

Dec 1, 2021



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

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. With effect from 2 December, 2021 Canada will be specified as Group A (High-risk) group, under which non-Hong Kong residents who have stayed in Canada during the 21 days before boarding the flight to Hong Kong are not allowed to enter Hong Kong.

For Hong Kong residents, they can only board a flight for Hong Kong if they have been fully vaccinated and hold a recognised vaccination record. They have to undergo compulsory quarantine in a designated quarantine hotel (DQH) for 21 days upon arrival at Hong Kong, with six tests to be conducted during quarantine, followed by compulsory testing in a Community Testing Centre on the 26th day of arrival at Hong Kong. Please refer to the following press release for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202111/29/P2021112900754.htm>

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 recognised vaccination record. Please refer to the following webpage for details:

<https://www.coronavirus.gov.hk/eng/inbound-travel.html#quarantinemeasures2>

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>

Dec 1, 2021



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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Hong Kong Forum 2021- Americas Regional Caucus Webinar

The Hong Kong-Canada Business Association (HKCBA), National U.S. Hong Kong Business Association and Hong Kong Latin America Business Association will co-organise a webinar on December 2 at 1pm (EDT)/10am (PDT) to gather the Hong Kong business associations in Canada, the USA and Latin America and to explore how participants can benefit from the initiatives of the Hong Kong associations' network. The Americas Regional Caucus is one of the highlight programmes of the annual Hong Kong Forum and the major agenda items of this webinar will include sharing of the best practices by Hong Kong associations during COVID restrictions; post-COVID association focuses and events, as well as upcoming initiatives in 2022. HKETO and Hong Kong Trade Development Council (Canada) are supporters of this webinar.

Registration is free at: <https://bit.ly/3vXP36H>

SYRCBA 2021 Gala

The Scarborough York Region Chinese Business Association (SYRCBA) will host its 39th anniversary gala dinner on December 4. Under the theme "Yes! We Can!" the gala dinner will feature an award presentation to outstanding awardees in categories of "Achievement Award", "Community Award", "Outstanding Director Award" and "Outstanding Business Award". HKETO is a supporter of the event.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/jldpiff121ugh2v/SYRCBA%20Gala.JPG?dl=0>

80th Anniversary of the Battle of Hong Kong in Toronto and Vancouver

Royal Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers) Ontario Association and Hong Kong Ex-Servicemen's Association (Ontario Branch), and St. John Ambulance, Burnaby Division, will hold in-person and virtual events in Toronto and Vancouver on December 4 and December 6 respectively to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of the Battle of Hong Kong. The events will witness the strong ties between Hong Kong and Canada, which includes the Battle of Hong Kong where the Canadians helped defend the city 80 years ago. HKETO is a supporter of both events.

Dec 1, 2021



For details of the Toronto event, please visit the official Facebook page of RHKR (The Volunteers) Ontario Association: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1107746560042316/>

For registration to the Vancouver event, please click <https://forms.gle/fsXcSwAufevCtohm6>

Webinar on finance and fintech opportunities

A webinar entitled “Reimagining the Future of Finance: opportunities in Hong Kong and Asia for Canadian companies” will be held on December 8, from 12 noon to 1:15pm (EST) to examine some of the common challenges and observations from the impact of COVID-19, to share insights and suggestions navigating the new normal, and how Canadian businesses can tap the vast investment opportunities in Asia via the Hong Kong platform. The webinar is co-organised by the HKETO, Invest Hong Kong, Hong Kong-Canada Business Association, Hong Kong Trade Development Council and the Government of Canada.

Please click the link below to register:

<https://bit.ly/FinanceOppHK>

HONG KONG NEWS

HKSAR Government tightens boarding and quarantine requirements for places including Canada with Omicron cases

The HKSAR Government announced on November 29 and November 30 that in view of the latest global developments of the COVID-19 pandemic situation, the Government will specify Australia, Austria, Belgium, **Canada**, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Israel and Italy as Group A specified places from 0.00am on December 2, and Japan, Portugal and Sweden from 0.00am on December 3 to tighten the boarding and quarantine requirements for relevant inbound travellers. Non-Hong Kong residents who have stayed there within 21 days are not allowed to enter Hong Kong. Hong Kong residents can only board a flight for Hong Kong if they have been fully vaccinated and hold a recognised vaccination record. They have to undergo compulsory quarantine in a DQH for 21 days upon return to Hong Kong, with six tests to be conducted during quarantine, followed by compulsory testing in a community testing centre on the 26th day of arrival at Hong Kong.

Additionally, the Government announced earlier that, to maintain our vigilance, inbound travellers from Angola, Botswana, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe, which had been specified as Group A specified places, are subject to more stringent quarantine and testing

Dec 1, 2021

requirements (i.e. Group A places with enhanced surveillance). Hong Kong residents arriving from these Group A places with enhanced surveillance are required to undergo compulsory quarantine at the Penny's Bay Quarantine Centre for the first seven days, and would then be transferred by designated transport to finish the remaining 14 days of compulsory quarantine at the DQH which they have reserved before coming to Hong Kong.

Details on the relevant boarding and compulsory quarantine requirements for respective specified places can be found at www.coronavirus.gov.hk/eng/inbound-travel.html.

Click the following links for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202111/30/P2021113000884.htm>

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202111/26/P2021112600845.htm>

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202111/29/P2021112900754.htm>

In the meantime, to further prevent the transmission of COVID-19, the HKSAR Government issued on November 24 directions under the Prevention and Control of Disease (Requirements and Directions) (Business and Premises) Regulation (Cap. 599F) to stipulate that a person under compulsory quarantine at a DQH and his or her accompanying carer must not wear a mask with any exhalation valve or vent as these masks cannot effectively filter droplets in exhaled air. The risk posed to surrounding people will be increased if the wearer is infected with novel coronavirus or other respiratory viruses.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202111/24/P2021112400659.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 December 8. A spokesman for the Food and Health Bureau of the HKSAR Government said on November 23 that amid the severe pandemic situation across the world, the Government strives to maintain the anti-epidemic strategy of guarding against the importation of cases and the resurgence of domestic infections with the target of zero infection to protect public health and foster favourable conditions for resuming cross-boundary travel with the Mainland China and cross-border travel in future. To this end, the city needs to maintain most of the social distancing measures currently in place.

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

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202111/23/P2021112300621.htm>

Dec 1, 2021



Also, the Government announced on November 18 that members of the public who have received two doses of the Sinovac vaccine with the second dose received six months ago, irrespective of whether they belong to the certain groups, can make reservations for and receive a third dose of a COVID-19 vaccine starting from November 23.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202111/18/P2021111800310.htm>

In addition, the Secretary for Food and Health of the HKSAR (SFH) has also approved extending the age eligibility of the CoronaVac vaccine to cover those aged three to 17. Also, having regard to the recommendations made by the Scientific Committee on Vaccine Preventable Diseases and the Scientific Committee on Emerging and Zoonotic Diseases under the Centre for Health Protection of the Department of Health together with the Chief Executive's expert advisory panel, the SFH agreed that adolescents aged 12 to 17 will be accorded priority to receive the CoronaVac vaccine, with a view to extending to children of a younger age group at a later stage.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202111/20/P2021112000292.htm>

Hong Kong FinTech Week 2021 celebrates global hub's scale-up opportunities

Hong Kong FinTech Week (HKFW) 2021 ended on November 5, closing a global conference exploring an array of business opportunities for the fintech industry in Hong Kong and across the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area.

The five-day event championed "Scaling FinTech Future Together" attracted over 20 000 attendees. The conference was host to over 300 renowned speakers from around the world, more than 400 exhibitors, and 39 international delegations and representatives. Twenty-seven satellite events and thousands of business meetings were arranged through the event and via the online platforms. This was the first HKFW in a hybrid format, drawing more than four million online views and providing a seamless experience to worldwide audiences from 87 economies to learn more about the city's fast-growing fintech ecosystem.

The Financial Secretary of the HKSAR, Mr Paul Chan, said that despite COVID-19 and numerous other challenges, Hong Kong remains a prime international financial centre. The National 14th Five-Year Plan supports Hong Kong's continuing efforts to reinforce the city's status as a global financial centre and offerings, and backs the development of Hong Kong as an international innovation and technology hub. Thanks to the "one country,

Dec 1, 2021



two systems” institutional strength, Hong Kong remains the destination of choice for fintech companies looking to operate or expand, locally, regionally and globally.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202111/22/P2021111900330.htm>

SCED: Hong Kong business environment remains favourable and vibrant

The Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development of the HKSAR, Mr Edward Yau, assured participants of a webinar on November 19 that the business environment of Hong Kong remains favourable and vibrant, saying that with the implementation of the National Security Law and improvements to the electoral system, Hong Kong is back on the right track of “one country, two systems”, with developments characterised by safety, security and stability.

Speaking at a webinar of the 2021 World Alliance Forum, Mr Yau illustrated Hong Kong’s recent achievements, including being ranked the world’s sixth largest merchandise trading economy in terms of total merchandise trade value last year; being ranked the third largest recipient of foreign direct investment in 2020 by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development report; and first in Asia and second worldwide in the World Digital Competitiveness Ranking 2021.

In addition, total merchandise trade value has also hit a record high in the first nine months of this year. IPO funds raised in Hong Kong increased by more than 50 per cent compared to the previous 12 months. The number of business operations in Hong Kong with parent companies outside Hong Kong, and the number of start-ups in Hong Kong this year also reached record highs.

Mr Yau updated participants on Hong Kong's vibrant innovation and technology ecosystem. He added that Hong Kong is now already the largest biotech fundraising hub in Asia, second only to the Nasdaq in the world.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202111/19/P2021111800628.htm>

AALCO Annual Session held in HKSAR for first time

The 59th Annual Session of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO) was successfully launched on November 29. It is the first time for the HKSAR to hold an AALCO Annual Session. The three-day event is conducted in a hybrid format, bringing high-ranking diplomats and legal experts representing the member states as well as

Dec 1, 2021



observer delegations representing governments and international organisations from across the globe together to discuss important international law topics.

At the inaugural session, Premier Li Keqiang delivered a statement online. He pointed out that as an important outcome of the Bandung Conference, the AALCO is the only platform covering both Asia and Africa for co-operation on international law. The Premier has made five proposals:

- (1) to uphold sovereign equality and jointly practice multilateralism
- (2) to strengthen connectivity and jointly advance opening-up for mutual benefit
- (3) to build a strong line of defence against the coronavirus and jointly strengthen global health governance
- (4) to accelerate a green transition and jointly promote sustainable development
- (5) to uphold fairness and justice, and jointly strengthen international rule of law

The Premier also announced at the event that China, together with AALCO, will set up a regional arbitration centre in the HKSAR to provide more accessible and efficient dispute settlement services to Asian and African countries.

In addressing the inaugural session via video message, the Chief Executive of the HKSAR, Mrs Carrie Lam, said that China's persistence in building a "community with shared future for mankind" is highly congruent with the values advocated by AALCO and United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. China has taken a proactive role in integrating the implementation of sustainable development goals with its own national development strategy, promoting rule of law infrastructure across the globe and sustainable development through collaboration of countries.

The AALCO, as the only inter-governmental legal consultative organisation in the Asian and African region, currently has 47 member states comprising almost all the major states from Asia and Africa.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202111/29/P2021112900879.htm>

Pioneering wealth management firm Lioner chooses Hong Kong as regional headquarters

Pioneering wealth management firm Lioner International Group Ltd announced on November 25 that its Hong Kong office has officially opened as its regional headquarters in Asia, with a focus on the business development in the Greater China market.

Dec 1, 2021



The Hong Kong office offers Lioner's Asia high-net-worth clients access to a broad spectrum of value-added financial consultancy services ranging from corporate governance, tax planning and legal expertise. Lioner has recently established an internationally recognised information security management system, ISO/IEC 27001:2013, and obtained the certification by Lloyd's Register Quality Assurance Limited, marking a milestone in the continuing growth and success of its insurance broker services organisation.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202111/25/P2021112400410.htm>

Cash Payout Scheme registration to close on December 31

A government spokesman said on November 25 that the Cash Payout Scheme announced in the 2020-21 Budget has been operating smoothly since registration commenced on June 21, 2020. As at November 23 this year, the Scheme had disbursed HK\$10,000 each to more than 6.5 million eligible registrants.

Registration for the Scheme will end on December 31 this year. Persons who meet the eligibility criteria but have not yet registered should submit registrations electronically or by paper form on or before the registration deadline to receive HK\$10,000.

The public may visit the website of the Scheme (www.cashpayout.gov.hk) for detailed information on the Scheme.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202111/25/P2021112400532.htm>

A new issue of Monocle Magazine “Getting on with Business”

Global affairs magazine Monocle, in partnership with the Information Services Department of the HKSAR Government, created an online content hub entitled “Getting on with Business” to showcase Hong Kong’s enduring strengths and advantages as an international business centre, and Asia’s art and cultural hub.

Click the following link for details.

<https://monocle.com/magazine/brand-hong-kong/2021/>

Dec 1, 2021



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