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# Policy Agenda

## Introduction

### Building Hong Kong

This is the first Policy Address of the Third Term Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR). It outlines our blueprint for Hong Kong's development in the next five years by setting out the direction and vision. In his Election Platform announced during the Chief Executive Election in early 2007, the Chief Executive made specific pledges to the public to bring Hong Kong to a new level of development: accelerated economic co-operation within our country, promotion of economic development through infrastructure projects and positioning Hong Kong as the international financial centre of China.

To develop Hong Kong into a new metropolis, the Government will embark on ten large-scale infrastructure projects, including transport infrastructure, new development areas, new urban developments and cross-boundary co-operation. In addition, the Government will strive to consolidate our position as an international financial centre.

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Economic development should not only be dynamic but also take into account the effects on and benefits for the environment, culture and society. This is the Chief Executive's "Progressive View of Development".

On environment, we will carry out extensive greening work and maintain our efforts in fighting pollution. To enhance public understanding of our history and cultural identity, we are committed to conserving our heritage. In addition to preserving historical buildings, we will also revitalise and renew them. In relation to society, we need to devote special attention to those who are not yet sharing the fruits of Hong Kong's prosperity. Following the "from welfare to self-reliance" principle, we will create more job opportunities at the community level through various training and retraining schemes and promote the development of social enterprises. We are concerned about the wealth gap in society and the well-being of those at the grassroots level. We will adopt a multi-pronged approach to improving people's livelihood. We will also vigorously promote through related policies the mainstream value of "family" as the society's core and plan public services with the strengthening of the family in mind.

Development is about sustainability as well as about effects and benefits. One of the constraints Hong Kong faces in its long-term development is our demographic structure. With few natural resources, Hong Kong has managed to create an economic miracle over the past century that has caught the world's attention. This reflects the hard work of the Hong Kong people. Our sustainable development hinges on the quality of our population. We need to continue investing heavily in education, developing and promoting culture and the arts, upgrading the quality of human capital,

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reforming our health care services, and paying particular attention to primary care. We also need to attract talents from around the world in all disciplines and professions to work and study in Hong Kong.

For Hong Kong to rise to a new height, we also need to pursue democratic development in addition to economic and social developments and improvement of people's livelihood. We hope that, after we have set the course for implementing universal suffrage, the Hong Kong community can discontinue unceasing internal debates on constitutional development, and focus on economic development, social services and livelihood issues. Moreover, we will continue to implement "One Country, Two Systems" faithfully and strengthen promotion of the Basic Law and national education.

Hong Kong's success today owes much to our people's hard work, dedication and perseverance over the years. Together we have risen to challenges and made significant progress. We have established a developmental path and written this chapter of our history. Hong Kong's history is in the making with every single step we take.