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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, 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

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.

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For details, please visit: https://www.acce.ca/new/2022-acce-awards-0423_en/

HKCBA Calgary events

Hong Kong-Canada Business Association (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 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>

RECENT ACTIVITY

8th Transpacific Entrepreneurial Conference features Hong Kong as an ideal platform for Canadian entrepreneurs

The Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong and the HKCBA jointly hosted the 8th Transpacific Entrepreneurial Virtual Conference on April 6 and 7 to unveil the opportunities and strategies for companies looking to expand into Hong Kong, Canada and Greater China. The HKETO and Invest Hong Kong are supporters of this event.

In delivering opening remarks at a panel discussion entitled "The Roadmap to Opportunities for Growth and Expansion into the Canadian Markets, Hong Kong and Asia" on April 6, Director of the HKETO, Ms Emily Mo, shared with participants the close relationship between Hong Kong and Canada, in particular, the business ties which remained strong during the pandemic.

Ms Mo stressed that Hong Kong has remained one of Canada's top ten trading markets. Hong Kong is also the second-largest destination worldwide for Canadian direct investment abroad in 2020.

Ms Mo reiterated Hong Kong's position as an international financial centre and the Mainland's gateway to international funding. She encouraged Canadian companies to consider their expansions to access the markets of Mainland China and Asia through Hong Kong.

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The 8th Transpacific Entrepreneurial Virtual Conference included 11 panel discussions with over 35 speakers from leading companies in different sectors. The expert panelists were based in Hong Kong, Canada and Greater China.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.hketotoronto.gov.hk/newsroom/8th-transpacific-entrepreneurial-conference-features-hong-kong-as-an-ideal-platform-for-canadian-entrepreneurs.html>

HONG KONG NEWS

Landing prohibition of passenger flights from Vancouver operated by Cathay Pacific from April 17 to 23 due to passengers tested positive upon arrival

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health (DH) of the HKSAR Government on April 16 announced that a passenger flight (CX865) operated by Cathay Pacific from Vancouver, Canada, arriving in Hong Kong on April 15 had three passengers tested positive upon arrival. The DH thus invoked the Prevention and Control of Disease (Regulation of Cross-boundary Conveyances and Travellers) Regulation (Cap. 599H) to prohibit the landing of passenger flights in Hong Kong from Vancouver operated by Cathay Pacific from April 17 to 23.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202204/16/P2022041600549.htm>

Government suitably relaxes social distancing measures

As the epidemic situation in Hong Kong has substantially alleviated in a continuous manner, the HKSAR Government announced on April 14 that the first stage of adjustments to social distancing measures will take effect on April 21, including allowing resumption of dinnertime dine-in services, re-opening of most previously closed premises, as well as updates on the restrictions on gatherings in public and private places, in response to the aspirations of citizens and various industry sectors for resuming normal activities as early as practicable.

The Government will also allow the resumption of local group tours with no more than 30 persons under certain conditions.

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

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202204/14/P2022041400773.htm>

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In addition, the HKSAR Government will further increase the supply of designated quarantine hotels (DQHs). Starting from May 1, there will be 45 DQHs providing over 14 000 rooms in total for selection.

The list of DQHs and their booking status can be found on the thematic website www.designatedhotel.gov.hk.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202204/12/P2022041200569.htm>

Immigration Department accepts applications for extension of stay from Hong Kong non-permanent residents outside Hong Kong under pandemic

The Immigration Department (ImmD) of the HKSAR Government on April 7 announced that in view of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, a new facilitation measure would be implemented that eligible non-permanent residents who are outside Hong Kong may apply for an extension of stay. Tentatively, the validity of the new measure will expire on December 31, 2022.

With effect from April 8, eligible non-permanent residents who are admitted into Hong Kong under the following immigration policies/schemes and whose limit of stay is about to expire but are presently outside Hong Kong may apply for an extension of stay under the new measure:

1. General Employment Policy (including both employment and investment as entrepreneurs);
2. Admission Scheme for Mainland Talents and Professionals;
3. Quality Migrant Admission Scheme;
4. Immigration Arrangements for Non-local Graduates;
5. Admission Scheme for the Second Generation of Chinese Hong Kong Permanent Residents;
6. Technology Talent Admission Scheme;
7. Capital Investment Entrant Scheme;
8. residence as dependants; and
9. students enrolled in full-time study programmes.

Eligible applicants may submit the applications online (www.immd.gov.hk/eng/evisaonline.html) or through their sponsors/authorised representatives in Hong Kong in accordance with the prevailing application procedures for an extension of stay.

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Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202204/07/P2022040700387.htm>

New call-up programme for Hong Kong residents born in 1954 or before, 1983 to 1984 and 1987 to 2000 to apply for new smart identity cards

The ImmD of the HKSAR Government announced on April 7 that after a previous service suspension due to the epidemic, all Smart Identity Card Replacement Centres have re-opened since April 1, 2022, and will resume full services from April 8 onwards. An Amendment Order has been made to revise the call-up programme for persons born in 1954 or before, 1983 to 1984 and 1987 to 2000 with details as follows:

Eligible persons	Revised application period
Holders of the old form of smart HKIC born in 1983, 1984, 1987 or 1988	January 19 - July 23, 2022
Holders of the old form of smart HKIC born in 1989, 1990 or 1991	April 8 - July 23, 2022
Holders of the old form of smart HKIC born in 1992, 1993, 1994 or 1995	July 25 - October 6, 2022
Holders of the old form of smart HKIC born in 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999 or 2000	October 7 - December 10, 2022
Holders of the old form of smart HKIC born in 1954 or before	April 8, 2022 - January 14, 2023

To avoid the gathering of crowds, the ImmD appeals to applicants to make appointments via the ImmD mobile application, the Internet (www.gov.hk/newicbooking), or the 24-hour telephone booking hotline 2121 1234.

For details of the Replacement Exercise, please visit the website www.smartid.gov.hk .

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202204/07/P2022040700532.htm>

Applications for Common Recruitment Examination and Basic Law and National Security Law Test open

A spokesman for the Civil Service Bureau (CSB) of the HKSAR Government on April 19 said that prospective applicants for civil service posts at degree or professional level can apply from April 20 onwards to sit the Common Recruitment Examination (CRE) and the Basic Law and National Security Law Test (BLNST) in Hong Kong, tentatively scheduled to be held on June 11 and 18, 2022, or another date within June or July if necessary.

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Valid CRE results are required of applicants for civil service posts at the degree or professional level. Different civil service posts have different Chinese and English language proficiency requirements. Applicants should note the language proficiency requirements of the posts for which they intend to apply.

In addition, for all civil service recruitment exercises to be advertised on or after July 1, 2022, attaining a pass result in the newly introduced BLNST will be an entry requirement for all civil service jobs. The BLNST will assess candidates' knowledge on both the Basic Law and the National Security Law.

More details about the coming CRE and BLNST are available on the CSB webpage (www.csb.gov.hk/eng/cre.html).

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202204/19/P2022041900212.htm>

HKSAR Government strongly opposes United States report on human rights

The HKSAR Government on April 13 expressed strong opposition to the comments contained in the United States Department of State's 2021 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices (the Report) relating to the HKSAR.

A Government spokesman expressed strong opposition to the various unfounded allegations against the HKSAR Government in the Report. He stressed that human rights are fully protected by law in Hong Kong. The Basic Law, the constitutional document of the HKSAR, provides a constitutional guarantee for fundamental rights and freedoms, including the right to equality before the law, and is buttressed by the rule of law and an independent judiciary. Safeguarding human rights and freedoms is a constitutional duty of the HKSAR Government. The Government attaches the utmost importance and is firmly committed to upholding human rights and various freedoms in Hong Kong.

The Government strongly urges the United States to immediately stop breaching the international law based on its biased political interests to intervene in Hong Kong matters, which are purely the internal affairs of the People's Republic of China.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202204/13/P2022041300255.htm>

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

The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department of the HKSAR Government announced on April 11, 12, 14 and 19 respectively that in view of notifications from the World Organisation for Animal Health and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency about outbreaks of highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza in areas in Canada, the CFS has instructed the trade to suspend the import of poultry meat and products (including poultry eggs) from the relevant areas with immediate effect to protect public health in Hong Kong.

The relevant areas in Canada are as follows:

Alberta Province

- Paintearth County
- Kneehill County
- Ponoka County
- Mountain View County
- Wetaskiwin County

Province of British Columbia

- Regional District of North Okanagan

Province of Saskatchewan

- Rural Municipality of Loreburn
- Rural Municipality of Moose Mountain

Ontario Province

- Regional Municipality of York
- Municipality of Chatham-Kent
- Township of South Glengarry
- Regional Municipality of Waterloo

Quebec Province

- Le Val-Saint-François County

A CFS spokesman said that according to the Census and Statistics Department, Hong Kong imported about 1 020 tonnes of chilled and frozen poultry meat from Canada last year.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202204/11/P2022041100425.htm>

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<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202204/12/P2022041200485.htm>
<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202204/14/P2022041400279.htm>
<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202204/19/P2022041900505.htm>

Video of Hong Kong Looking Ahead - Finance

The Economist, in partnership with the Information Services Department of the HKSAR Government, has created a video to explain the reasons for the growing interest from global investors going through Hong Kong to invest into Mainland China.

Title: Hong Kong Looking Ahead - Finance

Interviewee: Mr Wilfred Yiu, Managing Director and Co-head of Markets, Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited

Video Links:

Full version (1 minute 40 seconds) –

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

Short versions (30 seconds each) –

<https://twitter.com/economistimpact/status/1510937283507097600>

<https://twitter.com/economistimpact/status/1510938690121461762>

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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