

Public Information on the Hong Kong Humanitarian Aid Project

Mainland Affairs Council

June 18, 2020

I. Background

1. On May 27 this year (2020), President Tsai Ing-wen instructed the executive branch to propose a humanitarian assistance action plan for Hong Kong citizens. Responding to developments in Hong Kong resulting from the Hong Kong version of the National Security Law imposed by the CCP, the plan aims to provide needed assistance to Hong Kong citizens. It also highlights the government's determination to uphold universal values and support the Hong Kong people's fight for freedom and democracy.
2. The Mainland Affairs Council (MAC) has established a Hong Kong Humanitarian Aid Project (hereinafter "the Project") according to instructions by the President and Premier Su Tseng-chang. The Project will integrate related resources through inter-agency coordination with necessary funding from the government, and aims to provide services and basic care to Hong Kong citizens arriving in Taiwan in of need assistance.
3. Administrative procedures for the plan have been completed and the Project Office will commence operations starting July 1.

II. Policy Objectives and Specific Approaches

1. Objectives

(1) Provide friendly and streamlined consultation services and further improve coordinated support for Hong Kong citizens arriving in Taiwan in need of assistance. Such services demonstrate the government's unwavering determination to care for Hong Kong citizens and its support for the transfer of Hong Kong capital and talent to Taiwan to participate in Taiwan's economic development.

(2) Establish mechanisms to handle cases involving Hong Kong citizens in situations described under Article 18 of the Act Governing Relations with Hong Kong and Macao and provide basic life care support.

2. Specific Approaches

(1) Project Office: A Project Office will be established under the existing Taiwan-Hong Kong exchange platform to strengthen services and care for Hong Kong citizens. The Office will also pragmatically handle affairs related to humanitarian assistance and care for Hong Kong citizens based on national security considerations.

(2) Consultation Services: Consultation and service functions for Hong Kong citizens will be enhanced, including special consultation and assistance services related to study, employment, investment, entrepreneurship, immigration, and residency.

(3) Assistance Services: Humanitarian assistance and care for Hong Kong citizens will be provided through public-private projects and on the existing legal basis.

III. Implementation Plan

1. Establishment of a Taiwan-Hong Kong Office for Exchanges and Services

(1) The Taiwan–Hong Kong Economic and Cultural Co-operation Council (THEC) was established under direction of the MAC to promote exchange and interaction between Taiwan and Hong Kong. The newly established Taiwan-Hong Kong Office for Exchanges and Services (hereinafter “the Office”) under the Council will provide public services with enhanced assistance and services provided to Hong Kong citizens.

(2) The Office will include one director and one deputy director overseeing three sections respectively in charge of consultation services, project management, and administrative affairs. (See Appendix for Organization Chart)

(3) Office Address: 3F, No. 2, Alley 17, Lane 147, Section 3, Xinyi Road, Daan District, Taipei City. Service Hotline: 2700-3199, 2397-1088.

(4) The Office will initially employ additional personnel and invite related institutions to provide humanitarian assistance and care for Hong Kong citizens related to study, employment, investment, and entrepreneurship in Taiwan. It will also provide humanitarian assistance and care for multinational enterprises and international corporations relocating to Taiwan.

2. Consultation Services Section

(1) Provide comprehensive, dedicated, and specialized consultation services for Hong Kong citizens in the areas of "study and employment," "investment and entrepreneurship," "immigration and residency project consultation" and "other."

(2) Establish contact and referral windows with relevant agencies to ensure one-stop service and promptly reply to inquiries and handle affairs.

(3) Provide a database and services to help the public access information on investment and other areas.

3. Program Management Section

(1) Programs to strengthen services to Hong Kong citizens arriving in Taiwan

1. Dedicated personnel will be assigned to assist Hong Kong citizens in Taiwan on specific projects related to investment, entrepreneurship, professional development, employment, or study.
2. Private sector resources will be integrated and relevant authorities coordinated to actively care for the study, employment, and living conditions of Hong Kong citizens in Taiwan and assistance will be provided to resolve related problems.

(2) Programs to provide assistance and care

1. Related processing guidelines have been formulated and related ministries and departments coordinated to handle situations involving Hong Kong residents in Taiwan who encounter situations described under Article 18 of the Act Governing Relations with Hong Kong and Macao. Decisions on assistance will be made with consideration to the degree of emergency and threat to their security, freedom and need. Upon consideration, each case will be submitted to the Executive Yuan for special handling (Article 25 of the Enforcement Rules of the Act Governing Relations with Hong Kong and Macao).
2. Related agencies will collaboratively assist the aforementioned Hong Kong citizens with life care, legal advice, and other necessary matters in Taiwan. Corporations, groups, and other organizations or volunteer lawyers may be commissioned to assist as needed.
3. For persons permitted to temporarily or permanently reside in Taiwan, the program will further provide guidance and assistance for their studies and employment.

4. The government will allocate funds to cover necessary expenses for the aforesaid life care.

(3) Programs for multinational enterprises and international corporations relocating to Taiwan

1. The Taiwan Investment Office of the Ministry of Economic Affairs will coordinate customized services on a case-by-case basis to help multinational enterprises in Hong Kong (excluding Mainland capitalized enterprises) relocate to Taiwan. Assistance will be provided to help them access related benefits. Ad hoc meetings will be held regularly to coordinate assistance and expedite their operation in Taiwan.

2. Specialists will be assigned to provide customized services for non-governmental organizations and other international corporations in Hong Kong wishing to relocate to Taiwan. Such services will include legal and regulatory consultation and coordination with the relevant authorities to provide administrative facilitation, assistance with staff work permit applications, and other support.

4. Administrative Affairs Section

(1) Establish and maintain website information, social media communications, and other public relations service functions.

(2) Carry out personnel, accounting, procurement, and general affairs.

Appendix: Organization of the Taiwan-Hong Kong Office for Exchanges and Services

Director

Deputy Director

Consultation Services Section

Project Management Section

Administrative Affairs Section

Tasks:

1. Provide comprehensive, dedicated, and specialized consultation services for Hong Kong citizens in the areas of "study and employment," "investment and entrepreneurship," "immigration and residency project consulting" and "other."
2. Establish contact and referral windows with relevant agencies to ensure one-stop service and promptly reply to inquiries and handle affairs. Provide a database and services to help the public access information on investment and other areas.

Tasks:

1. Administer programs to assist Hong Kong citizens in Taiwan on specific projects of investment, entrepreneurship, professional development, employment, or study.
2. Integrate private sector resources and coordinate with the relevant authorities to actively care for the study, employment, and living conditions of Hong Kong citizens in Taiwan and help them to resolve problems.
3. Carry out assistance and care projects. Assist Hong Kong citizens in Taiwan with matters related to life care and legal advice, as well as provide guidance and assistance on study and employment in Taiwan. ◦
4. Provide specialized and customized services for multinational enterprises and international corporations coming to Taiwan.

Tasks:

1. Establish and maintain dedicated website information, social media communications, and other public relations service functions
2. Handle personnel, accounting, procurement, and general affairs.