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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

With effect from April 1, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government lifted the flight ban on Canada and shortened 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.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202203/27/P2022032700005.htm>

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>

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 6 and 7, 7PM to 2AM (EST). This two-day conference will showcase “the roadmaps” to using Hong Kong as a platform for entrepreneurial ventures “from seed

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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/>

Ontario’s Strategies for Asia-Pacific Market - Meet Ontario’s Political Parties

Canada Korea Business Council will host a hybrid forum cum networking entitled “Ontario’s Strategies for Asia-Pacific Market” on April 13. Representatives from the three political parties of Ontario will share their views with the in-person and online audience on the topics of “Export Strategies for Asia-Pacific”, “Foreign Direct Investment Attraction Strategies for Asia-Pacific”, and “Government Support Plans for Business Competitiveness”. HKETO is one of the sponsors of the event.

For details and registration, please click the following link:

To attend in-person:

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/ontarios-business-strategies-for-asia-pacific-market-tickets-304336347207>

To attend online:

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/ontarios-business-strategies-for-asia-pacific-on-line-tickets-313766854107>

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/2022-acce-awards-0423_en/

HKCBA Calgary events

HKCBA (Calgary Section) will host 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

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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>

HONG KONG NEWS

Government adjusts boarding, quarantine and testing arrangements for inbound travellers on risk-based principle

Noting the latest developments of the epidemic situation, and considering the enhanced capacity in tackling the local epidemic as well as overall social and economic needs, the HKSAR Government announced earlier that the place-specific flight suspension mechanism for nine places including Canada would be lifted from April 1, and the relevant arrangements would also be rationalised.

From April 1, all Hong Kong residents who have stayed in overseas places can board flights for Hong Kong if they comply with the following conditions:

- (i) Fully vaccinated and hold a recognised vaccination record;
- (ii) Hold a negative result proof of a polymerase chain reaction (PCR)-based nucleic acid test for COVID-19 conducted with specimen collected within 48 hours before the scheduled time of departure of the aircraft; and
- (iii) Hold a confirmation of room reservation in a designated quarantine hotel for at least seven nights from the day of arrival at Hong Kong.

Non-Hong Kong residents will not be allowed to board flights for Hong Kong from any overseas places.

For detailed boarding, quarantine and testing arrangements, please visit the link below:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202203/27/P2022032700005.htm>

Meanwhile, in view of the dire epidemic situation in Hong Kong, the HKSAR Government announced on March 23 the gazettal of extending existing social distancing measures in accordance with the public health emergency regulations under the Prevention and Control of Disease Ordinance from March 24 to April 6.

For catering premises and scheduled premises regulated under the Prevention and

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Control of Disease (Requirements and Directions) (Business and Premises) Regulation (Cap. 599F), the existing social distancing measures will be extended for two weeks. Other existing measures, such as allowing no more than two persons per group gathering in a public place, prohibition of multi-household gatherings at private premises involving more than two households, the mask-wearing requirement and cessation of mass events to avoid group gatherings, will continue to be implemented.

You can click the following link for details of the latest requirements and restrictions:
<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202203/23/P2022032300520.htm>

In addition, the HKSAR Government announced on April 1 that the anti-epidemic service bags would be widely distributed to all households in Hong Kong from April 2.

Click the following link for details.
<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202204/01/P2022040100656.htm>

Nomination period for Chief Executive Election starts

The sixth-term Chief Executive Election will be held on May 8. The nomination period will run from April 3 to 16.

Pursuant to the Electoral Procedure (Chief Executive Election) Regulation (Cap. 541J), a candidate must submit the completed nomination form in person to the Returning Officer at City Gallery (3 Edinburgh Place, Central, Hong Kong) during ordinary business hours. As April 15 and 16 are both general holidays, the deadline for submitting the nomination form will be 5pm on April 14.

A HKSAR permanent resident who is a Chinese citizen, with no right of abode in any foreign country, has reached 40 years of age and has ordinarily resided in Hong Kong for a continuous period of not less than 20 years is eligible for nomination as a candidate. Details of the eligibility and disqualification for nomination as a candidate are set out in sections 13 and 14 of the Chief Executive Election Ordinance (Cap. 569) respectively.

A candidate's nomination must be subscribed by not less than 188 members of the Election Committee (EC), with not less than 15 members of the EC in each of the five sectors.

Nomination forms and the elections details are available at the Registration and Electoral Office website (www.reo.gov.hk) and the election website (www.elections.gov.hk).

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Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202204/01/P2022040100490.htm>

HKSAR Government strongly opposes UK Six-monthly Report on Hong Kong and US Hong Kong Policy Act Report

In response to the unfounded remarks on Hong Kong in the United Kingdom (UK) Six-monthly Report on Hong Kong: July to December 2021 and the United States' 2022 Hong Kong Policy Act Report released respectively on March 31, a government spokesman said on April 1 that the HKSAR Government strongly opposed the unfounded and ridiculous allegations made by foreign countries through various reports.

The spokesman remarked that the HKSAR is an inalienable part of the People's Republic of China (PRC), a local administrative region that enjoys a high degree of autonomy under “one country, two systems”, and comes directly under the Central People's Government. The system to be adopted in the HKSAR, as well as how to implement the PRC's basic policies regarding Hong Kong, is purely within the ambit of the sovereignty of the PRC and a matter of the country's internal affairs. The HKSAR Government urges foreign countries to stop interfering into the internal affairs of China through Hong Kong affairs.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202204/01/P2022040100147.htm>

In addition, the HKSAR Government on March 30 expressed vehement opposition to the Parliament of the UK for making up unfounded allegations against the National Security Law (NSL) and the legal system in Hong Kong.

An HKSAR Government spokesman said that the government took strong exception to the absurd and misleading accusations against the NSL and its legal system. The promulgation of the NSL is in line with the international practice of safeguarding national security and the exercise of the sovereign rights of the country.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202203/30/P2022033000600.htm>

Chief Executive regrets resignation of two UK Non-Permanent Judges of Court of Final Appeal

The Chief Executive of the HKSAR, Mrs Carrie Lam, on March 30 expressed regret and disappointment at the resignations of Lord Reed of Allermuir and Lord Hodge as Non-

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Permanent Judges of the Court of Final Appeal (CFA) of the HKSAR. The HKSAR Government also noted with deep regret that the UK Government has decided to withdraw from the agreement reached in 1997 between the then Chief Justice the Honourable Andrew Li and the then Lord Chancellor of the UK.

Mrs Lam said that since the Reunification, the HKSAR prides itself on the rule of law and the HKSAR Government acts in strict accordance with the law. These virtues are the cornerstone of Hong Kong's continued success and are enshrined in relevant provisions in the Basic Law, underpinned by an independent judiciary which exercises judicial powers, including that of final adjudication, free from any interference.

Mrs Lam stressed that Hong Kong is a society governed by the rule of law; laws must be observed and lawbreakers held to account. No one person or institution is above the law. Article 25 of the Basic Law clearly states that everyone, regardless of their status, professions and political beliefs, shall be equal before the law. The Hong Kong courts have been adjudicating on NSL cases in the same impartial manner, free from any interference.

The HKSAR Government wishes to reiterate its firm commitment to upholding judicial independence in Hong Kong as it has done unwaveringly over the past 25 years.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202203/30/P2022033000658.htm>

For the Statement of the Chief Justice of CFA, Mr Andrew Cheung Kui-nung, please visit:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202203/30/P2022033000630.htm>

Hong Kong permanent resident (PR) of Chinese nationality will not lose PR status

In response to recent media enquiries on whether the situation concerning the loss of Hong Kong permanent resident (HKPR) status for non-Chinese Hong Kong permanent residents has been updated, the Immigration Department (ImmD) of the HKSAR Government on March 29 stressed that a HKPR of Chinese nationality will still be regarded as a Chinese citizen unless he/she has applied for and is being approved for the renunciation of Chinese nationality/declaration of change of nationality by the ImmD. He/she will not lose his/her HKPR status even if he/she has been absent from Hong Kong for long periods.

However, since the establishment of the HKSAR on July 1, 1997, a HKPR who is not of Chinese nationality will lose his/her HKPR status if he/she has been absent from Hong Kong for a continuous period of not less than 36 months since he/she ceased to have

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ordinarily resided in Hong Kong. In determining whether a person has ceased to be ordinarily a resident in Hong Kong or is only temporarily absent from Hong Kong, the ImmD will take into consideration all circumstances of each case in accordance with section 2(6) of the Immigration Ordinance.

The relevant ordinance has been effective since July 1, 1997, with no subsequent changes.

Click the following link for details.

www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202203/29/P2022032900506.htm

Import of poultry meat and products from areas in Canada and France suspended

The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department of the HKSAR Government announced on March 30 that in view of notifications from the World Organisation for Animal Health about outbreaks of highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza in Wellington County and Oxford County of Ontario Province in Canada, and Lot Department and Ille-et-Vilaine Department in France, the CFS has instructed the trade to suspend the import of poultry meat and products (including poultry eggs) from the above-mentioned areas with immediate effect to protect public health in Hong Kong.

According to the Census and Statistics Department, Hong Kong imported about 1 020 tonnes of chilled and frozen poultry meat from Canada and about 60 tonnes of chilled poultry meat, about 4 710 tonnes of frozen poultry meat and about 240 000 poultry eggs from France last year.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202203/30/P2022033000378.htm>

Resumption of airmail services to Australia, Canada and India

Hongkong Post announced on March 31 that, as airlines gradually resume their flight capacity, Speedpost services to Australia and Canada would resume from April 1, with a weight limit of 2 kilograms. In addition, all airmail services to India (including Speedpost) also resumed from the same day.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202203/31/P2022033100466.htm>

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EMSD wins 19 awards at International Exhibition of Inventions of Geneva

The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) of the HKSAR Government achieved outstanding and encouraging results at the International Exhibition of Inventions of Geneva, winning five gold medals, 13 silver medals and one bronze medal.

The EMSD's winning projects are:

Gold medals

- Intelligent Elevator Movement Surveillance Device (i-EMSD)
- Intelligent Digital Escalator Monitoring System (i-DEMS)
- Robotic Lift Examiner
- Smart Boiler Servicing Robot
- Smart Driver Assistant for Automated People Mover

Silver medals

- A Contactless Inmate Health Monitoring System in Prison
- A Drone-based LoRa Network for Location Tracking in Remote Areas
- A Novel RFID System
- A Novel Wireless Communication System for Underground Utility Monitoring
- AI Voicebot Training System with Performance Evaluation for Call Centre Agents
- Artificial Intelligence Based Image Analytic and Control System for Cremation Process
- Artificial Intelligent Monitoring System for Aerial Ropeways (AIMS)
- Artificial Intelligent Robotic Cleaning and Disinfection System - i-Cleaner
- Fireman Health Monitoring System
- IoT-enabled Mobile Modular HEPA Unit (MMHU): Together, We Fight the Virus
- Responsive Web-based Solar Irradiation Map with Solar Energy Calculator for Hong Kong
- Semantic AI for Predictive Maintenance of Railway Track Systems
- Smart Lift Passenger Flow Analysis

Bronze medal

- Integrated Solar Energy Performance Management Toolkit (iSMS)

The International Exhibition of Inventions of Geneva is one of the most significant global annual events devoted exclusively to inventions. About 800 inventions from 25 countries and regions were evaluated by the international jury of specialists in mid-March. For details about the International Exhibition of Inventions of Geneva, please visit inventions-geneva.ch/en/home.

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Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202203/29/P2022032900265.htm>

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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/

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