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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

Under the border control measures of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government, overseas places are categorised into high-risk, medium-risk and low-risk groups. **Canada** is currently specified as Group A (High-risk) group and also on the "List of Specified Places with Flight Suspension". Travellers who have stayed in Canada during the 14 days before boarding the flight to Hong Kong are not allowed to enter Hong Kong.

Starting April 1, the HKSAR Government will lift the flight ban on Canada and shorten the hotel quarantine period for arrivals. Hong Kong residents who are fully vaccinated can board a flight for Hong Kong. They must hold a negative result of a polymerase chain reaction (PCR)-based nucleic acid test taken within 48 hours before boarding as well as a confirmation of a room reservation at a designated quarantine hotel for at least seven nights.

For details of the above policy and measures, please read the following press release: https://www.news.gov.hk/eng/2022/03/20220321/20220321_124502_138.html?type=ticker

Please check the latest entry restrictions and quarantine requirements before travelling to Hong Kong:

<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>

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UPCOMING EVENTS

8th Transpacific Entrepreneurial Virtual Conference

The Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong and Hong Kong-Canada Business Association (HKCBA) will jointly organise the 8th Transpacific Entrepreneurial Virtual Conference on April 7 and 8. This two-day conference will showcase “the roadmaps” to using Hong Kong as a platform for entrepreneurial ventures “from seed to exit” while discussing current opportunities for companies looking to expand into Canada, Hong Kong or Greater China. HKETO is a sponsor of the event.

For details and registration, please click the following link:

<https://www.cancham.org/8th-transpacific-entrepreneurial-conference/>

2022 ACCE Chinese Canadian Entrepreneur Awards Gala

The 25th ACCE Award Gala will be hosted by the Association of Chinese Canadian Entrepreneurs (ACCE) on April 23. The ACCE Awards provide a platform to recognize Chinese Canadians who have started their business and made contribution to Canada. The event also serves to foster the spirit of entrepreneurship, innovation and corporate citizenship. HKETO is the sponsor of ACCE’s Best Asia Pacific Business Award which acknowledges the accomplishments of the Chinese Canadian entrepreneurs who have developed their businesses successfully in the Asia Pacific region through Hong Kong.

For details, please visit: <https://www.acce.ca/new/>

HKCBA Calgary events

HKCBA (Calgary Section) is hosting a Hong Kong Movie Night on May 5 and a Spring Festival Gala on May 6. HKETO is a supporter of both events. The movie "Anita" featuring late Hong Kong popular singer and actor Anita Mui will be screened at the Globe Theatre in Calgary. While the Spring Festival Gala will gather government officials, business and community leaders and the community to celebrate the Spring Festival.

For details, please click the official link of HKCBA Calgary below:

<https://calgary.hkcba.com/cpages/home>

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RECENT ACTIVITIES

FS speaks at Toronto Finance International Webinar

The Financial Secretary of the HKSAR, Mr Paul Chan, spoke at the Toronto Finance International Webinar co-organized by Toronto Finance International, Manulife and Invest Hong Kong on March 22.

Addressing the webinar, Mr Chan remarked that Hong Kong and Canada have been business partners through thick and thin. Hong Kong remains Canada's fourth-largest market for fish and seafood, seventh-largest market for precious and semi-precious stones. In 2020, Hong Kong became Canada's second-largest destination for foreign direct investment.

Mr Chan updated the audience on Canadian business opportunities in Hong Kong. He stressed that the National 14th Five-Year Plan promotes the continuing deepening of Hong Kong's economic integration with the Mainland, particularly through the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA). The launch of the Cross-boundary Wealth Management Connect Scheme in the GBA last September was an important milestone to open up a broader market for Hong Kong's financial services providers.

Mr Chan also briefed the audience on the streamlining of listing regime in Hong Kong for overseas issuers. It offers more flexibility for overseas issuers seeking dual-primary listings. Besides, he stressed that Hong Kong welcomes Canadian technology companies to capitalise on Hong Kong as a potential market, and entities to take advantage of Hong Kong's financial and professional services for green and sustainable investment, financing and certification.

The webinar was moderated by Manulife's Chief Financial Officer, Mr Phil Witherington. The Ontario Finance Minister, the Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy, and interim leader and Head of Government Affairs and Strategy of Toronto Finance International, Mr Charles Lammam, also spoke at the event.

For the full text of Mr Chan's speech, please visit:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202203/22/P2022032200552.htm>

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HKETO Director joins HKCBA business events to update participants on Hong Kong's latest developments

Director of the HKETO, Ms Emily Mo, on March 17 joined the "Adding Value to Your Asia Business Development Plan in the New Normal" webinar hosted by HKCBA (Calgary Section), Hong Kong Trade Development Council in Canada and HKETO. The webinar aimed to update participants on the latest opportunities in Asia in the new normal and Hong Kong as an ideal platform for Canadian companies to leverage on.

In her welcome remarks at the event, Ms Mo shared with participants on a recent Staff Report released by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) which reaffirmed Hong Kong as a major global financial centre with a resilient financial system, sound macroprudential policies, and robust regulatory and supervisory framework.

Ms Mo highlighted similar recognitions from other global rankings and organisations, including the Fraser Institute, the Global Financial Centres Index and the World Investment Report. In particular, she pointed out a research report named "Hong Kong-Canada Economic Ties" published by the China Institute of University of Alberta and the Canada-China Business Council in January this year. The research report stated that Hong Kong has proved resilient, and that economic and business opportunities between Canada and Hong Kong remain abundant and profitable.

In addition, Ms Mo joined the annual "iPitch case competition" organised by Junior HKCBA on March 20 for university students to compete in teams on business related topics. Ms Mo took the opportunity to give participants an overview of Hong Kong's latest developments and highlight various admission schemes.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.hketotoronto.gov.hk/newsroom/hketo-director-joins-hkcba-business-events-to-update-participants-on-hong-kongs-latest-developments.html>

HONG KONG NEWS

Hong Kong to lift flight ban and relax quarantine rules

The Chief Executive of the HKSAR, Mrs Carrie Lam, on March 21 announced that from April 1, the Government will lift the flight ban on nine countries including Canada and shorten the hotel quarantine period for arrivals.

Starting from next month, Hong Kong residents who are fully vaccinated can board a flight for Hong Kong. They must hold a negative result of a polymerase chain reaction (PCR)-

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based nucleic acid test taken within 48 hours before boarding and a confirmation of a room reservation at a designated quarantine hotel (DQH) for at least seven nights.

Upon arrival, they are required to receive a rapid PCR-based nucleic acid test. Upon testing negative, they will then be issued with a 14-day quarantine order and transported to the DQH. During the quarantine period, daily rapid antigen tests (RATs) will be conducted and a PCR-based nucleic acid test will be done on days five and 12.

If the results on the day five PCR test and days six and seven RATs are all negative, they may opt for an early discharge from the DQH, then undergo a seven-day self-monitoring and receive the aforementioned PCR test on day 12 at a community testing centre.

If the travellers have tested positive in any of these virus tests after arriving in Hong Kong, they will be issued with an isolation order and transferred to a community isolation hotel. The isolation and discharge requirements will be the same as for local COVID-19 patients.

Currently, under the place-specific flight suspension mechanism, passenger aircraft from nine countries, including Canada, are not allowed to land in Hong Kong. Explaining the policy change at a press conference, Mrs Lam said the suspension is out of time and causing distress to Hong Kong people stranded overseas. The more stringent quarantine requirements imposed on arrivals than local COVID-19 patients or close contacts have also affected the city's business environment, she added.

Click the following link for details.

https://www.news.gov.hk/eng/2022/03/20220321/20220321_124502_138.html?type=ticker

In addition, the HKSAR Government will relax most of the social distancing measures from April 21 in three phases over a period of three months if the COVID-19 epidemic situation in Hong Kong shows no signs of a rebound and the downward trend of positive cases continues.

Mrs Lam said that it is observed that the peak of the epidemic has passed, ensued by a downward trend in the number of cases. However, as the epidemic situation remains severe, there is a need to maintain the vast majority of the existing social distancing measures until April 20 as planned.

You can click the following link for details of the measures in three phases:

https://www.news.gov.hk/eng/2022/03/20220321/20220321_124329_218.html?type=ticker

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Meanwhile, the HKSAR Government announced on March 20 adjustments to the vaccination requirements of Vaccine Pass, with a view to further encouraging members of the public to get vaccinated as soon as possible, including the third dose, and aligning with the latest revised COVID-19 vaccination arrangement. The specific adjustments include: (1) advancing the implementation of stage three Vaccine Pass from June 30 to May 31; (2) shortening the grace period for receiving the third dose after the second dose under Vaccine Pass; and (3) updating the vaccination requirements for persons previously infected with COVID-19.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202203/20/P2022032000438.htm>

CE welcomes arrival of Mainland medical support team in Hong Kong

The latest batch of around 300 members of the Mainland medical support team, arranged by the Central Authorities upon the request of the HKSAR Government, to assist in the treatment of COVID-19 patients arrived in Hong Kong on March 16. The medical support team will fully collaborate with the Hospital Authority to enhance the capability of the community treatment facility at AsiaWorld-Expo to provide appropriate treatment for more COVID-19 patients in need as soon as possible.

The Chief Executive of the HKSAR, Mrs Carrie Lam, welcomed the team at the Heung Yuen Wai Boundary Control Point. Mrs Lam expressed her heartfelt gratitude to the Central Authorities and the Guangdong Provincial Government for sending the medical support team in batches to Hong Kong to enhance Hong Kong's anti-epidemic work on "reducing severe cases and reducing deaths".

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202203/16/P2022031600812.htm>

In addition, the HKSAR Government has been working closely with the Guangdong Provincial Government and the Shenzhen Municipal People's Government to continuously improve cross-boundary transport arrangements, so as to ensure a stable goods supply to Hong Kong. The HKSAR Government thanks the cross-boundary goods vehicle trade for their continuous efforts in complying with various anti-epidemic measures taken by the two governments.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202203/13/P2022031300656.htm>

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IMF acknowledges Hong Kong's strong economic recovery and stability of its financial system

The IMF released a Staff Report on March 8 which, substantiated by a more detailed analysis, reinforces its assessment of Hong Kong's economic and financial positions published on January 20, 2022, following the conclusion of the 2022 Article IV Consultation.

Reaffirming Hong Kong's position as a major global financial centre with a resilient financial system, sound macroprudential policies, and robust regulatory and supervisory frameworks, the IMF recognises that Hong Kong's financial sector has continued expanding robustly, even during the pandemic. The IMF commends that Hong Kong has made significant progress in addressing climate change in the past decade and recognises the HKSAR Government's ongoing efforts to enhance the green and sustainable finance ecosystem.

The IMF also welcomes that a large fiscal stimulus has helped mitigate the impact of economic shocks and speed up economic recovery. It supports the HKSAR Government's three-pronged approach to containing housing market risks and increasing housing affordability.

The Staff Report, endorsed by the IMF Executive Board on February 10, 2022, can be accessed from the websites of the Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau (www.fstb.gov.hk) and the IMF (www.imf.org).

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202203/08/P2022030800395.htm>

ICAC updates international communities on anti-corruption efforts

The latest issue of the ICAC's electronic newsletter, ICAC Post #45, has been uploaded on the ICAC corporate website.

Highlights of this issue are:

- Stand firm against corruption, our mission continues
- ICAC continues to advance its anti-graft international cooperation amid pandemic
- Preventing graft in infrastructure projects – the Hong Kong experience
- HK consistently ranked as one of the world's least corrupt places
- Latest ICAC TV commercial

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Click the following link for details.

<https://www.icac.org.hk/icac/post/issue45/en/index.html>

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.

Enquiries can be made to the Department of Health at 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 or

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

Brand Hong Kong Twitter page https://twitter.com/Brand_HK

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