

Dec 29, 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](mailto:info@hketotoronto.gov.hk)

#### Vancouver

Phone: (604) 331-1300 or

Email: [info\\_vancouver@hketotoronto.gov.hk](mailto: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.

In view of the rapidly worsening global epidemic situation due to the Omicron variant, a series of measures will be implemented, including the following:

- 1) shortening the lead time for specimen collection for pre-departure nucleic acid tests for persons boarding for flights to Hong Kong from 72 hours to 48 hours with effective from December 24; and
- 2) requiring persons arriving at Hong Kong from Group A places with enhanced surveillance to undergo compulsory quarantine at a quarantine centre for the first four days of arrival at Hong Kong with effect from December 21. They have to undergo daily testing in the first seven days of arrival at Hong Kong, and to undergo testing on alternate days thereafter.

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. Please refer to the following press release for details:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202112/20/P2021122000964.htm?fontSize=1>

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 48 hours before the scheduled time of departure of the aircraft; (ii) confirmation in

Dec 29, 2021



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>

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**

### **Watch Hong Kong’s New Year Countdown Concert from Canada**

Hong Kong’s iconic Victoria Harbour promises to offer an electrifying experience this New Year’s Eve, with a three-part countdown spectacular presented by the Hong Kong Tourism Board that brings Hong Kong’s thriving art scene right to the global centre stage.

Highlights of the concert include:

- The iconic M+ Museum will showcase a high-impact audiovisual show created by talented Hong Kong artists culminating to the numerals “2022”
- The dazzling light show will be accompanied by an outdoor concert led by the prestigious Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra

Social Media livestreaming at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=466gaaYq5FE>  
Livestreaming time: Dec 31, 23:55-24:10 HK Time (GMT15:55-16:10)

The concert will also be broadcasting live on Fairchild TV and Singtao A1 radio Toronto for the Canadian audience to enjoy. For more information, please visit <https://www.discoverhongkong.com/countdown>

### **HKCBA (Toronto) celebrates Virtual Lunar New Year Celebration**

The Hong Kong-Canada Business Association (HKCBA) (Toronto) will organise the Lunar New Year Virtual Celebration on January 29, 7 to 9 pm (EST) to welcome the Year of the Tiger. Festive and cultural focus on Hong Kong will draw the participants in games and lucky draws. It is also a special event to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. HKETO is a special sponsor of the event. For details, please click: <https://toronto.hkcba.com/cpages/home>

Dec 29, 2021



## **Dragon Ball 2022**

The 33rd Dragon Ball hosted by the Yee Hong Community Wellness Foundation will be held at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre on February 5 (the 5th day of the Chinese New Year of the Tiger). Dragon Ball 2022 will be a hybrid event with both online and in-person components to share the joy with people in the community and around the world. Participants of the online gala option will still enjoy the traditional Dragon Ball gourmet food experience, with specially curated menus from select restaurants and vendors, as well as a Hong Kong booklet and gift from HKETO.

For more details, please click the link below:

<https://www.yeehongdragonball.org/>

## **HKCBA (Calgary) Chinese New Year Gala 2022**

HKCBA (Calgary) will organise the Chinese New Year Gala on February 11 to celebrate the Year of the Tiger. The evening will include a champagne reception, traditional lion dance, silent auction, prize draws, and entertainment on the main stage. HKETO is a sponsor of the event. For details, please click: <https://calgary.hkcba.com/cpages/home>

## **CGTCBA Annual Chinese New Year Gala**

The Confederation of Greater Toronto Chinese Business Association (CGTCBA) will host the 24th Annual Chinese New Year Gala to celebrate the Year of The Tiger on February 12. The Gala is brought together by the four member Associations of the Confederation in Greater Toronto Area, namely Mississauga Chinese Business Association, Markham, Richmond Hill & Vaughan Chinese Business Association, Scarborough-York Region Chinese Business Association, and Toronto Chinese Business Association. HKETO is a sponsor of the event.

## **HONG KONG NEWS**

### **Signature events and preparatory work unveiled for celebration of HKSAR 25th anniversary**

The Chief Secretary for Administration of the HKSAR, Mr John Lee, on December 29 officiated at the launch ceremony of the celebrations for the 25th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR of the People's Republic of China, saying that the Government will organise a full range of diversified celebratory events.

The theme for celebration of the 25th anniversary is “A New Era – Stability • Prosperity •

Dec 29, 2021



Opportunity”. It not only represents Hong Kong’s exemplary achievements over the past 25 years, but also underscores the eager anticipation for and confidence in a brighter future. With the staunch support from the Central Government, Hong Kong has successfully implemented “one country, two systems” over the past 25 years while sustaining its role as an international metropolis.

The HKSAR Government has planned over 100 events and will continue its efforts on this front, with a view to allowing wide participation by the community in the 25th Anniversary celebrations. The Government’s offices overseas and in the Mainland will also step up their outreach work and stage exciting activities in major cities.

A dedicated website for the 25th anniversary has been launched. Members of the public can find details of celebration activities and the latest updates at [www.hksar25.gov.hk](http://www.hksar25.gov.hk).

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202112/29/P2021122900795.htm>

### **Comprehensive tightening of inbound control measures to prevent spreading of Omicron cases to community**

The HKSAR Government announced on December 20 that in view of the rapidly worsening global epidemic situation due to the Omicron variant, a series of measures will be implemented to further guard against the importation of cases, including:

- (1) tightening the flight suspension mechanism with immediate effect, apart from the existing suspension criteria, if four or more passengers are confirmed with COVID-19 upon arrival in Hong Kong from the same route within seven days, that route will be suspended for 14 days;
- (2) shortening the lead time for specimen collection for pre-departure nucleic acid tests for persons boarding for flights to Hong Kong from 72 hours to 48 hours with effect from December 24; and
- (3) requiring persons arriving at Hong Kong from Group A places with enhanced surveillance to undergo compulsory quarantine at a quarantine centre for the first four days of arrival at Hong Kong with effect from December 21. They have to undergo daily testing in the first seven days of arrival at Hong Kong, and to undergo testing on alternate days thereafter.

For details of the control measures, please visit:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202112/20/P2021122000964.htm>

Dec 29, 2021



In addition, as the passenger flight (CX829) operated by Cathay Pacific arriving in Hong Kong from Toronto, Canada, on December 28 had three passengers who tested positive upon arrival, the Department of Health of the HKSAR Government invoked the Prevention and Control of Disease (Regulation of Cross-boundary Conveyances and Travellers) Regulation (Cap. 599H) to prohibit the landing of passenger flights from Toronto operated by Cathay Pacific in Hong Kong from December 29 to January 11, 2022.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202112/29/P2021122900503.htm?fontSize=1>

### **Government tightens boarding and quarantine requirements for places with Omicron cases detected**

The HKSAR Government announced over the last two weeks that in view of the latest global developments of the COVID-19 pandemic situation, the countries below have been specified as Group A specified places and the boarding and quarantine requirements for relevant inbound travellers will be tightened:

Algeria, Ecuador, Luxembourg, Slovenia and Trinidad and Tobago from December 18  
Kenya, Lithuania and Rwanda from December 19  
Montenegro and Poland from December 20  
Egypt, Morocco, New Zealand and Qatar from December 21  
Palestine and Ukraine from December 22  
Peru from December 23  
Aruba, Colombia, Costa Rica, Georgia and Panama from December 24  
Burkina Faso, Cayman Islands and Togo from December 25  
Guadeloupe, Guernsey, Saint Martin (French part) and Venezuela from December 26  
Réunion and Serbia from December 27  
Albania, Jamaica and North Macedonia from December 29  
The Dominican Republic, Kosovo and Malta from December 30  
Brunei Darussalam and Paraguay from December 31  
Kazakhstan and Myanmar from January 1

Non-Hong Kong residents who have stayed in the above countries within 21 days will not be 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 will have to undergo compulsory quarantine in a designated quarantine hotel for 21 days upon returning 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 in Hong Kong.

Dec 29, 2021



Additionally, in view of the detection earlier of some imported Omicron cases in Hong Kong from the UK and Kazakhstan, the Government imposed measures applicable to Group A places with enhanced surveillance on persons who have stayed at these two places starting from December 21 and January 1 respectively. This quarantine and testing arrangement is currently applicable to inbound travellers from Angola, Botswana, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, South Africa, the United States of America, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

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

Click the following links for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202112/15/P2021121500567.htm>

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202112/16/P2021121600523.htm>

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202112/17/P2021121700580.htm>

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202112/18/P2021121800575.htm>

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202112/19/P2021121900688.htm>

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202112/21/P2021122100558.htm>

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202112/22/P2021122200577.htm>

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202112/23/P2021122300550.htm>

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202112/24/P2021122400627.htm>

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202112/26/P2021122600494.htm>

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202112/27/P2021122700546.htm>

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202112/28/P2021122800485.htm>

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202112/29/P2021122900785.htm>

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

The HKSAR Government announced on December 21 the gazettal of extension of existing social distancing measures for 14 days, which will take effect till January 5.

A spokesman for the Food and Health Bureau of the HKSAR Government said that COVID-19, particularly the latest Omicron mutant strain, continues to spread rapidly around the world. In view of the unstable epidemic situation in various places across the globe and the tradition for families and friends to get together during Christmas and New Year holidays, the risk of virus transmission may further increase. The Government urges citizens to remain vigilant in adopting epidemic control measures in order to avoid a rebound of the epidemic.

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

Dec 29, 2021



<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202112/21/P2021122100457.htm>

## **CE welcomes publication of white paper on “Hong Kong: Democratic Progress Under the Framework of One Country, Two Systems”**

The Chief Executive of the HKSAR, Mrs Carrie Lam, issued a statement in response to the publication of the white paper on “Hong Kong: Democratic Progress Under the Framework of One Country, Two Systems” by the State Council Information Office on December 20.

Mrs Lam greatly welcomed the publication of the white paper which gives a detailed and systematic historical account of Hong Kong’s democratic development. The white paper points out that the Central Government has been supporting democratic development in the HKSAR in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Basic Law since Hong Kong’s return to the Motherland. The white paper also outlines the attempts made by the HKSAR Government, with full support of the Central Government, to promote the development of democracy in the HKSAR.

Mrs stressed that the publication of the white paper upon the successful completion of the first general election of the Legislative Council under the improved electoral system serves to pre-emptively address the major issue of Hong Kong’s democratic development. The smooth formation of the seventh-term Legislative Council through elections manifests the broad representation, political inclusiveness, balanced participation and fair competition of the new electoral system, hence enhancing the HKSAR’s democratic system. The HKSAR Government fully supports the white paper and will cooperate with the Central Government to strongly refute any fallacious criticism of this Legislative Council election.

For the Chief Executive’s statement in full text, please visit:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202112/20/P2021122000637.htm>

## **Seventh SAR Legislative Council formed**

The seventh Legislative Council of the HKSAR has been successfully formed as the 90 seats have all been filled following the smooth completion of the election on December 19.

The counting of about 1 350 680 geographical constituency ballot papers, about 70 490 functional constituency ballot papers and 1 426 Election Committee constituency ballot papers was completed in about 11 hours after polling ended on December 19.

Dec 29, 2021



The Electronic Poll Register system was used for the first time on a large scale to issue ballot papers at polling stations in this election. The Electoral Affairs Commission will do a detailed review of various electoral arrangements. A report will be submitted to the Chief Executive within three months as prescribed by the law.

Please visit the link below about the counting of votes:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202112/20/P2021122000412.htm>

For the full list of elected members:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202112/20/P2021122000408.htm>

### **HKSAR Government strongly refutes joint statement by four foreign ministers and US Secretary of State**

In response to the joint statement on the Legislative Council (LegCo) General Election in Hong Kong made by the foreign ministers of Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and the United States Secretary of State, a spokesman for the Government of the HKSAR on December 21 said:

“We strongly oppose to the five countries’ attempt to smear against the 2021 LegCo General Election of Hong Kong by making up allegations contrary to facts and without basis. The 2021 LegCo General Election was held successfully after the improvement to the electoral system.

The improvement to the electoral system fully implements the principle of ‘patriots administering Hong Kong’, ensuring that members of the LegCo are patriotic, love Hong Kong and act in the interests of the country’s development and the long-term prosperity and stability of Hong Kong. On this basis, Legislators, returned on December 19, come from different backgrounds and across the political spectrum. Such diversity showcases the broad representation and political inclusiveness of the improved electoral system. They have been returned by the Election Committee, functional constituencies, and geographical constituencies through direct elections. By balancing the overall interests of Hong Kong, the interests of different sectors and districts, the Election ensures balanced participation. Furthermore, healthy competitions among candidates of this election reflected the fairness and competitiveness of the new electoral system.

With the support of the Central Government and the safeguards of the Hong Kong National Security Law (NSL) and the improved electoral system, Hong Kong’s democratic development will progress in a lawful and orderly manner in accordance with the Basic Law. Any external or internal destructive force and political conspiracy trying to interfere



Dec 29, 2021



with the HKSAR's democratic development in accordance with the Basic Law will not succeed.

Following implementation of the NSL, chaos stopped and stability has been restored in Hong Kong. The NSL ensures the resolute, full and faithful implementation of the policy of 'one country, two systems' under which the people of Hong Kong administer Hong Kong with a high degree of autonomy, and the legitimate rights and freedoms enjoyed by Hong Kong people under the Basic Law are well-protected. The NSL clearly stipulates that human rights shall be respected and protected in safeguarding national security in the HKSAR, and the rights and freedoms, including the freedoms of speech, of the press, of publication, of association, of assembly, of procession and of demonstration, 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 shall be protected in accordance with the law. The four categories of offences endangering national security stipulated under the NSL are clearly defined. Law-abiding people will not unwittingly violate the law.

Any law enforcement actions taken by law enforcement agencies are based on evidence, strictly according to the law, for the acts of the persons or entities concerned, and have nothing to do with their political stance, background or occupation.”

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202112/21/P2021122100213.htm>

In addition, the HKSAR Government also strongly refutes the joint statement on the Legislative Council General Election made by the foreign ministers of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States; and the High Representative of the European Union (EU). For details of HKSAR Government's response, please visit:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202112/21/P2021122100712.htm>

### **Mainland cloud computing technologies company ZStack uses Hong Kong as base to expand globally**

Mainland cloud computing technologies supplier ZStack has set up its regional headquarters in Hong Kong and officially opened its new office on December 15. It aims to leverage the city's international platform as well as the opportunities from information technology and innovation and technology sectors to take the company's brand and business to the global level.

ZStack has established its marketing and technical teams in Australia, Taiwan, Thailand and Malaysia, in addition to the regional headquarters in Hong Kong. The group will also

Dec 29, 2021



establish its business in Vietnam and Indonesia by end of this year. Looking ahead to 2022, ZStack will set up its presence in other Asian countries to cover the entire Asia-Pacific market.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202112/15/P2021121400497.htm>

### **Hong Kong team excels at International Junior Science Olympiad**

A team of six students representing Hong Kong achieved remarkable results in the 18th International Junior Science Olympiad (IJSO 2021) by winning two gold and four silver medals. These good results showed that Hong Kong students continue to excel in renowned international competitions.

The IJSO is a science competition for secondary school students aged 15 or below. The competition, covering physics, chemistry and biology up to the senior secondary level, comprises written assessments and science experiments on unfamiliar problems that require analytical and problem-solving skills.

The IJSO 2021 was hosted by the United Arab Emirates from December 12 to 21. Around 320 contestants from 70 countries or regions participated in the competition. Due to the epidemic, contestants participated in the IJSO 2021 in their own country or region under online monitoring, and joined online activities.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202112/21/P2021122100288.htm>

### **Video of “Hong Kong Looking Ahead - Innovation and Technology”**

In partnership with the Information Services Department of the HKSAR Government, The Economist has created a video entitled “Hong Kong Looking Ahead - Innovation and Technology” to shed light on the kind of support and security fintech firms can expect in Hong Kong.

Video Links:

Full version (1.5 minutes) –

<https://impact.economist.com/projects/hong-kong-looking-ahead/innovation-technology-video/>

Short versions (30 seconds each) –

<https://twitter.com/economistimpact/status/1472830759568228353>

Dec 29, 2021



<https://twitter.com/economistimpact/status/1472832029079130112>

## **The Asian Financial Forum 2022**

The 15th Asian Financial Forum (AFF) will be held on January 10 to 11 with the theme “Navigating the Next Normal towards a Sustainable Future (引領未來新常態 邁向可持續發展)”. In light of the evolving situation of COVID-19, the two-day Forum will be held in a hybrid format with physical conferences on the first day and online broadcasting throughout the two-day event. Some of the keynote speakers include:

- Jean-Claude Trichet (President, European Central Bank (2003-2011); Governor, Banque de France (1993-2003))
- Mark Carney (UN Special Envoy on Climate Action and Finance; Governor, Bank of England (2013-2020); Governor, Bank of Canada (2008-2013))
- Brett King (Founder & CEO of Moven Bank; Best-selling author and FinTech expert)

AFF 2022 will be among the first signature events for the celebration of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR. Please register at <https://registration.affonline.hk/>.

To stay tuned to updates on HKETO and Hong Kong, please follow us at

HKETO Toronto Facebook Page [www.facebook.com/TorontoHKETO](http://www.facebook.com/TorontoHKETO)

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/)

Brand Hong Kong Twitter page [https://twitter.com/Brand\\_HK](https://twitter.com/Brand_HK)

*Hong Kong e-News Bulletin*

Dec 29, 2021



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)

You are receiving this e-mail for information only. You may at any time unsubscribe from receiving our communications by contacting us at [info@hketotoronto.gov.hk](mailto:info@hketotoronto.gov.hk); or, simply click [here](#) to unsubscribe.