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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 pre-departure testing arrangements for all inbound persons (aged three or above on the date of arrival at Hong Kong) will be standardised. They are required to conduct a rapid antigen test (RAT) within 24 hours, or undergo a nucleic acid test within 48 hours, prior to the scheduled time of flight departure, and obtain a negative result for entering Hong Kong. Upon receiving the test results, relevant persons should keep the photos showing the test results or the test report for 90 days for presentation for checking on request by Government personnel. They may also voluntarily declare the test result via the [Department of Health's electronic health declaration form](#).

All nucleic acid testing requirements after their arrival at Hong Kong will be lifted. Inbound persons are advised to conduct daily RAT until Day 5 after their arrival at Hong Kong.

Please click the following link for the latest testing arrangements:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202212/28/P2022122800773.htm>

In addition, boarding requirement of having completed vaccination for Hong Kong residents has been lifted earlier. 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.

Please check the latest entry 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>

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UPCOMING EVENTS

2023 HKCBA 39th Annual Lunar New Year Ball

The Hong Kong-Canada Business Association (HKCBA) (Toronto Section) will organize the 2023 HKCBA 39th Annual Lunar New Year Ball on January 28. Activities include traditional Chinese games, champagne and dim sum, lion dance, band performance, table draw prizes, silent auction, etc. For details and ticket purchase, please visit:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/ic29rslae398mmirda7q/2023-HKCBA-LNY-BALL-flyer-and-REGISTRATION-form.doc?dl=0&rkey=llp8nrdz5177xva3705aoe0yr>

HKCBA Lunar New Year Celebration Events

The Hong Kong-Canada Business Association (HKCBA) Montreal and Calgary Sections will host the Lunar New Year Celebration events respectively on February 9 and 10, 2023. Participants can enjoy a night of entertainment and traditional Chinese food at the events. Other activities include lucky draw, lion dance, live performances and silent auction etc. For details and ticket purchase, please visit:

<https://www.hkcba.com/events?date=2023-02-01&view=month>

RECENT ACTIVITY

HKETO Director welcomes Canadian companies to leverage on Hong Kong platform

Director of the HKETO, Ms Emily Mo, joined the “In-Person Visit to Hong Kong in the New Normal - First-Hand Experience Sharing” webinar co-hosted by the HKCBA (Toronto Section), Hong Kong Trade Development Council (Canada), Invest Hong Kong (InvestHK) and HKETO on December 19. This webinar aimed to provide updates and insights on the latest travel arrangement and developments of Hong Kong and the vast business opportunities for Canadian companies to leverage the Hong Kong platform in the new normal.

Speaking at the webinar, Ms Mo first updated participants on the latest developments in Hong Kong. She noted that the city has resumed international conferences and trade show with the gradual easing of quarantine requirements in the city.

Ms Mo encouraged participants to join the trade missions to Hong Kong and obtain first-hand information about the abundant business opportunities offered by the city.

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Click the following link for details.

<https://www.hketotoronto.gov.hk/newsroom/hketo-director-welcomes-canadian-companies-to-leverage-on-the-hong-kong-platform.html>

HONG KONG NEWS

Government adjusts testing arrangements for inbound persons

The HKSAR Government announced on December 28 that starting from December 29, the pre-departure testing arrangements for all inbound persons will be standardised. All nucleic acid testing requirements after their arrival at Hong Kong will be lifted. Inbound control measures will also be further streamlined. Inbound persons are advised to conduct daily RAT until Day 5 after their arrival at Hong Kong. Please visit the link below for details: <https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202212/28/P2022122800773.htm>

In addition, with a view to enabling citizens to resume their normal daily lives in a continuous and orderly manner, the HKSAR Government announced on December 28 that local anti-epidemic measures will be adjusted starting from December 29, including removing definition of close contacts and ceasing issuance of quarantine orders, removing the Vaccine Pass requirement, lifting social distancing measures except mask-wearing, adjusting testing arrangements and maintaining local healthcare services.

At this stage, however, the HKSAR Government will maintain the mandatory mask-wearing requirements.

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

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202212/29/P2022122900035.htm>

Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises commenced full operation

The Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises (OASES) commenced full operation on December 23. OASES is one of the new initiatives announced by the Chief Executive in his Policy Address in October 2022 to attract enterprises and investments more proactively and aggressively with a view to enhancing Hong Kong's competitiveness and speeding up industry development.

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OASES is tasked with attracting representative and high-potential strategic enterprises from around the globe. The office will:

- target industries of strategic importance to Hong Kong, including life and health technology, artificial intelligence and data science, financial technology, advanced manufacturing, new materials and new-energy technology;
- formulate attractive special facilitation measures covering such aspects as land, financing, tax and investment, and provide tailor-made plans to facilitate the setting up of the operations of enterprises in Hong Kong; and
- provide employees of target enterprises with one-stop facilitation services in areas such as visa application and education arrangements for their children.

OASES will be a one-stop window for attracting strategic enterprises. 17 Dedicated Teams for Attracting Businesses and Talents in Hong Kong Offices in the Mainland and overseas will provide full corresponding support to OASES. The website of OASES is at www.oases.gov.hk and enquiries can be made at 3755 2746 and enq@oases.gov.hk.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202212/23/P2022122300699.htm>

In addition, the HKSAR Government on December 28 launched the online platform of the Talents Service Unit (TSU) (www.hkengage.gov.hk) to attract talents from all over the world. The online platform enables them to obtain information on the various talent admission schemes and submit applications more easily. The various talent admission schemes, including the newly introduced Top Talent Pass Scheme, are open for application.

The TSU online platform provides one-stop electronic services for talents from around the world. Potential applicants can also use the online platform's Talent Admission Scheme Matching Tool to find out the schemes they are eligible for, and submit applications online. To the convenience of talents located outside Hong Kong, the subsequent payment and visa collection procedures can also take place online.

Hong Kong has shown the world that it has returned to centre stage in the global arena. Now is the golden time for Hong Kong to compete for talents proactively. The HKSAR Government will take forward in full swing the various new initiatives to compete for talents, including the TSU, to enrich and diversify Hong Kong's talent pool, with a view to meeting the needs of the city's future economic and social developments.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202212/28/P2022122700641.htm>

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For details about the services provided by the dedicated Team for Attracting Businesses and Talents in HKETO, please visit our website at <https://www.hketotoronto.gov.hk/attracting-businesses-talents.html>.

To tie in with the launch of various enhancements in the talent admission schemes and the online platform of the TSU, a promotional video on competing for talents was produced. Please click the link to watch the video:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1a8hw0Cs85og6F8sEJiaDD8y25KpBrFaB/view?usp=share_link

Government launches enhanced Technology Talent Admission Scheme

The Innovation and Technology Commission of the HKSAR Government on December 28 launched enhancement measures to the Technology Talent Admission Scheme (TechTAS), with a view to expediting the admission of innovation and technology (I&T) talent from around the world to undertake research and development (R&D) work in Hong Kong, and charting Hong Kong to move towards the vision of becoming an international I&T centre.

The enhanced TechTAS lifts the local employment requirement, extends the quota validity period to two years and expands the coverage to more emerging technology areas. New technology areas can also be added as and when considered necessary by the Commissioner for Innovation and Technology to fit in with the I&T development in Hong Kong.

Online applications can be made on the TechTAS website (techtas.itc.gov.hk).

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202212/28/P2022122800250.htm>

HKSAR Government warmly welcomes expansion of scope of eligible stocks under Stock Connect

The China Securities Regulatory Commission and the Securities and Futures Commission issued a joint announcement on December 19 on the in-principle approval for the Mainland and Hong Kong exchanges to further expand the scope of eligible stocks under Stock Connect. The HKSAR Government expresses warm welcome to the decision.

The Chief Executive of the HKSAR, Mr John Lee, said that in accordance with the development direction in the National 14th Five-Year Plan, the HKSAR Government has strived to strengthen Hong Kong's position and function as an international financial

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centre and global offshore Renminbi business hub, while deepening and widening the mutual access between financial markets of the Mainland and Hong Kong. The measure announced by the regulators of the two places signifies another milestone, further enhancing Hong Kong's role as the bridge connecting Mainland and overseas investors.

According to the joint announcement, the scope of eligible stocks for Northbound trading will be expanded to include constituent stocks of the Shanghai Stock Exchange (SSE) A Share Index and the Shenzhen Stock Exchange (SZSE) Composite Index, which have a market capitalisation of RMB5 billion or above and meet certain liquidity criteria, etc, as well as stocks of companies listed on SSE/SZSE which have issued both A shares and H shares. The scope of eligible stocks for Southbound trading will include stocks of foreign companies meeting relevant criteria.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202212/19/P2022121900463.htm>

HKSARG welcomes WTO ruling that US' origin marking requirement is inconsistent with WTO rules

The HKSAR Government on December 21 welcomed the ruling made by the Panel established under the World Trade Organization's (WTO) Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) that the origin marking requirement imposed on Hong Kong products by the United States (US) is inconsistent with WTO rules. The Panel also completely refuted the US' invocation of security exceptions, and recommended the US to bring the measure into conformity.

The Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development of the HKSAR, Mr Algernon Yau, remarked that the ruling has once again confirmed that the US has disregarded international trade rules, attempted to impose discriminatory and unfair requirements unilaterally, unreasonably suppressed Hong Kong products and enterprises, and politicised economic and trade issues.

Under "one country, two systems", the special status of the HKSAR is conferred by the motherland through the Basic Law. Pursuant to Articles 116, 151 and 152 of the Basic Law, the HKSAR is a separate customs territory and may, using the name "Hong Kong, China", participate in international organisations such as the WTO, and develop mutually beneficial economic and trade relations with economies around the world.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202212/21/P2022122100543.htm>

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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 28 that in view of notification from the World Organisation for Animal Health about an outbreak of highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza in the Municipality of Lambton Shores of Ontario Province in Canada, the CFS has instructed the trade to suspend the import of poultry meat and products (including poultry eggs) from the area with immediate effect to protect public health in Hong Kong.

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.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202212/28/P2022122800538.htm>

Article of “Succeeding in a New World - Hong Kong’s cultural cache”

CNBC, in partnership with the Information Services Department of the HKSAR Government, has created a piece of branded content to reveal how passionate individuals in Hong Kong are keeping the arts and culture scene in the city thriving and evolving with the application of art technology.

Title: Succeeding in a New World - Hong Kong’s cultural cache

Link: <https://www.cnb.com/advertorial/hongkongs-cultural-cache/>

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)).

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[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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Brand Hong Kong Instagram page www.instagram.com/brandhongkong/
Brand Hong Kong Twitter page https://twitter.com/Brand_HK

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Mr. Christopher Chen, Head of Business and Talent Attraction /
Investment Promotion at christopher_chen@hketotoronto.gov.hk or
visit www.InvestHK.gov.hk

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