to children. The experience is like that of being in a fantasy adventure, stimulating the imagination and creating exclusive parent-child time.

NAMCO has 10 game centres in Hong Kong, altogether staffed with more than 150 retail employees.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202102/18/P2021021800431.htm>

“Reconnect Hong Kong” video and articles

CNN, in partnership with the Information Services Department, created a short video clip and four pieces of content to shed light on Hong Kong beyond the buzzing city life that many are familiar with. The short video “[Reconnect Hong Kong](#)” invites viewers to rediscover what makes Hong Kong such a distinctive and special destination, through the eyes of a trail runner.

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Please click the link below for the video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y8XjZ9GM0GA>

In addition, through the eyes of two photographers, a chef and a trail runner, you can get a view of Hong Kong's biodiversity-rich natural environment, sustainable food systems and beautiful landscapes.

1. Call to Nature

Interviewee: Robert Ferguson, a nature photographer

<https://sponsorcontent.cnn.com/int/brandhk/call-to-nature/>

2. A sustainable Passion

Interviewee: Peggy Chan, a chef and eco-conscious entrepreneur

<https://sponsorcontent.cnn.com/int/brandhk/sustainable-passion/>

3. Peak Potential

Interviewee: Charlotte Taquet, a trail runner

<https://sponsorcontent.cnn.com/int/brandhk/peak-potential/>

4. Meet the man who's climbed every peak and visited every island in Hong Kong

Interviewee: Simon Wan, a photographer

<https://edition.cnn.com/travel/article/simon-wan-chi-chung-hong-kong-adventures/index.html>

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

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We work across Canada

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