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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) accepted walk-in guests with appointments. 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

The boarding requirements and nucleic acid testing arrangements for inbound persons (aged three years old or above on the date of arrival at Hong Kong) from overseas places or Taiwan for Hong Kong are as follows:

- Within 24 hours prior to boarding: A declaration of the negative result of a self-arranged rapid antigen test (RAT) conducted within 24 hours prior to the scheduled time of departure should be made via the online Health & Quarantine Information Declaration of the Department of Health;
- Day 0 (i.e. day of arrival at Hong Kong): Nucleic acid test under "test-and-go" upon arrival at the airport;
- Day 2: Nucleic acid test at a community testing centre/community testing station or an ac-hoc mobile specimen collection station, or arrange a self-paid test by professional swab sampling at a local medical testing institution recognised by the Government; and
- Day 1 to Day 5: Daily RATs. Can only leave the place of stay upon obtaining a negative result.

Boarding requirement of having completed vaccination for Hong Kong residents has been lifted. Non-Hong Kong residents aged 12 or above will still be required to be fully vaccinated or have obtained a medical exemption certificate before they are allowed to board a flight for Hong Kong.

The HKSAR Government has also adjusted a series of anti-epidemic measures such that fully vaccinated visitors can enjoy the city freely with a valid Vaccine Pass. You can click the following link for details of the latest anti-epidemic measures:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202212/13/P2022121300859.htm>

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For inbound persons who are tested positive by nucleic acid tests or RATs, their Vaccine Pass will be converted to a Red Code. Their isolation arrangements will be aligned with that for local cases.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202212/08/P2022120800701.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). 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 EVENT

Webinar to share first-hand experiences on in-person visits to Hong Kong

The HKETO, the Hong Kong-Canada Business Association (HKCBA), the Hong Kong Trade Development Council and the Invest Hong Kong will jointly organise the “In-Person Visit to Hong Kong in the New Normal - First-Hand Experience Sharing” webinar on Monday, December 19, 11am to 12 Noon (EDT).

With the gradual easing of quarantine requirements in Hong Kong for visitors and the resumption of international conferences and trade shows, Canadian business people are planning their physical trips to this business platform in Asia. The webinar is designed to address the issues about travelers’ trip preparations to Hong Kong, the arrival procedures in Hong Kong, and the overall situation in Hong Kong. Participation in this webinar is free of charge for HKCBA members. Reservation is required. Registration link: <https://bit.ly/3VQJhj2>

RECENT ACTIVITY

HKETO Director attends 81st anniversary commemoration of Battle of Hong Kong

Director of the HKETO, Ms Emily Mo, virtually attended the ceremony in commemoration of the 81st anniversary of the Battle of Hong Kong hosted by the St. John Ambulance (Burnaby Division) in British Columbia on December 5.

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Speaking at the commemoration ceremony, Ms Mo remarked that Hong Kong and Canada, including British Columbia, have established strong ties over the years. This includes the Battle of Hong Kong where the Canadians helped defend the city 81 years ago, as well as late Dr. Po Tin Chak’s “handkerchief story” in Hong Kong. Ms Mo noted that people would always remember the stories of these brave fighters and continue to pay tribute to them.

In Ontario, the Royal Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers) Ontario Association and the Hong Kong Ex-Servicemen's Association (Ontario Branch) also hosted a ceremony at the Markham Cenotaph of Veterans Square on December 10 to commemorate the Battle of Hong Kong. Acting Deputy Director of the HKETO, Ms Ivy Yue, attended the ceremony.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.hketotoronto.gov.hk/newsroom/hketo-director-attends-81st-anniversary-commemoration-of-battle-of-hong-kong.html>

HONG KONG NEWS

Government adjusts five anti-epidemic measures

Having assessed the epidemic development and taking into consideration the need for resuming social and economic activities, the HKSAR Government announced on December 13 the adjustment of a series of anti-epidemic measures with effect from December 14, such that citizens’ daily lives may continue to resume normalcy in an orderly manner.

The five anti-epidemic measures include:

- (1) Lifting the requirement of scanning the “LeaveHomeSafe” venue QR code before entering premises. Meanwhile, the existing Vaccine Pass arrangement and other existing social distancing measures remain unchanged;
- (2) Lifting the Amber Code arrangement under the Vaccine Pass;
- (3) Lifting the rapid nucleic acid test arrangement at control points for persons travelling to the Mainland;
- (4) Adjusting local testing strategies, including reducing the scope of target groups for regular nucleic acid testing; and
- (5) Lifting the requirement for persons under home isolation to put on electronic wristbands.

You can click the following link for details of the latest anti-epidemic measures:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202212/13/P2022121300859.htm>

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Travellers who tested negative for COVID-19 are welcome to visit Hong Kong without quarantine. Fully vaccinated visitors will be issued a Provisional Vaccine Pass. Once they have obtained a negative PCR-based nucleic acid test result (taken upon arrival at the airport), they will be able to enjoy the city freely, including dining at restaurants, visiting attractions, and more.

Please click the links below for details on the current boarding requirements and testing arrangements for inbound travellers arriving at the Hong Kong International Airport. You may also download the concise guide prepared by the Hong Kong Tourism Board for the latest updates.

<https://www.discoverhongkong.com/eng/plan/traveller-info/boarding-and-testing-arrangements-upon-arrival.html>

<https://www.coronavirus.gov.hk/eng/inbound-travel.html>

<https://www.discoverhongkong.com/content/dam/dhk/intl/corporate/pdf/latest-travel-requirements-concise-guide-en.pdf>

In addition, the HKSAR Government announced on December 8 that starting from December 9, daily RAT requirement for inbound persons from Taiwan or overseas places is adjusted to until Day 5 after arrival at Hong Kong. The existing arrangements of “test-and-go” upon arrival at the airport and nucleic acid test on Day 2 after arrival at Hong Kong remain unchanged.

Persons infected with COVID-19 will be discharged from isolation on Day 5 at the earliest if they obtain negative RAT results on both Day 4 and Day 5 of the isolation period. For close contacts of infected persons, they will be discharged from quarantine on Day 5 if negative results are obtained in all the daily RATs during the five-day quarantine period, and are not required to undergo further tests.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202212/08/P2022120800701.htm>

Also, the Immigration Department (ImmD) of the HKSAR Government on December 9 announced that the facilitation measure to accept applications for extension of stay from Hong Kong non-permanent residents outside Hong Kong is extended to June 30, 2023, in view of the circumstances under the COVID-19 pandemic.

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 (generally within four weeks) but are presently outside Hong Kong may now apply for an extension of stay before June 30, 2023, under the said facilitation measure:

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

The arrangements of the facilitation measure are set out on www.immd.gov.hk/eng/ext/npr.html.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202212/09/P2022120900604.htm>

External Direct Investment of Hong Kong in 2021

The Census and Statistics Department of the HKSAR Government released Hong Kong's external direct investment (DI) statistics for 2021 on December 9.

A Government spokesman said that Hong Kong's total DI inflow and total DI outflow saw increases of 17.0% and 12.1% respectively in 2021, partly related to the visible recovery of the global and local economies during the year. A net DI inflow of HK\$340.1 billion was recorded in 2021, which was 29.0% larger than that in the preceding year.

The stocks of overall inward and outward DI were substantial at end-2021, at HK\$16,826.2 billion and HK\$17,154.3 billion (586% and 598% of GDP) respectively, making Hong Kong one of the world's major destinations for and sources of external DI. The vast stock of external DI in Hong Kong testifies its status as a prominent international financial centre and commercial hub, as well as the attractiveness as a base for multinational corporations to manage their investments and businesses around the world.

The report of External Direct Investment Statistics of Hong Kong 2021 can be found at www.censtatd.gov.hk/en/EIndexbySubject.html?pcode=B1040003&scode=260

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202212/09/P2022120900294.htm>

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HKSAR Government welcomes WTO rulings that US' global tariffs on steel and aluminium imports violate WTO rules

The HKSAR Government on December 10 welcomed the rulings made by the panels established under the World Trade Organization's (WTO) Dispute Settlement Body that the United States' (US) imposition of global tariffs on steel and aluminium imports is inconsistent with WTO rules.

A Government spokesman said that as a staunch supporter of the rules-based multilateral trading system, the HKSAR Government has strongly urged the US to fulfil its obligations as a WTO Member and withdraw the erroneous measures earliest possible.

Since March 23, 2018, the US, allegedly for national security reasons, has imposed tariffs of 25% and 10% on steel and aluminium imports respectively on a global scale, including Hong Kong, and only certain economies are excluded.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202212/10/P2022121000178.htm>

APEC holds Capacity Building Workshop in Hong Kong via video conferencing

The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Capacity Building Workshop on APEC's Goals of Doubling the Renewable Energy Share in the Energy Mix and Reducing Energy Intensity was held in Hong Kong via video conference on November 29 and 30.

With a view to aligning with the national "dual carbon" targets, the HKSAR Government is striving to achieve carbon neutrality before 2050 and reduce the total carbon emissions from the 2005 level by half before 2035. The Government will also set up a new Office of Climate Change and Carbon Neutrality to strengthen co-ordination and promote work such as deep decarbonisation. At present, the energy intensity in Hong Kong has decreased by over 30%.

Over 100 experts and delegates from 15 APEC member economies attended the workshop to exchange views on energy intensity reduction and the development of renewable energy, covering aspects such as policy frameworks, regulations, practical experiences and technological developments.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202211/30/P2022113000477.htm>

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Hong Kong and Singapore sign MOU on exchanges in infrastructure projects

The Development Bureau of the HKSAR Government and the Ministry of Finance of Singapore signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in Singapore on December 1 to enhance expertise and experience exchanges in infrastructure project management and delivery.

The MOU strengthens the collaboration in raising the productivity and performance of the construction industries in the respective markets and transforming project delivery through adoption of digitisation and innovative construction methods, as well as enhancing the leadership competency and project delivery capability of project leaders.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202212/01/P2022120100476.htm>

Hong Kong team wins 16 awards at 21st APICTA Awards

The HKSAR delegation returned with enthusiastic results at the 21st Asia Pacific Information and Communications Technology Alliance (APICTA) Awards held in Islamabad of Pakistan on December 7 to 11 winning a total of six Winner and 10 Merit Awards among 206 entries from 14 competing member-economies.

The annual event is a valuable platform for information and communications technology (ICT) talent in the Asia Pacific region to exchange ideas and forge new partnerships. This year, the Hong Kong Computer Society organised and mentored a delegation of 18 teams to participate in the event.

The HKSAR will host the 22nd APICTA Awards next year.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202212/13/P2022121200550.htm>

International fine food importer and distributor expands with new retail business in Hong Kong

International fine food importer and distributor, Classic Fine Foods, on December 1 opened a new European premium gourmet shop in Hong Kong offering customers a diversified total shopping and gourmet experience.

The new gourmet shop “Les Halles” is located in Wan Chai. It offers a variety of more than 100 authentic, high-quality and carefully selected brands directly delivered from

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Europe, aimed at creating “a place to find the taste of home”, where customers can find a new cooking inspiration and share a unique gourmet taste with family and friends. Apart from the retail section on ground floor, the two-storey shop also has a function space for tastings and cooking classes.

The expansion of Classic Fine Foods after its 20 years in Hong Kong shows its confidence not only in the city’s vibrant food and beverage industry, but also the status as a premier logistics hub in the region in terms of efficiently importing a wide array of food from all over the globe.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202212/01/P2022113000329.htm>

Import of poultry meat and products from areas in Canada suspended

The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department of the HKSAR Government announced on December 5 and 13 respectively that in view of a notification from the World Organisation for Animal Health about outbreaks of the highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza in the below areas in Canada, the CFS has instructed the trade to suspend the import of poultry meat and products (including poultry eggs) from the areas with immediate effect to protect public health in Hong Kong:

British Columbia Province

Fraser Valley Regional District

Ontario Province

Municipality of Adelaide Metcalfe

Municipality of North Middlesex

Alberta Province

The County of Forty Mile

Saskatchewan Province

Rural Municipality of Humboldt No. 370

A CFS spokesman said that according to the Census and Statistics Department, Hong Kong imported about 90 tonnes of frozen poultry meat from Canada in the first nine months of this year.

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Click the following links for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202212/05/P2022120500345.htm>

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202212/13/P2022121300325.htm>

Business Confidence Campaign

The Information Services Department of the HKSAR Government has produced a series of videos under the Business Confidence Campaign “Hong Kong. A world of opportunities” to boost awareness about Hong Kong’s unique competitive advantages and numerous opportunities for businesses, entrepreneurs and professionals.

For links to the videos, please visit:

<https://www.brandhk.gov.hk/en/campaign>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O9wc5mcO0zA&list=PLIgyee4ZBzGBL4Hs_gUiktI9fq60osZyk

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HKETO Toronto Twitter Page <https://twitter.com/TorontoHKETO>

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

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

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