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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)

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 have been 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

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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**

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

Hong Kong-Canada Business Association (HKCBA) (Toronto) will organise the Lunar New Year Virtual Celebration on January 29 to welcome the Year of the Tiger. Festive and cultural focus on Hong Kong will draw the participants in games and lucky draws. HKETO is a special sponsor of the event. For details, please click: <https://toronto.hkcba.com/cpages/home>

### **Brampton Chinese Business Association Chinese New Year online event**

Brampton Chinese Business Association, with the support of the City of Brampton, will organise the Lunar New Year event virtually starting from February 1 to 14 via the City of Brampton’s website and various social media platforms. HKETO is a sponsor of the event.

For event details, please click the following link:

<https://www.brampton.ca/EN/Arts-Culture-Tourism/Festivals-and-Events/Pages/Lunar-New-Year.aspx>

### **Toronto Chinese Business Association virtual Chinese New Year Reception**

Toronto Chinese Business Association will organize its annual Chinese New Year Reception virtually on February 1. Participants from the business community and the three-level of Canadian governments will celebrate the Year of the Tiger together online. HKETO is a supporter of the event.

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### **Mississauga Chinese Business Association virtual Chinese New Year Reception**

The Mississauga Chinese Business Association (MCBA) will organise the virtual Chinese New Year Reception on February 1 to celebrate the Chinese New Year and introduce the Chinese New Year culture. HKETO is a supporter of the event. For details, please click: <https://mcba-canada.com/>

### **Dragon Ball 2022**

The 33rd Dragon Ball hosted by the Yee Hong Community Wellness Foundation will be held online on February 5 (the 5th day of the Chinese New Year of the Tiger). The Dragon Ball 2022 aims to share this major Chinese traditional festival with people in the community and around the world. Aside from enjoying the many Hong Kong performances in the livestream show, participants will also get a Hong Kong themed gift box with a souvenir and a booklet from HKETO, among others.

For more details, please click the link below:

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

### **The Association of Chinese Canadian Entrepreneurs' Chinese New Year Celebration**

The Association of Chinese Canadian Entrepreneurs will host its annual Chinese New Year Celebration on virtual platform on February 8. Other than celebrity greetings, the Best Chinese Traditional Outfit Competition will be held at the event. HKETO is a sponsor of the event.

### **Cybersecurity and Fintech - A Symbiotic Success webinar**

HKCBA (Montreal) will organise a webinar entitled "Cybersecurity and Fintech - A Symbiotic Success" on February 9 at 9am (EST). During the pandemic, cybersecurity becomes one of the most important aspects of fintech in the modern world. Canada produces an impressive number of cybersecurity, regtech and compliance-related operations while Hong Kong is a global leader for the establishment of fintech companies. The webinar will explore how these two regions interact with Canadian entrepreneurs choosing Hong Kong as their location of choice for entering into the Asian market. HKETO and Invest Hong Kong are supporters of this webinar.

Registration is free at: <https://montreal.hkcba.com/events/cybersecurity-and-fintech-a-symbiotic-success>

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## **RECENT ACTIVITY**

### **HKETO Director updates Hong Kong's latest business developments**

Director of the HKETO, Ms Emily Mo, on January 18 joined the “Hong Kong Deep Dive: Quantifying the Economic Impact of China and Hong Kong in Canada” webinar to update the Canadian business community on Hong Kong’s latest business developments.

The webinar, organised by the Canada China Business Council (CCBC) and HKCBA, released the “Hong Kong-Canada Economic Ties” report on a CCBC-commissioned research by the China Institute at the University of Alberta. It provides a fact-based overview of Canada-Hong Kong trade, investment, and people-to-people bi-lateral relations, and serves as a useful reference for various sectors to understand how the relations may further deepen in future.

The report points out that Canada’s relationship with Hong Kong is distinct, and the economic and business opportunities between the two places remain abundant and profitable. It concludes that Hong Kong is an important nexus of international trade due to its free port status and its special relationship with mainland China and access to Asia. Hong Kong has remained one of Canada’s top ten trading markets.

For details of the report, please click the link below:

<https://ccbc.com/hong-kong-canada-economic-ties-a-supplemental-report-to-chinas-economic-impact-on-canada/>

Ms Emily Mo in her welcome remarks at the event reassured participants that Hong Kong has welcomed the restoration of stability, socially and politically, with the support from the Central government. The recent global indices and rankings demonstrate that Hong Kong remains an attractive place for investment.

At the panel discussions, participants were able to gain insights from how companies of different sizes benefitted from their presence in Hong Kong, and Hong Kong’s significant role in Canadian trade diversification under the new Indo-Pacific strategy.

Click the following link for details.

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

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## HONG KONG NEWS

### **Government extends place-specific flight suspension mechanism and tightens boarding and quarantine requirements for places with Omicron cases detected**

The HKSAR Government announced on January 14 that in view of the continuously worsening global epidemic situation due to the Omicron variant, the place-specific flight suspension mechanism for Australia, **Canada**, France, India, Pakistan, the Philippines, the United Kingdom and the United States of America will be extended to February 4. All passenger flights from these eight places will be prohibited from landing in Hong Kong, and at the same time, persons who have stayed in these places for more than two hours within 21 days will be restricted from boarding passenger flights for Hong Kong, so as to stop persons from the relevant places from travelling to Hong Kong via transit.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202201/14/P2022011400637.htm>

Meanwhile, 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:

Kyrgyzstan from January 16

Armenia, Bonaire, Guatemala and New Caledonia from January 17

Bhutan from January 19

Honduras from January 21

Papua New Guinea and Suriname from January 22

Turks and Caicos Islands from January 25

Non-Hong Kong residents who have stayed there 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.

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/202201/13/P2022011300434.htm>

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<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202201/16/P2022011600406.htm>  
<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202201/18/P2022011800593.htm>  
<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202201/19/P2022011900524.htm>  
<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202201/22/P2022012200413.htm>

In addition, in view of the epidemic developments in Hong Kong, the HKSAR Government announced on January 19 the gazettal of extension of existing social distancing measures till February 3. The arrangement aims to reduce public traffic, social functions and crowd gatherings to the greatest extent, with a view to curbing the spread of the virus in the community through discouraging members of the public from going out and joining activities unnecessarily.

You can click the following link for details of the latest requirements and restrictions:  
<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202201/19/P2022011900634.htm>

### **IMF commends Hong Kong's robust institutional frameworks and effective policy responses for boosting economic growth and safeguarding financial stability**

Following the completion of the 2022 Article IV Consultation with the HKSAR, the International Monetary Fund Staff Mission (Mission) published on January 20 its assessment in the Concluding Statement. The Mission commends Hong Kong's strong economic recovery and the Government's efforts to safeguard financial stability.

The Mission reaffirms Hong Kong's position as a major international financial centre and recognises that Hong Kong's financial sector, underpinned by robust regulatory and supervisory frameworks, has continued to expand robustly, even during the pandemic. The well-functioning Linked Exchange Rate System remains key to safeguarding economic and financial stability.

The Financial Secretary of the HKSAR, Mr Paul Chan, welcomed the Mission's recognition of Hong Kong's strong economic recovery supported by the city's swift and bold policy responses, including the electronic consumption voucher scheme and various anti-epidemic support measures. Mr Chan reassured that the government would continue to stay highly vigilant and monitor the economic situation closely, with a view to maintaining financial stability and fostering balanced, inclusive and sustainable growth.

The Mission adds that the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area would generate huge business opportunities and provide the best entry point for Hong Kong to integrate into the national development, thereby benefitting Hong Kong's medium- and long-term growth prospects.

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The Mission also commends the large fiscal stimulus that has helped mitigate the impact of economic shocks on Hong Kong. It also recognises the HKSAR Government's ongoing efforts to enhance the green and sustainable finance ecosystem.

The Mission held virtual discussions with government officials, regulators and private sector representatives in Hong Kong from December 1 to 15, 2021, for the 2022 Article IV Consultation with the HKSAR. The full report of the Article IV Consultation will be discussed by the IMF Executive Board in February 2022.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202201/20/P2022012000353.htm>

### **Hong Kong and Chile update commitments on trade in services under Free Trade Agreement**

Hong Kong and Chile signed an exchange of notes on January 18 to confirm the updated commitments of both sides on trade in services under the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between Hong Kong and Chile, marking a new milestone in trade and investment co-operation between the two economies.

The Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development of the HKSAR, Mr Edward Yau, and the Vice Minister of Trade of Chile, Mr Rodrigo Yáñez, signed the exchange of notes at a virtual signing ceremony.

Mr Yau noted that Chile is the first FTA partner of Hong Kong in Latin America. Since the FTA has entered into force in 2014, bilateral merchandise trade has been growing steadily.

In addition to improving its existing commitments in a wide variety of service sectors, Chile has made commitments in over 50 new service sectors. For these sectors, Hong Kong's service providers would be able to enjoy access to the Chilean market and treatment no less favourable than that for Chile's local service providers.

Hong Kong has signed eight FTAs with 20 economies worldwide, all of which have entered into force.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202201/18/P2022011800396.htm>



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## **HKSAR Government strongly opposes resolutions of European Parliament**

The HKSAR Government on January 21 deplored the so-called resolutions adopted by the European Parliament against Hong Kong, and strongly opposed the Parliament for making baseless allegations and smearing the rule of law, freedom and democratic development in Hong Kong.

A HKSAR Government spokesman said that regarding the suggestions by foreign politicians on the so-called “sanctions” on HKSAR Government officials, the HKSAR Government despises the suggestions and will continue to strive to safeguard national security.

The spokesman stressed that the improvement to the electoral system fully implements the principle of “patriots administering Hong Kong”, ensuring that members of the Legislative Council love the country and Hong Kong, and act in the interests of the country's development and the long-term prosperity and stability of Hong Kong.

The spokesman also noted that the democratic framework implemented by Hong Kong since its return to the Motherland stems from the country's Constitution and the Basic Law. Freedom of speech and freedom of the press are protected under the Basic Law and the Hong Kong Bill of Rights. Article 4 of the Hong Kong National Security Law also stipulates that such rights and freedoms shall be protected in accordance with the law in safeguarding national security in the HKSAR.

The spokesman remarked that the policy of “one country, two systems” ensures Hong Kong's long-term prosperity and stability and is fully implemented in Hong Kong without being bent or distorted.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202201/21/P2022012100744.htm>

## **Administrative Service Summer Internship Programme 2022**

The Administrative Service Summer Internship Programme 2022 has been launched. The primary objective of the Programme is to give Hong Kong students who wish to pursue a career in the Administrative Service an early opportunity to gain hands-on experience of working with serving Administrative Officers (AOs), so as to enrich their understanding of the roles and missions of an AO and facilitate their future career planning.

Applicants have to be undergoing full-time undergraduate or postgraduate studies at a local, mainland or overseas tertiary institution in the 2021-22 and 2022-23 academic



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years, with a view to obtaining by summer 2023 or 2024 a bachelor's degree or higher qualifications.

Applications from students studying outside Hong Kong have to be submitted by postal mail or email by 25 February 2022 (Hong Kong Time). The application form together with other Programme information can be obtained from the website <http://www.csb.gov.hk/english/grade/ao/279.html>. More information about the Programme and the AO career are available on the AO recruitment website <http://www.ao-recruitment.gov.hk/english/eindex.html>.

### **Hong Kong ranks top in Asia in talent ranking and HKSAR Government increases annual quota of Quality Migrant Admission Scheme**

Hong Kong was ranked first in Asia and 11<sup>th</sup> globally in the 2021 World Talent Ranking released by the Institute for Management Development (IMD) in December 2021, underlining the city's strengths in organisational leadership and quality of life that drive high levels of talent motivation. Hong Kong's unique geography, governance, history and economic development have made it a comfortable and convenient place to live and work. For details of the IMD report, please refer to: <https://www.imd.org/centers/world-competitiveness-center/rankings/world-talent-competitiveness/>

In order to further attract non-local talents to enrich Hong Kong's talent pool, the annual quota of Quality Migrant Admission Scheme (QMAS) was doubled to 4 000 in 2021. The QMAS is open to highly skilled or talented persons globally who wish to settle in the city. There is no sectoral restriction under the QMAS and successful applicants are not required to have secured a job offer before entry into Hong Kong.

For details of the QMAS and other information on talent admission initiatives introduced by the Government, please click the links below: [https://www.immd.gov.hk/eng/services/visas/quality\\_migrant\\_admission\\_scheme.html](https://www.immd.gov.hk/eng/services/visas/quality_migrant_admission_scheme.html)  
<https://www.liveworkhongkong.gov.hk/>

### **Recruitment of qualified doctors outside Hong Kong**

Department of Health of the HKSAR Government is recruiting qualified doctors outside Hong Kong for the positions of Non-civil Service Contract Doctor (without Full Registration) and Contract Doctor (without Full Registration) (Child Assessment). Applications for the above two posts are accepted all year round. Eligibility requirements are set out in the attached recruitment notices of the Department of Health.

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Enquiries can be made to the Department of Health at [appts\\_registry1@dh.gov.hk](mailto:appts_registry1@dh.gov.hk) and online application can be made through the Civil Service Bureau's website at <http://www.csb.gov.hk>. Job numbers are 40221 (Contract Doctor (without Full Registration)) and 40248 (Contract Doctor (without Full Registration) (Child Assessment)).

[Click here to read the details of Contract Doctor \(without full registration\)](#)

[Click here to read the details of Contract Doctor \(without full registration \(Child Assessment\)\)](#)

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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/)

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

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