

The 2015 Policy Address Policy Agenda

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Policy Agenda

Introduction

The success of Hong Kong is attributed to the dedication of generations of Hong Kong people who helped to make our home a better place. To sustain this hard-earned achievement, further our economic and social development and improve the quality of life of the public, the Government and every citizen must join force in heading towards the same goals. Last year, Hong Kong experienced a major social incident. At this juncture, the community needs to forge consensus, re-build relationships and move forward on the path of constitutional development. Whilst these remain our priorities, it is pivotal for the Government to continue our efforts to further economic development and improve people's livelihood through appropriate policies and measures and invest in Hong Kong's long-term development.

Over the past two years, the Government started long-term planning in a number of major policy areas, and has put in place various initiatives to address the needs and aspirations of different sectors of the community. Such initiatives include releasing "A Clean Air Plan for Hong Kong" and the "Hong Kong Blueprint for Sustainable Use of Resources 2013-2022"; setting up the Financial Services Development Council and the Economic Development Commission to give advice on our major industries; increasing land and housing supply; embarking on major infrastructure projects such as the three-runway system at the Hong Kong International Airport, the Hong Kong section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link and the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge; enhancing financial support for the elderly through the Old Age Living Allowance; establishing

the Poverty Line; planning for the introduction of the Low-income Working Family Allowance; and formulating new initiatives to foster the diversified and all-round development of our young people.

We have mentioned in this year's Policy Address two policies which would have significant impact on Hong Kong's long-term development. The first is the Long Term Housing Strategy announced in last December and the second is our population policy, both having gone through an extensive process of policy deliberation and public discussion. The former sets out a new strategy and policy direction for addressing our housing problem, with the goal of adequate housing for all in the long run. The latter outlines the blueprint and objectives of our population policy, alongside a package of measures to enable individuals to realise their potential, engender an inclusive society whilst driving social and economic development, and enhance the quality of life of the community.

Sustained economic growth is the cornerstone for social development. We need to strengthen our position as an international financial centre by capitalising on the unique role of Hong Kong in the process of our country's opening up and comprehensive deepening of reforms, whilst exploiting fully the advantages of the Shanghai-Hong Kong Stock Connect and our status as a global offshore Renminbi hub. Furthermore, we should develop a diversified and high value-added service industry to benefit the public more widely, particularly our young people and the grassroots, so that they can share the fruits of our economic achievements.

Last year was a year full of challenges. Looking ahead, the Government will persevere and would, on the basis of the Policy Address and Policy Agenda, continue to develop our strengths and new forces for economic growth. We strive to lay a solid foundation for Hong Kong's overall sustainable development, so that this place that we called home, will continue to thrive.

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 therefore of utmost importance. 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 stay “appropriately proactive” and, through such channels as the Economic Development Commission and the Financial Services Development Council, gather industries’ views on the on-going formulation of a holistic industrial policy and ways to further Hong Kong’s economic success. The Government will 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 and, give full play to Hong Kong’s roles and functions in the National 13th Five-Year Plan under the “One Country, Two Systems” principle.

The trading and logistics industry is a major 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 and service industries to tap the Mainland market by taking advantage of the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement.

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 adherence to and respect for the rule of law. We will continue with the development of Hong Kong as an international legal and dispute resolution services centre in the Asia Pacific region, in seeking to enhance our position in the international legal, dispute resolution and business arenas.

New Initiatives

We will:

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

- Continue with our efforts in facilitating the establishment and growth of world-class legal, arbitration and mediation institutions in Hong Kong. In this regard, the Central People’s Government and the Permanent Court of Arbitration have recently signed a host country agreement on the conduct of Permanent Court of Arbitration arbitrations and other forms of dispute settlement proceedings in Hong Kong. To implement this agreement, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government and the Permanent Court of Arbitration have entered into a memorandum of administrative arrangements. (DoJ)
- Conduct a “Mediate First” Pledge reception and relevant activities to promote the use of mediation as a means of dispute resolution among small and medium enterprises before resorting to other means. (DoJ)

International Trading Centre

- Consider constructing a convention centre above the Exhibition Station of the Shatin to Central Link upon the latter’s completion in around 2020. (CEDB)

Financial Services Sector

- Amend the Bankruptcy Ordinance to reform the regulatory regime for absconders in order to ensure the integrity of the bankruptcy regime. (FSTB)
- Consult the insurance industry on the development of a risk-based capital regime which aims to align Hong Kong's regulatory regime with international standards and make capital requirements more sensitive to the level of risk borne by insurance companies. (FSTB)

Tourism Sector

- Commence discussion with The Walt Disney Company on the Phase 2 development of the Hong Kong Disneyland Resort. (CEDB)

Creative Industries

- Provide funding to support the operation of the Hong Kong Design Centre in the next four years. (CEDB)
- Implement a subsidy scheme for small-budget film productions so as to boost the volume of local film production and nurture film talent. (CEDB)
- Consider the enhanced support measures to promote the sustainable development of the fashion industry as recommended by the Economic Development Commission. (CEDB)

Innovation and Technology Industries

- Inject \$5 billion into the Innovation and Technology Fund and subsume the Research and Development (R&D) Cash Rebate Scheme under the Innovation and Technology Fund to provide sustained and comprehensive support for innovation and technology development. (CEDB)
- Implement the recommendations of the review of the Science Park and industrial estates, including strengthening the role of the Science Park in developing the innovation and technology ecosystem; suitably raising the development density of the park to optimise land use in the park for the development of new R&D facilities; and proceeding with the formulation of a new industrial estate policy to enhance the value chain of the innovation and technology industries in Hong Kong and further revitalise the industrial estates. (CEDB)

Broadcasting and Telecommunications

- Prepare for the review of the Broadcasting Ordinance and the Telecommunications Ordinance with a view to modernising the regulatory regime for the broadcasting and telecommunications sectors. (CEDB)

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 continue to recommend possible policy and other support measures for these industries for the Administration's consideration and implementation. (CEDB)

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

(a) National Five-Year Plans

- Continuing to implement the policy initiatives outlined in the Dedicated Chapter on Hong Kong and Macao of the National 12th Five-Year Plan, and maintain close communication with the National Development and Reform Commission and other relevant Mainland authorities through established liaison mechanisms to complement the preparatory work for the National 13th Five-Year Plan under the principle of "One Country, Two Systems". (CMAB)
- (b) The Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA)
- Seeking to further expand CEPA with a view to securing for our businesses better access to the Mainland market. (CEDB)

- Working with the Mainland authorities through CEPA Joint Working Group to assist our businesses in using CEPA to tap the Mainland market. (CEDB)

(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, the Fujian Province, 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 to push forward the development of Nansha, Hengqin and Qianhai respectively. (CMAB)
- Strengthening exchanges and co-operation between Hong Kong and Taiwan in trade, tourism, culture, 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

- Supporting Hong Kong enterprises 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)
- Continuing to improve the network of the Mainland Offices by setting up more liaison units. (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 such as 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 will continue to attract global start-ups to set up business in Hong Kong and promote Hong Kong as a leading hub for start-ups and entrepreneurship. (CEDB)

Economic and Trade Relations with Overseas Countries

- Seeking to enter into trade arrangements and investment agreements with more overseas economies and continuing to participate in the Trade in Services Agreement negotiation to secure for our businesses better access to those markets. (CEDB)

- Continuing the negotiation of a free trade agreement with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to secure for our businesses more favourable access to the relevant markets. (CEDB)
- Strengthening economic ties and co-operation with emerging economies by promoting high-level reciprocal visits and exploring trade arrangements and investment agreements. (CEDB)
- Continuing to liaise with countries and regions with which we have close relationship on tourism and economic development for implementing reciprocal use of automated immigration clearance service for visitors. We have concluded agreements in this respect with Korea, Germany and Singapore. (SB)

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

- Working with the Mainland authorities and the legal profession, arbitration and mediation institutions in Hong Kong to facilitate the provision of legal and dispute resolution services in the Mainland by Hong Kong professionals. (DoJ)

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- 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. To this end, we will continue to monitor the implementation of the Mediation Ordinance and its effectiveness. We will also monitor the operation of the Hong Kong Mediation Accreditation Association Limited as a regulatory body, review the Mediation Code and consider the need to introduce apology legislation. Moreover, we will enhance the promotion of mediation within government departments, and we plan to develop suitable mediation schemes for specific trades or fields. (DoJ)
 - Creating a favourable environment and infrastructure to make it easier for legal and dispute resolution institutions to develop services and set up presence in Hong Kong. Relevant measures include providing such institutions with certain office space in the West Wing of the former Central Government Offices and the former French Mission Building upon the relocation of the Court of Final Appeal. (DoJ)
 - Conducting a study in conjunction with the Hong Kong Trade Development Council on the development of arbitration in Hong Kong and the challenges and opportunities faced by Hong Kong as a centre for international arbitration in the Asia Pacific region. (DoJ)
 - Enhancing the promotion of legal and dispute resolution services of Hong Kong among emerging economies in the Asia Pacific region. (DoJ)

International Trading and Maritime Centre

- Implementing various initiatives and incentive schemes under the Maritime and Aviation Training Fund and continuing to promote tripartite collaboration with the industries and the academia so as to support the manpower development of the maritime and aviation industries. (THB)
- Taking forward the establishment of a new maritime body to promote the long-term development of the industry, drawing up the structural framework of and financial arrangements for the new body. We will also consult the industry and commence preparatory work. (THB)
- With the support of the Working Group on Transportation under the Economic Development Commission, conducting a study on the feasibility of establishing a civil aviation training institute. The institute aims at enhancing the skills of local and overseas practitioners of the aviation industry, thereby nurturing talent for the 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. We will follow up the results of the feasibility study and examine the detailed arrangements for the establishment of the institute. (THB)
- Joining efforts with the Hong Kong Maritime Industry Council, the Working Group on Transportation under the Economic Development Commission and other related organisations to consolidate and enhance Hong Kong's position as an international maritime centre. (THB)

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- Progressively following up and implementing improvement measures to enhance the competitiveness of Hong Kong Port. (THB)
 - Facilitating the provision of high-value-added third-party logistics services in Hong Kong by continuing to work with the departments concerned to identify suitable sites for the development of modern logistics facilities. (THB)
 - Pursuing measures to facilitate the movement of goods across the boundary, including the Authorised Economic Operator Programme, which allows cargoes handled by qualified companies to enjoy expedited customs clearance in Hong Kong and by our trading partners. (CEDB)

Financial Services Sector

(a) Financial Services Development Council

- Continuing our support for the work of the Financial Services Development Council, a high-level cross-sectoral advisory body to the Government, in collecting views from the industry and formulating strategic proposals for the development of our financial services industry. (FSTB)

(b) Promoting Market Development

- Reinforcing the status of Hong Kong as a global hub for offshore Renminbi business, advancing financial co-operation with the Mainland, deepening the mutual access between Hong Kong and Mainland financial markets, enhancing our Renminbi business links with overseas markets by strengthening our market infrastructure and financial platforms, and organising seminars and roadshows overseas to promote Hong Kong's offshore Renminbi business. (FSTB)

- Consolidating our leading role as an asset management centre in the Asia Pacific region, and promoting a more comprehensive development of Hong Kong's fund and asset management industry through –
 - preparing amendments to the Inland Revenue Ordinance to extend the profits tax exemption for offshore funds to include private equity funds;
 - formulating legal framework to introduce open-ended fund companies to facilitate the setting up of investment funds;
 - implementing the stamp duty waiver for the transfer of all exchange traded funds by amending the Stamp Duty Ordinance; and
 - promoting the strengths of our financial and professional services industry to attract multinational and Mainland enterprises to manage their global or regional treasury activities through the financial platform of Hong Kong. (FSTB)

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- Promoting the development of the bond market by implementing the issuance schedule of the Government Bond Programme. (FSTB)
- (c) Enhancing Market Quality and Investor Confidence
- Working with the Legislative Council (LegCo) in their examination of the Insurance Companies (Amendment) Bill, which aims at establishing an independent Insurance Authority to facilitate the sustainable development of the insurance industry, and preparing for the establishment of the Provisional Insurance Authority. (FSTB)
 - Preparing legislation for the establishment of a policyholders' protection fund for better protection of policyholders. (FSTB)
 - Promoting the quality of our financial markets through enhancing the regulatory regime and our financial infrastructure, including –
 - working out the details for regulating the over-the-counter derivative market;
 - working out the operational details as soon as possible upon the passage of the primary legislation by the LegCo to enable the implementation of an uncertificated securities market regime; and
 - consulting the public on specific proposals for establishing an effective resolution regime for failing financial institutions in Hong Kong. (FSTB)

- Working with the Hong Kong Monetary Authority to enhance the capital, liquidity and disclosure standards for banks in line with Basel III, thereby further enhancing 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 facilities and systems. (FSTB)
- Preparing legislation for improving Hong Kong's corporate insolvency regime; and further discussing with stakeholders on the detailed proposals of a statutory corporate rescue procedure to pave the way for introducing legislation in the future. (FSTB)
- Robustly pursuing anti-money laundering measures, enhancing risk assessment and participating actively in the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering. (FSTB)
- Preparing legislative proposals for improving the regulatory regime for listed entity auditors in the light of the comments received during the public consultation, so as to enhance the independence of the regime from the audit profession and to benchmark against international practices. (FSTB)

Tourism

- Continuing with the drafting of the legislation for the establishment of the Travel Industry Authority and implementation of a new regulatory framework for the tourism sector with a view to securing the passage of the bill by the end of the current term of the LegCo. (CEDB)
- Overseeing the business development and operation of the Kai Tak Cruise Terminal. Continuing to support the Hong Kong Tourism Board's promotion of cruise tourism and to work 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 in its continued promotion work in target source markets, particularly the markets relating to meetings, conventions and exhibitions, and incentive travels. (CEDB)
- Facilitating the Ocean Park to implement its waterpark and hotel projects. (CEDB)
- Overseeing the expansion project of the Hong Kong Disneyland to ensure the completion of a new themed area based on Marvel's Iron Man franchise and a new hotel with a theme dedicated to the spirit of exploration by the end of 2016 and early 2017 respectively. (CEDB)

Creative Industries

- Supporting the development of the film industry through the Film Development Fund. (CEDB)
- Reviewing the First Feature Film Initiative and formulating enhanced measures to continue grooming new filmmakers and their production teams. (CEDB)
- Supporting and encouraging the trade to organise programmes at the Comix Home Base and PMQ for promoting the development of creative industries. (CEDB/DEVB)
- Implementing 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

(a) Promoting R&D

- Promoting applied R&D, and supporting commercialisation of R&D outcomes and R&D in the private sector through financial support under the Innovation and Technology Fund and R&D Cash Rebate Scheme as well as the work of the R&D Centres. (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 outcomes. (CEDB)

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- Working closely with the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation on the development of Science Park Phase 3 and the further revitalisation of industrial estates through various measures. (CEDB)
 - Organising a wide range of promotional activities in 2015, including the InnoTech Month, to enhance the community's awareness of innovation and technology. (CEDB)
- (b) Promoting Information and Communications Technology (ICT)
- Facilitating the development of the local ICT industry by –
 - using international practices and frameworks of other economies as reference in establishing a framework for ICT professional recognition in Hong Kong so as to raise the professional profile of local ICT professionals;
 - 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 talent. (CEDB)
 - Working with our technology partners and the ICT industry to organise the International IT Fest in 2015 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 in setting 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)
- Fostering 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, including the proper use of ICT facilities and ways to protect ICT resources and information assets. (CEDB)
- Continuing to promote city-wide Wi-Fi to make it easier for citizens and visitors to use Wi-Fi service. (CEDB)

Testing and Certification Industry

- Working closely with the Hong Kong Council for Testing and Certification to continue –
 - implementing its market-oriented development plan; and
 - 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)
- Continuing efforts in timely reviewing and enhancing the current procurement system for public works and promoting manpower development with a view to building up the overall capacity and capability, facilitating healthy growth and encouraging innovation and creativity for the construction industry. (DEVB)
- Continuing the preparatory work for introducing a new piece of legislation to enhance the security of payment in construction-related contracts to improve cash flow of the supply chain in the construction industry. (DEVB)
- Enhancing our capability to resolve cross-bureau and cross-departmental issues relating to the delivery of major infrastructure projects, and addressing strategic issues which might impede the progress in such projects. (DEVB)

Enhancing Wine Trading

- Supporting wine trading and distribution businesses in Hong Kong, riding on growing demand across Asia. (CEDB)

Broadcasting and Mobile Telecommunications

- 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, including the licensing relating to the spectrum. (CEDB)
- Reviewing the effectiveness of the industry's Customer Complaint Settlement Scheme in helping resolve, through mediation, billing disputes in deadlock between telecommunications service providers and their customers over the two-year pilot period with a view to deciding on the way forward. (CEDB)
- Overseeing the development plans for Radio Television Hong Kong as a public service broadcaster. (CEDB)

Assessing Future Demand and Supply of Economic Land Use

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

Improving Regulatory Infrastructure

- Updating our tax information exchange regime to meet international standard for enhancing tax transparency and preventing fiscal evasion. (FSTB)

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- Preparing for the full implementation of the Competition Ordinance in collaboration with the Competition Commission and the Judiciary. (CEDB)
 - Continuing with the full implementation of the amended 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 a feasible proposal to improve the existing mechanism following the completion of a second round of consultation on the Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles Ordinance in July 2012. (CEDB)

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)
- Amending the Copyright Ordinance to update Hong Kong's copyright regime and ensure that it keeps pace with technological and overseas developments. (CEDB)

Agricultural and Fisheries Development

- Conducting public consultation on the new agricultural policy and proposed support measures for proactively promoting the modernisation and sustainable development of the local agricultural sector. (FHB)
- Sustaining and upgrading the development of the local fisheries sector by measures such as making optimal use of the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund and issuing new marine fish culture licences for fish culture zones. (FHB)

Chapter 2

Land, Housing and Transportation

Preamble

Housing is an important livelihood issue for the public and the Government. The Government announced the new Long Term Housing Strategy in end-2014. Our policy objectives for housing are to:

- (a) assist grassroots families in securing public rental housing (PRH) to meet their basic housing needs;
- (b) assist the public in choosing 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 given to meeting Hong Kong permanent residents' needs amidst a tight supply situation.

Increasing land supply is fundamental to the implementation of the Long Term Housing Strategy, as well as sustaining our social and economic development. In the short to medium term, we will maintain our efforts to optimise the use of developed land through land use rezoning and increasing development density as appropriate. In the longer term, we will continue to develop new land extensively through new development areas in the New Territories and Lantau, extension of new towns, reclamation outside Victoria Harbour, rock cavern development and underground space development. We will

also update the Territorial Development Strategy to formulate long-term plans and build up a land reserve that caters for Hong Kong's sustainable development and social needs. All these require our society as a whole to make difficult and tough choices and accept trade-offs.

Regarding transport, we will continue to encourage the use of public transport services 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 will also step up our efforts in rationalising and enhancing road-based transport services in order to ease road congestion, improve service efficiency, alleviate the pressure for fare increases and reduce roadside emissions.

In addition to the remaining works that have to be completed after the partial commissioning of the West Island Line, we are taking forward the other four new railway projects in full swing. Upon their completion in phases within the next six or seven years, our railway network will cover areas where over 70% of the population in Hong Kong are residing.

We announced the Railway Development Strategy 2014 in September 2014. Our preliminary recommendation is to implement another seven new railway projects in the planning horizon up to 2031. In parallel, we will commence the Public Transport Strategy Study to systematically examine the respective roles and positioning of public transport services other than heavy rail.

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

New Initiatives

We will:

Long Term Housing Strategy

- Implement the newly formulated Long Term Housing Strategy, including the updating of long-term housing demand projection to derive a rolling ten-year housing supply target every year. (THB/DEVB)
- On the basis of the latest projection, adopt a total of 480 000 new residential units as the long-term housing supply target from 2015-16 to 2024-25, with the 60:40 split between public and private housing maintained. (THB/DEVB)

Updating Development Strategy

- Update the HK2030 Study published in 2007 by examining the strategy and possible options for overall spatial planning, land and infrastructure development for Hong Kong beyond 2030, with a view to adopting it as the territorial development strategy that caters for the latest planning circumstances in Hong Kong. (DEVB)

Energising Kowloon East

- Continue to take forward the Kai Tak Fantasy project and commence planning and engineering studies to implement the project in phases with a view to developing a world-class tourism, entertainment and leisure hub. (DEVB)

- Implement the concept of “walkable” Kowloon East comprehensively in the Kowloon Bay and Kwun Tong Business Areas to improve the pedestrian environment and traffic condition, including studying measures to facilitate the provision of elevated walkways by the private sector. (DEVB)
- Continue to develop the concept of “walkable” Kowloon East and study the feasibility of face-lifting back alleys to become part of the pedestrian network in order to enhance pedestrian connectivity in Kowloon East. (DEVB)
- Based on the “walkable” Kowloon East concept, study the feasibility of constructing a footbridge near Kowloon Bay MTR Station to alleviate congestion at the existing pedestrian passages and enhance the connectivity between the MTR station and the future East Kowloon Cultural Centre as well as the residential areas nearby. (DEVB)
- Study the feasibility of face-lifting Hoi Bun Road Park with a view to strengthening the connectivity between Ngau Tau Kok MTR Station and the Kwun Tong waterfront and enhancing the vibrancy of the Kwun Tong waterfront. (DEVB)
- Carry out a pilot study in Kowloon East to examine the feasibility of developing a Smart City, such as using technology to enhance pedestrian and vehicular accessibility and manage the district facilities, and disseminate information to the public in digital format, with a view to making the area a better place for work and play. (DEVB)

Developing Lantau

- Utilise the natural and cultural resources of country parks and rural areas of Lantau for sustainable recreation and tourism uses and for better community development, including –
 - implementing further improvements to Mui Wo and Tai O ;
 - developing a mountain bike network; and
 - exploring the potential for recreation and tourism development in Lantau, particularly in the rural township and countryside. (DEVB)
- Formulate a strategy proposal for the planning, conservation, and economic and social development of Lantau. (DEVB)

Carrying out a Public Transport Strategy Study

- While furthering railway development, carry out a Public Transport Strategy Study to look into important issues relating to other transport services to enhance the complementarity amongst different services, so that the public can enjoy efficient services and reasonable modal choices. We will also study the future development of Light Rail. (THB)

Developing Railways

- Take forward seven new railway proposals in phases by 2031, pursuant to the Railway Development Strategy 2014 announced in September 2014. We will start by commencing detailed planning work for the Tuen Mun South Extension, the Northern Link (and Kwu Tung Station) and the East Kowloon Line. (THB)

Enhancing Monitoring of the MTR Corporation Limited

- Enhance our monitoring of the MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL) in tandem with railway development to ensure that MTRCL can –
 - deliver new railway projects in a cost-effective manner;
 - provide safe and reliable railway services; and
 - maintain an overall high standard of corporate governance. (THB)

On-going Initiatives

We are:

Increasing Supply of Subsidised Housing

- Providing public rental housing (PRH) to low-income families who cannot afford private rental accommodation, maintaining the target of providing first flat offer to general applicants (i.e. family and elderly one-person applicants) at around three years on average. (THB)
- Taking forward housing programmes to achieve the public housing (including PRH and subsidised sale flats) supply target, which will be updated on a yearly basis under the Long Term Housing Strategy. The first batch of new Home Ownership Scheme (HOS) flats, scheduled for completion in 2016-17, has been put up for pre-sale in late-2014. (THB)
- Continuing to optimise the development potential of each public housing site and boost flat production by increasing the maximum domestic plot ratio and relaxing other development restrictions where planning conditions permit and without causing unacceptable impact. (THB/DEVB)
- Continuing to review the redevelopment potential of aged PRH estates to optimise the use of valuable land resources. (THB)
- Ensuring the effective and rational use of PRH resources, including enhanced enforcement actions against tenancy abuse cases. (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. (THB)
- Implementing a new round of interim scheme in the second half of 2015 to allow 2 500 buyers with White Form status to purchase subsidised sale flats with premium not yet paid in the HOS Secondary Market. (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 to rezone suitable sites identified in land use reviews (including sites in Government, Institution or Community zone, Green Belt zone, Industrial zone and other non-residential zone, and sites for which the originally earmarked purposes will no longer be pursued) for residential or other uses for which the community has more pressing needs. (DEVB)
- Reviewing and increasing the development density of individual residential sites, as well as reviewing and relaxing other development restrictions as far as permissible in planning terms, after appropriately increasing the maximum domestic plot ratios allowed in different Density Zones. (DEVB/THB)
- Taking such measures as streamlining land administration processes and administrative approval procedures to expedite land supply and facilitate flat production. (DEVB)

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- Implementing the Pilot Scheme for Arbitration on Land Premium to facilitate agreement between the Government and private land owners on land premium payable for lease modification and land exchange transactions through arbitration. (DEVB)
 - Continuing the revitalisation measures to facilitate redevelopment and wholesale conversion of old industrial buildings until 31 March 2016 to provide more floor area 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, Pat Heung Maintenance Depot, and the adjoining areas. (DEVB)
 - Continuing to actively explore in collaboration with the MTRCL the development potential of stations and railway related sites along existing and future rail lines, such as Siu Ho Wan on Lantau. (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. We will also actively consider making use of private developers' capacity for development to provide infrastructure and ancillary facilities, and/or construct public and private residential units. (DEVB)
 - Continuing with the planning and implementation of new development areas and new town extensions –

- taking forward the planning 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 continuing with the Preliminary Feasibility Study on Developing the New Territories North, with a view to exploring the 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 more suitable sites for meeting housing and other development needs. (DEVB)
 - Continuing to take forward near-shore reclamation by –
 - commencing a planning and engineering study for the reclamations in Sunny Bay, Lantau Island and Lung Kwu Tan, Tuen Mun; and
 - continuing with the preparatory work for the feasibility studies for other near-shore reclamation sites. (DEVB)

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- Actively taking forward a strategic study for the artificial islands in the central waters between Hong Kong Island and Lantau Island for the development of the East Lantau Metropolis. (DEVB)
 - Commencing a feasibility study for 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)
 - Taking forward the investigation and design work on the relocation of Sha Tin Sewage Treatment Works to caverns, with a view to commencing the works as soon as possible. (DEVB)
 - Conducting feasibility studies on relocation of three public facilities, namely 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 land with development potential in urban areas for housing and other uses. (DEVB)
 - Continuing with the study on the long-term strategy of cavern development, including preparation of cavern master plans and formulation of policy guidelines to facilitate future cavern development. (DEVB)
 - Continuing with the territory-wide study to explore the development of underground space in urban areas, including developing some preliminary conceptual schemes for providing more underground space for commercial and other uses and for enhancing connectivity in the areas concerned. (DEVB)

- Carrying out a detailed pilot study on the potential underground space development in four strategic urban districts, namely Causeway Bay, Happy Valley, Admiralty/Wan Chai and Tsim Sha Tsui West, including formulating a master plan for underground space development for each district and identifying priority projects in the commercial areas and adjacent open spaces in these districts for broad planning and technical assessment, with a view to early implementation. (DEVB)
- Continuing with the conversion of suitable government sites and offices in the Core Business Districts into 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 to support economic activities. (DEVB/FSTB)
- Working with the Airport Authority to develop the North Commercial District on the airport island so as 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) as well as the synergy with Lantau and the Western Pearl River Delta region. (THB)

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- Adopting a visionary, co-ordinated and integrated approach to transform Kowloon East (including Kai Tak Development Area, Kowloon Bay and Kwun Tong) into an attractive central business district to sustain Hong Kong's economic development. Specifically, this involves land use review, enhanced urban design, and improvement to connectivity and the associated infrastructure. At present, Kowloon East has about 2 million square metres of commercial/office floor area. In addition to the sale of three government sites in Kowloon East in the past two financial years (i.e. 2012-13 and 2013-14) which provided about 140 000 square metres of commercial/office floor area, another two government sites in the same district have been included in the Government's 2014-15 Land Sale Programme. Those two sites can further provide about 120 000 square metres of commercial/office floor area. It is estimated that in future, Kowloon East will potentially provide another 5 million square metres of commercial/office floor area, bringing the district's total to about 7 million square metres. (DEVB)
 - Implementing gradually the relocation of the existing government facilities in the Kowloon Bay Action Area and Kwun Tong Action Area to tie in with the development of the two areas and realise the potential of about 500 000 square metres of commercial/office floor area so released. (DEVB)
 - Continuing with the public consultation on increasing housing and office supply in the Kai Tak Development Area, which has been confirmed to be feasible upon completion of a technical study. We will revise the relevant outline zoning plan in accordance with the Town Planning Ordinance. (DEVB)

- Moving on to a detailed feasibility study to address public concern identified during the completed public consultation and ascertain the feasibility of the Environmentally Friendly Linkage System for supporting the transformation of Kowloon East into an alternative central business district. (DEVB)
- Continuing to enrich and update the green map in Energizing Kowloon East Office's website, showing green buildings which have obtained BEAM Plus Gold or above rating in Kowloon East. (DEVB)
- Exploring opportunities to provide suitable space in the Action Areas in Kowloon East to support the development of the art and creative industries. (DEVB)
- Developing a world-class tourism, entertainment and leisure hub, the Kai Tak Fantasy, at the former runway tip in the Kai Tak Development Area, the Kwun Tong Action Area and the enclosed waterbody in between for the enjoyment of Hong Kong people and visitors, bringing vibrancy and diversity to Kowloon East. The results of the Kai Tak Fantasy International Ideas Competition on Urban Planning and Design were announced in November 2014. We will make reference to the outstanding designs and concepts of the winners and shortlisted entries to refine the planning and design of Kai Tak Fantasy for further implementation. (DEVB)

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- Identifying a non-profit-making organisation as an operator to develop the space underneath Kwun Tong Bypass into the “Fly the Flyover 0123”. The “place-making” concept will be applied to the project to provide more uniquely designed and vibrant venues to tie in with the development of the Kwun Tong waterfront. (DEVB)
 - Showcasing the industrial heritage of Kowloon East at the Kwun Tong Industrial Heritage Park and other public facilities under the theme of “The Spirit of Creation”, providing guidelines for private development projects through an “advocacy statement”, and incorporating elements of industrial heritage and creativity into urban design and public art. (DEVB)
 - Commencing a consultancy study on transforming the existing King Yip Street nullah into a green and vibrant Tsui Ping River with environmental and landscaping upgrading of the vicinity to achieve synergy effect. (DEVB)
 - Continuing to develop the concept of “walkable” Kowloon East with phased implementation of the pedestrian linkage network and traffic improvement projects proposed in the Feasibility Study for Kowloon Bay Business Area Pedestrian Environment Improvement, and continuing with a feasibility study on improving the pedestrian and traffic environment of the Kwun Tong Business Area. (DEVB)

- Exploring the development of public housing at six government sites (including the redevelopment of Wah Fu Estate), which are expected to provide about 11 900 additional housing units, following the partial lifting of the administrative moratorium on development of Pok Fu Lam. We also propose to take forward the construction of the South Island Line (West) to address the transport needs arising from the new public housing developments and other development projects in the area in accordance with the Railway Development Strategy 2014 announced by the Government. (THB/DEVB)

Healthy Private Residential Property Market

- Implementing demand-side management measures, including the enhancement to the Special Stamp Duty, introduction of the Buyer's Stamp Duty and doubling of the Ad Valorem Stamp Duty, to –
 - stabilise 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 –
 - enhance the transparency and fairness of the sales of first-hand residential properties; and
 - strengthen the protection for purchasers. (THB)

Harbourfront Development

- Working with the Harbourfront Commission to engage the public in planning, land use and beautify the urban design to carry out the stated mission to protect Victoria Harbour for the enjoyment of all. (DEVB)
- Working with the Harbourfront Commission to consolidate the views collected in the Phase 2 Public Engagement Exercise for the proposed establishment of a Harbourfront Authority and decide on the way forward. (DEVB)

Building Management

- Continuing with the implementation of a pilot scheme in collaboration with professional institutes to provide professional and tailor-made advisory and support service for owners' corporations to assist them in appointing authorised persons to carry out building maintenance works, and reviewing the effectiveness of the scheme. (HAB)
- Continuing to implement the Building Management Professional Advisory Service Scheme Phase 2 by engaging property management companies to provide one-stop and tailor-made support and advisory services on building management and maintenance for 1 200 old buildings without any form of management. (HAB)
- Preparing for the formulation of implementation plan for the Property Management Services Bill to complement the LegCo in the examination of the Bill. (HAB)

- Drawing up the proposed amendments to the Building Management Ordinance in the light of the views collected in the public consultation. (HAB)
- Continuing to promote and implement the Resident Liaison Ambassador Scheme in “three-nil” buildings to improve the management of these buildings and enhance the communication between residents and the Government. (HAB)
- Continuing to promote 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 District Council (DC) members; and
 - organising outreach activities for office-bearers of owners’ corporations who have completed these training programmes so that they can share experience with other owners’ corporations and property owners, thus promoting mutual help. (HAB)
- Strengthening fire safety measures particularly in old buildings and enhancing public awareness of fire prevention. (SB)

Building Maintenance and Urban Renewal

- Enhancing the prosecution action against owners who fail to comply with statutory orders in the enforcement action against industrial buildings suspected to have sub-divided flats for residential use. (DEVB)

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- Working closely with the Hong Kong Housing Society and the Urban Renewal Authority to assist building owners in need in carrying 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)
 - Continuing our efforts to enhance maintenance of private buildings through public education, publicity and participation of professional bodies. (DEVB)
 - Continuing to implement 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 quickly to reports on contravention of the Buildings Ordinance. (DEVB)
 - Enforcing the Lifts and Escalators Ordinance, including the registration of qualified persons, for regulatory control over lift and escalator safety, and continuing to draw the attention of Responsible Persons of their obligations under the ordinance through education and publicity. (DEVB)

- Overseeing the implementation of the Urban Renewal Strategy. (DEVB)
- Working closely with the Urban Renewal Authority to undertake urban renewal work. (DEVB)
- Working closely with the Urban Renewal Authority in support of its follow-up on the Pilot Scheme for the Redevelopment of Industrial Buildings introduced in 2012-13. (DEVB)
- Focusing on publicity and public education programmes among minority property owners affected by compulsory sale under the Land (Compulsory Sale for Redevelopment) Ordinance to enhance their understanding of mediation service and encourage them to settle dispute by mediation in line with the recommendations of the consultancy review on the Pilot Mediation Scheme. (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 accommodation. (THB)
- Implementing the Lift Addition Programme in PRH estates, including the installation of lifts in hillside estates with common areas at different levels and beside existing footbridges in estates to facilitate access by residents. (THB)

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- 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, as well as enhancing awareness of waste minimisation among PRH residents to achieve the target of municipal solid waste reduction. (THB)
 - Increasing the green coverage for new public housing developments to achieve an overall target of 30% greening ratio for new public housing sites over two hectares, and 20% for smaller sites. We will also provide green roofs in low-rise buildings and vertical greening in these projects wherever feasible. (THB)
 - 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

- Co-ordinating and overseeing the remaining construction works of the West Island Line after its partial commissioning in December 2014, with a view to opening the Sai Ying Pun Station for public use and achieving full commissioning in 2015. (THB)

- Co-ordinating and overseeing the construction of the Kwun Tong Line Extension, with a view to commissioning the project in 2016 in accordance with the revised target programme put forward by the MTRCL. (THB)
- Co-ordinating and overseeing the construction of the South Island Line (East), including efforts to overcome the technical challenges at Admiralty Station, with a view to commissioning the project in end 2016 in accordance with the revised target programme put forward by the MTRCL. (THB)
- Co-ordinating and overseeing the construction of the Shatin to Central Link, including efforts to mitigate part of the delay to the “Tai Wai to Hung Hom Section” of the Shatin to Central Link arising from the archaeological works at the To Kwa Wan Station, with a view to commissioning the “Tai Wai to Hung Hom Section” in 2019 as far as possible. In light of the risk in completing the works of the “Hung Hom to Admiralty Section” by end 2020 as scheduled, co-ordinating and overseeing the review of the commissioning programme by the MTRCL. (THB)

Improving Road Traffic

- Overseeing the construction of the Central-Wan Chai Bypass and Island Eastern Corridor Link originally scheduled for completion in 2017, with a view to overcoming the challenges and commissioning the project early. (THB)
- Preparing for the implementation of the Central Kowloon Route, including the carrying out of detailed design and relevant procedures, with a view to further taking forward the project. (THB)

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- Continuing to pursue bus route rationalisation vigorously to enhance network efficiency, improve service quality, ease traffic congestion and reduce roadside air pollution. (THB)
 - Continuing our efforts to alleviate road traffic congestion, including studying and following up the recommendations recently submitted by the Transport Advisory Committee to the Government. (THB)

Improving Marine Safety

- Implementing the improvement measures regarding the regulatory regime on local passenger-carrying vessels to enhance marine safety. We will continue to follow up 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” announced in August 2012 by installing lifts at the existing public walkways maintained by the Highways Department to help the elderly and other people in need move around with greater ease. We will continue with the detailed design and supervision of the construction works for the priority projects selected in each district by the respective DCs and subsequently confirmed to be technically feasible. (THB)
- Taking forward the higher ranking proposals for the provision of hillside escalator links and elevator systems which are found technically feasible. (THB)

- Taking forward the proposed pedestrian environment improvement schemes in Yuen Long, Causeway Bay and Mong Kok. (THB)
- Continuing to develop the cycle track network in the New Territories by constructing the Tuen Mun to Sheung Shui section. We have rolled out a pilot scheme in Tai Po under which new improvement measures to local cycle tracks have been implemented and new bicycle parking facilities have been installed. We are currently reviewing the effectiveness of the scheme and exploring how the above new measures could be implemented in nine new towns. (DEVB/THB)

Enhancing External Links

- Working with the Airport Authority to implement initiatives which enhance airport capacity and airport services, including the midfield expansion project, and actively assisting the Airport Authority in taking forward the development of the three-runway system at the Hong Kong International Airport to meet the long-term air traffic demand of Hong Kong. (THB)
- Improving air traffic management through optimising the use of airspace and implementing measures to enhance the air traffic control system. (THB)
- Reviewing the air services arrangements with our aviation partners, with a view to further liberalising our air service regime, thereby supporting the continued growth and development of the local civil aviation industry. (THB)

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- Assisting the Airport Authority in expanding 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 commissioning of the Main Bridge within Mainland waters. (THB)
 - Co-ordinating and overseeing the construction of the Hong Kong section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link for commissioning in 2017. (THB)
 - Continuing to oversee the construction of the Liantang/Heung Yuen Wai Boundary Control Point on Hong Kong side, including a new connecting road and the Passenger Terminal Building, with a view to completing the border control point in 2018. (DEVB)

Enhancing Building Safety

- Commencing the preparatory work for formulating a set of design standards for seismic-resistant buildings, with a view to further enhancing building safety in Hong Kong. (DEVB)

Chapter 3

Poverty Alleviation and Support for the Disadvantaged

Preamble

The Commission on Poverty (CoP) will continue to consider policies and measures in its new term to prevent and alleviate poverty and social exclusion, as well as to promote social mobility. One of the CoP's working priorities in the future is to conduct an extensive public consultation on how retirement protection could be improved to ease poverty among the elderly. Four Task Forces have been established, focusing on supporting the underprivileged who have special needs; promoting education, employment training and other measures to enhance upward mobility of young people from grassroots families; implementing poverty alleviation and prevention measures funded by the Community Care Fund; and taking forward social innovation initiatives funded by the Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Fund respectively.

There is significant improvement in the overall poverty situation in 2013, indicating that our poverty alleviation initiatives are yielding results. With the full implementation of the Old Age Living Allowance by the current-term Government, the poverty alleviation policy in 2013 produced the most notable result of the last five years. The poor population in Hong Kong dropped from 1.04 million in 2009 to 970 000 (below 1 million for the first time) in 2013. The poverty rate also dropped from 16.0% to 14.5%. The 2013 poverty statistics show that

the working poor is still the group that deserves Government's priority attention. The Low-income Working Family Allowance is now in the pipeline, and will provide low-income families, particularly those with children, with financial support.

As regards 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, which acts as a safety net of last resort. Regarding those who are capable of work, education, training and employment support will be enhanced to enable them to share the benefits of economic growth. To help address intergenerational poverty, we will ensure that children and young people enjoy opportunities to quality education and training irrespective of their background.

We will strengthen the support for persons or families with special needs, including persons with disabilities, mental patients and ex-mentally ill persons, ethnic minorities, and single parents and their families. The aim is to remove the barriers that hold them back from realising their potential. We will continue to develop client-centred, family-focused and community-based services that provide integrated and cross-sectoral support.

New Initiatives

We will:

Poverty Alleviation

(a) Community Care Fund (CCF) Programmes

- Invite the CCF to consider exploring the feasibility of implementing a pilot scheme at suitable elderly centres to provide integrated medical and rehabilitation services for demented elderly persons living in the community based on a model of medical-social collaboration. (FHB/LWB)
- Expand the Elderly Dental Assistance Programme progressively to cover elders who are Old Age Living Allowance (OALA) recipients in the second half of 2015, starting with those aged 80 or above in the first phase. (FHB)
- Incorporate the CCF programme of providing extra travel subsidy for needy special school students into the Government's regular assistance programme starting from the 2015/16 school year. (EDB)

(b) Retirement Protection

- Study the findings of Professor Nelson Chow and his consultancy team as set out in the Research Report on Future Development of Retirement Protection in Hong Kong, and the Commission on Poverty (CoP) will launch a public consultation in the second half of 2015 on the way forward for retirement protection. (CSO)

Supporting the Disadvantaged

(a) Supporting Families

- Strengthen community support services for families by increasing the manpower for Integrated Family Service Centres and Integrated Services Centres. (LWB)
- Earmark \$200 million to continue implementing short-term food assistance services. (LWB)

(b) Enhancing Services for the Elderly, Persons with Disabilities and Persons with Mental Illness

- Extend the Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities to green minibuses in phases starting from the first quarter of 2015. (LWB)
- Increase the manpower of long stay care homes and enhance the allied health services of hostels for moderately mentally handicapped persons to provide care and support for ageing service users. (LWB)
- Increase the manpower of Integrated Community Centres for Mental Wellness to provide more intensive counselling and support for families/carers of ex-mentally ill persons, with a view to alleviating their caregiver stress and consolidating their mutual help network. (LWB)
- Launch a pilot project to strengthen the support for persons with autism and their parents/carers. (LWB)

- Actively explore the inclusion of sign language courses in the scope of the Continuing Education Fund. (LWB)
- (c) Support for Students with Special Educational Needs (SEN)
- Strengthen the services of the existing six Child Assessment Centres to provide early assessment and professional diagnosis for children with developmental problems. (FHB)
 - Launch a pilot scheme to invite non-governmental organisations (NGOs) operating subvented pre-school rehabilitation services to provide on-site rehabilitation services for children with special needs who are studying in ordinary kindergartens, or kindergarten-cum-child care centres. (LWB)
 - Invite the CCF to consider launching the following new programmes to strengthen support for students with SEN –
 - provision of a cash grant for ordinary schools with relatively more students with SEN and financial needs to strengthen the teaching team of the schools so that a designated teacher can be deployed to co-ordinate matters relating to SEN support; and
 - enhancement of the academic expenses grant for post-secondary students with SEN and financial needs. (EDB)
 - Increase the manpower of subvented Parents/Relatives Resource Centres to enhance the support for parents and relatives/carers of persons with disabilities and ex-mentally ill persons, including children or young persons with special needs. (LWB)

Community Involvement

- Allocate resources through the Community Investment and Inclusion Fund to promote cross-sectoral collaboration in building mutual help networks among residents of new PRH estates and developing social capital. (LWB)

On-going Initiatives

We are:

Work of the Commission on Poverty

(a) CoP

- Updating the poverty line annually to monitor Hong Kong's poverty situation on an on-going basis and provide scientific data for policy formulation and effectiveness evaluation. (CSO)
- Reviewing the existing policies and exploring new measures to prevent and ease poverty through the work of its Task Forces. (CSO)
- Fostering cross-sectoral collaboration in promoting poverty alleviation, and maintaining exchange and communication on poverty alleviation work with other government advisory boards and committees. We will continue implementing the "Future Stars Programme" through tripartite collaboration of the community, business sector and the Government to provide young people from grassroots families with opportunities for corporate visits, short-term workplace training and internship. (CSO)

(b) CCF Task Force

- Implementing a number of assistance programmes under the CCF. The programmes rolled out in 2014-15 include –
 - providing hostel subsidy for needy undergraduate students who reside in hostels;

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- increasing the academic expenses grant for needy students pursuing eligible self-financing post-secondary programmes;
 - implementing a pilot incentive scheme to encourage able-bodied Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients to seek employment;
 - providing a one-off subsidy again for CSSA households living in rented private housing and paying a rent which exceeds the maximum rent allowance under the CSSA Scheme; and
 - providing a living subsidy again for low-income households not living in public housing and not receiving CSSA.

Moreover, seven CCF programmes have been incorporated into the Government's regular assistance programme. The CCF will continue to draw up more new pilot programmes in collaboration with the other Task Forces under the CoP to further assist the disadvantaged and low-income families. (CSO)

(c) Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Fund Task Force

- Engaging intermediaries to implement the capacity building programmes and provide funding support under innovative programmes, continuing to make preparation for the flagship project on food assistance with a view to setting up information infrastructure and network for more effective operation of stakeholders involved in food assistance projects. (CSO)

- Considering as the next stage of work, how best to strengthen social innovation ecosystem and encourage the use of innovative commercial practices to address social needs. (CSO)

(d) Special Needs Groups Task Force

- Reviewing the existing policies and initiatives which support the underprivileged with special needs (including persons with disabilities, students with special learning needs, single-parent families, new arrivals and ethnic minorities). (CSO)
- Exploring new policies and initiatives to help the underprivileged with special needs integrate into the community, achieve self-reliance and move up the social ladder. (CSO)

(e) Youth Education, Employment and Training Task Force

- Reviewing and exploring policies and initiatives related to young people, including education, employment and training, to remove the barriers they face and provide them with equal development opportunities, thereby facilitating their upward mobility and reducing the risk of intergenerational poverty. (CSO)
- Exploring new policies and initiatives and enhancing cross-sectoral collaboration, in the light of the economic development and social situation in Hong Kong, for the promotion of life planning, diversified development, vocational training and continuing education to help young people from grassroots families realise their potential. (CSO)

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- Conducting academic research and data analysis to understand social mobility in Hong Kong from individual and intergenerational perspectives. (CSO)

Poverty Alleviation

(a) Helping Low-income Families

- Making arrangements to introduce the Low-income Working Family Allowance to encourage employment and strengthen the support for the next generation. (LWB)
- Implementing the Work Incentive Transport Subsidy Scheme and conducting a comprehensive review. (LWB)
- Implementing the short-term food assistance services. (LWB)

(b) Enhancing Upward Mobility

- Continuing to roll out projects under the Child Development Fund and exploring ways to develop school-based programmes to promote the long-term development of children 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)
- Incorporating the following three CCF programmes into the Government's regular assistance programme starting from the 2014/15 school year –

- enhancement of the financial assistance for needy students pursuing eligible programmes below sub-degree level;
 - provision of free lunch at schools for primary students receiving full grant assistance under the Student Financial Assistance Schemes through the schools; and
 - enhancement of the flat-rate grant for primary and secondary students under the School Textbook Assistance Scheme. (EDB)
- Providing a subsidy of up to HK\$15,000 starting from the 2014/15 academic year for needy students pursuing full-time locally-accredited undergraduate or sub-degree programmes and receiving student financial assistance. The subsidy serves as an incentive for them to participate in exchange programmes outside Hong Kong. (EDB)
 - Enhancing the After School Care Programme organised by 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)
- (c) Social Security and Retirement Protection
- Providing rent allowance for CSSA recipients who have been Tenants Purchase Scheme flat owners for more than five years. Originally a CCF programme, this initiative has been incorporated into the Government's regular assistance programme since 2014-15. (LWB)

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- Reviewing the OALA to ascertain, among other things, whether the asset limits should be relaxed. (LWB)
 - Exploring the feasibility of extending the OALA to Guangdong, having regard to the operating experience gained from the implementation of the Guangdong Scheme. (LWB)
 - Seeking an early launch of the “core fund” through legislation. The “core fund” will be a default fund of the Mandatory Provident Fund (MPF) schemes. It is subject to fee control and is based on a long-term investment strategy to balance investment risk and return, with the aim of facilitating the choice of fund by MPF scheme members and achieving more substantial reduction in MPF fees. (FSTB)
 - Striving to secure early enactment of the Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes (Amendment) Bill 2014 to enhance the MPF System by providing more flexible arrangements for scheme members to withdraw their accrued benefits and for promoting reduction in MPF fees. (FSTB)

Supporting the Disadvantaged

(a) Supporting Families

- Increasing in phases the number of residential child care places to enhance support and protection for children and families in need. (LWB)

- Following up the Law Reform Commission Report on Child Custody and Access, including preparing legislative and implementation proposals with an aim to further consult stakeholders before embarking on legislation. (LWB)
 - Combating domestic violence through the provision of preventive, supportive and specialised services for victims and families in need, as well as conducting publicity and public education. Counselling and psycho-educational services are also provided for batterers to change their abusive attitude and behaviour. (LWB)
 - Monitoring the implementation of the Domestic and Cohabitation Relationships Violence Ordinance. (LWB)
 - Providing support services for victims of sexual violence. (LWB)
- (b) Enhancing Services for Persons with Disabilities and Persons with Mental Illness
- 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 rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities by providing additional day, residential and pre-school places. (LWB)

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- Providing subsidy for pre-school children from low-income families to obtain self-financing rehabilitation services run by NGOs while they are wait-listing for subvented services so as to facilitate their learning and development. Originally a CCF programme, this initiative has been incorporated into the Government's regular assistance programme since 2014-15. (LWB)
 - Providing transitional support services for tetraplegic patients discharged from hospitals through the Transitional Care and Support Centre for Tetraplegic Patients. (LWB)
 - Providing home care services for persons with severe disabilities on a territory-wide basis. (LWB)
 - Providing subsidy for needy persons with severe physical disabilities who live in the community and require constant care to cover their expenses for renting medical equipment and purchase of medical consumables. Originally a CCF programme, this initiative has been incorporated into the Government's regular assistance programme since 2014-15. We are also providing one-stop support services (including casework counselling, occupational therapy/physiotherapy, nursing care service and financial support service) co-ordinated and arranged by case managers in accordance with the needs of these persons to enable them to continue living in the community and integrate into society. (LWB)
 - Continuing to implement the case management service with the additional manpower provided for District Support Centres for Persons with Disabilities in 2014-15. (LWB)

- Continuing to provide funding to enhance the support for the operation and development of the Financial Support Scheme for Self-help Organisations for Persons with Disabilities/Chronic Illnesses. (LWB)
- Enhancing sign language interpretation services for persons with hearing impairment with the additional manpower provided for Multi-service Centres for Hearing Impaired Persons and relevant Social and Recreational Centres for the Disabled in 2014-15. (LWB)
- Strengthening the support for athletes with disabilities by means of the \$200 million injected into the Hong Kong Paralympians Fund. (LWB/HAB)
- Continuing to provide short-term day and residential care services for persons with disabilities to relieve the stress of their families/carers. (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 Bought Place Scheme for private residential care homes for persons with disabilities to –
 - upgrade the service standards of private residential care homes for persons with disabilities;
 - help the market develop more service options for persons with disabilities; and

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- 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 manpower in 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 by –
 - (i) providing allowance for employers under the Work Orientation and Placement Scheme to encourage employers to employ persons with disabilities and provide them with on-the-job training and support; and (ii) increasing job attachment allowance and wage subsidy under the On the Job Training Programme for People with Disabilities and the Sunnyway-On the Job Training Programme for Young People with Disabilities;
 - providing subsidy for employers for procurement of assistive devices and/or workplace modifications;
 - providing financial incentive for mentors rendering workplace assistance and guidance to employees with disabilities; and

- promoting the Talent-Wise Employment Charter and Inclusive Organisations Recognition Scheme to mobilise employers in the territory to actively participate in facilitating the employment of persons 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 for persons with disabilities. (LWB)
- Implementing measures to ensure that persons with disabilities will have equal access, like other applicants, to job opportunities in the Government. (CSB)
- Continuing to upgrade barrier-free facilities in government venues and Housing Authority properties. (LWB)
- Enhancing transport services for persons with disabilities through improvement to rehasub service. We are also examining ways of further improving the accessibility of transport services for persons with disabilities. (LWB/THB)
- Implementing the Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities to enable elderly people aged 65 or above and eligible persons with disabilities aged below 65 to travel on the general Mass Transit Railway lines, franchised buses and ferries anytime at a concessionary fare of \$2 per trip, with a view to building a caring and inclusive society by encouraging them to participate more in community activities. (LWB)

(c) Services for Ethnic Minorities (EMs)

- Continuing to implement various measures for the EMs to facilitate their early integration into the community, including –
 - provision of various dedicated programmes such as language classes and adaptation courses for the EMs through six support service centres and two sub-centres, including the new one in Kwai Tsing District, which commenced operation in October 2014;
 - provision of dedicated programmes such as sports and cultural activities to help the personal development of EM youths through the youth units set up in the support service centres and sub-centres for EMs. The youth units in all the support service centres and sub-centres came into full operation in late July 2014;
 - implementation of Ambassadors Scheme for EM youths since late July 2014 to proactively reach out to these young people, understand their aspirations and difficulties, and make referrals where necessary; and
 - enhancement of support services for EMs by deploying non-civil service contract staff who are familiar with the cultures and languages of the EMs. The newly recruited staff members reported for duty in late 2014. (HAB)
- Implementing measures to ensure that the 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 non-Chinese speaking (NCS) students and students with SEN, and to provide them with alternative progression pathways. (EDB)
- Reviewing and implementing various support measures for NCS students, including the implementation of the “Chinese Language Curriculum Second Language Learning Framework” and related support measures, and providing Applied Learning Chinese Course (for NCS students) as an alternative recognised qualification for further studies or employment to facilitate their mastery of the Chinese language in a structured manner and integration into the community. We are also formulating a research framework to evaluate the effectiveness of various support measures. (EDB)
- Continuing with the work of the Police to engage with the EMs and to promote to them police services and fight crime initiatives. The number of EM Junior Police Call members increased to 2 500 in 2014. The Police will continue to encourage EM youths to join the Junior Police Call. (SB)

(d) Supporting Students with SEN

- Supporting students with SEN 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 SEN, including expanding the School-based Educational Psychology Service to cover all public sector primary and secondary schools by the 2016/17 school year. We also adjust the rates of the Learning Support Grant on an annual basis according to the established mechanism. (EDB)
 - Continuing to implement improvement measures in special schools, including the provision of an additional grant to enhance the support for boarders with complex medical conditions, strengthening manpower for boarding services, providing additional teacher assistants for some special schools, and progressive reduction of class size in schools for children with visual impairment and schools for social development. (EDB)

(e) 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)

(f) Strengthening Cross-sectoral Collaboration

- Encouraging further cross-sectoral collaboration through the Partnership Fund for the Disadvantaged to launch projects that can cater for the various needs of the disadvantaged and benefit more people. Dedicated fund is set aside to provide more after-school learning and support programmes for primary and secondary school students from grassroots families. (LWB)

Social Welfare Planning and Administration

- Identifying suitable sites and facilitating provision of necessary manpower resources to meet the current and future needs of social welfare services. (LWB)
- Continuing to implement the Special Scheme on Privately Owned Sites for Welfare Uses, under which targeted assistance is provided for participating social welfare organisations during the planning or development process. The scheme is aimed at providing diversified services and self-financing facilities, in particular elderly and rehabilitation service facilities. (LWB)
- Enhancing the Lump Sum Grant Subvention System by providing an additional recurrent funding of about \$470 million in 2014-15 to strengthen central administrative and supervisory support for NGOs, enhance “Other Charges” that cover other operating expenses such as food costs, assist NGOs in recruiting and retaining paramedical staff more effectively or in hiring paramedical services, and allow NGOs more flexibility in using the Provident Fund reserve. The Government will continue to monitor the implementation of these measures. (LWB)
- Continuing with the consultancy study on the feasibility of setting up a centralised platform to provide one-stop and user-friendly administrative service to receive, process and approve applications for public benefits. (CSO)

Chapter 4

Medical Services, Public Health and Elderly Care

Preamble

Hong Kong has a quality healthcare system supported by a team of highly professional healthcare workers. Our public and private medical sectors provide a full range of diversified 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 sustainability of our healthcare system through a series of reform measures, including the promotion of long-term development of primary care and Chinese medicine, proposed introduction of the Voluntary Health Insurance Scheme, revamp of the regulatory regime for private healthcare facilities and implementation of the electronic health record programme.

In face of the challenges brought about by an ageing population and the changes in the prevalence of diseases, we will uphold our 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, and remain vigilant in taking actions to prevent and control diseases.

As Hong Kong turns rapidly into an ageing society, development of elderly care services has become even more important. 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.

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. We will also carry on with our efforts to provide support services for carers of the elderly.

New Initiatives

We will:

Enhancing Healthcare Services Provision

- Increase the number of public hospital beds and operating theatre sessions to enhance the service capacity for addressing the ever rising healthcare needs. (FHB)
- Increase the quota for specialist outpatient and general outpatient consultation and provide additional emergency medicine wards to improve the waiting time for outpatient and emergency services. (FHB)
- Strengthen the geriatric day rehabilitation services and the outreach services of the Community Geriatric Assessment Team to provide discharged elderly and those living in residential care homes with rehabilitation programme and comprehensive assessment and care management, thereby promoting continuity of care at the community. (FHB)
- Conduct an interim review of the pilot General Out-patient Clinic Public-Private Partnership Programme in Kwun Tong, Wong Tai Sin and Tuen Mun districts, consider expanding the scope to cover other chronic diseases and increasing the number of patients, and plan for extending the programme to all 18 districts of the territory in phases. (FHB)

- Increase the number of psychiatric beds in Siu Lam Hospital, with a view to clearing up cases of severe intellectual disability on the waiting list in phases in the coming three years. (FHB)
- Strengthen the manpower of psychiatric teams of the Hospital Authority and introduce a peer support element to the Case Management Programme for patients with severe mental illness. (FHB)
- Construct a new acute general hospital in the Kai Tak Development Area. Phase 1 of the hospital will include the setting up of an oncology centre and the provision of inpatient and ambulatory services. (FHB)
- Explore the feasibility of conducting neonatal screening for inborn error of metabolic diseases on a pilot basis in the public healthcare sector. (FHB)

Chinese Medicine

- Plan and develop a testing centre on Chinese medicines managed by the Department of Health, which will be specialised in the testing of and scientific research on Chinese medicines, with a view to setting safety and quality standards and testing methods of Chinese medicines. (FHB)

Health Promotion

- Promote the importance of mental health and mental well-being through a territory-wide public education and publicity campaign to be launched by the Department of Health. (FHB)

Healthcare Service Development and Infrastructure

- Proceed with the preparatory work for the second stage of the electronic health record programme. (FHB)

Food Safety and Healthy Eating

- Conduct public consultation on the regulation of nutrition and health claims for formula products and prepackaged food for infants and young children under the age of 36 months. (FHB)
- Expand the Food Safety Laboratory in Pok Fu Lam to make it a permanent set-up for enhancing effective delivery of testing work to protect food safety. (FHB)
- Devise and implement a strategic plan for encouraging reduced intake of salt and sugar in food so as to promote a healthy diet. (FHB)
- Conduct public consultation on the regulation of the safety of edible oil and the recycling of waste cooking oil. (FHB)
- Conduct public consultation on the regulation of cooked meat. (FHB)

Live Poultry

- In view of the continuing threat of avian influenza, commission a consultancy to study the way forward of the live poultry trade and whether sale of live poultry should continue in Hong Kong, and consult the public on the recommendations of the consultant. (FHB)

Municipal Services

- Put forward concrete improvement proposals in 2015 for a number of public markets after considering the recommendations of the consultancy study and taking into account the conditions of the markets and the challenges and opportunities facing them. The proposals pursued will provide reference for future improvement to other public markets. (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, and development of the Primary Care Directory. (FHB)
- Enhancing public healthcare services through public-private partnership to increase service volume, reduce waiting time, offer additional choices to patients and enhance cost-effectiveness. We are implementing the following projects –
 - procuring additional places for haemodialysis services from the private sector to provide treatment for eligible patients with end-stage renal disease;
 - providing outsourced radiological investigation services for selected groups of cancer patients; and
 - subsidising patients to receive cataract surgeries in the private sector. (FHB)
- Widening the scope of the Hospital Authority Drug Formulary to enhance the efficacy of treating various diseases. (FHB)

- Reviewing 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 taking forward enhancement measures having regard to the recommendations of the Review Committee on Mental Health. (FHB)
- Planning and developing a pilot programme to subsidise colorectal cancer screening for persons in specific age groups. (FHB)

Healthcare Service Development and Infrastructure

- Constructing the Tin Shui Wai Hospital and the Hong Kong Children's Hospital at Kai Tak, and actively pursuing the expansion and redevelopment of United Christian Hospital, Kwong Wah Hospital, Queen Mary Hospital and Kwai Chung Hospital. (FHB)
- Continuing with the minor works projects to improve facilities in public hospitals and clinics by utilising the one-off grant of \$13 billion allocated to the Hospital Authority in 2014. (FHB)
- Continuing the implementation of the first stage of the electronic health record programme to set up a territory-wide patient-oriented system which will facilitate the sharing of electronic health records between public and private healthcare providers. The system will be launched after the passage of the Electronic Health Record Sharing System Bill by the LegCo. (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 proposals for statutory regulation of medical devices, in the process of which a consultancy study on the regulatory framework will be conducted. We will take into account the findings of the study, other assessment results and views of stakeholders. (FHB)

Chinese Medicine

- Working in collaboration with the Chinese Medicine Development Committee to consider the implementation details of developing a Chinese medicine hospital on a reserved site. In order to gather experiences in the operation and regulation of Chinese medicine in-patient services, which will serve as the basis for formulating the mode of operation of the proposed Chinese medicine hospital, the Hospital Authority launched the first stage of the Integrated Chinese-Western Medicine Pilot Project in September 2014 in three of its hospitals to provide treatment with integrated Chinese and Western medicine for three disease areas, namely stroke rehabilitation, low back pain and palliative care for cancer. (FHB)
- Conducting a review on the development of the Chinese medicine sector through the Chinese Medicine Development Committee established in February 2013 to formulate a strategy to raise the professional standard and status of Chinese medicine practitioners, support research and development 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 feasible mode of operation of a Chinese medicine hospital. (FHB)

- Continuing to subsidise and monitor the 18 public Chinese medicine clinics to enhance Chinese medicine service in our public healthcare system. (FHB)

Ensuring Long-term Sustainability of Healthcare System

- Continuing with the 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)
- Revamping the regulatory regime for private healthcare facilities to enhance the safety, quality and price transparency of private healthcare services. (FHB)
- Taking forward the Voluntary Health Insurance Scheme to provide more choices and better protection for users of 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 to implement and improve the subsidy schemes for eligible children and elderly people to receive seasonal influenza and pneumococcal vaccinations to enhance primary care and disease prevention. (FHB)

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- Adopting a comprehensive preventive and surveillance programme to reduce the risk of avian influenza outbreaks and human infections in Hong Kong. We will keep the situation under review and update the relevant policies in a timely manner. (FHB)
 - Drafting legislation to control the import of poultry eggs to minimise the risk of avian influenza and other food safety hazards. (FHB)
 - Implementing the Strategic Framework for Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases to promote cross-sectoral 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 service. (FHB)
- Promoting registration on the Central Organ Donation Register to the public through collaboration with relevant organisations. (FHB)

Animal Welfare

- Following up the legislative amendments to tighten up the regulatory framework for pet trading to enhance animal welfare. (FHB)
- Implementing the “Trap-Neuter-Release” trial programme for stray dogs. (FHB)

Veterinary Service

- Following up the legislative amendments to the Veterinary Surgeons Registration Ordinance to strengthen and expand the membership of the Veterinary Surgeons Board of Hong Kong and streamline its procedures for handling complaints. (FHB)

Safe use of Pesticides and Veterinary Drugs

- Continuing our efforts to promote and ensure the safe and proper use of pesticides. (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 the community, including Western and Chinese medicine, dental and other preventive care services. (FHB)
- Continuing to implement 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)
- Implementing the Outreach Dental Care Programme for the Elderly to provide dental care and treatment for elderly people in residential care homes and similar facilities. (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 for discharged elderly patients who have difficulties taking care of themselves, and also for their carers. (LWB)
- Implementing the Pilot Scheme on Living Allowance for Carers of the Elderly Persons from Low Income Families through the CCF to enhance support for carers of elderly persons. (LWB)
- Continuing the implementation of 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

- Continuing the implementation of the Pilot Residential Care Services Scheme in Guangdong to provide elderly persons on the Central Waiting List for subsidised residential care places with an option to choose to live in the two elderly homes located in Shenzhen and Zhaoqing which are run by Hong Kong NGOs. (LWB)

- Continuing with the work of the Elderly Commission to study the feasibility of introducing vouchers for residential care service for the elderly. (LWB)
- Increasing the number of subsidised residential care places for the elderly through –
 - the Enhanced Bought Place Scheme;
 - better use of space in subvented homes;
 - building of new contract homes; and
 - identification of 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 who use 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)
- Implementing the Navigation Scheme for Young Persons in Care Services to encourage more young people to join the care service profession in the welfare sector. (LWB)

Financial Support for the Elderly

- Ensuring smooth operation of the OALA 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)
- Continuing the implementation of the Guangdong Scheme launched in October 2013 to provide Old Age Allowance for eligible Hong Kong elderly people residing in Guangdong. (LWB)

Planning and Integration of Elderly Services

- Continuing with the work of the Elderly Commission to formulate the Elderly Services Programme Plan. (LWB)
- Considering suitable sites and operating mode for setting up Integrated Elderly Services Centres on a pilot basis to provide one-stop, multi-disciplinary healthcare and social services for the elderly at community level. (FHB/LWB)

Municipal Services

- Continuing to take forward the five-year assistance scheme launched in 2013 for improving the fire safety and design of hawker stalls in 43 fixed-pitch hawker areas. (FHB)
- Seeking support for public columbarium development on shortlisted sites across the territory whilst promoting green burials in parallel. (FHB)
- Working with the LegCo for early completion of the examination of the Private Columbaria Bill. (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)
- Amending the Chinese Permanent Cemeteries Ordinance and the Chinese Permanent Cemeteries Rules to relax the restrictions in relation to the use of a family niche by close relatives and provide for improvements in the management and use of Chinese Permanent Cemeteries to better serve the community's needs. (HAB)

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 mapped out clear targets and work plans for improving air quality and waste management in two published blueprints. We are committed to achieving the targets in the blueprints through implementation of various measures and programmes in proactive partnership with various sectors.

For conserving our natural environment and fulfilling our commitment under the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, we are developing a Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for Hong Kong.

To combat climate change, we have introduced various initiatives to achieve higher energy efficiency and promote a less carbon intensive lifestyle.

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 by adopting a holistic and professional approach and engaging stakeholders under the Be Our Greening Partner Campaign.

We wish to preserve the city's charm while respecting the need for development. We will actively consider how the recommendations of the Antiquities Advisory Board on reviewing the built heritage conservation policy could be implemented as soon as possible.

New Initiatives

We will:

Air Quality

- Review the Fourth Technical Memorandum in 2015 in the light of the outcome of the consultation on the way forward for the future fuel mix for electricity generation in Hong Kong, with a view to further tightening the air pollutant emission caps on power companies from 2020 onwards. (ENB)
- Collaborate with the Guangdong Provincial Government, in preparing for a mid-term review of the progress made in emission reduction of air pollutants in the two places having regard to the socio-economic development in 2015, and finalising the emission reduction targets for 2020. (ENB)
- Further allocate \$150 million to extend the Cleaner Production Partnership Programme for five years and further enhance the programme in collaboration with the Guangdong Provincial Government. We will continue to promote cleaner production technologies and practices among Hong Kong-owned factories in Guangdong and Hong Kong to reduce pollutant emissions and enhance energy efficiency, thereby improving regional air quality. (ENB)

Energy

- Launch a public consultation on the long-term development of the electricity market and its regulatory framework after the expiry of the current Scheme of Control Agreements with the two power companies in 2018. (ENB)

Combating Climate Change and Energy Conservation

- Achieve the target of reducing electricity consumption of government buildings by 5% in the next five financial years from 2015-16 to 2019-20 under comparable operating conditions (taking the 2013-14 financial year as the baseline). (ENB)
- Collaborate with relevant organisations as well as public and private bodies to promote a low carbon and energy efficient built environment in order to reduce the overall electricity demand of Hong Kong. (ENB)

Development of Desalination

- Commence in phases the design work for the desalination plant at Tseung Kwan O and its associated infrastructures. (DEVB)

Water Intelligent Network

- Study and progressively establish Water Intelligent Network that utilises sensors and related technologies to continuously monitor the health condition of the underground water supply networks. (DEVB)

Safe and Quality Living Environment

- Conduct a consultancy study for exploring the practicable options for applying the concept of revitalising water bodies to nullahs and river channels when carrying out large-scale drainage improvement works and drainage planning for new development areas. This is aimed at promoting greening, biodiversity, beautification and water friendliness in addition to achieving efficient drainage, with a view to building sustainable drainage facilities and providing a better living environment. (DEVB)

Fisheries

- Draft legislation to set up a control scheme for the trading of toothfish in Hong Kong to meet the requirements of the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources. (FHB)

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)
- 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 on the market and the operational needs of government bureaux and departments. (ENB)
- Launching a pilot scheme to enable electric taxi suppliers to set up quick chargers in the car parks administered by the Transport Department in order to facilitate the expansion of electric taxi fleet. (ENB)

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- Launching an incentive-cum-regulatory scheme to phase out progressively by the end of 2019 some 82 000 highly polluting diesel commercial vehicles which only comply with Euro III or earlier emission standards to improve roadside air quality. (ENB)
 - Deploying roadside remote sensing equipment for surveillance purpose and using dynamometer for emission tests to strengthen the control of emissions of petrol and liquefied petroleum gas vehicles. (ENB)
 - Providing funds for the procurement of hybrid buses and electric buses by franchised bus companies for trial run. (ENB)

(b) Reducing Marine Emissions

- Legislating to mandate the use of low sulphur fuel by ocean-going vessels berthing in Hong Kong waters to reduce marine emissions. (ENB)
- Completing a technical feasibility study on the setting up of an onshore power supply system at Kai Tak Cruise Terminal and working out the next step in the light of the study outcome. (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 promoting fuel switch for ocean-going vessels berthing in Pearl River Delta ports. (ENB)
- Conducting a study with the governments of Guangdong and Macao on fine suspended particulates (PM2.5) for the Pearl River Delta region to provide a robust scientific basis in mapping out the strategies for further improvement in regional air quality. (ENB)
- Exploring with Guangdong the co-operation in air pollution forecasting and joint effort in promoting regional air pollution prevention. (ENB)

(d) Others

- 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

- Sustaining the implementation of the Food Wise Hong Kong Campaign, promoting food donation and encouraging the avoidance and reduction of food waste at source. (ENB)
- Setting up an inter-departmental working group to follow up the recommendations made by the Council for Sustainable Development on the implementation of quantity-based municipal solid waste charging. (ENB)

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- Encouraging public participation in waste reduction at source and improving the recycling facilities. We promote the “clean recycling” campaign to increase the recycling value and recovery rate of waste materials, thereby alleviating the pressure on landfills and facilitating the sustainable development of the recycling industry. (ENB)
 - Promoting the development of the recycling industry through infrastructural support, green procurement, subsidies for technology research and development, support for manpower training of the industry and implementation of a registration system. (ENB)
 - Promoting and implementing the measures and action plan under A Food Waste & Yard Waste Plan for Hong Kong to reduce, recycle and treat food waste and yard waste. (ENB)
 - Making preparations for launching the \$1 billion Recycling Fund to promote recovery and recycling of waste by facilitating the upgrading of the operational capabilities and efficiency of the recycling industry in support of the industry’s sustainable development. (ENB)

(b) Implementing Producer Responsibility Schemes

- Stepping up publicity and education for the full implementation of the Environmental Levy Scheme on Plastic Shopping Bags in the whole retail industry from 1 April 2015. (ENB)
- Developing legislative proposals and treatment facilities for the mandatory Producer Responsibility Scheme on waste electrical and electronic equipment. (ENB)

- Developing legislative proposals for the mandatory Producer Responsibility Scheme on glass beverage bottles. (ENB)

(c) Developing Waste Treatment and Disposal Facilities

- Pursuing landfill extension. (ENB)
- Completing the tendering of phase 1 of the Organic Waste Treatment Facilities for food waste treatment. (ENB)
- Completing the feasibility study on phase 2 of the Organic Waste Treatment Facilities for food waste treatment, and preparing for tendering of the project. (ENB)
- Preparing for tendering of phase 1 of the 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 conducting a comprehensive review of various energy performance standards under the Building Energy Codes in 2015. (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)

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- Implementing the Mandatory Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme, which includes full implementation of the new grading structure and review of the scope of the scheme by the end of 2015. (ENB)
 - Continuing with the three-year programme initiated in 2012 to carry out carbon audits of major government buildings and public facilities so as to identify carbon reduction opportunities for managing local greenhouse gas emissions. (ENB)
 - Continuing to encourage listed companies to participate in carbon auditing, and disclose related information and share best practices in carbon management through the carbon footprint repository. (ENB)
 - Considering the recommendations of the Task Force on External Lighting and developing proposals to address public concern about external lighting. (ENB)

Improving Water Quality

- Implementing Stage 2A of the Harbour Area Treatment Scheme with the aim of commissioning the sewage treatment system within 2015. By then, all sewage generated from both sides of Victoria Harbour will be conveyed to Stonecutters Island Sewage Treatment Works for treatment and disinfection. (ENB)
- Conducting a consultancy study to explore various practicable options to effectively reduce near-shore pollution and enhance the water quality of the coastal waters with a view to improving the overall environment of both sides of Victoria Harbour. (ENB)

Total Water Management Strategy

- Conducting a review of the Total Water Management Strategy to ensure 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

- Continuing with the implementation of 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)
- Commencing the study and planning on using reclaimed water in the north-eastern part of the New Territories (including Sheung Shui and Fanling) for toilet flushing and other non-potable uses. (DEVB)

Green Construction

- Implementing measures to promote low carbon construction, emission reduction and use of recycled materials in public works projects, including –
 - promoting the use of electric vehicles in works projects;
 - using biodiesel as fuel for construction machineries in construction sites;
 - adopting green site offices; and
 - continuing to conduct trials on the use of waste glass as fill materials in site formation, backfilling and reclamation. (DEVB)

Supporting Community Green Actions

- Enhancing community participation in waste reduction, energy and water conservation through district-based environmental education, promotion and publicity programmes, production of the “Use Less, Waste Less” pre-primary education kit, and sponsorship of activities organised by DCs. (ENB)
- Providing long-term and sustained support for green actions initiated by the community through the investment returns generated from the injection of \$5 billion into the Environment and Conservation Fund. (ENB)
- Continuing with the development of community green stations in phases in each of the 18 districts. The project has been titled “Community Green Stations”. (ENB)
- Supporting the Council for Sustainable Development in conducting public engagement exercises on issues of public concern, and subsidising community education and publicity efforts through the Sustainable Development Fund. (ENB)

Promoting Green Economy

- Actively applying green specifications in government procurement as well as cleansing and vehicle hiring service contracts. We also seek to widen the scope of green procurement in public works projects. (ENB)

- Supporting the local environmental industry in participating in environmental exhibitions, trade missions and related events to promote the industry and explore business opportunities in the Mainland and overseas markets. (ENB)

Promoting Nature Conservation

- Implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. We will consult the public on the Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan being formulated, and we intend to complete the plan within 2015 for implementation in phases so as 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)

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)

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

Heritage Conservation

- Exploring ways to implement as soon as possible the recommendations of the Antiquities Advisory Board pursuant to the policy review on conservation of built heritage, including the establishment of a fund for built heritage conversation. (DEVB)
- Working closely with selected non-profit-making organisations to continue implementing the first three batches of projects under the “Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme”. (DEVB)
- Completing the assessments of the projects for revitalising the fourth batch of historic buildings under the “Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme” and commencing the pre-revitalisation works on these historic buildings. (DEVB)
- Taking forward the conservation and revitalisation of the Central Police Station Compound in partnership with the Hong Kong Jockey Club. (DEVB)

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 with 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)
- Continuing with the construction of an underground stormwater storage tank to relieve the flood risk in Happy Valley and adjacent areas. (DEVB)
- Reviewing the Drainage Master Plans of East Kowloon, West Kowloon, Sha Tin, Tai Po, Sai Kung and North Hong Kong Island to assess the flood risks in these districts and formulate improvement measures. (DEVB)

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- Considering the winning entries of the concluded Design Ideas Competition for Kai Tak River in designing the green river corridor. The reconstruction and rehabilitation works of the Kai Tak River will be completed in stages from 2016 onwards. (DEVB)
 - Continuing with the design of the improvement works for the Yuen Long Town Centre Nullah to enhance quality of the local environment and the ecological value of the nullah. (DEVB)
 - Launching a Restored Landfill Revitalisation Funding Scheme with \$1 billion earmarked for non-profit-making organisations or “national sports associations” to develop recreational facilities or other innovative proposals at restored landfills. (ENB)

Chapter 6

Education, Population and Human Resources

Preamble

People are our most precious resource, providing the impetus for the continued social and economic development of Hong Kong. The Steering Committee on Population Policy, led by the Chief Secretary for Administration, has adopted the following objective for our population policy after a four-month public engagement exercise: “To develop and nurture a population that will continuously support and drive Hong Kong’s socio-economic development as Asia’s world city, and to engender a socially inclusive and cohesive society that allows individuals to realise their potential, with a view to attaining quality life for all residents and families”. Building on existing policies, a series of initiatives have been formulated to take forward this policy objective and meet the challenges brought about by the changing demographic structure.

The issue of manpower is one of quantity and quality. We will give priority to nurture local talent, which starts with education. The Committee on Free Kindergarten Education is studying the practicable way of achieving the objective of implementing free kindergarten education. The Committee is expected to make its recommendations in 2015. Primary and secondary education is an important stage for students to accumulate knowledge, develop personal character and equip themselves for challenges ahead. We will enhance the support

for secondary schools to provide life planning and career guidance services to help young people better understand themselves and plan for their future. At the same time, we will provide flexible and diversified study and articulation pathways with multiple entry and exit points, and promote continuing learning so as to equip young people in pursuing their dreams and strengthening their confidence in the future. We will provide more opportunities for young people to enrol on quality post-secondary programmes, and further develop and promote vocational education and training to cater for their diversified interests.

Apart from the school, support and nurturing from the family is pivotal to the development of young people. Therefore, we must strengthen the family and make it one of the core values of the community. We will collaborate with various sectors in the community to create a family friendly culture and enhance the functions of families. We will also promote family-friendly employment practices to help employees achieve a balance between work and family life, and implement the newly enacted legislation that provides paternity leave for eligible male employees.

Promoting employment of local workers and protecting workers' rights and benefits have always been our priority. We will continue providing recruitment and employment services for job seekers with different employment needs. We accept the recommendation made by the Minimum Wage Commission to increase the Statutory Minimum Wage rate by 8.3% from \$30 per hour to \$32.5 per hour. Subject to the approval of LegCo, the proposal will be implemented from 1 May 2015. We take rigorous enforcement actions against violation of labour laws and will continue to facilitate informed and in-depth discussion on the way forward for the working hours policy.

New Initiatives

We will:

Population Policy

(a) Adhering to a Direction of Sustainable Development

- Align with the objectives of our population policy from the perspectives of creating capacity for better quality of life, enhancing economic competitiveness and developing in a sustainable manner when updating the HK2030 Study (published in 2007) and examining the strategy and possible options for the development of Hong Kong beyond 2030. (DEVB)
- Develop high value-added industries to broaden our economic base and provide new areas of economic growth. This will also give the young generation a wide variety of job opportunities with good prospects. (All relevant bureaux)

(b) Extending Working Life

- In mid-2015, raise the retirement age for new recruits to the civilian grades to 65 and that for the disciplined services grades to 60, and formulate flexible measures for extending the service of serving civil servants so as to enable the Government, as an employer, to take early actions to address the challenges arising from an ageing population and provide flexibility for meeting the manpower needs of departments taking into account their different operational and succession needs. (CSB)

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- In line with the Government's arrangement of extending the retirement age of civil service new recruits, encourage other employers, in particular public and subvented organisations, to implement appropriate measures according to their own circumstances to extend the working life of their employees. We will also review the existing welfare arrangements to see if they have the effect of disincentives for older persons to continue working. (All relevant bureaux)
 - Propose to suitably relax the upper age limit for Category B Security Personnel Permits (now at 65) after a review of the age restrictions set out in the permit issuing criteria issued under the Security and Guarding Services Ordinance. (SB)
 - Under the Education Ordinance, the retirement age of aided school teachers and principals within the approved establishment is 60 unless special permission is given. Following the extension of retirement age of newly recruited civil servants, including the government school teachers, we shall discuss with relevant educational bodies whether and if so how this revised policy should be extended to aided schools with a view to meeting the manpower needs of Hong Kong and the education sector. (EDB)

(c) Enhancing Employment Support for Elderly People

- Promote the employment of elderly persons by enhancing the employment support services for elderly job seekers and encouraging employers to build an elderly-friendly working environment through publicity. (LWB)

- Continue to provide on-the-job training allowance of \$3,000 per month for employers for a period of three to six months under the Employment Programme for the Middle-aged, so as to give employers financial incentive to employ elderly persons. We will extend the programme to cover part-time jobs in the second half of 2015. (LWB)
- Explain the points-to-note of taking out employees' compensation insurance policies (EC insurance, or commonly known as "labour insurance policies") to employers to allay their concern over difficulties in taking out such policies for elderly employees. We will also promote the Employees' Compensation Insurance Residual Scheme as a market of last resort to employers having difficulties in securing EC insurance. (FSTB/LWB)
- Amongst other target groups, the Employees Retraining Board (ERB) will focus on providing training for the elderly in the future, and help elderly people rejoin the job market. The ERB will conduct a market research on elderly or retired persons and employers to understand elders' views on continuing employment as well as employers' opinions on hiring elderly or retired persons. The ERB will also explore suitable types of work for these people and launch training courses on a pilot basis. (LWB)

(d) Supporting Women in Fulfilling Work and Family Commitments

- Provide in phases about 5 000 additional places of Extended Hours Service at aided child care centres and kindergarten-cum-child care centres in districts with high demand from 2015-16 onwards so that more pre-primary children in need (aged below six) can continue to receive extended hours of service in the same service units being attended by them, with a view to alleviating the pressure on their working parents. (LWB)
- Provide in 2017-18 about 100 additional aided long full-day child care places for children aged below three. (LWB)
- Invite NGOs to establish work-based child care centres through the Special Scheme on Privately Owned Sites for Welfare Uses. Two NGOs have responded positively, proposing that a total of about 100 self-financing places to be provided. Besides, the Government will explore the feasibility of providing in the proposed Government Complex in Tseung Kwan O, on a pilot basis, 100 NGO-operated child care places for staff members. (LWB)
- Provide resources for aided standalone child care centres and units providing Occasional Child Care Service and Extended Hours Service, so as to enhance supervisory and administrative support. (LWB)

- Consider actively ways to encourage kindergartens to offer more whole-day services to support working parents and explore the feasibility of providing additional subsidies for families in need through the Committee on Free Kindergarten Education of the Education Bureau. (EDB)
- Commission a consultancy study in 2015-16 to advise on the long-term development of child care services. (LWB)
- Launch a pilot project to help grandparents become well-trained child carers in a home setting, with a view to reinforcing support for nuclear families. (LWB)
- The ERB will enhance the training and employment services for women to help them rejoin the job market. (LWB)
- Keep updating the Women Employment website, which was launched in October 2014, to provide information on employment services, child and elderly care support services and training programmes for working women and women who are ready to join the job market. (LWB)
- Step up the promotion of family-friendly employment practices in the community through the Family Council. The Labour Department (LD) will also enhance publicity and education efforts to encourage employers to adopt such practices so as to help employees achieve a balance between work and family life. (HAB/LWB)

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- Set an example on the part of the Government as a good employer by implementing more family-friendly employment practices for other employers to follow. Apart from considering to offer more part-time positions on non-civil service contract terms, the Government, subject to exigencies of the service and sufficient personal grounds, will also continue with the existing arrangements of giving priority and sympathetic consideration to leave applications, including unpaid leave, on family care grounds. (CSB)
- (e) Providing Better Support for Young People to Start a Family
- Review the child allowance under salaries tax in the coming Budget. (FSTB)
 - Meet the housing needs of the public, including young married couples, by providing more PRH and subsidised sale flats, and maintaining the steady development of the private property market. On PRH, we will encourage young married couples to live with or near their elderly parents through the Harmonious Families Priority Scheme, with a view to promoting mutual care among family members, including the elders' assistance in taking care of young children. (THB)
 - Study practicable ways to implement 15-year free education through the Committee on Free Kindergarten Education. The Committee is going to submit a report on its study to the Government in May this year. Implementing the policy concerned will help alleviate the financial burden on young couples. (EDB)

- Step up the effort to promote the family core values of “Love and Care”, “Respect and Responsibility” and “Communication and Harmony” as well as the positive messages and values on family formation through the Family Council, including commissioning a study on “Parenting Practices in Hong Kong” to identify the impact of different parenting practices on family life and the introduction of family education package for families with newborn babies. (HAB)
 - Consider enhancing collaboration among hospitals in various clusters through the Hospital Authority to improve the waiting time for assisted reproductive technology services. (FHB)
 - Strengthen the promotion of breastfeeding and encourage the provision of more breastfeeding facilities in the community through the Committee on Promotion of Breastfeeding under the Food and Health Bureau, with a view to enhancing sustained breastfeeding and promoting breastfeeding as a norm widely accepted by the general public for baby care. (FHB)
- (f) Building an Inclusive Society
- Keep in view the implementation of the One-Way Permit Scheme and maintain effective communication with the Mainland authorities for the orderly entry of eligible Mainland residents into Hong Kong for family union. (SB)
 - The ERB will help different social groups seek employment and integrate into the community through offering new courses and support services geared towards their needs. The specific measures include –

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- organising skills training courses (such as physiotherapy courses) to attract enrolment of new arrivals with higher academic qualifications or professional experience; (LWB)
 - conducting courses in the support centres for EMs under the Home Affairs Department on a pilot basis to facilitate attendance of EMs; (LWB)
 - organising courses on self-employment and food and beverage production, etc. for persons with disabilities; (LWB) and
 - providing more in-demand programmes under the Modular Certificates Accumulation System to enable trainees to obtain full-time course certificates upon completion of a number of specified half-day or evening courses. This will allow trainees who are unable to pursue full-time courses due to work or family commitments to make flexible arrangement for further studies and acquire recognised qualifications. (LWB)
- Accept the Social Enterprise Advisory Committee's recommendation for implementing a new scheme to provide subsidies for social enterprises and NGOs, which will offer a total of about 2 000 to 3 000 on-site training places for persons with disabilities and other groups in need, including the elderly and EMs, to enhance their employment prospect. We will also strengthen the support platforms for social enterprises and step up publicity and public education. (HAB)

- Improve the employment opportunities of persons with disabilities through –
 - enhancing the follow-up service provided by the LD for job seekers with disabilities after placement by extending the service period from three to six months so as to strengthen the support for employers and help employees with disabilities adapt to their work. It is estimated that over 2 000 persons with disabilities will benefit from this measure each year; (LWB) and
 - exploring the implementation of a pilot project under the Lotteries Fund for trained ex-mentally ill persons to serve as peer supporters to provide support and encouragement for other persons in rehabilitation through sharing their recovery experience. (LWB)
- Earmark \$223 million for extending the Integrated Employment Assistance Programme for Self-reliance for two years and engage NGOs to provide employment assistance services for employable able-bodied CSSA recipients. This will enhance their employability, and help and encourage them to secure employment and achieve self-reliance. (LWB)
- Implement a pilot project to engage EM trainees of the Youth Employment and Training Programme as Employment Services Ambassadors in the Job Centres and job fairs of LD to help provide employment services for EM job seekers. The LD will review the pilot project and consider future arrangements. (LWB)

(g) Attracting Overseas Talent

- Expand our pool of talent by encouraging talent and entrepreneurs to come and stay in Hong Kong by relaxing the stay arrangements under the General Employment Policy, the Admission Scheme for Mainland Talents and Professionals, and the Quality Migrant Admission Scheme. (SB)
- Adjust the General Points Test under the Quality Migrant Admission Scheme to attract a larger pool of talent with excellent educational background or international work experience to come to Hong Kong. (SB)
- Study the feasibility of drawing up a talent list in the light of overseas practices so that we can attract people with exceptional quality in a more effective and focused manner to complement Hong Kong's development into a high value-added and diversified economy. (LWB)
- List out clearly the factors for consideration when processing applications to enter Hong Kong for investment under the General Employment Policy to attract more entrepreneurs from overseas to run their business in Hong Kong, and suspend the Capital Investment Entrant Scheme. (SB)
- Implement a pilot scheme to attract the second generation of Chinese Hong Kong permanent residents who have emigrated overseas to return to Hong Kong. (SB)
- Step up the promotion of the above-mentioned admission schemes by the overseas Economic and Trade Offices and Mainland offices of the Government. (CEDB/CMAB)

- Make good use of overseas talent to cope with the rising demand for healthcare manpower associated with an ageing population, and continue to discuss with the Medical Council of Hong Kong to refine the arrangements for the licensing examination for medical practitioners. In addition to increasing the number of examination sittings, consideration will be given to introducing more flexibility into the internship arrangements to encourage qualified overseas doctors to practise in Hong Kong. Meanwhile, we will consider increasing the number of publicly-funded degree places in medicine, dentistry and other health disciplines in the next funding cycle for universities. (FHB)

(h) Importation of Labour

- Optimise the use and development of local workforce through training and retraining. We will continue to organise large-scale, district-based and thematic job fairs regularly in collaboration with employers from different sectors and through the two recruitment centres specific for the retail and catering sectors. Job seekers can submit job applications and attend interviews on the spot. Meanwhile, we will import labour on an appropriate, limited and targeted basis to relieve the manpower shortage of these sectors while giving priority to locals in employment. (LWB)
- Expedite the processing of applications of the construction industry for labour importation for public works projects under the mechanism for which we have consulted the Labour Advisory Board earlier, and strengthen the monitoring of the approved Supplementary Labour Scheme applications through targeted inspections. (LWB)

(i) Active Ageing

- Extend the Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities to green minibuses in phases starting from the first quarter of 2015 to help build a caring and inclusive society by encouraging the elderly to participate more in community activities. (LWB)
- Enhance support for elder academies in terms of finance, curriculum development, training for trainers and district network, so that these academies can provide the elderly with diversified courses on an on-going basis for the promotion of life-long learning and cross-sectoral harmony. (LWB)
- Plan to merge the Neighbourhood Active Ageing Project with the Opportunities for the Elderly Project in 2016 for better use of resources in encouraging elderly people to actively take part in community affairs, and to continue contributing to society and lead a fruitful elderly life by joining elderly volunteer service as well as activities relating to community education and intergenerational harmony. (LWB)
- Provide choices of service for the elderly and at the same time promote the development of the silver hair market through the Senior Citizen Residences Scheme and the Reverse Mortgage Programme which are operated by the Hong Kong Housing Society and the Hong Kong Mortgage Corporation Limited respectively. (THB/FSTB)

(j) Implementation and Progress Monitoring

- Monitor regularly the implementation of the above initiatives through the Steering Committee on Population Policy led by the Chief Secretary for Administration. Since December 2014, the membership of steering committee just comprised of official members. To incorporate views of experts, academics, service organisations and other stakeholders into the work relating to population policy, the steering committee conducts seminars where appropriate to disseminate the effectiveness of the population policy initiatives and seeks participants' comments on the enhancement of various initiatives having regard to latest developments. (CSO)

Secondary and Primary School Education

- Renew and enrich the curricula of the Key Learning Areas of Science, Technology and Mathematics Education, learning and teaching activities, as well as integrative learning activities, and also foster curriculum leadership and professional development training for teachers, so as to enhance students' interest in learning, innovation and problem-solving skills, while developing in them a solid and integrative knowledge base. This will help nurture versatile talents in the science and technology fields and enhance the international competitiveness of Hong Kong. (EDB)
- Renew the curriculum of humanities subjects like Chinese History and World History, and provide rich learning experiences by enlivening classroom learning and teaching so as to enhance students' interest in and understanding of Chinese history and culture, and broaden their global outlook. (EDB)

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- Build on the experience of implementing various Mainland exchange programmes and provide more opportunities for students to pursue life-wide learning and exchanges that serve to complement the curricula and the learning elements in different areas, and align with their articulation and employment prospects as well as major cultural and economic events of our country. To this end, the EDB will further collaborate with schools, government departments concerned and NGOs, and adopt a variety of strategies. Apart from reinforcing and consolidating their knowledge acquired in classrooms, the exchanges can enable students, as Chinese nationals, to gain first-hand experience of our country's development in aspects of history, culture, economics, technology and infrastructural construction. We expect to subsidise every student to join at least one Mainland exchange programme in both the primary and secondary stages. (EDB)

 - Enhance the breadth and depth of co-operation between local and Mainland primary and secondary schools as a means to further promote their professional exchanges in areas such as school management, lesson demonstration, lesson evaluation and video conferencing by consolidating their experiences as sister schools. Such exchanges will serve the purposes of experience sharing and enhancing teaching effectiveness. (EDB)

- Strengthen partnership between schools and business organisations in the triennium from the 2015/16 school year with a view to enhancing students' understanding of different trades and preparing them for employment in the future through activities such as mentorship and career exploration programmes. To facilitate life planning for students, we will review and consolidate key elements of effective practices to facilitate the setting up of a platform to showcase exemplars of business-school partnership, thereby attracting participation of more schools and businesses. (EDB)

Manpower Development for the Construction Industry

- Earmark \$100 million for answering the calls of the construction industry and stakeholders to support the Construction Industry Council in introducing new training initiatives to upgrade the skills of semi-skilled workers to the level of skilled workers. (DEVB)
- Set up a dedicated Construction Industry Recruitment Centre to provide job-counselling service, hold on-the-spot interviews and stage job fairs to facilitate job matching and dissemination of vacancy information for local construction workers. (LWB/DEVB)

Women

- Raise the gender benchmark for appointing women as members of advisory and statutory bodies from the current 30% to 35% to enhance women's participation in the work of these bodies. (LWB)

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- Institutionalise gender mainstreaming in major policies and initiatives across the board to ensure that women and men can equally enjoy and benefit from the resources and opportunities in our society. (LWB)

Employment Support and Employee's Welfare

- Organise large-scale job fairs including employment and vacancy information on the Mainland so as to help job seekers, in particular, young people, better understand the employment opportunities on the Mainland and find suitable jobs. (LWB)
- Prepare for the implementation of the revised Statutory Minimum Wage rate. (LWB)
- Adopt measures to enhance the protection of foreign domestic helpers and their employers, including drawing up a code of practice to regulate activities of local employment agencies which are involved in the placement of the foreign domestic helpers. (LWB)

On-going Initiatives

We are:

Population Policy

- (a) Development Strategy for a Diversified Economy
 - Developing policy and support measures necessary for the further development of four clusters of sectors (namely transportation; convention and exhibition industries and tourism; manufacturing industries, innovative technology, and cultural and creative industries; and professional services) through the Economic Development Commission and its four working groups with a view to diversifying our economy and creating more employment opportunities. (CEDB/ DEVB/THB)
- (b) Supporting Women in Fulfilling Work and Family Commitments
 - Making an annual provision of around \$240 million to support students in need in participating in after-school activities including after-school support on learning through schools and NGOs. A \$200 million matching fund is provided through the Partnership Fund for the Disadvantaged to encourage the business sector and organisations to work with schools to launch more after-school learning and support programmes for primary and secondary school students from grassroots families. (EDB/LWB)

(c) Providing Better Support for Young People to Start a Family

- Implementing the newly enacted legislation on paternity leave which provides that eligible working fathers can enjoy three days of paternity leave with pay within a specified period around the time of birth of their newborn children. (LWB)

(d) Attracting Overseas Talent

- Continuing to improve air quality and increase the provision of international school places as necessary with a view to enhancing Hong Kong's attractiveness to overseas talent. (ENB/EDB)

(e) Active Ageing

- Installing barrier-free facilities such as lifts at the existing PRH estates and public walkways maintained by the Highways Department. This will allow people in need, including the elderly, to move around in the community with greater ease. Moreover, the barrier-free facilities at over 3 000 government premises and facilities as well as properties of the Hong Kong Housing Authority will be upgraded. (THB)
- Upgrading the physical setting, facilities and equipment of some 230 elderly centres under the Improvement Programme on Elderly Centres. (LWB)

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)
- Increasing the voucher value of the Pre-primary Education Voucher Scheme by \$2,500 per year in the 2014/15 and 2015/16 school years with a view to alleviating the financial burden of kindergarten education on parents and relieving the pressure on kindergartens to meet expenses such as teachers' salary, staffing and operating expenditure (including rental). The fee remission ceiling will also be lifted to offer greater assistance to needy families. (EDB)

Primary and Secondary Education

- Implementing targeted relief measures to facilitate the sustainable 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 in demand, including –
 - adopting diversified and flexible arrangements to increase the supply of school places, including temporarily expanding the size of each class to cope with transient demand; and

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- diverting cross-boundary students through the revised arrangements for the central allocation under the Primary One Admission System, and utilising fully the handling capacities of the existing boundary control points to make smooth transportation arrangements for cross-boundary students of tender age through proper management of traffic and security measures at the boundary areas. (EDB)
 - Monitoring the impact of demographic changes on the long-term planning for 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 mainly through allocating vacant school premises and greenfield sites as well as supporting in-situ expansion of existing international schools to meet the demand, especially that of 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 of school curricula and the effectiveness of learning and teaching, including catering for learner diversity. (EDB)

- Consolidating more experience and evidence on effective practices to strengthen the internal management of public sector schools and reduce administrative work of teachers through pilot projects. (EDB)
- Providing principals and teachers with structured training on curriculum and management, keeping them abreast of the latest development of the New Academic Structure. (EDB)
- Implementing in phases the measures under the fourth IT in education strategy in the light of the consultation results. The main measures include providing all public sector schools with Wi-Fi coverage to enhance learning through the use of mobile computing devices. In phase 1, 100 schools have already set up Wi-Fi infrastructure in their campuses in the 2014/15 school year, and about 900 remaining schools will complete the set-up progressively on or before the 2017/18 school year according to their school-based needs. Principals and teachers are provided with related training in professional development 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 potential 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)

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- Providing secondary schools with recurrent cash grant and support to promote life planning education and strengthen career guidance services, and deepening our co-operation with the business sector and related organisations to help secondary students better understand the world of work and make informed decisions on their studies and career development in the future. (EDB)

Post-secondary Education

- Increasing the number of first-year first-degree places in the institutions funded by the University Grants Committee (UGC) to 15 000 per annum in the 2012/13 to 2014/15 triennium, as well as increasing progressively places of senior year intake to 5 000 per annum from the 2015/16 academic year and in the triennium that follows. (EDB)
- Supporting research in the higher education sector through the \$23 billion Research Endowment Fund and other funding sources of the UGC. (EDB)
- Supporting UGC's initiatives to enhance teaching and learning. The initiatives include sponsoring theme-based projects in areas covering blended learning, new pedagogies, curriculum development and development of massive open online courses. (EDB)
- Supporting UGC's initiatives to strengthen the internationalisation efforts of UGC-funded institutions, such as funding student-initiated projects that encourage multi-cultural integration. (EDB)

- Launching a pilot training and support scheme at the VTC to integrate structured apprenticeship training programmes and clear career progression for industries with keen demand for labour. (EDB in collaboration with relevant bureaux)
- Providing 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)
- Examining and considering the report scheduled for submission in mid-2015 by the Task Force on Promotion of Vocational Education and the strategy and concrete proposals therein for the promotion of vocational education in the community. (EDB)
- Drawing up a strategic development plan by the steering committee set up under the VTC in July 2014 for its campuses to foster synergy and provide state-of-the-art facilities pivotal to enhancing the image and quality of vocational education. (EDB)
- Supporting the quality and sustainable development of the self-financing post-secondary education sector through a package of support measures. The measures which have been implemented so far are as follows –
 - 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 make available vacant government premises under the scheme to be leased out at nominal rent;

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- more than 30 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 the quality of teaching and learning in the sector. (EDB)
- Providing over 7 800 scholarships and awards for post-secondary students under the Government Scholarship Fund and the Self-financing Post-secondary Education Fund in the 2013/14 academic year. (EDB)
 - Implementing incremental steps to enhance the quality assurance mechanism of post-secondary education, and overseeing the implementation of periodic external quality audits of sub-degree operations of UGC-funded institutions by a newly formed working group. (EDB)
 - Implementing measures and making refinements to facilitate Hong Kong's development into 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)

- Implementing a new subsidy scheme starting from the 2015/16 academic year 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 will benefit three cohorts of students, and will then be subject to a review of its effectiveness. (EDB in collaboration with relevant bureaux)
- Implementing the Hong Kong Scholarship for Excellence Scheme to support up to 100 outstanding students per cohort to pursue undergraduate and postgraduate studies in renowned universities outside Hong Kong with effect from the 2015/16 academic year to help nurture a diversified pool of top talent to propel Hong Kong's development. Apart from receiving an annual scholarship of up to \$250,000, needy students will also receive a bursary of up to \$200,000 per year. The scheme will benefit three cohorts of students, and will then be subject to a review of its effectiveness. (EDB)
- Implementing the Mainland University Study Subsidy Scheme with effect from the 2014/15 academic year, so that students in need pursuing studies under the Scheme for the Admission of Hong Kong Students to Mainland Higher Education Institutions may receive a grant of up to \$15,000 per year during their study period. The scheme is not subject to any quota. It will benefit three cohorts of students, and will then be subject to a review of its effectiveness. (EDB)

Qualifications Framework (QF)

- Providing a steady source of income through the QF Fund established by the Government on 1 September 2014 with a financial commitment of \$1 billion to support the sustainable development and implementation of the QF, benefiting various stakeholders such as students, practitioners, employers, education and training providers as well as quality assurance bodies. (EDB)
- Supporting the development of the QF 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;
 - implementing a credit accumulation and transfer system; and
 - fostering collaboration with other areas in respect of the QF. (EDB)

Vocational Training and Manpower Development

(a) On-the-job Training

- Funding the VTC to implement the traineeship scheme in services industries such as beauty care, hairdressing, retail and elderly care, aiming to provide young people aged 15 or above with in-service training and relevant vocational education. (LWB)
- Providing on-the-job training allowance for employers under the Youth Employment and Training Programme to encourage employers to employ young people and provide them with on-the-job training. (LWB)

- Providing on-the-job training allowance for employers under the Employment Programme for the Middle-aged to encourage employers to employ people aged 40 or above and provide them with on-the-job training. (LWB)

(b) International Culinary Institute

- Developing the International Culinary Institute under the 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)

(c) Manpower Development for the Construction Industry

- Continuing to collaborate with the Construction Industry Council and other key stakeholders to monitor the manpower situation in the construction industry and implement measures to meet the industry's manpower demand in the future. (DEVB)
- Working closely with the Construction Industry Council to facilitate registration of construction workers and implementation of prohibition in phases in order to fully launch the construction workers registration scheme. (DEVB)

(d) Manpower Development for the Healthcare Sector

- Reviewing the manpower planning and professional development for healthcare professions to ensure healthy and sustainable development of the healthcare system in Hong Kong. (FHB)

(e) Manpower Development for the Welfare Sector

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

(f) Manpower Development for the Retail Industry

- Implementing a series of measures on vocational education and training, employment support, promotion, etc. with a view to supporting manpower development of the retail industry. (CEDB)

Supporting the Family

- Working with the Family Council to ensure that family perspectives are duly considered in the policy making process. We will undertake studies to review the effectiveness of the assessment framework, and organise training and experience sharing activities for civil servants. (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)
- Introduce family education packages through the Family Council to –
 - address the needs of different types of families (including new arrivals); and

- further promote family education at the district level with collaboration among relevant bureaux/departments. (HAB)

Women's Interests

- Providing support for the Women's Commission in promoting the interests and well-being of women through –
 - provision of an enabling environment;
 - empowerment of women, including implementing the Capacity Building Mileage Programme; and
 - public education. (LWB)
- Working with the Women's Commission to further promote gender mainstreaming. (LWB)
- Continuing to implement the Capacity Building Mileage Programme to encourage women to pursue life-long learning. (LWB)

Employee's Welfare

- Continuing with the work of the Standard Working Hours Committee to conduct in-depth discussion on the working hours policy. The aim is to build consensus and identify the way forward. (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)

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- Adopting an intelligence-based and proactive strategy for combating illegal employment. (LWB)
 - Intensifying systemic preventive measures on publicity, education and enforcement to promote 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 of occupational safety and health in the construction and catering industries and the awareness of stakeholders. (LWB)

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 realise their potential, so that they may bring what they have learnt into play and seek advancement. 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, and help them develop positive values and find their own direction and position.

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 this policy 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 provide opportunities for wide participation in culture and the arts, and offer

chances to those with potentials to develop their artistic talents. We support the preservation and promotion of our traditional cultures (including intangible cultural heritage) while encouraging artistic creation and innovation, 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

- Further expand the Mainland and overseas youth exchange and internship schemes to provide more opportunities for young people to broaden their horizons. (HAB)
- Step up integrity building among young people by producing an activity package based on the new “Gee-dor-dor” cartoon movie to support the teaching of moral education in kindergartens and primary schools, launching an e-Reading Scheme on positive values for primary students with the production of an electronic book, and extending preventive education services to secondary students of international schools. Moreover, we will leverage the niches of emerging new media platforms to promote anti-corruption messages by producing more materials on integrity for various websites and the smartphone application of the Independent Commission Against Corruption, and other new media platforms. (ICAC)
- Enhance the promotion of the Working Holiday Scheme between Hong Kong and other economies, and explore the signing of Working Holiday Scheme agreements with more economies so that more of our young people can enrich their global exposure. (LWB)

Youth Volunteers

- Launch a Hong Kong-United Nations Youth Volunteers Programme with the United Nations Volunteers. (HAB)
- Strengthen the support for young people's participation in voluntary services in Hong Kong and the Mainland. (HAB)

Opening up Art Space

- Support the Tai Po District Council and the Hong Kong Arts Development Council to convert the premises of a vacant school in Tai Po into an arts development centre to provide art space for arts development. (HAB)
- Explore the feasibility of reserving a certain portion of floor area in the future development of a site in Aberdeen to provide space for the Hong Kong Arts Development Council to support arts development. (HAB)

Intangible Cultural Heritage

- Strengthen the measures for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage. We will also select from Hong Kong's intangible cultural heritage inventory items of high cultural value which require urgent preservation for more in-depth studies, and draw up the representative list of intangible cultural heritage for Hong Kong. (HAB)

On-going Initiatives

We are:

Youth Development

- Working with the Commission on Youth on youth development activities to help young people cultivate a positive approach to life and fulfil civic duties. (HAB)
- Enhancing communication with young people through district networks, including organising more exchange activities, to encourage their participation in community affairs. (HAB)
- Providing more opportunities for young people to serve in underprivileged areas in the Mainland under the “Service Corps” programme. (HAB)
- Continuing to implement the Youth Hostel Scheme. Apart from seeking funding approval of the LegCo Finance Committee for taking forward the two projects at Sheung Wan and Tai Po, we will continue to maintain close liaison with interested NGOs to help them launch their new projects as soon as possible. (HAB)
- Working to highlight the Youth Square as a focal point for youth development. The Youth Square provides venues and facilities for young people and youth organisations at affordable prices, and offers rental discount to social enterprises providing youth service and young entrepreneurs in leasing retail shops in the Youth Square. (HAB)

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- Promoting the culture of multi-faceted excellence by implementing the Multi-faceted Excellence Scholarship to subsidise additional undergraduate places for Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education graduates who excel in sport, art and music as well as community service. (HAB)
 - Taking forward the Funding Scheme for Youth Life Planning Activities to support the collaboration between NGOs and secondary schools in organising projects to help students and their parents/teachers better understand life planning and multiple pathways. (HAB)
 - Overseeing the provision of support services for youths at risk, including the implementation of the pilot Cyber Youth Outreaching Projects. (LWB)
 - Working with employers and various organisations to launch a number of pilot projects under the Youth Employment and Training Programme to enhance the employability and employment opportunities of young people with different backgrounds. (LWB)
 - Planning and providing a variety of physical, discipline and team building training for the youth through different types of activities of the Junior Police Call. (SB)
 - Expanding the Cadet Corps of Auxiliary Medical Service with a view to strengthening youth training in respect of leadership, discipline and team building. (SB)

Increasing Sports Facilities

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

Promoting Sport

- Promoting sport in the community by –
 - working with DCs and “national sports associations” to introduce more sports programmes to suit the needs of people of different age groups and physical fitness levels;
 - liaising with the business sector to sponsor more people from low-income families for free attendance at major sports events;
 - strengthening the promotion of major sports events to encourage more spectator participation and promote Hong Kong as a centre of international events;
 - helping “national sports associations” implement effective feeder systems for 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)

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- Continuing to implement the Pilot Scheme for Student Athlete Support to provide more opportunities for students from lower income families to take part in sports programmes at school. (HAB)
 - Supporting the long-term development of football by providing funding to the Hong Kong Football Association for the implementation of its five-year strategic plan. (HAB)
 - Strengthening the monitoring of “national sports associations” that receive government subvention, in order to improve their corporate governance. (HAB)
 - Supporting “national sports associations” in the hosting of major international sports events. (HAB)

Supporting Elite Athletes

- Supporting the strategic growth of the Hong Kong Sports Institute as a world-class institution to provide elite athletes with training and all-round support. (HAB)
- Providing support on various fronts for our elite athletes’ preparation for the National Youth Games and other major international sports events. (HAB)

Civic Affairs

- Working with the Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education to promote civic education outside schools with emphasis on “respect and inclusiveness”. For greater social harmony, we urge mutual respect and communication as well as tolerance towards people from diverse cultural backgrounds with different views and perspectives. We also promote the core civic values of upholding the rule of law. (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 are making 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)
- Working with the Ping Wo Fund Advisory Committee and stakeholders to mount in 2015 a dedicated publicity campaign against gambling problems. (HAB)

Supporting Arts Groups

- Providing funding and other support for the major performing arts groups to –
 - stage quality performing arts programmes for the community;
and

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- enhance the development of performing arts in Hong Kong through (i) promoting arts education and audience building, (ii) supporting and nurturing local talent 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 programmes and activities of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD), 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 and promoting their productions in both LCSD and non-LCSD venues; and
 - sponsoring their performances through the provision of free venues, ticketing services, publicity support and/or programme fees. (HAB)
 - Providing policy and funding support for the Hong Kong Arts Development Council to support its work in promoting arts development in Hong Kong, including development and provision of arts space, and providing 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 Talent

- Enhancing measures to strengthen the training and development of art 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, the Mainland and local organisations. (HAB)
- Supporting the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts to groom talent to meet the needs of the arts sector. (HAB)
- Promoting the work of young and talented art practitioners to overseas, the Mainland and local communities through –
 - various performing and visual arts programmes organised by the LCSD; and
 - acquisition and commissioning of local artists' artworks by the LCSD. (HAB)
- Providing funding and policy support for the Hong Kong Arts Development Council to groom local artists practising various art forms by implementing various training and internship schemes. (HAB)

Promoting Arts and Cultural Programmes

- Promoting knowledge and appreciation of various art forms through audience building, arts education and public art projects organised by the 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 the LCSD for audience building and arts education. (HAB)

Cultural Facilities, Museums and Libraries

- Enhancing the programming, audience building activities and renewing the permanent exhibitions of public museums. (HAB)
- Planning and building new cultural facilities to meet community needs, including construction of the East Kowloon Cultural Centre in Ngau Tau Kok to enhance the provision of cultural facilities in the East Kowloon region. (HAB)

- Enhancing the management of existing performance venues and optimising their use through the Venue Partnership Scheme. Continued efforts will be made to identify alternative venues for cultural performances to address the venue shortage problem. (HAB)
- Supporting small and medium performing arts groups in using venues not managed by the LCSD prior to the coming on-stream of the WKCD facilities. This will enrich the cultural life across districts and foster a more vibrant and lively arts scene. (HAB)
- Expanding and renovating the Hong Kong Museum of Art to provide additional gallery space for displaying the works of local and international artists. (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 the Hong Kong Public Libraries. (HAB)

Intangible Cultural Heritage

- Continuing to enhance the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage following the publication of Hong Kong's first intangible cultural heritage inventory by strengthening various aspects of work, including the identification, documentation, research, preservation, promotion and transmission of such heritage. (HAB)

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- 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 and progress 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 talent and build up audiences; and
 - broadening Hong Kong's exchanges with other places in contemporary art, performing arts and visual culture. (HAB)

Chapter 8

Governance, Constitutional Development and District Administration

Preamble

The rule of law is vital for safeguarding our rights and freedoms. It is also instrumental in promoting our long-term development as an international financial and commercial centre. We will continue to perfect our legal system and enhance our legal infrastructure to ensure that justice is upheld.

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.

On constitutional development, the Decision of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPCSC) on Issues Relating to the Selection of the Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (CE) by Universal Suffrage and on the Method for Forming the Legislative Council of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region in the Year 2016 (the Decision) was adopted on 31 August 2014. The Decision formally determines that universal suffrage for the CE election through "one person, one vote" may be implemented starting from 2017. After the election of the CE by universal suffrage, the election of all members of the LegCo may

be implemented by the method of universal suffrage. We will take forward Hong Kong's constitutional development in accordance with the Basic Law and the relevant Interpretation and Decisions of the NPCSC.

We will continue to take forward the concept of "addressing district issues at the local level and capitalising on local opportunities" in strengthening district administration. We have strengthened the support for DCs to help them play 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 the LegCo and DCs, 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

- Kick start the Third Step of the “Five-Step Process” of constitutional development by introducing to the LegCo a motion to amend Annex I to the Basic Law regarding the Method for the Selection of the Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (CE). (CMAB)

District Administration

- Propose to increase the honorarium of DC members by 15% in real terms starting from the new term in 2016, and providing each DC member with a new provision of \$10,000 per term to cover expenses for duty visits. (HAB)
- Provide an additional annual funding of \$20.8 million for the community involvement activities for five years from 2015-16 to 2019-20 to further strengthen support for DCs in promoting arts and cultural activities in the districts. (HAB)

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- Review the results of the pilot scheme implemented by the Government in Sham Shui Po and Yuen Long in 2014 to provide the District Management Committees chaired by District Officers with the decision-making power to tackle the management and environmental hygiene problems of some public areas on the advice of DCs on work priorities, upon its completion in August 2015. In view of the positive feedback from the community on the pilot scheme, we will actively consider extending the scheme to all 18 districts, continue to provide funding for Sham Shui Po and Yuen Long to carry on the scheme, and provide resources to the remaining 16 districts to conduct the necessary preparatory work. We will map out detailed arrangements after the discussions between District Management Committees and the DCs in 2015. (HAB)
 - Strengthen the manpower of District Offices as appropriate to further enhance the district co-ordination work of District Officers. (HAB)

Public Elections

- Introduce legislative amendments into the LegCo to make necessary amendments to the detailed arrangements regarding the 2016 LegCo Election. (CMAB)
- Work closely with the Electoral Affairs Commission to make practical arrangements to ensure that the 2015 DC Election will be conducted in fair, open and honest manner in accordance with the relevant legislation. (CMAB)

- Launch the “Support Clean Elections” programme comprising a series of education and publicity activities to be held from 2015 to 2017 to uphold integrity and fairness in public elections, including the rural elections and DC election in 2015, the LegCo election in 2016 and the CE election in 2017. Resources will be dedicated to providing the authorities concerned with corruption prevention advice on the scrutiny and formulation of new electoral legislation, procedures and guidelines, and the organisations representative of the LegCo functional constituencies with similar advice on their membership administration systems. (ICAC)

Law Reform Proposals

- Conduct a public consultation on a bill to implement the Law Reform Commission’s recommendations made in the report on Criteria for Service as Jurors. The proposed bill aims to ensure that the criteria for appointment to and exemption from jury services are set out clearly and precisely and are appropriate to present-day circumstances. (DoJ)
- Conduct a public consultation on a bill to implement the Law Reform Commission’s recommendations made in the report on Hearsay in Criminal Proceedings. The proposed bill aims mainly to reform the existing rule that hearsay evidence is generally inadmissible in criminal proceedings and to give the courts the discretionary power to admit hearsay evidence in criminal proceedings if the statutory “necessity” and “threshold reliability” criteria are satisfied. (DoJ)

Release of Public Sector Information in Digital Formats

- Release free online government information in digital formats starting from 2015 to facilitate re-use of public sector information for the development of more innovative applications. (CEDB)

On-going Initiatives

We are:

Working with the Legislative Council

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

District Administration

- Continuing to work with the 18 DCs 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 DCs. 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 take forward the action plan of the Summit on District Administration to enhance district administration. (HAB)
- Continuing to provide funds for the DCs to implement community involvement activities. (HAB)

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

Promoting the Basic Law

- Continuing with our work on the promotion of the Basic Law. We will organise a number of activities on the 25th anniversary of the promulgation of the Basic Law in 2015 to allow the public to have a more comprehensive and thorough understanding of the “One Country, Two Systems” policy and the Basic Law. (CMAB)

Public Elections

- Strengthening publicity and checking efforts on voter registration to tie in with the 2015 DC Election. Efforts are made 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 closely with the Electoral Affairs Commission to conduct the 2015 Rural Ordinary Election in a fair, open and honest manner in accordance with the relevant laws. (HAB)

Improving the Legal System and Enhancing Legal Infrastructure

- Improving the quality and efficiency of legal services, including advisory work and preparation and presentation of criminal cases, as well as raising the standards of advocacy through the provision of comprehensive training programmes for prosecutors and better use of resources. (DoJ)
- Enhancing the capability and effectiveness of the prosecution 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 among prosecutors at regional and international levels through active participation in international prosecuting organisations. (DoJ)
- Continuing with the annual “Prosecution Week” event and “Meet the Community” programme to further enhance public understanding (in particular that of young people) of the criminal justice system, their role therein and their appreciation of the importance of the rule of law, through activities such as visits, talks, mock court as well as different types of competitions. (DoJ)
- Furthering the work on the establishment of an electronic database of Hong Kong legislation with legal status. We are implementing the Legislation Publication Ordinance in stages. (DoJ)

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- Enhancing the quality of legislative drafting services by providing on-the-job training and professional development programmes for drafters, and by fostering their contact and exchange with local and overseas experts. (DoJ)

Law Reform Proposals

- Taking forward publicity and promotional work after the passage of the Contracts (Rights of Third Parties) Bill in end last year so that parties to a contract can make the best use of the rights provided under the ordinance. (DoJ)
- Supporting the cross-sectoral Working Group on Class Actions in considering the Law Reform Commission's proposals on "Class Actions". (DoJ)
- Preparing to 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 proposed bill aims 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)
- Assisting the high level inter-departmental working group, chaired by the Secretary for Justice, in undertaking a detailed study on possible legislation to deal with various aspects of gender recognition in the light of the observations made in the judgment of the Court of Final Appeal in the *W Case* (FACV 4/2012). (DoJ)

Human Rights

- Promoting elimination of discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity through, inter alia –
 - enhanced publicity and public education;
 - promotions targeted at the domain of employment; and
 - continued efforts by the Advisory Group on Eliminating Discrimination Against Sexual Minorities to study the issue in depth with stakeholders. (CMAB)
- Promoting children’s rights through, inter alia, publicity, the Children’s Rights Education Funding Scheme and the Children’s Rights Forum. (CMAB)

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 pilot scheme launched in March 2013 to provide legal advice for litigants in person. (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 –

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- continuing with the territory-wide campaign against youth drug abuse to prevent young people from falling prey to drugs, including promoting the implementation of the Healthy School Programme with a voluntary drug testing component in secondary schools;
 - encouraging people with drug problems to seek help early, as well as promoting community and parental awareness and mobilising support of different sectors to facilitate early identification and intervention to tackle the hidden drug abuse problem;
 - encouraging the development of various drug treatment and rehabilitation programmes to meet the challenges of the evolving drug scene as well as the treatment and rehabilitation needs of different drug abusers in a more holistic manner; and
 - continuing with rigorous law enforcement action and bringing new types of drugs under statutory control where appropriate. (SB)
- Continuing with the Sexual Conviction Record Check Scheme to step up 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 which match the needs of persons in custody, and organising market-oriented vocational programmes to increase their employability. (SB)

- Continuing to discuss with the Mainland and other jurisdictions on bilateral co-operation relating to transfer of sentenced persons. (SB)
- Reducing the Frontier Closed Area. The first and second stages were implemented in February 2012 and June 2013 respectively, releasing more than 1 450 hectares of land from the Frontier Closed Area. The last stage, covering the section of the boundary between Ng Tung River and Lin Ma Hang, is scheduled for implementation in 2015. (SB)

Emergency Support

- Enhancing emergency ambulance service and educating the public on the proper use of the service. (SB)
- Continuing to implement 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 the working group tasked with exploring ways to make more comprehensive planning for our public finances to cope with the ageing population and the Government's other long-term commitments. The working group will –

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- explore and propose feasible options for the establishment of a long-term savings scheme; and
 - advise on how the Government can step up the management of its assets. (FSTB)

Strengthening Anti-corruption Efforts

- Continuing to assist government bureaux and departments as well as individual public bodies in revising their internal codes of practice, with a view to achieving the highest standard of integrity. (ICAC)

Maintaining a Professional and Dedicated Civil Service

- Giving due consideration to additional manpower needs where justified for delivering effective services to the public. (CSB)
- Providing 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 manner, which takes into account the needs of civil servants of different levels and work nature. (CSB)
- Maintaining a rigorous, 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, including continuing the preparatory work for setting up a new Families Clinic. (CSB)
- Expediting the departmental quarters construction projects for six disciplined forces. (SB)

E-Government

- Continuing to make available and deliver more e-Government services on the Government Cloud Platform. (CEDB)
- 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)

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- 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 for the public on-the-go. (CEDB)
 - Building a government data centre complex to meet the demands of bureaux and departments for long-term information technology development and data centre services. (CEDB)

Government Records Management

- Ensuring proper records management in the Government, facilitating public access to archival records and continuing to follow up the recommendations of the Direct Investigation on public records management in Hong Kong made by the Office of the Ombudsman. (CSO)

Abbreviations

CCF	Community Care Fund
CE	Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
CEDB	Commerce and Economic Development Bureau
CEPA	Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Agreement
CMAB	Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
CoP	Commission on Poverty
CSB	Civil Service Bureau
CSO	Chief Secretary's Office
CSSA	Comprehensive Social Security Assistance
DC(s)	District Council(s)
DEVB	Development Bureau
DoJ	Department of Justice
EDB	Education Bureau
EM(s)	ethnic minority (minorities)
ENB	Environment Bureau

ERB	Employees Retraining Board
FHB	Food and Health Bureau
FSTB	Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau
HAB	Home Affairs Bureau
HOS	Home Ownership Scheme
ICAC	Independent Commission Against Corruption
ICT	information and communications technology
LCSD	Leisure and Cultural Services Department
LD	Labour Department
LegCo	Legislative Council
LWB	Labour and Welfare Bureau
MPF	Mandatory Provident Fund
MTRCL	MTR Corporation Limited
NCS	non-Chinese speaking
NGO(s)	non-governmental organisation(s)
NPCSC	Standing Committee of the National People's Congress
OALA	Old Age Living Allowance

PRH	public rental housing
QF	Qualifications Framework
R&D	research and development
SB	Security Bureau
SEN	special educational needs
THB	Transport and Housing Bureau
UGC	University Grants Committee
VTC	Vocational Training Council
WKCD	West Kowloon Cultural District