



與青年同行
共創未來

Connecting with
Young People
to Build Our Future Together

2018

施政報告
Policy Address

Our vision is to nurture our younger generation with a sense of national identity, a love for Hong Kong and an international perspective. The current-term Government strives to address young people's concerns about education, career pursuit and home ownership, and encourage their participation in politics as well as engagement in public policy discussion and debate. We will also promote diversified development opportunities for Hong Kong young people and assist in their upward mobility and realisation of goals.

Education

Post-secondary Education

- Step up support for young people pursuing self-financing sub-degree programmes that nurture talents to meet our social and economic development needs. Starting from the 2019/20 academic year, about 2 000 students per cohort will be subsidised to undertake designated self-financing sub-degree programmes through the Study Subsidy Scheme for Designated Professions/Sectors. Current students of the designated programmes will also receive the subsidy. It is expected that about 4 000 students will benefit in each academic year.
- Follow up on the recommendations made by the Task Force on Review of Research Policy and Funding in order to provide a higher amount of and more stable research funding for attracting and retaining talents and fostering a research culture. We will support young people who are interested in pursuing a research career to develop their work in a sustainable manner, measures of which include an injection of \$20 billion into the Research Endowment Fund; implementing the Research Matching Grant Scheme with a total commitment of \$3 billion for three years; and supporting the Research Grants Council in introducing three new regular Fellowship Schemes.
- To expedite the development of student hostels for University Grants Committee-funded universities, we have established the Hostel Development Fund of \$10.3 billion and will disburse the funding to universities by the end of 2018. We expect that the outstanding shortfall of about 13 500 hostel places can be fully addressed within ten years, so that more university students can be provided with the opportunity to stay in student hostels; thereby promoting cultural exchanges, broadening the horizons of the local students and also enhancing their competitiveness.
- Sustain the effort in promoting Vocational and Professional Education and Training to provide young people with multiple pathways and enhance their competitiveness. Relevant measures include the provision of 1 200 training places per year through the Vocational Training Council (VTC) for young people to join industries with keen manpower demand which require specialised skills under the "Earn & Learn" model. Furthermore, the Government will also continue to provide tuition fee subsidy to a total of 5 600 students admitted to designated professional part-time programmes offered by the VTC for three years to encourage working adults and young people in the relevant industries to pursue higher level qualifications.



Secondary and Primary Education

- Provide a new recurrent Life-wide Learning Grant, starting from the 2019/20 school year, to support public sector schools and Direct Subsidy Scheme schools to take forward, on the present foundation, life-wide learning with enhanced efforts, enabling students to learn in authentic contexts and broadening their horizons. Besides, the provision of enlivened and enriched learning experiences and the opportunities to apply what students have learned will help them develop positive values and attitudes.
- Set up a \$2.5 billion Student Activities Support Fund in place of the existing Hong Kong Jockey Club Life-wide Learning Fund, to generate investment income, for providing schools with a subsidy to support students with financial needs to participate in out-of-classroom learning activities for whole-person development through experiential learning starting from the 2019/20 school year.

Career Pursuit

Youth Innovation and Entrepreneurship

- In collaboration with a non-governmental organisation (NGO), we will roll out a pilot scheme to encourage Hong Kong young people to utilise entrepreneurial bases in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. Making reference to the experience gained from the pilot scheme, we will invite the Youth Development Commission (YDC) to explore the setting up of a new scheme and make an injection into the Youth Development Fund (YDF) to subsidise Hong Kong NGOs to provide Hong Kong young people starting their businesses in Hong Kong and other cities of the Greater Bay Area with start-up support and incubation services which best meet the needs of our young people, including helping them settle in entrepreneurial bases.
- Review the funding criteria for the second round of applications for the Entrepreneurship Matching Fund under the YDF with a view to further helping young people meet their initial funding needs.
- Launch a \$500 million Technology Talent Scheme to offer more employment and training opportunities for technology talent, including the Postdoctoral Hub for providing funding support to eligible organisations to recruit postdoctoral talent for research and development work, and the Reindustrialisation and Technology Training Programme for subsidising local enterprises to train their staff in advanced technologies.
- Support the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation and Cyberport to strengthen support for their tenants and incubatees, thereby grooming innovation and technology start-ups.
- Support Cyberport in promoting the development of e-sports, including providing e-sports competition venue and nurturing talent.
- Continue to make use of the Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Fund to build the social innovation capacity of young people, encourage and inspire them to address social issues with innovative means and mindset, and nurture them to become social entrepreneurs.



- Increase support for young creative talent and start-ups through e.g. launching a new Design Graduates Employment Supporting Scheme, continuing the Design Incubation Programme and Fashion Incubation Programme, JUXTAPOSED Fashion X Music, Fresh Graduate Support Schemes for digital entertainment and advertising disciplines, Walt Disney Imagineering Asia Graduate Internship Programme, etc.; and strengthen the promotion of design thinking through district events and seminars to enhance the problem-solving capability of young people.
- The Continuing Education Fund (CEF) will be enhanced from 1 April 2019. Measures include doubling the subsidy ceiling and expanding the CEF courses. More courses on start-up and professional skills could be included to enhance the knowledge of entrepreneurship, facilitate self-enhancement and consolidate the career foundation of young people.
- Continue to implement the Space Sharing Scheme for Youth and through tripartite partnership among NGOs, the private sector, and the Government, support start-ups in emerging industries and young entrepreneurs as well as arts and cultural development. So far, property owners participating in the scheme have contributed more than 100 000 square feet of shared space in total, the majority of which have come into operation and can benefit over 1 000 young people.
- As the one-stop portal for disseminating youth development related information, the Youth Portal (Youth.gov.hk) will continue to improve its information dissemination through various internet platforms (including social media) and increase the breadth and depth of its content, particularly in youth entrepreneurship and career pursuit.

Internship, Exchange and Workplace Experience

- At present, there are on average over 70 000 Hong Kong young people participating in exchange and internship programmes on the Mainland and overseas that are organised, funded or co-ordinated by the Government in a year. The Government will continue to take forward and enhance various youth exchange and internship schemes to provide more exchange and internship opportunities for young people on the Mainland (including the Greater Bay Area), Belt and Road related countries and around the world, which include:
 - * based on the successful experience of the pilot scheme in 2018, strengthening co-operation with major Hong Kong corporations to expand the Scheme on Corporate Summer Internship on the Mainland and Overseas;
 - * continuing to collaborate with the United Nations Volunteers, the Palace Museum, the Wolong National Nature Reserve, the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the Dunhuang Research Academy to provide more unique and in-depth internship opportunities;
 - * continuing to enhance various funding schemes to support local NGOs to provide young people with internship and exchange opportunities on the Mainland and overseas;
 - * continuing to provide subsidy for students to pursue overseas exchange activities (in particular in the Belt and Road region) with a view to broadening students' horizons;



- * proactively signing Working Holiday Scheme Agreements with suitable countries so that young people aged 18 to 30 would be able to broaden their horizons through travelling as well as understanding local cultures and social developments; and
- * the Government's overseas Economic and Trade Offices will continue to implement the overseas internship programmes for Hong Kong higher education students and encourage local organisations to provide internship places, with a view to providing more opportunities for enhancing students' understanding of the work culture in different places and broadening their perspectives.

Career Support and Counselling

- Through tightening cross-bureau collaboration, increasing subsidies to NGOs, strengthening support to schools and encouraging participation by the private sector, further promote youth planning work with multilateral efforts to support young people's transition from schools to the labour market. At the same time, we will strengthen the professional development of teachers and mobilise more business organisations to organise career exploration activities for students through district development networks, with a view to helping young people understand their aspirations before further studies or employment.
- To encourage employers to hire young people and provide them with quality on-the-job training, the Labour Department raised the training allowance under the Youth Employment and Training Programme on 1 September 2018. The maximum amount of monthly allowance payable to employers who engage young people and provide them with on-the-job training has been increased from \$3,000 to \$4,000 for a period of six to 12 months. To meet the needs of some young people, the scope of the programme has also been expanded to cover part-time on-the-job training.
- Support nurturing of more young film talent for the industry through the Film Development Fund, including enhancing the First Feature Film Initiative, and expanding the internship and exchange programmes for young practitioners.
- Continue to launch and enhance the Navigation Scheme for Young Persons in Care Services, providing a total of 1 200 training places in the coming years, for encouraging more young people to join the care services in the welfare sector.
- Through the CEPA and related Agreements, eligible Hong Kong residents have been allowed to take qualification examinations relating to the construction and engineering industries on the Mainland. After obtaining relevant professional qualifications, if they work in relevant fields in Guangdong, Guangxi and Fujian, they are allowed to register and practise in the provinces concerned. Moreover, with our continuous effort, the Department of Housing and Urban-Rural Development of Guangdong Province has allowed Hong Kong residents who have obtained the qualification of second class architect, second class land surveying and design engineer and associate constructor to register in Guangdong. In view of the huge job market and the keen demand for professionals in the construction and engineering sectors on the Mainland, Hong Kong young people are encouraged to grasp the opportunities brought by the "Belt and Road" and the "Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area Development" initiatives by taking relevant professional qualification examinations and plan to pursue their career on the Mainland.

Home Ownership / Housing

- The Government is determined to make every effort in addressing the housing problem by providing adequate and affordable housing to address the housing needs of Hong Kong people (including the youth) and improve their living conditions. In the past year, the Government has been implementing the housing policies with innovation and made quite some progress. For example, the Chief Executive announced in June this year six new housing initiatives, including revising the pricing policy of Home Ownership Scheme (HOS) flats. Prices of HOS flats will be determined primarily on the basis of the applicants' affordability, making HOS flats more affordable for the vast majority of Hong Kong people.



In rebuilding the housing ladder, the Hong Kong Housing Authority (HA) has regularised the White Form Secondary Market Scheme and the Green Form Subsidised Home Ownership Scheme (GSH) for eligible White Form (WF) applicants and Green Form applicants (mainly existing public rental housing (PRH) tenants) respectively. These schemes increase home ownership opportunities for WF applicants and PRH tenants, while GSH also helps release more PRH flats for people waiting for PRH allocation.

In addition, the Urban Renewal Authority has, upon the Government's invitation, assigned its redevelopment project at Ma Tau Wai Road as the Starter Homes (SH) pilot project in order to test out the SH concept earlier. SH aims to help the higher-income families who are not eligible for HOS and yet cannot afford private housing to meet their home ownership aspirations in the face of rising property prices. The Ma Tai Wai Road project will provide 450 SH units, of which the pre-sale exercise can be launched in December this year the soonest.

In the Policy Address, the Chief Executive has also suggested inviting HA and the Hong Kong Housing Society to introduce new measures to facilitate the more effective use of existing resources of PRH and subsidised sale flats.

- Continue to implement the Youth Hostel Scheme to meet the aspirations of some working youth in having their own living space and maintain close liaison with the relevant NGOs. A total of around 3 000 hostel units would be provided.

Discussion, Debate and Participation in Public Policy and Politics

- The YDC chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration has been established since April 2018, which serves to enhance policy co-ordination within the Government and promote cross-bureau and inter-departmental collaboration, in order to enable a holistic and more effective examination of and discussion on issues of concern to young people. The YDC has pinned down three broad directions for its future work, namely to assist in young people's selection of suitable study

pathways; facilitate young people's career development and promote their upward mobility; and strengthen communication channels with young people. The Government has already reserved \$1 billion to support the YDC's work, and of this, \$500 million will first be allocated to implement a series of schemes and measures in relation to the above directions.

- The first YDC summit, to be chaired by the Chief Executive, will be held in the second half of 2019 to examine the outcome of the YDC's work together with different sectors of the community and listen to the views of young people directly.
- The YDC will organise territory-wide youth engagement activities and strengthen communication with young people through various channels and means to enable the Government and the YDC to gauge young people's pulse, attain a better understanding of their thoughts and adopt their proposals. The Government's politically appointed team will also participate in these activities.
- Continue to create a favourable environment for young people to participate in advisory committees of different bureaux by, amongst other measures, regularising the Member Self-recommendation Scheme for Youth and to this end, recruiting regularly young people aged between 18 and 35 with a passion to serve the community. The target is to increase, within the current-term Government, the overall ratio of youth members aged between 18 and 35 to 15%.
- The Policy Innovation and Co-ordination Office will continue to provide an additional channel for young people aspiring to pursue a career in policy research and policy and project co-ordination to take part in public administration work on a non-civil service contract basis. This would also help the Government understand young people's thoughts better and inject innovative ideas into the Government's work.

Whole-person Development for Youth

- Invite the YDC to explore the introduction of a brand new theme-based funding scheme for NGOs to organise projects on a longer-term basis which complement the Government's youth development work.
- The YDC will roll out the YDC Youth Ambassadors Scheme to identify and nurture, in a systematic manner, more young talents who are committed to and passionate about serving the community.
- In view of the positive experience in 2018, the Commission on Poverty will continue to implement the "Be a Government Official for a Day" programme in 2019 with an extended scale to include more senior officials to enable more secondary students to gain hands-on experience of the officials' work and directly interact with them.
- Increase the annual recurrent subvention for 13 subvented uniformed groups and NGOs involved in youth development (such as the Scout Association, the Hong Kong Red Cross and the Agency for Volunteer Service) in order to provide extra support to enhance and sustain their youth development work.

