



Consolato Generale d'Italia
Hong Kong



Hong Kong Government Relief Package to Enterprises and Individuals

The Legislative Council Finance Committee approved a **HK\$30 billion package** on 21 February 2020:

1. To enhance the Government's capability in combating the Covid-19 outbreak and;
2. To provide timely assistance or relief to enterprises and members of the public hard hit by the epidemic or affected by anti-epidemic measures.

HK\$16.9 billion has been set aside to provide assistance to enterprises and individuals through the implementation of specific relief measures.

The Fund will be set up **within Friday 28 February** and the specific measures will be implemented by Government Agencies and Departments under the supervision of the competent Policy Bureaus.

Below is a list of four measures to be pursued under the Fund to provide support and relief to sectors of interest for the Italian business community in Hong Kong.

RETAIL SECTOR SUBSIDY SCHEME

Policy Bureau: Chief Secretary for Administration's Office

Implementation: Hong Kong Trade Development Council

Budget: HK\$5.6 billion

Objective

To provide relief to retailers to tide over their financial difficulties owing to the sharp decline in retail sales arising from a significant drop in the number of inbound tourists and weak local consumption.

Recipients

Businesses which sell goods at a physical location mainly to the general public for personal/household consumption. According to Census and Statistics Department's latest statistics, around 70,000 retailers would benefit from the proposed subsidy scheme.

Description

One-off subsidy to be provided to each eligible retailer.

Implementation

The Government is actively engaging industry stakeholders and seeking their urgent inputs in drawing up the coverage of the scheme, detailed eligibility criteria and level(s) of the subsidy. Subject to the satisfactory outcome of such deliberations, **the HKSAR Government will start to invite applications from eligible retailers within two months upon the setting up of the Fund.**

FOOD LICENSE HOLDERS SUBSIDY SCHEME

Policy Bureau: Food and Health Bureau

Implementation: Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Budget: HK\$3.73 billion

Objective

To provide immediate financial relief to the food business sector, the business of which is seriously affected by the novel coronavirus epidemic.

Recipients

Food premises-based licenses holders. According to Government estimates around 28,000 licensees would benefit from the proposed subsidy scheme.

Description

A one-off subsidy of **HK\$200,000** to each eligible holder of any of the following premises-based licenses in operation:

1. General restaurant license
2. Marine restaurant license
3. Factory canteen license

A one-off subsidy of **HK\$80,000** to each eligible holder of any of the following premises-based licenses in operation:

1. Light refreshment restaurant license
2. Food factory license
3. Bakery license
4. Fresh provision shop license
5. Siu mei and lo mei shop license

Implementation

Upon setting up of the Fund, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department will invite applications from eligible licensees within one week, with the target of disbursing subsidies to the applicants within about two weeks from receiving their respective applications.

CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION INDUSTRY SUBSIDY SCHEME

Policy Bureau: Commerce and Economic Development Bureau

Implementation: Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC), Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre (HKCEC), Asia World-Expo (AWE)

Budget: HK\$0.4 billion

Objective

To provide subsidy to the convention and exhibition (C&E) industry to reinvigorate Hong Kong's reputation as an international premier C&E hub.

Recipients

Participants, local and overseas, of exhibitions and international conventions/conferences organized by the Hong Kong Trade Development Council.

Description

With C&E events postponing/canceling, local and foreign SMEs have lost the opportunities to connect with international buyers and obtain orders. In order to reinvigorate Hong Kong's reputation as an international premier C&E and sourcing hub, local and overseas participants in HKTDC's exhibitions and international conventions/conferences (i.e. over 400 participants) will be subsidized **50% of their participation fee, subject to a cap of HK\$10,000.**

Implementation

Following the setting up of the Fund, the Government, HKTDC, HKCEC and AWE will be able to immediately promote the Scheme to potential organizers and exhibitors. The Scheme will be implemented for one year, counting from the time when it is opportune for holding major exhibitions and conventions again.

RENTAL WAIVERS FOR TENANTS AT THE SCIENCE PARK, INDUSTRIAL ESTATES AND CYBERPORT

Policy Bureau: Innovation and Technology Bureau

Implementation: Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation, Cyberport Management Company Limited

Budget: HK\$0.38 billion

Objective

To provide relief to tenants and start-ups at the Hong Kong Science Park, industrial estates and Cyberport by providing them with a **six-month rental waiver**

Recipients

All start-ups, incubatees, co-working space users, office tenants, partner companies, professional services companies and merchant outlets at the Hong Kong Science Park, InnoCentre, industrial estates and Cyberport

Description

Six-month rental waiver to be capped at 10,000 square feet starting from 1 April 2020

Implementation

The relief measure will take effect from 1 April 2020. Both the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation and Cyberport Management Company Limited will inform their tenants immediately upon the setting up of the Fund