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SPECIAL NOTICE

The pre-departure testing requirement for inbound persons (aged three or above on the date of arrival at Hong Kong) from overseas places or Taiwan is in effect. 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](#).

Inbound persons are advised to conduct daily RAT until Day 5 after their arrival at Hong Kong.

Please check the latest requirements by clicking the following link:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202302/03/P2023020300618.htm>

The “COVID-19 Thematic Website” of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (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

2023 iPitch Competition

The Junior Hong Kong-Canada Business Association (HKCBA) (McGill Chapter) will host the 2023 iPitch Competition “Venture into Asia” at Centech Montreal on March 10. Participating university students will compete in teams on business related topics. HKETO and Invest Hong Kong are sponsors of the event. For details, please visit <https://www.facebook.com/JHKCBA/>

Webinar on healthcare sector opportunities in Hong Kong and beyond

HKETO, Invest Hong Kong, HKCBA (Ottawa Section), Hong Kong Trade Development Council and Government of Canada will co-organize a webinar entitled “Healthcare Sector Opportunities in Hong Kong and beyond for Canadian Companies” on March 23, 1:30pm (EDT). Hong Kong was Asia Pacific’s largest IPO centre for biotech companies and the second largest in the world after the US. Canadian companies in the healthcare

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industry, including healthcare equipment manufacturers and exporters, are invited to attend this free webinar.

For registration, please visit <https://bit.ly/mar23healthcarewebinar>.

RECENT ACTIVITIES

HKETO Director joins the 9th Transpacific Entrepreneurial Conference

Director of the HKETO, Ms Emily Mo, spoke at the 9th Annual Transpacific Entrepreneurial Conference hosted by the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong (CanChamHK) and the HKCBA on March 2 (Toronto time). This year's conference discussed the latest opportunities of investing in Canada and Hong Kong as both Canada and Hong Kong are ready for a major comeback from the pandemic.

In delivering opening remarks on the theme “Creating Bilateral Business Footprints via New Initiatives in Hong Kong and Canada”, Ms Mo highlighted that Hong Kong and Canada have rich and mutually rewarding relations in business, culture and people ties. Hong Kong, under the “one country, two systems” arrangement and with the support from the Central government, will play increasingly significant roles to connect Canadian businesses to the vast markets of the mainland China and other parts of Indo-Pacific region.

In addition, Ms Mo introduced at the conference the new institutional setups by the HKSAR Government to attract enterprises, investments and talents to enhance Hong Kong's competitiveness. Ms Mo also expressed gratitude to CanChamHK for its support to co-organise the “Hong Kong-Canada Talent Metaverse” with Invest Hong Kong and HKETO to attract Canadian talents to work in Hong Kong.

On the same day, Ms Mo spoke at the Webinar on Funding and Business Opportunities in Hong Kong for Canadian Health Care, Biotech and Life Science Companies, co-organised by HKETO, Invest Hong Kong, Hong Kong Trade Development Council and Calgary Economic Development to discuss the opportunities in funding, procurement, partnerships and clinical trials that Hong Kong offers.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.hketotoronto.gov.hk/newsroom/hketo-director-joins-the-9th-transpacific-entrepreneurial-conference-on-creating-bilateral-business-footprints-via-new-initiatives-in-hong-kong-and-canada.html>

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HONG KONG NEWS

Government lifts all mandatory mask-wearing requirements

Having assessed the latest epidemic development, the HKSAR Government announced on February 28 that all mandatory mask-wearing requirements would be lifted, thereby enabling the society to resume normalcy in full.

Starting from March 1, citizens were no longer be required to wear masks mandatorily onboard a public transport carrier, or within an MTR paid area, or in a specified public place (including both indoor and outdoor areas), as well as in premises regulated under the Prevention and Control of Disease (Requirements and Directions) (Business and Premises) Regulation (Cap. 599F).

In order to continue to protect the high-risk groups, citizens entering certain venues such as medical facilities or residential care homes for the elderly or residential care homes for persons with disabilities still need to follow the administrative mask-wearing requirement.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202302/28/P2023022800677.htm>

CE attends opening meeting of NPC annual session in Beijing

The Chief Executive of the HKSAR, Mr John Lee, on March 5 attended the opening meeting of the first session of the 14th National People's Congress (NPC).

At the first session of the 14th NPC commenced in Beijing, Premier Li Keqiang delivered the government work report. Premier Li reviewed in the government work report the work in 2022 and of the past five years, highlighting the fresh progress in work related to Hong Kong, Macao, and Taiwan.

Mr Lee said the HKSAR Government will fully, faithfully and resolutely implement the principle of "one country, two systems" and "Hong Kong people administering Hong Kong" with a high degree of autonomy, with a view to enhancing the power and value of "patriots administering Hong Kong".

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202303/05/P2023030500372.htm>

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HKSAR Government strongly objects to unfounded and misleading concluding observations of UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

The HKSAR Government on March 6 expressed strong objection to the concluding observations issued by the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (the Committee) on the fourth report under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), which disregarded the explanations and clarifications made earlier by the HKSAR Government delegation.

The Committee considered the HKSAR's fourth report at its meetings on February 15 and 16, 2023. A ten-member delegation led by the Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs, Ms Gracie Foo, attended the meetings in Geneva, Switzerland. As part of the Chinese delegation, the delegation of the HKSAR Government held dialogues with the Committee in an open, respectful, co-operative and responsible manner during the two-day meetings. The HKSAR Government strongly deplores and resolutely rejects the concluding observations the Committee issued on March 6, which insisted on making inaccurate, biased and misleading statements on various aspects of the situation in Hong Kong.

The Government will report to the Committee in respect of the recommendations in its concluding observations in detail. In the interim, the HKSAR Government will provide the necessary information in accordance with the Committee's request by March 2025.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202303/07/P2023030700015.htm>

CNGR Advanced Material leverages Hong Kong's international strengths to spearhead its expansion

Mainland comprehensive services provider of new energy materials, CNGR Advanced Material Co Ltd (CNGR), officially opened its regional headquarters in Hong Kong on February 23, leveraging the city's unique advantages in the region to spearhead the company's global expansion plan.

CNGR is one of the world's leading comprehensive services providers of new energy materials, specialising in the research and development, production and sales of advanced energy materials. The shipments and exports of its ternary precursors and cobalt tetroxide have been ranked first in the world for three consecutive years.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202302/23/P2023022200371.htm>

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Immigration Department adjusts application procedures of visa/entry permits

The Immigration Department (ImmD) of the HKSAR Government announced on February 26 the adjustment of application procedures of visa/entry permits. Applicants of talent admission schemes other than the Top Talent Pass Scheme will also be required to declare whether they have any criminal convictions during their application.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202302/26/P2023022600237.htm>

Media partnership to promote Hong Kong's logistics sector

The Financial Times, in partnership with the Information Services Department (ISD) of the HKSAR Government, has created a piece of branded content entitled "AI and Robotics are the New Logistics Heroes" to shed light on how Hong Kong's logistics sector has embraced cutting-edge technology as it seeks to hold its premier position in ever-changing conditions.

Interviewees:

1. Lit Fung, vice-president and managing director at Geek+
2. Joshua Lau, CEO and founder at YesAsia.com Limited
3. Fox Chu, a partner in McKinsey & Company's Hong Kong office

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.ft.com/partnercontent/brandhongkong/ai-and-robotics-are-the-new-logistics.html>

In addition, CNBC, in partnership with the ISD, has created a piece of branded content entitled "Succeeding in a New World - From Hong Kong to the World" to explore how logistics companies in Hong Kong are adapting to the changing landscape and seizing new opportunities through the application of innovation and technology which help maintaining Hong Kong's status as an international logistics hub.

Interviewees:

1. John Lau, Chairman, CN Logistics
2. Wun Chi Lam, CEO & co-founder, Spaceship

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.cnbc.com/advertorial/from-hongkong-to-the-world>

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