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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

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Under the border control measures of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government introduced on August 9, 2021, overseas places are categorised into high-risk, medium-risk and low-risk groups. Canada is currently in Group B (Medium-risk) group, under which Hong Kong residents and fully vaccinated non-Hong Kong residents are allowed to board flights for Hong Kong.

Travellers from Canada are required to present at boarding (i) a negative result proof of a polymerase chain reaction (PCR)-based nucleic acid test for COVID-19 conducted within 72 hours before the scheduled time of departure of the aircraft; (ii) confirmation in English or Chinese of room reservation in a designated quarantine hotel in Hong Kong; and (iii) a vaccination record if applicable. The same requirements apply to travellers who have stayed in Canada during the 14 days before boarding the flight to Hong Kong. Please refer to the webpage <https://www.coronavirus.gov.hk/eng/inbound-travel.html#quarantinemeasuresofinbound> for details.

The “COVID-19 Thematic Website” of the HKSAR Government has been added to the official website of Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (Toronto) (HKETO). You are invited to browse the page by clicking the banner on top of [HKETO website](#) or the 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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## **RECENT ACTIVITY**

### **HKETO Director joins webinar to promote supply chain and logistics in Hong Kong**

Director of the HKETO, Ms Emily Mo, spoke at the webinar hosted by the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC), Hong Kong-Canada Business Association (Toronto), HKETO and other organisations on September 29. The webinar discussed ways to mitigate the supply chain risks and tapping business possibilities in the new normal with particular reference to the Canada-Asia traffic flow.

In delivering opening remarks at the webinar entitled “Canada-Asia Supply Chain and Logistics – Trends, Challenges and Opportunities in the New Normal”, Ms Mo first remarked that Hong Kong enjoys a strategic location and world-class infrastructure. With the new and third runway to come into service next year, the Hong Kong International Airport will be able to handle an annual cargo volume of more than a double of the existing throughput.

Ms Mo also highlighted that Hong Kong is a sea transport hub and was ranked the ninth busiest container port in the world in 2020. She also said that the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge forms a new efficient connection to facilitate freight transport over land between Hong Kong, Mainland China and Macao.

In addition, China’s National 14th Five-Year Plan has raised its support for Hong Kong to enhance its status as an international hub for logistics and aviation at the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area development.

Chaired by the Executive Director of the Canadian International Freight Forwarders Association Mr Bruce Rodgers, the webinar was joined by other speakers from the Consulate General of Canada in Hong Kong, Global Container Terminals in Vancouver, MSC Canada, Cathay Pacific Airways, Trade Link International Ltd., Invest Hong Kong (Canada) and HKTDC (Canada).

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.hketotoronto.gov.hk/newsroom/hketo-director-joins-webinar-to-promote-supply-chain-and-logistics-in-hong-kong.html>

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## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **Vancouver International Film Festival 2021**

The 40<sup>th</sup> Vancouver International Film Festival is taking place from October 1 to 11 in hybrid mode (virtual and in-person). In partnership with HKETO, the Festival will present two Hong Kong films including TIME (殺出個黃昏) and KEEP ROLLING (好好拍電影).

Tickets are on sale now. Please click the following link for details:

<https://viff.org/Online/default.asp>

### **HKETO sponsors Cathay Ball organised by Mon Sheong Foundation**

The Cathay Ball 2021 themed “Caring Beyond Boundaries” hosted by the Mon Sheong Foundation will be held virtually on November 6. HKETO is proud to sponsor the Cathay Ball again this year and highlight Hong Kong as the Asia’s Cultural Metropolis at the event.

Please click the link below for details:

<https://cathayball.monsheong.org/>

## **HONG KONG NEWS**

### **Policy Address: Building a Bright Future Together**

The Chief Executive of the HKSAR, Mrs Carrie Lam, delivered her fifth annual Policy Address on October 6, setting out her plan for the future of the city.

Under the theme of "Building a Bright Future Together", Mrs Lam said the city's "One Country, Two Systems" principle was back on track, with full support from the Central Government, following unprecedented challenges during the past two years.

Mrs Lam said that under the 14th Five-Year Plan, the Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, and the Plan for Comprehensive Deepening Reform and Opening Up of the Qianhai Shenzhen-Hong Kong Modern Service Industry Co-operation Zone, enterprises and professional services providers in Hong Kong are presented with unlimited opportunities. She stressed that only by leveraging the Central Government's policies in support of Hong Kong can the city give full play to its unique strengths, which will in turn bring continuous impetus to the economy.

The Chief Executive of the HKSAR proposed initiatives to support the development of sectors with good growth potential and highlighted maritime business services as a

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promising sector. She added adding that the overseas service network of the Hong Kong Shipping Registry would be expanded to provide new desk services in San Francisco, Tokyo and Toronto to provide better support for Hong Kong-registered ships.

Mrs Lam said in her conclusion, "Today, under the double safeguards of national security and the improved electoral system, Hong Kong is back on the right track of 'One Country, Two Systems'.

"I am confident that Hong Kong is much stronger than ever, and I am most convinced that Hong Kong can integrate into the overall development of the country and play an irreplaceable role as our country strides towards the second centenary goal of the nation."

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202110/06/P2021100600447.htm>

Mrs Lam further unveiled HKSAR Government's plans to boost Hong Kong's competitiveness as the eight international centres or hubs charted in the 14th Five-Year Plan, leveraging the Central Government's support with a view to building a brighter future for Hong Kong.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202110/06/P2021100600463.htm>

Besides, Mrs Lam outlined a far-reaching proposal to transform northern Hong Kong into a metropolis covering about 300 square kilometres. The Northern Metropolis would include the Yuen Long District and North District administration areas and follow the Shenzhen-Hong Kong Boundary Control Points Economic Belt from west to east, as well as the deeper hinterlands.

Mrs Lam said the large-scale urban space would become the most important area in Hong Kong that facilitates the city's development integration with Shenzhen and connection with the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. Noting that the Northern Metropolis will be developed as an international I&T (innovation and technology) hub, she said that upon full development, it would be home to some 2.5 million people and offer 650 000 jobs, including 150 000 in the I&T sector.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202110/06/P2021100600466.htm>

In addition, Mrs Lam set out the Government's strategies and proposals to "Providing decent accommodation for all" as the primary goal of her housing policy. Realising that

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goal, she added, "rested not on 'quick fixes' to deal with current situations, but rather on the determination to sustain land supply, as well as the courage to remain steadfast with the policies implemented in the face of short-term economic changes or fluctuations in property prices".

Mrs Lam said that about 350 hectares of land had been identified to produce some 330 000 public housing units in the 10-year period to 2031-32. That, she said, would meet the estimated public housing demand of about 301 000 units over the next decade.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202110/06/P2021100600543.htm>

Besides, Mrs Lam set out her vision for Hong Kong to become a smart, vibrant, green and carbon-neutral city. To achieve the goal of carbon neutrality by 2050, the Chief Executive said the HKSAR Government is set to unveil Hong Kong's Climate Action Plan 2050, and will establish an Office of Climate Change and Carbon Neutrality to oversee the effective implementation of measures on reducing carbon emissions.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202110/06/P2021100600540.htm>

For the full text and highlights of "The Chief Executive's 2021 Policy Address" as well as the Policy Address Supplement, please visit the link below:

<https://www.policyaddress.gov.hk/2021/eng/index.html>

### **Hong Kong rises to third place in Global Financial Centres Index**

Hong Kong ranked third globally in the Global Financial Centres Index (GFCI) 30 Report published on September 24 by Z/Yen from the United Kingdom and the China Development Institute from Shenzhen, rising by one place from the March issue of the index this year.

A spokesman of the HKSAR Government said that the report is an unequivocal affirmation of Hong Kong's status and strengths as a leading global financial centre. Hong Kong has remained among the top in various areas of competitiveness, including human capital, infrastructure, financial sector development, and reputational and general.

The GFCI Report has been released in March and September every year since 2007. In GFCI 30, 116 financial centres were assessed and Hong Kong came third with an overall rating of 716.

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Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202109/24/P2021092400601.htm>

### **HKSAR Government publishes “Report on Hong Kong’s Business Environment: A Place with Unique Advantages and Unlimited Opportunities”**

The HKSAR Government published “Report on Hong Kong’s Business Environment: A Place with Unique Advantages and Unlimited Opportunities” on September 27. The Report reviews and sets out Hong Kong’s current business environment and advantages over the past two years, and describes the development opportunities available to Hong Kong under the country’s new phase and pattern of development. The bilingual full version of the report is available at [www.hkeconomy.gov.hk/en/environment/index.htm](http://www.hkeconomy.gov.hk/en/environment/index.htm).

The report remarked that following the implementation of the Hong Kong National Security Law (NSL) in mid-2020, peace and stability were promptly restored in Hong Kong society. People’s lives and economic activities have returned to normal, and the business environment has also been restored. In addition, Hong Kong’s institutional strengths under “one country, two systems” and other inherent strengths remain intact.

The Financial Secretary of the HKSAR Government, Mr Paul Chan, said that the local epidemic situation has stabilised, and the National 14th Five-Year Plan is bringing countless new opportunities to Hong Kong. Hong Kong will continue to serve as the gateway connecting the country and the rest of the world and perform the functions of a “super-connector”, a high-value-added services platform, an international talent and capital pool and more, and also be an internationally preferred place of doing business.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202109/27/P2021092700768.htm>

### **HKSAR Government supports issuance of fact sheet by Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

The HKSAR Government fully supports the Ministry of Foreign Affairs’ issuance of a fact sheet that sets out the malicious acts of the United States (US) in interfering in Hong Kong affairs and supporting anti-China, destabilising forces.

The Government spokesman said that the US has been colluding with anti-China, destabilising forces for years and disseminating anti-China comments and thoughts via organisations and individuals with ulterior motives to incite emotions and advocate such ideas as “Hong Kong independence” and “self-determination”, seriously jeopardising the sovereignty, security and development interests of the nation. Hong Kong had also

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become a gaping hole in national security, and the city's prosperity and stability were placed at risk.

The HKSAR Government is grateful to the Central Authorities for their resolute actions in enacting the NSL at the critical juncture. The Government will continue to enforce the NSL resolutely and implement the principle of “patriots administering Hong Kong” fully and faithfully, firmly opposing and guarding against foreign forces interfering in the internal affairs of Hong Kong.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202109/24/P2021092400605.htm>

### **Government maintains most social distancing measures under Prevention and Control of Disease Ordinance**

The HKSAR Government gazetted the extension of most existing social distancing measures till October 13. Meanwhile, the maximum number of persons allowed per banquet in catering businesses adopting Type D Mode of Operation, including the requirements that all staff must have completed their vaccination course and at least two-thirds of the customers must have received the first dose of vaccine, will be relaxed to 240.

Please click the following link for details about the requirements and restrictions under the latest directions:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202109/28/P2021092800244.htm>

In addition, the HKSAR Government has adjusted COVID-19 vaccination requirement under social distancing measures according to expert advice. From September 30 onwards, persons aged 12 to 17 who have received one dose of Fosun Pharma/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine (Comirnaty vaccine) at least 14 days ago are deemed to have complied with the requirement of completing the COVID-19 vaccination course and complied with the relevant requirement of social distancing measures under Cap. 599F.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202109/30/P2021093000840.htm>

Meanwhile, the HKSAR Government announced on October 4 that it had concluded discussions with the Government of South Africa to accept vaccination records issued by the country as recognised vaccination records for Hong Kong residents who can board a

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flight for Hong Kong from Group A specified places. The relevant arrangements took effect on October 6.

The list of places that are accepted for issuing recognised vaccination records can be found at the Government's COVID-19 thematic website <https://www.coronavirus.gov.hk>.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202110/04/P2021100400607.htm>

The Government also announced on September 25 that in light of the latest pandemic situation in Macao, all arrivals in Hong Kong from Macao will not be exempted from compulsory quarantine under the Return2hk Scheme or Come2hk Scheme from September 25. Travellers who have stayed in Macao on the day of arrival in Hong Kong or during the 14 days before that day will be subject to 14-day compulsory quarantine at home if they have not been fully vaccinated; and to 7-day compulsory quarantine at home for those who have been fully vaccinated. All arrivals from Macao have to undergo tests at prescribed times under the established requirement.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202109/25/P2021092500632.htm>

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HKETO Toronto Twitter Page <https://twitter.com/TorontoHKETO>

Brand Hong Kong Facebook page [www.facebook.com/brandhk.isd](http://www.facebook.com/brandhk.isd) or

Brand Hong Kong Instagram page [www.instagram.com/brandhongkong/](http://www.instagram.com/brandhongkong/)

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## *Hong Kong e-News Bulletin*

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