





Chapter V

Unlimited Business Opportunities



My Belief

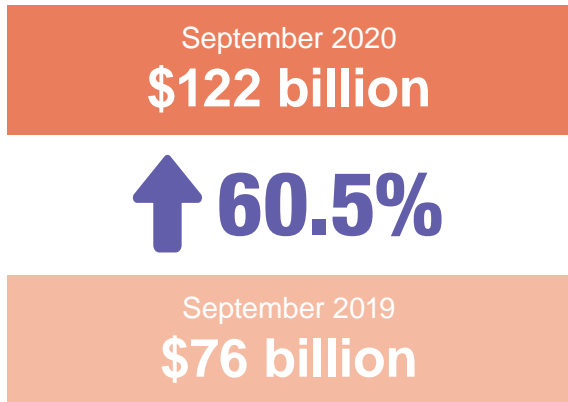
“To maintain a city’s competitiveness is like sailing a boat against the current and it must forge ahead in order not to be driven back. Hence, Hong Kong must keep consolidating its existing strengths, exploring new advantages, expanding economic and trade ties with the world, and fostering closer exchange and co-operation with the Mainland.”

“The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government is determined to boost the development of new and emerging industries in addition to our traditional industries, and considers that both innovation and technology and the creative industries have a competitive edge and much potential. They will not only promote a diversified economy, but also create more quality employment opportunities for our young people.”

Hong Kong has been acclaimed as the world’s most open, freest and most competitive city by many international organisations. Leveraging our unique strengths under “One Country, Two Systems”, we will continue to provide a business-friendly environment, uphold operation of the market and promote free trade. We will also strive to develop new areas of economic growth.

International Financial Centre

Stock Market (Main Board) Daily Average Turnover Value



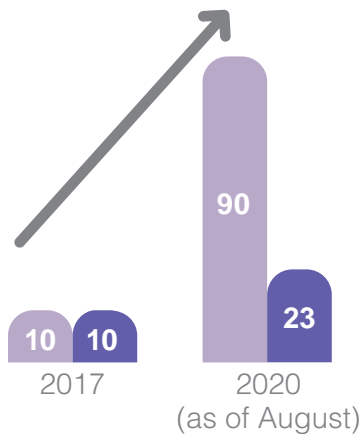
Hang Seng Index Movement



As of 30 Sep 2020

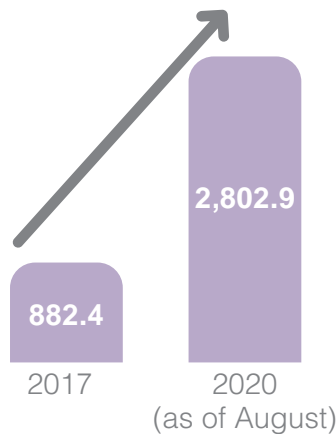
Stock Connect

Stock Connect average daily trade value



Bond Connect

Foreign holding of Mainland onshore bonds (RMB billion)



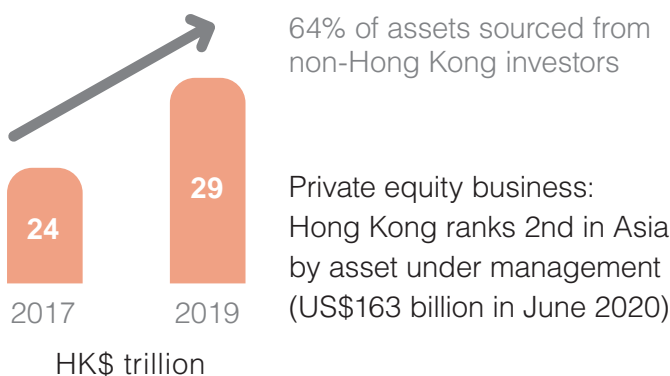
12 Times

The average daily turnover of Bond Connect increases by 12 times from RMB 1.5 billion in July 2017 to RMB 19 billion in September 2020.

- Northbound Stock Connect (RMB billion)
- Soundbound Stock Connect (HK\$ billion)

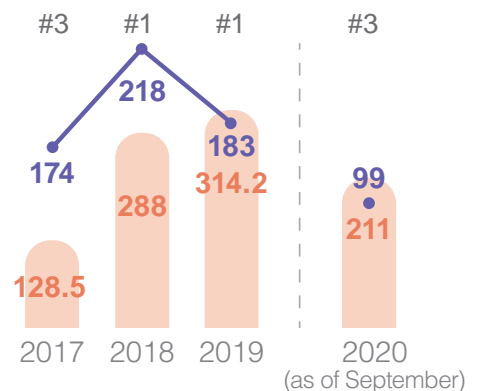
Asset and wealth management centre

Size of asset and wealth management business



Initial Public Offering (IPO)

Hong Kong's global fundraising ranking

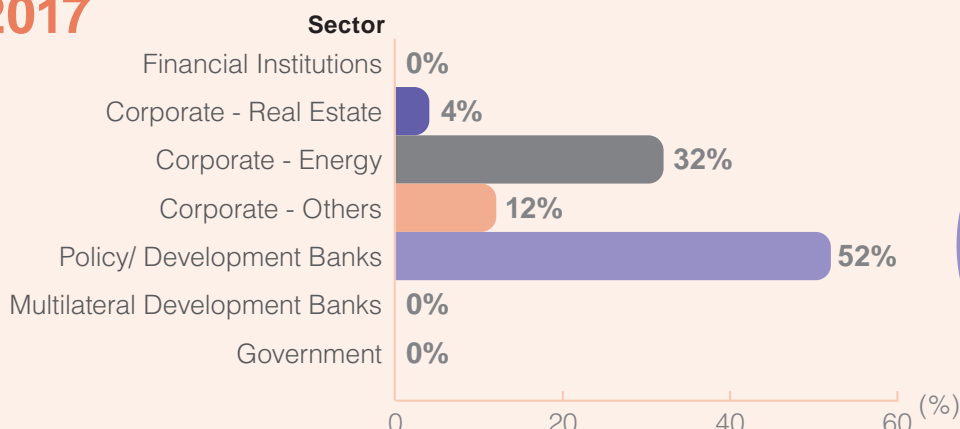


- No of IPOs
- Total IPO funds raised (HK\$ billion)

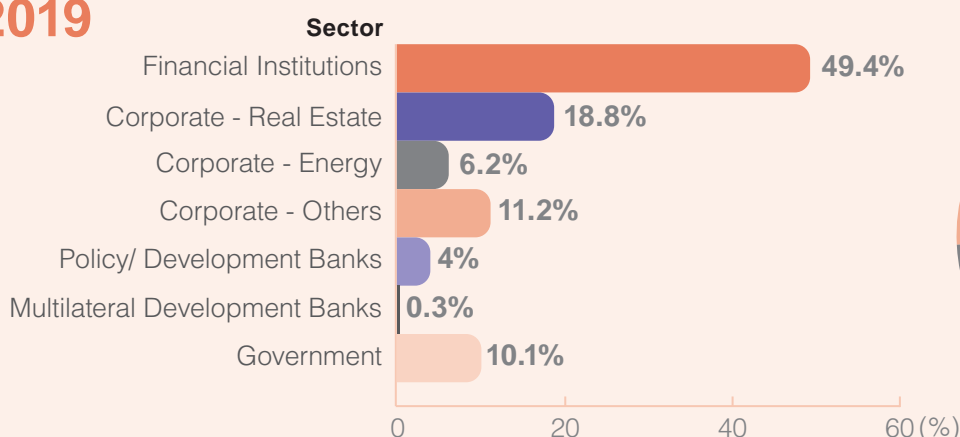
Green Finance

Growing size and diversity of green bonds arranged and issued in Hong Kong

2017



2019



Sources: Climate Bonds Initiative and the Hong Kong Monetary Authority

FinTech Development

Figures at a glance



No. of FinTech companies in Hong Kong (2020):

Over 600



Accumulated investment in Hong Kong-based FinTech companies (2014 - 2019):

US\$1.47 billion¹



Fintech adoption rate by consumers in Hong Kong (from 2017 to 2019):

From 32% to 67%²



Percentage of banks adopted or plan to adopt Fintech solutions³:




86%





1: Accenture data

2: Ernst & Young Global Fintech Adoption Index 2019

3: Survey on Fintech Adoption and Innovation in the Hong Kong Banking Industry

Support for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)

(From July 2017 to end September 2020)	 SME Financing Guarantee Scheme (SFGS)	 Dedicated Fund on Branding, Upgrading and Domestic Sales (BUD Fund)	 SME Export Marketing Fund (EMF)
Grants/loans approved	\$63 billion	\$1.1 billion	\$740 million
Number of enterprises benefited	22 000	over 1 600	12 000
Number of employees benefited	over 300 000	19 000	82 000

(From July 2017 to end September 2020)	 Distance Business Programme (Introduced in May 2020)	 Technology Voucher Programme
Grants approved 	\$864 million	\$460 million
Applications approved 	15 548 (95% cases for SMEs)	2 900

(From June to end September 2020)	Hong Kong Export Credit Insurance Corporation 100% Credit Limit Top-Up Scheme	(From April to end August 2020)	Hong Kong Monetary Authority Pre-approved Principal Payment Holiday Scheme
Additional coverage approved	\$6.6 billion	Aggregate amount of loan	\$580 billion
Applications approved	6 424	Applications approved	48 000

Total number of government funding schemes for enterprises:

40



One-stop services for SMEs



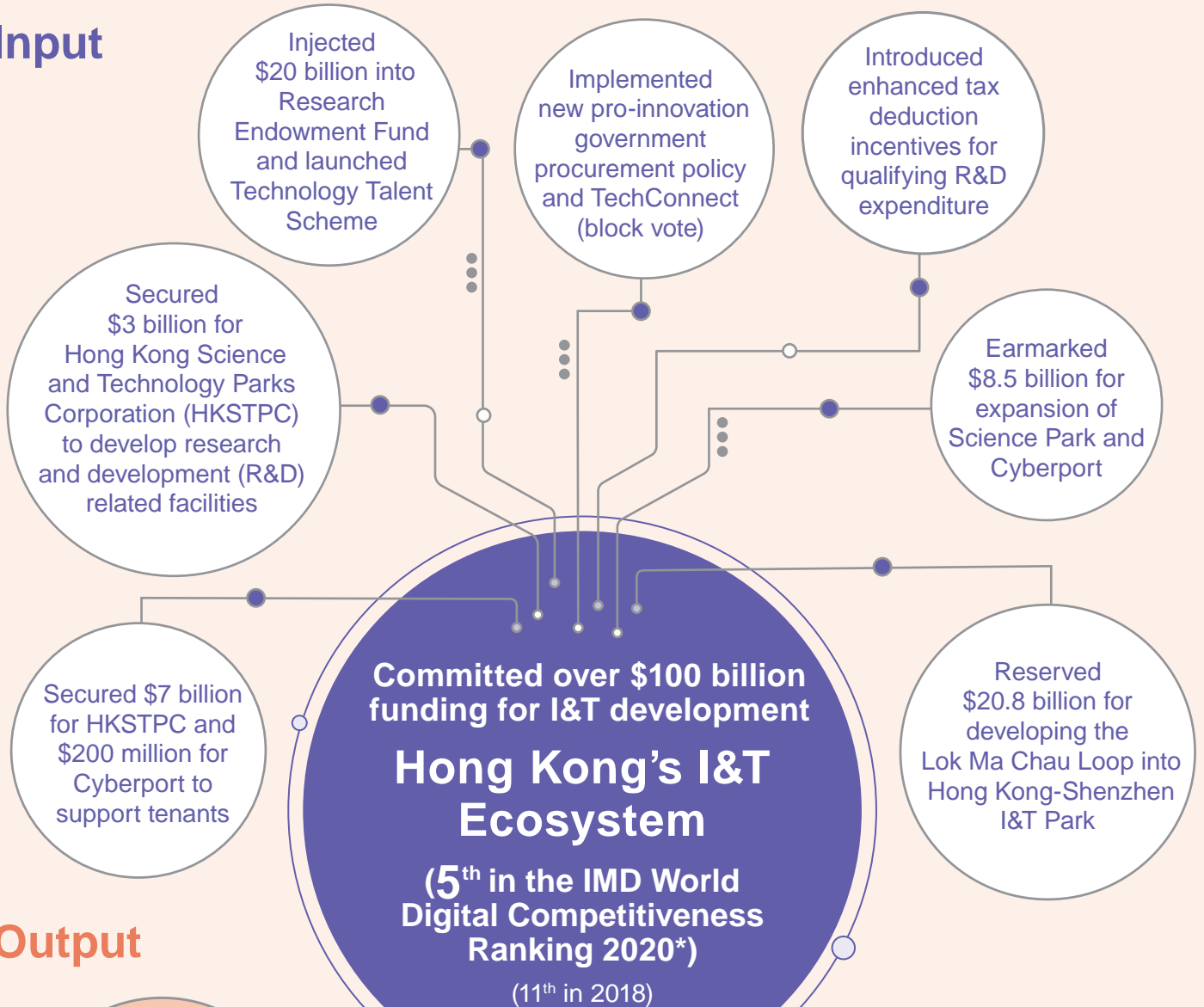
“Four-in-one” SME Centres:
one-stop consultation and referral services



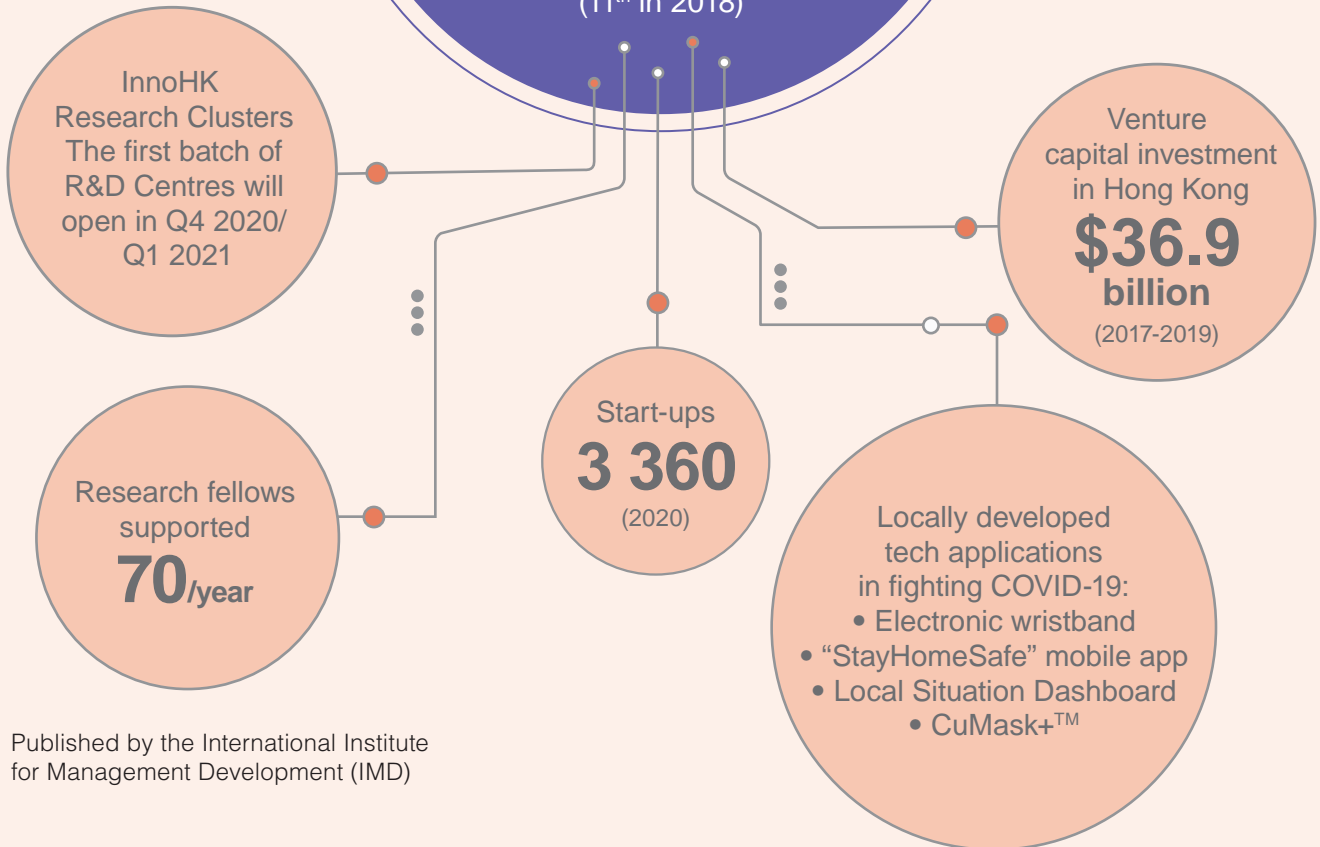
SME ReachOut Service Team:
promote and help identify suitable funding schemes and loan guarantee schemes

Innovation and Technology (I&T)

Input



Output



* Published by the International Institute for Management Development (IMD)

Progress Made

A total of 194 new initiatives were announced since July 2017 relating to diversifying Hong Kong's economy, of which 185 have been completed or are progressing on schedule.

Key initiatives completed or major progress made are as follows:

Talent Hub

- Established the Human Resources Planning Commission in April 2018 chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration and launched a one-stop online manpower information portal in December 2019 to provide comprehensive information to facilitate the local labour force to make informed choices in respect of career, training and development pathways. (CSO)
- Promulgated the first Talent List of Hong Kong in August 2018 covering 11 professions. (LWB)
- Increased the annual quota under the Quality Migrant Admission Scheme to 2 000 with effect from September 2020, with a view to enlarging Hong Kong's talent pool and reinforcing our role as Asia's World City. In the first half of 2020, 735 quota were allotted. (SB)

Government-to-Government Business

- Signed four new free trade agreements (FTAs) with 13 economies, thereby doubling the number of FTAs signed by the HKSAR Government to eight; and signed four investment agreements (IAs) with 13 economies. They include:

- FTA and IA forged between Hong Kong and the ten member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), which have come into effect gradually since June 2019;
- FTA and IA signed with Australia that came into effect in January 2020;
- FTA signed with Georgia that came into effect in February 2019;
- the HKSAR and Macao SAR Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA) that came into effect in January 2018;
- IA signed with the United Arab Emirates that came into effect in March 2020; and
- IA signed with Mexico in January 2020. (CEDB)

- Concluded comprehensive avoidance of double taxation agreements (CDTAs) with 45 tax jurisdictions. The target is to further expand our treaty network, bringing the total number of CDTAs to 50 by end-2022. (FSTB)
- Expanded the overseas Economic and Trade Office (ETO) network, with the Bangkok ETO commencing operation in February 2019. (CEDB)

Enhanced Co-operation with the Mainland

- Signed the Agreement on Trade in Goods with the Mainland on 14 December 2018 under the framework of the Mainland and Hong Kong CEPA. The Agreement fully implements zero tariff on goods of Hong Kong origin imported into the Mainland through the introduction of a general rule of origin. (CEDB)

- Signed an amendment agreement to the CEPA Agreement on Trade in Services in November 2019 which came into effect in June 2020. The new liberalisation measures cover legal services, construction and related engineering services, financial services, testing and certification, television and motion pictures. (CEDB)
- Extended the Single E-lock Scheme to 52 clearance points in Guangdong Province, of which 43 cover the nine Mainland municipalities in the GBA. (CEDB)
- Established a high-level co-operation mechanism with Sichuan to deepen co-operation with various provinces and municipalities in areas such as trade, finance, I&T, creative industries and youth exchanges. (CMAB)
- Set up a high-level Steering Committee for the Development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area chaired by the Chief Executive, with membership comprising all Secretaries of Departments and Directors of Bureaux, to more efficiently steer, co-ordinate and take forward the development of the GBA. (CMAB)

Greater Bay Area Development

- As a member of the Leading Group for the Development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area set up by the Central Government in 2018, the Chief Executive has attended three plenary meetings and secured 24 policy initiatives that are beneficial to Hong Kong's participation in the GBA development. Of these, 19 have been fully or partially implemented. Notable ones are the assessment of 183 days for personal tax purpose, support for Hong Kong youth to start business in the Mainland cities of the GBA and according Hong Kong permanent residents the same status as local residents when purchasing residential properties in the Mainland cities in the GBA. (CMAB)
- Signed the “Arrangement between the National Development and Reform Commission and the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region for Advancing Hong Kong’s Full Participation in and Contribution to the Belt and Road Initiative” (the Arrangement) in December 2017. The Joint Conference mechanism set up between Hong Kong and the relevant Mainland authorities on the implementation of the Arrangement held its third meeting in August 2020. Launched the Belt and Road Joint Conference Policy Exchange and Capacity Building Programme in December 2019 to forge collaboration on capacity building with relevant Mainland authorities for enhanced professionalism. (CEDB)
- Established the Mainland and Hong Kong Belt and Road Task Group to co-ordinate related matters in the trade and economic co-operation areas by the HKSAR Government and the Ministry of Commerce. The second high-level meeting was held in November 2019. (CEDB)
- Explore facilitation policy measures and assist local institutions in coming up with more flexible and innovative operation models to foster closer higher education co-operation in the GBA. (EDB)

- Formulated a five-pronged Belt and Road key strategy (viz. enhancing policy co-ordination; fully leveraging Hong Kong's unique advantages; making the best use of Hong Kong's position as a professional services hub; promoting project participation; and establishing partnership and collaboration to guide the HKSAR Government's participation in and contribution to the Belt and Road Initiative). (CEDB)
- Co-organised the fourth annual Belt and Road Summit with the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC) on 11 and 12 September 2019, which attracted around 5 000 government officials, entrepreneurs and professionals from nearly 70 countries and regions. More than 700 one-on-one business matching meetings for over 240 projects were staged. The fifth Summit in dual track (online and offline) will be held on 30 November to 1 December 2020. (CEDB)
- Established exchange and collaboration platforms for promoting Belt and Road participation of Hong Kong enterprises and professional services sector, including the seminar on "Strategies and Opportunities under the Belt and Road Initiative – Leveraging Hong Kong's Advantages, Meeting the Country's Needs" in Beijing in February 2018, and sharing sessions under the theme "Belt and Road: Hong Kong-IN", etc. (CEDB)
- Supported HKTDC's enhancement of its Belt and Road Portal for a more comprehensive and up-to-date one-stop Belt and Road platform in July 2019 and its introduction of SME Transformation Sandbox in April 2020 to support enterprises in capitalising on new business opportunities, including at the Mainland's overseas Economic and Trade Co-operation Zones (ETCZs). (CEDB)
- Carried out a number of business and professional missions to Southeast Asia, Middle East and Europe, etc., to showcase Hong Kong's professional strengths and seek out new business prospects. (CEDB)
- Secured the support of the Ministry of Commerce to promote interested Hong Kong enterprises to establish presence in the Mainland's overseas ETCZs. (CEDB)
- Relaxed the visa requirements for nationals of Belarus, Vietnam, Panama and Armenia visiting Hong Kong after reviewing the visa requirements of these Belt and Road countries. Extended the mutual visa-free access period for Belarus. (SB)

New Directions for Taxation

- Implemented the two-tiered profits tax rates regime which reduces the tax burden on enterprises, especially small and medium enterprises (SMEs). About 89 000 profits tax payers in the year of assessment 2018/19 benefited with total tax savings amounted to \$6 billion. (FSTB)

Council of Advisers on Innovation and Strategic Development

- Established the Chief Executive's Council of Advisers on Innovation and Strategic Development in March 2018 to give advice on Hong Kong's strategic positioning in the global and regional contexts and directions of economic development. (PICO/CSO)

Innovation and Technology

Policy Steer and Co-ordination

- Established the Steering Committee on I&T chaired by the Chief Executive in December 2017 to steer Hong Kong's I&T and smart city development. (ITB)
- Committed a total of \$100 billion to give technology development in Hong Kong a big boost. (ITB)
- Implemented the new pro-innovation government procurement policy since April 2019. (FSTB)

Increased Resources for Research and Development

- Introduced the enhanced tax deduction for qualifying research and development (R&D) expenditure incurred by enterprises from 1 April 2018. The total amount of relevant R&D expenditure for claiming tax deduction in the year of assessment 2018/19 was about \$1.82 billion, representing an increase of 26% as compared with \$1.44 billion in 2017/18. (ITB)

- Doubled the ceilings of the annual funding provided by the I&T Fund to each State Key Laboratory and Hong Kong branch of Chinese National Engineering Research Centre from \$5 million to \$10 million, and to the technology transfer office of each designated university and each of the six universities under the Technology Start-up Support Scheme for Universities from \$4 million to \$8 million from 1 April 2019 to promote technology transfer as well as realisation of R&D outcomes. (ITB)

Supporting Technology Enterprises

- Started co-investing in local I&T start-ups with partner venture capital funds through the Innovation and Technology Venture Fund (ITVF) in 2019. By September 2020, the ITVF has closed 19 deals with a total investment of around \$90 million. (ITB)
- Secured an injection of \$7 billion into the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation (HKSTPC) for enhancing support for its tenants. (ITB)
- Injected \$200 million into the Corporate Venture Fund in April 2019, which has invested in 15 start-ups with a total investment of \$87 million. (ITB)
- Injected \$200 million into Cyberport in 2018 for enhancing support for its start-ups and tenants, including the increase in financial subsidy under the Cyberport Incubation Programme from \$330,000 to a maximum of \$500,000, and the launch of the Easy Landing Scheme and the Overseas/Mainland Market Development Support Scheme. (ITB)

- Injected \$100 million into Cyberport in 2018 to promote the development of the e-sports industry. Opened the new dedicated e-sports competition venue in the Cyberport Arcade in July 2019. Introduced the E-sports Industry Facilitation Scheme and the E-sports Internship Scheme in April 2019, with 71 projects and 36 intern positions approved by end-August 2020. (ITB)
- Took forward the experience-sharing and business-promotion platform established in conjunction with the HKTDC and I&T sector in June 2020, to share with overseas governments and markets Hong Kong's research outcome and experience in applying technology to fight the epidemic and address livelihood needs, especially the Belt and Road countries, and at the same time open up more business opportunities for Hong Kong's I&T sector. (CEDB, ITB)

Promoting Technology Application and Re-industrialisation

- Launched the \$2 billion Re-industrialisation Funding Scheme in July 2020 to subsidise manufacturers to set up new smart production lines in Hong Kong. (ITB)
- Regularised the Technology Voucher Programme in February 2019 and introduced several rounds of enhancement measures, including raising the Government's funding ratio to 75% and increasing the cumulative funding ceiling per applicant to \$600,000 in April 2020. (ITB)
- Developing the Advanced Manufacturing Centre and Microelectronics Centre by HKSTPC, with a view to promoting re-industrialisation. (ITB)

Providing Technological Research Infrastructure

- Commenced land decontamination and advance engineering works at the Lok Ma Chau Loop in June 2018, with a view to providing the first batch of land parcels in 2021 for development of the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Park (HSITP). We will seek funding approval for Main Works Package 1 and the development of the first batch of buildings in the HSITP soon. (ITB)
- Commenced operation of the Cyberport Smart-Space 8 co-working space in Tsuen Wan in July 2018, with its occupancy rate at 100% as at end-August 2020. (ITB)
- Secured an injection of \$3 billion into the HKSTPC in 2018 for developing R&D-related facilities, such as the Biobank and the Robotics Catalysing Centre, which have been progressively commissioned. (ITB)
- Completed the construction of the Data Technology Hub by HKSTPC, which is expected to commence operation in the fourth quarter of 2020. (ITB)
- Earmarked \$5.5 billion for Cyberport 5 expansion and \$3 billion for Science Park Expansion Programme Phase 2. (ITB)

Opening Up Government Data

- Promulgated the open data policy in October 2018 to promote opening up data owned by government, public and private organisations. Over 880 new datasets in machine-readable formats had been opened up by government departments since 2019. As at end-September 2020, 4 187 datasets and around 1 400 application programming interfaces (APIs) are provided in the Public Sector Information Portal. (ITB)

Popular Science Education

- Allocated \$500 million for organising the annual City I&T Grand Challenge. The first Grand Challenge is expected to be launched in end-2020. (ITB)
- Commence the pre-construction works of the expansion of Hong Kong Science Museum in the fourth quarter of 2020, and continue to revamp its permanent exhibitions. (HAB)
- Established the Science Promotion Unit in the Leisure and Cultural Services Department in April 2020. A series of programmes to promote and popularise science to the general public are under planning and will be launched by phases in 2021. (HAB)

Smart City

- Published the first Smart City Blueprint for Hong Kong in December 2017, with over 70 initiatives in six smart areas. Major developments include the launch of Faster Payment System (FPS), adoption of smart solutions at the Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA), launching the Next Generation Government Cloud Platform and Big Data Analytics Platform and commissioning of the “iAM Smart” platform in December 2020. (ITB)
- Set up a Smart Government Innovation Lab in April 2019 to facilitate government departments to make wider use of the solutions offered by the local information technology sector to improve public services. So far, 38 business needs of departments have been matched, and 44 thematic workshops have been arranged. (ITB)

- Provided funding to support 74 technology projects proposed by 28 departments through the TechConnect (block vote) to promote the use of technology for enhancing operational efficiency and improving public services. (ITB)
- Launched the all-in-one “HKeMobility” mobile application in July 2018, which allows the public to acquire real-time traffic and transport information anytime and anywhere. As at mid-2020, the number of downloads of “HKeMobility” has exceeded 2.2 million. (THB)
- Set up the Technical Advisory Committee on the Application of Autonomous Vehicle (AV) Technologies in Hong Kong in the Transport Department in November 2019, which is actively studying the necessary legislative amendments to create favourable conditions for the development and application of AVs. (THB)
- Commenced preparatory work for the \$1 billion Smart Traffic Fund, which will accept applications from the first quarter of 2021 onwards. (THB)
- Disseminated real-time parking vacancy information of about 73% of the hourly parking spaces in Kowloon East to the public, covering about 6 300 parking spaces. (DEVB)
- Launched a chatbot (“Bonny”) on the GovHK portal in December 2019 to facilitate the public to search and access over 3 300 government forms and related e-Government services. (ITB)
- Launched the “Leading Towards Robotics Technologies” campaign in 2020 to inspire government departments to apply robotics technologies to enhance public services and city management. (ITB)

- Introduced smart elements in prison management (Correctional Services Department); launched the enhanced “Post-dispatch Advice Computer System” to provide emergency service callers with comprehensive and appropriate first-aid advice (Fire Services Department); rolled out the “e-Ticketing Pilot Scheme” for issuing fixed penalty tickets against illegal parking (Hong Kong Police Force); and commenced procurement of advanced equipment such as CT scanners and auto-detection devices to enhance cross-boundary clearance efficiency and step up enforcement against smuggling and other offences (Customs and Excise Department). (SB)
- Launched the Big Data Analytics Platform in December 2019 by the Hospital Authority (HA) for local academics to explore its clinical dataset for developing research ideas and carrying out collaborative research projects with the HA. (FHB)
- Applied smart safety devices in public works contracts by phases to enhance construction safety. (DEVB)

Social Innovation

- Since the establishment of the Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Fund (SIE Fund) in 2013, over \$400 million has been allocated and 230 projects funded under three priority areas of work, namely, capacity building, innovative programmes and research, benefiting around 250 000 persons. An injection of \$500 million to the SIE Fund will be made in 2021–22. (ITB)

Transportation and Logistics

- Established the Air Accident Investigation Authority under the Transport and Housing Bureau on 10 September 2018. (THB)
- Injected \$200 million into the Maritime and Aviation Training Fund in May 2019. (THB)
- Enhanced Hong Kong’s status as an international aviation hub by actively expanding our aviation network and intermodal connectivity, and enhanced high-value air cargo handling capacity. In 2019, around 120 airlines operated more than 1 100 flights daily between HKIA and around 220 destinations worldwide. In the past three years, the HKIA has attained three International Air Transport Association accreditations related to handling of high-value air cargo. (THB)
- Assisted the Airport Authority Hong Kong (AAHK) in taking forward the Three-Runway System Project. AAHK awarded 30 major contracts with a total sum of about \$75.2 billion. (THB)
- Enhanced Hong Kong’s position as a global maritime hub: including (i) establishment of the first-ever overseas branch of The International Chamber of Shipping in Hong Kong in 2019; (ii) designating Hong Kong by the Baltic and International Maritime Council as the fourth arbitration venue, alongside London, New York and Singapore; (iii) setting up regional offices of the Hong Kong Shipping Registry in three cities (London, Shanghai and Singapore) in 2020; and (iv) enacting the Inland Revenue (Amendment) (Ship Leasing Tax Concessions) Ordinance 2020 to provide tax concessions to qualifying ship leasing business. (THB)

- Set up a dedicated task force comprising industry members to study tax measures to encourage more commercial principals of the maritime industry to choose Hong Kong as their base of operation. (THB)
- Launched a \$345 million pilot subsidy scheme to provide financial incentive to qualified third-party logistics service providers for adopting technology to enhance productivity. (THB)
- Concluded the feasibility studies for two port back-up sites in Tsing Yi and Kwai Chung with a view to releasing the sites by phases through public tender for developing multi-storey port back-up and modern logistics facilities starting 2021. (THB)
- Launched northbound trading of Bond Connect in July 2017. As at August 2020, the amount of foreign holdings of bonds through Bond Connect has reached Renminbi 2,800 billion. Hong Kong ranked second in Asia (after Mainland China) in 2019 in terms of asset under management by private equity funds (reaching US\$163 billion). (FSTB)

Fostering Development of the Financial Services Industry

Finance

- Incorporated the Financial Services Development Council as a company limited by guarantee with effect from September 2018, which is being supported by Government subvention to strengthen its capacity to conduct strategic studies, provide advice, foster market development and nurture talent. (FSTB)
- Launched a new listing regime in Hong Kong since April 2018 for three types of issuers, including pre-revenue/pre-profit biotech issuers; issuers from emerging and innovative sectors with weighted voting rights structures; and qualifying issuers seeking secondary listing through a new concessionary route. Since the implementation of the listing reform, some 30 new economy companies have listed under the new regime, raising over \$300 billion of funds through initial public offerings. (FSTB)

International Asset Management Centre

- Established the Financial Leaders Forum, chaired by the Financial Secretary, in August 2017 to provide policy steer on strategic and forward-looking proposals to strengthen Hong Kong's position as an international financial centre. (FSTB)
- Commenced operation of the open-ended fund company regime since 30 July 2018. (FSTB)
- Commenced operation of the limited partnership fund regime since 31 August 2020. (FSTB)
- Offered profits tax exemption under the Inland Revenue Ordinance (Cap. 112) to different types of onshore and offshore privately offered funds with effect from 1 April 2019. (FSTB)
- Leveraged the opportunities presented by the GBA development to promote the sustainable development of the financial services industry with various measures, including preparation for launching the cross-boundary wealth management connect pilot scheme. (FSTB)
- Entered into mutual recognition of funds arrangements with the Mainland, Switzerland, France, the United Kingdom, Luxembourg and the Netherlands. (FSTB)

- Strengthened Hong Kong's position as an international insurance centre through enactment of three pieces of primary legislation in July 2020 to introduce new measures, including offering half-rate profits tax concessions for marine insurance and specialty insurance, enabling the setting up of special purpose vehicles in Hong Kong for issuance of insurance-linked securities, expanding the scope of insurable risks by captive insurers set up in Hong Kong as well as enhancing the legal framework for the regulation of insurance groups. (FSTB)
- Granted licences to eight virtual banks by the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) as at August 2020, of which five already commenced operations. (FSTB)
- Under the Open API Framework, 20 retail banks have launched over 500 and 300 APIs respectively under the first two phases, covering information of deposits, loans, insurance, investments and other banking products and services. The HKMA is conducting a study on the implementation of Phases III and IV Open APIs, which covers the pace, scope, and standards for implementation. (FSTB)

Financial Innovation

- Issued the inaugural green bond under the Government Green Bond Programme in May 2019. (FSTB)
- Elevated Hong Kong's position as a regional green and sustainable finance hub to promote more entities to make use of Hong Kong's financial platform for green and sustainable investment and financing. Launched a Green Bond Grant Scheme in June 2018 to subsidise eligible green bond issuers in obtaining certification under the Green Finance Certification Scheme. A total of US\$10 billion of green bonds were arranged and issued in Hong Kong in 2019, which was over three-fold of that in 2017. (FSTB)
- Launched the FPS in September 2018. As at end-August 2020, the FPS has recorded 6 million registrations. In August 2020, the FPS processed 11.7 million transactions (worth HK\$120 billion and Renminbi 2 billion). Starting from November 2019, taxes, rates and Government rent, and water charges can be paid by using the FPS, and counters and self-help kiosks of four Government departments will soon accept FPS payments. (FSTB)
- Conducting a Proof-of-Concept (PoC) trial by eTradeConnect on connecting the People's Bank of China Trade Finance Platform. (FSTB)
- Authorised four virtual insurers under the Fast Track as at August 2020, of which two carry on life insurance business and two carry on non-life insurance business. (FSTB)
- Published a new licensing framework for virtual asset trading platforms in November 2019 by the Securities and Futures Commission. (FSTB)
- Took forward the development of the eMPF Platform to standardise, streamline and automate the Mandatory Provident Fund (MPF) scheme administration processes to create room for fee reduction. The eMPF Platform is expected to be fully functional in 2025 at the earliest. (FSTB)

Financial Safety

- Implemented the new auditor regulatory regime on 1 October 2019 to enhance the independence of the local regulatory regime for listed entity auditors and to align with international standards and practices, which in turn strengthens investor protection and confidence in Hong Kong capital markets. (FSTB)
- Commenced operation of the new regulatory regime for insurance intermediaries on 23 September 2019, which replaced the previous self-regulatory regime. (FSTB)
- Commenced operation of the Banking (Amendment) Ordinance 2018, which empowers the HKMA to prescribe rules on recovery planning and financial exposure limits for authorised institutions, and a series of subsidiary legislation to align Hong Kong's regulatory requirements on banks' exposure limits, capital, disclosure and liquidity with international standards. (FSTB)
- Enacted the Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorist Financing (Financial Institutions) (Amendment) Ordinance 2018 and the Companies (Amendment) Ordinance 2018 on 24 January 2018. Commenced operation of both amended ordinances on 1 March 2018, ensuring that the regulatory framework of Hong Kong is in line with the international standards set by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). (FSTB)

- Became the first jurisdiction in the Asia-Pacific region to achieve an overall compliant result in the fourth round of mutual evaluation by the FATF. In the Mutual Evaluation Report published in September 2019, the FATF commended Hong Kong for having established a strong legal foundation and effective system for combating money laundering and terrorist financing. (FSTB)

Tourism

- The Financial Secretary convened the high-level tourism co-ordinating meetings, directing bureaux and departments to drive the implementation of various tourism-related measures in the areas of tourist support and management, planning of tourism facilities and transport support, and tourism diversification through enhanced co-operation and co-ordination. (CEDB)
- Established the Travel Industry Authority in end-2019. (CEDB)

Protection of Consumer Interests

- Provided a dedicated funding of \$238 million since 2018–19 to support the Competition Commission's litigation work. (CEDB)

Trade and Investment

- Through the HKTDC, identified platforms in the Mainland for organising promotional activities to assist Hong Kong enterprises in developing the Mainland market; explored new trade platforms in developed markets outside the US to open up more channels for Hong Kong enterprises to get in touch with overseas buyers; and strengthened promotion activities in emerging markets. (CEDB)

- Through InvestHK, attracted more overseas and Mainland companies to set up offices in Hong Kong, with the total number increased from about 8 200 in 2017 to over 9 000 in 2020. (CEDB)

Support to Small and Medium Enterprises

- Launched the new 90% and Special 100% Guarantee Products under the SME Financing Guarantee Scheme (SFGS) in December 2019 and April 2020 respectively to help SMEs in obtaining commercial loans to ease their cash flow problem. Introduced additional support measures including raising the maximum loan amount, extending the loan repayment period, providing interest subsidy and principal moratorium to help alleviate the financial burden of enterprises. Increased total government commitment under the SFGS to \$183 billion. Since July 2017, loans amounting to \$63 billion have been approved under the SFGS, benefiting 22 000 enterprises involving over 300 000 employees. (CEDB)
- Injected \$3.5 billion and \$2 billion respectively into the Dedicated Fund on Branding, Upgrading and Domestic Sales (BUD Fund) and SME Export Marketing Fund (EMF), and introduced a series of enhancements, including expansion of funding scope and increase in funding limits for each enterprise. Since July 2017, \$1.1 billion grant has been approved under BUD Fund, benefiting over 1 600 enterprises and 19 000 employees; and \$740 million has been approved under EMF, benefiting 12 000 enterprises and 82 000 employees. (CEDB)
- Consolidated the services of four SME centres and introduced “four-in-one” integrated services to provide “one-stop” consultation and referral services, and set up the SME ReachOut service team to help SMEs identify funding schemes that suit their needs and answer questions relating to their applications. About 70 000 enquiries have been handled. (CEDB)
- Introduced a range of business support measures by the Hong Kong Export Credit Insurance Corporation (ECIC), including free pre-shipment cover, premium discount, additional free buyer credit checks and expedited claims settlement etc. Introduced the “100% Credit Limit Top-Up Scheme” in June 2020 by ECIC to run for a period of six months, under which it would automatically double the credit limits of policyholders or uplift the limits to the amount applied for, whichever is smaller, subject to a cap of \$100 million. As at end-September 2020, 6 424 credit limits were uplifted under the Scheme, involving a total of around \$15 billion of credit limits, of which \$6.61 billion (44%) represented the top-up portions. (CEDB)

Convention and Exhibition

- Took forward plans to increase the supply of convention and exhibition facilities to maintain and enhance Hong Kong’s role as a premier international convention, exhibition and sourcing centre. (CEDB)

Legal Services

- Established the Mediation Mechanism for Investment Disputes in accordance with the IA signed under the CEPA framework. Announced the lists of designated mediation institutions and mediators on 14 December 2018. Published mediation rules drafted by the Department of Justice (DoJ) and adopted by designated mediation institutions and mediators in Hong Kong. (DoJ)
- Signed with the Mainland the Arrangement on Recognition and Enforcement of Judgments in Civil and Commercial Matters and the Arrangements Concerning Mutual Assistance in Court-ordered Interim Measures in Aid of Arbitral Proceedings (Interim Measures Arrangement). As of 27 August 2020, Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre has processed 25 interim measures applications to preserve evidence or assets worth Renminbi 9.4 billion in total and court orders in respect of Renminbi 8.7 billion worth of assets have been issued. (DoJ)
- Launched the inaugural Hong Kong Legal Week in November 2019, which is held annually in the first week of November to promote legal and dispute resolution services of Hong Kong. (DoJ)
- Held the first meeting of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area Legal Departments Joint Conference on 12 September 2019 to discuss suggestions to promote legal developments in the GBA, including further promotion of mediation in the GBA. Signed a Framework Arrangement on Exchange and Mutual Learning in Legal Aspects with the Guangdong High People's Court of Guangdong in September 2019. Carried out various activities pursuant to the Arrangement, including seminars about common law in Shenzhen in September 2019 and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Judicial Case Seminar in January 2020 in Guangzhou. Held the Inaugural Seminar on the Legal Challenges and Strategies under the Belt and Road Initiative in Beijing on 26 November 2019. (DoJ)
- Sought liberalisation measures in Guangdong Province to remove the minimum capital injection ratio for partnership with Mainland law firms and allow direct employment of the Mainland and Hong Kong lawyers in the partnership associations' own name. (DoJ)
- The decision of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress on special examination for legal practitioners in the GBA allows Hong Kong eligible legal practitioners to practise specific areas of Mainland law after passing the relevant examination. The passing of the related laws and regulations for the Qianhai Shenzhen-Hong Kong Modern Service Industry Co-operation Zone allows wholly owned Hong Kong enterprises to choose Hong Kong law as the governing law in a contract in civil and commercial matters. (DoJ)

Telecommunications and Broadcasting

- Released a total of 4 500 MHz of 5G spectrum to the market in 2019 and facilitated the timely launch of 5G commercial services in the second quarter of 2020. (CEDB)
- Opened up over 1 000 suitable government premises and adopted a “demand-led” model to include more government and public facilities (e.g. sheltered bus stops and payphone kiosks) for mobile service operators to install base stations. (CEDB)
- Awarded six tenders for the subsidy scheme to extend fibre-based networks to villages in remote areas. Extend the new broadband networks in phases starting from 2021, benefiting some 110 000 villagers. (CEDB)
- Launched the “Community Care Fund Digital TV Assistance Programme” in January 2020 to provide digital TV sets or set-top boxes to needy households so that they can continue to access free TV services upon the implementation of Full Digital TV Broadcast on 1 December 2020. (CEDB)
- Completed the public consultation on the review of telecommunications regulatory framework in early 2019. We will work on the relevant legislative amendments. (CEDB)

Creative Industries

- Injected \$1 billion into the CreateSmart Initiative in May 2018 to promote further development of the design sector and other non-film creative industries. Made financial commitment of \$600 million as at end-June 2020. (CEDB)

- Set aside \$300 million for the Hong Kong Design Centre (HKDC) to implement various initiatives to reinforce Hong Kong’s status as a city of design excellence in Asia. (CEDB)
- Promoted design thinking within the Government actively, including provision of training to about 7 000 civil servants in the past three years, and promulgation of guidelines in April 2019 to encourage departments to apply design thinking in the procurement process. (CEDB)
- Supported government departments and non-profit making organisations, through the CreateSmart Initiative, to apply design thinking to enhance the quality of public services and facilities. Pilot projects included enhancing support and services for SMEs. (CEDB)
- Provided funding support for the HKDC to set up an event space at No. 7 Mallery Street in Wan Chai to promote design and design thinking to the public. (CEDB)
- Implemented the Design and Fashion Project in Sham Shui Po to nurture young designers and support start-ups, promote fashion design, as well as boost district economy and tourism. Commenced construction works of the project in early 2019, which is expected to complete in 2023–24. (CEDB)
- Completed the review on the operation of the Film Development Fund, and injected \$1 billion into the Fund in May 2019 to promote further development of the local film industry through nurturing talent, enhancing local production, expanding markets and building audience. Made financial commitment of \$300 million as at end-June 2020. (CEDB)

- Secured support from relevant Central authorities in April 2019 to implement five measures to facilitate the entry of Hong Kong’s film industry into the Mainland market, thereby expanding the market space for local films and film practitioners in the Mainland. (CEDB)

Construction Industry

- Took forward the strategic initiatives to implement “Construction 2.0” progressively and led the industry to make changes by advocating “Innovation”, “Professionalisation” and “Revitalisation”. Actively promoted the application of I&T, including digital works supervision systems, building information modelling (BIM) and established the Construction Innovation and Technology Fund (CITF). (DEVB)
- Established the Centre of Excellence for Major Project Leaders by the Project Strategy and Governance Office (PSGO) to provide high-level training programmes for major project leaders. PSGO has been collaborating and exchanging experience with counterparts in the Mainland, Australia, Singapore and the United Kingdom (UK) and entered into Memorandum of Understandings with the Ministry of Finance in Singapore and the Infrastructure and Projects Authority in UK. (DEVB)
- Required capital works contracts with pre-tender estimate exceeding \$300 million to adopt digital works supervision system from April 2020 onwards to strengthen site supervision. (DEVB)
- Opened the Modular Integrated Construction (MiC) Display Centre in November 2018 with the joint efforts of the Development Bureau and the Construction Industry Council (CIC). (DEVB)
- Promoted the use of MiC proactively. Designated government buildings such as schools, dormitories and office buildings, etc., in capital works projects are required to adopt MiC from April 2020 onwards. MiC played an instrumental role in providing quarantine facilities and a temporary hospital in a timely manner for tackling the Coronavirus Disease-2019 (COVID-19) outbreak. (DEVB)
- Topped out the first batch of MiC pilot projects, including InnoCell at HKSTPC and Disciplined Services Quarters for the Fire Services Department at Pak Shing Kok in Tseung Kwan O in May 2020 and August 2020 respectively. (DEVB)
- Set up a pre-acceptance mechanism for MiC systems and granted a 6% concession of the floor area constructed by MiC for new buildings. (DEVB)
- Required public works projects to adopt BIM technology from January 2018 onwards. As at end-August 2020, the estimated total contract value of public works projects which have adopted such technology has exceeded \$147 billion. (DEVB)
- Supplying prefabricated reinforcing bar (rebar) products by the four steel rebar prefabrication yards included in the Civil Engineering and Development Department’s List of Approved Steel Reinforcing Bar Prefabrication Yards for local construction projects in 2020. The total production is on the increasing trend. (DEVB)

- Set up the \$1 billion CITF in October 2018 to encourage wider adoption of innovative technologies and stimulate the provision of cutting-edge solutions by local I&T enterprises for industry enhancement. So far, the Fund has approved more than 1 200 applications and subsidised over 700 enterprises for adoption of innovation construction technologies in local building projects such as MiC and BIM, with a total approved funding of more than \$270 million. (DEVB)
- Offering quality training to trainees of the Hong Kong Institute of Construction, which was established in 2018. In particular, its Diploma in Construction Programmes have been accredited under the Qualification Framework by the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications. About 70 000 participants have completed its programmes every year, covering both full-time and part-time training courses. (DEVB)
- Allocated a funding of \$200 million in May 2020 to strengthen construction manpower training in trades of keen demand with a view to upskilling the workers and attracting more young people to join the construction industry. (DEVB)
- Established a new registration system in collaboration with the Mainland Authorities that enables architectural and engineering related consultant firms on the HKSAR Government's approved lists and related registered professionals to provide professional services for development projects in the GBA. (DEVB)
- Invited the CIC to extend its waiver of registration and renewal fees for registered workers for a further 12 months to support the construction industry, involving about \$9 million in total. (DEVB)

Agriculture and Fisheries Industry

- Commenced environmental impact assessment for designating new fish culture zones in end-2019, and resumed issuance of new marine fish culture licences starting from early 2020. (FHB)
- Introduced measures to remove barriers in making applications for the Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund and Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund for promoting sustainable development of agriculture and fisheries industry, with a view to making good use of the funds to improve the operating environment for the trade. (FHB)
- Put into effect the relevant legislative amendment to facilitate relocation of chicken farms in July 2020, which helps chicken farms improve their bio-security measures, with a view to further enhancing the prevention and control of avian influenza. (FHB)
- Obtained approval from the Legislative Council (LegCo) in July 2020 to increase the approved commitment of the fishing moratorium loan scheme by \$210 million. (FHB)

New Initiatives

Financial Services

Strategic Investments Using Future Fund

- Prepare for the launch of Hong Kong Growth Portfolio to make strategic investments in projects with a Hong Kong nexus, with a view to enhancing returns while reinforcing Hong Kong's status as a financial, commercial and innovation centre, and raising Hong Kong's productivity and competitiveness in the long run. (FSTB)

Consolidating Hong Kong's Position as Asia's Premier Fund Hub for Private Equity

- Provide tax concession for carried interest issued by private equity funds operating in Hong Kong subject to the fulfilment of certain conditions with a view to consolidating Hong Kong's position as Asia's premier fund hub for private equity. We have consulted the industry and are formulating the legislative proposal with the target to introduce an amendment bill into the LegCo shortly. (FSTB)

Fintech Proof-of-Concept Subsidy Scheme

- Launch the Fintech Proof-of-Concept Subsidy Scheme to provide financial incentives for financial institutions to partner up with Fintech companies to conduct PoC projects, with a view to encouraging innovation and accelerating technology transformation. (FSTB)

Supervising Virtual Asset Services

- Establish a robust regulatory framework to supervise virtual asset trading platforms through a licensing system and attract high quality virtual asset service providers to domicile in Hong Kong. This would allow us to capitalise on financial innovation whilst managing money laundering and market manipulation risks, thereby promoting the orderly development of the market. (FSTB)

Reconnect with Markets and Explore New Opportunities

- Pursue the expansion of the overseas ETO network to foster closer economic and trade relations with our trading partners, thereby bringing about more business opportunities for Hong Kong. The Dubai ETO, our first ETO in the Middle East region and the 14th ETO, is expected to commence operation in early 2021. (CEDB)
- Devote extra efforts and resources to strengthen in phases external promotion work taking into account the latest epidemic situation, with a view to restoring confidence in Hong Kong. Detailed measures include:
 - Explore with overseas economies with stabilised epidemic situation the gradual resumption of cross-border travel. Such arrangement would be guided by science and based on the advice of our health professionals according to the "Suppress and Lift" strategy;

- Adopt different engagement strategies by the overseas ETOs, taking into account the epidemic situation and the specific concerns on Hong Kong in their host countries. The ETOs will promote Hong Kong's role as a major international business and financial centre, as well as Hong Kong's institutional advantages, core competitiveness, our level playing field and business friendly environment;
 - Dynamically adjust InvestHK's promotion strategies by leveraging the digital platforms;
 - Review by the Hong Kong Tourism Board of the positioning of tourism in Hong Kong in light of the "new normal" due to the sustained epidemic situation and will, in association with the travel and related trades, launch promotions and offers in source markets with readiness for travelling to Hong Kong;
 - Actively develop its digital platform by HKTDC to connect buyers and suppliers worldwide and help Hong Kong enterprises explore business opportunities and develop overseas markets; and
 - Explore with foreign chambers of commerce to offer internship and work opportunities in recommended companies of relevant industries (such as creative industries) to young graduates for 12 months. (CEDB)
- Encourage the Hong Kong professional services sectors in stepping up promotion of Hong Kong's competitive edges and their services to the GBA Mainland cities and overseas markets after the pandemic situation has stabilised. Set aside a dedicated funding of \$50 million under the Professional Services Advancement Support Scheme to sponsor major professional bodies' participation in relevant exchanges, promotion and professional standard enhancement activities organised by the Government, HKTDC and overseas ETOs. (CEDB)
 - Support interested Hong Kong enterprises and the professional services sector to explore opportunities in the Mainland's overseas ETCZs by promoting pilot matching of selected ETCZs in ASEAN with such enterprises with a view to enhancing business collaboration. (CEDB)
 - Launch a Mainland Enterprises Partnership Exchange and Interface Programme to serve as a "one-stop" platform for fostering exchanges and business matching with Hong Kong professional services sector. Stage the second edition of the Belt and Road Joint Conference Policy Exchange and Capacity Building Programme in conjunction with relevant Mainland authorities with a view to jointly enhancing professional capacity for pursuing the Belt and Road Initiative. (CEDB)
 - Launch publicity programmes in the Mainland to rebuild the confidence in Hong Kong to pave way for the resumption of economic activities and people flow between the two places in an orderly manner after the epidemic. (CMAB)

- Strive to establish after-sales service centres of Hong Kong insurers in the Mainland cities of the GBA, with a view to providing comprehensive support, including claims and renewal and surrender of policies, to holders of Hong Kong policies by phases. (FSTB)
- Strive to implement the “unilateral recognition” policy for Hong Kong motor vehicles entering Guangdong (GD) through the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (HZMB) control point. The policy extends the coverage of third-party insurance policies issued by Hong Kong insurers to cover third-party liability in the Mainland, thereby deeming such policies as equivalent to the mandatory traffic accident liability insurance in the Mainland. (FSTB)
- Support the Hong Kong Vocational Training Council and the Shenzhen Polytechnic in exploring the joint development of vocational training and coaching programmes, and attracting students from Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao to take part in vocational coaching and internships. (EDB)
- Discuss with the relevant Mainland authorities the possibility of permitting the use of Hong Kong-registered drugs and common medical devices in designated Hong Kong-owned healthcare institutions in the GBA by implementing the measure at the University of Hong Kong-Shenzhen Hospital on a pilot basis. (FHB)

Cross-border Transportation

- Implement the “Quota-free scheme for Hong Kong private cars travelling to Guangdong via the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge” (the Scheme) after the commissioning of Tuen Mun-Chek Lap Kok Tunnel, allowing eligible Hong Kong private cars to travel between Hong Kong and GD via HZMB without the need to obtain a regular quota. (THB)
- Commission an automated parking system at the Hong Kong Boundary Crossing Facilities Island for private vehicles from the Mainland and Macao. (THB)

Innovation and Technology Development

The Loop

- Take forward the development of the HSITP located in the Lok Ma Chau Loop in full swing. We will explore with Shenzhen regarding the use of the existing facilities in the Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Zone, before the completion of the HSITP’s first batch of buildings for the institutes that are interested in joining it to kick-start the research, so as to better leverage the complementary strengths and to create synergy between Hong Kong and Shenzhen. (ITB)

Smart City Blueprint 2.0

- Release Smart City Blueprint for Hong Kong 2.0 in November 2020, which will set out more than 130 smart city initiatives, including new proposals as well as enhancements and expansions to existing initiatives. In the coming year, two of the more livelihood measures are:

- use Internet of Things technology, launch the smart toilet pilot programme to improve hygienic conditions and services at public toilets; and (FHB)
- explore smart village pilot projects using technology to solve daily issues faced by residents living in rural or remote areas, such as attending healthcare consultations by elders and traffic management. (ITB)

iAM Smart Platform

- Launch the “iAM Smart” service platform in December 2020 to provide a one-stop platform for the public to access government services. In the first phase, some 20 frequently used public services will be made available, including online application for vehicle licence renewal and electronic submission of tax returns. Other online public services will be included in the platform incrementally. (ITB)

Licensing of Employment Agencies

- Without affecting the regulatory and enforcement work, streamline the licence renewal process for employment agencies (EAs) and reduce the information required for licence renewal applications as far as possible, including rolling out a new e-service system by early 2022 to allow EAs to submit licence applications and check their application status easily and conveniently. (LWB)

Higher Education Employment Information e-Platform

- Integrate the Higher Education Employment Information e-Platform of the Labour Department into its Interactive Employment Service website to achieve synergy in serving job seekers with higher education both within and outside Hong Kong. (LWB)

Creative Industries Development

- Provide another \$1 billion injection into the CreateSmart Initiative to continue with the Government’s commitment in promoting creative industries as Hong Kong’s new economic drivers. (CEDB)

Construction Industry

- Implement the integrated capital works platform in phases from 2021 onwards to enable data integration and analysis of works information for continuous monitoring and review of project performance with a view to enhancing the management of the Capital Works Programme. (DEVB)
- Co-ordinate efforts of works departments for taking forward research and development studies and piloting innovative construction methods, new materials and digital technology, etc., for enhancing the cost-effectiveness, delivery capacity and performance of capital works projects. (DEVB)
- Commence trial operation of an automated system for concrete cube testing in January 2021. (DEVB)
- Explore further the use of remote monitoring, wireless sensors networks, internet of things and other innovative technologies to push forward digitisation of works supervision system, reduce interpersonal contact and improve occupational safety and health on site. (DEVB)

Agriculture and Fisheries Industry

- Strive to promote high value-added and sustainable development of the agriculture industry. Commence works of the Agricultural Park Phase 1 with phased completion from 2021 to 2023. (FHB)
- Support Hong Kong fishermen to participate in the development of deep sea mariculture in the GBA, including providing assistance under the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund, establishing a modern demonstration farm, and providing training to facilitate the mariculture sector to switch to deep water mariculture. (FHB)

Job Creation

- Provide an 18-month subsidy under the Green Employment Scheme to private companies and suitable organisations to employ about 550 university graduates of the 2019 and 2020 cohorts to work in environment-related fields, and offer them training in various environmental subjects. (ENB)
- Create around 30 000 time-limited jobs in both the public and private sectors in the coming two years for people of different skills sets and academic qualifications under the second round of the Anti-epidemic Fund (AEF). Around 26 000 jobs have already been created. Proposals for creating the remaining 4 000 jobs are in the pipeline. (CSB)

- Provide subsidies under the AEF to prospective employers of engineering graduates with a view to sustaining the provision of vocational training opportunities. A total of 1 000 trainees concerned have commenced training by phase from July 2020, and their eligible employers will start receiving a monthly subsidy of \$5,610 per trainee for up to 18 months in October 2020 the earliest. (LWB)

Job Advancement

LawTech

- Enhance the capability of the profession to harness modern technology in the provision of legal and dispute resolution services. Further to the establishment of the LawTech Fund and COVID-19 Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) Scheme under the second round of AEF, the DoJ will actively explore the development of “Hong Kong Legal Cloud”, a state-of-the-art online facility equipped with advanced information security technology, to provide the local legal and dispute resolution profession a secured, reliable and affordable way for storing their information, thereby facilitating the overall development of legal and dispute resolution services in Hong Kong in the long run. (DoJ)

COVID-19 Online Dispute Resolution Scheme

- Establish a COVID-19 ODR Scheme, engaging eBRAM Centre to provide ODR services for COVID-19 related disputes, with post-dispute dispute resolution agreement by the private parties. (DoJ)

Encourage the Early Deployment and Adoption of 5G

- Encourage the early deployment and adoption of 5G by the public and private sectors with a view to enhancing Hong Kong's competitiveness. The Government has launched the Subsidy Scheme for Encouraging Early Deployment of 5G under the second round of AEF. Depending on the final response, we will consider extending the Scheme to further promote the use of 5G. (CEDB)

Supporting Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises

- Support business enterprises affected by the pandemic to carry out promotional activities targeting the local market by making full use of both virtual and physical exhibitions, and maintain Hong Kong's leading position as the hub for large-scale commodity shows by expanding the scope of the SME EMF for two years. (CEDB)
- Update the online procurement plans of Government departments more frequently in order to keep enterprises (especially SMEs and start-ups) abreast of Government's latest procurement plans and encourage them to participate in tendering. (FSTB)

Investing in Capital Works

- Continue to invest substantially in infrastructure development and various new projects. These projects cover land and housing supply, healthcare facilities, education, culture and recreation, water supply, drainage and sewerage aspects, etc., including the Tung Chung new town extension, new acute hospital at Kai Tak, special school with boarding facilities, pier improvement programme, redevelopment of Yuen Long Stadium, the Boardwalk underneath the Island Eastern Corridor, Tin Shui Wai New Public Market, and other projects that are closely related to people's livelihood. We expect the annual capital works expenditure will continue to grow from 2021–22 onwards and exceed \$100 billion in coming years. (DEVB)
- Speed up the contract award of capital works projects which have secured funding. (DEVB)
- Adopt parallel tendering and shorten tender evaluation to expedite tendering process of works project, where appropriate, so as to speed up infrastructure development. Of the 86 major public works projects (at a total of \$144 billion) approved by the Finance Committee of the LegCo in 2019–20 session, works contracts for 47 projects have been awarded, and contracts for the other 39 projects are in the process of tendering. (DEVB)
- Collaborate with works departments to explore the possibility of fast tracking the project schedule and shortening the time for completion of specific tasks for early delivery of housing, transportation, hospital and social infrastructure projects. (DEVB)

Business Support Measures

- Launch the Convention and Exhibition Industry Subsidy Scheme under the first round of AEF. The part of the Scheme relating to exhibitions and international conventions held at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre and AsiaWorld-Expo will last for the one year period starting from 3 October 2020 to 2 October 2021, while the other part relating to events organised by HKTDC will also last for a one year period from a date to be announced later when it resumes holding events. (CEDB)
- Support businesses and relieve individuals' financial burden through time-limited measures including rental and fee concessions for eligible tenants of government premises, and short-term tenancies and waivers administered by the Lands Department; waivers/concessions of 35 groups of government fees and charges; and fee review moratorium. These measures benefit a wide range of sectors and will involve a total revenue forgone of about \$3.5 billion on the part of the Government. (FSTB)