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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](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.

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## **UPCOMING ACTIVITIES**

### **Financial Secretary of HKSAR to discuss with Canadian community**

The Financial Secretary of the HKSAR Government, Mr Paul Chan, will attend a webinar to discuss Hong Kong's leading position as a global investment and trade hub and the relevant opportunities for Canadian businesses. The webinar is hosted by the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada and will be held on May 11 (Tues) at 5:00 p.m. PDT to 6:00 p.m. PDT | 8:00 p.m. EDT to 9:00 p.m. EDT.

For registration, please click:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_p2QZjtxUSdqAKHx0yD3MRQ](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_p2QZjtxUSdqAKHx0yD3MRQ)

### **Asian Heritage Month events**

HKETO is pleased to support the virtual Asian Heritage Celebration event organised by the International Lions Clubs District 711 in Ontario to recognize the incredible contributions made by the Asians to help shape the country. In this event, we will bring a spectacular dance performance by the Hong Kong Dance Company to the audience. This dance drama "Convergence" is a unique blend of Chinese dance and martial arts to showcase the diverse and versatile culture from Hong Kong. The event will be held on May 8, 2021 between 7 pm to 11 pm.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.facebook.com/670220490/posts/10159008449430491/?d=n>

Also, the captivating and high-action "Storm Clouds" dance drama by the Hong Kong Dance Company will be featured at the virtual Asian Heritage Month International Dance Festival from May 22 to 24. Based on a well-loved martial arts comic series "The Storm Riders" by renowned Hong Kong comic book author Ma Wing-shing, this drama will be among the many Canadian and international dance performances to be featured at the Festival. Ticket by donation.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/the-little-pear-garden-dance-company-le-compagnie-de-danse-le-jardin-petite-poire/events/asian-heritage-month-international-dance-festival/?fbclid=IwAR04ngBJayGK9ddBYe18OgpGqBXIdT4Z6XVZrRUrdBSpXo4ID4laA0o-gFU>

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## **RECENT ACTIVITIES**

### **HKETO Director presents Best Asia Pacific Business Award at 2021 ACCE Awards Gala**

Director of the HKETO, Ms Emily Mo, joined the Association of Chinese Canadian Entrepreneurs (ACCE) Awards Gala 2021 held virtually on April 24 and presented the Best Asia Pacific Business Award.

HKETO has been sponsoring the Best Asia Pacific Business Award since its inception in 2010. This award recognises entrepreneurs who successfully used Hong Kong as the platform to expand its business to the Asia Pacific region.

Looking ahead, Hong Kong is set to play a pivotal role in China's game-changing economic development strategies, namely the Belt and Road Initiative and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development.

Hong Kong's Free Trade Agreement and related Investment Agreement with ASEAN can also boost business and investment opportunities throughout this huge and fast-emerging trade bloc in Asia. Ms Mo encouraged Canadian businesses to make use of the Hong Kong platform to expand and grow in Asia.

The 2021 ACCE's Best Asia Pacific Business Award was given to Mr Shaun Sakdina, President of 4D Cityscape Inc. This global company has its own offices in Hong Kong, Dongguan China, and in Toronto Canada. Its products are now available in over 30 countries globally.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.hketotoronto.gov.hk/newsroom/hketo-director-presents-best-asia-pacific-business-award-at-2021-acce-awards-gala.html>

### **HKETO Director supports SHNF Radiothon**

Director of the HKETO, Ms Emily Mo, joined the annual "SHNF Radiothon" fund raising event hosted by the Scarborough Health Network Foundation on April 22.

In giving a live interview at the Radiothon, Ms Mo paid tribute to frontline workers and healthcare providers in Hong Kong and Canada for their dedication and professionalism, as both places have been combatting the pandemic tirelessly for the past year.

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To effectively control the epidemic, the HKSAR Government has been refining its anti-epidemic strategies in accordance with the development of the epidemic. The situation in Hong Kong has stabilised recently.

Same as Canada, Hong Kong has also rolled out its vaccination program earlier this year. With the concerted efforts of the community, Ms Mo is optimistic that both places can get through the pandemic gradually.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.hketoronto.gov.hk/newsroom/hketo-director-supports-shnf-radiothon.html>

## **HONG KONG NEWS**

### **Government to relax social distancing measures under “vaccine bubble”**

The HKSAR Government 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 relax social distancing measures with conditions with “vaccine bubble” as the basis. The above directions and specifications will take effect till May 12.

A spokesman for the Food and Health Bureau said that taking into account the enhanced anti-epidemic capabilities and with the steady progress of the Government’s vaccination programme, it is an opportune time to adopt a new direction in fighting the pandemic and relax certain restrictions with “vaccine bubble” as the basis, with a view to responding to the aspirations of various trades and the public to resume normal daily lives as soon as possible.

For details of the latest requirements and restrictions, please visit the link below:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202104/28/P2021042800868.htm>

To help catering premises and scheduled premises operators, as well as the general public, understand the operational details of the “vaccine bubble”, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department of the HKSAR Government has launched a thematic webpage ([www.fehd.gov.hk/english/events/covid19/vaccine\\_bubble\\_FP.html](http://www.fehd.gov.hk/english/events/covid19/vaccine_bubble_FP.html)) as a one-stop portal to provide relevant information and working tools.

The thematic webpage sets out in detail the various operation modes for catering premises, bars or pubs/nightclubs and scheduled premises, and provides a link to the scanner app for catering premises and scheduled premises operators to download, so

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that they can verify the authenticity of their customers' vaccination or COVID-19 test record QR codes.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202104/29/P2021042900690.htm>

In addition, as the epidemic situation in the mainland of China is currently under control, the HKSAR Government announced that starting from April 29, Hong Kong residents staying in Macao, Mainland provinces and municipalities, upon fulfillment of all specified conditions under the Return2hk Travel Scheme (Return2hk Scheme), including not having stayed in places other than Hong Kong, the Mainland or Macao, or any places in the Mainland which are designated as “medium-risk” and “high-risk”, in the past 14 days before arriving in Hong Kong (not including the period where a person has been undergoing compulsory quarantine in the Mainland or Macao under the requirement in that place) could be exempted from the 14-day compulsory quarantine requirement when returning to Hong Kong.

The [online booking system](#) for the Return2hk Scheme will be open for applications by Hong Kong residents who plan to return from the Mainland to Hong Kong via the Hong Kong International Airport, starting from April 27 at 00:00 midnight.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202104/26/P2021042600413.htm>

### **Government further adjusts boarding and quarantine arrangements for persons arriving at Hong Kong**

The HKSAR Government announced on May 4 the continued suspension of passenger flights from India, Nepal, Pakistan, and the Philippines, and the continued restriction on persons who have stayed in India, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Brazil, and South Africa from boarding flights for Hong Kong from any place; and subject to no significant change to epidemic situation locally and in relevant overseas places, the lifting of the ban for persons who have stayed in Ireland and the United Kingdom (UK) on boarding for Hong Kong on May 7, to allow flights to resume from those places and for Hong Kong residents there to board for flights for Hong Kong, while these relevant persons would subject to the most stringent compulsory quarantine and testing arrangements upon arrival at Hong Kong.

On the other hand, having considered the stabilising local epidemic situation and the relatively satisfactory vaccination rate in Ireland and the UK, the Government plans to lift

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the boarding restriction for these two places on May 7, on the condition that there be no significant change to the epidemic situation locally and in these two places.

For details, please click the following link:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202105/04/P2021050400899.htm>

### **Designated flights under HK-Singapore Air Travel Bubble to begin on May 26**

The HKSAR Governments and Singapore on April 26 announced that designated flights under the bilateral Air Travel Bubble (ATB) arrangement will begin on May 26, resuming cross-border air travel in a gradual and orderly manner amidst stabilised epidemic situations of the two places. The arrangement not only meets the aspirations of the people and business communities on cross-border travel, but also signifies that gradual resumption of cross-border travel is achievable through mutual collaborations among different places.

For detailed arrangements and the latest information on the ATB, travellers may visit the dedicated website at [www.tourism.gov.hk/travelbubble](http://www.tourism.gov.hk/travelbubble).

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202104/26/P2021042600252.htm>

### **Licensed travel agents can resume organising local group tours with conditions**

The HKSAR Government announced on April 27 that subject to the condition of licensed travel agents pledging strict compliance with the Anti-epidemic Undertakings for Local Tours, the holding of local group tours of not more than 30 persons (inclusive of frontline working staff) can be resumed with conditions pursuant to the group gathering restrictions as stipulated in the prevailing Prevention and Control of Disease (Prohibition on Group Gathering) Regulation (Cap. 599G).

The Travel Industry Council of Hong Kong will revise the Undertakings set earlier to include more stringent public health and anti-epidemic measures including the vaccination of working staff and the enhancement of contact tracing.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202104/27/P2021042700896.htm>

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## **Oakwise Capital launches family office business in Hong Kong**

Oakwise Capital Holding Limited announced on April 21 that it has launched its family office business in Hong Kong, leveraging the city's status as a premier international financial centre, as well as the dominant investment gateway for the mainland of China, to offer one-stop asset management services for its ultra-high-net-worth clients.

Oakwise Capital manages assets from a wide range of investors, including state-owned enterprises, local government financing vehicles, financial institutions, listing companies, family offices and high-net-worth individuals. It has 10 funds covering fixed income, public and private equities, with total assets under management exceeding US\$2 billion.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202104/21/P2021042100308.htm>

## **Article to promote Hong Kong's business advantages**

Harvard Business Review, in partnership with the Information Services Department, has produced a print advertorial "How Hong Kong Offers Business Resilience" to show how Hong Kong's geographic, regulatory and cultural attractions have made the city a magnet for business, and how it can make business organisations resilient for the pandemic and other disruptions.

Please click the following link for details of the article:

[https://www.brandhk.gov.hk/uploads/brandhk/files/media\\_corner/Harvard-Business-Review-How-Hong-Kong-Offers-Business-Resilience.pdf](https://www.brandhk.gov.hk/uploads/brandhk/files/media_corner/Harvard-Business-Review-How-Hong-Kong-Offers-Business-Resilience.pdf)

In addition, Business Insider, in partnership with the Information Services Department, has created a piece of branded content "Into the New - New Finance", to examine why Hong Kong is an ideal place for fintech innovation and market entry, highlighting fintech companies that have already chosen Hong Kong as their base.

Please click the following link for details of the article:

<https://www.businessinsider.com/sc/hong-kong-global-fintech-hub-2021-5>

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