



# **Consolidate Hong Kong's Status** as an International Hub









## **Background**

Backed by strong national support and a high degree of global connectivity, Hong Kong is recognised worldwide as an international centre in finance, trade and shipping, as well as in aviation, legal services and dispute resolution. Among these, the development of international financial, shipping and trade centres are closely intertwined. The Policy Address last year announced the creation of a commodity trading ecosystem to attract relevant enterprises to establish a presence in Hong Kong, turning our city into an operation centre for international commodity trading, storage and delivery, shipping and logistics, risk management, and more. This will help develop markets in international gold, non-ferrous metal, green transportation, and other areas, further promoting the integrated development of Hong Kong as an international financial, shipping and trade centre. Relevant work has been taken forward progressively to boost Hong Kong's competitiveness.

Hong Kong is undergoing economic restructuring and beset with external uncertainties, yet opportunities outweigh challenges. Our economy as a whole has seen positive development. Real gross domestic product grew by 3.1%, year-on-year, in the second quarter of the year, marking continuing positive growth for two and a half years. According to the Report on Hong Kong's Business Environment released in July this year, international investors' confidence in Hong Kong is rising. Our initial public offering (IPO) market is flourishing, with the cumulative amount of funds raised through IPO in the first eight months of 2025 exceeding \$130 billion, close to six times more than over the same period last year, ranking first in the world. As at end-August this year, the total number of registered local companies and registered non-Hong Kong companies exceeded 1.5 million and 15 000, respectively, both hitting historic highs. Moreover, Hong Kong is among the top three in global competitiveness and global financial centre rankings. These and other figures and rankings reflect that, overall speaking, the Government is heading in the right direction.

We will continue to attract more global capital, enrich our product suite and develop new business areas. We will also reinforce and enhance Hong Kong's status as international financial, trade and shipping centres by deepening international exchanges and collaboration as well as opening up new markets. In addition, we will leverage the opportunities brought by the Three-Runway System at the Hong Kong International Airport, consolidating Hong Kong's advantages as the world's leading air-cargo hub and the transhipment hub of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, and further enhancing the city's long-term competitiveness as an international aviation hub. We will also step up the promotion of legal and dispute resolution services in Hong Kong, deepen our mediation culture and promote arbitration development. We will, as well, fully support and participate in the operation of the International Organization for Mediation headquarters, reinforcing our position as an international legal hub and the Capital of Mediation.

### **Consolidate Hong Kong's Status** as an International Hub

#### International Financial Centre

#### **Continuously strengthen the stock** market

- Assist Mainland technology enterprises in raising funds in Hong Kong through the dedicated Technology Enterprises Channel established by the Securities and Futures Commission (SFC) and the Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited (HKEX), strengthening the financial support for building the country into one which stands tall in science and technology. (FSTB)
- The HKEX is about to complete the competitiveness review of the listing requirements of the Main Board, and will put forward adjustment proposals for public consultation within 2025, focusing mainly on the enhancement of primary listing requirements and facilitation of dual primary or secondary listing of overseas enterprises in Hong Kong, as well as post-listing compliance obligations. (FSTB)
- Following the implementation the enhancements to initial public offering (IPO) price discovery and open market requirements earlier, the HKEX is further consulting the market on enhancement measures for ongoing public float to provide greater flexibility for issuers. (FSTB)

- The SFC has conducted a consultation on the proposal to enhance the stock market listing rules, and will introduce amendments to subsidiary legislation in 2026 to provide the SFC with greater operational flexibility in vetting listing applications and encourage issuers and listing applicants to make disclosures in a more transparent and accurate manner, thus providing more extensive protection for investors. (FSTB)
- The SFC and the HKEX will continue to optimise the listing mechanism, including studying to optimise the listing requirements for weighted voting right structures to attract more relevant companies to list in Hong Kong. (FSTB)
- The HKEX will complete the review on the enhancement of the issuance mechanism for structured products and stock trading unit, and propose specific measures for market consultation within 2025. (FSTB)
- The HKEX has refined the margin collateral arrangements at its securities and derivatives clearing houses, and will explore broadening the types of acceptable collaterals to enhance risk management efficiency. (FSTB)
- The HKEX will consult the market in the first half of 2026 on the operation mode for shortening the stock settlement cycle to T+1, striving to become one of the first exchanges in Asia to shorten the settlement cycle and building a solid infrastructure for the continuous thriving of the capital market. (FSTB)

- Strive to submit a bill to the Legislative Council (LegCo) in the first half of 2026 to implement the new arrangement whereby all Renminbi (RMB) counter stock transactions can pay stamp duty in RMB. (FSTB)
- The HKEX will continue to expand its overseas networks by proactively promoting Hong Kong's platform to issuers and capital from emerging markets, and consider adding more exchanges in the Middle East and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) region to its list of recognised exchanges, with a view to promoting secondary listing of overseas companies in Hong Kong, expanding market coverage and enhancing market activity. (FSTB)
- The HKEX and the SFC will proactively encourage China Concept Stock companies listed overseas to return to Hong Kong and provide assistance in their listing preparation, thereby establishing the city as their top choice for listing. (FSTB)
- The SFC will continue to work with regulators in the Mainland to encourage more Mainland enterprises to list in Hong Kong. (FSTB)
- Implement the inclusion of RMB trading counters under Southbound Trading of Stock Connect. (FSTB)
- The SFC and the HKEX will work together to implement the uncertificated securities market regime and establish a regulatory regime for securities registrars to raise market efficiency, strengthen investor protection and enhance transparency. (FSTB)

#### Build a world-leading bond market

· Actively take forward the measures set out on the Fixed Income and Currency Roadmap promulgated by the SFC and the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA), with a view to consolidating Hong Kong's status as a major bond and currency hub in the region. (FSTB)

- Focus in 2025 on expanding the use of securities lodged with the Central Moneymarkets Unit (CMU) of the HKMA, including offshore Chinese Government Bonds as collateral acceptable by Hong Kong and overseas clearing houses, as well as enhancing collateral management solutions, so as to promote the development of comprehensive multi-asset tri-party repo, thus further enhancing the recognition of RMB assets as international collateral. (FSTB)
- Enhance the services of CMU OmniClear under the HKMA by exploring jointly with the HKEX ways to enable investors to manage and cross-collateralise different assets such as stocks and bonds on a single platform, thereby fostering the "interplay between various mutual market access mechanisms". (FSTB)
- Continue to enhance the CMU's international network by establishing linkage with SIX (a Swiss securities custody and settlement system), the Central Bank of the United Arab Emirates and other markets, so as to widen international participation and cross-boundary mutual market access. (FSTB)
- The SFC will promote the establishment of a comprehensive over-the-counter (OTC) derivatives licensing regime capital requirement mechanism, and promote the development of foreign exchange and fixed income product markets (including interest rate, credit and repurchase agreements, etc.). (FSTB)
- · The SFC is looking into the feasibility of setting up and operating an electronic bond trading platform by the market, and is actively promoting the establishment of a commercial repo market and a central counterparty (CCP) regime in Hong Kong to increase market liquidity. (FSTB)

- Continue to discuss with relevant Mainland institutions to finalise the launch of offshore treasury bond futures in Hong Kong, enrich the variety of interest rate derivatives under Swap Connect, promote the development of OTC derivatives, and jointly launch the cross-boundary RMB repo business with the Mainland in due course. (FSTB)
- The SFC, the HKMA and the HKEX will strengthen their market engagement to encourage more enterprises to issue bonds in Hong Kong, with a view to attracting more global capital to invest in our bond market. (FSTB)

#### **Build a vibrant currency market**

- To enhance the liquidity and global reach of the offshore RMB market in Hong Kong, the HKMA will utilise the Currency Swap Agreement with the People's Bank of China to introduce the RMB Business Facility. The facility is designed to offer banks with RMB funding for providing trade finance, daily operation, capital expenditure and working capital related services in longer tenors to their corporate customers, with an aim to facilitating the use of RMB in real economic activities. The HKMA will continue to explore different cross-border funding channels, with a view to providing a stable source of relatively low-cost RMB funds for the market. (FSTB)
- The HKMA will enhance the existing RMB Liquidity Facility to allow more flexibility for banks in their short-term funding management, strengthening Hong Kong's role as the offshore RMB business hub. (FSTB)
- Continue to explore measures to promote more convenient foreign exchange quotations and transactions between RMB and regional domestic currencies in Hong Kong so as to facilitate the actual use of RMB in cross-boundary trade and investment. (FSTB)
- Encourage more listed companies to set up RMB stock trading counters. (FSTB)

 Increase the size of RMB government bond issuances to better meet the asset allocation needs of international investors, and will study the use of RMB to pay government expenditures under appropriate scenarios. (FSTB)

#### Expedite the building of an international gold trading market

- Support the Airport Authority Hong Kong (AAHK) and financial institutions to establish gold storage facilities in Hong Kong, with the target gold storing capacity of over 2 000 tonnes in three years, so as to develop our city into a regional gold reserve hub. (FSTB, TLB)
- Encourage gold traders to set up or expand refineries in Hong Kong, and explore with the Mainland the feasibility of processing supplied materials in the Mainland, with a view to exporting refined gold to Hong Kong for trading and delivery purposes. (FSTB)
- Establish a central clearing system for gold in Hong Kong to provide efficient and reliable clearing services for gold transactions in compliance with international standards, and invite the participation of the Shanghai Gold Exchange in order to prepare for mutual market access with the Mainland in the future. (FSTB)
- Offer a greater variety of gold investment vehicles by assisting issuers in issuing gold funds, and supporting the development of new investment products, such as tokenised gold. (FSTB)
- Support the trade to set up a trade association for the gold industry, with a view to establishing an exchange platform with the Government and regulators, step up promotional efforts and attract Belt and Road (B&R) clients, and strengthen talent training. (FSTB)

#### International risk management centre

- Encourage the participation of insurance funds in infrastructure financing with the introduction of legislative amendments in 2026 to lower capital requirements for infrastructure investment and provide concessions for local projects. (FSTB)
- Promote the development of exclusive captive and reinsurance business in Hong Kong, including continued effort to strive for more Mainland and overseas enterprises to establish captive insurers in Hong Kong. (FSTB)
- Facilitate the launch of more insurance products such as those related cross-boundary elderly care, cross-boundary driving and low-altitude economy. (FSTB)
- Continue to enhance and improve the Risk-based Capital regime for the Hong Kong insurance industry, including the implementation of the public disclosure requirements under Pillar 3. (FSTB)
- Continue to take forward the legislative preparatory work for establishing a policy holders' protection scheme, with the aim of strengthening protection for policy holders. (FSTB)

#### International asset and wealth management centre

- Endeavour to introduce a bill into the LegCo in the first half of 2026 to enhance the preferential tax regimes for funds, single family offices and carried interest, with a view to attracting more funds to establish a presence and be managed in Hong Kong. (FSTB)
- The SFC will strive for the inclusion of real estate investment trusts (REITs) under mutual market access to enhance the liquidity and attractiveness of REITs in both places. (FSTB)
- Facilitate enhancement of the Qualified Foreign Limited **Partnerships** (QFLP) mechanism, in particular by enhancing the collaboration with Qianhai and Shanghai to attract more foreign capital into the Mainland private capital market. (FSTB)

- The Hong Kong Investment Corporation Limited will, through direct investment or co-investment, nurture the development of local private equity and hedge fund institutions with good potential. (FSO)
- Enhance the New Capital Investment Entrant Scheme. For purchase of non-residential properties. the maximum amount investment to be counted will increase from \$10 million to \$15 million, and there will continue to be no transaction price threshold for properties. For purchase of residential properties, the maximum amount of investment to be counted will remain at \$10 million but the transaction price threshold will be lowered from \$50 million to \$30 million. (FSTB)
- · Achieve early the target of facilitating at least 200 family offices to set up operations or expand their business in Hong Kong by end-2025, and strive to facilitate at least 220 family offices to set up operations or expand their business in Hong Kong from 2026 to 2028. (FSTB)

#### **Enhance regulation of licensed** money lenders

• Issue the consultation conclusions on enhancing regulation of licensed money lenders in early 2026. (FSTB)

#### Steady development of Fintech

• The HKMA will publish a report detailing the results of the Ensemble Sandbox experimentation, and will take forward the next stage of work, including developing innovative financial market infrastructure, achieving interbank settlement of tokenised deposits, promoting real tokenised asset transactions such as settlement of tokenised money market funds using tokenised deposits, and encouraging banks to enhance risk management through the supervisory sandbox. (FSTB)

- With the aid of the Supervisory Incubator for Distributed Ledger Technology, the HKMA will further encourage banks to trial tokenised deposits and other Web3-related banking products, provide supervisory support and resources for the sector's innovative projects and advance the sustained development of the tokenisation ecosystem in Hong Kong. (FSTB)
- The HKMA will expand the Fintech Connect sourcing platform to foster collaboration between financial institutions and fintech solution providers. (FSTB)
- Implement the regulatory regime for stablecoin issuers, and ensure the sound, responsible and sustainable development of Hong Kong's stablecoin ecosystem in a risk-controlled environment by striking the right balance between innovative development and risk management. The HKMA will actively process the licence applications. (FSTB)
- Formulate the details of the licensing regimes for the regulation of digital asset dealing and custodian service providers, with the aim of introducing a bill into the LegCo in 2026. (FSTB)
- The SFC will study the possibility of offering a wider range of digital asset products and services to professional investors while ensuring investor protection. (FSTB)
- Conduct a public consultation exercise in the fourth quarter of 2025 on the implementation of the Crypto-Asset Reporting Framework of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, and introduce legislative proposals into the LegCo in 2026, with the target of achieving automatic exchange of tax-relevant crypto-asset transaction information with other tax jurisdictions starting from 2028 to combat cross-border tax evasion and enhance international tax transparency. (FSTB)
- The SFC will, through automatic reporting and data surveillance tools, establish Hong Kong's line of defence against risks associated with digital assets and promote steady market development. (FSTB)

- Further expand the scope of fintech co-operation the Guangdong-Hong in Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA) beyond Qianhai to other GBA cities, with a view to enhancing fintech innovation collaboration across the GBA. (FSTB)
- The HKMA will assist the Government in regularising the issuance of tokenised bonds, and work with the Government to jointly take forward a study on the applicability of existing legislation to tokenised bonds, and will, based on the findings, enhance and clarify relevant laws to promote the adoption of tokenisation technology in Hong Kong's bond market. The details will be announced in the first half of 2026. (FSTB)

#### **Development of green and** sustainable finance

- Continue to drive the development of green and sustainable finance in Hong Kong on various fronts, including the issuance of government sustainable bonds and expansion of the local green fintech ecosystem. (FSTB)
- The HKEX will strengthen co-operation on pilot testing with carbon markets in the GBA to test out the means of conducting cross-boundary trading settlement, with a view to jointly building the carbon market ecosystem in the GBA. (FSTB)
- Study various matters related to the country's participation in the international carbon market, such as the formulation of voluntary carbon credit standards and the methods for formulating such standards, as well as the registration, trading and settlement of reduced carbon emissions, together with relevant Mainland regulatory departments and authorities. (FSTB)
- The HKMA in partnership with HKEX is studying the application of tokenisation technology in carbon trading. (FSTB)
- Continue to collaborate with financial regulators and stakeholders to support the implementation of the Hong Kong Sustainability Disclosure Standards through enhancing capacity building and promoting the use of technological solutions. (FSTB)

#### International Trade Centre

#### Deepen international economic and trade networks

- · Strive to sign an investment agreement with Qatar as early as possible. (CEDB)
- Actively explore the signing of new investment agreements with Saudi Arabia, Bangladesh, Egypt and Peru to continuously expand Hong Kong's economic and trade networks. (CEDB)
- Continue to strive for the early accession to the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) to expand our economic and trade networks. (CEDB)
- Establish the Economic and Trade Office (ETO) in Kuala Lumpur by end-2025, which will work together with the ETOs in Jakarta, Singapore and Bangkok to deepen economic and trade promotion in the ASEAN and neighbouring countries. (CEDB)
- Continue to take forward the plan for setting up an ETO in Riyadh to further facilitate Hong Kong enterprises in tapping the Middle East market. (CEDB)
- Expand the ETO coverage to new markets with greater potential in Latin America and Central Asia, and join forces with the overseas networks of the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC) and the Invest Hong Kong (InvestHK) to enhance the economic and trade relations between Hong Kong and the relevant places. (CEDB)
- Continue to expand the network of comprehensive avoidance of double taxation agreements, with particular focus on covering B&R countries and ASEAN member states. (FSTB)

#### Promote digital trade

- The HKMA will formulate a roadmap by end-2025 following the launch of Project Cargo<sup>x</sup> early 2025. Through its Commercial Data Interchange (CDI), the HKMA is also conducting trial schemes involving AAHK and the Port Community System that aims to reduce the credit costs and processing time of banks and small and medium enterprises with cargo data. (FSTB, TLB)
- The HKMA will work with the Shanghai Municipal Bureau of Data and other parties to explore opportunities for cross-boundary financial co-operation under Ensemble, such as examining how to use tokenised electronic bills of lading and taking forward the project's interface with CDI and Project Cargo<sup>X</sup>, exploring the use of freight logistics data to promote trade financing between the two places. (FSTB)
- Recruit a logistics provider as an additional pilot participant of the Cross-boundary Express Cargo Clearance Facilitation Arrangement (CEFA) to enhance the efficiency of e-commerce shipment. (CEDB)
- Press ahead in full steam with the design and development of the information technology system for Phase 3 of the Trade Single Window to cover more trade documents, and the services are expected to be rolled out in phases starting from mid-2026. (CEDB)
- Take forward with the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China the connection of the single windows in Hong Kong and the Mainland and explore the feasibility of expanding the existing "Single Submission for Dual Declaration" Scheme to cover other trade documents and transport modes. (CEDB)
- Commence discussion with ASEAN to explore the possible connection with its single window and the types of trade documents to be covered. (CEDB)

• Put forward a legislative proposal within 2026 to amend local legislation with reference to the Model Law on Electronic Transferable Records, so as to provide a legal basis for the digitalisation of business-to-business (B2B) trade documents. (CEDB)

#### Promote commodity trading

- The London Metal Exchange, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the HKEX, has approved eight delivery warehouses in Hong Kong. Government will support the trade in setting up more approved warehouses. (FSTB)
- Initiate legislative amendments in the first half of 2026 to provide half-rate tax concession to commodity traders in an effort to attract them to establish their presence in Hong Kong, which will drive the demand for shipping and professional maritime services in Hong Kong. (TLB)
- Improve international commodity trade flows through financial innovation, including interfacing the experimental electronic platforms of the HKMA and the Banco Central do Brasil through a proof-of-concept approach, and their collaboration in the trial use of tokenised electronic bills of lading and tokenised deposit to facilitate trading. (FSTB)
- Deepen the connection and coordinated development between the HKEX and the Guangzhou Futures Exchange as well as other commodity markets in the Mainland, with a view to facilitating the internationalisation of our country's commodity market. (FSTB)
- Establish the Strategic Committee Commodities to be led by the Financial together Secretary, bringing trade representatives with the aim of strengthening the top-down design and formulation of policy and long-term strategy for commodities. (FSO, FSTB, TLB, CEDB)

#### **Enhance the protection of** consumers' rights and interests

• Conduct a comprehensive review of the Trade Descriptions Ordinance with a view to proposing legislative amendments for public consultation in early 2026, so as to further enhance the protection of consumers' rights and interests and combat more effectively common unfair trade practices. (CEDB)

#### Company re-domiciliation regime

 Continue to publicise the company re-domiciliation regime introduced in May 2025, and work with InvestHK, the HKEX and various ETOs to proactively reach out to major Hong Kong-listed companies domiciled overseas and other non-local companies, encouraging them to make full use of the regime to re-domicile to Hong Kong. (FSTB)

#### **International Shipping** Centre

#### Establish a comprehensive "railsea-land-river" intermodal transport system connecting to the inland region

- Actively expand sources of goods and strive to promote multimodal transport of goods from inland provinces and cities in the Mainland via rail, sea, land and river to international markets via Hong Kong. (TLB)
- Introduce a legislative proposal into the LegCo in the first half of 2026 to extend arrangements under the Air Transhipment Cargo Exemption Scheme to other intermodal cargo-transhipment modes to boost Hong Kong's competitiveness as a transhipment hub. (TLB)

#### **Build an international "Partner Port"** network

• Establish "partner port" relationships with Mainland regions of strategic collaboration significance as well as B&R regions, and lay the groundwork for the development of a green shipping corridor through signing memoranda of understanding with the first batch of partner ports during the Hong Kong Maritime Week to be held in November 2025. (TLB)

#### Develop a green maritime fuel bunkering centre

- Continue to implement the measures set out in the Action Plan on Green Maritime Fuel Bunkering, including encouraging the industry to conduct the first commercial green methanol bunkering operation in Hong Kong waters within 2026. (TLB)
- Introduce legislative amendment proposals into the LegCo by end-2025 to provide duty concessions for methanol used for bunkering for outbound vessels. (TLB)
- Commence a feasibility study on the provision of bunkering services for fuels such as green ammonia and hydrogen to pave the way for the next stage of development in green maritime fuel bunkering. (TLB)
- Build a green maritime fuel ecosystem, including inviting expressions of interest from the industry on developing green maritime fuel storage facilities within 2025. (TLB)
- Within 2026, start to require all vessels engaging in methanol bunkering in Hong Kong waters to be installed with mass flow meters to enhance efficiency in bunkering. (TLB)

- Continue to provide a matching collaborative platform for upstream and downstream stakeholders of the green maritime fuel supply chain (including suppliers, users and other ancillary service providers) to promote the trading of green maritime fuels in Hong Kong, and encourage the local industry to build a green fleet to facilitate the international export of Mainland-produced green maritime fuels. (TLB)
- Introduce a proposal into the LegCo within 2026 to re-arrange anchorages and nearby fairways with a view to providing suitable berthing arrangements for vessels engaged in green maritime fuel bunkering. (TLB)

#### Develop a digitalised port system

- Complete the development of the Port Community System by the end-2025 and launch it for use by the industry in January 2026. The system will provide cargo tracking function as well as value-added electronic services for custom declaration in the Mainland, and link up the sea, land and air transport networks to digitally connect trade and capital flows. (TLB)
- Enhance digital connectivity with more maritime communities and proactively interface with more logistics data networks in the GBA through the Port Community System in Hong Kong. (TLB)

#### Better harness the strengths of high value-added maritime services

- Enhance the existing tax concessionary measures for maritime service enterprises, including introducing new tax deduction arrangements for ship lessors, with relevant legislative amendment procedures to be undertaken in the first half of 2026. (TLB)
- Leverage the synergies between high value-added maritime services and financial services to facilitate the expansion of marine insurance business in Hong Kong, with a view to providing more diversified marine insurance products and more reliable service assurance for shipowners from our country and the rest of the world. (TLB, FSTB)

- Engage the industry to establish a marine specialty risk pool on a commercial basis, so as to enhance the underwriting capacity of Hong Kong's maritime insurance industry for both the local and Mainland markets. (FSTB)
- Set up a new dedicated team for promotion in the Middle East by end-2025, thereby widening the promotion network of the Hong Kong Shipping Registry. (TLB)
- Introduce amendments to the Merchant Shipping (Registration) Ordinance LegCo in 2026 for revamping the existing ship registration arrangements, including enhancing the adaptability of the registration system in accommodating the diverse and flexible operating models of international maritime enterprises (such as allowing vessels to hold dual registration); and strengthening the use of digital and other means to streamline registration process, providing more convenience to overseas shipowners. (TLB)

#### **Propel long-term maritime** development strategies

 The Hong Kong Maritime and Port Development Board helps formulate more outgoing and comprehensive strategies for promotion in the Mainland and overseas, and draw up overall development policies for the maritime industry, as well as identifying key areas for research. (TLB)

#### **Support modern logistics** development

• Continue with the timely implementation of the Action Plan on Modern Logistics Development and plan to dispose of a total of three logistics land parcels located in proximity to the Kwai Tsing Container Terminals by 2027 or earlier in an orderly manner subject to the market situation. (TLB)

 Promulgate the findings of the planning study on the development of modern logistics clusters in Hung Shui Kiu/Ha Tsuen New Development Area within 2025. Follow the enterprise-oriented principle and invite the industry to submit expressions of interest for the modern logistics clusters in 2026. After taking into account the intents of the industry, tender terms concerning the logistics land will be formulated to meet the development needs of the industry. (TLB)

#### International Aviation Hub

#### Accelerate the expansion of aviation network

- Continue to work with the AAHK to strategically attract local and non-local airlines to add new destinations and increase flight frequencies (including long-haul flights) through outreach teams, incentive schemes (such as the Air Network Development Programme), etc.. (TLB)
- Actively participate in international civil aviation conferences and take the initiative to visit aviation partners to discuss the establishment of new air services agreements or the expansion of traffic rights, with priority focus on regions with further development potential and new growth areas, such as South America, Central Asia, Africa and the Middle East. (TLB)

#### Improve GBA's intermodal network

- Expand the scope of Air Passenger Departure Tax exemptions to include passengers who arrive at Hong Kong by sea or by land for air transfer starting from October 2025. (TLB)
- The AAHK will continue to expand the city terminal network in the Mainland, and work with Zhuhai Airport to enhance the Fly-Via-Zhuhai-HK service, such as strengthening the land transport connection between the two airports and promoting the service to more Mainland cities. (TLB)

#### Take forward the expansion of **Airport City development**

- · Continue to proactively solicit business and attract investment for the construction of the Airport City and take forward various projects with a view to building a world-leading new landmark. (TLB)
- Complete the development of the AsiaWorld-Expo Phase 2 by 2028 to provide more world-class venues for conferences, exhibitions and performances. (TLB)
- Make planning for other projects such as an ecosystem for the arts industry and a jet fresh market for imported gourmet products to enrich the elements for the Airport City. (TLB)
- Commence the operation of the Coach Hall at the expanded Terminal 2 in September 2025, and other facilities of the terminal progressively starting from March/April 2026. (TLB)
- · Commission in phases the automated car park projects on the Hong Kong Port Island of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge for use by self-drive travellers from Guangdong and Macao, of which the "Park and Fly" Car Park is targeted for opening in November 2025 to tie in with the overall timetable of "Southbound Travel for Guangdong Vehicles". (TLB)
- Extend the autonomous transportation system of the Airportcity Link to Tung Chung Town Centre to form the Airport Tung Chung Link for targeted completion in 2028. (TLB)

#### Consolidate Hong Kong's position as the World's Top Cargo Hub

• While capitalising on the edge of the Three-Runway System to increase cargo throughput, the AAHK also takes forward the construction of the Hong Kong International Airport Dongguan Logistics Park to attract more import and export cargoes of the Mainland to use the air cargo services in Hong Kong. (TLB)

#### Support talent development of the aviation industry

- · Continue to provide support for addressing manpower requirements in the aviation industry through enhancing the training of local practitioners and nurturing new blood for the aviation industry through the Maritime and Aviation Training Fund and the Hong Kong International Aviation Academy, and enhance the education pathway in the industry. (TLB)
- The Government Flying Service will establish an international academy to offer practical training courses and develop young people's interest in pursuing a career in aviation, with a view to providing an additional source of manpower for the aviation industry. (SB)

#### **International Legal and Dispute Resolution Services Centre**

#### Commence operation of the **International Organization for Mediation's Headquarters**

- The International Organization for Mediation (IOMed) headquarters project was completed in mid-2025 and delivered to the IOMed Preparatory Office. The IOMed will be officially established in Hong Kong after the entry into force of the relevant international convention. The headquarters is expected to open by early-2026. (DoJ)
- Support the final preparatory work for the establishment of the IOMed, actively promote international mediation and organise activities centred on international mediation to tie in with the upcoming opening of the IOMed, including organising an international mediation summit in the Department of Justice's flagship event, Hong Kong Mediation Week, to affirm the positioning of Hong Kong as the capital for international mediation. (DoJ)

• Fully support the work of the IOMed, and actively organise international conferences, professional training and internship programmes, etc. to engage Hong Kong young people and legal talents to participate and serve in the IOMed, so as to nurture more international mediation talents for Hong Kong. (DoJ)

#### International legal hub

 Commence preparations for the construction of the Hong Kong International Legal Service Building adjacent to the IOMed headquarters, which will serve as the landmark of Hong Kong's international Legal Hub, housing the headquarters of the Hong Kong International Legal Talents Training Academy alongside international legal and dispute resolution service institutions, facilities for international legal conference, facilities for international legal research as well as arbitration and mediation, etc.. (DoJ)

#### Strengthen the promotion of Hong Kong's legal services

· Promote Hong Kong's legal services and co-ordinate with other professional services, such as accounting and finance services, so as to proactively engage with Mainland enterprises, consolidate information on professional service providers, etc. to meet the needs of Mainland enterprises in going global. (DoJ)

#### Mediation culture and arbitration development

- Implement the proposed measures to strengthen the regulatory system on the accreditation and disciplinary matters of the mediation profession in Hong Kong. (DoJ)
- · Actively enhance the promotion and talent training efforts in sports dispute resolution to tie in with the launch of the Pilot Scheme on Sports Dispute Resolution, with a view to fostering the use of sports mediation and arbitration in Hong Kong. (DoJ, CSTB)

- Continue to promote the Pilot Scheme on Community Mediation, and train community service staff to assist in resolving community disputes with mediation skill sets, with a view to fostering the wider use of mediation in the community. (DoJ)
- Establish a working group in 2026 or before to review the Arbitration Ordinance in order to ensure that the legislative framework for arbitration in Hong Kong stays at the forefront of international development. (DoJ)
- Further expand overseas publicity efforts by leading delegations from the local legal and dispute resolution sectors to visit overseas countries to promote the advantages of Hong Kong arbitration. (DoJ)