

# The 2014 Policy Address Policy Agenda



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# Policy Agenda

## Introduction

The Government is committed to making Hong Kong a treasured home to our people, where everyone enjoys the opportunity to realise his or her potential and lead a fulfilling life. In the last Policy Address, the Chief Executive set out the Government's role in supporting Hong Kong's economic development in an appropriately proactive way. He also mapped out the directions and initiatives to address the challenges on livelihood issues, including housing and land supply, poverty alleviation, care for the elderly and environmental protection, amongst others.

In the past year, the Government has worked in earnest to take forward various policies and measures to sustain our economic growth and to address many of Hong Kong's deep-seated problems. On a number of important issues, we have achieved significant milestones and laid a solid foundation for the way forward. These include the promulgation of the poverty line in September last year, the public consultation exercise on Long Term Housing Strategy undertaken in September to December 2013, the public engagement exercise on Population Policy which started in last October and the public consultation on constitutional development launched in last December.

This Policy Agenda includes new initiatives announced in the context of this year's Policy Address and on-going initiatives of the Government. The new initiatives are focused on assisting

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low-income families, the elderly and the less privileged, instilling hope and vigour into our younger generation and helping them face their life challenges, improving the environment and our quality of living. At the same time, we will enhance our economic development by sharpening our competitive edge and capitalising on our fast developing transport and economic links with the Mainland.

In the coming year, it is important that the community forge a consensus on the Long Term Housing Strategy, the Population Policy, and the methods for selecting the Chief Executive by universal suffrage in 2017 and for forming the Legislative Council in 2016. These are major subjects that have enormous impact on Hong Kong's future.

The past success of Hong Kong was premised on the resilience of our people. The Government will continue to work hand in hand with every citizen to build a better Hong Kong.

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# Chapter 1

## Economic Development

### Preamble

Continuous and sustainable economic growth is a prerequisite for Hong Kong to tackle housing, poverty, ageing population and environmental problems. Promoting economic development is the primary goal of the Government. We are committed to maintaining a business-friendly environment with a simple and low tax regime. It is pivotal for us to continue to invest in world-class infrastructure to support our economic development and sharpen our competitive edge.

To promote economic development, the Government will be “appropriately proactive”. The Government has established the Economic Development Commission and the Financial Services Development Council to formulate a holistic industrial policy and identify ways to further Hong Kong’s economic success. The Government will also continue to advance economic and financial co-operation with the Mainland by capitalising on the enormous growth opportunities arising from the implementation of the National 12th Five-Year Plan.

The Trading and Logistics Industry is the biggest contributor to Hong Kong’s economy. We will continue to strengthen our trade and economic relations with the Mainland and overseas countries to secure better access to their markets. In particular, we will assist our business

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and service industries to tap the Mainland market by taking advantage of the “Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement” (CEPA).

In maintaining Hong Kong’s status as an international financial centre and the competitive edge of our financial services industry, the Government works actively to modernise the regulatory framework, strengthen investor protection, and promote the diversification of services and products.

Hong Kong’s economic success is built on our firm belief in, and respect for, the rule of law. We shall continue to promote the development of Hong Kong as an international legal and dispute resolution services centre in the Asia Pacific region, which will be a positive force to foster our economic development.

## **New Initiatives**

*We will:*

### **Economic and Trade Relations with the Mainland**

- Set up a liaison unit each in the Northern and Eastern Regions of the Mainland to strengthen the work of the Beijing Office, the Shanghai Economic and Trade Office of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and, after the establishment of the Wuhan Economic and Trade Office, make preparation for setting up a liaison unit in the Central Region of the Mainland. (CMAB)

### **Economic and Trade Relations with Overseas Countries**

- Commence negotiation of a free trade agreement with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and continue to participate in the Trade in Services Agreement negotiation for securing more favourable access to the relevant markets for Hong Kong businesses. (CEDB)
- Liaise with countries and regions with close relationship on tourism and economic development to implement reciprocal use of automated clearance service for visitors. (SB)

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- Work closely with relevant ministries of the Central Government and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Secretariat to ensure successful organisation of the Finance Ministers' Meeting in Hong Kong in September 2014. We will make use of this opportunity to showcase Hong Kong as China's global financial centre, explore economic co-operation opportunities with other economies in the region, and contribute to the chairmanship of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation 2014 by our country. (FSTB)

### **Centre for International Legal and Dispute Resolution Services in the Asia Pacific Region**

- Conduct a study on the development of arbitration in Hong Kong and the challenges and opportunities that Hong Kong faces as a regional centre for international arbitration in the Asia Pacific region. (DoJ)
- Enhance the promotion of legal and dispute resolution services of Hong Kong in emerging economies in the Asia Pacific region. (DoJ)
- Establish an advisory committee to advise on and co-ordinate the development and promotion of Hong Kong as an international arbitration centre in the Asia Pacific region. (DoJ)
- Conduct a "Mediation Week" and produce new promotional video and audio clips to enhance the understanding of mediation among members of the public, government officers as well as the stakeholders of various sectors and to promote its wider use as a means of dispute resolution. (DoJ)

- Take up the former French Mission Building upon the relocation of the Court of Final Appeal from there and provide space in the Building for office and related use by legal and dispute resolution institutions, on top of the allocation of certain office space to them in the West Wing of the former Central Government Offices, in order to facilitate them to develop services in Hong Kong. (DoJ)

### **International Trading and Shipping Centre**

- Consider appropriate measures to meet the future demand for convention and exhibition facilities in order to compete more effectively with other economies in the region. (CEDB)
- Take forward a consultancy recommendation to examine the feasibility of setting up a statutory body to drive the development of the maritime services in Hong Kong. The proposed body will be responsible for driving the diversification and development of maritime services, manpower training, as well as conducting policy research etc., with a view to strengthening and enhancing Hong Kong's position as an international maritime centre. (THB)

### **Civil Aviation Training Institute**

- With the preliminary support of the Working Group on Transportation under the Economic Development Commission, conduct a study on the feasibility of establishing a civil aviation training institute, with a view to enhancing the skills for local and overseas practitioners of the aviation industry, thereby nurturing talents for the aviation industry, enhancing the level of safety and efficiency of air transport, and further strengthening Hong Kong's leading status as a major aviation hub in the region. (THB)

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## **Creative Industries**

- Formulate initiatives to encourage cinema patronage for Hong Kong produced movies so as to promote development of the local film industry. (CEDB)

## **Innovation and Technology Industries**

- Establish a framework for Information and Communications Technology (ICT) professional recognition in Hong Kong, with reference to international practices and frameworks of other economies, so as to raise the professional profile of local ICT professionals. (CEDB)
- Strengthen our support for commercialisation of research and development (R&D) outcome and private sector R&D. (CEDB)

## **Assess Future Demand and Supply of Economic Land Use**

- Review future land requirement of major economic uses, including, among others, industrial uses. (DEVB/CEDB)

## **Improving Regulatory Infrastructure**

- Introduce the Registered Fire Engineer Scheme with a view to engaging third party to participate in fire safety certification and facilitating business operation. (SB)
- Launch a public consultation exercise on proposals to further enhance the independence of the auditor oversight regime from the audit profession. (FSTB)

## On-going Initiatives

*We are:*

### **Economic Development Commission**

- Supporting the work of the Economic Development Commission to explore and identify growth sectors or clusters of sectors which present opportunities for Hong Kong's further economic growth. The Commission will recommend possible policy and other support for these industries. (CEDB)

### **Economic and Trade Relations with the Mainland and Regional Co-operation**

#### (a) National Five-Year Plans

- Implementing the policy initiatives outlined in the Chapter on Hong Kong and Macao of the National 12th Five-Year Plan, and commencing the preparatory work to complement the drafting of the National 13th Five-Year Plan. (CMAB)

#### (b) CEPA

- Seeking to further expand CEPA with a view to securing for our businesses better access to the Mainland market. (CEDB)
- Working with Mainland authorities through CEPA Joint Working Group to assist our businesses in using CEPA to tap the Mainland market. (CEDB)

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(c) Regional Co-operation

- Deepening regional co-operation through our co-operation mechanisms with the Pan-Pearl River Delta Region, the Guangdong Province, the Municipalities of Beijing, Shanghai and Shenzhen, and the Macao Special Administrative Region. (CMAB)
- Continuing to complement the efforts of the Guangdong provincial government, as well as the municipal governments of Guangzhou, Zhuhai and Shenzhen, in pushing forward the development of Nansha, Hengqin and Qianhai respectively. (CMAB)
- Strengthening exchanges and co-operation between Hong Kong and Taiwan in trade, tourism, cultural, social livelihood and other fronts through the Hong Kong-Taiwan Economic and Cultural Co-operation and Promotion Council and the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan. (CMAB/CEDB/HAB)
- Enhancing legal co-operation with Guangdong pursuant to the Framework Agreement on Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation. (DoJ)

(d) Supporting Hong Kong Residents and Enterprises in the Mainland

- Working closely with Hong Kong enterprises in the Mainland, and supporting them in developing brands, upgrading and restructuring operations, and exploring the domestic sales market through the \$1 billion Dedicated Fund on Branding, Upgrading and Domestic Sales. (CEDB)

- Enhancing the functions of the Mainland offices of the Government and strengthening their working relationship with the Mainland offices of the Hong Kong Trade Development Council and the Hong Kong Tourism Board to better assist Hong Kong residents and enterprises in the Mainland. (CMAB)
- Making preparation for the establishment of a new Wuhan Economic and Trade Office in 2014. (CMAB)
- Enhancing legal co-operation in civil and commercial matters between Hong Kong and the Mainland, so as to facilitate the resolution of civil and commercial disputes in a more cost-effective manner. (DoJ)

(e) Encouraging Investment in Hong Kong

- Encouraging more enterprises from overseas, the Mainland, Taiwan as well as emerging markets like the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to invest in Hong Kong and strengthening aftercare services to encourage those enterprises already established in Hong Kong to upgrade their presence. We are also helping our enterprises tap the business opportunities in these markets. (CEDB)

**Economic and Trade Relations with Overseas Countries**

- Seeking to enter into trade arrangements and investment agreements with more overseas economies to secure for our businesses better access to those markets. (CEDB)

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## Financial Services Sector

### (a) Financial Services Development Council

- Supporting the work of the Financial Services Development Council as a high-level cross-sectoral advisory body to the Government in mapping out the strategic direction for the financial services industry, and engaging the industry and formulating proposals to promote its further development. (FSTB)

### (b) Promoting Market Development

- Continuing to advance financial co-operation with the Mainland by reinforcing the offshore Renminbi business platform; co-ordinating the implementation of relevant measures announced by the Central Authorities and pursuing initiatives under various co-operation frameworks and agreements. (FSTB)
- Consolidating our leading role as the asset management centre in the Asia Pacific region, and striving to develop Hong Kong into a more comprehensive fund and asset management centre through –
  - preparing amendments to the Inland Revenue Ordinance to extend the profits tax exemption for offshore funds to include transactions in private companies which are incorporated or registered outside Hong Kong and do not hold any Hong Kong properties nor carry out any business in Hong Kong;
  - formulating legal framework to introduce Open-ended Investment Companies for setting up investment funds;

- attracting Islamic financial transactions by promoting the newly enacted taxation framework for Islamic bonds (i.e. sukuk) and our market infrastructure to target audiences; and
  - promoting the reformed trust law to maximise its benefits to our trust services industry. (FSTB)
- Promoting the development of the bond market by implementing the issuance schedule of the Government Bond Programme and expanding the size and product types of the Programme. (FSTB)

(c) Enhancing Market Quality and Investor Confidence

- Introducing the Insurance Companies (Amendment) Bill into the Legislative Council (LegCo) in 2014 for establishing an independent Insurance Authority to enhance sustainable development of the insurance industry. (FSTB)
- Preparing legislation for the establishment of a policyholders' protection fund for better protection of policyholders. (FSTB)
- Preparing for the implementation of the new Companies Ordinance in March 2014, which will facilitate business, enhance corporate governance, ensure better regulation and modernise our company law. (FSTB)
- Promoting the quality of our financial markets through enhancing the regulatory regime and our financial infrastructure, including –
- establishing a regulatory regime for the over-the-counter derivative market;

- 
- enabling the introduction of an uncertificated securities regime; and
  - consulting the public on policy concepts for establishing an effective resolution regime for financial institutions in Hong Kong. (FSTB)
- Working with the Hong Kong Monetary Authority to improve the capital, liquidity and disclosure standards for banks in line with Basel III, to further enhance the resilience of our banking system. (FSTB)
  - Preparing legislation to amend the Clearing and Settlement Systems Ordinance and the Banking Ordinance to provide a regulatory regime for stored value facilities and retail payment systems. The aim is to enhance the safety and soundness of such electronic payment products and services. (FSTB)
  - Preparing legislation for improving Hong Kong's corporate insolvency regime, and engaging stakeholders on proposals for a statutory corporate rescue procedure. (FSTB)
  - Reinforcing our efforts in implementing anti-money laundering measures, stepping up risk assessment and participating actively in the Financial Action Task Force. (FSTB)

### **Centre for International Legal and Dispute Resolution Services in the Asia Pacific Region**

- Working with Mainland Authorities and the legal profession and arbitration institutions in Hong Kong to facilitate Hong Kong professionals to provide legal and dispute resolution services in the Mainland, particularly Qianhai and Nansha. (DoJ)

- Further fostering the development of mediation services in Hong Kong with the efforts of the Steering Committee on Mediation chaired by the Secretary for Justice. Towards this end, we will enhance public education and publicity regarding the use of mediation, monitor the implementation of the Mediation Ordinance and the operation of the Hong Kong Mediation Accreditation Association Limited as a regulatory body, and also consider the need to introduce apology legislation. (DoJ)
- Creating a favourable environment and infrastructure to facilitate legal and dispute resolution institutions to develop services and set up permanent presence in Hong Kong, including the allocation of certain office space to them in the West Wing of the former Central Government Offices. (DoJ)

## **Tourism**

- Preparing for the establishment of the Travel Industry Authority and the implementation of the new regulatory framework of the tourism sector. (CEDB)
- Overseeing the development of the Kai Tak Cruise Terminal to ensure timely completion of the second berth in 2014. We are supporting the Hong Kong Tourism Board's promotion on cruise tourism and working closely with the Advisory Committee on Cruise Industry and the trade to develop Hong Kong into a leading cruise hub in the region. (CEDB)
- Supporting the Hong Kong Tourism Board to continue its promotion work in target source markets generally and particularly in respect of meetings, incentive travels, conventions and exhibitions markets. (CEDB)

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- Facilitating the Ocean Park to implement its waterpark and hotel projects. (CEDB)
  - Pursuing with the Hong Kong Disneyland the plans for further expansion with new attractions and hotels within the existing area of the Park. (CEDB)

## **International Trading and Shipping Centre**

- Taking forward initiatives under the Maritime and Aviation Training Fund to support manpower development for the maritime and aviation industry. (THB)
- Working with industry players to consolidate and enhance our position as an international maritime centre. (THB)
- Implementing measures to enhance the competitiveness of the Hong Kong Port. (THB)
- Facilitating the provision of high value-added third party logistics services in Hong Kong by making available suitable sites for the development of modern logistics facilities. (THB)
- Pursuing measures to facilitate the movement of goods across the boundary, including the “Authorized Economic Operator Programme” which allows cargoes handled by qualified companies to enjoy expedited customs clearance in Hong Kong and by our trading partners. (CEDB)

## **Creative Industries**

- Reviewing, in consultation with the Film Development Council and the relevant stakeholders, the way forward of the Film Development Fund and the Film Guarantee Fund as the means to support the development of the film industry. (CEDB)
- Taking forward the First Feature Film Initiative to groom new filmmakers and their production teams by sponsoring their film production projects. (CEDB)
- Promoting the Comix Home Base and the former Police Married Quarters at Hollywood Road as the creative landmarks for Hong Kong's ani-com and design sectors respectively. Both are also examples of revitalisation of heritage buildings. (CEDB/DEVB)

## **Innovation and Technology Industries**

### (a) Promoting R&D

- Promoting applied R&D and technology transfer to the industry, in particular small and medium sized enterprises, through the R&D Centres and financial support from the Innovation and Technology Fund and R&D Cash Rebate Scheme. (CEDB)
- Capitalising on the opportunities presented by the National 12th Five-Year Plan and working with stakeholders to enhance collaboration with the Mainland on science and technology and promote realisation of R&D results. (CEDB)
- Working closely with the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation on the development of Science Park Phase 3 and the revitalisation of industrial estates. (CEDB)

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- Organising a wide range of promotional activities in 2014, including the InnoTech Month, to enhance the community's awareness of innovation and technology. (CEDB)

(b) Promoting ICT

- Facilitating the development of the local ICT industry by –
  - encouraging collaboration and exchanges with the Mainland to explore business opportunities;
  - organising ICT awards to recognise and promote Hong Kong's ICT achievements; and
  - collaborating with the industry and academia to nurture ICT talents. (CEDB)
- Working with our technology partners and the ICT industry to organise the International IT Fest in 2014 to showcase Hong Kong's developments and accomplishments as a regional ICT hub. (CEDB)
- Implementing measures to encourage the use of industrial buildings and industrial lots for developing data centres and providing one-stop support to assist interested enterprises to set up data centres in Hong Kong. (CEDB)
- Implementing initiatives and programmes to encourage small and medium enterprises to take advantage of ICT to increase efficiency and productivity; and develop business opportunities. (CEDB)

- Driving wider development and use of cloud computing service in Hong Kong through promoting the adoption of information security management system standards and good practices on the provision and use of cloud services. (CEDB)
- Promoting information security to the public on the proper use of ICT facilities and ways to protect their ICT resources and information assets. (CEDB)
- Making available more Public Sector Information in digital formats on the “Data.One” portal to facilitate their use as a vehicle to encourage creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship. (CEDB)
- Promoting city-wide Wi-Fi for citizens and visitors. (CEDB)

### **Testing and Certification Industry**

- Working closely with the Hong Kong Council for Testing and Certification to –
  - implement its enhanced market-driven development plan; and
  - continue exploring business opportunities in testing and certification services required by selected trades. (CEDB)

### **Construction Industry**

- Investing in infrastructure development to promote economic growth, create employment opportunities and enhance the long-term competitiveness of Hong Kong. (DEVB)

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- Formulating new initiatives to build up capacity, facilitate healthy growth, encourage innovation and creativity and enhance manpower development for the construction industry. (DEVB)
  - Continuing the preparatory work for introducing a new legislation in 2015-16 to enhance the security of payment in construction-related contracts to improve cash flow of the construction supply chain. (DEVB)
  - Enhancing our capability to resolve cross-bureau and cross-departmental issues relating to the delivery of major infrastructure, and to address strategic issues which might impede progress in major infrastructure projects. (DEVB)

### **Enhancing Wine Trading**

- Supporting wine trading and distribution businesses in Hong Kong, riding on growing demand across Asia. In particular, we are assessing the manpower needs of the industry for sustaining its growth and development. (CEDB)

### **Broadcasting and Mobile Telecommunication**

- Monitoring the implementation of digital terrestrial television and continuing publicity efforts to further boost up the take-up rate. (CEDB)
- Monitoring the implementation of digital audio broadcasting service and organising publicity campaign to promote the service. (CEDB)
- Handling the television/sound broadcasting licensing and regulatory matters. (CEDB)

- Implementing the reassignment of the frequency spectrum currently used for the provision of 3G mobile services upon expiry of the existing assignment in October 2016. (CEDB)
- Monitoring the effectiveness of a two-year pilot industry Customer Complaint Settlement Scheme to help resolve, through mediation, billing disputes in deadlock between telecommunications service providers and their customers. (CEDB)
- Overseeing the development plans for Radio Television Hong Kong as a public service broadcaster. (CEDB)

### **Improving Regulatory Infrastructure**

- Updating our tax information exchange regime to meet international standard for enhancing tax transparency and preventing fiscal evasion. (FSTB)
- Preparing for the full implementation of the Competition Ordinance in collaboration with the Competition Commission and the Judiciary. (CEDB)
- Fully implementing the amendments to the Trade Descriptions Ordinance to enhance protection for consumers against unfair trade practices. (CEDB)
- Working closely with the relevant stakeholders, including the Judiciary, to map out the way forward on the review of the Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles Ordinance following the completion of a second round of consultation in July 2012. (CEDB)

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## **Intellectual Property**

- Working with stakeholders on the overall strategies and support measures to develop and promote Hong Kong as a premier intellectual property trading hub in the region. (CEDB)
- Working to develop and implement an “Original Grant” Patent System that would be commensurate with our efforts to develop Hong Kong into a regional innovation and technology hub. (CEDB)
- Engaging stakeholders to explore how our copyright regime should evolve to take care of parody as appropriate and to strengthen copyright protection in the digital environment. (CEDB)

## **Agricultural and Fisheries Development**

- Devising policy and measures to sustain and upgrade the development of local agricultural and fisheries sectors. (FHB)

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# Chapter 2

## Land, Housing and Transportation

### Preamble

Housing is an important livelihood issue for the public as well as the Government.

Our policy objectives for housing are to –

- (a) assist grassroots families to secure public rental housing (PRH) to meet their basic housing needs;
- (b) assist the public to choose accommodation according to their affordability and personal circumstances, and encourage those who can afford it to buy their own homes;
- (c) provide subsidised home ownership flats on top of PRH so as to build a progressive housing ladder; and
- (d) maintain the healthy and steady development of the private residential property market, with priority to be given to meet Hong Kong permanent residents' needs amidst a tight supply situation.

Increasing land supply is fundamental to addressing Hong Kong's housing needs, as well as our continued social and economic development. In the short to medium term, we are stepping up our efforts to increase land supply through on-going land use reviews and optimising the use of developed land. In the longer term, we will develop new land extensively through new development areas in the

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New Territories and Lantau, reclamation outside Victoria Harbour, rock cavern development and underground space development. The objective is to build up a land reserve for Hong Kong's sustainable development and to respond more flexibly and timely to present and future needs. All these required the society as a whole to make difficult choices and accept trade-offs. An extensive public consultation exercise was carried out between 3 September 2013 and 2 December 2013 on the Long Term Housing Strategy. The above issues have been the subjects of the consultation. The Government is committed to adopting a robust long-term housing strategy, taking into account the results of this consultation exercise.

With a growing population and continuous development, facilitating the public to move around to undertake social and economic activities is also a challenge. We encourage the use of public transport and will maintain a quality and efficient multi-modal public transport network, with railway as the backbone, complemented by buses, public light buses, taxis and other modes.

We are taking forward five new railway projects in full swing. Upon their completion in phases by 2020, our railway network will cover areas inhabited by over 70% of the population in Hong Kong. In parallel, we will step up our efforts in rationalising road-based transport services, franchised buses in particular. This would help ease road congestion, alleviate the pressure for fare increases and reduce road-side emissions.

To enhance Hong Kong's external transport links, we are pressing ahead with the construction of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge, the Liantang/Heung Yuen Wai Boundary Control Point project and pursuing with the Airport Authority in planning for the expansion of our airport into a three-runway system.

## New Initiatives

*We will:*

### **Long-term Housing Strategy**

- Develop and implement a long-term housing strategy, having taken into account the views of the Long Term Housing Strategy Steering Committee and those received during the public consultation exercise conducted from 3 September 2013 to 2 December 2013. (THB)
- Adopt a total of 470 000 new residential units as the new supply target in the coming ten years, with a 60:40 split between public and private housing. (THB/DEVB)
- Increase the supply of units under the Home Ownership Scheme (HOS) on top of what the Government has already pledged in response to public's aspirations for home ownership at an affordable level and to encourage turnover of existing tenants in PRH. (THB/DEVB)

### **Increasing Land Supply**

- Increase the maximum domestic plot ratios allowed in different Density Zones as appropriate, with a view to increasing the floor space that can be provided on individual sites as far as permissible in planning terms. (DEVB)

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- Partially lift the administrative moratorium on development in Pok Fu Lam to release six government sites for public housing development (including the redevelopment of Wah Fu Estate) which are estimated to provide about 11 900 additional public housing units, alongside active consideration of constructing the South Island Line (West) to address the transport needs arising from the new public housing developments. (DEVB/THB)
  - Take forward a Pilot Scheme for Arbitration on Land Premium to facilitate and speed up agreement between the Government and private land owners on premium charged for lease modification and land exchange transactions through arbitration. (DEVB)
  - Take forward the planning and engineering study for a new town in East Lantau, and carry out a strategic feasibility study for the artificial islands in the central waters between Hong Kong Island and Lantau Island. (DEVB)
  - Carry out a detailed study on potential underground space development in four pilot strategic urban districts, viz. Causeway Bay, Happy Valley, Admiralty/Wan Chai and Tsim Sha Tsui West. The aim is to formulate a master plan for underground space development for each district and carry out broad technical assessment for priority projects identified in the commercial areas and adjacent open spaces in these districts. (DEVB)
  - Study the feasibility of topside development on the Hong Kong Boundary Crossing Facilities Island of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge for developing bridgehead economy and creating business and job opportunities. (DEVB)

## **Energising Kowloon East**

- Apply the “place-making” concept in converting and identifying an operator for the remaining vacant sites underneath Kwun Tong Bypass to provide cultural and creative space with unique design character and vibrancy. (DEVB)
- Inherit the industrial cultural heritage of Kowloon East and integrate it with creativity for translation into urban design guidelines and public art elements to provide guidance for improvement to public spaces and private development. (DEVB)
- Study the transformation of the existing King Yip Street nullah to a green and vibrant Tsui Ping River with environmental and landscaping upgrading of the vicinity. (DEVB)
- Advocate the sustainability concept on “walkability” in Kowloon East through improving connectivity and enhancing pedestrian environment. (DEVB)

## **Building Safety and Management**

- Formulate a set of seismic-resistant building design standards with a view to further enhancing building safety in Hong Kong. (DEVB)
- Launch a pilot scheme in collaboration with professional institutes to provide professional and tailor-made advisory and support service to owners’ corporations to assist them to appoint authorised persons to carry out building maintenance works. (HAB)

- 
- Launch a new phase of the Building Management Professional Advisory Service Scheme by engaging property management companies to provide one-stop and tailor-made support and advisory services on building management and maintenance to 1 200 old buildings without any form of management. (HAB)

## On-going Initiatives

*We are:*

### **Increasing Supply of Subsidised Housing**

- Providing PRH to low-income families who cannot afford private rental accommodation, with a target of maintaining the average waiting time at around three years for general applicants on the Waiting List. (THB)
- Taking forward the existing target of producing at least 179 000 PRH flats over the ten-year period from 2012-13 to 2021-22. (THB)
- Pressing ahead with the optimisation of the development potential of each public housing site and increasing flat production through relaxing the plot ratio and building height restrictions where planning conditions permit and without compromising environmental quality. (THB)
- Continuing to review the redevelopment potential of aged PRH estates to optimise the use of valuable land resources with a view to increasing PRH flat production. (THB)
- Ensuring the effective and rational use of PRH resources, including enhanced enforcement actions against tenancy abuse cases. (THB)
- Addressing the home ownership aspiration in the community by developing new HOS flats as part of our housing policy. (THB)

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- Taking forward the existing target of producing about 17 000 HOS flats over the four-year period starting from 2016-17 onwards and thereafter an average of 5 000 flats per year. The first batch of new HOS flats is scheduled for completion in 2016-17 and pre-sale in end-2014. (THB)
  - Working with the Hong Kong Housing Society on the provision of subsidised flats for sale in Sha Tin and rental housing in Sha Tau Kok respectively. (THB)
  - Implementing the interim scheme to allow an annual quota of 5 000 buyers with White Form status to purchase HOS flats with premium not yet paid under the HOS Secondary Market Scheme and to conduct a review of the effectiveness of the interim scheme in the second half of 2014. (THB)
  - Improving and expediting the construction process by widening the use of pre-cast building technology and streamlining administrative procedures without compromising housing quality and site safety. (THB)

## **Increasing Land Supply**

- Continuing and expanding the on-going land use reviews with the objective of identifying more suitable sites in Government, Institution or Community, Green Belt, Industrial and other non-residential zones for rezoning to residential use. (DEVB)
- Making available for housing development or other uses in higher demand sites for which the originally earmarked purposes will no longer be pursued. (DEVB/THB)

- Reviewing and increasing the development density of residential sites such as those in the Kai Tak New Development Area and those identified through the land use review in Tuen Mun East, as well as reviewing and relaxing development restrictions such as the Mid-Levels Moratorium, as far as permissible in planning terms. (DEVB/THB)
- Streamlining land administration processes and administrative approval procedures to expedite land supply, as well as taking other corresponding measures to facilitate flat production. (DEVB)
- Continuing the revitalisation measures to facilitate the redevelopment and wholesale conversion of older industrial buildings until 31 March 2016 to provide more floor space for suitable uses such as commercial and business uses, in order to meet Hong Kong's changing social and economic needs. (DEVB)
- Taking forward the planning for residential development at the Kam Tin South West Rail Kam Sheung Road Station and Pat Heung Maintenance Depot and the adjoining areas, and continuing to explore development potential along the railways. (DEVB)
- Taking forward the planning and development of the former Diamond Hill Squatter Areas (Tai Hom Village), former Cha Kwo Ling Kaolin Mine, former Lamma Quarry and Anderson Road Quarry to provide housing land. (DEVB)
- Continuing with the planning and implementation of new development areas and new town extensions –

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- implementing the plans for the Kwu Tung North and Fanling North New Development Areas as an extension to the Fanling/Sheung Shui New Town;
  - taking forward the planning for the Hung Shui Kiu New Development Area as a housing and employment node to complement Tin Shui Wai, Yuen Long and Tuen Mun; and
  - taking forward the planning for the extension of the Tung Chung New Town into a more sizeable and comprehensively developed new town. (DEVB)
- Identifying further development opportunities in New Territories North, including the areas of Ping Che/Ta Kwu Ling and Fanling Golf Course, by commissioning a preliminary development feasibility study in early 2014, with a view to exploring scope for developing a new town of similar scale as Fanling/Sheung Shui. (DEVB)
  - Reviewing deserted agricultural land in the North District and Yuen Long with a view to identifying suitable sites for meeting housing and other development needs. (DEVB)
  - Taking forward near-shore reclamation by –
    - carrying out a cumulative environmental impact assessment for the proposed reclamation sites in Tuen Mun and North Lantau;
    - commencing a planning and engineering study for the reclamation in Sunny Bay; and

- continuing with the preparatory work for the feasibility studies for other near-shore reclamation sites. (DEVB)
- Concluding a feasibility study on the relocation of Sha Tin Sewage Treatment Works to rock caverns. We further plan to commence the investigation and design for the relocation works. (DEVB)
- Commencing feasibility studies for relocation of three public facilities, viz. Diamond Hill Fresh Water and Salt Water Service Reservoirs, Sai Kung Sewage Treatment Works and Sham Tseng Sewage Treatment Works, to caverns so as to release precious land in the urban areas for housing and other uses. (DEVB)
- Continuing with the study on the long-term strategy of cavern development in Hong Kong. The study will include preparation of cavern master plans and setting up policy guidelines to facilitate future cavern development. (DEVB)
- Carrying out a territory-wide study to explore the opportunities and constraints of underground space development in the urban areas of Hong Kong. The aim is to develop some preliminary conceptual schemes for providing more space for commercial and other uses and enhancing connectivity. (DEVB)
- Converting suitable government sites and offices in the Central Business Districts to commercial use, including the Murray Road Public Carpark, the Rumsey Street Public Carpark and the three government office buildings at the Wan Chai waterfront, and reducing the leasing of commercial office space in Central and Admiralty for government use as far as possible so as to release more prime office space to the market. (DEVB/FSTB)

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- Working with the Airport Authority to develop the North Commercial District on the airport island. The aim is to maximise the development potential of this site, taking into account the future development of the Hong Kong International Airport including the three-runway system, and the synergy with Lantau as well as the Western Pearl River Delta Region. (THB)
  - Adopting a visionary, co-ordinated and integrated approach to transform Kowloon East (including Kai Tak Development, Kowloon Bay and Kwun Tong) into an attractive core business district to sustain Hong Kong's economic development. Specifically, this involves land use review, enhanced urban design, improved connectivity and the associated infrastructure. (DEVB)
  - Relocating the existing Government facilities in the two Action Areas identified to have potential for optimising their development to facilitate the transformation of Kowloon East. These two Action Areas have potential for providing an additional floor area of about 500 000 square metres. (DEVB)
  - Continuing with the technical feasibility study for increasing housing and office supply in the Kai Tak Development Area, and consulting the public on the study recommendations. (DEVB)
  - Consulting the public on a proposed detailed feasibility study of the future Environmentally Friendly Linkage System for supporting the transformation of Kowloon East into an alternative central business district. (DEVB)

- Continuing the update of the green map in Energizing Kowloon East Office's website showing green buildings in Kowloon East which have obtained BEAM Plus Gold or above rating. (DEVB)
- Exploring opportunities to provide suitable space in the Action Areas in Kowloon East for artists and creative designers to support the art and creative industries. (DEVB)
- Setting up at the former runway tip in the Kai Tak Development Area, the Kwun Tong Ferry Pier Action Area and the enclosed waterbody between the runway and Kwun Tong waterfront as a recreational landmark – Kai Tak Fantasy, which has excellent potential to be developed into a world class tourism and entertainment hub. (DEVB)

### **Healthy Private Residential Property Market**

- Working with LegCo in their examination of the Stamp Duty (Amendment) Bill 2012 on demand-side management measures to –
  - cool down the residential property market; and
  - accord priority to the housing needs of Hong Kong permanent residents in the midst of the tight supply situation. (THB)
- Implementing the Residential Properties (First-hand Sales) Ordinance to further –
  - enhance the transparency and fairness of the sales of first-hand residential properties; and
  - strengthen the protection for purchasers. (THB)

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## Harbourfront Development

- Working with the Harbourfront Commission to ensure that our planning, land use and urban design are in line with our stated mission to protect the Victoria Harbour, and to enhance the harbourfront for the enjoyment of all with participation of the community. (DEVB)
- Conducting public engagement in collaboration with the Harbourfront Commission on the proposed establishment of Harbourfront Authority to press ahead with harbourfront development in a holistic manner with an innovative mind-set and a more flexible management approach. (DEVB)

## Building Management

- Making preparation on the enabling legislation and implementation programme of the statutory licensing regime for the property management industry. (HAB)
- Following up the recommendations of the Review Committee on the Building Management Ordinance to resolve and alleviate common building management problems. (HAB)
- Promoting and implementing the Resident Liaison Ambassador Scheme in “three-nil” buildings to improve the management of these buildings and to enhance communication between residents and the Government. (HAB)
- Promoting a building care culture by–
  - supporting and promoting the work of the Panel of Advisors on Building Management Disputes;

- organising more structured training for office-bearers of owners' corporations; and
- arranging the graduates of these training programmes to share experience and outreach to other owners' corporations and property owners, thus promoting mutual help. (HAB)
- Strengthening fire safety measures in particularly old buildings and enhancing the awareness of the public on fire prevention. (SB)

### **Building Maintenance and Urban Renewal**

- Increasing the number of buildings to be inspected in the enforcement action against industrial buildings suspected to have sub-divided flats for residential use, enhancing the prosecution action against owners who fail to comply with statutory orders, and taking lease enforcement action in cases with breach of lease conditions. (DEVB)
- Working closely with the Hong Kong Housing Society and the Urban Renewal Authority to assist building owners in need to carry out repair and maintenance works through various schemes, including –
  - the Operation Building Bright;
  - the Building Maintenance Grant Scheme for Elderly Owners;
  - the Integrated Building Maintenance Assistance Scheme; and
  - the Mandatory Building Inspection Subsidy Scheme. (DEVB)

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- Continuing our efforts to enhance maintenance of private buildings through public education, publicity and participation of professional bodies. (DEVB)
  - Continuing the implementation of the Mandatory Building Inspection Scheme and Mandatory Window Inspection Scheme to require private building owners to inspect their buildings and windows regularly, and carry out repair works as necessary. (DEVB)
  - Taking rigorous enforcement action against unauthorised building works including those in sub-divided flats, in accordance with the prevailing enforcement policies and responding efficiently to reports on contraventions of the Buildings Ordinance. (DEVB)
  - Implementing the Lifts and Escalators Ordinance, including the registration of qualified persons for regulatory control over lift and escalator safety. (DEVB)
  - Overseeing the implementation of the Urban Renewal Strategy. (DEVB)
  - Working closely with the Urban Renewal Authority as it forges ahead with its “Demand-led” Scheme to address the aspirations of property owners and to speed up the pace of urban renewal. (DEVB)
  - Working closely with the Urban Renewal Authority in its implementation of the Pilot Scheme for the Redevelopment of Industrial Buildings introduced in 2012-13. (DEVB)

- Monitoring the support for minority property owners affected by compulsory sale under the Land (Compulsory Sale for Redevelopment) Ordinance. (DEVB)

## **Improving Quality of Living in Public Rental Housing**

- Implementing arrangements to promote mutual family support and care for the elderly. (THB)
- Improving the living conditions of overcrowded PRH households by implementing measures to provide them with transfer opportunities to larger accommodations. (THB)
- Implementing the Lift Addition Programme in PRH estates including the installation of lifts in hillside estates with common areas in different levels and beside existing footbridges in estates to facilitate access of residents. (THB)
- Promoting sustainable public housing developments by designing for green and healthy living. (THB)
- Continuing with various environmental initiatives such as domestic waste recycling, enhancing energy saving, water conservation and greening in PRH estates. (THB)
- Increasing the greening ratio of all new public housing development projects over two hectares to at least 30% and to at least 20% for smaller sites. We will also provide green roofs in low-rise buildings and provide vertical greening in these projects wherever feasible. (THB)

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- Continuing our efforts in the provision of quality property management and maintenance services in PRH estates. (THB)

### **Other Land Matters**

- Continuing the review of the small house policy and overseeing its implementation and related matters. (DEVB)
- Engaging the key stakeholders to refine the proposed amendments to the Land Titles Ordinance. (DEVB)

### **Developing Railways**

- Reviewing and updating the Railway Development Strategy 2000, with a view to reporting to the public in 2014 on the way forward for the railway projects beyond 2020. (THB)
- Overseeing the construction of the West Island Line for timely commissioning in 2014. (THB)
- Overseeing the construction of the South Island Line (East) and the Kwun Tong Line Extension for timely commissioning in 2015. (THB)
- Overseeing the construction of the Shatin to Central Link for timely phased commissioning in 2018 and 2020. (THB)

### **Improving Road Traffic**

- Continuing our efforts in improving the traffic distribution among the road harbour crossings. (THB)

- Overseeing the construction of the Central-Wan Chai Bypass and Island Eastern Corridor Link with target commissioning in 2017. (THB)
- Preparing for the implementation of the Central Kowloon Route, with a view to commencing its construction in 2015. (THB)
- Continuing to pursue bus route rationalisation vigorously to enhance network efficiency, improve service quality, and ease traffic congestion, whilst reducing roadside air pollution. (THB)
- Considering and implementing measures to enhance traffic management with a view to reducing congestion along major transport corridors. (THB)

### **Improving Marine Safety**

- Reviewing comprehensively the existing regulatory regime on local passenger-carrying vessels to enhance marine safety. We will take into account the recommendations in the report of the Commission of Inquiry into the Collision of Vessels near Lamma Island on 1 October 2012. (THB)

### **Improving Pedestrian Environment**

- Implementing the policy on “Universal Accessibility”, as announced in August 2012, to further enhance the accessibility of existing public walkways by installing lifts to help the elderly and other people in need to move around with greater ease. After consulting the District Councils in the first quarter of 2013, we are conducting preliminary technical feasibility studies for priority projects identified in each district. (THB)

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- Taking forward the higher ranking proposals for the provision of hillside escalator links and elevator systems which are found technically feasible. (THB)
  - Taking forward proposed pedestrian environment improvement schemes in Yuen Long, Causeway Bay and Mongkok. (THB)
  - Developing a comprehensive cycle track network in the New Territories to improve the quality of living. We are carrying out a pilot scheme in Tai Po, under which new improvement measures to cycle tracks would be implemented and new bicycle parking facilities would be installed. We have commissioned a new consultancy study on how to implement these new measures in nine new towns. (DEVB/THB)

### **Enhancing External Links**

- Working with the Airport Authority in considering initiatives to enhance airport capacity and airport services. Major projects being considered include the expansion of the Hong Kong International Airport into a three-runway system and implementing the midfield expansion project. (THB)
- Improving air traffic management through optimising the use of airspace as well as implementing enhancement measures on air traffic control system. (THB)
- Reviewing the air services arrangements with our aviation partners, with the objective to further liberalising our air service regime, thereby supporting the continued growth and development of the local civil aviation industry. (THB)

- Assisting the Airport Authority to expand inter-modal connections to strengthen the links between the Hong Kong International Airport and the Pearl River Delta Region. (THB)
- Supporting the Air Transport Licensing Authority in regulating our local airlines. (THB)
- Overseeing the construction of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge local projects to dovetail with the target commissioning of the Main Bridge within Mainland waters in 2016. Construction of the Hong Kong Boundary Crossing Facilities and Hong Kong Link Road are underway and on schedule. (THB)
- Overseeing the construction of the Hong Kong section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link with target completion in 2015. (THB)
- Overseeing the design and construction of the Liantang/Heung Yuen Wai Boundary Control Point project including a new connecting road with a view to commissioning the Boundary Control Point not later than 2018. (DEVB)

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## Chapter 3

# Poverty Alleviation and Support for the Disadvantaged

## Preamble

In December 2012 the Commission on Poverty (CoP) was reinstated to consider policies and measures to prevent and ease poverty and social exclusion, as well as to promote social mobility. Six Task Forces have been established, covering improving the social security and retirement protection systems; supporting the underprivileged who have special needs; promoting education, employment and training to encourage self-reliance and better social mobility; engaging the community and fostering cross-sectoral collaboration among the Government, businesses and the community; and implementation of poverty alleviation and prevention measures and social innovation initiatives funded by the Community Care Fund (CCF) and the Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Fund respectively.

At the first CoP Summit on 28 September 2013, the Government announced a poverty line and provided analysis of the population below that line to guide future work. The working poor have been identified as deserving Government's priority attention. Through the proposed Low Income Working Family Allowance, low-income families, particularly those with children, will receive strengthened financial support.

To help address intergenerational poverty, we will ensure that children and young people enjoy equal opportunities to quality education and training irrespective of background.

For those disadvantaged members of the community who cannot support themselves, we will continue to meet their basic living needs through the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme (CSSA) acting as a safety net of last resort. For those who can work, education, training and employment support will be further developed to enable them to share the benefits of economic growth.

We will strengthen support for persons with special needs, including persons with disabilities, ethnic minorities (EMs), single parents and families at risk. We will seek to remove the barriers that hold them back from realising and fulfilling their aspirations. Client-centred, family-focused and community-based services that provide integrated, cross-sectoral support will continue to be developed.

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## New Initiatives

*We will:*

### **Poverty Alleviation**

#### (a) Supporting Low-income Working Families

- Make arrangements to introduce a pro-employment and pro-child allowance for low-income working families. (LWB)
- Invite CCF to continue to provide a living subsidy for low-income households not living in public housing and not receiving CSSA. (HAB)

#### (b) Enhancing Upward Mobility

- Invite CCF to consider to provide hostel subsidy for needy undergraduate students who reside in hostel so as not to deprive them of hostel life due to a lack of means. (EDB)
- Invite CCF to consider to increase the academic expenses grant for needy students pursuing eligible self-financing post-secondary programmes. (EDB)
- Subsidise needy post-secondary students to participate in overseas exchange programmes. (EDB)
- Give all student loan borrowers the option to start repaying their loans one year after completion of studies. (EDB)

- Implement the “Future Stars Programme” in collaboration with businesses and the non-governmental sector to provide corporate visits and short-term workplace training and internship opportunities for young people of low-income families. (CSO)
- Provide greater flexibility and incentive funding for schools under the School-based After-school Learning and Support Programmes to benefit more needy primary and secondary students. (EDB)
- Enhance the After School Care Programme organised by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) for children aged 6 to 12 by extending the service hours of some centres and providing additional fee-waiving and fee-reduction quotas. (LWB)
- Earmark \$300 million for the Child Development Fund. (LWB)

(c) Regularisation of CCF Programmes

- Incorporate the following CCF programmes into the Government’s regular assistance programme from 2014-15 –
  - provision of free lunch at schools for primary students receiving full grant assistance under the Student Financial Assistance Schemes through the schools; (EDB)
  - enhancement of the flat rate grant for primary and secondary students under the School Textbook Assistance Scheme; (EDB)
  - enhancement of the financial assistance for needy students pursuing eligible programmes below sub-degree level; (EDB)

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- provision of rent allowance to recipients of CSSA who have been Tenants Purchase Scheme flat owners for more than five years; (LWB)
  - provision of subsidy for pre-school children from low-income families to pay for self-financing rehabilitation services run by the NGO sector while wait-listing for subvented services; (LWB) and
  - provision of subsidy for needy persons with severe physical disabilities living in the community and requiring constant care to cover their expenses for renting medical equipment and purchase of medical consumables. (LWB)

(d) Social Security and Retirement Protection

- Include post-secondary students of CSSA families in the calculation of rent allowance so that the families' entitlement to rent allowance will not be affected when their family members are receiving post-secondary education. (LWB)
- Increase the grants for selected items of school-related expenses for primary and secondary students of CSSA families. (LWB)
- Implement a pilot incentive scheme under CCF to encourage CSSA able-bodied recipients to leave the safety net through employment. (LWB)
- Invite CCF to continue to provide a one-off subsidy to CSSA households living in rented private housing and paying rent which exceeds the maximum rent allowance under the CSSA Scheme. (LWB)

- Consider the way forward for retirement protection after completion of the study commissioned by CoP. (CSO)

## **Supporting the Disadvantaged**

### (a) Supporting Families

- Enhance the Neighbourhood Support Child Care Project by extending the age limit of children receiving the service from aged under six to aged under nine, increasing funding to operators to enhance social work support to the service, and providing additional places for home-based child care service under the Project. (LWB)

### (b) Enhancing Services for Persons with Disabilities

- Upgrade the Commissioner for Rehabilitation's ranking and strengthen the establishment of his team with a view to enhancing co-ordination among various bureaux and departments. (LWB)
- Regularise the Pilot Bought Place Scheme for Private Residential Care Homes for Persons with Disabilities, with the cap of subsidised places in each home raised from 55% to 70%. (LWB)
- Launch an integrated support service programme using a case management approach to provide one-stop support service for persons with severe physical disabilities who are in need of constant care. (LWB)
- Increase the manpower of District Support Centres for Persons with Disabilities to introduce a case management service approach. (LWB)

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- Enhance the short-term day and residential care services for persons with disabilities, in particular those aged 6 to 14, to relieve the stress of their families/carers. (LWB)
  - Increase the manpower of day training centres for persons with disabilities to strengthen the care and support for ageing service users. (LWB)
  - Strengthen the manpower of Multi-service Centres for Hearing Impaired Persons and relevant Social and Recreational Centres for the Disabled to enhance sign language interpretation services for persons with hearing impairment. (LWB)
  - Increase funding to better support the operation and development of the Financial Support Scheme for Self-help Organisations for Persons with Disabilities/Chronic Illnesses. (LWB)
  - Inject \$200 million into the Hong Kong Paralympians Fund to strengthen the support for athletes with disabilities. (LWB/HAB)
  - Promote the Talent-Wise Employment Charter and Inclusive Organisations Recognition Scheme to mobilise employers in the territory to actively participate in promoting the employment of persons with disabilities. (LWB)
  - Raise the daily rate of incentive payment in Sheltered Workshops and Integrated Vocational Rehabilitation Services Centres to further encourage persons with disabilities to participate in vocational rehabilitation training. (LWB)

- Extend the Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities to green minibuses by phases starting from the first quarter of 2015. (LWB)

(c) Improving Services for Ethnic Minorities

- Introduce a package of measures to enhance education support for non-Chinese speaking (NCS) students, notably EM students, in learning Chinese language, by –
  - providing a “Chinese Language Curriculum Second Language Learning Framework” for NCS primary and secondary students with supporting learning and teaching materials to facilitate their effective learning of Chinese as a second language with a view to enabling them to bridge over to mainstream Chinese language classes;
  - providing an Applied Learning (Chinese Language) subject at senior secondary levels to be pegged at Levels 1 to 3 of the Qualifications Framework as an alternative qualification for NCS students in order to enhance their employability;
  - developing Vocational Chinese Language courses recognised under the Qualifications Framework for NCS school leavers;

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- providing enhanced funding support to schools to facilitate implementation of the “Chinese Language Curriculum Second Language Learning Framework” with effect from the 2014/15 school year. The additional funding can enable schools to regularise effective modes of support for Chinese language learning of NCS students, including provision of intensive support and adoption of split-class teaching mode, to help NCS students bridge over to mainstream Chinese classes. Besides, schools may employ EM teaching assistants for better communication with NCS parents so as to enhance home-school co-operation;
  - stepping up school-based professional support to assist schools in adapting school-based curriculum and learning and teaching materials as well as enhancing the professional capacity of teachers in teaching Chinese as a second language;
  - setting up a dedicated team in EDB for implementation and monitoring of the enhanced funding support for schools in Chinese language learning of NCS students;
  - formulating a research framework to facilitate the evaluation of the effectiveness of various support measures for NCS students, including the development of a systematic Chinese language learning progression pathway for NCS students; and

- strengthening support for kindergartens to promote NCS children’s early adaptation to mainstream schools by building a more inclusive, friendly and Chinese-rich learning environment in kindergartens. (EDB)
- Enhance support services to help EMs integrate into the community through –
  - setting up a new support service centre for EMs (the sixth centre) in Kwai Tsing district;
  - establishing youth units in all support service centres and sub-centres for EMs to provide dedicated programmes for EM youths;
  - implementing an Ambassador Scheme for EM youths to reach out to them, understand their needs and difficulties, and make referrals where necessary; and
  - strengthening manpower support for support services for EMs by recruiting additional staff who are familiar with the culture of EMs and fluent in their languages. (HAB)
- Strengthen the engagement with EMs by promoting police services and fight crime initiatives to them, and encouraging EM youths to participate in Junior Police Call with the aim of increasing the number of EM Junior Police Call members to 2 500 in five years. (SB)

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(d) Supporting Students with Special Educational Needs

- Further enhance the support for students with special educational needs in ordinary schools by increasing the grant rates of the Learning Support Grant by 30% in the 2014/15 school year, and thereafter adjusting the grant rates and its ceiling annually according to the change in the Composite Consumer Price Index. (EDB)
- Launch a number of measures to improve special education services in special schools with effect from the 2014/15 school year, including –
  - providing an additional grant for the boarding section of special schools to enhance the support for boarders with medical complexity;
  - improving the manpower for boarding services;
  - providing additional teacher assistants for schools for children with intellectual disability, physical disability, and visual impairment cum intellectual disability as well as the psychiatric classes of the hospital school; and
  - reducing progressively the class size in the school for children with visual impairment and schools for social development. (EDB)

(e) Strengthening Cross-sectoral Collaboration

- Inject \$400 million into the Partnership Fund for the Disadvantaged to encourage further cross-sectoral collaboration to launch projects that can cater for the various needs of the disadvantaged and benefit more people. Of this sum, \$200 million will be dedicated to provide more after-school learning and support initiatives for primary and secondary school students from a disadvantaged background through matching grants via the Fund. (LWB)
- Launch the “Bless HK” campaign under CoP in the first half of 2014 to promote caring towards the underprivileged and the spirit of mutual help, and to foster collaboration among businesses, the non-governmental sector and Government in poverty alleviation. (CSO)

**Social Welfare Planning and Administration**

- Launch in collaboration with NGOs the Special Scheme on Privately Owned Sites for Welfare Uses with the aim of providing diversified services and self-financed facilities, in particular facilities for elderly and rehabilitation services, by optimising the use of land owned by social welfare organisations through in-situ expansion or redevelopment. (LWB)
- Inject \$10 billion into the Lotteries Fund to provide sufficient resources to implement the Special Scheme on Privately Owned Sites for Welfare Uses and other welfare projects within the remit of the Lotteries Fund. (LWB)

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- Enhance the Lump Sum Grant Subvention System by allowing NGOs more flexibility in using the Provident Fund reserve, and by increasing provision to strengthen central administrative and supervisory support for NGOs; to enhance “Other Charges” that cover other operating expenses such as food costs; and to assist NGOs in recruiting and retaining paramedical staff more effectively or in hiring paramedical services. (LWB)
  - Undertake a consultancy study on the feasibility of setting up a centralised platform to provide a one-stop, user-friendly administrative service to receive, process and approve applications for public benefits. (EU)

## On-going Initiatives

*We are:*

### **Work of the Commission on Poverty**

- Updating the poverty line annually to monitor Hong Kong's poverty situation on an on-going basis, assist policy formulation and assess policy effectiveness. (CSO)
- Combating poverty by exploring issues including education, employment and training, special needs groups, social security and retirement protection, and societal engagement through relevant Task Forces under CoP. (CSO)
- Continuing to draw up more new pilot programmes under CCF in collaboration with other Task Forces under CoP to further assist the underprivileged and low-income families. (CSO)
- Making preparations to invite applications for the \$500 million Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Fund to support innovative projects to address social needs through entrepreneurship. (CSO)

### **Poverty Alleviation**

#### (a) Helping Low-income Families

- Implementing the enhanced Work Incentive Transport Subsidy Scheme and commencing a comprehensive review in 2014. The aim is to strengthen support for workers at grassroots level by providing relief for their work-related travelling expenses. (LWB)

- 
- Implementing the short-term food assistance services. (LWB)

(b) Enhancing Upward Mobility

- Continuing to roll out projects under the Child Development Fund and piloting the school-based approach to promote the longer-term development of children aged between 10 and 16 from a disadvantaged background. (LWB)
- Implementing various student financial assistance schemes to ensure that no student in Hong Kong will be denied access to education due to a lack of means. (EDB)

(c) Social Security and Retirement Protection

- Implementing the Integrated Employment Assistance Programme for Self-reliance under the CSSA Scheme to help employable CSSA recipients secure employment and achieve self-reliance. (LWB)
- Conducting public consultation on proposals regarding the introduction of a default/core fund with fee control that is based on a long-term investment strategy to balance investment risk and return, with a view to facilitating the choice of fund by Mandatory Provident Fund scheme members. (FSTB)
- Preparing legislative amendments to –
  - facilitate the Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes Authority to perform its functions more effectively;
  - simplify certain operational requirements by trustees so as to increase their scope for fee reduction;

- allow phased withdrawal of Mandatory Provident Fund benefits; and
- allow early withdrawal of Mandatory Provident Fund benefits on the ground of terminal illness. (FSTB)

## **Supporting the Disadvantaged**

### (a) Supporting Families

- Increasing by phases the number of residential child care places to enhance support and protection for children and families in need. (LWB)
- Following up on the Law Reform Commission Report on Child Custody and Access, including preparing legislative and implementation proposals with an aim to further engage stakeholders before embarking on legislation. (LWB)
- Combating domestic violence through the provision of preventive, supportive and specialised services to victims and families in need, as well as publicity and public education. (LWB)
- Implementing the Victim Support Programme for Victims of Family Violence to enhance support services for victims, as well as the Batterer Intervention Programme and Anti-violence Programme to enhance counselling and psycho-educational services for batterers. (LWB)
- Monitoring the implementation of the Domestic and Cohabitation Relationships Violence Ordinance. (LWB)
- Providing support services for victims of sexual violence. (LWB)

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(b) Enhancing Services for Persons with Disabilities

- Promoting the spirit and core values enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in collaboration with the Rehabilitation Advisory Committee, the rehabilitation sector and the public at large. (LWB)
- Reviewing the eligibility criteria of the Disability Allowance under the Social Security Allowance Scheme. (LWB)
- Improving social rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities by providing additional day, residential and pre-school places. (LWB)
- Implementing the Transitional Care and Support Centre for Tetraplegic Patients for continued enhancement of the support for persons with severe disabilities. (LWB)
- Regularising the three-year pilot scheme launched in 2011 to provide home care services for persons with severe disabilities and extending the services to persons with severe disabilities in all districts. (LWB)
- Providing one-stop district-based support services for persons with disabilities and their families/carers in District Support Centres for Persons with Disabilities. (LWB)

- Implementing the statutory licensing scheme for residential care homes for persons with disabilities and complementary measures to regulate their operation and ensure service quality. (LWB)
- Implementing the Pilot Bought Place Scheme for private residential care homes for persons with disabilities to –
  - upgrade service standards;
  - help the market develop more service options for persons with disabilities; and
  - increase the supply of subsidised residential care places. (LWB)
- Enhancing care and support services for ageing service users in rehabilitation service units. (LWB)
- Enhancing the services of Integrated Community Centres for Mental Wellness to provide one-stop district-based community support services for ex-mentally ill persons, persons with suspected mental health problems, their families/carers and local residents. (LWB)
- Promoting the employment of persons with disabilities through –
  - enhanced allowance to employers under (i) the Work Orientation and Placement Scheme, (ii) enhanced job attachment allowance and wage subsidy under the On the Job Training Programme for People with Disabilities, and (iii) the Sunnyway-On the Job Training Programme for Young People with Disabilities;

- 
- provision of subsidy to employers for procurement of assistive devices and/or workplace modifications; and
  - provision of financial incentive to mentors rendering workplace assistance and guidance to employees with disabilities. (LWB)
- Providing support for businesses funded under the Enhancing Employment of People with Disabilities through Small Enterprise Project to create more employment opportunities. (LWB)
  - Implementing measures to ensure that persons with disabilities will have equal access, like other applicants, to job opportunities in the Government. (CSB)
  - Implementing the retrofitting programme to upgrade barrier-free facilities in Government venues and Housing Authority properties. (LWB)
  - Enhancing transport services for persons with disabilities through improvement to rebus service. We are also examining ways of further improving the accessibility of transport services. (LWB/THB)
  - Implementing the Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities, and extending the Scheme to children with severe disabilities aged below 12 receiving CSSA or Disability Allowance. The extension aims at building a caring and inclusive society by encouraging these children to participate more in community activities. (LWB)

(c) Services for Ethnic Minorities

- Promoting racial equality through, inter alia, enhanced publicity and public education. (CMAB)
- Providing support services for EMs to facilitate their early integration into the community. (HAB)
- Implementing measures to ensure that EMs will have equal access, like other applicants, to job opportunities in the Government. (CSB)
- Operating a new youth college under the Vocational Training Council (VTC) starting from the 2012/13 academic year to support NCS students and students with special educational needs. The college is providing alternative progression pathways for these students. (EDB)
- Reviewing and implementing various support measures for NCS students to facilitate their adaptation to the local education system, mastery of the Chinese language and integration into the community. (EDB)

(d) Supporting Students with Special Educational Needs

- Supporting students with special educational needs in the VTC through an annual provision of \$12 million starting from 2013-14. (EDB)

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- Continuing to provide additional resources, professional support and teacher training to help primary and secondary schools cater for their students with special educational needs, including expanding the School-based Educational Psychology Service with the target of covering all public sector primary and secondary schools by the 2016/17 school year. (EDB)

(e) Promoting Social Enterprises

- Implementing various programmes and support measures in collaboration with the Social Enterprise Advisory Committee and the Advisory Committee on Enhancing Self-Reliance Through District Partnership Programme to promote the development of social enterprises, including –
  - Social Enterprise Award Scheme;
  - Social Enterprise Training Programme; and
  - Enhancing Self-Reliance Through District Partnership Programme. (HAB)
- Encouraging cross-sectoral support for social enterprises and promoting wider patronage of products and services of social enterprises through various programmes and measures, such as the Social Enterprise Summit, Social Enterprise Challenge, Friends of Social Enterprise Award and Social Enterprise District Carnival. (HAB)

(f) Promoting Digital Inclusion

- Implementing various digital inclusion programmes to help underprivileged groups (including the elderly, persons with special needs and students from low-income families) use ICT to enhance their opportunities and integrate with society. (CEDB)

**Social Welfare Planning and Administration**

- Overseeing the implementation of the enhanced planning mechanism endorsed by the Social Welfare Advisory Committee in its study report on long-term social welfare planning. (LWB)
- Identifying suitable sites and facilitating provision of necessary manpower resources to meet the current and future needs of social welfare services. (LWB)

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## Chapter 4

# Medical Services, Public Health and Elderly Care

## Preamble

Hong Kong has a high-quality healthcare system supported by a team of highly professional healthcare workers. Our public and private medical sectors provide a wide range of services, including a low-cost public healthcare “safety net” that ensures no one in Hong Kong is denied medical care due to a lack of means.

We will seek to ensure the long-term sustainability of our healthcare system through a series of reform measures, including promoting long-term development of primary care and Chinese medicine, the proposed introduction of the Health Protection Scheme and revamping the regulatory regime for private healthcare facilities.

In face of the challenges brought about by an ageing population and the changes in the prevalence of diseases, we will uphold our firm commitment to providing quality and affordable public healthcare services. We will increase the capacity of the healthcare system on the one hand and enhance service quality on the other, through service and infrastructure development.

The Government is committed to building and maintaining a healthy community. We devote a lot of efforts to ensure that the wide variety of food available for consumption is safe, and the public at large are

free from threats of animal diseases. We also work tirelessly to provide a clean and hygienic environment.

As Hong Kong moves steadily to an ageing society (with the number of elderly people aged 65 and above rising from 1.02 million or 14% of the population in 2012 to a hefty 2.56 million or 30% in 2041), elderly care ranks high on the current-term Government's policy and action agenda.

Our objective is to enable our senior citizens to live in dignity and to provide the necessary support for them to promote their sense of belonging, security and worthiness. We will continue to implement a host of measures and initiatives to enhance elderly care on all fronts.

We will step up our efforts in promoting active ageing. Our aim is to facilitate the elderly to lead a more fulfilled life in their golden years and harness their wealth of experience, knowledge and expertise through continued learning, volunteer service and participation in social and economic activities.

For the frail elderly, we strive to provide quality and cost-effective long-term care services in line with our policy of promoting "ageing in place as the core, institutional care as back-up". In this respect, we will strengthen and expand community and home care services whilst at the same time increase and enhance subsidised residential care services.

In meeting the growing needs and aspirations of our ageing population, we will not only strive for quality and quantity in services but also seek to provide diversity and choices, including measures to facilitate those elderly persons who choose to retire in Guangdong.

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## New Initiatives

*We will:*

### **Enhancing Health Services Provision**

- Reserve a site for the development of a Chinese medicine hospital pending the recommendations of the Chinese Medicine Development Committee on the implementation details. (FHB)
- Conduct strategic planning for a new acute hospital at Kai Tak Development Area with a view to addressing the long-term healthcare needs of residents in Kowloon region. (FHB)
- Review the existing policy on mental health with a view to mapping out the future direction for development of mental health services in Hong Kong and take forward enhancement measures having regard to the recommendations to be made by the Review Committee on Mental Health. (FHB)
- Extend the Tin Shui Wai General Out-Patient Clinic Public-Private Partnership Programme to Kwun Tong, Wong Tai Sin and Tuen Mun districts, providing general out-patient clinic patients with specific chronic diseases with a choice to receive treatment in private clinics. (FHB)
- Plan and develop a pilot programme to subsidise colorectal cancer screening for well-defined target groups. (FHB)

## **Food Safety and Labelling**

- Prepare legislation to regulate nutrition labelling of formula products and foods for infants and young children under the age of 36 months. (FHB)

## **Elderly Healthcare Services**

- Increase the annual voucher amount under the Elderly Health Care Voucher Scheme from \$1,000 to \$2,000. (FHB)
- Convert the “Pilot Project on Outreach Primary Dental Care Services for the Elderly in Residential Care Homes and Day Care Centres” into a regular dental care programme for elders in residential care homes and similar facilities. (FHB)

## **Ageing in Place**

- Provide additional resources to elderly centres to enhance information provision, counselling, care needs assessment and services application for the elderly. (LWB)
- Enhance support services by District Elderly Community Centres to elderly persons with dementia and their carers. (LWB)
- Invite CCF to implement a pilot scheme of providing living allowance to carers for the elderly who are from low-income families. (LWB)
- Fully roll out the Senior Police Call programme to promote crime prevention and road safety awareness of the elderly, and to minimise their chance of being victims of crime. (SB)

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- Inject \$50 million into the Elder Academy Development Foundation to support the development of Elder Academy. (LWB)
  - Regularise the District-based Scheme on Carer Training to enhance carers' knowledge and skills of providing care for the elderly. (LWB)

### **Long-term Care Services for the Elderly**

- Task the Elderly Commission to explore the feasibility of introducing vouchers for residential care service for the elderly. (LWB)
- Allocate additional resources to nursing home places to provide a continuum of care. (LWB)
- Launch a pilot scheme to purchase residential care places from an elderly home run by a Hong Kong NGO in Shenzhen for elderly persons on the Central Waiting List for subsidised residential care places to choose to live in the elderly home concerned; and discuss similar arrangements with an elderly home in Zhaoqing run by another Hong Kong NGO. (LWB)

### **Financial Support to the Elderly**

- Review the Old Age Living Allowance to ascertain, among other things, whether the asset limits should be relaxed. (LWB)
- Explore the feasibility of extending Old Age Living Allowance to Guangdong, having regard to the operating experience gained from the first year of implementation of the Guangdong Scheme. (LWB)

## **Planning and Integration of Elderly Services**

- Task the Elderly Commission to prepare an Elderly Services Programme Plan. (LWB)
- Explore the feasibility of setting up Integrated Elderly Services Centres on a pilot basis to provide one-stop, multi-disciplinary healthcare and social services for the elderly at the community level. (FHB/LWB)

## **Municipal Services**

- Examine the positioning and functions of public markets in present-day circumstances and in light of such, develop proposals for improving the operating environment of public markets to enable them to better serve the public, taking into account the recommendations of the consultancy study recently commissioned. (FHB)
- Amend the Chinese Permanent Cemeteries Rules to relax the restrictions in relation to close relatives on the use of a family niche and provide for improvements in the management and use of Chinese Permanent Cemeteries to better serve community's needs. (HAB)

## **Animal Welfare**

- Tighten up the regulatory framework for pet trading to enhance animal welfare. (FHB)

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## **Veterinary Service**

- Prepare legislation to strengthen the membership of the Veterinary Surgeons Board of Hong Kong and streamline its modus operandi. (FHB)

## On-going Initiatives

*We are:*

### **Enhancing Healthcare Services Provision**

- Planning and implementing initiatives to promote the development of primary care, including establishment of community health centres, formulation of reference frameworks for specific chronic diseases and population groups, development of the Primary Care Directory, etc. (FHB)
- Enhancing public healthcare services through public-private partnership to increase service volume, reduce waiting time, offer additional choices for patients, and enhance cost-effectiveness. We are planning and implementing pilot projects, including –
  - subsidising specific groups of patients under public general out-patient clinics to receive primary care in the private sector;
  - procuring haemodialysis services from private sector for end stage renal disease patients currently under the care of public hospitals;
  - providing outsourced radiological investigation services for selected groups of cancer patients; and
  - subsidising patients to receive cataract surgeries in the private sector. (FHB)

- 
- Improving the services of the Hospital Authority to provide citizens with quality public healthcare services, including –
    - enhancing the treatment for the critically ill;
    - enhancing elderly healthcare services;
    - enhancing infirmary services; and
    - optimising waiting time management of specialist out-patient clinic services and accident and emergency services. (FHB)
  - Widening the scope of the Hospital Authority Drug Formulary to enhance the efficacy of treating various diseases. (FHB)
  - Extending the case management programme to all districts to provide intensive community support for persons with severe mental illness. (FHB)

## **Healthcare Service Development and Infrastructure**

- Constructing the Tin Shui Wai Hospital and Centre of Excellence in Paediatrics at Kai Tak, as well as actively pursuing the expansion and redevelopment of United Christian Hospital, Kwong Wah Hospital, Queen Mary Hospital and Kwai Chung Hospital. (FHB)
- Considering the establishment of a neuroscience centre in the planned Kai Tak Hospital Development. (FHB)

- Implementing the first stage of the electronic health record programme to set up a territory-wide patient-oriented system. It will facilitate the sharing of electronic health records between public and private healthcare providers. (FHB)
- Drafting legislation to provide a legal framework for the operation of the electronic health record sharing system. (FHB)
- Facilitating the further development of private hospitals with a view to ensuring the healthy development of a twin-track healthcare system in Hong Kong. (FHB)

## **Regulation of Medical Devices**

- Developing a statutory regulatory proposal on medical devices, taking into account the findings of the business impact assessment and the views of stakeholders. (FHB)

## **Chinese Medicine**

- Conducting review of the development of the Chinese medicine sector through the newly established Chinese Medicine Development Committee to formulate a strategy to raise the professional standard and status of Chinese medicine practitioners, support R&D of Chinese medicine, promote treatment with integrated Chinese and Western medicine, expand the role of Chinese medicine in the public healthcare system, and examine the need for the development of a Chinese medicine hospital in Hong Kong. (FHB)

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- Setting up public Chinese medicine clinics in 18 districts, with the last one in Islands District to commence service in 2014. We are also funding and monitoring 17 existing clinics to enhance Chinese medicine service in our public healthcare system. (FHB)

### **Ensuring Long-term Sustainability of Healthcare System**

- Conducting an overall review of the operation of the Hospital Authority to ensure that it will continue to provide quality and effective services under the twin-track healthcare system. (FHB)
- Reviewing the regulatory regime for private healthcare facilities to enhance the safety, quality and price transparency of private healthcare services. (FHB)
- Taking forward the Health Protection Scheme to provide more choices and better protection for those who use private healthcare services. (FHB)

### **Disease Prevention and Control**

- Implementing the Prevention and Control of Disease Ordinance and improving our infectious disease surveillance, control and notification system. (FHB)
- Implementing a multi-pronged strategy to minimise the risk of and enhance Hong Kong's preparedness for influenza pandemic. (FHB)
- Continuing the subsidy schemes for eligible children and elderly to receive seasonal influenza and pneumococcal vaccinations to enhance primary care and disease prevention. (FHB)

- Adopting a comprehensive preventive and surveillance programme to reduce the risk of avian influenza outbreaks and human infections in Hong Kong. We are keeping the situation and the propriety of our policies under review. (FHB)
- Drafting legislation to extend the current import control regime for meat and poultry to cover poultry eggs to minimise the risk of avian influenza. (FHB)
- Implementing the Strategic Framework for Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases to promote cross-sector co-operation in the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases. (FHB)

## **Health Promotion**

- Making progressive efforts in tobacco control through the multi-pronged approach of publicity, promotion, education, legislation, enforcement, taxation and smoking cessation. (FHB)
- Promoting registration on the Central Organ Donation Register to the public through collaboration with relevant organisations. (FHB)

## **Safe Use of Pesticides and Veterinary Drugs**

- Preparing for the commencement of the Pesticides (Amendment) Ordinance in January 2014 to fully meet the requirements of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade. (FHB)

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- Preparing for the commencement of the Pesticide Residues in Food Regulation (Cap. 132CM) on 1 August 2014 to ensure food safety. (FHB)
  - Refining the details of the proposed regulatory framework governing veterinary drug residues in food with reference to the Pesticide Residues in Food Regulation. (FHB)

### **Elderly Healthcare Services**

- Continuing to promote the Elderly Health Care Voucher Scheme which subsidises elderly people aged 70 or above to use private primary care services in their neighbourhood community. The Scheme will become a regular support programme for the elderly in 2014. (FHB)
- Implementing a two-year pilot project in collaboration with NGOs to provide health assessment for elderly people aged 70 or above to enhance preventive care. (FHB)

### **Ageing in Place**

- Implementing the Pilot Scheme on Community Care Service Voucher for the Elderly to enable eligible elderly people to choose the services that suit their individual needs with the use of service vouchers. (LWB)
- Increasing the number of day care and home care places for the elderly to support ageing in place. (LWB)

- Implementing the Integrated Discharge Support Programme for Elderly Patients on a territory-wide basis to provide integrated support services to elderly hospital dischargees who have difficulties taking care of themselves and their carers. (LWB)
- Upgrading the physical setting, facilities and equipment of some 230 elderly centres under the Improvement Programme on Elderly Centres. (LWB)

### **Long-term Care Services for the Elderly**

- Increasing the number of subsidised residential care places for the elderly through –
  - the Enhanced Bought Place Scheme;
  - making better use of space in subvented homes;
  - building new contract homes; and
  - identifying sites for new homes. (LWB)
- Exploring the option of converting or redeveloping Wong Chuk Hang Hospital, which mainly provides extended care, into a care home for the elderly with more residential places. (LWB)
- Supporting infirm elderly in subsidised residential care places through the provision of infirmary care supplement. (LWB)
- Supporting demented elderly in day care centres/units and those in subsidised residential care places through the provision of dementia supplement. (LWB)

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- In collaboration with the welfare sector, extending the pilot project, which aims at encouraging young people to join the welfare care profession, to more elderly services units and to include rehabilitation care work in the initiative. The initiative will provide 1 000 places for young people. (LWB)

## **Financial Support to the Elderly**

- Ensuring a smooth operation of Old Age Living Allowance under the Social Security Allowance Scheme. The Allowance is to supplement the living expenses of Hong Kong elderly persons aged 65 or above who are in need of financial support. (LWB)
- Implementing the Guangdong Scheme launched in October 2013 to provide Old Age Allowance for eligible Hong Kong elderly people residing in Guangdong. (LWB)

## **Municipal Services**

- Taking forward the five-year assistance scheme for improving the fire safety and design of hawker stalls in 43 fixed-pitch hawker areas. (FHB)
- Seeking support to take forward individual sites shortlisted across the territory for public columbarium development whilst promoting green burials in parallel. (FHB)
- Drafting legislation to regulate private columbaria. (FHB)
- Conducting a comprehensive review of the fee levels and charging policy for the municipal services and facilities managed by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department. (FHB)

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# Chapter 5

## Environment and Conservation

### Preamble

Sustainable development requires a proper balance among environmental protection, heritage conservation, economic development and providing for social needs.

This Administration has laid a solid foundation for environmental protection in its first year by mapping out clear targets and work plans for air quality and waste management in two published blueprints. We are taking concrete steps to actualize the blueprints through various initiatives and programmes. The challenges to improving air quality and reducing waste are huge. However, in partnership with the public, we are determined to make significant progress during this term of office.

The community is increasingly aware of the impact on their quality of life if we fail to conserve our natural environment. A major effort to address this issue is our work to develop a Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for Hong Kong as part of our commitment under the United Nations' Convention on Biological Diversity.

To meet the concerns of climate change, we have redoubled our efforts on various initiatives to achieve higher energy efficiency and promote a less carbon intensive lifestyle.

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To make Hong Kong a better city for all, we will continue to enhance infrastructure to provide a safe and quality living environment. At the same time, we will improve the greening, landscape and tree management regime through the adoption of a holistic and professional approach as well as engaging stakeholders under the “Be Our Greening Partner” Campaign.

We wish to preserve the city’s charm whilst respecting the need for development. Together with the Antiquities Advisory Board, we will consult the public on the way forward for our built heritage conservation policy.

## New Initiatives

*We will:*

### **Air Quality**

- Review the third technical memorandum in 2014 for tightening the air pollutant emission caps on power companies from 2019 onwards. (ENB)
- Starting from the first quarter of 2014, accept applications for ex-gratia grants under the subsidy scheme to phase out some 80 000 diesel commercial vehicles of emission standards at Euro III or those adopted before to improve roadside air quality. (ENB)
- Launch a pilot scheme to enable electric taxi suppliers setting up quick chargers in the car parks administered by the Transport Department to facilitate the expansion of the electric taxi fleet. The Government will also establish 100 medium-speed chargers to shorten the charging time of electric vehicles. (ENB)
- In collaboration with the governments of Guangdong and Macao, enhance the Pearl River Delta Regional Air Quality Monitoring Network with a view to providing more comprehensive air quality information to the public. (ENB)
- Commence a study with the governments of Guangdong and Macao on fine suspended particulates (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) for the Pearl River Delta region to provide robust scientific basis in mapping out the strategies for further improvement of the regional air quality. (ENB)

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- Explore with Guangdong the co-operation in air pollution forecasting and joint effort in promoting regional air pollution prevention. (ENB)

## **Waste Management**

- Draw up comprehensive strategy and plan for the reduction, recycling and treatment of food waste and yard waste. (ENB)
- Earmark \$1 billion to set up a Recycling Fund in support of the sustainable development of the recycling industry. The Steering Committee to Promote the Sustainable Development of the Recycling Industry will study in depth the specific uses of the fund, and will consult stakeholders in the process. (ENB)
- Develop Community Green Stations in phases in each of the 18 districts. (ENB)
- Earmark \$1 billion to set up a Restored Landfill Revitalisation Funding Scheme for application by non-profit making organisations or “national sports associations” to develop recreational, environmental and other uses beneficial to the community at restored landfills. (ENB)

## **Energy**

- Launch a public consultation on the future fuel mix for electricity generation in Hong Kong. (ENB)
- Commence the review of the future regulatory framework for the electricity market. (ENB)

## **Water Quality**

- Conduct a consultancy study to explore various practicable options to effectively reduce near shore pollution and enhance the water quality of the coastal waters of the Victoria Harbour with a view to improving the environment of both sides of the harbour. (ENB)

## **Green Construction**

- Introduce measures to promote low carbon construction, carbon reduction and the use of recycled materials in public works projects. These include –
  - taking forward the use of electric vehicles in works projects;
  - using biodiesel as fuel for selected construction machineries in some construction sites;
  - promoting the adoption of green site offices; and
  - conducting trials on the use of waste glass as engineering fill materials in site formation, backfilling and reclamation projects. (DEVB)

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## On-going Initiatives

*We are:*

### **Improving Air Quality**

#### (a) Greening Road Transport

- Encouraging the transport sector and non-profit making organisations to test out green and innovative transport technologies through the Pilot Green Transport Fund. (ENB)
- Implementing a one-off subsidy scheme for the replacement of catalytic converters on liquefied petroleum gas taxis and minibuses to reduce vehicular emissions. Remote sensing equipment will be deployed for surveillance purpose. (ENB)
- Providing funding support for franchised bus companies to retrofit Euro II and III franchised buses with selective catalytic reduction devices to reduce roadside air pollution. (ENB)
- Setting statutory emission standards for non-road mobile machinery newly supplied for local use to reduce air pollution. (ENB)
- Continuing to procure more electric vehicles, subject to the availability of suitable models in the market and the operational needs of government bureaux and departments. (ENB)

(b) Reducing Marine Emissions

- Making legislation to mandate the use of low sulphur fuel by ocean-going vessels berthing in Hong Kong waters to reduce marine emissions. (ENB)
- Upgrading the quality of local marine diesel to reduce marine emissions. (ENB)
- Conducting a technical feasibility study on the setting up of an onshore power supply system at Kai Tak Cruise Terminal. (ENB)

(c) Regional Co-operation

- Implementing the Pearl River Delta Regional Air Quality Management Plan together with the Guangdong Provincial Government to achieve the emission reduction targets for 2015 and 2020. (ENB)
- Exploring with the Guangdong Provincial Government the feasibility of mandating fuel switch at berth in Pearl River Delta ports. (ENB)

(d) Others

- Implementing the new Air Quality Health Index to provide health-based air quality information to the public. (ENB)
- Banning the import, transshipment, supply and new use of all forms of asbestos to strengthen protection of public health. (ENB)

- 
- Making preparations for setting up a general air quality monitoring station in Tseung Kwan O to provide air quality information. (ENB)

## **Enhancing Waste Management**

### (a) Reducing Waste and Promoting Recycling

- Implementing the Food Wise Hong Kong Campaign and various initiatives to promote reduction of food waste. (ENB)
- Supporting the Council for Sustainable Development in conducting public engagement on how to implement quantity-based municipal solid waste charging to promote the reduction of waste. (ENB)

### (b) Implementing Producer Responsibility Schemes

- Stepping up publicity and public education in preparation of the extension of the Environmental Levy Scheme on Plastic Shopping Bags. (ENB)
- Developing legislative proposals and the treatment facility for the mandatory Producer Responsibility Scheme on waste electrical and electronic equipment. (ENB)
- Drawing up detailed proposals for the mandatory Producer Responsibility Scheme on glass beverage bottles. (ENB)

### (c) Developing Waste Treatment and Disposal Facilities

- Pursuing landfill extensions. (ENB)

- Completing the tendering of the first phase Organic Waste Treatment Facilities for food waste treatment. (ENB)
- Completing the feasibility study for the second phase Organic Waste Treatment Facilities for food waste treatment, and planning for tendering of the project. (ENB)
- Planning for tendering of the first phase Integrated Waste Management Facilities for municipal solid waste treatment. (ENB)

### **Combating Climate Change and Energy Conservation**

- Mapping out implementation strategies and detailed recommendations for promoting green building. (ENB)
- Implementing the Buildings Energy Efficiency Ordinance and reviewing the minimum energy performance standards of lighting installations. (ENB)
- Implementing the district cooling system at Kai Tak Development, which has commenced its initial phase of operation, to meet the demand for air-conditioning of public and private non-domestic developments. (ENB)
- Implementing the Mandatory Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme and reviewing its scope and grading structure. (ENB)
- Continuing the three-year programme initiated in 2012 to carry out carbon audits on major government buildings and public facilities to identify carbon reduction opportunities for managing local greenhouse gas emissions. (ENB)

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- Developing a carbon footprint repository to encourage listed companies to participate in carbon auditing and disclosure, and share best practices in carbon management. (ENB)
  - Developing proposals to address concerns on external lighting in light of the recommendations of the Task Force on External Lighting. (ENB)

### **Improving Water Quality**

- Implementing Stage 2A of the Harbour Area Treatment Scheme with the aim of completing the major construction works within 2014. (ENB)

### **Total Water Management Strategy**

- Conducting a review of the Total Water Management Strategy with an aim to ensuring sustainable use of precious water resources and timely introduction of new initiatives to strengthen our resilience and preparedness against uncertainties and challenges. (DEVB)

### **Water Conservation and Reclamation**

- Implementing the “Let’s save 10L water” campaign and the “Water Efficiency Labelling Scheme” to promote public awareness of water conservation and facilitate users’ choice of water efficient plumbing fixtures and appliances. (DEVB)
- Exploring the use of reclaimed water for toilet flushing and other non-potable uses in Sheung Shui, Fanling and the new development areas in the north-eastern part of the New Territories. (DEVB)

## Supporting Community Green Actions

- Enhancing community participation in waste reduction, energy and water conservation through district-based education, promotion and publicity programmes as well as activities organised or sponsored by District Councils. (ENB)
- Providing long-term and sustained support for green actions initiated by the community through investment returns generated from the injection of \$5 billion into the Environment and Conservation Fund. (ENB)

## Promoting Green Economy

- Actively applying green specifications in government procurement as well as cleansing and vehicle hiring service contracts. We are also seeking to widen the scope of green procurement in public works projects. (ENB)
- Supporting the local environmental industry to participate in environmental exhibitions, trade missions and related events to promote the industry and explore business opportunities in the Mainland and overseas markets. (ENB)
- Implementing the “Cleaner Production Partnership Programme” to assist Hong Kong-owned factories in Hong Kong and Guangdong in adopting cleaner production technologies and practices. (ENB)

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## Promoting Nature Conservation

- Implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. We are formulating the Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for Hong Kong to enhance the conservation of biodiversity. (ENB)
- Implementing measures to better protect country park enclaves, in particular those found suitable to be included as part of the country parks. (ENB)
- Taking forward the proposal to improve marine ecosystems and providing better protection for marine organisms. (ENB)
- Taking forward initiatives including the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund and the issue of new marine fish culture licences in fish culture zones to support the fisheries industry following implementation of the trawl ban. (FHB)

## Greening, Landscape and Tree Management

- Improving the greening, landscape and tree management regime through –
  - embracing quality landscape planning and design in the upstream and professional vegetation management and maintenance in the downstream;
  - better co-ordination across departments;
  - enhancement of professional expertise; and
  - increased community involvement. (DEVB)

- Engaging stakeholders in wider promotion of greening, landscape and tree management, through the “Be Our Greening Partner” Campaign. (DEVB)
- Reviewing the existing arrangements for tree risk management and enhancing manpower development to protect public safety. (DEVB)
- Developing Greening Master Plans for the New Territories. (DEVB)

### **Heritage Conservation**

- Reviewing the policy on the conservation of built heritage in Hong Kong and preparing for consulting the public on the way forward. (DEVB)
- Working closely with the selected non-profit making organisations to implement projects in the first three batches of buildings under the “Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme”. (DEVB)
- Proceeding with the launch of the fourth batch of historic buildings under the “Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme”. (DEVB)
- Taking forward the conservation and revitalisation of the Central Police Station Compound in partnership with the Hong Kong Jockey Club. (DEVB)

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## Safe and Quality Living Environment

- Implementing measures to enhance building design to foster a quality and sustainable built environment and to control the problem of “inflated buildings”. (DEVB)
- Continuing the Landslip Prevention and Mitigation Programme to –
  - upgrade and landscape Government man-made slopes;
  - mitigate the landslide risk of natural terrain with known hazards; and
  - conduct safety screening studies for private slopes. (DEVB)
- Conducting studies to –
  - assess the flood risk levels of rivers in rural areas; and
  - develop flood warning systems and mitigation measures for flood prone rivers. (DEVB)
- Constructing an underground stormwater storage tank to relieve the flooding risks in Happy Valley and adjacent areas. (DEVB)
- Reviewing the Drainage Master Plans in East Kowloon, West Kowloon, Shatin, Tai Po and Sai Kung to assess the flooding risks in these districts and propose improvement measures. (DEVB)

- Reconstructing and revitalising the Kai Tak Nullah into a green river corridor through the urban areas, namely the Kai Tak River. The project will be completed by phases starting from 2016. (DEVB)
  
- Continuing with the programme of decking and/or landscaping of 16 sections of nullahs to improve the living environment of adjacent areas. Of these, 14 sections were completed and the remaining will be completed in stages from 2015 onwards. (DEVB)
  
- Carrying out the design of the improvement work for the Yuen Long Town Centre Nullah to enhance the local environment quality and the ecological value of the nullah. (DEVB)

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## Chapter 6

# Education, Population and Human Resources

## Preamble

People are the most precious resource for this city's continued success. For Hong Kong to stay competitive, we need to nurture local talents with global perspectives, while proactively attracting talents from around the world to build up our pool of human capital. We should also foster an inclusive environment where people of different backgrounds can develop their potential. The Steering Committee on Population Policy is conducting a public engagement exercise, with a view to mapping out key strategies and specific measures to address these challenges.

Development of one's potential starts with education. The overall vision and mission of our education policies is to offer all-round and balanced learning opportunities for our students, in order to lay the foundation for their lifelong learning, so that they not only learn successfully but can apply what they have learnt. We will ensure the quality of education by making further improvements within the framework of the existing policies. Providing 15-year free education and better quality kindergarten education is our aim. We have set up a dedicated committee to study how to practicably implement free kindergarten education.

The Government is committed to providing flexible and diversified study pathways with multiple entry and exit points for secondary school leavers. We shall increase the opportunities for youngsters to pursue quality post-secondary programmes. At the same time, we attach equal significance to vocational education and training, which provide valuable credentials and articulation opportunities through a full range of pre-employment and in-service programmes. We will strengthen our life planning and career guidance services to better prepare our young people to make informed decisions on the different choices available to them from school to work, and also promote continuing learning, so as to strengthen their confidence in the future.

Employment for local workers has always been our priority. We provide comprehensive recruitment and employment services as well as specialised employment programmes to cater for job seekers with different employment needs.

In protecting workers' rights and benefits, we take rigorous enforcement actions against breaches of labour laws. We will facilitate informed and in-depth discussion on the way forward for a working hours policy.

Cherishing the family is a core value of our community. We will continue to collaborate with various sectors in the community to create a pro-family environment. We will take forward legislation for paid paternity leave and will continue to promote other family-friendly employment practices to help employees achieve a better balance between work and family lives.

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## New Initiatives

*We will:*

### **Kindergarten Education**

- Taking into account the short-term measures proposed by the Committee on Free Kindergarten Education, increase the voucher value of the Pre-primary Education Voucher Scheme by \$2,500 per year in the 2014/15 and 2015/16 school years. This will alleviate the financial burden in respect of kindergarten education on parents and relieve the pressure of kindergartens in meeting the expenses such as teachers' salary, staffing and operating expenditure (including rental). (EDB)
- Lift the fee remission ceiling to offer greater assistance to the needy families to better facilitate their children's access to quality kindergarten education. (EDB)

### **School Education**

- Provide public sector primary schools with recurrent cash grant equivalent to the salary of a Clerical Assistant with effect from the 2014/15 school year for employment of staff to cope with the additional administration and clerical work in implementing various initiatives, in particular those relating to poverty alleviation. (EDB)

- Expand the Career Guidance Team in EDB to strengthen the support for life planning and career guidance services to facilitate a paradigm shift in secondary schools; publicise multiple pathways in further studies, vocational education and occupations in collaboration with various stakeholders and related organisations; and enhance the provision of career-related experiences to meet the diverse needs of students through more co-operation with the business sector and related organisations. (EDB)
- Provide each public sector school operating senior secondary education levels with a recurrent cash grant equivalent to the salary of a graduate teacher with effect from the 2014/15 school year to facilitate schools' enhancement of the life planning and career guidance services meeting the students' development needs. (EDB)
- Provide all public sector schools with Wi-Fi coverage to enhance learning through the use of mobile computing devices, in preparation for the launch of the fourth IT in education strategy after consultation with stakeholders. (EDB)

### **Post-secondary Education**

- Increase the annual intake of senior-year undergraduate places in the University Grants Committee (UGC)-funded institutions by 1 000, from 4 000 to 5 000. (EDB)

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- Explore how to practically introduce a new subsidy scheme to subsidise up to 1 000 students per cohort to pursue self-financing undergraduate programmes in selected disciplines to meet Hong Kong's manpower needs. The scheme, if implemented, will benefit three cohorts of students, and will then be subject to a review on its effectiveness. (EDB in collaboration with relevant bureaux)
  - Introduce a scholarship scheme to support up to 100 outstanding students per cohort to study in renowned universities outside Hong Kong to help nurture a diversified pool of top talents to propel Hong Kong's development. Apart from receiving a scholarship of up to \$250,000, needy students will also receive means-tested bursary of up to \$200,000. The scheme will benefit three cohorts of students, and will then be subject to a review on its effectiveness. (EDB)
  - Introduce the Mainland University Study Subsidy Scheme so that needy students pursuing studies under the Scheme for the Admission of Hong Kong Students to Mainland Higher Education Institutions may receive a means-tested grant of up to \$15,000 per year during their study period. The scheme is not subject to any quota. The scheme will benefit three cohorts of students, and will then be subject to a review on its effectiveness. (EDB)

## **Vocational Education**

- Launch a pilot training and support scheme at VTC to integrate structured apprenticeship training programmes and clear career progression for industries with keen demand for labour. (EDB in collaboration with relevant bureaux)

- Provide funding support for VTC's Industrial Attachment Programme for students so as to enhance their employability and prepare them for a smooth transition from study to work. (EDB)
- Set up a Task Force on Vocational Education to map out the strategy for promoting vocational education in the community, and invite VTC to draw up a strategic development plan for its campuses in order to enhance synergy and provide state-of-the-art facilities which are pivotal to enhancing the image and quality of vocational education. (EDB)

### **Qualifications Framework**

- Establish an endowment fund of \$1 billion and use its investment income to provide long-term support for the sustainable development and implementation of the Hong Kong Qualifications Framework, benefiting various stakeholders such as students, practitioners, employers, education and training providers as well as quality assurance bodies. (EDB)

### **International Year of the Family**

- Launch through the Family Council a series of territory-wide activities to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2014, including the organisation of symposium, educational events and publicity campaigns. (HAB)

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## On-going Initiatives

*We are:*

### **Population Policy**

- Conducting a public engagement exercise through the Steering Committee on Population Policy on a host of issues relating to population policy. The engagement exercise will end in February 2014. (CSO)

### **Kindergarten Education**

- Implementing the Pre-primary Education Voucher Scheme and the Kindergarten and Child Care Centre Fee Remission Scheme to provide support for parents with children attending eligible kindergartens. (EDB)
- Providing course fee reimbursement for principals and teachers serving in Pre-primary Education Voucher Scheme kindergartens to pursue relevant approved courses in the 2012/13 and 2013/14 school years. (EDB)
- Studying how to practicably implement free kindergarten education, and will make recommendations within 2015. (EDB)

### **School Education**

- Implementing a series of targeted relief measures to sustain the development of secondary schools and stabilise the teaching force, in view of the temporary decline of Secondary One student population in the coming few years. (EDB)

- Monitoring the demand of cross-boundary students for public sector primary school places and implementing measures to cope with the upsurge, including –
  - facilitating the transportation arrangements for cross-boundary students of tender age through measures to increase the handling capacities of boundary control points and proper management of traffic and security measures at the boundary areas; and
  - revising the arrangements for the central allocation of Primary One places for admission to Primary One in September 2014. (EDB)
- Monitoring the impact of the demographic changes on the long-term planning of the provision of public sector school places, including the transient impact on primary and secondary education caused by babies born to Mainland women in Hong Kong whose fathers are not Hong Kong permanent residents (Type II babies). (EDB)
- Monitoring the supply and demand of international school places and facilitating the development of international schools to meet the demand, especially that from overseas families. (EDB)
- Keeping under review the curriculum reform in basic education and senior secondary education under the New Academic Structure as well as related assessment initiatives to secure continuous enhancement to school curricula and the effectiveness of learning and teaching, including catering for learner diversity. (EDB)

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- Continuing the pilot project in some public sector schools to consolidate more experience and evidence on effective means to strengthen schools' internal management and reduce teachers' administrative work. (EDB)
  - Providing principals and teachers with structured training on curriculum and management as well as the latest development of the New Academic Structure. (EDB)
  - Providing related professional development to principals and teachers to pave the way for a more extensive and optimal use of e-learning in schools, including how pedagogy may be adapted to better harness the potentials of e-learning. (EDB)
  - Creating a motivating and conducive language learning environment through the continued efforts of the Standing Committee on Language Education and Research. The aim is to promote bi-literacy and tri-lingualism and enhance the language standards of our students to meet the changing needs of the community. (EDB)

### **Post-secondary Education**

- Increasing the number of first-year first-degree places to 15 000 and doubling senior year intake places to 4 000 per annum in the UGC-funded institutions in the current triennium, as well as supporting the implementation of the New Academic Structure in the higher education sector. (EDB)
- Supporting research in the higher education sector through the \$23 billion Research Endowment Fund and other funding sources through UGC. (EDB)

- Supporting UGC's initiatives to enhance teaching and learning. Notable initiatives include sponsoring theme-based projects in areas covering blended learning, new pedagogies, curriculum development and development of massive open online courses (MOOCs). (EDB)
- Supporting UGC's initiatives to strengthen UGC-funded institutions' internationalisation efforts, such as funding student-initiated projects that encourage multi-cultural integration. (EDB)
- Supporting the quality and sustainable development of the self-financing post-secondary education sector through a basket of support measures. So far –
  - 11 sites and six vacant school premises were allocated under the Land Grant Scheme. In 2013, the Scheme was modified to cover self-financing institutions offering part-time locally-accredited post-secondary programmes, and to make available vacant government premises under the Scheme to be leased out at nominal rent;
  - 37 loans amounting to about \$7 billion were granted under the Start-up Loan Scheme. The ambit of the Scheme was expanded in 2012 to provide financial support for self-financing degree awarding institutions to develop student hostels; and
  - the Self-financing Post-secondary Education Fund, with total injections of \$3.52 billion, will continue to provide scholarships and awards and enhance quality of teaching and learning in the sector. (EDB)

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- Providing over 5 600 scholarships and awards for post-secondary students under the Government Scholarship Fund and the Self-financing Post-secondary Education Fund in the 2012/13 academic year, including the following two new measures –
    - a total of \$2 billion was injected into the two funds in 2012 to support new scholarships and awards, namely (i) the “Talent Development Scholarship” to encourage students to pursue their talents in non-academic areas, and (ii) the “Reaching Out Award” to enable students to participate in international events, short-term exchange or internships to broaden their international exposure and horizon; and
    - a total of \$40 million was injected into the two funds in 2013 to establish scholarships to give recognition to deserving post-secondary students with special educational needs in the pursuit of academic and other excellence. (EDB)
  - Implementing incremental steps to enhance the quality assurance mechanism of post-secondary education. A working group is being set up to oversee the implementation of periodic external quality audits on sub-degree operations of UGC-funded institutions. (EDB)
  - Implementing measures and making refinements to facilitate Hong Kong’s development as a regional education hub to attract and retain non-local students. These include relaxing employment and immigration restrictions for non-local students of locally-accredited local programmes, as well as implementing the PhD Fellowship Scheme and Targeted Scholarship Scheme for outstanding local and non-local students. (EDB)

## Qualifications Framework

- Supporting the development of the Qualifications Framework by –
  - working with the Industry Training Advisory Committees to implement new initiatives funded by the recurrent provision of \$10 million starting from the 2013-14 financial year;
  - exploring the development of a credit accumulation and transfer system; and
  - fostering collaboration with the Qualifications Frameworks of other areas. (EDB)

## Vocational Training and Manpower Development

### (a) On-the-job Training

- Funding VTC to implement the pilot traineeship scheme in services industries, which aims to provide young people aged 15 or above with in-service training and relevant vocational education. We are planning to expand the scheme's coverage from the existing beauty care and hairdressing industries to other services industries, including the elderly care services industry. (LWB)
- Promoting the employment of young school leavers through providing enhanced on-the-job training allowance for employers and workplace attachment training allowance for trainees under the Youth Employment and Training Programme. (LWB)

- 
- Promoting the employment of middle-aged persons through providing enhanced on-the-job training allowance to employers under the Employment Programme for the Middle-aged. (LWB)

(b) Support for Employment

- Setting up a new job centre in Tung Chung. (LWB)
- Reviewing the effectiveness of the one-stop employment and training centre in Tin Shui Wai which aims at streamlining, integrating and enhancing the existing employment and training/retraining services of the Labour Department, Social Welfare Department and Employees Retraining Board. (LWB)

(c) International Culinary Institute

- Developing the International Culinary Institute under VTC as a centre of excellence in international cuisine. The Institute aims to enhance Hong Kong's status as Gourmets' Paradise and regional education hub, and improve education opportunities for young people. (EDB)

(d) Manpower Development for the Construction Industry

- Collaborating with the Construction Industry Council and other key stakeholders to monitor the manpower situation in the construction industry and to implement measures to meet the manpower demand for the implementation of upcoming infrastructure projects. (DEVB)

- Working closely with the Construction Industry Council to facilitate registration of construction workers and implementation of prohibition in phases, including making legislative amendment to the Construction Workers Registration Ordinance. (DEVB)

(e) Manpower Development for the Healthcare Sector

- Conducting a strategic review on healthcare manpower planning and professional development to ensure an adequate supply of quality professionals for meeting the community's future healthcare needs. (FHB)

(f) Manpower Development for the Welfare Sector

- Training additional Enrolled Nurses and allied health professionals for the welfare sector. (LWB)

### **Attracting Talents**

- Stepping up promotion efforts for various talent admission schemes in view of Hong Kong's human capital needs. (SB)

### **Employee's Welfare**

- Taking forward the work of the Standard Working Hours Committee on promoting informed and in-depth public discussion of the working hours policy. The aim is to build consensus and identify the way forward. (LWB)
- Consulting stakeholders on the continuous contract requirement under the Employment Ordinance on the basis of the review conducted by the Labour Department. (LWB)

- 
- Organising publicity campaigns to promote compliance with Statutory Minimum Wage. (LWB)
  - Taking enforcement action against wage offences, including breaches of Statutory Minimum Wage provisions, and offences of wilful defaults of Labour Tribunal or Minor Employment Claims Adjudication Board awards. (LWB)
  - Adopting an intelligence-based and proactive strategy in combating illegal employment. (LWB)
  - Intensifying systematic prevention and enforcement measures to ensure construction safety in anticipation of the increase in the number of new works projects and expected growth in building renovation and maintenance works. (LWB)
  - Launching safety enhancement initiatives and large-scale promotional programmes to raise the standard and awareness of stakeholders in the construction and catering industries on occupational safety and health. (LWB)

## **Supporting the Family**

- Legislating on three days' paid paternity leave for working fathers with newborn child to help them take up their family responsibilities. (LWB)
- Promoting family-friendly employment practices and encouraging wider adoption of such practices to help employees achieve better balance between work and family lives. (LWB)

- Working with the Family Council on the application of family perspectives in the policy-making process following the introduction of a mandatory assessment of family implications for all policies as from 1 April 2013. Bureaux and departments are encouraged to consult the Family Council on new policies which may carry family implications. (HAB)
- Working with the Family Council to –
  - advocate a pro-family environment and further promote family core values to encourage the community to attach importance to the family; and
  - foster a culture of loving families. (HAB)
- Introducing family education packages through the Family Council to –
  - address the needs of underprivileged families and cross-border families, etc.; and
  - further promote family education at the district level with collaboration among relevant bureaux/departments. (HAB)

### **Women's Interests**

- Providing support to the Women's Commission in promoting the interests and well-being of women through –
  - the provision of an enabling environment;
  - empowerment of women, including implementing the Capacity Building Mileage Programme; and
  - public education. (LWB)

- 
- Applying the Gender Mainstreaming Checklist or the concept in different policy areas progressively and working with the Women's Commission to further promote gender mainstreaming. (LWB)
  - Implementing the Capacity Building Mileage Programme to encourage women to pursue continuous life-long learning. (LWB)
  - Conducting a Time-use Survey to understand the time-use pattern of women in Hong Kong, circumstances surrounding women's decision to take part in or withdraw from the workforce, as well as factors which would attract them to work. (LWB)

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# Chapter 7

## Youth, Sport, Arts and Culture

### Preamble

Young people are precious assets of our society and our future. Our youth development policy will focus on creating opportunities for them and helping them to realise their potential. We will continue to partner with relevant NGOs to foster a culture of multi-faceted excellence and offer multiple avenues for young people to pursue their studies, career and interests.

Engaging the Commission on Youth, uniformed groups and NGOs, we aim to enhance our networking with young people, promote positive values amongst them and facilitate their overall development.

The Government's policy for developing sport in Hong Kong is threefold - to promote sport in the community, to support elite sport, and to maintain Hong Kong as a centre for major international sports events. Underlying these objectives is the view that participation in sport contributes significantly to good physical and psychological health, and provides a basis for social interaction and a sense of belonging to the community.

On culture and the arts, our vision is to develop Hong Kong into an international cultural metropolis with a distinct identity grounded in Chinese traditions and enriched by different cultures. We are providing opportunities for wide participation in culture and the arts; offering opportunities for those with potentials to develop artistic

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talents; supporting the preservation and promotion of our traditional cultures (including intangible cultural heritage) while encouraging artistic creation and innovation; and developing Hong Kong into a prominent hub of cultural exchanges. We will continue to strengthen our cultural software to tie in with the development of the West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD).

## New Initiatives

*We will:*

### **Youth Development**

- Introduce a scholarship scheme to promote the culture of multi-faceted excellence, through subsidising additional undergraduate places for Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education graduates who excel in sports, arts and music as well as community service. (HAB)
- Enhance our support to youth exchange and internship activities. (HAB)
- Continue to promote the Working Holiday Scheme arrangements between Hong Kong and other countries and to explore the signing of such arrangements with more countries so that more of our young people can enrich their global exposure. (LWB)
- Explore with employers and various organisations how pilot projects can be launched under the Youth Employment and Training Programme to provide young people with appropriate pre-employment training, work attachment, on-the-job training and employment support services. (LWB)
- Step up our partnership with NGOs to promote multiple pathways for youths, by organising more life planning activities for senior secondary students and their parents, as well as enhancing publicity work on this front. (HAB)

- 
- Plan and provide a variety of physical, discipline and team building training to the youth through enhancement of different types of activities of the Junior Police Call. (SB)
  - Enhance our support to youth development by strengthening the youth network at district level, providing additional resources to uniformed groups, especially to assist needy student members, and providing rental discount to social enterprises providing youth service and young entrepreneurs in leasing retail shops in Youth Square. (HAB)
  - Expand the Cadet Corps of Auxiliary Medical Service with a view to strengthening youth training in respect of leadership, discipline and team building. (SB)
  - Organise a Youth Summit, a culmination of the “i-Relay Youth Integrity Project” with the engagement of ICAC Ambassadors recruited from 17 local tertiary education institutions, to promote exchanges on integrity-related issues amongst tertiary students from Hong Kong, the Mainland and overseas. (ICAC)
  - Expand the Youth Hostel Scheme by launching two new projects by the Hong Kong Association of Youth Development and the Hong Kong Girl Guides Association. (HAB)

## **Sport**

- Build new indoor sports centres in Sha Tin and Tuen Mun. (HAB)

## **Civic Affairs**

- Work with the Ping Wo Fund Advisory Committee and stakeholders to mount a dedicated publicity campaign against gambling problems in the run-up to 2014 FIFA World Cup. (HAB)

## **Arts and Cultural Facilities**

- Build a cross-district community cultural centre in Ngau Tau Kok to enhance the provision of cultural facilities in the Kowloon East region. (HAB)
- Renovate the Hong Kong Museum of Art to provide additional gallery space for displaying the works of local and international artists. (HAB)
- Support the WKCD Authority to apply for a minor relaxation of development intensity of WKCD with a view to optimising the development potential of the site and providing more facilities to support the development of the arts and cultural sector. (HAB)

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## On-going Initiatives

*We are:*

### **Youth Development**

- Working with the Commission on Youth on youth development activities to help the youth cultivate a positive approach to life and fulfil civic duties. (HAB)
- Enhancing communication with youths through the district network to encourage their participation in community affairs, including organising more exchange activities. (HAB)
- Providing more opportunities for youngsters to serve in underprivileged areas in the Mainland under the “Service Corps” programme. (HAB)
- Taking forward the Youth Hostel Scheme by actively working with the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals and the Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups on the two pilot projects at Hollywood Road and Tai Po respectively. (HAB)
- Working to highlight the Youth Square as a focal point for youth development. The Youth Square provides venues and facilities to the youths and youth organisations at affordable prices. (HAB)

- Working with the Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education to promote civic education outside schools with emphasis on “respect and inclusiveness”. To enhance social harmony, we are promoting the importance of respectful communication as well as accommodating people with diverse cultural background, different views and perspectives. (HAB)
- Working with the Commission on Youth, the Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education and youth uniformed groups to provide young people with appropriate non-formal education and training. We will make use of the Youth Square and the Civic Education Resource Centre to enhance the promotion of youth development and civic education outside schools, including the civic and social participation of young people and national education. (HAB)
- Overseeing the provision of support services for youths at risk, including the implementation of the pilot Cyber Youth Outreaching Projects. (LWB)

### **More Sports Facilities**

- Planning and building new sports facilities to help promote the development of sport at all levels. (HAB)
- Planning the Multi-purpose Sports Complex at Kai Tak in consultation with the sports community and other stakeholders. (HAB)

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## Promoting Sport

- Promoting sport in the community by –
  - working with District Councils and “national sports associations” to introduce more sports programmes to suit the needs of people of different age groups;
  - liaising with the business sector to sponsor free attendance at major sports events for more people from lower income backgrounds;
  - strengthening the promotion of major sports events to encourage more spectator participation and promote Hong Kong as an international events centre;
  - helping “national sports associations” implement effective feeder systems for the early identification of potential elite athletes; and
  - organising events such as the “Sport For All Day” to promote regular and continued participation in sport. (HAB)
- Providing more opportunities for students from lower income backgrounds to take part in school sports programmes through the introduction of a Student Athlete Support Pilot Scheme. (HAB)
- Supporting the long-term development of football by investing in the Hong Kong Football Association’s “Project Phoenix” programme and providing direct financial assistance to district-based football teams. (HAB)

- Strengthening the monitoring of “national sports associations” that receive government subvention to improve their corporate governance. (HAB)
- Supporting “national sports associations” to host major international sports events, in particular a new Women’s Tennis Association Event in Hong Kong from 2014 onwards. (HAB)

### **Supporting Elite Athletes**

- Supporting the strategic growth of the Hong Kong Sports Institute as a world-class institution for the training and all-round support of elite athletes. (HAB)
- Funding our elite athletes’ preparation for the 2014 Asian Games, Youth Olympics and other major international sports events. (HAB)

### **Supporting Arts Groups**

- Providing funding and other support for the major performing arts groups to –
  - provide quality performing arts programmes for the community; and
  - enhance the development of performing arts in Hong Kong through (i) promoting arts education and audience building, (ii) supporting the grooming of local talents and arts groups as well as (iii) fostering artistic creation and innovation. (HAB)

- 
- Supporting small and medium performing arts groups by –
    - engaging them in the Leisure and Cultural Services Department's (LCSD's) programmes and activities, including (i) year-round cultural presentations, arts festivals and other performing arts programmes, (ii) audience building and arts education activities as well as (iii) the Venue Partnership Scheme;
    - presenting their performances in both LCSD and non-LCSD venues; and
    - sponsoring their productions through the provision of free venue, ticketing services, publicity support, and in some cases programme fees. (HAB)
  - Providing policy and funding support to the Hong Kong Arts Development Council to –
    - support its work in promoting the development of the arts in Hong Kong; and
    - provide funding and other types of support to small and medium arts groups. (HAB)
  - Implementing the Arts Capacity Development Funding Scheme to support larger scale and cross-year arts and cultural initiatives/projects to –
    - enhance capacity development of promising arts groups and arts practitioners; and

- encourage the community and private sector to sponsor the arts. (HAB)

## **Grooming Arts Talents**

- Enhancing measures to strengthen the training and development of arts administrators, curators and stage technicians over five years since 2013-14. These include attachment/internship opportunities for young people and scholarships for art professionals to attend training programmes at overseas and local organisations. (HAB)
- Supporting the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts to improve grooming of talents to meet the needs of the arts sector. (HAB)
- Promoting the work of young and talented art practitioners to the local and overseas communities through –
  - various performing and visual arts programmes organised by LCSD; and
  - acquisition and commissioning of local artists' artworks by LCSD. (HAB)
- Providing funding and policy support to the Hong Kong Arts Development Council for implementing various training and internship schemes for grooming local artists in various art forms. (HAB)

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## **Promoting Arts and Cultural Programmes**

- Promoting knowledge and appreciation of various art forms by the community through audience building, arts education and public art projects organised by LCSD, the Hong Kong Arts Development Council and other arts organisations funded by the Government. (HAB)
- Promoting Hong Kong as a cultural hub of Asia through cultural exchange programmes/activities at international and regional levels. (HAB)
- Facilitating the promotion of major arts and cultural events and festivals in Hong Kong, so as to highlight our status as an international city. (HAB)
- At the district level, (i) lining up quality cultural programmes to support district arts festivals, and (ii) launching specially curated entertainment programmes, community cultural events, student performances, etc. through LCSD for audience development and arts education. (HAB)

## **Cultural Facilities, Museums and Libraries**

- Planning and building new cultural facilities taking into account community needs. (HAB)
- Enhancing the management and optimising the use of existing performance venues through the Venue Partnership Scheme. We will continue to identify alternative arts venues for cultural performances to address the venue shortage problem. (HAB)

- Supporting small and medium performing arts groups in using venues not managed by LCSD prior to the coming on-stream of WKCD facilities. This will enrich the cultural life across districts and foster a more vibrant and lively arts scene. (HAB)
- Enhancing public museum facilities and services and entering into collaborative partnership with various sectors to create an inspiring cultural environment that promotes creativity and learning. (HAB)
- Enhancing library facilities and services to better achieve the broad cultural mission of Hong Kong Public Libraries. (HAB)

### **Intangible Cultural Heritage**

- Supporting the research, preservation and promotion of Hong Kong's intangible cultural heritage, including Cantonese opera, an important form of local art genre. We are also compiling Hong Kong's first intangible cultural heritage inventory list. (HAB)
- Promoting knowledge and appreciation of China's intangible cultural heritage through ongoing exhibitions and performances organised in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture. (HAB)

### **West Kowloon Cultural District**

- Monitoring the development of arts and cultural facilities in WKCD by the WKCD Authority, including –
  - monitoring the planning, design and construction processes for the facilities in WKCD;

- 
- co-ordinating interface issues of WKCD with the integrated basement, public infrastructure and community facility projects in the vicinity; and
  - co-ordinating the interface between venues in WKCD and other arts and cultural venues managed by the Government and its collaborators. (HAB)
- Working closely with the WKCD Authority to enrich people's cultural life through –
- organising a variety of quality arts and cultural programmes to nurture local talents and build up audiences; and
  - broadening Hong Kong's exchanges with other places in contemporary art, performing arts and visual culture. (HAB)

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## Chapter 8

# Governance, Constitutional Development and District Administration

## Preamble

The rule of law is vital for safeguarding our rights and freedoms as well as instrumental in continuing Hong Kong's success story as an international financial and commercial centre. We will continue to make improvements to our legal system and enhance our legal infrastructure with a view to ensuring the proper administration of justice.

Law and order is the cornerstone of a stable society. Our disciplined services are firmly committed to maintaining Hong Kong as one of the safest cities in the world. We also provide quality emergency rescue services to protect the life and property of our people.

We will take forward Hong Kong's constitutional development. The Basic Law provides that the ultimate aim is to select the Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (CE) and elect all members of LegCo by universal suffrage, in light of the actual situation in Hong Kong and in accordance with the principle of gradual and orderly progress. The Decision by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPCSC) in 2007 further made clear the timetable for implementing universal suffrage in Hong Kong, i.e. universal suffrage may be implemented for selecting CE in 2017 and following that, all Members of LegCo may be returned by universal suffrage.

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The Administration is firmly committed to implementing the selection of CE by universal suffrage in 2017. According to the Interpretation of NPCSC in 2004, for any amendments to the methods for selecting CE and for forming LegCo annexed to the Basic Law, there is a need to go through a “Five-step Process” of constitutional development, i.e. CE to make a report to NPCSC; NPCSC to determine whether to make amendments to the electoral methods; all Members of LegCo to decide whether to pass the proposal of amending the electoral methods proposed by the Government; CE to give consent to the proposal; and the proposal to be submitted to NPCSC for approval or for the record.

We have formally launched a five-month public consultation on 4 December 2013 on the methods for selecting CE in 2017 and for forming LegCo in 2016.

We will take forward the concept of “addressing district issues at the local level and capitalising on local opportunities” in strengthening district administration. We have been providing support for District Councils to facilitate them in playing an enhanced role in resolving district issues, participating in the management of some district facilities, and implementing District Minor Works Programme and community involvement activities.

We will engage the public, including LegCo and District Councils, as early as practicable in the planning and implementation of government policies and programmes as appropriate.

An effective government relies heavily on a professional and dedicated civil service. Our civil servants will stay committed to serving the community with tenacity and passion.

## New Initiatives

*We will:*

### **Constitutional Development**

- Summarise and consolidate views from the public consultation on the methods for selecting CE in 2017 and for forming LegCo in 2016, and kick-start the “Five-step Process” of constitutional development. (CMAB)

### **District Administration**

- Enhance the expenses reimbursement arrangements for members of District Councils, including increasing the Operating Expenses Reimbursement by 34% in real terms. (HAB)
- Review the honorarium arrangements for District Council members and announce the results within the current year. (HAB)
- Follow up the action plan of the Summit on District Administration to enhance district administration. (HAB)
- Strengthen the manpower of District Offices to enhance the coordination work of District Officers at districts as appropriate. (HAB)

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## **Public Elections**

- Follow up with legislative amendments in light of the Electoral Affairs Commission's recommendations on the boundaries of District Council constituency areas for the 2015 District Council ordinary election. (CMAB)

## **Improving the Legal System and Enhancing Legal Infrastructure**

- Embark on a "Meet the Community" programme (on top of the annual "Prosecutions Week" event) whereby prosecutors of DoJ will visit different schools and other interested community institutions to give talks on various topics related to their work. The programme will help enhance the public's understanding of the criminal justice system and their role therein, as well as their appreciation of the importance of the rule of law. (DoJ)

## **Law Reform Proposals**

- Conduct a public consultation on a bill to implement the Law Reform Commission's recommendations on Enduring Powers of Attorney with regard to personal care. The purpose of the proposed bill is to extend the scope of an enduring power of attorney beyond the donor's property and financial affairs to include matters relating to the donor's personal care when the donor becomes mentally incapacitated. (DoJ)

- Set up a high level inter-departmental working group, chaired by the Secretary for Justice, to undertake a detailed study on possible legislation to deal with various aspects of gender recognition in light of the observations made in the judgment of the Court of Final Appeal in the *W Case (FACV 4/2012)*. (DoJ)

## **Maintaining Law and Order**

- Step up anti-narcotics enforcement to target transnational drugs trafficking activities. To this end, a dedicated team in the Customs and Excise Department will be set up to foster liaison and intelligence exchange with Mainland and overseas law enforcement agencies. In parallel, existing enforcement measures will also be strengthened to tackle increasing drug trafficking activities through the Hong Kong International Airport and land boundary control points. (SB)
- Prepare to introduce a unified screening mechanism to determine claims for non-refoulement protection made in Hong Kong. (SB)
- Upgrade the Technology Crime Division of the Police to form a new Cyber Security and Technology Crime Bureau in 2014, in order to strengthen the protection of information systems of critical infrastructure and enhance the Police's capability in preventing and combating technology crimes. (SB)
- Pursuant to a recommendation of the Financial Action Task Force, preparation will be made to establish a system to detect the physical cross-boundary transportation of currency and bearer negotiable instruments. (SB)

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## **Strengthening Anti-corruption Efforts**

- Enhance clean governance in the public sector through assisting government bureaux and departments as well as public bodies in reviewing their codes of conduct to ensure that they are in line with public expectation on the highest standard of integrity. (ICAC)
- Strengthen internal control by expanding the existing Audit Unit to address the issues identified by recent external reviews, with a view to enhancing governance, achieving compliance assurance, ensuring value for money in respect of different programme areas and fostering awareness of risks and financial control in ICAC. (ICAC)
- Collaborate with the Hong Kong International Film Festival Society to launch a publicity programme on ICAC TV Drama Series during the 38th Hong Kong International Film Festival in 2014, with activities including a premiere of ICAC TV Drama Series 2014, public screenings of classic ICAC TV dramas, community exhibitions and production of a commemorative publication. (ICAC)

## **Maintaining a Professional and Dedicated Civil Service**

- Improve the quota ratio of awards for eligible officers under the Long and Meritorious Service Travel Award Scheme. (CSB)
- Set up a new Families Clinic and enhance specialised dental services for civil service eligible persons. (CSB)

- Expedite the construction of departmental quarter projects for six disciplined services departments. (SB)

## **E-Government**

- Develop a new government data centre complex to meet the long-term IT development and data centre services demands of bureaux/departments. (CEDB)

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## On-going Initiatives

*We are:*

### **Constitutional Development**

- Making preparations for the necessary amendments to local legislation to implement the amendments to the methods for selecting CE in 2017 and for forming LegCo in 2016. (CMAB)

### **Working with the Legislative Council**

- Continuing to work closely with LegCo in the formulation of government policies and programmes. (All bureaux)
- Continuing to draw up the Government's legislative programme and to monitor its progress. (CSO)

### **District Administration**

- Working with the 18 District Councils in implementing signature projects having regard to the needs of individual districts. (HAB)
- Progressively increasing the provisions for the District Minor Works Programme to \$400 million per annum over the current and the next terms of District Councils. The increased resources will cover the capital expenditures as well as recurrent expenditures for the management and maintenance of the completed facilities. (HAB)
- Continuing to provide funds to the District Councils to implement community involvement activities. (HAB)

- Continuing to facilitate communication between District Councils and the Administration through participation of relevant Heads of Departments in District Council meetings or briefings for District Council members on government policies. (HAB)

### **Promotion of Basic Law**

- Continuing our work on the promotion of the Basic Law. (CMAB)

### **Public Elections**

- Continuing with educational and publicity efforts to –
  - encourage eligible persons to register as electors; and
  - remind electors of their civic responsibility of (i) providing accurate information for registration, and (ii) updating their registration particulars in a timely manner. (CMAB)
- Working with the Electoral Affairs Commission to ensure that electoral laws are up-to-date and that public elections continue to be conducted in a fair, open and honest manner. (CMAB)
- Implementing various improvement measures arising from the review on rural elections. (HAB)

### **Improving the Legal System and Enhancing Legal Infrastructure**

- Improving the quality and efficiency of legal services, including advisory work, the preparation and presentation of criminal cases and the standards of advocacy. Improvements are achieved through comprehensive training programmes for prosecutors and better use of resources. (DoJ)

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- Enhancing the capability and effectiveness of the prosecutions service in the conduct of criminal proceedings. (DoJ)
  - Enhancing the quality of criminal justice by promoting transparency in public prosecutions, improving accountability to the community, and studying possible areas of the criminal law that may require reform. (DoJ)
  - Promoting co-operation amongst prosecutors at regional and international levels through active participation in international prosecuting organisations. (DoJ)
  - Working on the establishment of an electronic database of Hong Kong legislation with legal status. We are proceeding with the staged implementation of the Legislation Publication Ordinance (Cap. 614). (DoJ)
  - Providing on-the-job training and professional development programmes relating to legislative drafting for counsel in the Law Drafting Division of DoJ to enhance their professional capability. (DoJ)

## **Law Reform Proposals**

- Studying how to take forward the Law Reform Commission's proposal to legislate on stalking. (CMAB)
- Taking forward the Contracts (Rights of Third Parties) Bill to implement the recommendations of the Law Reform Commission on "Privity of Contract". The Bill will enable a third party, i.e. a person not a party to a contract, to enforce the contractual terms subject to the contracting parties' intention. (DoJ)

- Working on a legislative proposal to facilitate the admission in civil proceedings of notarial acts or instruments duly executed by notaries public registered in Hong Kong. (DoJ)
- Supporting the cross-sector Working Group on Class Actions to consider the Law Reform Commission's proposals on "Class Actions". (DoJ)

## Human Rights

- Promoting anti-discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity through, inter alia –
  - enhanced publicity and public education;
  - efforts targeting the employment aspect; and
  - continued efforts by the Advisory Group on Eliminating Discrimination Against Sexual Minorities to study the issue in depth with concerned stakeholders. (CMAB)
- Promoting children's rights through, inter alia, enhanced publicity, the Children's Rights Education Funding Scheme and the Children's Rights Forum. (CMAB)
- Preparing reports and attending hearings of United Nations human rights treaty bodies, notably in respect of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in 2014. (CMAB)

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## Legal Aid and Legal Advice Services

- Enhancing access to legal aid and free legal advice services to benefit more people who cannot afford private legal fees. (HAB)
- Monitoring and reviewing the operation of the two-year pilot scheme to provide legal advice for litigants in person launched in March 2013. (HAB)

## Maintaining Law and Order

- Sustaining the anti-drug momentum through a five-pronged strategy of preventive education and publicity, treatment and rehabilitation, legislation and enforcement, external co-operation and research. Major initiatives include –
  - continuing with the territory-wide campaign against youth drug abuse to prevent young people from falling prey to drugs;
  - promoting community and parental awareness and mobilising support from different sectors to facilitate early identification and intervention to tackle the hidden drug problem;
  - encouraging the development of drug treatment and rehabilitation programmes to address the evolving needs of drug abusers;
  - continuing with rigorous law enforcement action and bringing new drugs under statutory control, where appropriate;

- encouraging secondary schools to implement the healthy school programme with a voluntary drug testing component; and
  - considering the way forward of the RESCUE Drug Testing Scheme in light of the outcome of the public consultation. (SB)
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- Implementing the Sexual Conviction Record Check Scheme and taking measures to enhance its efficiency. The Scheme aims to enhance protection for children and mentally incapacitated persons against sexual assault. (SB)
  - Seeking short-term and long-term solutions to improve ageing penal facilities. (SB)
  - Delivering rehabilitation programmes matching the needs of persons in custody, and organising market-oriented vocational programmes to increase their employability. (SB)
  - Discussing with the Mainland and other jurisdictions on bilateral co-operation relating to transfer of sentenced persons. (SB)
  - Reducing the Frontier Closed Area to allow local residents and members of the public free access to the excised area. The first and second stages were implemented in February 2012 and June 2013 respectively, and released more than 1 450 hectares of land from the Frontier Closed Area. The last stage, covering the section between Ng Tung River and Lin Ma Hang, is scheduled for implementation in 2015. (SB)

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## **Emergency Support**

- Enhancing emergency ambulance services and educating the public on the proper use of the services. (SB)
- Implementing effective measures to assist our residents in distress outside Hong Kong. These include –
  - a three-colour Outbound Travel Alert system;
  - services of the Assistance to Hong Kong Residents Unit of the Immigration Department; and
  - relevant contingency and notification mechanism. (SB)

## **Public Finance**

- Continuing with the work of a working group to explore ways to make more comprehensive planning for our public finances to cope with the ageing population and the Government's other long-term commitments. (FSTB)

## **Maintaining a Professional and Dedicated Civil Service**

- Giving due consideration to additional manpower needs where justified for delivering effective services to the public. (CSB)
- Conducting a study to assess the manpower and retirement situation in the civil service in the coming years and, on the basis of the findings, formulating possible options for extension of the service of civil servants. (CSB)

- Strengthening our training programmes to boost the innovation and drive of civil servants and to foster a learning culture in the civil service. (CSB)
- Providing national studies and Basic Law training in a systematic and planned manner which takes into account the needs of civil servants of different levels and work nature. (CSB)
- Maintaining a vigorous, effective and efficient disciplinary system against misconduct in the civil service, as well as sustaining efforts to further improve efficiency and productivity in the civil service. (CSB)
- Fostering close partnership with the civil service, enhancing communication with the staff sides and encouraging fuller use of various commendation schemes to recognise and motivate exemplary performance. (CSB)
- Carrying out pay trend surveys, starting salaries surveys and pay level surveys in accordance with the improved civil service pay adjustment mechanism so as to maintain broad comparability between civil service pay and private sector pay. (CSB)
- Enhancing the provision of medical and dental benefits by the Hospital Authority and Department of Health to civil service eligible persons. (CSB)

## **E-Government**

- Delivering more e-Government services on the Government Cloud Platform. (CEDB)

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- Upholding the Government's information security policies and practices by conducting compliance check for bureaux and departments, updating security best practices with reference to international standards and developing a strong information security culture in the Government. (CEDB)
  - Enhancing e-Government services by enriching the GovHK portal, offering more personalised services through MyGovHK and making available more mobile e-services to provide information and services to the public on-the-go. (CEDB)

### **Government Records Management**

- Ensuring proper records management in the Government and facilitating public access to archival records. (CSO)