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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) (HKETO) 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.

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UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

ACCE Awards Gala 2021

The Association of Canadian Chinese Entrepreneurs (ACCE) will host on April 24 at 6:45 pm (EDT) the Chinese Canadian Entrepreneur Virtual Awards Gala. HKETO will present the Best Asia Pacific Business Award at the gala. This award recognises entrepreneurs who successfully used Hong Kong as the platform to expand its business to the Asia Pacific region. HKETO has been sponsoring this award since its inception in 2010. For more details of the gala, please visit: <https://www.acce.ca/new/2020-21-acce-awards-0424-en/>

Scarborough Health Network Foundation Radiothon

In collaboration with Sing Tao A1 Chinese Radio, the Scarborough Health Network (SHN) Foundation Radiothon will be aired live at AM 1540 on April 22 from 7:00 am to 6:00 pm. The event aims to raise funds to support the purchase of medical equipment for its hospital facilities and introduce SHN's services to the Chinese community. Director of the HKETO, Ms Emily Mo, will attend a feature interview to show support and talk about the efforts made by the HKSAR government in fighting the pandemic in Hong Kong. For details, please visit:

<https://shnfoundation.akaraisin.com/ui/ChineseRadiothon2021/home>

RECENT ACTIVITY

HKETO Director speaks at ACCE Young Entrepreneurs Group Webinar

Director of HKETO, Ms Emily Mo, spoke at the webinar organised by the ACCE Young Entrepreneur Group on March 24. The webinar aims to discuss how Canadian businesses can access the fast-growing markets in Asia with practical lessons from entrepreneurs.

In delivering the opening remarks, Ms Mo said that the business culture between Hong Kong and Canada is very similar, including that both places have a common law system, rule of law, robust IP protection, strong professional support in a bi-lingual business environment, and free flow of information and capital. In particular, Hong Kong has a simple and low tax system.

Ms Mo also updated participants on the latest developments of Hong Kong, including its role in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area which offers new and exciting opportunities for companies from around the world.

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Ms Mo noted that the HKSAR Government is committed to offering a fertile start-up environment that is supported by various public and private initiatives, helping entrepreneurs turn great ideas into reality.

Ms Mo invited participants of the webinar to obtain more first-hand experience on the range of support and resources offered by the HKSAR Government to the business community through the Investment Promotion Unit of Invest Hong Kong in Canada.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.hketoronto.gov.hk/newsroom/hketo-director-speaks-at-acce-access-young-entrepreneurs-group-webinar.html>

HONG KONG NEWS

CE's statement in response to approval by Standing Committee of National People's Congress of amended Annex I and Annex II to Basic Law

In response to the approval by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of the amended Annex I to the Basic Law on Method for the Selection of the Chief Executive of the HKSAR and Annex II to the Basic Law on Method for the Formation of the Legislative Council of the HKSAR and its Voting Procedures, the Chief Executive, Mrs Carrie Lam, issued the following statement on March 30:

I and the governing team of the HKSAR Government strongly support the amended Annex I to the Basic Law on Method for the Selection of the Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and Annex II to the Basic Law on Method for the Formation of the Legislative Council of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and its Voting Procedures approved by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress. The amendments improve the electoral system of the HKSAR, thereby establishing a political structure that upholds the "One Country, Two Systems" principle, reflects the actual situation of Hong Kong and ensures "patriots administering Hong Kong".

I and the HKSAR Government will spare no effort in taking forward the necessary amendments to the local electoral legislation in accordance with the amended Annex I and Annex II. We will extensively explain the matters to the public such that more and more people will recognise the necessity and urgency of such improvements to the electoral system and render their support. After the passage of the local electoral legislation by the Legislative Council, the HKSAR Government will conduct and regulate election-related activities in accordance with the law in an orderly and efficient manner so as to implement the new electoral system.

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I will continue to lead my governing team to dutifully administer Hong Kong according to the rule of law, safeguard national sovereignty, security and development interests, and maintain the overall stability of Hong Kong. I firmly believe that by improving the electoral system and implementing “patriots administering Hong Kong”, the excessive politicisation in society and the internal rift that has torn Hong Kong apart can be effectively mitigated, thereby enhancing the governance capability of the HKSAR. The HKSAR will then be able to leverage our unique advantages and the staunch support of the Central Authorities to develop the economy and improve the livelihood of our citizens. The steadfast and successful implementation of “One Country, Two Systems”, as well as the long-term prosperity and stability of Hong Kong, will be assured.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202103/30/P2021033000315.htm>

HKSAR Government responds to US reports

The HKSAR Government expressed strong opposition to the comments contained in the 2020 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices and the Hong Kong Policy Act Report issued by the United States Department of State on March 31 and April 1 respectively.

A HKSAR Government spokesman said that human rights are fully protected by law in Hong Kong. The Basic Law provides a constitutional guarantee for fundamental rights and freedoms, including the right to equality before the law, and is buttressed by the rule of law and an independent judiciary. Safeguarding human rights and freedoms is a constitutional duty of the HKSAR Government. The HKSAR Government attaches the utmost importance to and is firmly committed to upholding human rights and various freedoms in Hong Kong.

The reports call into question China’s willingness to uphold the “one country, two systems” principle. The Government spokesman remarked that it is an accusation utterly groundless. The HKSAR is an inalienable part of the People’s Republic of China, is a local administrative region that enjoys a high degree of autonomy under “one country, two systems” and comes directly under the Central People’s Government.

The HKSAR Government also strongly objects to the comments in the reports smearing the Law of the People’s Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (the National Security Law). National security is a matter within the purview of the Central Authorities. It is the legitimate right and duty of every country to safeguard its national security.

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Since the implementation of the National Security Law, stability has been restored to society and national security has been safeguarded in the HKSAR. Hong Kong people can continue to enjoy their basic rights and freedoms in accordance with the law. A stable environment is vitally important to the business activities of both local and overseas enterprises in Hong Kong.

The reports also expressed concerns on judicial independence in the HKSAR. The courts of the HKSAR can exercise independent judicial power. The constitutional duty of judges, in the exercise of their judicial power, is to apply the law and nothing else. Such duty does not change when judges decide cases arising from or involving political controversies.

The spokesman reiterated that foreign governments should not interfere in any form in the internal affairs of the HKSAR.

Click the following links for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202103/31/P2021033100352.htm>

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202104/01/P2021040100898.htm>

Government announces latest social distancing measures

The HKSAR Government gazetted the amendments, 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 adjust the social distancing measures appropriately. The arrangement for religious activities and the other social distancing measures will take effect till April 14.

A spokesman for the Food and Health Bureau said that thanks to the efforts of the whole community in Hong Kong, the number of local confirmed cases has declined over the past week. To continue containing the spread of the disease, people need to maintain the majority of the social distancing measures and encourage more members of the public to get vaccinated as early as possible.

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

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202103/31/P2021033100034.htm>

In addition, the HKSAR Government announced on April 1 the new arrangements for designated flights from the United Kingdom (UK) to Hong Kong and the latest quarantine arrangements for arrivals from overseas low-risk specified places.

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In view of the decline of confirmed cases in the UK, there is room to gradually lift the relevant boarding restriction. The Government will specify that passengers of designated flights will not be subject to the restriction on boarding for Hong Kong and will arrange for these returnees to undergo the 21-day compulsory quarantine in a specified quarantine facility. Hong Kong residents who have stayed in any Group A specified place on the day of boarding or the 21 days before that day can board for direct return to Hong Kong.

Meanwhile, considering that the epidemic situations in certain places have stabilised and pose lower public health risks, the compulsory quarantine period for persons arriving at Hong Kong on or after April 9, and who have only stayed in Australia, New Zealand or Singapore on the day of arrival in Hong Kong or during the 21 days before that day, will be shortened to 14 days, while they will be required to self-monitor for the subsequent seven days and be subject compulsory testing on the 19th day after their arrival at Hong Kong. The relevant persons will still be required to undergo compulsory quarantine in designated quarantine hotels. This arrangement will be applicable to both Hong Kong residents and non-Hong Kong residents.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202104/01/P2021040100696.htm>

Digital game giant Koch Media opens regional office in Hong Kong

Koch Media, a global developer, publisher and distributor of video games, virtual reality (VR) games, gaming hardware and merchandise, announced on March 30 that it has opened its Hong Kong office as a regional base to expand its business in Asia.

With more than 25 years of experience in digital media business, Koch Media runs a multi-label strategy with fully owned publishing units which publish games for console, personal computer (PC) and VR platforms across all physical and digital channels.

With its parent company in Höfen, Austria, and the publishing headquarters in Munich, Germany, Koch Media owns 14 local publishing companies and 10 game development studios globally, employing more than 1 800 employees. The Hong Kong office is going to be responsible for local marketing activities in the region (covering Greater China, Korea and Southeast Asia).

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202103/30/P2021032900463.htm>

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EMSD wins eight awards at International Exhibition of Inventions of Geneva

The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department of the HKSAR Government announced on March 31 that the department has achieved outstanding and encouraging results at the International Exhibition of Inventions of Geneva, winning four Gold Medals and four Silver Medals.

The Gold Medal-winning projects are:

1. Cloud-based Predictive Maintenance System for Real-Time Lift Monitoring
2. Artificial Intelligent Nylon Optical Fibre Sensing Escalator Combs
3. Internet of things (IoT)-enabled Smart Toilet Bowl Cleaning System
4. Building Semantic Artificial Intelligence: The Future of Automation in City Level - a real application in today

The International Exhibition of Inventions of Geneva is one of the most significant global annual events devoted exclusively to inventions. The competition was held online for the first time this year. Around 600 inventions from over 20 countries and regions were evaluated by the international jury of specialists in mid-March.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202103/31/P2021033100739.htm>

Applications for Common Recruitment Examination and Basic Law Test open

The Civil Service Bureau on April 1 said that prospective applicants for civil service posts at the degree or professional level can apply before 5pm on April 15 (Hong Kong time) to sit the Common Recruitment Examination and Basic Law Test (CRE and BLT) in Hong Kong tentatively scheduled to be held on June 5 and 12, or another date within June if necessary.

Valid CRE results are required of applicants for civil service posts at the degree or professional level. Persons interested in applying for civil service posts at the degree or professional level in the near future may wish to consider sitting the coming examination so as to be eligible to apply for these posts, which may become available before another CRE is held.

In addition, applicants for civil service posts will be assessed on their Basic Law knowledge. The result of the BLT will be one of the considerations to assess the suitability of a candidate.

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More details about the coming CRE and BLT will be available on the CSB webpage (www.csb.gov.hk/eng/cre.html).

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202104/01/P2021040100318.htm>

Article to promote Hong Kong UNESCO-recognised Global Geopark

CNN, in partnership with the Information Services Department, created a piece of editorial content “How to visit two of Hong Kong’s most remote islands in one day” to introduce Ap Chau and Kat O. Both islands are part of the Hong Kong UNESCO-recognised Global Geopark.

Please click the following link for details of the article:

<https://edition.cnn.com/travel/article/ap-chau-kat-o-hong-kong-cmd/index.html>

ICAC updates international communities on anti-corruption efforts

The latest issue of the ICAC’s electronic newsletter, ICAC Post #42, has been uploaded on the ICAC corporate website.

Highlights of this issue are:

- Hong Kong continues to thrive and prosper
- Combating corruption in a year of unprecedented challenges
- Forging closer partnerships in graft fight in the time of pandemic
- Corruption Prevention Guide for Insurance Companies

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.icac.org.hk/icac/post/issue42/en/index.html>

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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/

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