

Questionnaire on the impact of COVID-19 on intercountry adoptions under the 1993 Adoption Convention

<i>Identification for follow-up purposes:</i>	
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I. OVERARCHING QUESTIONS	
	<u>Both States of origin and receiving States</u>
1.	<p>In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, has your State modified intercountry adoption procedures under the 1993 Adoption Convention? If so, what has your State done to ensure that the safeguards and procedures of the Convention have been, and continue to be, respected?</p> <p>HKSAR has not modified the intercountry adoption procedures so far.</p>
II. OUTBREAK OF COVID-19 (cases in transition only)	
	<u>Both States of origin and receiving States</u>
2.	<p>What measures, if any, did your State take to deal with cases where the child had already been matched with prospective adoptive parents, but no adoption decision had been issued at the time of the COVID-19 outbreak in your State? How many children were in such a situation?</p> <p>The intercountry adoption procedures were maintained during the time of COVID-19 pandemic and adoption decisions were issued as usual in HKSAR.</p>
3.	<p>What measures, if any, did your State take to deal with cases where the adoption decision had already been issued, but the child was still in the State of origin at the time of the COVID-19 outbreak in your State? How many children were in such a situation?</p> <p>During the COVID-19 pandemic, unless with exemption, all non-Hong Kong residents coming from overseas countries and regions by plane will be denied entry to HKSAR. As such, Exemption was specially applied and granted to allow entry of the prospective overseas adoptive parents who were non-Hong Kong residents to HKSAR for matching and escorting the child to the Receiving States for commencement of adoption placement. Up till March 2021, there were five children involved in such situation.</p>

III. DURING COVID-19 (cases in transition and new cases)	
	<u>States of origin only</u>
4.	<p>Has your State adapted, and if so how, the following stages of the adoption procedure:</p> <p>a) Declaration of adoptability of the child:</p> <p>All stages of adoption procedure were maintained as usual in HKSAR during the time of COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>b) Matching:</p> <p>All stages of adoption procedure were maintained as usual in HKSAR during the time of COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>c) Socialisation period:</p> <p>All stages of adoption procedure were maintained as usual in HKSAR during the time of COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>d) Support and counselling to adoptable children:</p> <p>All stages of adoption procedure were maintained as usual in HKSAR during the time of COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>e) Adoption decision:</p> <p>All stages of adoption procedure were maintained as usual in HKSAR during the time of COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>f) Other stages:</p> <p>All stages of adoption procedure were maintained as usual in HKSAR during the time of COVID-19 pandemic.</p>
	<u>Receiving States only</u>
5.	<p>Has your State adapted, and if so how, the following stages of the adoption procedure:</p> <p>a) Eligibility and suitability of prospective adoptive parents:</p> <p>All stages of adoption procedure were maintained as usual in HKSAR during the time of COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>b) Support and counselling to prospective adoptive parents:</p> <p>All stages of adoption procedure were maintained as usual in HKSAR during the time of COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>c) Other stages:</p> <p>All stages of adoption procedure were maintained as usual in HKSAR during the time of COVID-19 pandemic.</p>
IV. USE OF TECHNOLOGY	
	<u>Both States of origin and receiving States</u>

6.	<p>Has the use of technologies (e.g, videoconferencing) evolved in the adoption procedures in place in your State since the outbreak of COVID-19 in your State? Please specify:</p> <p>a) any benefits and challenges:</p> <p>Modern technologies such as internet, email, facetime and Skype had been frequently used to facilitate the communication amongst all concerned parties in processing intercountry adoption before and after the outbreak of the COVID-19. These are very effective means of communication which greatly facilitate the intercountry adoption through speedy transmission of data and enhancing the adjustment and integration of the child to the adoptive family.</p> <p>b) if your response to question 72 (“Use of new technologies”) of the 2020 Questionnaire on the practical operation of the 1993 Adoption Convention (Prel. Doc. No 3) has changed:</p> <p>There is no change of the use of technologies as reported in question 72 of the 2020 Questionnaire.</p>
<p>V. POST COVID-19: LOOKING AHEAD</p>	
	<p><u>Both States of origin and receiving States</u></p>
7.	<p>Has your State developed any practices during this pandemic period that would be useful to mainstream into regular work practices? If so, please elaborate on what those practices are and how you plan to go about mainstreaming them into regular work practices:</p> <p>Not applicable</p>
8.	<p>Please share any good practices and lessons learned by your State which may be applied in the event of another pandemic or similar state of emergency:</p> <p>In the event of another pandemic, an early liaison with relevant policy bureau in working out the entry exemption conditions and other related arrangement would ensure a smooth and continuous arrangement of intercountry adoption.</p>
<p>VI. ANY OTHER COMMENTS</p>	
	<p><u>Both States of origin and receiving States</u></p>
9.	<p>Please insert here any other comments you may have:</p> <p>Nil</p>