

Chapter VII

Liveable City

My Belief

“A liveable environment makes Hong Kong people happy, hopeful, confident about the future and have a sense of belonging to Hong Kong.”

“Although small and densely-populated, Hong Kong has developed into a liveable city with our continuous effort in improving public transport services and facilities. Over the years, it has been the Government’s transport policy to develop a public transport-oriented system with railway as the backbone. At the same time, we strive to develop other public transport services to complement the railway services and provide the public with more choices for added convenience.”

Our people’s aspiration for a liveable city has grown in step with social development. In addition to tackling the pressing problems of land and housing supply, we will also strive to develop a convenient transport network, a green countryside, a beautiful harbour, a sustainable environment, a heritage with historical significance, as well as quality cultural, arts, recreational and sports activities and good social order, so that people will be keen to stay in Hong Kong and make it their home.

I set out the policy direction of “according priority to transport infrastructure” in my 2018 Policy Address. Through creating capacity, our transport infrastructure will not only be able to cope with foreseeable demand, but also provide reasonable buffer capacity to support possible long-term developments in the future.

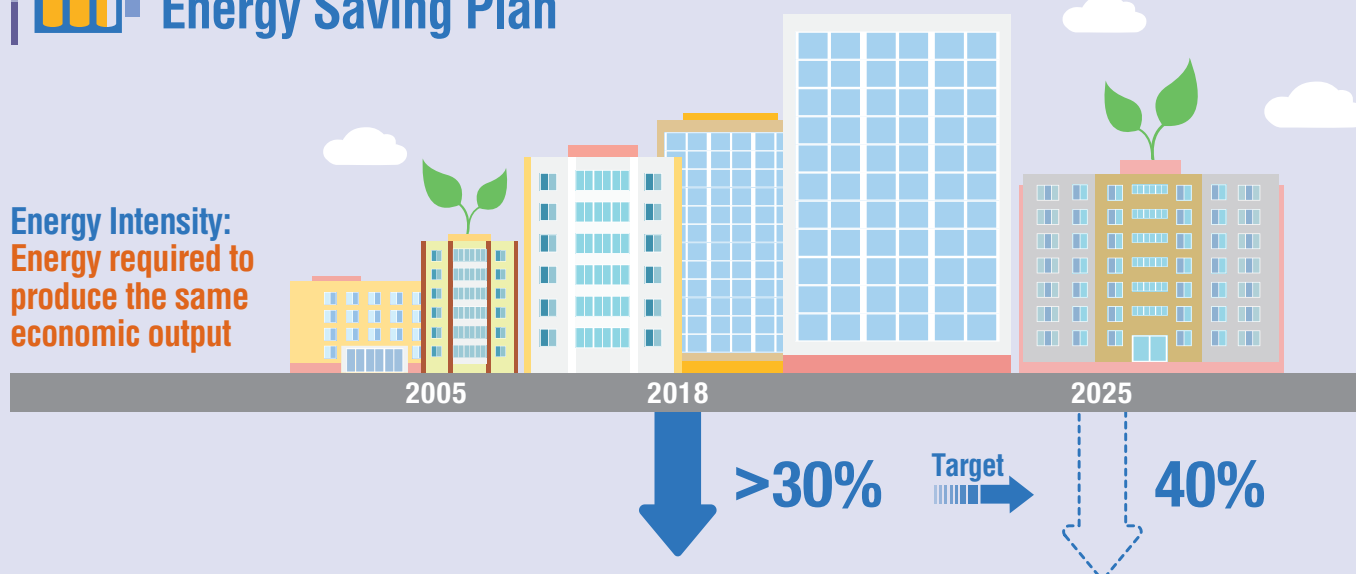


Enhancing Waste Management

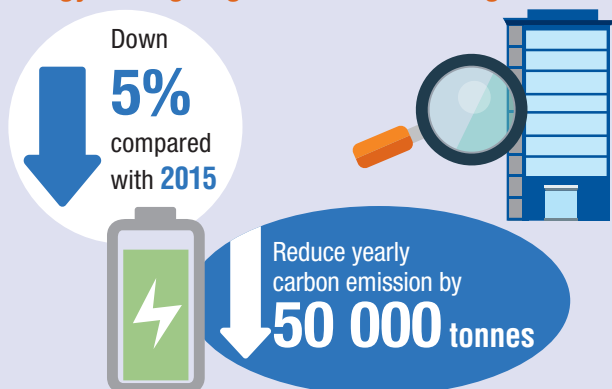


Energy Saving Plan

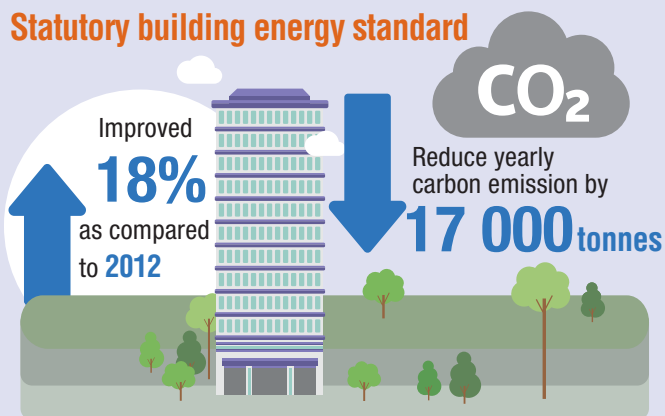
Energy Intensity:
Energy required to
produce the same
economic output



Energy saving of government buildings



Statutory building energy standard



Building Safety

Operation Building Bright 2.0



Lift Modernisation Subsidy Scheme



Fire Safety Improvement Works Subsidy Scheme

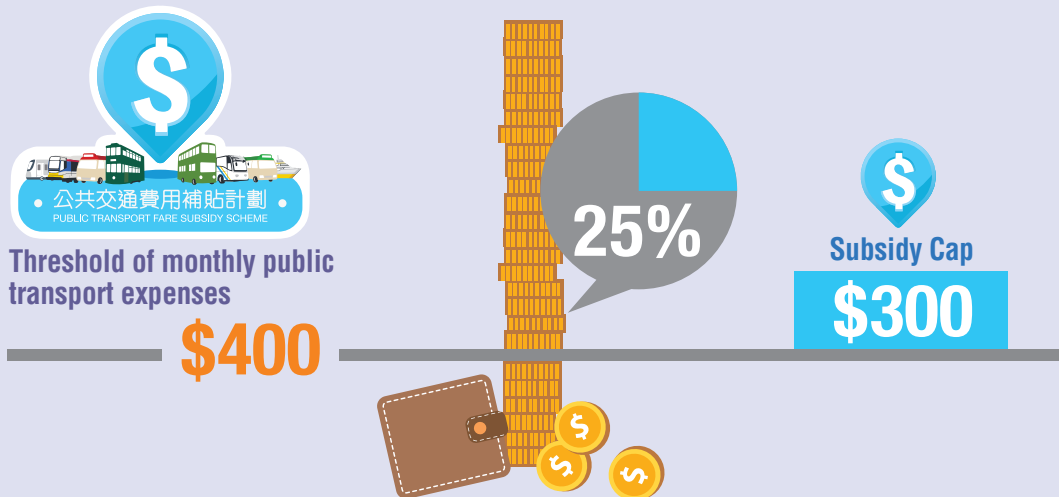


"Smart Tender" Building Rehabilitation Facilitating Services





Public Transport Fare Subsidy Scheme



Monthly average number of beneficiaries

around **2.2 million**



Total subsidy

around **\$1.3 billion**

Monthly average subsidy

around **\$163 million**

(As of August 2019)



Relieving Fare Increase Pressure of Public Transport

2019

7



Government tunnels

2



Government roads

Exempting toll for franchised buses

Average saving per annum

around **\$280 million**



Relieving the fare increase magnitude by

3%



2017-20

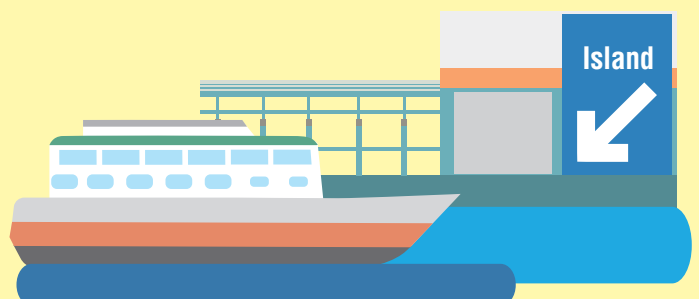
Earmarking around **\$412 million** to subsidise

6

major outlying island ferry routes reducing fare increase magnitude

2018

benefitting around **17.6 million** passenger journeys





Newly Commissioned Transport Infrastructure

Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge

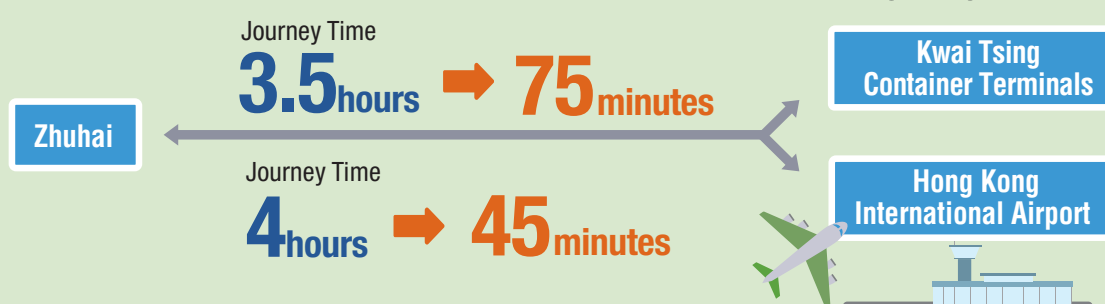
Commissioned on
24 October 2018

Daily Average

62 250 passengers
4 140 vehicles

The Highest
Daily Figure

159 782 passengers
7 009 vehicles



(As of August 2019)

Hong Kong Section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link



Commenced operation on
23 September 2018

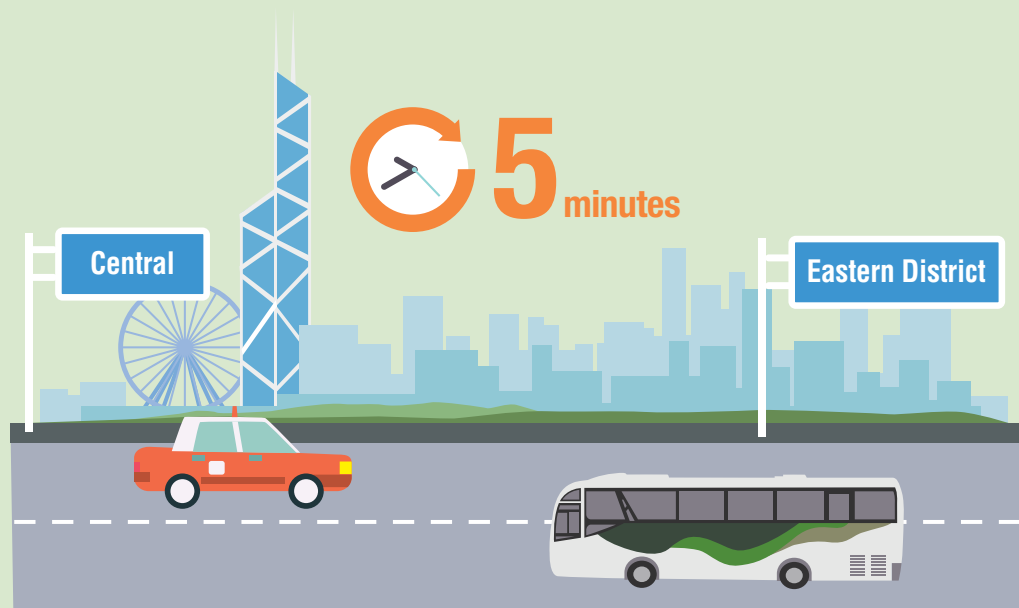


(As of August 2019)

Central-Wan Chai Bypass and Island Eastern Corridor Link

Fully commissioned on

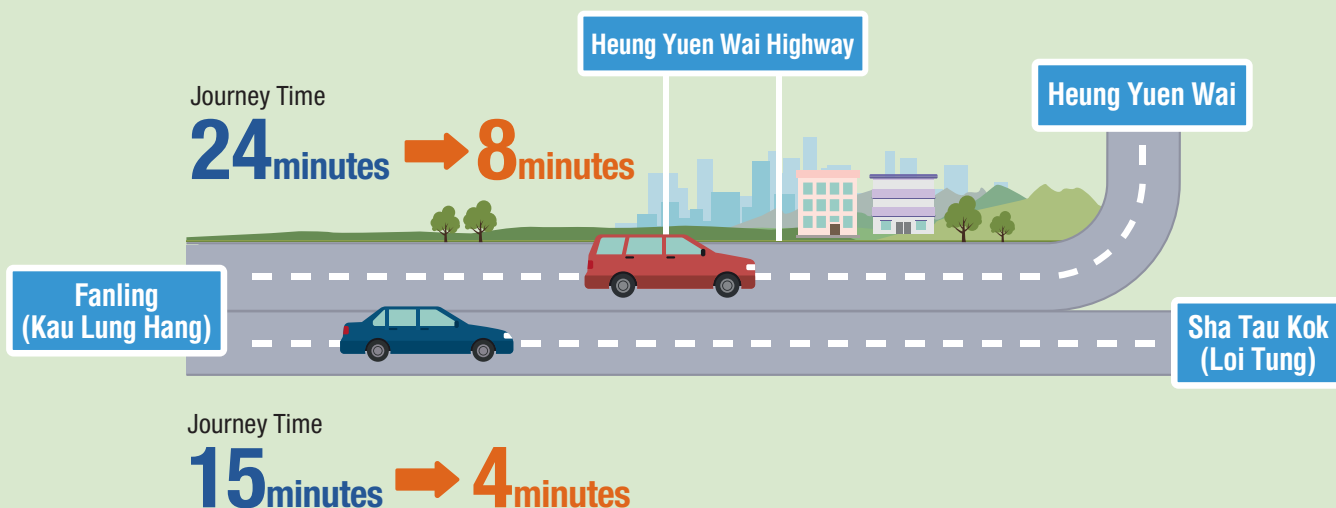
24 February 2019



Heung Yuen Wai Highway

Opened on

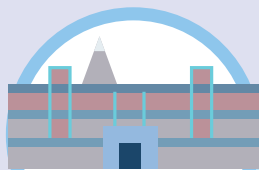
26 May 2019





Arts and Culture

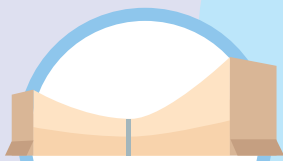
Improve existing cultural facilities



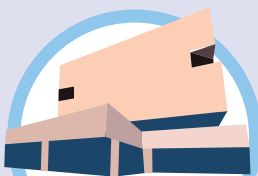
Hong Kong Science Museum



Hong Kong Museum of History



Hong Kong Cultural Centre



Hong Kong Museum of Art
(Reopen in November 2019)



Hong Kong City Hall

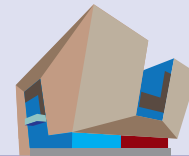
Earmarking
\$20 billion



Construct additional cultural facilities

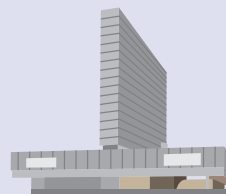
- Hong Kong Palace Museum
(West Kowloon Cultural District)

2022



2021

- East Kowloon Cultural Centre
- M+ Museum
(West Kowloon Cultural District)

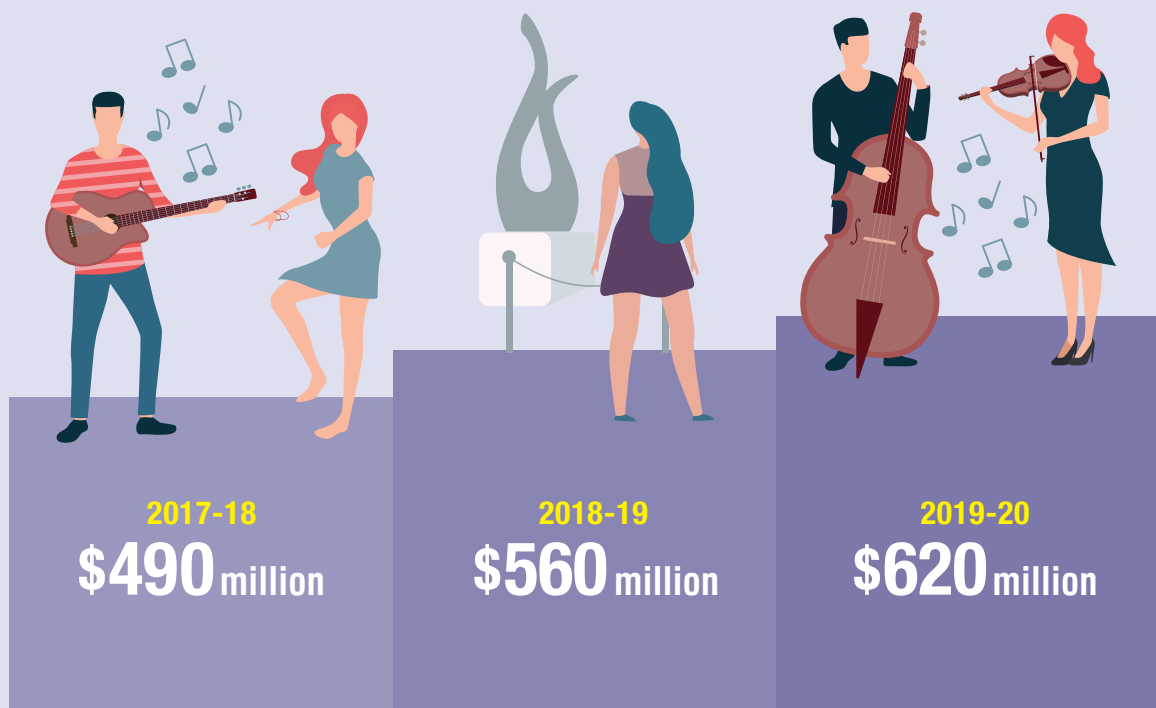


2024

- Lyric Theatre
Complex
(West Kowloon
Cultural District)



Increase financial support to the Hong Kong Arts Development Council,
9 major performing arts groups, the Hong Kong Arts Festival Society and
Venue Partners of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department



Progress Made

A total of 115 new initiatives were announced in the 2017 and 2018 Policy Addresses and Policy Agendas, of which 111 have been completed or are progressing on schedule.

Key initiatives completed or major progress made by the current-term Government are as follows:

Transport

Developing Transport Infrastructure

- The MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL) has submitted to the Government proposals for the five railway projects, viz. Tuen Mun South Extension, Northern Link (and Kwu Tung Station), East Kowloon Line, Tung Chung Line Extension (comprising Tung Chung West Extension and Tung Chung East Station) and North Island Line. The Transport and Housing Bureau had also invited the MTRCL to submit proposals for the implementation of the projects of Hung Shui Kiu Station and South Island Line (West). (THB)
- The Hong Kong Section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link (XRL) commenced operation on 23 September 2018. To date, the number of Mainland destinations with direct trains by the XRL has increased to 58. (THB)
- The Central-Wan Chai Bypass and Island Eastern Corridor Link was fully commissioned on 24 February 2019. (THB)
- The Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (HZMB) was commissioned on 24 October 2018. (THB)
- The Tuen Mun-Chek Lap Kok Link (TM-CLKL) Southern Connection was put into operation in stages on 24 October and 30 November 2018 to dovetail with the commissioning of HZMB. (THB)

Improving Public Transport Services

- Three franchised bus companies, viz. Citybus Limited, New Lantau Bus Company (1973) Limited and New World First Bus Services Limited, opened up their real-time arrival information in machine-readable formats on the Public Sector Information Portal (DATA.GOV.HK) in August 2019 for free use by the public and the industry. (THB)
- The Franchised Taxi Services Bill was introduced into the Legislative Council (LegCo) in May 2019. (THB)
- The Multi-stakeholder Exchange Forum for Public Transport Sector was held in November 2018 for different representatives from the public transport sector, academics and experts to exchange views on how best to rationalise the respective roles of public transport modes to improve Hong Kong's public transport ecosystem. (THB)

Pedestrian-friendly Environment

- Established the feasibility of providing a new footbridge across Kwun Tong Road near MTR Kowloon Bay Station Exit A and commenced the investigation and preliminary design. Detailed design for another footbridge across Wai Yip Street near Siu Yip Street has also commenced. (DEVB)
- Endorsed eight premium waiver applications from landowners for the construction of footbridges and subways at their own cost under the policy of Facilitating Provision of Pedestrian Links by the Private Sector. The relevant lease modification matters are being dealt with. (DEVB)
- As at September 2019, 135 barrier-free access retrofitting items were completed under the Universal Accessibility (UA) Programme. (THB)

Relieving the Burden of Public Transport Expenses

- The non-means tested Public Transport Fare Subsidy Scheme was implemented in January 2019 to relieve the fare burden of commuters. The total amount of subsidies for the first eight months of the scheme's implementation is about \$1.3 billion, involving a monthly average of around 2.2 million beneficiaries. (THB)
- Completed the review on the Fare Adjustment Arrangement for Franchised Buses. Among others, the Weighted Average Cost of Capital of the franchised bus industry was adjusted. Profits achieved by a franchised bus operator exceeding the rate of return on average net fixed assets of 8.7% shall be shared on a 50:50 basis between the franchised bus operator and passengers through fare concessions. The new arrangement took effect in January 2019. (THB)
- From 17 February 2019, the franchised bus operators have been exempted from paying the tolls for seven government tunnels and two government roads. Each franchised bus operator has to set up its own dedicated fund account for keeping the toll saved, which will be used for relieving the fare increase pressure. (THB)

Increasing the Provision of Parking Spaces

- A number of short-term and medium-to-long term measures have been drawn up to increase the number of car parking spaces. These measures include designating suitable on-street locations as night-time parking spaces, providing public parking spaces at suitable "Government, Institution or Community" facilities and public open space projects in line with the "single site, multiple use" principle and taking forward pilot projects of automated parking systems. (THB)

Environment and Nature Conservation

Enhancing Waste Management

- The Bill on municipal solid waste charging was introduced into the LegCo in November 2018. (ENB)
- The Organic Resources Recovery Centre Phase 1, also known as O•PARK1, has been in operation since July 2018. The Food Waste/Sewage Sludge Anaerobic Co-digestion Trial Scheme at the Tai Po Sewage Treatment Works has also commenced operation since May 2019. (ENB)
- Starting from January 2019, plastic straws and polyfoam food containers were not provided in premises serving mainly government employees. Government departments, when inviting tenders for new contracts and renewing existing contracts for restaurants at government venues, will also require caterers to avoid using disposable plastic tableware. (ENB)
- The mid-term review of the Recycling Fund has been completed and a number of enhancement measures have been introduced. They include expanding the scope of eligible Fund applicants, increasing the rental subsidies related to recycling operations, simplifying the reporting and fund disbursement procedures, launching a theme-based scheme for food waste recycling, and adding equipment that handle waste metal and food waste into the prescribed list eligible for funding support. (ENB)
- Awarded in end-2018 a lease covering four adjacent lots in the EcoPark for developing a waste paper recycling and manufacturing facility; and awarded in March 2019 the leases of two other lots in the EcoPark for developing waste plastics recycling facilities. (ENB)

Improving Air Quality

- Implemented a new regulation with effect from 1 January 2019, mandating vessels within Hong Kong waters to use fuel with sulphur content not exceeding 0.5%. (ENB)
- Reviewed the emission allowances of power plants from 2022 and onwards and submitted the review findings to the Advisory Council on the Environment. The Government will also submit the review findings to the Panel on Environmental Affairs of the LegCo within 2019. (ENB)
- During the design and procurement of new government vessels, the Government will consider adopting green technologies to enhance environmental performance, including reducing the emission of air pollutants. (ENB)

Nature and Countryside Conservation

- Established a Clean Shorelines Liaison Platform to co-ordinate and promote shorelines cleanup actions through different media and channels. (ENB)
- The Countryside Conservation Office was established in July 2018 to co-ordinate efforts in promoting conservation of our countryside, and the Advisory Committee on Countryside Conservation was established in July 2019. (ENB)

Climate Change and Energy

- The Council for Sustainable Development has completed a public engagement exercise and will submit a report to the Government to facilitate the formulation of Hong Kong's long-term decarbonisation strategy. (ENB)

- The Government has been taking the lead in developing renewable energy (RE) and implementing a number of RE projects, including pilot projects of floating photovoltaic (PV) systems at Shek Pik Reservoir and Plover Cove Reservoir, as well as a pilot PV project at the South East New Territories Landfill. In addition, we support the private sector in developing RE, including introducing the Feed-in Tariff (FiT) Scheme, suitably relaxing the restrictions on installation of PV systems on the rooftops of New Territories Exempted Houses (i.e. "village houses"), and introducing Solar Harvest to install PV systems for eligible schools and welfare non-governmental organisations (NGOs), etc. (ENB)
- Measures under the "Energy Saving Plan for Hong Kong's Built Environment 2015~2025+" have been rolled out to enhance energy efficiency of government buildings, including energy saving projects, retro-commissioning, and encouraging bureaux/departments to seek green building certification for buildings under their management. (ENB)
- Under the post-2018 Scheme of Control Agreements, the Government has been working with the power companies to further promote the development of RE as well as energy efficiency and conservation. The efforts include introducing FiT and RE Certificates schemes, as well as improving and introducing various energy saving measures. (ENB)

Treasuring Our Water

- Implemented a number of water saving measures, including the launch of the first stage of the Mandatory Water Efficiency Labelling Scheme to require the use of water efficient products in designated parts of new plumbing works, and the implementation of Automatic Meter Reading in new buildings to provide customers with timely information of their water consumption. Sample contract clauses were published for the use of property owners and management agents in engaging contractors to carry out leak investigation and repair works for their private water mains. Moreover, the Hong Kong Institute of Construction has launched a certificate course in leakage detection for underground water pipes to help nurture professionals in this area. (DEVB)
- The review of the Total Water Management Strategy was completed with the strategy updated in the third quarter of 2019. The updated strategy adopts a two-pronged approach: containing fresh water demand growth and building resilience in water supply with diversified water resources. (DEVB)

Urban Forestry

- Released the Manual on the Management of Brown Root Rot Disease; exchanged views with the arboriculture and horticulture industry on the principles and administrative framework of a registration system for tree management personnel to provide the foundation for formulating the implementation details; piloting a number of smart technologies to detect the health and structural conditions of trees more effectively; and conducted several workshops for property managers and frontline street cleansing staff to enhance their awareness of proper tree care. (DEVB)

Heritage Conservation

- The “Heritage Vogue • Hollywood Road” street carnival was held again on 4 November 2018, drawing enthusiastic public response and attracting more than 76 000 participants. (DEVB)

City Management

Management of Public Works

- The Centre of Excellence for Major Project Leaders (CoE) was established in July 2019 with the first project management and leadership development programme delivered in August. (DEVB)
- Entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Infrastructure and Projects Authority of the United Kingdom Government and the Ministry of Finance of the Singapore Government in March 2018 and July 2019 respectively to foster partnership for enhancing cost effectiveness and productivity of the construction industry and uplifting project governance and performance. (DEVB)

Building Safety

- “Operation Building Bright 2.0” was launched in 2018 to assist owner-occupiers of eligible old buildings to inspect and repair their buildings. (DEVB)
- “Fire Safety Improvement Works Subsidy Scheme” was launched in 2018 to subsidise eligible owners of old composite buildings to undertake fire safety enhancement measures as required by the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance (Cap. 572). (SB)

Drinking Water Safety

- Implemented the Action Plan for Enhancing Drinking Water Safety in Hong Kong in September 2017 to safeguard drinking water safety with the following measures:

- the Hong Kong Drinking Water Standards have been established by adopting the guideline values/provisional guideline values set out in the Guidelines for Drinking-water Quality of the World Health Organization;
- the Enhanced Water Quality Monitoring Programme was launched in December 2017;
- a surveillance programme has been launched for testing randomly selected samples of plumbing products approved under the General Acceptance System of the Water Supplies Department;
- the commissioning requirements for new plumbing works have been enhanced;
- guidelines and templates have been compiled to assist property owners and management agents to develop and implement Water Safety Plan (WSP) for their buildings;
- the Quality Water Supply Scheme for Buildings – Fresh Water (Management System) was established in November 2017 to provide incentive for building owners and management agents to implement WSP for their buildings;
- the Hong Kong Housing Authority (HKHA) started to implement WSP in public rental housing estates in the fourth quarter of 2018 in phases; and
- the Drinking Water Safety Advisory Committee, which comprises academics and experts of the related fields, was set up in January 2018. (DEVB)

Building Management

- New Codes of Practice have been promulgated and new support measures, including the Building Management Dispute Resolution Service, the Central Platform on Building Management, the Pilot Scheme on Advisory Services to Owners' Corporations and the Pilot Scheme on Free Outreach Legal Advice Service on Building Management, have been launched to assist owners in discharging their building management responsibilities properly. (HAB)

Enhancing the Living Environment

- The improvement works at Tsun Yip Street Playground (now known as InPARK) and Tsui Ping River Garden were completed and opened for public use in March 2019. The improvement works at Hoi Bun Road Park and its adjacent area commenced in December 2018. (DEVB)
- Reviewed, evaluated and identified suitable nullahs for revitalisation. (DEVB)
- The design of the improvement works for the Yuen Long Town Centre Nullah was enhanced to promote the quality and ecological value of the local environment. (DEVB)
- A funding of \$6 billion has been earmarked for taking forward nine harbourfront enhancement projects in full strength, with a view to extending the promenade along Victoria Harbour from around 20 to 34 kilometres within 10 years and providing open spaces amounting to about 35 hectares on both sides of Victoria Harbour. (DEVB)

Arts and Culture

- The Xiqu Centre in the West Kowloon Cultural District was officially opened in January 2019 and the Freespace located at Art Park also came into operation in June 2019. The major renovation and expansion project at the Hong Kong Museum of Art will soon be completed and the museum will re-open in November 2019. All these facilities can help enhance Hong Kong's status as a cultural hub and enrich Hong Kong people's cultural life. (HAB)
- To strengthen support for local cultural and arts development, additional resources have been provided to arts groups of various sizes so that they can stage more performances and exhibitions and raise the quality, and at the same time to enable them to explore opportunities outside Hong Kong and to promote our cultural soft power. (HAB)
- As compared to 2017-18, the recurrent subvention to the Hong Kong Arts Development Council, nine major performing arts groups, the Hong Kong Arts Festival Society and venue partners of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) has been increased by about \$125 million or 25.5%. We also relaxed the matching parameters under the Art Development Matching Grants Scheme in 2018-19 to encourage donations from the community for supporting the development of arts groups, and to make it easier for arts groups to receive matching fund. For small and medium arts groups, the matching ratio has been enhanced from 1:1 to 1:1.5. (HAB)

Sports Development

- The initial phase of measures to enhance the Sports Subvention Scheme has been implemented to gradually provide additional resources, including a recurrent provision of \$25 million and an extra two-year subsidy amounting to \$50 million for 2019-20 and 2020-21, to 60 subvented national sports associations (NSAs). The NSAs will use the funds to support their participation in overseas competitions, offer more squad training programmes and support underprivileged athletes as well as other operating costs. (HAB)

Challenges Ahead

Transport

- With rising operating costs, how we can continue to enhance public transport services such that the services are safe, comfortable and sustainable while remaining affordable to the public is one of the major challenges ahead. (THB)
- Adopting fiscal measures (e.g. congestion charging) for more effective traffic management may spark controversies in society. (THB)
- To unleash land development potentials, we will follow the principle of “according priority to transport infrastructure development”, in order to complete the relevant roads or railways before the new population intake as far as possible. We need to consider which projects will help unleash land development potentials and accord priority to those projects. (DEVB/THB)

Environment and Nature Conservation

Waste Management

- The per-capita waste disposal rate in Hong Kong has kept rising in the past few years, and is higher than those in other advanced Asian cities. We need to step up efforts in driving behavioural changes among businesses and the public. (ENB)
- Land available for setting up waste treatment facilities is very limited in Hong Kong, while Hong Kong’s nearby economies, including the Mainland, which is the major export market for our local recyclables, have tightened up controls on or even prohibited import of recyclables in recent years, hence affecting the overall performance of the local recycling industry. (ENB)

Air Quality and Noise Impact

- Though the roadside and ambient concentrations of major air pollutants including respirable suspended particulates, fine suspended particulates, nitrogen dioxide and sulphur dioxide have significantly reduced, the ambient ozone level remains a problem due to the impact of regional photochemical smog, and the annual average roadside concentration of nitrogen dioxide stands at about double of the Air Quality Objective limit value. (ENB)
- With the increasing demand for housing land supply in recent years, a number of new residential developments are inevitably located closer to busy roads, posing greater challenges to planning against noise. (ENB)

Nature Conservation

- Hong Kong has a very long stretch of coastline and we endure changing seasonal weather conditions. Coupled with our geographical location in the busy and vibrant Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA), we face the problem of coastal marine refuse. (ENB)
- A lot of areas with high ecological and conservation values in Hong Kong fall under private ownership. We have to strike a balance among nature conservation, land development and respect for private ownership. (ENB)

Climate Change and Energy

- The impact of climate change has become more and more apparent. Our society must proactively transform to a low-carbon living style, targeting in particular the two key areas of power generation and buildings' electricity consumption. Buildings account for some 90% of our electricity consumption, but many building owners lack the technical knowledge, resources and commitment to implement deeper energy saving measures. (ENB)
- Due to objective factors including topographical constraints, relatively high costs and relatively low stability, the potential for applying local RE in Hong Kong is relatively limited. (ENB)

Building Management

- There are around 5 300 “three-nil” buildings, which do not have owners' corporations or any form of residents' organisations, or do not engage property management companies. (HAB)

Arts and Culture

- The arts sector in Hong Kong is growing with new arts groups and artists joining every year. The sustainable development of arts and culture in Hong Kong would be hindered by any failure to keep building audiences in Hong Kong or from abroad and to attract enough audience for the works presented by arts groups and artists from different arts forms. In addition, the arts sector is facing the challenge of insufficient venues for rehearsals, work, performances and exhibitions. (HAB)

Sports Development

- The remarkable achievements of Hong Kong elite athletes in a number of international competitions in recent years reflect the city's sound foundation in elite sports development. There is however room for improvement in the participation in sports by members of the public. Surveys conducted by the Department of Health indicated a prevalence of insufficient physical activity among the general public, particularly the younger generation in Hong Kong. In the interest of public health, we have to encourage members of the public to do more exercise thereby reducing the risk of getting sick. The lack of physical activity, coupled with an ageing population, may otherwise lead to a substantial increase in the number of chronic patients and medical expenses. Besides, a shortfall in sports facilities and resources would present a significant challenge that would hinder greater development of sports in Hong Kong. (HAB)

New Initiatives

Transport

Developing Transport Infrastructure

- Strive to put into operation Tuen Ma Line Phase 1 in the first quarter of 2020 and complete the remaining works of the Shatin to Central Link (SCL) project by 2021 for the full commissioning of the Tai Wai to Hung Hom Section and Hung Hom to Admiralty Section of SCL. (THB)
- Request in the coming year the MTRCL to commence the detailed planning and design for the Tuen Mun South Extension, Northern Link (and Kwu Tung Station) as well as Tung Chung Line Extension as recommended under the Railway Development Strategy 2014. (THB)
- Pursue the strengthening of corporate governance of the MTRCL, promote the enhancement of services, and examine the feasibility of establishing a new department specifically tasked to handle and supervise railway planning and delivery matters. (THB)

Improving Public Transport Services

- Continue to provide Special Helping Measures to the six outlying island ferry routes¹ and extend the measures to eight other outlying island ferry routes². We will launch a new Vessel Subsidy Scheme to replace the fleets of 11 ferry routes³ and introduce greener vessels (involving some 47 new vessels including hybrid ones). The scheme will be carried out in two phases within a period of around ten years from 2021 onwards. The objectives are to enhance service quality and promote the development of a green city. (THB)
- Introduce legislative proposals into the LegCo for raising the penalty level of taxi drivers' malpractices and launching a Taxi Driver-Offence Points System. (THB)
- To collaborate with the taxi trade (e.g. through the Committee on Taxi Service Quality) to further improve the quality of taxi service. (THB)
- Increase the subsidy rate under the Public Transport Fare Subsidy Scheme from one-fourth to one-third of the monthly public transport expenses in excess of \$400, and raise the subsidy cap from \$300 to \$400 per month. (THB)

¹ The six outlying island ferry routes are the "Central – Cheung Chau", "Inter-islands" (plying between Peng Chau, Mui Wo, Chi Ma Wan and Cheung Chau), "Central – Mui Wo", "Central – Peng Chau", "Central – Yung Shue Wan" and "Central – Sok Kwu Wan" routes.

² The eight other outlying island ferry routes are the "Aberdeen – Cheung Chau", "Aberdeen – Yung Shue Wan via Pak Kok Tsuen", "Aberdeen – Sok Kwu Wan via Mo Tat", "Tuen Mun – Tung Chung – Sha Lo Wan – Tai O", "Discovery Bay – Mui Wo", "Ma Wan – Central", "Ma Wan – Tsuen Wan" and "Central – Discovery Bay" routes.

³ These 11 routes are the six outlying island ferry routes mentioned in footnote 1, as well as the "Aberdeen – Cheung Chau", "Aberdeen – Yung Shue Wan via Pak Kok Tsuen", "Aberdeen – Sok Kwu Wan via Mo Tat", "Tuen Mun – Tung Chung – Sha Lo Wan – Tai O" and "Discovery Bay – Mui Wo" routes.

Enhancing Efficiency of Road Space

- Taking into account the traffic conditions upon the commissioning of new tunnels, waive the tolls of connecting roads to Lantau (i.e. Lantau Link and the to-be-commissioned TM-CLKL Subsea Tunnel), Tseung Kwan O Tunnel and the to-be-commissioned Tseung Kwan O–Lam Tin Tunnel, with a view to reducing the cost of using these road sections. The toll waiver for Lantau Link will be effected upon the commissioning of the TM-CLKL Subsea Tunnel (tentatively scheduled for end-2020); while that for Tseung Kwan O Tunnel will be effected upon the commissioning of the Tseung Kwan O–Lam Tin Tunnel (tentatively scheduled for end-2021). (THB)
- Continue to pursue a multi-pronged strategy for enhancing efficiency of road space, including:
 - taking forward the study on “congestion charging” to examine the adoption of different toll levels during different time periods having regard to the degree of traffic congestion of other government tolled tunnels (including the Western Harbour Crossing and Tai Lam Tunnel to be taken over by the Government) and the Tsing Sha Control Area, with a view to changing the commuting patterns of users of the tunnels and Control Area. The study is expected to be completed in 2021-22;
 - taking forward the Electronic Road Pricing Pilot Scheme in Central;
 - issuing in-vehicle units to vehicle owners with a view to implementing Free-Flow Tolling System (FFTS) at all government tolled tunnels and Tsing Sha Control Area by phases. As regards the Western Harbour Crossing and Tai Lam Tunnel, FFTS will be implemented after the Government’s takeover in 2023 and 2025 respectively;

- actively exploring about 20 new public car park projects to provide a total of about 5 100 parking spaces by batches. In light of the findings of the consultancy study on parking for commercial vehicles, we will also formulate short-term, medium-term and long-term measures to address the anticipated parking demand; and
- progressively installing a new generation of parking meters starting from the first half of 2020, which support payment of parking fees through multiple payment means (including remote payment through mobile application) and provide real-time parking vacancy information of on-street parking spaces. (THB)

Pedestrian-friendly Environment

- Review the policy of Facilitating Provision of Pedestrian Links by the Private Sector, including considering extension of the duration and coverage of the policy, strengthening the facilitation measures, etc. (DEVB)
- Expand the ambit of the UA Programme to retrofit lifts to walkways in estates under the Tenants Purchase Scheme and the Buy or Rent Option Scheme and public rental housing estates with properties divested under HKHA. (THB)
- Commissioned a consultancy study to review and revise the assessment mechanism for hillside escalator links and elevator systems (HEL) proposals. On the basis of the revised mechanism, the Transport Department will examine over 110 new HEL proposals received in the past few years to conduct preliminary technical assessments and draw up preliminary alignments with a view to conducting local consultations. (THB)

- Covers will be provided for walkways connecting to public hospitals, as well as those eligible new and existing walkways progressively based on the relaxed criteria of the Transport Planning and Design Manual. District Councils will be invited to each nominate a suitable walkway on which cover is to be provided. (THB)

Enhancing the Standards of the Vehicle Maintenance Trade

- Continue to examine the introduction of a mandatory registration scheme for vehicle mechanics and vehicle maintenance workshops. (THB)

Regulating the Operations of Small Unmanned Aircraft

- Continue to expeditiously prepare the draft subsidiary legislation on regulating the operations of small unmanned aircraft in Hong Kong as soon as possible for safeguarding public safety while accommodating the technological development and diversified uses of unmanned aircraft system. (THB)

Environment and Nature Conservation

Enhancing Waste Management

- Fully promote a “plastic free” culture with a view to reducing the use of single-use plastics and creating a circular economy for these materials. In this regard, the Government will:
 - consult the public on the way forward for the producer responsibility scheme on plastic beverage containers, and launch a pilot scheme on the application of reverse vending machines;
 - consult the public on the outcome of the review on the operation of the plastic shopping bag charging scheme;

- promote and encourage reduction in the use of plastic packaging materials in collaboration with the retail trade;
- implement a voluntary scheme for phasing out personal care and cosmetic products containing microbeads, to encourage the trade to stop manufacturing, importing or selling such products and help consumers make choice of microbead-free products;
- recruit about 80 schools for a two-year pilot programme under which smart water dispensers with their exteriors designed by students will be provided to participating schools, and support schools to carry out relevant education and experiential activities, such as signing a charter on ceased sale of bottled water; and
- implement a “Plastic-free” School Lunch Pilot Scheme to encourage primary and secondary schools to use reusable lunch boxes in serving school lunch, and students to bring along their own reusable cutlery. (ENB)

- Develop centralised recycling facilities for handling government yard waste and turning it into solid fuels, composts, mulch, etc. Production of biochar from yard waste will also be explored with a view to turning yard waste into energy and useful products. (ENB)
- Embark on a study on how to promote recycling and proper disposal of batteries from new energy vehicles. (ENB)
- Deploy resources to co-ordinate relevant Government departments in expediting clearance of abandoned construction waste. (ENB)

Improving Air Quality and Alleviating Noise Impact

- Prepare for a \$2 billion pilot subsidy scheme to promote installation of electric vehicle charging-enabling infrastructure in car parks of existing private residential buildings. (ENB)
- Prepare for the implementation of a trial scheme on electric public light buses. (ENB)
- Tighten the emission requirements for franchised buses in low emission zones to Euro V standards by end-2019. (ENB)
- Complete the review on the scope of the Pilot Green Transport Fund in 2019 and thereafter consult the LegCo on the results of the review and apply for additional funding to further promote wider use of new energy transport technologies. (ENB)
- Formulate the details of a pilot scheme on new energy ferries in the coming year and consult the LegCo for seeking necessary resources to take the scheme forward. (ENB)
- Explore further tightening the sulphur content of locally supplied marine light diesel from the prevailing 0.05% to 0.001%. (ENB)
- Complete a trade consultation in the coming year for tightening the content limit of volatile organic compounds in architectural paint. (ENB)
- Extend the Cleaner Production Partnership Programme to March 2025 with a funding of \$300 million to encourage Hong Kong-owned factories to adopt cleaner production technologies, thereby continually improving regional environmental quality. (ENB)

- Compile professional practice notes and conduct a series of seminars to introduce and promote the innovative acoustic windows and enhanced acoustic balconies to the industry; and make use of the 4D Virtual Reality technology first invented in Hong Kong to help architects, engineers, etc. apply the above-mentioned noise mitigation designs in planning residential developments and designing residential units. (ENB)

Enhancing Water Quality

- Construct eight additional dry weather flow interceptors at rural areas in Kwai Chung and Tsuen Wan, and enhance the sewerage systems at Tsuen Wan and West Kowloon; plan to install compact and high-efficiency dry weather flow interceptors at Hung Hom, Causeway Bay Typhoon Shelter and Wan Chai East; and collaborate with research institutes to develop odour reduction measures for storm water systems. (ENB)

Nature Conservation

- Launch the Countryside Conservation Funding Scheme in the fourth quarter of 2019 to support NGOs to interact and collaborate with villagers to conserve and revitalise the remote countryside in the long run. (ENB)
- Explore and introduce enhancements to the recreation and education facilities in country parks and special areas. (ENB)

Climate Change and Energy

- Formulate Hong Kong's long-term decarbonisation strategy, taking into account the views collected during the public engagement exercise as well as the recommendations of the Council for Sustainable Development. (ENB)

- Study in detail the installation of a large-scale floating PV system at Plover Cove Reservoir. (ENB)
- Formulate the first ever Green Energy Target for the whole Government, covering the use of electricity and other forms of energy in all government buildings and infrastructure facilities, and taking into account both energy efficiency enhancement and RE development. (ENB)

Community Participation

- Take forward various new initiatives to implement the Green Schools 2.0. The major work areas include:
 - promoting the provision of glass container recycling bins on school campuses and providing relevant free collection services;
 - publicising the concepts of “Dump Less, Save More” and low-carbon lifestyle among young people by stepping up promotion through the Student Environmental Protection Ambassador Scheme run by the Environmental Campaign Committee;
 - installing inverter air-conditioners, light emitting diode lighting and real-time energy monitoring systems at the premises of primary and secondary schools; and
 - promoting retro-commissioning to higher education institutions. (ENB)

Regional Co-operation

- Press ahead with the ecological civilisation construction in the GBA, in accordance with the strategic policy of the Outline Development Plan for the GBA. (ENB)

Urban Forestry

- Set up a dedicated Tree Risk Inspection Squad to strengthen tree audits and site patrol in 18 districts. (DEVB)
- Introduce a registration scheme for tree management personnel. (DEVB)
- Launch the Urban Forestry Support Fund to implement a number of initiatives which include rolling out the Study Sponsorship Scheme and the Trainee Programme, hosting the International Urban Forestry Conference and organising the “People•Trees•Harmony” promotion campaign. (DEVB)
- Provide more venues for arboricultural field training. (DEVB)

Heritage Conservation

- Launch Batch VI of the Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme by end-2019. (DEVB)

Animal Welfare

- Draw up legislative amendment proposals to enhance animal welfare. (FHB)

City Management

Management of Public Works

- Invite leaders of the construction industry in Hong Kong to participate in the CoE programmes for exchanging expertise and sharing experience with government major project leaders. (DEVB)

Building Safety

- Inject an additional \$3 billion into “Operation Building Bright 2.0” to assist more needy owners in inspecting and repairing their buildings. (DEVB)

- Inject an additional \$2 billion to enhance the existing Building Maintenance Grant Scheme for Elderly Owners, including extending the scheme to cover other needy non-elderly owner-occupiers, raising the subsidy ceiling and relaxing the asset limit. (DEVB)
- Following the subsidy given for the modernisation of about 5 000 lifts with higher priority under the \$2.5 billion Lift Modernisation Subsidy Scheme, inject an additional \$2 billion to expand the coverage to 8 000 lifts. (DEVB)
- Inject an additional \$3.5 billion into the “Fire Safety Improvement Works Subsidy Scheme” to subsidise more eligible owners of old composite buildings to undertake fire safety enhancement measures as required by the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance (Cap. 572). (SB)
- The Buildings Department will use new technologies such as big data, artificial intelligence and three-dimensional images on a pilot basis in black spot areas to enhance the efficiency of enforcement actions against dangerous and abandoned signboards with a view to protecting public safety. (DEVB)

Drinking Water Safety

- Launch a subsidy scheme to encourage property owners and management agents to implement WSP for Buildings at their premises in order to further safeguard drinking water safety. (DEVB)

Building Management

- Regularise the Building Management Professional Advisory Service Scheme to intensify the continuous support to owners of “three-nil” buildings and aged buildings. We will engage experienced property management companies to assist “three-nil” buildings and aged buildings in need to form or re-activate their owners’ corporations to perform their building management duties. (HAB)

Food Safety

- Conduct public consultation on proposals to strengthen the regulatory regime of harmful substances in food, including industrially-produced trans fat and mycotoxins. (FHB)

Rural Areas Improvement

- To further improve the infrastructure and living environment of rural areas in the New Territories, we propose to increase progressively the annual provision for the Rural Public Works Programme to \$160 million. It is expected that the additional funding in the coming five years will be adequate for implementing about 70 additional works projects. (HAB)

Open Space

- Develop and take forward the concept of “Rivers in the City” through river revitalisation projects and introduction of water bodies rejuvenation facilities such as artificial flood attenuation lakes and river parks in planning new development areas. The aim is to allow the public to enjoy river facilities, experience the multiple values of water bodies, treasure water bodies and create a better living environment. (DEVB)

- Take forward the District Open Space, Sports Centre cum Public Vehicle Park project at Sze Mei Street in San Po Kong to enhance and increase leisure, recreational and sports facilities; and provide about 300 parking spaces underground with the adoption of smart parking system to complement smart city development. (DEVB)
- Add distinctive play facilities at Kai Tak Runway Park to attract the public and tourists to visit, and bring more vibrancy to the former airport runway tip. (DEVB)
- Transform a large number of public play spaces under the LCSD in the coming five years and the process will involve enhanced community engagement and encouragement of innovation for meeting community demand. (HAB)

Arts and Culture

- Increase the grant amount under the Arts Capacity Development Funding Scheme to enhance the capability of arts groups in staging quality performances and exhibitions. (HAB)
- Incorporate advanced innovative technology into the East Kowloon Cultural Centre, including all-round computerised stage facilities and execution system to provide artists, arts groups and art enterprises with more room for development, while nurturing audience and enhancing opportunities for arts inclusiveness, in order to further promote Hong Kong's status in the international arts arena. (HAB)
- Set up a Science Promotion Unit in the LCSD to promote popular science culture and exchanges of scientific inventions through the use of LCSD network and facilities such as the Hong Kong Science Museum, so as to popularise the knowledge of science and technology and raise the scientific literacy level of the general public, integrate the concept of popular science into everyday life, and provide the milieu for creativity and scientific innovation. (HAB)

Sports Development

- Implement measures to enhance the Sports Subvention Scheme and progressively increase the yearly subvention for 60 NSAs from about \$300 million to more than \$500 million to enhance the promotion and development of sports in the community, youth training programmes, public participation, squad training at all levels and overseas exchange programmes/competitions; and enhance the corporate governance of NSAs. NSAs can also make use of the additional resources to improve their manpower and staff remuneration. (HAB)
- Continue to take forward the expansion of the Hong Kong Sports Institute and commence the advance works soon to equip local athletes with world-class training and support facilities and strengthen support services to athletes on physical fitness, sports science, sports medicine, etc. (HAB)
- Fully support Hong Kong athletes in their preparation for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, so as to facilitate them to scale new heights in the international sporting arena. The elite training grant provided to athletes will also be increased as an incentive. (HAB)

