Part 2

Strengthen the Four Centres, Develop the Hub for High-calibre Talent, Consolidate and Enhance Our Edge in Global Competition

2.1 To ensure Hong Kong's long-term prosperity and stability, we must fully leverage our city's existing advantages while expediting development and enhancing new quality productive forces. By consolidating and enhancing Hong Kong's status as international financial, maritime and trade centres, and developing Hong Kong into an international I&T centre and a global hub for high-calibre talent, we will further sharpen our city's competitive edge. Advancing the development of the "four centres and one hub" at full steam will help drive and sustain Hong Kong's economic development. The arising development dividends will improve people's livelihood, continuously enhancing social well-being. Meanwhile, deepening the development of the international legal and dispute resolution services centre, the regional intellectual property trading centre, and the East-meets-West centre for international cultural exchange, among others, will provide staunch support for the development of the "four centres and one hub", fostering the promotion of scientific research and innovation as well as industry development, and fully leveraging Hong Kong's unique strengths of connecting with the Mainland and the world under "One Country, Two Systems" and its world city status. With this, we shall further sharpen our edge amid global competition.

Chapter 6 International Financial Centre

2.2 Finance is Hong Kong's pivotal and crowning strength. Hong Kong, as an international financial centre, must firmly demonstrate its international positioning by leveraging its open financial markets to attract global capital, talent, and financial enterprises. We must seek growth through stability and in turn reinforce stability through growth, a principle anchoring resilient underpinning, stable structures, robust capabilities, and manageable risks, as we move forward with various initiatives. These include fully leveraging the core function of propelling the real economy with finance; forging secure and highly effective financial infrastructure; and systemically developing a diverse capital market. With efforts to drive in-depth integration with Mainland and overseas markets, we strive to actively consolidate Hong Kong's status as a hub connecting global financial markets, facilitating international capital to seize the development opportunities available in our country and in Asia, while assisting Mainland enterprises and capital in pursuing high-quality global expansion. Meanwhile, we will strive to assume a more prominent role in the global financial governance system.

Section 1 Strengthen Our Roles as Global Offshore Renminbi Business Hub, International Asset and Wealth Management Centre, and International Risk Management Centre

2.3 We shall strengthen Hong Kong's role as the world's largest offshore RMB business hub. We will strive for a comprehensive scale-up and continuous refinement of Hong Kong's offshore RMB business and ecosystem respectively. We will strengthen RMB liquidity support and establish a Hong Kong offshore RMB liquidity provision mechanism, while accelerating the innovation and diversification of offshore RMB products. As we develop a comprehensive, multi-layered cross-boundary RMB circulation network, we will improve the stability of offshore RMB financing. In the meantime, we will actively promote the use of RMB to settle government expenditure, and further enhance the capacity of the offshore RMB market in supporting the real economy for the expansion and enabling of trade, investment, financing, and cross-boundary business dealings. We will also support the wider use of RMB in cross-boundary businesses and facilitate the exchange between RMB and other regional currencies. Our financial regulators will step up engagement with their Mainland counterparts, maintaining close communication regarding the concerted efforts to safeguard Hong Kong's financial market stability.

Table 2	Strengthening Hong Kong's Role as a Global Offshore RMB Business Hub
1.	**Enhancing liquidity**
•	Continue to make good use of the Currency Swap Agreement with the People's Bank of China, refine the RMB Business Facility, explore measures to enhance liquidity support for Hong Kong's banks, and facilitate two-way capital flows.
2.	**Expanding product supply in the offshore RMB market**
•	The scale of RMB bond issuance will be continuously expanded, and made regular across a range of tenors. Promote regular issuance of Dim Sum bonds in Hong Kong by high-grade issuers, such as sovereign, institutional, and corporate issuers. Explore further mechanisms for the issuance and trading of RMB-denominated fixed-income instruments to support the building of offshore RMB yield curve. Broaden the application scenarios of using RMB bonds as collateral. Expand the range of liquidity management tools and risk management products available to the offshore RMB market. Actively expand the use of RMB into other areas for pricing, settlement, and investment purposes.
3.	**Supporting the inclusion of RMB counters under Southbound trading of Stock Connect**
•	Encourage Mainland and international investors to use RMB as the investment currency while incentivising more listed companies to set up RMB counters to further promote RMB internationalisation.

Table 2	Strengthening Hong Kong's Role as a Global Offshore RMB Business Hub (Cont'd.)
4.	**Promoting the advantages of Hong Kong's offshore RMB services to international markets**
•	Collaborate with the banking sector to actively deepen engagement with high-potential countries and regions, such as the Belt and Road Initiative partner countries and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries, so as to tap into emerging markets.
5.	**Promoting the use of RMB for settling government expenditure**
•	The HKSAR Government will take the lead in actively exploring and driving more settlement of government expenditures in RMB under suitable scenarios.

2.4 We shall bolster Hong Kong's status as a world-leading cross-boundary wealth management centre. We will provide quality services for global sovereign wealth funds and family offices to develop their businesses in Hong Kong, and strengthen our city's functions in asset allocation and wealth management for Mainland and global investors. We aim to encourage more international and Mainland family capital and long-term capital to establish and expand their operations in Hong Kong through enhancing the regulatory and market infrastructure, enriching the professional services ecosystem, promoting the development of family offices, and enhancing the tax regimes for funds, single family offices, as well as carried interest. We are also committed to promoting the development of our fund market by diversifying the range of asset classes under management and product offerings, including diversified asset management instruments such as alternative asset funds and real estate investment trusts, thereby deepening and broadening our overall asset and wealth management capabilities.

2.5 We shall strengthen Hong Kong's role as an international risk management centre. We endeavour to deepen regulatory cooperation with the Mainland and overseas markets, and fully leverage our competitive edge in the international insurance, reinsurance, and capital markets to advance the synergised development of traditional insurance and non-traditional risk management tools. These will enable us to unleash the synergy effect of multi-layered risk transfer and pooling mechanisms through insurance-linked securities, captive insurers, and a marine specialty risk pool, consolidating our strategic role as a regional and global catastrophe and specialty risk management hub. In the meantime, we will strengthen the insurance industry's risk-based capital regime, promote the investment of insurance capital in infrastructure projects in Hong Kong and the Mainland, and enhance the industry's risk prevention and control capabilities as well as risk management culture.

Section 2 Enhance Equity and Bond Markets

2.6 We will continue to enhance the market regime design and product ecosystem for the equity and bond markets. We will enhance the markets in terms of depth, breadth, and liquidity to assist Mainland enterprises to go global and bring in international capital. We will play our part as the testing ground for the financial opening-up of our country, striving for a greater say and broader influence as an international financial centre.

2.7 We will enhance securities market efficiency. We will strive to enhance the competitiveness of our listing regime and operating efficiency of the securities market infrastructure, and support Mainland and overseas leading enterprises and quality enterprises from emerging industries to list in Hong Kong. Alongside other measures, the Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited and the Qianhai Equity Exchange will deepen their collaboration and connect more quality Mainland enterprises to the international capital market through Hong Kong's listing platform with more efficient listing services. Through broadening the mutual access mechanism for financial markets, expanding emerging market fields, and leveraging our functions as an investment and financing platform, we will foster collaborations with the Belt and Road Initiative partner countries, the Global South, and other emerging economies in trade, finance, and infrastructure.

2.8 We will enhance our international bond market. With well-coordinated efforts, we will boost issuance in primary market, enhance liquidity in secondary market, expand offshore RMB business, and develop fixed income and currency infrastructure. Southbound Bond Connect will be refined to expand and enhance different aspects including investment scale, investor scope, products, and trading arrangements. We will encourage more Mainland institutions to invest in Hong Kong's bond market, expanding the channels and trading volumes in respect of Stock Connect, Bond Connect, Wealth Management Connect, and Private Equity Connect. We will develop a diverse range of financial products and risk management tools, while considering the establishment of a central counterparty for clearing repo transactions and enhancing the regulation of over-the-counter derivative products. We will also steadily regularise the issuance of digital Government bonds and enhance relevant legal framework and market infrastructure in order to promote the wider adoption of digital bonds. To expedite the commercialisation, internationalisation, and modernisation of the Central Moneymarkets Unit, and to enhance the connectivity and interoperability of the local central securities depositories for stocks and bonds, we will establish an electronic fixed income and currency trading platform catering for the local markets and RMB internationalisation and develop our Central Moneymarkets Unit into a leading central securities depository in the region.

2.9 We will strive to attract international financial institutions to establish regional headquarters or offices in Hong Kong and support them in anchoring regional bases in our city. We are staunchly committed to supporting multilateral development institutions such as the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank in capitalising on Hong Kong's full-fledged capital market for project financing, bond issuance, investment, and financial management, and will actively support the needs of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank's office in Hong Kong. We will step up our efforts in nurturing and attracting international financial talent, while optimising professional qualification alignments and enhancing practical training and cross-boundary exchange mechanisms. These measures will serve to enrich our financial talent pool comprising professionals with international perspectives and expertise.

2.10 We will step up the development of financial institutions and the pursuit of international financial engagement and collaboration. We will undertake in-depth engagement in regional and global financial development. We will support major Mainland financial institutions in making use of Hong Kong as a platform to elevate their overall service quality, bringing in more capital investment, and setting up their international headquarters in our city for overseas business expansion. We will give full play to the role of Hong Kong offices of major Mainland financial institutions as the risk management centre and operational base for their parent groups, and serve as a springboard for Mainland banks and insurance companies, especially internationalised reinsurers, to expand into global markets. As for the Hong Kong offices of other Mainland financial institutions, our city will serve as a window for them to connect their operations to the international market given Hong Kong's position as the launchpad for Mainland enterprises to go global. We will organise premier financial events to deepen international exchange and practical collaboration.

2.11 We will facilitate company re-domiciliation to Hong Kong. We will channel well-capitalised, well-governed overseas enterprises with substantive operations, especially financial institutions, to re-domicile to Hong Kong in an orderly manner, enhancing the quality and soundness of Hong Kong-based financial entities.

Section 3 Develop a Commodity Trading Ecosystem

2.12 We shall develop a commodity trading ecosystem with gold as an entry point. Under our coordinated efforts, we will drive the development of the clearing system, storage, supply, and infrastructure related to gold trading to fully leverage the role of gold as a strategic asset, with a view to benchmarking other major international gold trading centres in the long run while developing hardware and software simultaneously. Along with expediting the development of infrastructure to provide efficient and reliable services for international-standards gold trading, to achieve capacity expansion, we will offer all-rounded support for more gold traders and financial institutions to establish their presence in Hong Kong. We will also increase the city's overall gold storage capacity and refining capability, step up training for local talent, and explore further preferential policies for enterprises related to the gold industry. Collaboration between the gold markets of Hong Kong and the Mainland will be deepened through a range of proactive initiatives to spearhead mutual market access and develop a one-stop gold storage, trading, clearing, and service hub, hence an integrated gold trading ecosystem. We will also explore the development of RMB-denominated gold and commodity markets, strengthen cooperation with Mainland exchanges including the Shanghai Gold Exchange and the Shanghai Futures Exchange, step up efforts to attract international investors, and increase the variety of RMB-denominated products.

2.13 We will coordinate efforts to achieve innovation and breakthroughs for commodity trading in the offshore RMB market. We will leverage Hong Kong's unique advantages as an approved delivery point within the London Metal Exchange's global warehousing network to drive the synergised development of more commodities-related trading, risk management, and financing businesses. We will also explore new channels to tap into the demand for other investment instruments, and develop an efficient and open commodity trading ecosystem, so as to further enrich the variety of RMB-denominated and -settled commodity futures and options traded in Hong Kong, while encouraging and supporting the use of RMB for pricing and settlement in spot commodity transactions. We will develop RMB-denominated commodity trading and pursue differentiated and complementary development with the Mainland market, including collaboration with the Qianhai Mercantile Exchange.

Section 4 Take Forward "Finance+" to Serve the Real Economy

2.14 On promoting "Finance + Technological Innovation", we will promote patient capital and venture capital investments in technological and industry innovations. We will widen the financing channels to enhance the listing regime for technology enterprises. By facilitating the acceleration of fintech development, we will support the expansion and strengthening of financing services for I&T enterprises. Moving forward with digital finance, we comprehensively enhance financial institutions' service efficiency as well as risk prevention and control capabilities, while exploring the in-depth application of digital finance infrastructure. As guided by the principle of "same activity, same risks, same regulation", we will establish a world-leading licensing and regulatory regime for digital assets, thereby improving their liquidity and promoting market innovation. We will attract various financial resources into the technological innovation fields through market-oriented means, and strengthen the development of frontier technological research of post-secondary institutions, commercialisation and industrialisation of technological achievements, and emerging industries, providing whole life-cycle support for the commercialisation and transformation of scientific research outcomes. On "Finance + Trade", we will focus on strengthening trade finance, supply chain finance, settlement and clearing, and risk management services, with a view to stepping up support for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and cross-border trade. As for "Finance + Green Development", we will make a resolute push for the expedited development of green and sustainable finance. We will advance an international carbon market, with a view to contributing to our country's low-carbon transition in key areas such as industries, transportation, and energy, while supporting green enterprises in going global in an orderly manner. To advance "Finance + Intellectual Property (IP)", with the use of the IP Financing Sandbox, we will integrate IP into the financial services system in support of IP value transformation, further unleashing the potential of IP as a new economic development impetus. Regarding "Finance + Maritime", to cater for the financing needs arising from the green transformation of the international maritime industry and align with the national strategy on commodity trading, we will help shipping enterprises diversify their financing channels and expand development frontiers. On "Finance + Livelihood", financial inclusiveness will be further developed by extending the scope and accessibility of financial services and enhancing the financial services system that is available to all walks of life.

Table 3 Finance+

1. Finance + Technological Innovation • Set up an Innovation and Technology Industry-Oriented Fund with a provision of $10 billion for five thematic areas covering life and health technology, AI and robotics, semi-conductors and smart devices, digitalisation, upgrading and transformation, as well as future and sustainable development. The fund size, expected to reach at least $40 billion, will comprise contributions from the Government and the market at a ratio of 1 to at least 3. • Roll out the Innovation and Technology Venture Fund Enhanced Scheme with a provision of up to $2.5 billion for jointly setting up a matching fund with the market to invest in start-ups of strategic industries. At least $7.5 billion of market capital is expected to be raised under the scheme. • Spearhead co-investment in hard and core technology, biotechnology, new energy and green technology, and related applications through patient capital deployment by the wholly government-owned Hong Kong Investment Corporation Limited. • Advance fintech development steadily across four pillars, namely, data and payment infrastructure, AI, resilience enhancement, and tokenisation of finance. • Promote further practical applications regarding applying tokenisation technology across a diverse set of asset classes and use cases through the Project Ensemble launched by the Hong Kong Monetary Authority. • Advance the development of emerging digital assets, such as the Central Bank Digital Currency, stablecoins, tokenised deposits, tokenised bonds and tokenised securities products in a rigorous manner. • Deepen the application and expand the coverage of supervisory sandboxes in financial services to strike a dynamic balance between financial innovation and regulation.
2. Finance + Trade • Continue to take forward Project Cargo^{X} to integrate the cargo and trade data platforms, facilitate trade document digitalisation and cross-border data exchange, and promote adoption of electronic authentication in the digitalisation of trade documents. • Enhance tax concessions and other measures to boost our attractiveness to Mainland and overseas enterprises for setting up Corporate Treasury Centres in Hong Kong.
3. Finance + Green Development • Advance the development of an international carbon market to channel funds into sustainable investment. • Enhance our sustainable finance-related information disclosure framework and sustainable finance ecosystem to strengthen the market's capabilities and professional standards in relation to green finance and transition finance. • Promote cross-border market collaboration and innovation to facilitate effective matching of green and sustainable projects with international capital, thereby contributing to the global sustainable development goals.

Table 3 Finance+ (Cont'd.)
4. Finance + IP • Strengthen financing support for innovative enterprises to better meet their practical needs in areas of capital operation, R&D, business expansion, etc.
5. Finance + Maritime • Support the development of diversified products pertaining to maritime finance, insurance, trade financing, and value-added services. • Support green and digital upgrading and transformation of the maritime industry, and foster the development of new energy vessels, clean energy transportation, and low-carbon operation models. • Promote cross-border RMB settlement in the maritime industry. • Support the expedited development of protection and indemnity clubs, and promote training in maritime insurance.
6. Finance + Livelihood • Promote the enhancement and upgrading of the pension finance system and continue to diversify pension finance product offerings. • Strive to facilitate the public and businesses by continuously upgrading Payment Connect. • Provide strong support for the growth of SMEs, including strengthened financial support and financial incentives for digital transformation.

Section 5 Strengthen Financial Risk Prevention

2.15 We will safeguard our financial security, improve long-term mechanisms, and enhance our capabilities in financial risk monitoring, early warning, and prevention response. We will also improve the cross-market and cross-agency joint prevention and control mechanism. In the meantime, we will strengthen our risk monitoring in key areas, while enhancing financial infrastructure and the data security protection system, thereby fortifying cybersecurity and consolidating our capabilities in fintech regulation and anti-money laundering.

Chapter 7 International Maritime Centre and Aviation Hub

2.16 To consolidate and enhance Hong Kong's status as an international maritime centre, we will stabilise our container throughput, add value, and strengthen synergy. Guided by the shift of focus from volume-based to value-driven development, we will drive a "volume to value" transformation of the Hong Kong Port. We will strive to facilitate the development of modern maritime services, build a diversified and resilient system of international transportation corridors, promote the healthy and orderly development of international air freight and low-altitude economy (LAE), and expedite the implementation of sea-air intermodal transhipment. With these efforts, we are committed to comprehensively enhancing Hong Kong's function as a hub amid the modern transport network of our country.

Section 1 Advance the Digitalisation, Smart Transition, and Green Transformation of Hong Kong's Maritime Industry

2.17 We will promote the development of a smart and green port, and enhance the interconnection of logistics data. We will strive to lead port operators to expedite smart transition of the Kwai Tsing Container Terminals. With our efforts to continuously unleash the development potential of the Port Community System for in-depth integration with the Global Shipping Business Network, we endeavour to provide one-stop sea-, land-, and air-logistics and supply chain data, as well as value-added services such as One-Data-Multiple-Declarations for local logistics and trading companies. We will expedite the development of a green maritime fuel bunkering and trading centre while also deepening our collaboration with the Pan-Pearl River Delta cities to develop Hong Kong-centric green energy corridors, and study the co-development of a complete green and low-carbon industrial chain and supply chain for new energy vessels, with a view to creating a new model of "production, storage, and transport in South China; bunkering and trading in Hong Kong; servicing global shipping" for the establishment of an end-to-end low-carbon regional green maritime fuel supply chain system.

Table 4	Advancing the Green Transformation of the Maritime Industry
1.	**Proportion of green maritime fuel used**
•	The proportion of Hong Kong-registered vessels taking up green maritime fuels reaches 7% in 2030.
2.	**Reducing carbon emissions**
•	Reduce carbon emissions from the Kwai Tsing Container Terminals by 30% in 2030 as compared to 2021.
3.	**Establishing Green Energy Corridors**
•	Establish five Green Energy Corridors by 2030 to help develop Hong Kong into a green maritime fuel bunkering and trading centre.

2.18 We will promote high-quality collaborative development among ports and deepen cooperation with Mainland and international shipping ports. We will strengthen our status as an international transhipment hub and strive to integrate into the country's logistics hub network, thereby contributing to the country's efforts in increasing its competitiveness and influence in the international shipping landscape. Through cooperation and leveraging the complementary advantages of the Southeast Asia routes of both ports, Hong Kong and Yangpu Ports can establish a "dual-hub" model, which will facilitate the export of cargoes through either port. By making good use of the comparative advantages that Hong Kong enjoys in terms of Central and South America routes, we will collaborate with national key cold chain logistics bases in other Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area cities to develop Hong Kong into an international centre of cold chain trade in South China, thereby contributing to the country's development of an international cold chain logistics corridor between South China and South America. We will continue to develop a comprehensive "rail-sea-land-river" intermodal transport system. By pursuing cross-province operation of and licensing regime reform for cross-boundary goods vehicles, as well as the mutual recognition of commercial vehicle driving licences issued by Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao, we strive to reduce the cost of cargo transhipment via Hong Kong and achieve the goal of stabilising container throughput.

Table 5 Promoting High-Quality Collaborative Development among Ports

1. **Continuous development of a comprehensive "rail-sea-land-river" intermodal transport system**

- Expand cargo sources, develop Hong Kong Port into a transhipment hub for high-value goods, and expand our footprint in new markets, such as Central and South America and Oceania, etc. Explore the establishment of a business and trading zone for re-export to facilitate the flow of goods transhipped via Hong Kong within the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. By driving the formulation of management guidelines and standards for high value-added logistics services in collaboration with other Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area cities, a cluster of international integrated transport and logistics hubs in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area will be developed in a coordinated manner. Explore innovations in financial and insurance services for "single cargo manifest" based on multimodal transport documents.

2. **In-depth participation in the development of a world-class port cluster in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area**

- Promote the successful experience of the differentiated development of Hong Kong's Kwai Tsing Port and Shenzhen's Yantian Port to encourage the differentiated development and effective collaboration between Hong Kong and other ports in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area to achieve synergy effect, and attract goods to be shipped between Central and South America and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area to be centrally handled in Hong Kong. Revitalise the feeder network between Hong Kong and other ports within the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. Commence international maritime collaboration and port cooperation with Shenzhen and Huizhou to explore new modes of transportation for the Hong Kong-Shenzhen cross-boundary container cargoes as well as the river-sea through cargo operation on specific routes.

3. **Active participation in the scenario incubation for the development of a smart and green logistics model using "water-to-water transhipment"[5]**

- Create a favourable operating environment for the use of autonomous ships in Hong Kong and the entire Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, thereby promoting maritime digitalisation in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area.

5 It refers to an intermodal transhipment mode in which import and export goods are wholly or partially transported and transhipped using water transportation service, such as river transport and river-sea transhipment.

Section 2 Develop a High Value-added Maritime Services Ecosystem

2.19 We will strengthen high value-added maritime services. By further enhancing Hong Kong's ship registration regime, we aim to enhance Hong Kong's competitiveness as a premier registry for international shipowners and attract more vessels to register in Hong Kong, thus broadening the scale of the Hong Kong-registered fleet. We will also uphold quality enhancement as the major direction to support the upgrading and development of the high value-added maritime services cluster, while fully leveraging Hong Kong's strengths in maritime services such as ship management, ship financing, marine insurance, maritime arbitration services, etc. We will assist enterprises from the Belt and Road Initiative partner countries in developing the Mainland and Asian markets. Through driving industry stakeholders and training institutions to collaborate in further developing a systematic training framework that consolidates existing resources and professional strengths, we seek to build a stable talent pool for the high value-added maritime services.

Table 6	Elevating the International Reputation and Competitiveness of Hong Kong's High Value-added Maritime Services
1.	**Implementing the half-rate tax concession for commodity trading**
•	Implement the half-rate tax concession for commodity trading to incentivise Mainland and international commodity traders to set up international/regional headquarters or operational centres in Hong Kong, as a supportive measure for creating a thriving commodity trading ecosystem and spurring the demand for high value-added maritime services.
2.	**Establishing collaboration mechanism with Mainland maritime training institutions**
•	Establish a regular collaboration mechanism with Mainland maritime training institutions to foster exchanges, cooperation opportunities, and mutual visits between local and overseas professional teaching personnel, while encouraging local maritime enterprises and industry organisations to join the collaboration mechanism to further enrich Hong Kong's pool of maritime service talent, advancing the sustainable development of high value-added maritime services of our city. Engage Mainland maritime educational institutions to jointly provide education services with a view to establishing a top-tier composite system for nurturing maritime talent.

Table 6	Elevating the International Reputation and Competitiveness of Hong Kong's High Value-added Maritime Services (Cont'd.)
3.	**Supporting the Advanced Maritime Technology Institute in establishing presence in Hong Kong**
•	Support the Institute in establishing a R&D and collaboration platform in Hong Kong on R&D in frontier and disruptive technologies relevant to the critical segments of the maritime industry chain. Enhance industry-academia-research collaboration with scientific research institutes and technology enterprises to foster the transformation and commercialisation of R&D outcomes, contributing to Hong Kong's development into a "Global Maritime Capital".
4.	**Reforming the Hong Kong ship registration regime**
•	Revamp the Hong Kong ship registration regime by permitting arrangements such as dual registration and continuously exploring improvement measures. Support the enhanced access to the Mainland market by Hong Kong-registered vessels. Step up promotion efforts locally and overseas and implement various incentive schemes to attract more shipowners to register their vessels in Hong Kong.
5.	**Leveraging the strategic collaboration established through the partner port initiative**
•	Make use of the strategic relationships forged through partner ports to assist enterprises of the Belt and Road Initiative partner countries to tap into the Mainland and Asian markets.

Section 3 Enhance Hong Kong's Status as an International Aviation Hub

2.20 We will strive to enhance Hong Kong's competitive edge as an international aviation hub by continuously launching new routes, strategically attracting local and non-local airlines to develop new destinations and increase flight frequencies, and strengthening Hong Kong's long-haul network, particularly connections with the Belt and Road Initiative partner countries. We will also deepen international cooperation by actively participating in international civil aviation conferences and proactively reach out to aviation partners to negotiate new air services agreements or expansion of traffic rights, with priority focus on regions with further development potential and new growth areas, such as South America, Central Asia, Africa, and the Middle East. We will press ahead with the development of the "Airport City" to drive high-end commercial and tourism activities, and to strengthen the appeal of the Hong Kong International Airport as a transit hub.

Table 7 Development of the International Aviation Hub

Expanding the international air network

- Explore with 10 or more aviation partners each year between 2026 and 2030 the strengthening of civil aviation links, at least 40% of which will be the Belt and Road Initiative partner countries.
- Increase the global destinations of the Hong Kong International Airport from 220 to 240 within five years.

2.21 We will deeply engage in the development of the national aviation network. Building on the existing highly internationalised network, we will proactively align with the national aviation network development strategy by fully leveraging Hong Kong's advantages of connecting the Mainland and the world, and actively integrating into the country's "one circle, six corridors, and five channels" development[6]. In doing so, we will support and serve our country in enhancing the global reach of the aviation network to strengthen the resilience and connectivity of the national aviation network as a whole, allowing us to be better prepared for the reshaping of the global aviation network landscape. We will strengthen cooperation with the airport cluster in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area in terms of operational coordination, airspace optimisation, intermodal arrangement, and other aspects. By promoting resource sharing and complementary functions within the airport cluster, we will enhance our overall operational efficiency and service quality, thereby boosting the global competitiveness of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area airport cluster.

Table 8 Active Integration Into the National Aviation Development Strategy of "Trunk-Branch Connectivity, Whole-Network Linkage"

Introducing more flights connecting Mainland airports

- Encourage local airlines to launch more flights connecting Mainland airports. By means of intermodal arrangements and code sharing, airlines can expand their customer base and network coverage. With the core idea of "Linking the Trunk and Branch, Connecting Urban and Remote" being embodied by through check-in flights and convenient transit services, enhance the connectivity between Mainland cities and international destinations via Hong Kong's network as an international aviation hub, so as to realise the two-way convergence of domestic and international dual-circulation.

6 It refers to deepening the development of Southeast Asia and Northeast Asia markets and steadily expanding into the West Asia, Central Asia, and South Asia markets to construct an aviation transport network with the neighbouring countries, with a view to boosting the capacity for the international market. An orderly approach will be adopted in enhancing the air route network connectivity of the six major economic corridors established under the Belt and Road Initiative for international cooperation, namely the new Eurasian Land Bridge and China-Mongolia-Russia, China-Central Asia-West Asia, China-Indochina Peninsula, China-Pakistan, and Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar economic corridors. Furthermore, it seeks to establish five major aviation transport channels connecting regions such as Europe, North America, Latin America, the South Pacific, the Indian Ocean, and Africa, thereby expanding overall network coverage.

Section 4 Develop a New Ecosystem for the Aviation Industry

2.22 We shall develop an aviation industry ecosystem with a global edge. We will strive to develop an aircraft parts processing and trading industry ecosystem to establish a "front shop, back factory" industry cluster and Asia's first aircraft parts processing and trading centre. We will actively participate in the R&D and certification of home-developed aircraft and leverage our bridging role to help home-developed aircraft tap into the global market through Hong Kong. By leveraging Hong Kong's Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) production base in Dongguan, we will advance SAF value chain development in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (including the construction of an SAF blending facility in Hong Kong), thereby supporting our country's SAF development.

Table 9 Developing an Aviation Industry Ecosystem with a Global Edge
Facilitating SAF industry development
• Develop an internationally competitive SAF value chain. Establish a Hong Kong SAF value chain in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area to jointly develop a demonstration project in the circular economy, with a view to fostering the growth of new energy industry in the aviation sector and nurturing the SAF industry into a globally competitive green industry. The production base is expected to commence operation by 2030.
• Achieve an SAF consumption ratio of 1% to 3% for flights departing from the Hong Kong International Airport in 2030.

2.23 We shall develop Hong Kong into the Asia-Pacific hub for innovative low-altitude applications. We will formulate and implement the Action Plan on Developing Low-Altitude Economy. We will enhance the regulatory regime, set standards, and develop infrastructure, while proactively enhancing R&D, talent nurturing and alignment with international standards in LAE-related fields. We will give full play to our roles as a leader, connector, and illustrator and explore developing a demonstration and compliance base for LAE to go global, on the basis of strengthening effective alignment with the Mainland's regulatory framework. We will also study jointly advocating for the establishment of an international LAE cooperation organisation with the Mainland.

2.24 We will advance the development of cross-boundary low-altitude logistics in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. By fully leveraging the industry foundation and geographical advantages of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area and drawing on our pioneering explorative experiences of collaboration with neighbouring Mainland cities in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, we will strive to connect the key resources in Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao to broaden application scenarios for cross-boundary low-altitude logistics in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, thereby expediting the development of an integrated and scaled cross-boundary low-altitude logistics network covering the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area.

Table 10 Developing an LAE Ecosystem

1. Improving civil aviation legislation, relevant standards, and regulatory framework

- Formulate relevant legislation for unconventional aircraft weighing over 150 kilograms. Having consolidated the implementation experience of the first batch of LAE "Regulatory Sandbox" projects, regularise the more mature projects, and formulate relevant standards.
- Promote compatibility between Mainland and Hong Kong LAE-related standards.
- Leverage Hong Kong's status in international organisations such as the International Civil Aviation Organization and the World Meteorological Organization, etc., to proactively support the country's participation in the formulation of international LAE standards.

2. Advancing the development of LAE infrastructure facilities

- Plan ahead for vertiports, air route networks, satellite positioning, three-dimensional spatial data systems, and a smart low-altitude traffic management system, etc.

3. Rolling out the advanced LAE Regulatory Sandbox $\mathcal{X}$

- Test application scenarios that are more technically complex, such as cross-boundary routes, low-altitude passenger-carrying aircraft, unmanned aircraft system traffic management system, and multiple applications/users shared-platforms. Support collaboration with other Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area cities to promote the development of cross-boundary low-altitude logistics activities.

4. Supporting R&D and talent development

- Continue to support LAE-related R&D and talent development. Support local institutions and aviation training institutes to further enhance training for various LAE professional talent in the fields of technological research, product development, system design, safety oversight, aircraft piloting, and commercial operation, etc.

Table 10 Developing an LAE Ecosystem (Cont'd.)
5. Supporting the organisation of regional and international LAE trade fairs and exploring the establishment of a demonstration zone for LAE products to go global • Attract more buyers from around the world to visit Hong Kong by fully leveraging Hong Kong's status as international financial and trade centres as well as a free port, and providing one-stop support services for LAE import and export trades in areas such as project financing, export credit insurance, and after-sale service, etc.

2.25 We will strive to enhance the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area's intermodal network. We will focus on advancing the development of the Hong Kong International Airport Dongguan Logistics Park, expediting smart and integrated collaboration for airport operations. We will also develop more intermodal transport models, continuously enhance the "Fly-Via-Zhuhai-Hong Kong" initiative[7], and enhance the convenience for the transport of passengers and goods in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area to and from all around the world. With a view to strengthening the Hong Kong International Airport's connectivity with other Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area cities, we will leverage the "sea-air intermodal cargo transhipment mode" at the Hong Kong International Airport Dongguan Logistics Park to enhance the connectivity of the two places, facilitate cargo flow, and strengthen the collaboration between aviation logistics and e-commerce.

2.26 We will strive to take the lead in the interactive development mode that harnesses the complementary strengths of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area airport cluster. We will promote the integrated development of aviation and maritime sectors between Guangdong and Hong Kong, explore cooperation with the airports of Macao and Shenzhen to facilitate collaborative airspace management, and optimise air routes, thereby improving flight efficiency and capacity as well as strengthening cooperation in cargo, maintenance, and training.

7 The "Fly-Via-Zhuhai-Hong Kong" passenger service allows Mainland and international travellers to travel between Zhuhai and Hong Kong via the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge using an "air-land-air" model, connecting Mainland and the rest of the world through Zhuhai Airport and the Hong Kong International Airport.

Table 11 Optimising the Intermodal Network of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area

1. The Hong Kong International Airport Dongguan Logistics Park

- Advance the Dongguan Logistics Park project to enhance the connectivity between Hong Kong and Dongguan and facilitate the cargo flow between the two places under the sea-air intermodal cargo transhipment mode.

2. Developing more intermodal modes

- Continue to enhance the international connecting flight transit provided through the Fly-Via-Zhuhai-HK service and the "air-land-air" mode, the "land-air" mode, and "sea-air" mode as well as air-rail intermodal transport services while developing more intermodal modes to bolster connectivity between the Hong Kong International Airport and other Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area cities as well as other Mainland cities.

3. Cooperation with the Macao International Airport in further optimising passenger flow

- Leverage the sea-air intermodal services provided at the Skypier Terminal and the dedicated bus service between the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Port and the Hong Kong International Airport (the bonded bus), etc. to enhance service efficiency.

4. The world-class airport cluster in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area

- Explore the possibility of further deepening the collaboration among the world-class airport cluster in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area.
- Support the efforts of the Pearl River Delta Region Air Traffic Management Planning and Implementation Tripartite Working Group to enhance the peripheral flight paths and airspace structure of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, and create a more flexible air traffic control model through enhanced data sharing and the application of new technology, thereby enhancing the efficiency in managing the air traffic flow in the region.

Chapter 8 International Trade Centre

2.27 We shall consolidate and enhance Hong Kong's status as an international trade centre. We will expand our networks, enhance our competitive edge, and create new room for growth, while pursuing upgrades with the goal of achieving "digitalisation" and "diversification" and leveraging Hong Kong's advantages as financial and treasury centres, thereby strengthening our role as a platform for offshore trade. We will encourage manufacturing, technology, and logistics enterprises to engage in high value-added activities such as taking international orders, conducting foreign exchange, trade finance, and supply chain management, etc. through Hong Kong, so as to develop our city into an integral hub serving the global industry and supply chains. We will bring together global enterprises to participate in high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, while reaching out to markets around the world, so as to enhance Hong Kong's resilience and strategic significance as an international trade centre.

Section 1 Continue to Expand International Economic and Trade Network

2.28 We will continue to uphold free trade, maintain zero custom tariff, and support the rules-based multilateral trading system in order to provide a business environment with transparency and high degree of certainty for our trading partners. We will continue to consolidate our ties with the European and American markets, further cultivate the ASEAN and Middle East markets, while exploring emerging markets such as Central Asia and Africa. We will actively forge free trade agreements and investment agreements with economies that are of development potential or strategic locations, and continue to seek accession to the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership as early as possible, with a view to further expanding Hong Kong's "circle of friends" in trade. In the meantime, we will secure better overseas market access and investment protection for Hong Kong's trade in goods and services. These efforts will enhance two-way investment flows and promote the further development of Hong Kong's economy.

2.29 We will continue to expand our network of overseas offices, focusing on economies which have high growth potential and are under strategic partnership with Hong Kong. Coupled with the overseas networks of the Economic and Trade Offices of the HKSAR Government, Invest Hong Kong, and the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, we will deepen external ties and step up efforts in economic and trade promotion. We will proactively engage foreign governments, organisations, and enterprises in regular exchanges to promote Hong Kong's unique advantages. By deepening cooperation with various markets, we aim to attract more overseas enterprises to venture into the Greater China and Asia-Pacific markets through Hong Kong, thereby bringing in overseas capital, enterprises, and talent.

2.30 We will step up efforts in attracting businesses and investment, and guide industry development at full steam. For guiding industry development, we will adopt preferential policies for industry and investment. We will speed up the attraction of industry leaders and various enterprises to establish regional or international headquarters and treasury centres in Hong Kong for managing offshore trade and supply chains. We will also target long-term capital from the Middle East, ASEAN, as well as Europe and America to further strengthen Hong Kong's headquarters economy and promote family offices in Hong Kong. Focusing on key industries in the I&T field such as AI, digital economy, life and health, new industrialisation, and green development, etc., we will draw up a list of target enterprises and an annual action plan for attracting businesses and investment. We will also enhance the mechanisms for cross-departmental coordination and project implementation, so as to provide project-based services for enterprises, while strengthening the one-stop coordination service in land, planning, immigration clearance, talent, and regulatory matters for key investment projects.

Section 2 Develop a High Value-added Supply Chain Services Centre

2.31 We will enhance Hong Kong's function as a platform for going global. Leveraging Hong Kong's advantages in internationalisation and its network, the Task Force on Supporting Mainland Enterprises in Going Global (GoGlobal Task Force) set up by the HKSAR Government in 2025 has successfully led Mainland enterprises to make use of Hong Kong as a platform to expand their business overseas. The GoGlobal Task Force will continue to expand and consolidate the functions of the Economic and Trade Offices in the Mainland and overseas, Invest Hong Kong, and the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, with a view to echoing with our country's plan to improve the comprehensive overseas services system and guide Mainland enterprises to set up their cross-border industry and supply chains in a reasonable and orderly manner, thereby supporting them in tapping into international markets and taking part in the global industry, supply, and value chains. We will enhance the standard of comprehensive overseas services, providing one-stop, high-quality, and high value-added professional corporate services for Mainland enterprises going global. We will deepen exchanges and cooperation with relevant Mainland authorities and business organisations to support Mainland enterprises in establishing presence and expanding business overseas, and speed up efforts of the GoGlobal Task Force at comprehensive overseas service points. We will build an integrated ecosystem covering core functions such as overseas market analysis, risk management, legal and dispute resolution services, international branding, supply chain collaboration and enhancement, as well as cross-border financing to assist enterprises in effectively addressing global market challenges.

2.32 We will coordinate efforts among various service sectors, including finance, legal and dispute resolution, accounting, logistics, insurance, testing and certification, etc., to establish a two-way service platform that enables overseas enterprises to enter the Mainland market and Mainland enterprises to go global through Hong Kong. Leveraging Hong Kong's advantage as an international financial centre, we will assist enterprises in getting listed in Hong Kong and provide cross-border trade finance and risk management. With advantages including a common law system that is aligned with international standards, strengthening of the functions of the International Organization for Mediation's headquarters, and our international legal talent, we will offer contract management as well as cross-border legal and dispute resolution services, thereby safeguarding the interests of enterprises against international trade frictions when they expand overseas. We will enhance the standards for testing and international certification for Mainland enterprises and brands, thereby enhancing industry quality, building a strong international image, and fostering the globalisation of brands.

2.33 We will enhance the two-way platform function of the convention and exhibition industry. By fully leveraging the "international showroom" function of Hong Kong's convention and exhibition industry and its edge in brand building, we will focus on attracting more large-scale international exhibition events and trade fairs to be staged in Hong Kong. We will support the inclusion of eligible Hong Kong quality brands in the list of China's leading consumer brands, foster in-depth collaboration among Mainland and Hong Kong enterprises in such areas as brand cultivation, R&D and design, supply chain management, global marketing, etc., and enhance the "Mainland production + Hong Kong services" model for going global, with a view to providing the necessary platform for Mainland enterprises to tap into international markets and supporting well-known Mainland brands to venture into the global scene. Meanwhile, we will attract overseas enterprises to introduce quality products and services into the Mainland market using Hong Kong as a platform for international exhibitions and a springboard for trade. We shall make use of our unique advantages as a two-way platform to further develop and consolidate Hong Kong's status as an international convention and exhibition hub.

Section 3 Continue to Pursue the Comprehensive Upgrade of the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA)

2.34 We will continue to deepen liberalisation under CEPA. We will actively drive the continuous expansion of liberalisation measures under CEPA and deepen cooperation with Mainland service sectors. By leveraging CEPA liberalisation measures, we will continue to strive for further expansion of the Mainland market access and liberalised areas to achieve a higher level of liberalisation in service sectors where Hong Kong enjoys competitive advantages, including the application of national treatment for Hong Kong service suppliers outside the negative list and the improvement of the liberalisation commitments of the Mainland on cross-boundary trade in services under the negative list approach, as well as the promotion of mutual recognition of rules and standards in areas such as trade, investment, finance, IP, and digital governance, etc. We will further introduce the quality professional services of Hong Kong into the Mainland market to facilitate the high-quality development of Mainland service sectors, thereby leveraging Hong Kong's strengths to serve the country's needs and injecting great impetus into the long-term development of our economy.

2.35 Under the CEPA framework, we will seek to align with advanced international economic and trade rules, and adopt an "early and pilot implementation" approach in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area to achieve a higher level of liberalisation.

Section 4 Promote the Growth of Digital Trade and Other Emerging Business Models at Full Steam

2.36 We will actively develop digital trade to expedite the digitalisation of trade documents. In addition to promoting the import and export of digital technology, products, and services (including token), we will enhance the data services industry chain, explore facilitation arrangements for cross-boundary data flow within the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, and actively participate in international governance of digital trade. We will progressively roll out Phase 3 services of the Trade Single Window and promote connectivity with the single windows of the Mainland and other economies to strengthen regional cooperation in digital trade. We will also connect the Trade Single Window with the Commercial Data Interchange of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority to, facilitate banks' access to relevant commercial data for trade finance assessments, helping enterprises reduce financing costs and improve cash flow. We will also facilitate digitalisation of business-to-business trade documents by introducing local legislative amendments, allowing the industry to develop technical solutions that suit their actual needs.

2.37 We will actively develop cross-border e-commerce to fully leverage Hong Kong's unique advantages as an international trading and logistics hub, encouraging brands to go global. We will promote the upgrading, restructuring, and digital transformation of SMEs, as well as their application of emerging technologies by providing flexible funding support, capacity building, training, assistance in promotion, etc. In the meantime, we will encourage SMEs to develop e-commerce supply chains through Hong Kong's cross-border e-commerce networks connecting the Mainland and the world, and leverage platform data analysis to refine their product strategies and marketing campaigns. With such efforts, more targeted resource deployment, enhanced operational efficiency, and market competitiveness can be achieved, and enterprises' capabilities in, among others, e-commerce operations and brand development will be strengthened.

Chapter 9 International Innovation and Technology Centre and International Hub for High-calibre Talent

2.38 We will, on our foundation of being home to five higher education institutions ranked among the world's top 100, focus on international frontier technology fields and strengthen our basic scientific research capabilities in original innovation, with a view to building a robust foundation for developing Hong Kong into an international I&T centre on all fronts. We will actively advance the development of the three major I&T parks under the "north-central-south" spatial layout as well as the five key R&D institutions, so as to establish a global industry-academia-research collaborative innovation platform, and develop Hong Kong into an internationally competitive advanced R&D centre and pilot production and transformation base for technology industries. We will also bring together global top talent and scientific research resources to actively promote the development of new industrialisation system with Hong Kong character, strengthening emerging industries, while planning for future industries. We will also develop Hong Kong into a health and medical innovation hub with global influence. We will basically have established an international I&T centre based in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, serving the entire country and connected to the world, after 2030, giving rise to a new system and new paradigm for I&T development where enterprises will be the key players, "unicorns"[8] will be the lead, and modern finance will empower the integrated development of technological and industry innovation, bringing into full play the strengths of world-class institutions in scientific research.

Section 1 Enhance the Institutional Framework for Innovation and Technology Development

2.39 We will expedite the alignment with key national strategies in technology. Targeting the country's strategic technology areas, we will focus on core technologies such as life and health, AI and robotics, microelectronics, new energy, advanced manufacturing and new materials, etc. We will take forward the setup of major scientific research platforms at the national and regional levels, with a view to achieving greater scientific breakthroughs in core technologies, as well as in areas pertaining to the core needs of the country, while bringing in relevant enterprises and facilitating their development in Hong Kong. We will continue to raise the ratio of Total Domestic Expenditure on Innovation Activities to GDP, striving to reach 3% after 2030. We will continue to enhance the Mainland-Hong Kong Technology Cooperation Funding Scheme to strengthen collaboration between the Mainland and Hong Kong in scientific research and making technological breakthroughs. We will consolidate, enhance, and fully leverage the "dual base" advantage presented by the State Key Laboratories in Hong Kong and the InnoHK Research Clusters (InnoHK), and support these State Key Laboratories in conducting basic and applied research in line with the core needs of the country.

8 "Unicorns" refer to "Unicorn companies", i.e. start-ups with market valuation over US$ 1 billion before listing.

Table 12 Developing Major Technology Projects

1. Expanding global scientific research collaborations continuously and attracting high-calibre international talent through InnoHK

- Optimise three research clusters under InnoHK covering key areas, with respective focus on life and health technologies, AI and robotics technologies, as well as sustainable development, energy, advanced manufacturing and materials, thereby increasing the overall scale and magnitude of R&D investment, and strengthening capabilities in basic and scientific research.
- In the area of life and health technologies, support will focus on drug development, molecular diagnostics, bioengineering, vaccine R&D, and medical devices, with a view to establishing a comprehensive chain from basic research to clinical translation.
- In the area of AI and robotics technologies, support will focus on robotics, intelligent systems, AI applications, AI-driven advanced manufacturing and construction, with a focus on promoting the development of future industries such as embodied intelligence.
- In the areas of sustainable development, energy, advanced manufacturing and materials, support will be given to the advancement of sustainable energy and energy storage technologies, with a focus on novel functional materials. Together with intelligent systems and advanced manufacturing technologies, these initiatives will empower future growth.

2. Fostering wider application with respect to areas such as quantum technology, aerospace technology, and ocean exploration, etc.

- Actively explore the development of new technology areas, including quantum technology, aerospace technology, and ocean exploration, etc., with planning focusing on new R&D capabilities.

3. Conducting research on high precision weather prediction model

- Develop a meteorological monitoring data platform for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area in the Hong Kong Park of the Hetao Shenzhen-Hong Kong Science and Technology Innovation Co-operation Zone to facilitate data interconnectivity and sharing of outcomes.

4. Expanding the microelectronics industry chain at full steam

- In addition to establishing the Hong Kong Microelectronics Research and Development Institute, actively press ahead with the establishment of the first national manufacturing innovation centre in Hong Kong. By leveraging Hong Kong's advantages, aim to bring together resources from both overseas and the Mainland, contributing to the country's efforts in achieving a leading position in the strategic field of power semiconductors. Building on its existing foundation, the Microelectronics Research and Development Institute will take the lead in operating the innovation centre at the Microelectronics Centre building, with the target of establishing this innovation centre by 2027.

2.40 We will leverage the role of universities as the source of basic research, and major scientific and technological breakthroughs, and fully capitalise on our resources with comparative advantages such as the State Key Laboratories in Hong Kong and the InnoHK research clusters so as to improve systemic innovation capabilities. We will encourage joint efforts in making breakthroughs in core and frontier technologies, in a bid to enhance the overall efficacy of the innovation system. In the meantime, we will enhance the mechanism for identifying, selecting, and nurturing innovation talent, better support the development of technology talent (young people in particular), and accelerate the development of a strategic technology talent pool.

2.41 We will reinforce the role of enterprises as innovation entities. Through relevant funding schemes and funds, we will continue to channel social capital into strategic emerging industries and future industries, with a view to nurturing I&T enterprises with a global edge and providing staunch support for the development of new industrialisation. In the meantime, we will encourage enterprises to give full play to their role as innovation entities by increasing R&D investment, so as to promote in-depth industry-academia-research integration, and expedite transformation of R&D outcomes as well as industrialised production. We will also support enterprises in establishing R&D centres, pilot production facilities, and bases for mass production, which will help closely link up the key segments of the innovation chain from R&D and testing to application and hitting the market, enhancing the synergised development across the industry, innovation, and supply chains.

Section 2 Develop the New "Three Major Innovation and Technology Parks and Five Key Research and Development Institutions" Paradigm

2.42 We will advance the development of the three major I&T parks, i.e. the Hong Kong Park of the Hetao Shenzhen-Hong Kong Science and Technology Innovation Co-operation Zone (the Loop Hong Kong Park) and San Tin Technopole, the Science Park, and Cyberport. We will pursue the high-quality development of the Hetao Shenzhen-Hong Kong Science and Technology Innovation Co-operation Zone under the vision of "one river, two banks" and "one zone, two parks" by promoting cross-boundary flow of innovation factors between the Shenzhen Park and the Hong Kong Park, as well as facilitating the clustering of scientific research institutes, I&T enterprises, and professional service sectors within the zone. A highly efficient mechanism for synergised innovation between the Hong Kong Park and the Shenzhen Park will basically be established by 2030, paving way for moving steadily towards the ultimate goal of developing a world-class I&T hub. Together with Cyberport to the south focusing on digital technology (such as AI, cybersecurity, blockchain, and fintech, etc.) and the Science Park in the central part of Hong Kong focusing on hard and core technology (such as life and health, and advanced manufacturing, etc.) and enterprise incubation, these three major I&T parks will form the "north-central-south" development paradigm in Hong Kong.

Table 13 Development of the Loop Hong Kong Park and San Tin Technopole

1. Pursuing the high-quality development of the Loop Hong Kong Park (87 hectares)

- Advance the development of the Loop Hong Kong Park in accordance with four major directions, namely, to build a world-class industry-academia-research platform; to establish an R&D transformation and pilot production base with a global edge for industries; to foster a hub for pooling global I&T resources; and to cultivate a testing ground for institutional and policy innovation.
- Make the Loop Hong Kong Park a "special zone within our country but outside the Mainland", and facilitate the cross-boundary flow of the four innovation factors, i.e. personnel, materials, capital and data.

2. Implementing the Conceptual Outline of the Development Plan for the I&T Industry in San Tin Technopole (210 hectares)

- Foster synergised development between San Tin Technopole and the Loop Hong Kong Park at the upstream, midstream, and downstream levels, so that the two will jointly create a comprehensive industry ecosystem with economies of scale. While the Loop Hong Kong Park focuses on R&D, transformation, and pilot production at the upstream and midstream levels, San Tin Technopole aims to accelerate the transformation of R&D outcomes, providing downstream industry capacity for prototyping, pilot, and mass production, transforming and industrialising the R&D outcomes of the Loop Hong Kong Park, while integrating with the comprehensive industry supply chains in other Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area cities.
- Establish the San Tin Technopole Company Limited to develop the site by phase, which will be divided and developed into three development hubs (i.e. the Hetao Hub, Chau Tau Hub, and Ki Lun Hub) and three industry development corridors (i.e. the life and health technology corridor, AI and robotics corridor, and microelectronics and advanced industry corridor).

2.43 We will advance the development of five key R&D institutions (i.e. the Hong Kong Productivity Council (HKPC), the Hong Kong Applied Science and Technology Research Institute (ASTRI), the Hong Kong Microelectronics Research and Development Institute (MRDI), the Hong Kong Artificial Intelligence Research and Development Institute (AIRDI) and the Life and Health Technology Research Institute (LHTRI)) to enhance Hong Kong's public research system and the efficacy of our I&T framework. Building on the solid foundation laid over the years by the HKPC, which focuses on the upgrading and transformation of enterprises and supports the promotion of new industrialisation, and the ASTRI, which concentrates on the fields of advanced communication technologies, intelligent perception, and smart city, we have identified core areas of strategic frontier technologies in our country and Hong Kong for establishing three high-quality R&D institutions, namely the MRDI, the AIRDI, and the LHTRI, so as to consolidate and enhance our capacity in scientific research.

Table 14 R&D Institutions under the New Layout

1. The LHTRI

- The LHTRI Headquarters focuses on "AI + life science". In the meantime, subsidise three LHTRI branches led by local universities to pursue key research directions aligned with their respective research strengths, such as advanced diagnostic technologies, new-generation prevention technologies and therapeutics, and aging-related diseases, etc.

2. The AIRDI

- The AIRDI will drive breakthroughs in AI frontier technologies and conduct research on key core technologies, thereby promoting original innovation and research output in the AI field, as well as propelling the transformation of Hong Kong's research outcomes locally and in the Mainland to enable sharing of industry benefits. Also, it will advocate the formulation of internationally-aligned rules for AI governance, and promote the application of AI technology in different fields, such as finance, trade and logistics, professional services, and healthcare, etc.

3. The MRDI

- Equipped with pilot lines for R&D and trial production of semiconductors to support product development and trial production.
- The Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation will continue to expand the Microelectronics Centre through refurbishing old factory buildings, so as to make available an additional floor area of about 7 500 square metres for attracting and supporting enterprises in the semiconductor industry chain to establish presence in the park.

Section 3 Advance New Industrialisation and Expedite Innovation and Technology Industry Development

2.44 We will promote new industrialisation having regard to local circumstances, with a view to establishing a framework with Hong Kong character for the development of new industrialisation system with reference to our strengths in I&T and the market demand. Major measures include fostering the upgrading and transformation of traditional industries by making use of I&T, developing and strengthening emerging industries of strategic value, planning for future industries, and better developing producer services.

2.45 In terms of implementation strategies, for traditional industries with competitive edge (such as food processing, precision manufacturing, watches and jewellery, and textiles and garments, etc.), we will focus on consolidating the existing foundation while promoting upgrades towards high-end, smart, and green development. Emerging industries, as a medium-term growth engine, will be supported on a priority basis. We will focus our resources to develop and expand industries such as life and health, AI and robotics, microelectronics, and advanced manufacturing, etc. We will accelerate the development of pilot production stages, align with international certification, and establish commercialisation platforms. Downstream manufacturing chains will also be developed by leveraging the well-equipped production facilities of other Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area cities. We will accelerate the industrialisation of sectors such as aerospace technology, marine technology, and LAE, so as to build up momentum for the next wave of new industries and new growth tracks, such as breakthroughs in commercial space innovation, to stay ready for further development. For future industries, we will focus on putting in place forward-looking plans. By encouraging basic research and implementing measures such as patient capital, we will create long-term strategic value, establish expert screening mechanisms and "enterprise-research collaboration" platforms, prioritise resources to cultivate frontier fields, and proactively plan for application scenarios of future industries, such as quantum technology and embodied intelligence, etc. We will also set up pilot zones for future industries. In the meantime, we will continue to strengthen producer services focusing on three core areas of professional services, namely testing and certification, standards development, and technology financing.

Table 15 Strengthening Emerging Industries and Planning for Future Industries

Strengthening emerging industries and making forward-looking preparations and planning for future industries

- Encourage the industry-academia-research synergised development to support emerging industries of strategic value and high-quality development (such as the aerospace economy and marine economy, etc.), as well as future industries (such as quantum technology and embodied intelligence, etc.).
- Attract various financial resources (such as patient capital investment) into frontier industries and technological development through market-oriented measures, complemented by relevant government funding schemes and funds, so as to strengthen emerging industries and plan for future industries.
- Explore cooperation between Hong Kong and Guangdong in areas such as aerospace, etc.

2.46 In line with the above developments, we will accelerate the development of national strategic emerging industries. With reference to the requirements regarding establishing national manufacturing innovation centres, we will advance the establishment of the first national manufacturing innovation centre in Hong Kong on the foundation of the MRDI, focusing on next-generation power semiconductor technologies, processes, chips, components, equipment, etc. for extreme-environment applications, thereby pooling enterprises in the upstream and downstream industry chain to develop a microelectronics ecosystem. Meanwhile, we will support the development of Hong Kong's I&T and strategic industries with patient capital by launching the Innovation and Technology Industry-Oriented Fund and enhancing the Innovation and Technology Venture Fund, in a bid to channel more market capital to invest in specific emerging and future industries of strategic value such as semiconductors, AI and robotics, life and health technology, as well as new energy and new materials, thereby fostering new quality productive forces.

2.47 We will promote AI as a core industry for Hong Kong's future development and empower different sectors of the economy through AI technology. We will enhance the AI ecosystem in multiple dimensions and continue to take forward the AI+ Initiative on all fronts. We will strengthen integration across boundaries, deepen the development and utilisation of data resources, and pursue synergised development with the Mainland. We will enhance the layout of computing infrastructure at full steam to empower development, and provide strong support for the computing power required to develop the AI industry in Hong Kong through the development of the Sandy Ridge Data Facility Cluster. We will also review the legislation to support wider application of AI, ensuring an up-to-date legal environment, with a view to putting in place a regulatory framework that is conducive to the development of AI and intelligentisation in Hong Kong. While supporting SMEs to expedite their application of AI, we will also enhance the AI literacy of the public, facilitating their enjoyment of a safe, smart, and convenient digital life. Based on life and health technology and embodied intelligence, we will formulate strategies for driving industry transformation with AI.

Table 16 Advancing AI+

1. Advancing the AI+ Initiative on all fronts

- Promote the deep integration of AI in different fields and sectors under the development directions of "industries for AI" and "AI for industries", with the AIRDI taking the lead to co-ordinate R&D projects and promote matching of AI solutions with industry needs.
- The Committee on AI+ and Industry Development will focus on life and health technology as well as embodied intelligence initially, so as to create favourable conditions for expediting the development of more pilot production scenarios and supporting facilities.
- Enhance awareness, application skills, and responsible use of AI among students, young people, and members of the public.
- Enhance the Digital Transformation Support Pilot Programme to include AI application solutions, with a view to boosting the competitiveness of SMEs amid the wave of AI+.

2. Developing the Sandy Ridge Data Facility Cluster

- The Sandy Ridge Data Facility Cluster will come into operation by 2029.

3. Improving AI and data governance

- Review relevant laws and measures as well as practical experiences in the Mainland and overseas pertaining to areas such as AI and data risks, application rules, governance standards, and cybersecurity, and explore targeted, feasible, and operable solutions in light of Hong Kong's actual circumstances, with a view to addressing the risks and challenges brought by AI technology and data-driven intelligentisation. Establish a robust and reliable AI and data governance system aligned with national and international standards and rules so as to lay a solid foundation for the sustainable development of AI and cross-boundary data flow.

2.48 We will promote the development of autonomous vehicles in Hong Kong. With the goal of enabling cross-district travel of autonomous vehicles and their connections to other modes of transport, we will, in an orderly manner, actively accelerate the large-scale development of driverless autonomous driving in our city and expedite its transition to commercial operations, with a view to creating a more convenient and safer travel experience for citizens through smart mobility.

Section 4 Develop a Healthcare Innovation System

2.49 We will comprehensively intensify the regulatory reform of drugs and medical devices (collectively known as "medical products") and enhance our regulatory regime to align with international standards, develop the capacity for independent evaluation and approval of medical products, and participate actively in international regulation of medical products to pursue recognition from international authorities. We will also advance the R&D of innovative drugs and medical devices to expedite the launch of innovative drugs for market use, with a view to developing Hong Kong into an international health and medical innovation hub. We will enhance the drive in the development of medical products within the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area to promote better health among the public.

Table 17 Establishing an Internationally Renowned Regulatory Authority for Medical Products and Developing the Capacity for Independent Evaluation of Medical Products
1. Establishing an internationally renowned authority for medical products and enhance the evaluation and registration mechanism • Establish the Centre for Medical Products Regulation to build and reform the independent approval and regulatory mechanisms for medical products, and develop it into an internationally recognised medical product regulatory authority.
2. Implementing "primary evaluation" in phases and acquiring independent evaluation capacity • Commence the initial phase of "primary evaluation"[9] for new drug registration with full implementation by 2030, so as to establish Hong Kong's professional standing and capacity in independent evaluation of new drugs and expedite the launch of innovative drugs for market use.

9 It involves the assessment of primary data and information of all pre-clinical studies (i.e. animal testing), clinical studies, manufacturing, and quality control by regulatory authorities in order to fully evaluate the safety, efficacy, and quality of a medicine, i.e. to approve applications for registration of medical products in Hong Kong independently based on clinical data, without relying on other drug regulatory authorities.

Table 17	Establishing an Internationally Renowned Regulatory Authority for Medical Products and Developing the Capacity for Independent Evaluation of Medical Products (Cont'd.)
3.	**Reforming the regulation of medical devices**
•	Take forward legislative reform to replace the existing voluntary system with a new statutory regulatory regime for medical devices, with a view to enhancing the regulation of medical devices supplied in Hong Kong in respect of safety, quality and performance.
4.	**Enhancing the proprietary Chinese medicine registration system**
•	Strengthen the proprietary Chinese medicine registration and regulatory standards and facilitate the going global of proprietary Chinese medicine products by developing Hong Kong-registered proprietary Chinese medicines into a quality brand.
5.	**Aligning with the national policy of "the measure of using Hong Kong registered drugs and medical devices used in Hong Kong public hospitals in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area"**
•	In line with the national policy of "the measure of using Hong Kong-registered drugs and medical devices used in Hong Kong public hospitals in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area", leverage our international platform to expedite the bringing in of global innovative biomedical technology.
6.	**Participating actively in the work of the Global Harmonization Working Party**
•	Actively promote the harmonisation of global medical device regulation as a member of the Global Harmonization Working Party.

2.50 We shall develop Hong Kong into Asia's premier early-phase clinical trial centre and a top-notch medical innovation transformation base in the world. The initiatives include building a comprehensive infrastructure and digital portal for clinical trial, nurturing local medical innovation talent, enhancing clinical application scenarios, fully leveraging the advantage of real-world data, and reforming the evaluation mechanism for medical products. With the Greater Bay Area International Clinical Trial Institute in the Loop Hong Kong Park as the core, we will collaborate with the Greater Bay Area International Clinical Trials Center in the Loop Shenzhen Park under the "one institute, one centre" model to create synergy effect, driving the high-quality development of medical innovation in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area.

Table 18 Creating a Clinical Trial and Medical Innovation Ecosystem

1. Establishing the Hong Kong Clinical Trials Portal

- Launch the Hong Kong Clinical Trials Portal to provide a one-stop digital service entry point for global biomedical enterprises, R&D institutions, and researchers, with a smart matching function for precisely matching suitable research institutions and researchers in Hong Kong and other Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area cities.

2. Setting up the International Clinical Trial Academy

- Provide professional training that complies with the Good Clinical Practice standards of the International Council for Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Pharmaceuticals for Human Use to facilitate personnel exchange and mutual recognition of professional qualifications between Shenzhen and Hong Kong, laying a solid foundation for developing the Greater Bay Area clinical Research Talent Pool.

3. Promoting the application of real-world data

- The Real-World Study and Application Centre will make use of local real-world data to support registration applications for drugs (in particular rare disease drugs, high-end cancer drugs as well as cell and gene therapies) in the Mainland, aiming to expedite the marketing authorisation of life-saving drugs.

4. Deepening the "one institute, one centre" collaboration on clinical research in the Hetao area

- Fully implement the interfacing of clinical trial resources between Hong Kong and Shenzhen, upgrade the one-stop service platform, and work towards unified standards for ethics review of clinical trials in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, so as to achieve mutual recognition, simplified review, or single review before 2030.

5. Expediting the introduction of innovative products into the public healthcare sector

- Identify unmet medical needs of the public healthcare sector and proactively engage global pharmaceutical enterprises and medical device manufacturers in meeting such needs.
- Streamline and expedite the process of introducing innovative products into the public healthcare sector, ensuring a seamless transition from approval to procurement to application.

Section 5 Develop an International Hub for Science and Technology Cooperation

2.51 We will enhance our global influence in science and technology. By strengthening international cross-disciplinary cooperation with world-renowned institutions, research institutes, and I&T parks, we will develop Hong Kong into an important gateway for the country to open up and cooperate with the world in the field of I&T.

2.52 We will develop an international platform to facilitate exchanges among high-calibre academics and talent. We will actively organise and participate in high-level international mega I&T events, bring together top-notch I&T talent and enterprises from around the world, and ensure the successful hosting of heavyweight international I&T events such as the World Internet Conference Asia-Pacific Summit, InnoEX (i.e. the flagship event of the Business of Innovation and Technology Week), the International Academicians Forum, and the Hong Kong World Youth Science Conference and Xiangjiang Nobel Forum, etc., with a view to bolstering our influence in the global innovation network.

2.53 We will host international academic conferences and publish academic journals with global influence. We will launch a funding scheme to support the publication of influential academic journals by local universities and professional organisations, while actively organising international academic events and professional conferences such as the Future Science Prize, with a view to showcasing to the world Hong Kong's capabilities in scientific research and facilitating sustainable international cooperation.

2.54 We will expedite the establishment of a centre of excellence on global advanced manufacturing in Hong Kong[10]. The centre will focus on empowering frontier technology-enabled fields such as AI+manufacturing, robotics, new energy, and industrial design, etc. It will undertake the core functions of promoting international technology exchange and demonstration, conducting research on industry standards and policies, promoting technology transfer and commercialisation, as well as talent training and building capabilities, etc., so as to develop a sustainable global cooperation network and flagship projects.

10 In April 2026, the Innovation, Technology and Industry Bureau and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization signed a joint statement on collaboration to advance industrial development, innovation, and digital transformation. The two parties will strengthen cooperation to drive industrial innovation, including expediting the establishment of a centre of excellence in Hong Kong.

Section 6 Develop an International Hub for High-calibre Talent

2.55 We will promote the integrated development of education, technology and talent. By leveraging our strengths, we will enhance the mechanisms to coordinate and execute our education, technology, and talent strategies. The role of institutions, research institutes, innovation platforms, enterprises, and technology programmes in attracting and nurturing talent will be strengthened, with a view to cultivating talent for technological innovation, industry development, and national strategic needs in a coordinated manner. Leading and distinctive academic disciplines will be further expanded and strengthened. This, coupled with the nurturing and development of emerging disciplines and cross-disciplinary areas, will help enhance our own capabilities in nurturing and attracting high-calibre talent. We will also enhance the mechanism for identifying, selecting, and nurturing young innovation talent to better support talent development in this regard.

2.56 We will adopt a targeted approach to attract talent in view of the development needs of our country and Hong Kong. Changes in manpower supply and demand in Hong Kong will be dynamically monitored through the Manpower Projection exercises and the follow-up surveys so that we can advance our talent attraction efforts in a targeted manner. We will review the Talent List and adjust the talent attraction strategies based on the demand for talent. With full regard to Hong Kong's strategic position in future development, we will expand our labour force and improve the demographic structure. We will also strengthen Hong Kong Talent Engage's overseas publicity and promotion efforts in a targeted manner.

2.57 We will establish the "Study in Hong Kong" brand. The Task Force on Study in Hong Kong will strengthen promotion of Hong Kong's quality resources in academic studies, scientific research, and international cooperation, and promote the "Study in Hong Kong" and the "Study Tour in Hong Kong" brands, with a view to attracting high-quality students to pursue their studies or career in Hong Kong. We will support the development of a vibrant international school sector to meet the demand for international school places among non-local families, thereby attracting and retaining non-local talent.

Chapter 10 Leverage Our Advantages as an International City

2.58 We will expedite the development and deepening of Hong Kong's status as an international legal and dispute resolution services centre, a regional intellectual property trading centre, and an East-meets-West centre for international cultural exchange, while advancing the integrated development of culture, sports, and tourism. We will focus our efforts in driving the high-end and high value-added transformation and upgrading of Hong Kong's service sector. We will pool global innovation resources, professional talent, and high-end factors, while reinforcing the integrated development of industries and the alignment of rules, thereby building a cluster of emerging centres with a global edge.

Section 1 Deepen the Development of an International Legal and Dispute Resolution Services Centre

2.59 We will better leverage Hong Kong's unique advantages as a common law jurisdiction under "One Country, Two Systems" to deepen Hong Kong's status as an international legal and dispute resolution services centre. We will enhance our diversified and high-level dispute resolution services, including litigation, arbitration, and mediation, etc. We will also develop Hong Kong into a hub for high-calibre legal talent, promote closer interface of rules and mechanisms concerning the safeguards of the rule of law in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, and provide high-quality legal professional services for Mainland enterprises going global.

Table 19 Deepening the Development of the International Legal and Dispute Resolution Services Centre
1. Establishing the International Commercial Court • Support the Judiciary of the HKSAR in advancing the establishment of the International Commercial Court and inviting judges from other common law jurisdictions to adjudicate international commercial cases through more efficient procedures, thereby reinforcing Hong Kong's status as a leading jurisdiction for international commercial litigation.
2. Implementing arbitration law reform • Implement arbitration law reform and step up the promotion of arbitration services in specific fields such as maritime, IP, and sports, etc., so as to reinforce Hong Kong's role as a world-leading international arbitration centre.

Table 19	Deepening the Development of the International Legal and Dispute Resolution Services Centre (Cont'd.)
3. Developing Hong Kong into a global capital of mediation • Implement the mediation regulatory system reform, provide mediation services that are more international, inclusive, and professional, and support the International Organization for Mediation to further its role, thereby developing Hong Kong into a global capital of mediation.	
4. Making better use of the Hong Kong International Legal Talents Training Academy • Enhance and expand the functions of the Hong Kong International Legal Talents Training Academy to develop Hong Kong into a hub for the training, exchanges, and pooling of high-calibre legal talent of our country or even the international community, particularly the Belt and Road Initiative partner countries.	
5. Construction of the Hong Kong International Legal Service Building • Construct the Hong Kong International Legal Service Building to provide top-notch facilities and environment for activities such as legal exchange activities and training by local, Mainland, and international legal and dispute resolution service institutions.	

Section 2 Develop a Regional Intellectual Property Trading Centre

2.60 To ensure that our IP protection mechanism aligns with international rules, we will continue to enhance our IP regime (particularly in the four key areas of copyright, trade marks, patents, and registered designs). We will advance the extension of suitable international IP treaties to Hong Kong in an orderly manner, so as to enhance the international alignment and overall competitiveness of Hong Kong's IP regime. We will deepen our cross-boundary facilitation measures for, among others, providing enquiry services in more Mainland cities, fostering business collaboration, and facilitating cross-boundary protection, etc., so as to fast-track the processing of eligible cross-boundary applications for registration, so that applicants may enjoy protection in a more timely manner.

2.61 To foster innovation development, we will deepen the reform of the patent system, so that the system may provide more effective support for the protection, technology transformation, commercialisation, and industrialisation of R&D outcomes.

Table 20 Patent System Reform

1.	**Facilitating original grant patent applications in key technology areas**
•	Explore further facilitation for original grant patent applications for inventions under key technology areas (including emerging industries such as life and health technology, AI and data science, as well as advanced manufacturing and new energy, etc.).
2.	**Empowering enterprise development through enhancing patent system**
•	Explore ways to reform the short-term patent system and increase the attractiveness of the original grant patent system.
3.	**Encouraging and promoting R&D and innovation relating to pharmaceutical manufacturing**
•	Explore feasible measures to enhance the patent system, so as to support the development of biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries, thereby encouraging and advancing R&D and innovation activities relating to pharmaceutical manufacturing.
4.	**Enhancing in-house examination capacity for original grant patent applications**
•	Continue to develop our team of patent examiners to enhance the in-house examination capacity for original grant patent applications, targeting to acquire institutional autonomy in conducting substantive examination of patent applications in major technology fields in 2030.
•	Expand our team of patent examiners to a scale recognised under the Patent Cooperation Treaty.
•	Plan for and advance the regulatory arrangements for local patent agency services so that such services will be more regulated and professional.

2.62 We shall develop a thriving and sound IP trading ecosystem. We will advance pilot projects in collaboration with financial and professional services institutions to explore IP financing modes, so as to channel capital into IP-intensive industries such as I&T, cultural and creative industries, etc. Through institutional innovation and policy support, we will develop an IP trading hub where the cost is low and the liquidity is high, encouraging enterprises to centralise their management and exploitation of IP in Hong Kong. With the soon-to-be-established IP Academy, we will more systemically nurture talent with knowledge in the creation, protection, management, financing, utilisation, and commercialisation of IP for various IP-intensive industries, thereby creating stronger impetus for growth within the ecosystem. We will continue to strengthen promotion and exchanges at international and regional levels, deepen collaboration with the Mainland, and support Mainland enterprises in making use of Hong Kong as an IP trading platform to go global.

Section 3 Develop an East-meets-West Centre for International Cultural Exchange

2.63 We will promote our profound traditional Chinese culture and develop cultural contents with Hong Kong character. The Blueprint for Arts and Culture and Creative Industries Development will be fully implemented. We will step up the promotion of Hong Kong's signature mega events and the systematic protection of intangible cultural heritage, so as to foster the inheritance and promotion of profound traditional Chinese culture. We are also fully committed to establishing the Chinese Culture Experience Centre and a museum showcasing the development and achievements of our country, while forging close collaboration between the Hong Kong Palace Museum and the Palace Museum, with a view to presenting the rich facets of profound traditional Chinese culture as well as the major developments and achievements of our country.

2.64 We will develop diverse arts, culture, and creative industries, and enhance the sustainable ecosystem for them. We will support the sustainable development of the West Kowloon Cultural District, so that it may leverage its strengths and contribute to the development of Hong Kong's culture and creative industry chain. We will make good use of our rich blend of local and international cultures to facilitate innovative international communication and collaboration of the culture and creative industries by proactively tapping into overseas markets and incubating new cultural and creative projects. We will also foster the thriving and sustainable development of Hong Kong film industry, and boost the influence of Hong Kong pop culture across Chinese-speaking communities. In the meantime, we will enhance Hong Kong's role as an international arts trading platform and deepen collaboration with Art Basel to consolidate Hong Kong's status as the exclusive host city in the region. We will enhance the cultural and creative talent pool by supporting the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts and the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority in nurturing local arts practitioners, while reforming the funding mechanism for arts groups to drive high-quality development and continuous innovation in the sector. Market forces will be leveraged to attract private sector participation and investment. Meanwhile, we will strengthen the collaboration among local and Mainland arts organisations, museums, theatrical troupes as well as film and television production teams, support co-production and touring of performances and exhibition programmes, and attract internationally renowned artists and cultural organisations to Hong Kong for collaboration, thereby serving as a significant window for mutual learning between Chinese and other cultures. We will support local performing arts, culture, and creative sectors in staging performances and exhibitions outside Hong Kong, while facilitating the overseas promotion of Mainland cultural works and intangible cultural heritage, with a view to fostering deeper understanding and recognition of Chinese culture across Mainland and overseas communities. We will strengthen the global reach of the mainstream media.

Table 21	Development of the Arts, Culture, and Creative Industries
	Expanding Hong Kong's arts, culture, and creative industries
•	It is expected that, by 2030, the value added of the arts, culture, and creative industries will reach $170 billion, while the number of employed persons will increase to 228 000.

2.65 We will drive wider participation in sports, and promote sports in the community with the goal of enhancing the overall health of the public, and encourage citizens to engage in territory-wide major multi-sport events as well as community recreation and sports programmes. We will step up support for the development of team sports, align with our country's development direction of promoting the "three big-ball games" (i.e. football, basketball, and volleyball), and leverage Hong Kong's competitiveness in its traditional strongholds so as to foster a strong sporting culture in the community, and to identify and nurture outstanding talent in competitive sports. We will enhance the overall landscape of sports infrastructure, leverage the strategic positioning of the Kai Tak Sports Park as the largest integrated sports, leisure, and entertainment landmark in Hong Kong, review the development potential of existing large-scale venues, and strategically plan for new sports facilities.

2.66 We will develop elite sports, maintain Hong Kong as a centre for major international sports events, enhance professionalism in sports, and develop sports as an industry. Through the elite sports training system of the Hong Kong Sports Institute, we will comprehensively support our athletes and elevate their performance. We will make full use of the Kai Tak Sports Park and the "M" Mark System to support the staging of more diverse and higher-tier major international sports competitions and events in Hong Kong. We will also pursue the hosting of single-sport competitions at the national, Asian, and international levels. We will enhance the governance capabilities of national sports associations and the professional standards of the sports sector, and utilise technology to enhance athletes' performance. In the meantime, we will support Asian and international sports associations to establish presence in Hong Kong, and foster closer ties between Hong Kong and international sports associations. We will also support the implementation of the Pilot Scheme on Sports Dispute Resolution. To spur the development of peripheral industries and professional venue services, we will advance "Sports + Mega events" development (including international mega football events).

Table 22 Sports Development

Expanding Hong Kong's sports industry

- Resources allocated to sports development will cumulatively increase by 20% in the next five years.
- The number of full-time elite athletes will cumulatively increase by 20% in the next five years.
- The value added of sports and related activities at basic prices will cumulatively increase by 10% in the next five years.

2.67 We will deepen the integrated development of culture, sports, and tourism, and enrich the supply of high-quality tourism products. We will deepen thematic travel experience and promote festive events with distinctive local and international characteristics to highlight Hong Kong's East-meets-West cultural edge. We will explore more routes for city walks, foster horse-racing tourism, promote Hong Kong's culinary offerings, expand and strengthen our annual flagship events, and enhance connections and cooperation with world-renowned wine-producing regions. We will continue to develop Hong Kong into the Events Capital of Asia and promote world-class mega event tourism that integrates sports and culture. In the meantime, we will consolidate Hong Kong's position as Asia's hub for international cruises by attracting cruise lines to deploy ships to Hong Kong and leverage Hong Kong as the homeport, actively exploring potential source markets, and sustaining collaboration with ports in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. We will fully capitalise on Hong Kong's beautiful coastline and abundant island resources to develop island-hopping tours and other water sports activities. Meanwhile, we will continue to enhance the attractiveness of famous tourist attractions, including Hong Kong Disneyland and Ocean Park, etc.

Table 23	Integrated Development of Culture, Sports, and Tourism
1.	**Organising more performances by non-local artists at the Kai Tak Sports Park to enhance the international status of Hong Kong**
•	By 2030, the proportion of concerts or performances featuring primarily non-local artists at the Kai Tak Sports Park will increase to 60%.
2.	**Fostering quality enhancement and capacity expansion of Hong Kong Disneyland**
•	Continue to enhance attractiveness through various new facilities, including a new Marvel-themed area and an all-new Pixar entertainment experience. Strive to formulate and roll out the next medium- to long-term development plan.
3.	**Enhancing the Ocean Park experience and leveraging its strengths in education and conservation**
•	Develop Ocean Park into a conservation, research, and education base and leverage its strengths in education and conservation work, including launching more activities with the theme of the conservation of giant pandas and other animals. Upgrade the entertainment facilities within the park, including the planning and construction of a new adventure zone in the upper park area to further enrich in-park experience.

2.68 We will actively develop the yacht economy. We will accelerate the development of yacht berthing facilities so as to provide more yacht berths to attract more visiting yachts (including superyachts) to Hong Kong. We will actively implement facilitation measures for the northbound travel of yachts from Hong Kong and southbound travel of yachts from Guangdong, including authorising relevant organisations in Mainland cities to provide examinations on knowledge of Hong Kong waters as well as recognised short-term training courses and assessments for masters of visiting yachts, with a view to fostering a healthy, sustainable, and competitive environment for the development of the local yacht economy.

2.69 We will develop a core demonstration zone for multi-destination tourism. We strive to become the southern gateway for overseas visitors entering the Mainland, making good use of cross-boundary infrastructure to facilitate visitors' further extension of itineraries to the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area and other provinces and municipalities. We will deepen cooperation with the Mainland and industry partners, and step up promotion in conventional source markets such as the United States and Canada, as well as other high-potential markets such as the Middle East, ASEAN, and other parts in Asia and Europe. We will review and enhance various facilitation arrangements for overseas visitors to enter the Mainland via Hong Kong with a view to attracting more high value-added overnight overseas visitors to Hong Kong and the Mainland. We will strengthen the collaboration mechanism with Mainland provinces and municipalities on tourism to promote cross-boundary multi-destination tourism (i.e. Hong Kong + Mainland cities) among residents of both places.

Table 24 Development of the Tourism Industry

Enhancing the economic contribution of the tourism industry

- It is estimated that the value added of the tourism industry will increase from $86.2 billion in 2024 to $126 billion in 2030, while the number of employed persons will increase from 159 700 in 2024 to about 203 000 in 2030.
- By 2030, the proportion of non-Mainland visitors among overnight visitors will increase to 40%.

2.70 We will enhance tourism services while bolstering infrastructure and ancillary facilities. We will continue to enhance the regulatory regime of the tourism industry and strengthen the talent cultivation mechanism. We will launch a new specialised tourist guide licensing programme[11] to enhance the professionalism of tourist guides. We will work with the tourism industry and educational institutions to expand the talent pool of tourism professionals. We will foster hospitality spirit, upgrade Muslim-friendly facilities, and enhance service quality. We will drive the application of smart technologies in the fields of tourism to create a convenient, inclusive, and smart tourism environment, comprehensively elevating the experience of visitors, thereby boosting Hong Kong's attractiveness and competitiveness as a premium tourism destination.

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11 Under the new programme, specialised tourist guide licenses on individual professional areas will be issued, to encourage the industry to nurture talent with specialised knowledge.