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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, non-Hong Kong residents will be denied entry to Hong Kong if they have stayed in any Group A1 or Group A2 specified places on the day of arrival at Hong Kong or during the 14 days before that day. Details on the grouping of specified places and their respective boarding and compulsory quarantine requirements can be found at [www.coronavirus.gov.hk/eng/inbound-travel.html](http://www.coronavirus.gov.hk/eng/inbound-travel.html).

The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government has also adjusted the boarding, quarantine and testing arrangements for persons arriving at Hong Kong (including Hong Kong residents returning to Hong Kong) who have completed their COVID-19 vaccination course under the "vaccine bubble" concept.

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 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](http://www.hketotoronto.gov.hk) 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](http://www.coronavirus.gov.hk/eng/inbound-travel.html) for details.

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## **UPCOMING ACTIVITIES**

### **2021 Hong Kong Week**

<https://www.hongkongweek.ca/>

HKETO is hosting the 2021 Hong Kong Week and the programme will run till July 31. This event aims to promote Hong Kong's strengths, advantages and potential with emphasis on the core values and attributes of the city. A series of activities have been and are being held and details of the ongoing activities are as follows. Most of the programme are in virtual format for participation by everyone across Canada.

#### **1. Transformative Chic - Everlasting Cheongsam Exhibition**

Jointly presented by HKETO, the Hong Kong Arts Centre and the Chinese Canadian Photographic Society of Toronto, The Transformative Chic – The Everlasting Cheongsam Exhibition is a major event of the 2021 Hong Kong Week. Through this exhibition of the works of nine premier Hong Kong designers, we hope to give audience a glance of the unique charm and transformative nature of cheongsam – an Intangible Cultural Heritage entity of UNESCO and a powerful cultural icon of Hong Kong.

In Toronto, the exhibition is being held at Yorkville Village and has been extended from July 1 to July 31. You are invited to visit the exhibition and have a glimpse of the beautiful exhibits at the Oval, Yorkville Village, 55 Avenue Road, Toronto.

Click here to read the details:

<https://www.hongkongweek.ca/cheongsam-exhibitions>

#### **2. 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 and the BC Sports Hall of Fame. HKETO is a sponsor of the exhibition.

Please refer to the following website for details of the exhibit:

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

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## **RECENT ACTIVITIES**

### **SCED updates Canadian business community on Hong Kong's latest developments and business advantages**

The Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development of the HKSAR Government, Mr Edward Yau, on June 23 updated the business community in Canada during a webinar on Hong Kong's latest developments and advantages in doing business, which make the city an ideal gateway for businesses and investment in Mainland China and the Asia Pacific region for Canadian enterprises.

In his opening remarks, Mr Yau reassured participants that despite the disruption brought about by the COVID-19 epidemic, Hong Kong would rise again to the challenges with its unique advantages such as a free and open economy, the rule of law and judicial independence.

Mr Yau pointed out that there are ample development opportunities for Hong Kong with the support of the Central Government as stated in the 14th Five-Year Plan, and illustrated during the past two years since the promulgation of the Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area.

Mr Yau also spoke on Hong Kong's strategy in combating the COVID-19 pandemic. As the epidemic situation is easing in Hong Kong, it is now an opportune time for Canadian enterprises to establish a presence in Hong Kong or expand their existing business in the city.

As part of the 2021 Hong Kong Week programme organised by the HKETO, the webinar was co-organised by HKETO and the Hong Kong-Canada Business Association (HKCBA).

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.hketotoronto.gov.hk/newsroom/sced-updates-canadian-business-community-on-hong-kongs-latest-developments-and-business-advantages.html>

### **HKETO Director joins webinars to promote business opportunities in Hong Kong**

Director of the HKETO, Ms Emily Mo, spoke at two webinars on June 29 to promote opportunities for companies in Canada to advance their business plan in Hong Kong and through Hong Kong to the Mainland China and Asian markets. The first webinar entitled "Canada-Asia Trade Opportunities" was organised by the M&A Club Toronto and the second one titled "Opportunities in the ICT Sector in Hong Kong and Asia for

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Canadian Companies” was jointly hosted by the HKCBA (Vancouver Section), Hong Kong Trade Development Council in Canada, HKETO and others.

In delivering the welcome remarks in both events, Ms Mo introduced the unique advantages of doing business in Hong Kong. She also updated participants on the latest innovation and technology (I&T) scene in Hong Kong and the HKSAR Government’s effort in developing the city into an international I&T hub in recent years.

Ms Mo pointed out that Hong Kong has become the world’s second largest fundraising hub for biotechnology companies. She invited Canadian companies to make use of the Hong Kong platform to seize the vast opportunities in the Mainland China and Asian markets, and reach out to HKETO for more information on investing in Hong Kong.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.hketotoronto.gov.hk/newsroom/hketo-director-joins-webinars-to-promote-business-opportunities-in-hong-kong-2.html>

### **HKETO supports the Toronto International Dragon Boat Race Festival 2021**

The kick-off ceremony of the 33rd Toronto International Dragon Boat Race Festival (the Festival), organised by the Toronto Chinese Business Association in collaboration with GWN Dragon Boat, was held virtually on June 26. The HKETO is a key sponsor of the Festival.

Speaking at the virtual opening ceremony of the Festival, Director of HKETO, Ms Emily Mo, said the Festival demonstrates the strong and close ties between Canada and Hong Kong, as Hong Kong is the birth place of modern dragon boat racing.

Noting the Festival this year has been postponed due to the pandemic, Ms Mo looked forward to the relaxation of health restrictions and attending the event in person in September. As in previous years, HKETO will set up a Hong Kong pavilion at the Festival for visitors to learn more about the history of dragon boating.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.hketotoronto.gov.hk/newsroom/hketo-supports-the-toronto-international-dragon-boat-race-festival-2021.html>

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## **HONG KONG NEWS**

### **Hong Kong ranked seventh in World Competitiveness Yearbook 2021**

Hong Kong was ranked seventh globally in the latest World Competitiveness Yearbook (WCY) 2021 published by the International Institute for Management Development (IMD), compared to fifth last year. Switzerland was ranked top, followed by Sweden, Denmark, the Netherlands, Singapore and Norway.

Among the four competitiveness factors in WCY 2021, Hong Kong continued to rank top in “Government efficiency”. As regards the sub-factors, Hong Kong continued to top the ranking in “Business legislation”. Its rankings in “International trade”, “Tax policy”, “Finance” and “Management practices” also remained in the top-three positions globally.

A HKSAR Government spokesperson said on June 17 that the publication of IMD’s WCY 2021 had recognised Hong Kong’s strengths in various aspects. Looking forward, under “One Country, Two Systems”, Hong Kong will continue to play its unique roles as a gateway, a springboard and an intermediary, and actively integrate into the new overall development of the Mainland China and capture the opportunities arising from the National 14th Five-Year Plan and national development plans such as the Greater Bay Area development and the Belt and Road Initiative.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202106/17/P2021061700608.htm>

### **Government invokes place-specific flight suspension mechanism and updates quarantine requirements**

The Government announced on June 28 the invocation of the place-specific flight suspension mechanism for the United Kingdom (UK). From 0.00am on July 1 (Hong Kong time), all passenger flights from the UK will be prohibited from landing in Hong Kong.

In view of the recent rebound of the epidemic situation in the UK and a number of cases imported from the UK involving variant virus strains detected in the past few days, the HKSAR Government will on July 1 invoke the place-specific flight suspension for the UK and specify the UK as an extremely high-risk Group A1 specified place to restrict persons who have stayed in that place for more than two hours from boarding passenger flights for Hong Kong, so as to stop persons from the relevant place from travelling to Hong Kong via transit.

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Considering that the epidemic situation is still unstable in existing extremely high-risk places, i.e. Brazil, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines and South Africa, the existing restrictions on the aforementioned places under Cap. 599H will continue.

Details on the grouping of specified places and their respective boarding and compulsory quarantine requirements can be found at [www.coronavirus.gov.hk/eng/inbound-travel.html](http://www.coronavirus.gov.hk/eng/inbound-travel.html).

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202106/28/P2021062800825.htm>

In addition, the HKSAR Government announced on June 21 that the quarantine requirements for persons arriving at Hong Kong who have received COVID-19 vaccination will be adjusted in phases. Except for those who had stayed in extremely high-risk or very high-risk places (Group A1 and A2 specified places, Canada currently not included), fully vaccinated persons with a positive result of serology testing for antibodies will be subject to a further shortened compulsory quarantine period of seven days upon arrival. Additionally, the restriction from entry to Hong Kong will also be relaxed for fully vaccinated non-Hong Kong residents who have not stayed in Group A1 or Group A2 specified places. The relevant persons are still subject to multiple nucleic acid tests after arrival to avoid missing any cases.

Details on the prevailing 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/202106/21/P2021062100692.htm>

For the list of recognised private medical laboratories for conducting recognised antibody test, please refer to the link of [https://gia.info.gov.hk/general/202106/26/P2021062600414\\_370630\\_1\\_1624681922192.pdf](https://gia.info.gov.hk/general/202106/26/P2021062600414_370630_1_1624681922192.pdf)

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202106/26/P2021062600414.htm>

In addition, the HKSAR Government announced on June 25 one additional temporary designated quarantine hotel under the fourth cycle of the Designated Quarantine Hotel Scheme. Along with the hotels announced earlier, there will be a total of 34 hotels in the

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fourth cycle of the Scheme which runs from June 20 to August 31, providing over 9 300 rooms.

The updated list of designated hotels and related details, including room rates, can be found at the thematic webpage at [www.designatedhotel.gov.hk](http://www.designatedhotel.gov.hk).

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202106/25/P2021062500367.htm>

Meanwhile, 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 further relax social distancing measures on conditions with “vaccine bubble” as the basis. The above directions and specifications took effect till July 7.

A spokesman for the Food and Health Bureau of the HKSAR Government said that the local epidemic situation has become stable, and the vaccination rate is increasing steadily. It is considered an opportune time to introduce the second-phase measures under the “vaccine bubble”, 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/202106/22/P2021062101063.htm>

### **Government announces appointment and removal of Principal Officials**

The Chief Executive of the HKSAR, Mrs Carrie Lam, announced on June 25 that the Central People’s Government, upon her nomination and recommendation in accordance with Article 48(5) of the Basic Law, approved the appointment of Mr John Lee Ka-chiu as the Chief Secretary for Administration, Mr Tang Ping-keung as the Secretary for Security and Mr Siu Chak-yee as the Commissioner of Police as well as the removal of Mr Matthew Cheung Kin-chung from the post of Chief Secretary for Administration, Mr Lee from the post of Secretary for Security and Mr Tang from the post of Commissioner of Police.

The Chief Executive said that Mr Lee, Mr Tang and Mr Siu have had distinguished performance in the Government over the years and possess proven leadership skills. She is confident that they are competent for their new posts and would rise to the challenges in serving the community.

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Ms Lam also extended her heartfelt appreciation to Mr Cheung for his valuable contribution to the HKSAR.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202106/25/P2021062500412.htm>

### **InvestHK launches Global Fast Track 2021 to accelerate fintech scaling opportunities in Hong Kong and beyond**

Invest Hong Kong (InvestHK) announced on June 17 that the Global Fast Track 2021 programme is now open for applications from fintech scale-ups and established firms intending to scale from Hong Kong to the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, Asia and beyond. Selected companies will earn a spot to be showcased prominently at Hong Kong FinTech Week 2021 during November 1 to 5.

This year's programme is the most comprehensive one to date, bringing together several of Hong Kong's soft-landing support programmes into a single Global Fast Track scale-up offering. In its second year, the programme is tailored to the needs of every local, Mainland and overseas fintech company.

Global Fast Track is inviting companies from nine key finance verticals (Commercial Banking; Investment, WealthTech and Capital Markets; Retail Banking; Personal Finance; InsurTech; RegTech; Digital Assets; Payments; and Environmental, Social, and Corporate Governance) to submit their applications from now until September 10. The most promising fintech enterprises will be invited to enter a pitch competition adjudicated by a judging panel formed by the Corporate and Investor Champions. The winners will be announced during Hong Kong FinTech Week in November.

Learn more about the full list of Corporate and Investor Champions and the application process here: [www.fintechweek.hk/fast-track](http://www.fintechweek.hk/fast-track).

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202106/17/P2021061700215.htm>

### **Two local ICH items successfully inscribed onto National List of Intangible Cultural Heritage**

The State Council of the People's Republic of China announced that two intangible cultural heritage (ICH) items from Hong Kong, the Tin Hau Festival in Hong Kong and the Hong Kong cheongsam making technique, have been successfully inscribed onto the Fifth National List of ICH.



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The two successfully inscribed items are in the categories of “social practices, rituals and festive events” and “traditional craftsmanship” defined by the Convention for the Safeguarding of the ICH promulgated by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. With outstanding historical and cultural value, these two items are representative of their kind. Both items were also inscribed onto the First ICH Inventory of Hong Kong and the Representative List of the ICH of Hong Kong in 2014 and 2017 respectively.

For details of the two items, please visit the link below:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202106/18/P2021061800373.htm>

### **Article to show how business organisations could benefit from Hong Kong’s advantages**

Harvard Business Review, in partnership with the Information Services Department of the HKSAR Government, has published a print advertorial “In a Digital Environment, Your Location Makes The Difference” to show how business organisations could benefit from Hong Kong’s reliable access to both capital and talent, and favourable regulatory and compliance conditions that foster the city’s emerging fintech sector.

Please click the following links for details of the article:

[https://www.brandhk.gov.hk/uploads/brandhk/files/media\\_corner/Harvard-Business-Review-Your-Location-Makes-the-Difference.pdf](https://www.brandhk.gov.hk/uploads/brandhk/files/media_corner/Harvard-Business-Review-Your-Location-Makes-the-Difference.pdf)

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## *Hong Kong e-News Bulletin*

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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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