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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, 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.

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

“Green Opportunities Abound in Hong Kong and the Greater Bay Area” webinar on July 22

HKETO, the Hong Kong Trade Development Council in Canada and other organisations will host on July 22 a webinar that brings together key players in the cleantech and environmental protection sector to share the latest progress on environment protection work in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, as well as insights into the potential opportunities for Canadian companies in the cleantech sector.

For details and registration, please visit this link:
<https://bitly.com/july22cleantechwebinar>

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.

1. Transformative Chic - Everlasting Cheongsam Exhibition (混搭之時尚 – 當代長衫展覽)

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 until 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-exhibition-toronto>

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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/>

HONG KONG NEWS

Government to maintain most of the social distancing measures

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 maintain most of the social distancing measures currently in place. The above directions and specifications will take effect till July 21.

A spokesman for the Food and Health Bureau of the HKSAR Government said that the Government introduced the second-phase relaxation measures under the “vaccine bubble” with a view to responding to the aspirations of various trades and the public. The HKSAR Government will maintain most of the social distancing measures currently in place while refining the measures applicable to places of amusement, places of public entertainment, sports premises and swimming pools. He added that if the vaccination rate in Hong Kong can be raised sooner to achieve herd immunity, the social distancing measures can be further relaxed to allow Hong Kong to return to normality as soon as possible.

For details of the latest requirements and restrictions, please visit the link below:
<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202107/07/P2021070700799.htm>

In addition, the HKSAR Government announced on July 12 that in view of the recent rebound of the epidemic situation in Russia and a number of cases with mutant virus

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strains detected by tests, the Government has specified Russia as a very high-risk Group A2 specified place with effect from July 16.

All persons who have stayed in any Group A2 specified place on the day of boarding for Hong Kong or during the 21 days before that day, regardless of being fully vaccinated or not, have to present at boarding a negative result proof of a polymerase chain reaction-based nucleic acid test for COVID-19 conducted within 72 hours before the scheduled time of departure of the aircraft, as well as the confirmation of a room reservation for 21 nights in a designated quarantine hotel in Hong Kong. They will be subject to 21-day compulsory quarantine at designated quarantine hotels, with four tests to be conducted during the period, followed by a seven-day self-monitoring period as well as compulsory testing on the 26th day of arrival at Hong Kong at any Community Testing Centre.

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.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202107/12/P2021071200391.htm>

HKSAR Government strongly objects to misleading remarks on Hong Kong National Security Law upon anniversary of the Law

The HKSAR Government on June 30 strongly objected to the grossly misleading and incorrect remarks by some individuals, organisations and countries upon the anniversary of the Law of the People's Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the HKSAR (the National Security Law), purposely degrading the positive effect that the Law has on Hong Kong.

A spokesman for the HKSAR Government said that contrary to the erroneous allegations that the Hong Kong National Security Law undermines the “one country, two systems” framework, our country has the right, indeed the duty, to legislate for this matter under “one country, two systems”.

He stressed that the National Security Law upholds the rights and freedoms of Hong Kong people, clearly stipulating that the HKSAR shall protect the rights and freedoms enjoyed by residents under the Basic Law and the provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights as applied to Hong Kong in accordance with the law.

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Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202106/30/P2021063000771.htm>

HKSARG condemns latest US move and European Parliament’s resolution

The HKSAR Government on July 8 condemns the so-called “continuation of the national emergency with respect to Hong Kong” announced by the White House, describing it as a continuation of the United States (US)’ blatant interference in the internal affairs of the People’s Republic of China (PRC).

The Government spokesman reiterated that since its implementation in June 2020, the positive effect of the National Security Law in restoring peace and stability and safeguarding individual rights and freedoms in the HKSAR is there for all to see. As for the improvement to the electoral system, it has plugged the loopholes and will ensure “patriots administering Hong Kong”.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202107/08/P2021070800827.htm>

In addition, the HKSAR Government on July 9 condemned the European Parliament for passing again a Hong Kong-related “resolution” noting that it disregards the rule of law, smacks of double standards and constitutes gross interference in the internal affairs of China and the HKSAR.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202107/09/P2021070900704.htm>

Online virtual exhibition of first anniversary of promulgation of HK National Security Law launches

To tie in with the first anniversary of the promulgation of the National Security Law, the Security Bureau of the HKSAR Government launched the Exhibition of the First Anniversary of the Promulgation of the Hong Kong National Security Law on July 2 to enhance public understanding of the legislative background, importance and significance of the National Security Law, and to increase awareness of safeguarding national security.

The public is welcome to visit the virtual exhibition website (nslexhibition.hk) for a 360-degree experience in learning about the National Security Law on all fronts.

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Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202107/02/P2021070200420.htm>

Vietnamese entrepreneur starts smart fitness rental platform QFit in Hong Kong

QFit, a start-up launched by a Vietnamese entrepreneur, announced on July 2 that it has started its smart fitness rental platform in Hong Kong, tapping the city's immediate need and increasing demand for convenient fitness and mental health services in wake of the pandemic.

QFit offers hotel guests the opportunity to rent smart gym equipment and fitness devices with built-in tech for their lengthy quarantine. Apart from traditional workout equipment, QFit provides a variety of smart fitness devices connected with mobile apps including portable gym sets, air-boxing gloves, jump ropes, dumbbells, hula hoops and more.

Established in 2021, QFit enables customers to create their own smart gym during hotel quarantine or at home. Within a short period of time, QFit has expanded rapidly to provide "Fitness as a Service" to many non-quarantine hotels, residential buildings and health clubs in Hong Kong.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202107/02/P2021063000331.htm>

Hong Kong students triumph at 33rd International Olympiad in Informatics

A team of four students representing Hong Kong achieved excellent results in the International Olympiad in Informatics (IOI) 2021, winning one gold medal and three silver medals.

Due to the COVID-19 epidemic, the IOI 2021 was held in an online mode. The contestants joined virtual activities from June 19 to 25, during which they were required to design and write a number of computer programs. Contestants had to demonstrate good problem-solving skills and programming techniques in order to achieve desirable results.

A total of 88 countries or regions from all over the world participated in this year's IOI which is the most recognised worldwide computer science competition aimed at secondary students under 20 years of age.

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Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202106/30/P2021063000309.htm>

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Brand Hong Kong Facebook page www.facebook.com/brandhk.isd or

Brand Hong Kong Instagram page www.instagram.com/brandhongkong/

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