

Mobility: Immigration alert

February 2023



Hong Kong

Expansion of scheme exempting eligible visitors from the Employment Visa requirement

Executive summary

Effective 1 February 2023, the Hong Kong authorities expanded the Pilot Scheme on Immigration Facilitation for Visitors Participating in Short-term Activities in Designated Sectors (i.e., "the Scheme"). With this expansion, qualifying visitors invited or sponsored by authorized host organizations in two new sectors (i.e., finance, and development and construction) may undertake specific short-term activities in Hong Kong without obtaining Employment Visas.

Background

The Hong Kong authorities initially launched the Scheme in June 2022, which allowed qualifying individuals to visit Hong Kong and participate in specific short-term activities in the jurisdiction for up to 14 consecutive days per visit without obtaining Employment Visas. To be eligible for the Scheme, individuals must:

- ▶ Undertake specific short-term activities in certain sectors (i.e., medical and healthcare; higher education; arts and culture; sports; heritage; creative industries; innovation and technology; aviation; international/mega events; the Hong Kong Laureate Forum (which is yet to be scheduled)).
- ▶ Receive invitation letters from authorized [host organizations](#).
- ▶ Have a visit visa or entry permit (for individuals who are not visa-free nationals and require a visa to enter Hong Kong).
- ▶ Follow all applicable entry requirements (e.g., residents of China Mainland must apply for necessary travel documents and exit endorsements prior to their travel to Hong Kong).

Qualifying individuals are eligible to conduct an unlimited number of designated short-term activities in Hong Kong for up to 14 consecutive calendar days during their visit. They may receive remuneration for these activities if permitted by the authorities.

Key developments

Effective 1 February 2023, the Hong Kong authorities added two more designated sectors under the Scheme (i.e., finance, and development and construction). In addition, approximately 50 more host organizations are now authorized to issue invitation letters to qualifying individuals under the Scheme (e.g., Development Bureau and Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited and). The Scheme is currently expected to be in place until 2024.

Impact

The expansion of the Scheme will expedite the speed of deployment of eligible individuals to Hong Kong who conduct authorized short-term activities and streamline immigration requirements for these individuals.

Key steps

EY will continue to monitor these developments. Should you have any questions, we encourage you to contact one of our immigration professionals.

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