

The 2009-10 Policy Address
Policy Agenda

Policy Agenda

Introduction

Just before the last Policy Address was delivered, the credit crisis faced by financial institutions on Wall Street of the US broke out, unleashing the global financial tsunami. In view of the massive shock waves buffeting our economy, we need to clearly evaluate the situation and prepare ourselves to respond to the crisis. In response, the Chief Executive established the Task Force on Economic Challenges (TFEC) to implement immediate measures and formulate long term plans to help Hong Kong turn the crisis into opportunities.

The Government expected that the financial tsunami would have wide-ranging implications and the situation was far from optimistic. The Chief Executive put forward the overall strategy of “stabilising the financial system, supporting enterprises and preserving employment”, and introduced a series of measures to support our enterprises, create jobs and revitalise the economy. In the Budget announced in February 2009, the Government further adopted a counter-cyclical fiscal strategy to stimulate the economy. In May 2009, the Government announced a new round of relief measures to help Hong Kong people tide over the difficulties and prepare for economic recovery.

The latest economic figures indicate that both the local and external economies have started to stabilise gradually. Yet, the signs of a clear recovery have not fully emerged. We must remain cautious and do our best to boost the economy. This will be the primary focus of Government's policies in the coming year.

The pillar industries that have underpinned Hong Kong's success over the years, including financial services, trade and business, logistics and shipping, and tourism and professional services, etc., still enjoy strong advantages. But we need to innovate and enhance our competitiveness in response to competition from other cities in the region. We also need to broaden the foundation of our economy by promoting diversity and add new impetus for sustainable growth.

To this end, the TFEC has recommended the development of six industries where Hong Kong enjoys clear advantages, namely educational services, medical services, testing and certification, innovation and technology, cultural and creative industries, and environmental industry. We firmly believe that Hong Kong must evolve into a knowledge-based economy to grasp new opportunities. The six industries are all knowledge-based and to promote their development, the Government needs to adopt a new mindset and new attitudes. At the same time, we will step up co-operation with Guangdong on all fronts, and continue our endeavours in infrastructure facilities, industries co-operation, environmental protection and education, etc.

Hong Kong's experience shows that people's livelihood would only be safeguarded by economic growth. Faced with the current economic challenges, Hong Kong people are more concerned about their future and livelihood. We believe that once the economy starts to rebound, there will be more employment opportunities and wage levels will gradually pick up. Construction of major projects under planning in 2007, including the Hong Kong section of Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link and the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge, are planned to commence in 2009. They will provide economic benefits to all sectors of the community.

We also attach great importance to taking forward Hong Kong's constitutional development. We will consult the public, before the end of this year, on the electoral arrangements for 2012, and will strive to forge consensus within the community. Our aim is to enhance the democratic elements of the 2012 electoral methods, so as to pave the way for implementing universal suffrage in 2017 and 2020.

For Hong Kong to ride out the current economic storm, emerge from recession and chart new directions for our economy, we must rely on the hard work and dedication of every Hong Kong citizen. We must equip ourselves since opportunity only favours the prepared.

Chapter 1

Developing the Infrastructure for Economic Growth

Preamble

Infrastructure development is a driving force for Hong Kong's development. In the 1970s and 1990s, large-scale infrastructure projects provided the momentum for Hong Kong to develop into a cosmopolitan city.

The ten major infrastructure projects announced by the Chief Executive are being implemented. The construction of infrastructure for early development of Kai Tak commenced in July 2009 while site formation works for the new cruise terminal will commence before the end of 2009. The construction of both the Hong Kong section of Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link and the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge are planned to commence in 2009. The various major infrastructure developments will create ample employment opportunities and boost our Gross Domestic Product.

In terms of economic development, we will consolidate Hong Kong's status as a centre of financial services, trade and shipping while maintaining our leading position in tourism, logistics and aviation and maritime services. To further develop Hong Kong into a knowledge-based economy, we will also promote the development of six industries where Hong Kong enjoys clear advantages, namely, educational services, medical services, testing and certification, innovation and technology, cultural and creative industries, and environmental industry. In the face of global competition, the Government will enhance Hong Kong's competitiveness, improve the business environment and step up co-operation with Guangdong on all fronts.

New Initiatives

We will:

- Carry out the auction of radio frequency spectrum for the introduction of broadcast-type mobile TV services.
- Make available additional radio spectrum in various frequency bands for further development of public mobile services.
- Study the application of spectrum utilisation fees for administratively assigned spectrum to encourage more efficient use of the scarce frequency resources.
- Review the procedure for landing submarine cables in Hong Kong with a view to making it simpler and speedier for interested parties to install new submarine cables with or without affiliated data centres in cable landing stations.
- Review the local access charge for interconnection between the local networks operators and external telecommunications service providers to ensure a fair and updated regulatory regime conducive to service and technology developments in the telecommunications market.
- Introduce an R&D Cash Rebate Scheme to encourage companies to increase their investment in research and development and to reinforce their collaboration with the local public research institutions.

- Implement the Three Year Action Plan under the “Shenzhen-Hong Kong Innovation Circle” and promote closer co-operation between Hong Kong and Shenzhen in innovation and technology.
- Assist the Hong Kong Council for Testing and Certification to draw up a three-year market-driven industry development plan and promote the development of the testing and certification industry in Hong Kong.
- Explore actively with the Hong Kong Council for Testing and Certification to facilitate the development of Chinese medicine in Hong Kong through the provision of new accreditation services.
- Promote the development of Chinese medicine in Hong Kong by collaborating with experts from the Mainland, regional and international arena in the research and development of standards for 200 herbs. We have developed the standards for 60 commonly used herbs so far, and shall continue to develop the remaining ones.
- Formulate policy on promoting Hong Kong as a data centre hub.
- Strengthen the co-operation with Guangdong Province in taking forward the implementation of “The Outline of the Plan for the Reform and Development of the Pearl River Delta (2008-2020)”, including the drawing up of a framework agreement with Guangdong Province on co-operation between the two places. We will strengthen the functions and establishment of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong to prepare for the setting up of a dedicated unit for liaison with Shenzhen.
- Broaden the scope and depth of exchanges and interaction between Hong Kong and Taiwan to complement the establishment of the bilateral business co-operation committees in the two places.

- Enhance legal co-operation in civil and commercial matters between Hong Kong and the Mainland, to facilitate the resolution of civil and commercial disputes in a more convenient and cost-effective manner.
- Introduce policy measures to expedite the wholesale conversion or redevelopment of private industrial buildings, especially those situated in non-industrial areas, to provide premises and land to meet Hong Kong's changing economic and social needs.
- Launch strategic planning and technical studies to facilitate planned development of underground space aiming at promoting the enhanced use of rock caverns as part of Hong Kong's pursuit of sustainable development.
- Provide two sites within the urban area to support the development of self-financing degree programmes by interested sponsoring bodies.
- Increase the total commitment of the Start-up Loan Scheme by \$2 billion to provide loans to assist interested sponsoring bodies in developing college premises and facilities for the operation of self-financing degree programmes.
- Introduce legislative proposals to enhance protection for depositors, in the light of the outcome of the review of the Deposit Protection Scheme.
- Consult the public on proposals to establish a cross-sector investor education council and a financial dispute resolution scheme to strengthen preventive and remedial measures for investor protection.

- Consult the public on draft legislative provisions to impose statutory requirements on listed companies to disclose price sensitive information in a timely manner, with a view to cultivating a continuous disclosure culture among listed companies.
- Revisit, and conduct public consultation on, the introduction of a corporate rescue procedure to provide companies in financial trouble with an opportunity to turn around.
- Develop a closer working relationship with our counterparts in Guangdong and Macao through the setting up of a joint working group to strengthen anti-corruption support for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) including in particular those operating in the Pearl River Delta.
- Launch a comprehensive campaign reaching out to all stakeholders in relevant international ranking institutions to elucidate the ethics and integrity building efforts as related to the achievements of Hong Kong in the business community.

On-going Initiatives

We are:

- Continuing to strengthen regional co-operation through our co-operation mechanism with the Pan-Pearl River Delta Region; the Guangdong Province; the Municipalities of Beijing, Shanghai and Shenzhen; and the Macao Special Administrative Region.
- Following up with the relevant Mainland authorities on how the HKSAR could complement the preparation of the National 12th Five-Year Plan under the principle of “One Country, Two Systems”. The objectives are to help ensure that we can make necessary preparations to realise Hong Kong’s development potentials, and to facilitate our timely and effective contribution to the Mainland’s social and economic development during the 12th Five-Year Plan period.
- Participating actively in the work of the World Trade Organization to bring about continual trade liberalisation and to promote and protect the trade interest of Hong Kong.
- Encouraging more enterprises from the emerging markets in Russia, India and the Middle East to invest in Hong Kong and helping our enterprises tap the growing business opportunities in these markets.

- Encouraging more Mainland, Taiwan and overseas enterprises to invest and set up offices in Hong Kong; strengthening aftercare services and support to those enterprises already established here to encourage them to upgrade their presence; and undertaking joint promotional efforts with the Mainland authorities to promote the combined competitive advantages offered by Hong Kong and the Mainland.
- Working closely with the Mainland authorities to ensure the smooth and effective implementation of the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA); and seeking further trade liberalisation under CEPA, particularly for early and pilot implementation in Guangdong Province to complement the development direction in “The Outline of the Plan for the Reform and Development of the Pearl River Delta (2008-2020)”.
- Continuing to support Hong Kong enterprises on the development and promotion of Hong Kong brands to enable them to better compete in the Mainland and overseas markets.
- Continuing to support Hong Kong enterprises (in particular SMEs) through measures including various funding schemes.
- Working closely with the trade to facilitate the latter to adapt to the Mainland’s policy adjustments, to facilitate them to upgrade, restructure and relocate their operation, to develop new markets, as well as to reflect their views to the Mainland authorities.
- Further promoting and expanding trade, investment, tourism and other areas of economic co-operation between Hong Kong and Taiwan.

- Assessing the long-term demand for convention and exhibition infrastructure and making plans for the provision of additional facilities when needed.
- Preparing a Competition Bill for introduction into the Legislative Council in the 2009-10 legislative session, taking account of views put forward by stakeholders.
- Following through the enactment of the Copyright (Amendment) Bill 2009 in relation to the “business end-user copying/distribution offence” as well as rolling out targeted public education programmes before bringing the offence into operation.
- Taking forward various proposals for strengthening copyright protection in the digital environment with a view to introducing the relevant amendment bill into the Legislative Council in the second half of 2010.
- Continuing to promote awareness of and respect for intellectual property rights in the business sector, and to assist business, in particular SMEs, to achieve compliance with intellectual property rules.
- Continuing to support the further development of wine trading and distribution businesses in Hong Kong, riding on growing demand across Asia. Measures being pursued include trade and investment promotion, facilitating the movement of wine imports into the Mainland, introduction of a certification scheme for wine storage facilities, manpower training and education, combating counterfeits, and collaboration with trading partners.

- Taking forward a programme aimed at enhancing the aviation weather services for the Hong Kong International Airport, including the replacement/upgrading of the Hong Kong Observatory's meteorological equipment.
- Continuing to pursue measures to facilitate the movement of people and goods across the boundary, with a view to maintaining Hong Kong's competitiveness. These include the further promotion of self-service immigration clearance to visitors, and the promulgation of a "Road Cargo System" in 2010 that provides the electronic infrastructure for facilitating customs clearance of road cargoes.
- Implementing measures in providing greater immigration convenience to Hong Kong and Macao residents travelling between the two places.
- Together with local stakeholders and Mainland tourism authorities, continuing the promotion of honest tourism and hospitality culture to further uplift the quality of Hong Kong's tourism services.
- Supporting the Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTB) in its promotion work in key source markets, in particular in its effort to help the trade tide over the challenges arising from the global economic crisis and human swine influenza.
- Supporting HKTB's dedicated office "Meetings and Exhibitions Hong Kong" and continuing partnership with our local and overseas networks to promote MICE (meetings, incentive travels, conventions and exhibitions) tourism in Hong Kong.

- Pursuing the early completion of a new cruise terminal at Kai Tak; and continuing to work closely with the Advisory Committee on Cruise Industry to develop Hong Kong into a leading cruise hub in the region for local, regional and international visitors.
- Co-ordinating efforts of Government and the tourism industry to facilitate the operation and development of major tourism infrastructure facilities, including –
 - (a) planning and co-ordinating new projects including the enhancement of the Lei Yue Mun waterfront, development of a piazza in Tsim Sha Tsui and development of Bruce Lee's Residence;
 - (b) promoting new tourism products, such as the Former Marine Police Headquarters Historic Compound and the Noah's Ark;
 - (c) liaising closely with the Ocean Park and relevant parties to ensure smooth implementation of the Park's redevelopment and hotel projects; and
 - (d) overseeing the implementation of the Hong Kong Disneyland expansion plan.
- Closely monitoring the rollout of the CDMA2000 mobile service to strengthen Hong Kong's strategic position as a world city and the gateway between the Mainland and the world.
- Examining the feasibility of introducing radio spectrum trading in Hong Kong.

- Continuing to implement the 2008 Digital 21 Strategy and developing new action plans based on the key focus areas in the Strategy and the Statements of Desired Outcomes, so as to harness the benefits of IT for business and citizens and to strengthen Hong Kong's position as a leading digital city in the world.
- Continuing with the scheme on the commercial exploitation of the intellectual property in the Government IT systems originally developed by contractors for creating a better business environment for Hong Kong.
- Continuing with the procurement arrangement for IT professional services that focuses on overall value to the Government and sustains the vibrant economy.
- Reviewing the outcome of the pilot e-procurement programme to handle low-value, high-volume purchases to improve internal efficiency and encourage external suppliers to adopt e-commerce.
- Strengthening support for information technology industries, including facilitating market access.
- Upholding our information security policies and practices and developing a strong culture of data protection. Continuing to promote information security to the public on the proper use of computing facilities and ways to protect their computer resources and information assets.

- Extending the coverage of digital terrestrial television progressively with the building of 22 supplementary transmission stations from 2009 to 2011 and studying the feasibility of making use of this opportunity to improve television reception in certain remote and less populated areas; and closely monitoring the take-up situation, market and technology development of digital terrestrial television.
- Consulting the public on how best Radio Television Hong Kong should operate to achieve its mission as a public service broadcaster, the programming direction it should take, the ways and means to evaluate its performance and enhance its accountability to the community.
- Introducing the legislative proposal for the establishment of a new Communications Authority to enhance regulatory co-ordination and efficiency and facilitate further development of the electronic communications industry.
- Promoting applied research and development (R&D) and technology transfer to the industry through the R&D Centres and the Innovation and Technology Fund.
- Enhancing collaboration in science and technology with the Mainland at different levels.
- Continuing with the construction works for the Central Government Complex, Legislative Council Complex and open space development at the Tamar site with a view to completing the works by 2011.

- Enhancing our capability to resolve cross-bureaux and cross-departmental issues relating to major infrastructure, to conduct high level public engagement, and to address strategic issues which might impede progress in the major infrastructure projects.
- Reviewing the strategy on manpower resources in individual sectors of the construction industry to meet the demand for the implementation of the upcoming infrastructure projects.
- Continuing with the detailed engineering study including design for the Liantang/Heung Yuen Wai Boundary Control Point and passenger building as well as the access road network.
- Carrying out the North East New Territories New Development Area Planning and Engineering Study (NENT NDA Study) — comprising Kwu Tung North, Fanling North and Ping Che/Ta Kwu Ling NDAs with a view to providing housing land and meeting other land use requirements in the future, and preparing for the commencement of the Hung Shui Kiu NDA study. We aim to complete the NENT NDA Study by 2011.
- Co-operating closely with the Shenzhen Municipal Government through the “Hong Kong-Shenzhen Joint Task Force on Boundary District Development” in jointly undertaking studies to explore the feasibility of developing the Lok Ma Chau Loop, with higher education as the leading land use, complemented with hi-tech R&D development as well as cultural and creative industries. The Task Force will continue to steer further research and planning work on other cross-boundary development issues like border crossings and the development of the boundary areas.

- Undertaking the necessary legislative and administrative measures with a view to reducing the coverage of the Frontier Closed Area and preparing development plans for the land to be released from the Area.
- Pressing ahead with the implementation of mega projects essential to Hong Kong's economic development, such as the Kai Tak Development through close supervision at a high level.
- Continuing to work closely with the Construction Industry Council (CIC) to pursue initiatives for improving the standards of the construction industry, in particular on promoting construction site safety.
- Continuing with the comprehensive review of the manpower situation in the construction industry in collaboration with CIC.
- Working closely with the Construction Workers Registration Authority to facilitate registration of construction workers and implementation of prohibition in phases.
- Strengthening collaboration with the Mainland authorities to assist the local construction industry in exploring business prospects and pursuing mutual recognition of professional qualifications under CEPA, and with Mainland cities in the secondment of graduate trainees to encourage exchange of talent and enhance co-operation.
- Taking into account views of key stakeholders to refine proposed amendments to the Land Titles Ordinance with an aim to putting forward the changes involved to the Legislative Council for deliberation within 2010.

- Progressively implementing the proposals in the Revised Concept Plan for Lantau to realise the vision for balanced and co-ordinated development of Lantau.
- Monitoring the pilot scheme of including “hotel use only” sites in the Application List to encourage the development of hotels to support our tourism industry.
- Working with the Hong Kong Housing Society and the Construction Industry Council to bring to fruition their respective senior citizens housing project and construction workers training centre at Area 115 and Area 112 respectively of Tin Shui Wai and continuing to identify other land use proposals for the remaining portion of Area 112 with a view to creating more local job opportunities.
- Continuing to work closely with the arts sector to strengthen our cultural software and human resources in preparation for the West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD). We have enhanced our funding support to the performing arts groups to launch more arts education and audience building initiatives. The Leisure and Cultural Services Department has also strengthened their arts education and audience building work.
- Assisting the WKCD Authority in the preparation of the Development Plan for the WKCD, which includes organising public engagement exercise to seek views of the public and various stakeholders including the arts and cultural sector and in other strategic matters to bring the operation of the Authority into full swing.

- Continuing with the investigation and design of the proposed Tuen Mun-Chek Lap Kok Link and with public engagement on the alignment options for the Tuen Mun Western Bypass.
- Overseeing the implementation of the improvement of the expressway section of Tuen Mun Road and finalising the preparatory work for the widening of the town centre section.
- Studying in conjunction with the Airport Authority the engineering and environmental feasibility of building a new runway at the Hong Kong International Airport.
- Improving air traffic management through the establishment of a new air route to cater for flights between Hong Kong and the eastern part of the Mainland and the implementation of the recommendations of a study to increase our runway capacity by improving the existing infrastructure of the Hong Kong International Airport, air traffic control and flight procedures.
- Continuing to foster closer co-operation between the Hong Kong International Airport and Shenzhen Airport, including further planning of the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Express Line as a multi-purpose railway which complements the planning and development of Qianhai, Shenzhen and northwestern part of the New Territories and exploits the synergy from the complementary strengths of the two airports.
- Reviewing the demand for air services from time to time and continuing to formulate appropriate development strategies to support the continued growth and development of the civil aviation industry.

- Continuing to assist the Airport Authority to expand inter-modal connections to strengthen the links between the Hong Kong International Airport and the Pearl River Delta Region.
- Replacing the Civil Aviation Department's (CAD) air traffic control system and developing a new CAD Headquarters on the Airport Island to support the long-term growth of the aviation industry.
- Continuing with the review on the regulatory regime of the Air Transport Licensing Authority for our local airlines.
- Promoting ship finance in Hong Kong.
- Implementing measures to enhance the competitiveness of the Hong Kong Port.
- In the context of cross-boundary logistics co-operation, further enhancing collaboration on the basis of the achievements so far, and continuing to discuss with the Guangdong authorities measures to reduce cross-boundary trucking cost, with a view to enhancing freight flow and logistics efficiency between the two sides.
- Facilitating the development of a logistics cluster and high value-added third party logistics services in Hong Kong by making available suitable sites around the Kwai Tsing area and keeping in view the development of the Lantau Logistics Park in the light of the need of the logistics sector and the global and local economic situation.

- Pressing ahead for the completion and commissioning of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge by 2015-16 by finalising the financing arrangement between the three governments concerned and the lead bank in respect of the main bridge and completing its preliminary design for commencement of construction in phases by the end of 2009; and by on-time completion of the necessary statutory procedures for the works within Hong Kong and the detailed design of the boundary crossing facilities and the link road between them and the main bridge.
- Pursuing vigorously the Hong Kong section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link, so that construction may start in 2009 with estimated completion in 2015.
- Monitoring the progress of the West Island Line for timely commissioning in 2014.
- Continuing with the planning and design of the Shatin to Central Link and the Kwun Tong Line Extension with a view to commencing construction as soon as practicable.
- Continuing with the planning and design of the South Island Line (East) with a view to commencing construction in 2011.
- Continuing to pursue the planning of the Northern Link in conjunction with the planned developments in the New Territories.
- Launching the sale of the remaining surplus Home Ownership Scheme flats in phases.

- Exploring further opportunities for the legal profession to tap into the Mainland legal services under CEPA and strengthening co-operation between the legal professions in Hong Kong and the Mainland.
- Promoting the development of Hong Kong as a regional centre for legal services and dispute resolution.
- Promoting legislation to reform the law of Arbitration to provide for the unification of legal regimes for domestic and international arbitration and make both the law and the process more user-friendly.
- Continuing to advance financial co-operation with the Mainland and develop a mutually-assisting, complementary and interactive relationship between the financial systems of the two places, which includes seeking for the expansion of the presence of Hong Kong financial institutions on the Mainland; encouraging Mainland funds, investors and financial institutions to go overseas through Hong Kong; strengthening the links of the financial markets in Hong Kong and the Mainland; continuing to expand the Renminbi business in Hong Kong; and enhancing the financial infrastructural links between Hong Kong and the Mainland.
- Continuing to strengthen Hong Kong-Guangdong financial services co-operative relationships under the framework of Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation Joint Conference.
- Seeking to broaden the source of corporations using Hong Kong as a platform for listing with a view to facilitating and attracting listings of quality overseas companies.

- Promoting the development of an Islamic bond market in Hong Kong by amending the taxation laws to accommodate transactions of Islamic bonds in our conventional systems.
- Reviewing and strengthening the supervisory framework for authorised institutions in Hong Kong to further enhance the resilience of Hong Kong's banking system and reinforce our role as an international financial centre, in the light of the recommendations from the Financial Stability Board, Basel Committee on Banking Supervision and other relevant international organisations.
- Promoting Hong Kong's asset management industry with a view to enhancing Hong Kong's position as a major asset management centre in Asia.
- Promoting the further development of the local bond market by implementing the Government Bond Programme. Also, the Hong Kong Monetary Authority will continue to enhance the Exchange Fund Bills and Notes Programme by suitably adjusting the maturity profiles of the Exchange Fund Bills and Notes and promoting the use of the electronic trading platform for the Exchange Fund Bills and Notes.
- Promoting the quality of our financial markets through enhancing the regulatory regime and our financial infrastructure (including the implementation of a scripless securities market and transfer of the public offering regime for structured products from the Companies Ordinance to the Securities and Futures Ordinance) and fostering good corporate governance practices, having regard to the latest development of the financial markets in Hong Kong and around the world.

- Preparing proposals on the setting up of an independent Insurance Authority for consultation with stakeholders.
- Conducting the rewrite of the Companies Ordinance with a view to providing Hong Kong with a modernised legal infrastructure attuned to its needs in the 21st century as an international business and financial centre.
- Reviewing the Trustee Ordinance with a view to strengthening the competitiveness of Hong Kong's trust services industry and enhancing Hong Kong's position as an international financial centre.
- Preparing legislation to enhance the anti-money laundering regulatory regime in respect of the financial sectors to better align with prevailing international standards.
- Preparing proposals to consult the public on the establishment of an insurance policyholders' protection fund in collaboration with the industry to improve market stability and safeguard the interest of policyholders in the event of insolvency of an insurer.

Chapter 2

Quality City And Quality Life

Preamble

The development of Hong Kong into a knowledge-based economy requires talent from around the world, and a quality city life is essential to attracting talent. The concept of “Progressive Development” advocated by the Chief Executive is to develop a quality city life by striking a balance between economic development and environmental conservation. In the past two years, the Government made substantial progress in implementing environmental protection initiatives and relevant legislative work was completed on schedule. Environmental protection is a long-term continuing commitment. The Government will continue to promote regional co-operation to improve air quality within the region, and develop the Pearl River Delta (PRD) Region into a green and quality living area. Global warming is an international concern. We will prepare for this challenge with early planning. In particular, we will enhance energy efficiency and promote a low carbon economy — an economy based on low energy consumption and pollution. We will also continue to push ahead with on-going initiatives in culture and the arts, information, creativity, greening, and heritage preservation, etc., and will propose new initiatives to make Hong Kong a more attractive quality city.

We will also continue our efforts in beautifying the coasts of the Victoria Harbour by turning it into a landmark to be enjoyed by our people and visitors alike.

New Initiatives

We will:

- Commence the mid-term review of the two commercial sound broadcasting service licences with a view to gauging the public feedback on the radio services provided by the incumbent licensees.
- Facilitate new generation film directors to promote their production projects to the Mainland and Taiwan and explore co-operation opportunities through arranging business matching visits.
- Review the arrangements of telephone directory services to facilitate effective use of resources by fixed network operators to maximise consumer benefits.
- Provide support to projects that are conducive to the development of local creative industries through the \$300 million CreateSmart Initiative.
- Work with creative industries sector to develop a creative industries cluster.
- Seek to showcase the achievements of Hong Kong's creative industries outside Hong Kong. We will support the local publication industry to participate in the Frankfurt Book Fair and promote the sector at one of the most prestigious international events of the industry. We will also introduce measures to support our creative talents to participate in overseas competitions.

- Work with our creative industries to organise a wide range of activities in Shanghai during the six-month period of the Shanghai Expo to promote our creative sector in the Mainland.
- Work with our creative industries to introduce trainee and internship programmes to help train new blood for the creative sector.
- Enhance the creative climate in the community by introducing an open competition for the development of the corporate identity of CreateHK and for the Government to set a model in the use of local creativity for the private sector to follow.
- Support the organisation of a major regional forum to stimulate creativity among our youth population and encourage them to make a difference and to establish Hong Kong as a capital for holding signature creativity events in the region.
- Support a wide range of events to complement our annual Business of Design Week to be held in December each year to build up public awareness of design, encourage community participation and enhance Hong Kong's position in the international design community.
- Seek to set up a digital distribution network to facilitate distribution of film from overseas sources to local digital cinemas through electronic means.
- Support a project to incorporate various creative industries elements such as design and architecture in the secondary school curriculum to develop students' appreciation of and interest in creativity.

- Establish a Centre for Creative Science and Technology in the Hong Kong Science Park for nurturing youngsters' interest in science and technology.
- Establish a Greening, Landscape and Tree Management Section in the Development Bureau, underpinned by a Greening and Landscape Office and a Tree Management Office, to facilitate the adoption of a holistic approach in the policy and implementation aspects of greening, landscape and tree management; to ensure more effective co-ordination across departments in their tree preservation efforts and to enhance expertise in the management of trees.
- Review the current minor works delivery system with a view to enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of the service.
- Propose amendments to the Lift and Escalator (Safety) Ordinance with a view to enhancing lift/escalator safety.
- Introduce a voluntary "Water Efficiency Labelling Scheme" (WELS) to promote public awareness of water conservation and facilitate users' choice of water efficient plumbing fixtures and appliances.
- Relax the statutory food room requirements for licensed restaurants and factory canteens through legislative amendments.
- Follow up on the recommendations of the review on hawker licensing, including the issuing of fixed-pitch hawker licences after consultation with the relevant District Councils.

- Further strengthen our arts and cultural development by taking a three-pronged approach: (1) capacity building, (2) audience building, and (3) arts education and manpower training so as to bring arts to the people for everyone to enjoy a rich, quality life.
- Increase the greening ratio of all new public rental housing estates to at least 20%. We will also provide green roofs in low-rise buildings and provide vertical greening in some pilot projects wherever feasible.
- Work with the Guangdong authorities to map out the post-2010 emission reduction arrangements to further improve the regional air quality.
- Expand the scope of the five-year “Cleaner Production Partnership Programme” to provide professional and technical support to Hong Kong-owned factories in the PRD Region in the area of effluent reduction and control.
- Collaborate with the two power companies to launch a leasing scheme of electric vehicles by end 2010, so as to expose a wider section of the community to electric vehicle driving experience.
- Formulate and promulgate the specific arrangements for Hong Kong enterprises’ participation in Clean Development Mechanism projects in the Mainland.

- Expand green procurement in the Government by proactively applying the green specifications developed for some 60 products commonly procured by Government departments. We shall also progressively expand green procurement in the Government and devise clear green procurement guidelines for departments in order to implement the green procurement policy.
- Invite all schools to sign a green lunch charter to avoid the use of disposable containers and cutlery, and to reduce food waste. With funding support from the Environment and Conservation Fund, encourage schools to make new installations to facilitate green lunch.

On-going Initiatives

We are:

- Continuing our preparation for participation in the Shanghai Expo 2010 to showcase HKSAR's unique strengths, quality city life and position as a creative capital.
- Promoting a culture of innovation and technology to the general public, particularly the younger generation.
- Implementing the DesignSmart Initiative to promote wider use of design and innovation in industries to help them move up the value chain.
- Promoting Hong Kong design and encouraging the use of design to add value to our goods and services and Government's interface with the public, through enhanced support for the Hong Kong Design Centre.
- Continuing with the mid-term review of the domestic free television programme service licences with a view to gauging public feedback on the analogue and digital services provided by the licensees.
- Promoting the development of the film industry through implementing recommendations from the Film Development Council.
- Promoting Hong Kong films to Mainland and South East Asian markets through organising film festivals and business matching activities in these places.

- Continuing with the review of the operation of the Film Development Fund aiming to implement improvement measures in 2010.
- Supporting, through the Film Development Fund, the production of a teaching kit to incorporate elements of film and animation in the new secondary school curriculum of visual arts to cultivate students' appreciation of creativity.
- Supporting, through the Film Development Fund, the Hong Kong Baptist University for procuring start-up equipment for the launching of a Film Academy in 2009.
- Engaging our creative industry in our participation in the Urban Best Practices Area Exhibition of the Shanghai Expo to be held in 2010.
- Enhancing support to the development of design, culture and creativity in the areas of teacher professional development programmes, learning and teaching resources, student learning experiences and student assessment across the school curricula so as to enhance primary and secondary students' creativity.
- Continuing our support for initiatives to nurture creative talent. We will continue to promote the Jockey Club Creative Arts Centre opened in March 2008 to the arts community and the public.
- Formulating marketing and communications strategies for launching the updated Brand Hong Kong in 2010 locally, in the region and internationally. In particular, we will ride on the Shanghai Expo to be held in May 2010 to promote our updated Brand.

- Working closely with the six selected non-profit-making organisations (NPOs) to implement projects in the first batch of buildings under the “Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme” (Revitalisation Scheme).
- Launching the second batch of buildings under the Revitalisation Scheme for adaptive re-use of five historic buildings through the operation of social enterprises by NPOs.
- Planning to invite commercial tenders for the revitalisation and adaptive re-use of the Haw Par Mansion.
- Taking forward the conservation and revitalisation of the Central Police Station Compound in partnership with the Hong Kong Jockey Club.
- Proceeding to invite proposals from NPOs for the revitalisation and adaptive re-use of the original site of the Central School (i.e. the Former Police Married Quarters Site on Hollywood Road) for the promotion of creative industries.
- Continuing with the development of a comprehensive cycle track network in the New Territories to improve the quality of living.
- Continuing to press ahead with the detailed design and construction works for the comprehensive water mains replacement and rehabilitation programme.
- Continuing with the decking and/or landscaping of 16 sections of nullahs with a view to completion by 2014 to improve the living environment.

- Taking forward the preliminary design of the improvement work for the Yuen Long Town Centre Nullah to enhance the local environment quality and the ecological value of the nullah.
- Continuing to promote the wider use of energy efficient devices and adoption of renewable energy systems in public works projects.
- Implementing the greening works recommended in the Greening Master Plans (GMPs) for remaining urban areas. Thereafter, we will move onto the preparation of GMPs for the New Territories.
- Finalising a policy review on the provision of public open space in private developments, including proposed management guidelines to be promulgated for the operation of public open space in private developments.
- Collaborating with the Council for Sustainable Development to consult the public on appropriate measures to be taken to reduce the bulk of buildings and foster a better and more sustainable built environment.
- Developing a performance-based regulatory system to facilitate modern and innovative building design.
- Implementing the minor works control system in accordance with the Buildings (Amendment) Ordinance 2008 and the Building (Minor Works) Regulation which will streamline statutory procedures for processing minor works in order to improve building control and building safety.

- Preparing for the introduction of a bill on a mandatory building inspection scheme and a mandatory window inspection scheme to require private building owners to inspect their buildings and windows regularly into Legislative Council in 2009-10.
- Working closely with the Hong Kong Housing Society and the Urban Renewal Authority (URA) to implement the \$2-billion “Operation Building Bright” to assist owners of old and dilapidated target buildings to conduct repair and maintenance works. We are also continuing our efforts to enhance building management and maintenance of private buildings through public education, publicity and participation of professional bodies.
- Implementing the flood prevention programme to enhance the protection level in flood prone areas and aiming to complete the review of the Drainage Master Plans for northern and northwestern New Territories in early 2011.
- Commencing the Landslip Prevention and Mitigation Programme covering man-made slopes as well as natural terrains posing risks to dovetail with the successful completion of the Landslip Preventive Measures Programme.
- Working closely with the URA on area improvement schemes in Wan Chai and Mong Kok aimed at preserving local characteristics as well as beautifying the area.
- Continuing to stipulate in all outline zoning plans clear development restrictions on plot ratio/gross floor area, site coverage and/or building height where justified to improve the living environment.

- Finalising the revised scheme of property development of a reduced development intensity at Yuen Long Station along the West Rail.
- Strengthening our work on harbourfront planning and implementing harbourfront enhancement initiatives for the enjoyment of our residents and visitors alike, with the participation of the community, as well as ensuring that our planning, land use and urban design are in line with our stated mission to protect the Victoria Harbour.
- Continuing with the Urban Renewal Strategy Review with a view to building consensus upon completion of the review by mid-2010.
- Providing one-stop advisory and co-ordination services through the newly established Development Opportunities Office to land development proposals by non-government organisations (NGOs) and the private sector that will bring broader economic and social benefits to society.
- Working with the Guangdong authorities to formulate a strategy to transform the PRD Region into a green and quality living area.
- Introducing a bill for the mandatory implementation of the Building Energy Codes to the Legislative Council in 2009.
- Continuing to promote the building energy efficiency funding schemes, with \$150 million and \$300 million allocated by the Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF) to subsidise building owners to carry out energy-cum-carbon audits and energy efficiency projects respectively. The two funding schemes have been open for application since April 2009. Up to end September 2009, 108 funding applications, amounting to \$24.9 million have been approved.

- Implementing a comprehensive target-based green performance framework for new and existing government buildings to continue promoting environmental protection and energy conservation in government buildings.
- Implementing energy efficiency demonstration projects to demonstrate state-of-the-art energy efficient designs and technologies.
- Implementing the district cooling system at Kai Tak Development to meet the demand of air-conditioning for public and private non-domestic developments.
- Introducing amendments to the Energy Efficiency (Labelling of Products) Ordinance to the Legislative Council in 2009 for the second phase of the Mandatory Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme.
- Promoting the replacement of incandescent light bulbs by compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) through various means. Residential electricity account holders will receive cash coupons on CFLs. Moreover, we plan to consult the public on progressively restricting the sales of incandescent light bulbs.
- Continuing to study the issue of energy wastage of external lighting, and assess the feasibility of regulating external lighting by legislation.
- Continuing to monitor the progress of the two power companies in developing commercial-scale wind energy projects.

- Tightening progressively the caps on the total emissions of power companies according to the Air Pollution Control Ordinance, and requiring them to maximise the use of natural gas in power generation.
- Continuing with the implementation of the Regional Air Quality Management Plan together with the Guangdong Provincial Government to reduce the emission of four major air pollutants in the PRD with a view to achieving the joint emission reduction targets.
- Continuing to tighten vehicle emission and fuel standards following the EU's practices.
- Developing a proposal for stakeholder consultation with a view to strengthening the control of emissions from petrol and Liquefied Petroleum Gas vehicles, including the use of roadside remote sensing equipment and dynamometers for emission testing.
- Introducing the enabling legislation for implementing a statutory ban on idling vehicles with running engines to the Legislative Council in 2009-10.
- Providing incentives to encourage owners of pre-Euro and Euro I diesel commercial vehicles to replace their old vehicles with those complying with the prevalent emission requirements for newly registered vehicles before the lapse of the scheme by 31 March 2010.
- Encouraging the use of environment-friendly private petrol cars and commercial vehicles by reduction in first registration tax.

- Making Euro V motor vehicle fuels, with 80% less sulphur content than Euro IV motor vehicle fuels, the statutory standard.
- Promoting the use of biodiesel as a motor vehicle fuel by committing to a duty-free policy and introducing regulatory control for such use of biodiesel.
- Drawing up a proposal to control the emissions of off-road mobile sources, including implementation of statutory emission standards for mobile machinery, for trade consultation.
- Conducting a trial to study the technical feasibility of local ferries using ultra-low sulphur diesel, with a view to mapping out the way forward having regard to the findings after completion of the trial in 2010.
- Introducing legislation to accelerate the phasing out of hydrochlorofluorocarbons to meet the new phasing out schedule agreed by the Montreal Protocol in September 2007.
- Introducing legislation to extend the control of the Air Pollution Control (Volatile Organic Compounds) Regulation to limit the contents of volatile organic compounds in adhesives, sealants, vehicle refinishing paints and marine vessels paints.
- Consulting the public on the proposed new Air Quality Objectives (AQOs) and package of proposed emission control measures with a view to updating Hong Kong's AQOs and developing implementation programmes on air quality management.

- Undertaking a comprehensive consultancy study on climate change to assess its impact on Hong Kong and recommend suitable strategies to enhance further our existing adaptation and mitigation measures.
- Continuing to implement the initiatives in “A Policy Framework for the Management of Municipal Solid Waste in Hong Kong (2005-2014)” by –
 - (a) extending the territory-wide source separation of waste programme to promote waste recovery both at home and at work;
 - (b) monitoring the development of Phase I and Phase II of EcoPark;
 - (c) completing the baseline survey to collect information on waste generation pattern and waste management practices among different types of commercial and industrial establishments, and developing possible options for municipal solid waste charging for consultation;
 - (d) implementing the three landfill extension schemes upon completion of feasibility and environmental impact assessment studies;
 - (e) carrying out of feasibility and environmental impact assessment studies for the Integrated Waste Management Facilities; and
 - (f) carrying out feasibility and environmental impact assessment studies for the Organic Waste Treatment Facilities.

- Monitoring the implementation of the Environmental Levy Scheme on Plastic Shopping Bags, as the first mandatory Producer Responsibility Scheme under the Product Eco-responsibility Ordinance, and reviewing the effectiveness of the scheme after implementation.
- Consulting the public and stakeholders with a view to introducing a mandatory Producer Responsibility Scheme for waste electrical and electronic equipment.
- Completing the upgrading of the Chemical Waste Treatment Centre in 2010 to meet the latest EU air-emission standards.
- Commencing the construction of the sludge treatment facility in 2010-11 to avoid the disposal of large amount of sewage sludge at landfills.
- Continuing to deliver inert construction and demolition materials to the Mainland for reclamation purposes. We will liaise with the Mainland authorities to identify more possible sites for their reuse.
- Commissioning the advance disinfection of the wastewater from Stage 1 of the Harbour Area Treatment Scheme by end 2009 while implementing Stage 2 in phases with the aim of completing Stage 2A within 2014. Based on the results of a review in 2010-11, we will decide on the timing for building the biological treatment plant under Stage 2B.
- Overseeing the implementation of the pilot scheme on management agreement and Public-Private-Partnership promulgated under the New Nature Conservation Policy, with the objective of enhancing conservation of ecologically important habitats on private land.

- Seeking to designate the Geopark areas as protected areas, together with stepping up publicity and education efforts on geo-conservation, in order to better preserve Hong Kong's unique and valuable geological resources.
- Amending the Marine Parks and Marine Reserves Regulation to ban commercial fishing in marine parks for improving ecosystems in marine parks and offering better protection for marine organisms.
- Continuing the public engagement process for the Sustainable Development Strategy for Hong Kong, with the aim of encouraging greater public awareness of and participation in this process.
- Continuing the support of ECF to projects in the following areas in order to further promote public awareness on environmental protection and strengthen international and regional collaboration to address environmental challenges –
 - (a) support greening/waste reduction/energy efficiency projects for schools, community buildings and charitable organisations;
 - (b) support energy audits and installation projects for buildings to promote energy conservation under the Building Energy Efficiency Funding Scheme, as well as support energy audits and energy conservation projects in NGO buildings in collaboration with the Hong Kong Council of Social Services and the two power companies;
 - (c) support the operation of two processing centres by NGOs for waste plastics and waste electrical and electronic equipment respectively at EcoPark;

- (d) support international conferences to promote exchanges amongst policy-makers, professionals as well as other stakeholders on latest developments and best practices on environment and conservation matters;
 - (e) support projects from District Councils and community groups to implement district-based projects on low carbon lifestyle promotion, energy efficient installation and waste reduction; and
 - (f) support projects in conserving and enhancing the biodiversity of ecologically important sites.
- Introducing a Food Safety Bill to provide for new food safety control tools. The Bill will include a mandatory registration scheme for food importers and distributors, enhanced food traceability measures and tightened controls for imported food.
 - Introducing legislation to provide for a set of comprehensive and clear food safety standards for pesticide residues and veterinary drug residues in food that meet Hong Kong's needs.
 - Continuing the programme to convert all aqua privies into flushing toilets in phases by 2012-13.
 - Tightening up the regulatory framework for poultry and animals for the purpose of enhancing public health and food safety.
 - Promoting sustainable development of the fisheries industry and to conserve fisheries resources in Hong Kong waters including giving priority consideration to offering free training on sustainable fishing practices, and launching a pilot fish hatchery scheme.

- Reviewing proposals on the regulation of restricted dining places to safeguard public health.
- Exploring how to co-operate with the Mainland authorities on using latest information technology application to ensure effective tracing of food along the production chain and achieve better food safety management through control at source.
- Reviewing the provision of cemeteries, columbaria and crematoria facilities and striving to provide more facilities to meet future demand.
- Continuing to enrich cultural and recreational facilities taking into account community needs, including the implementation of suitable projects of the former Urban Council and Regional Council.
- Continuing to pursue the planning of the development of a Multi-purpose Stadium Complex in Kai Tak, including assessing the mode of operation and carrying out the technical feasibility study for the project.
- Continuing to promote “Sports for all” through a number of measures, including –
 - (a) working more closely with District Councils and National Sports Associations to introduce more sports programmes to suit the needs of people of different age groups;
 - (b) liaising with the business sector to sponsor more underprivileged groups to attend major sports events as spectators and participants in side programmes;

- (c) strengthening the promotion of major sports events both locally and overseas with a view to further stimulating public participation as spectators and supporters and promoting Hong Kong as an events capital; and
 - (d) establishing a more effective feeder system for early identification of young potential athletes.
- Implementing a holistic strategy to promote wider participation in sports by people of all age groups.
 - Continuing to facilitate the re-development of the Hong Kong Sports Institute in order to provide world-class training facilities for local athletes.
 - Continuing to work with stakeholders on measures to further enhance the support to elite athletes as they prepare for the participation in the 2010 Asian Games and the 2012 Olympic Games.
 - Making preparation for the 5th East Asian Games in 2009. Collaborating with the sports sector to provide competition venues of international standards, encourage community involvement in sports activities and the Games, thereby enhancing our sporting culture.
 - Continuing to work closely with the West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD) Authority to develop the arts and cultural facilities in the WKCD, at the same time provide a variety of good quality arts and cultural activities, and broaden Hong Kong's exchanges with other places in contemporary art and performing arts, so as to enrich people's cultural life.

- Implementing the recommendations of the Committee on Performing Arts with a view to enhancing the operation and management of cultural services and venues, rationalising the use of existing performance venues through the venue partnership scheme and identifying alternative arts venues to address the venue shortage problem.
- Continuing to support the small- and medium-sized performing arts groups in using venues not managed by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department to enrich the cultural life across the districts and to usher in a more vibrant and lively arts scene prior to the coming on-stream of the WKCD facilities.
- At the district level, lining up quality cultural programmes to support the district arts festivals; launching specially curated entertainment programmes, community cultural events, student performances, etc. through the Leisure and Cultural Services Department for audience development and arts education to further develop the local cultural software fabric.
- Continuing to support the Hong Kong Arts Development Council in establishing the first Hong Kong Arts Community Fund to garner public and corporate support for culture and the arts.
- Continuing to devote attention to the preservation and development of Cantonese opera as a local indigenous art form, and facilitate the promotion of major arts and cultural events and festivals in Hong Kong, so as to highlight our status as an international city.
- Enhancing the management and operation of public museums through various improvement measures.

- Continuing to work closely with the Hong Kong Maritime Museum to establish a representative maritime museum for Hong Kong at the Central Pier 8.
- Devoting attention to the research, preservation and promotion of Hong Kong's intangible cultural heritage.
- Formulating strategies and measures for the development of library facilities and services to achieve the broader cultural mission of the Hong Kong Public Libraries.
- Implementing the initiatives announced at the Asia Cultural Co-operation Forum 2009 with a view to fostering partnership among Governments in the Asian region and enhancing Hong Kong's position as the cultural and creative hub of Asia.
- Participating in the 11th meeting of the Greater Pearl River Delta Co-operation Forum in Macao in early 2010 to continue our efforts to build the regional cultural network in the PRD.
- Conducting more publicity to encourage owners' corporations to procure third party risks insurance as soon as possible for the benefit of property owners.
- Continuing the study on long-term options for better meeting demands for emergency ambulance services.

- Promoting the use of environment-friendly buses by implementing the provision in the bus franchises on the adoption of the latest commercially available and proven environment-friendly technologies for acquiring new buses, encouraging bus companies to deploy cleaner vehicles along busy corridors, including as appropriate the adoption of environment-friendly measures as a criterion in selecting operators for new bus route packages and enhancing bus service rationalisation to reduce roadside air pollution, noise nuisance, traffic congestion and energy consumption.
- Continuing to consider measures to regulate traffic, including fiscal and traffic management means, with a view to reducing congestion along major transport corridors and to consult the community on the proposals.
- Taking forward the pedestrian schemes in Causeway Bay, Mong Kok and Yuen Long town centre so as to create space for pedestrian movements, minimise vehicle-pedestrian conflicts and improve roadside air quality.
- Continuing with the assessment of options that are feasible in transport, financial and legal terms to improve traffic distribution among the three road harbour crossings in the light of the recommendations of the consultancy study to be completed before the end of 2009.
- Promoting sustainable public housing developments by designing for green and healthy living, and ensuring effective and rational use of housing resources.

Chapter 3

Investing for a Caring Society

Preamble

The financial tsunami struck hard at all sectors of our community. In response, the Chief Executive put forward the strategy of “stabilising the financial system, supporting enterprises and preserving employment” to reduce unemployment and introduced a series of short-term measures to alleviate the difficulties faced by our people. In the long term, the Government will continue to enhance the competitiveness of the grassroots through education and retraining. We will also safeguard the well-being of workers at the grassroots level and seek to forestall the phenomenon of excessively low wage through a statutory minimum wage. As regards the disadvantaged, they need support from the Government. In particular, as Hong Kong is moving towards an ageing society, we have to provide better support to the elderly in need. To facilitate persons with disabilities to integrate into society, we need to strengthen services and support for them and their carers. We are also determined to tackle the youth drug abuse problem, which has become increasingly serious. To fulfil our responsibility to our future generations, we will join hands with all sectors of society in combating the drug problem.

New Initiatives

We will:

- Carry out a one-year Internet education campaign to teach Internet users, especially young students, how to use the Internet appropriately and safely. This programme can also create about 500 temporary jobs.
- Consolidate views received in the public consultation exercise on the Review of the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance and arrange for further public discussions on possible legislative proposals.
- Formulate the way forward on the recommendations of the Law Reform Commission on stalking and make preparations for undertaking public consultation on the issue.
- Launch in partnership with the Family Council a territory-wide “Happy Family Campaign” to further promote family core values, and to appeal to the public to build **HKSAR** families (i.e. **H**appy, **K**ind, **S**upportive, **A**ppreciative and **R**esponsible families) with a view to encouraging the community to attach importance to the family, and to foster a culture of loving families.

- Through the Family Council, co-ordinate and liaise with other relevant stakeholders in setting up a “Happy Family Info Hub”, which is a multi-sectoral, inter-disciplinary and interactive support network and platform for exchange of information. A professional team comprising doctors, clinical psychologists, social workers, teachers and parents will be engaged to facilitate the operation of an “Interactive Family E-platform and E-resource centre” to promote family core values, and to introduce family education as well as support services for the family, with a view to better addressing the multifarious needs of families.
- Further enhance anti-drug efforts by –
 - (a) stepping up the territory-wide campaign against youth drug abuse to enhance community awareness and mobilise support from different sectors to tackle the problem;
 - (b) organising youth anti-drug abuse community programmes in the 18 districts to cultivate positive values amongst youngsters to steer them away from drugs;
 - (c) introducing a trial scheme on drug testing in Tai Po secondary schools in school year 2009-10;
 - (d) examining the feasibility of developing hair drug testing service in Hong Kong;
 - (e) inviting proposals for possible new and effective models of treatment and rehabilitation services; and
 - (f) stepping up law enforcement, notably against cross-boundary drug abuse and trafficking.

- Launch a Victim Support Programme to enhance support services for victims of domestic violence, in particular those undergoing the judicial process.
- Provide additional places for day, pre-school and residential rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities.
- Strengthen physiotherapy service and health care support for ageing users of subvented residential care homes for persons with intellectual disability.
- Introduce a bill into the Legislative Council and formulate suitable complementary measures to implement a licensing scheme on the residential care homes for persons with disabilities so as to ensure their service quality.
- Introduce a pilot Bought Place Scheme for residential care homes for persons with disabilities to help the market develop more service options for persons with disabilities.
- Expand the integrated community centres for mental wellness across the territory and strengthen medical social services for persons with mental health problems.
- Examine, in line with our policy of supporting “ageing in the community as the core, institutional care as back-up”, how to provide tailor-made home care services for the elderly through a more flexible and diverse mode of service delivery, and through which to encourage social enterprises and the private market to develop related services, with a view to strengthening the support to elders who age at home.

- Provide additional subsidised day care places for frail elders.
- Enhance the pace of increasing the provision of additional subsidised nursing home (NH) and care-and-attention (C&A) places through a novel multi-pronged approach, including increasing the ratio of NH places in existing subsidised contract residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs), purchasing vacant places from self-financing NHs and C&A homes, utilising subsidised elderly homes with no long-term care element to provide more places with continuum of care; and, in parallel, continue to increase the provision of subsidised places through development of new subsidised contract RCHEs to meet the growing demand from elders.
- Launch a pilot scheme to provide RCHEs with visiting pharmacist services to strengthen their capability in drug management and enhance their quality of care.
- Extend the coverage of the District-based Scheme on Carer Training to Neighborhood Elderly Centres so as to further strengthen the support to carers of elders.
- Co-ordinate the setting up of a dedicated portal for the elderly to provide one-stop information service on elderly services and the silver hair market. We hope that through this portal and various computer courses offered by the elder academies, the elderly will enhance their computer knowledge and ability to use digital services, thereby expanding their circles of life through the Internet.

- Embark on the work of the committee set up for the Elder Academy Development Foundation to develop with dedicated efforts the long-term curriculum and learning structure of elder academies, and to promote activities for inter-generational integration.
- Set up a pioneer one-stop employment and training centre in Tin Shui Wai to streamline, integrate and enhance the existing employment and training/retraining services of the Labour Department, Social Welfare Department and Employees Retraining Board.
- Set up a recruitment centre for the retail industry to provide more tailor-made employment support, including targeted job-matching service and on-the-spot interview opportunities; to bridge, more effectively and expeditiously, the recruitment and employment needs of the industry that is marked by high turnover and constant demand for workers.
- Expand the employer network of the Labour Department so as to enrich its job vacancy database, and pilot the targeted sharing of the database with non-government organisations (NGOs) and other stakeholders to facilitate their operation of placement service.
- Enhance the user-friendliness and efficiency of Labour Department's employment services through greater use of messaging technology such as Short Message Service (SMS) for disseminating information on job vacancies and recruitment activities to job seekers.
- Complete the review of the Transport Support Scheme and decide on the way forward.

- Introduce a bill into the Legislative Council to remove the requirement for an employer's agreement to the making of an order for reinstatement or re-engagement of an employee who has been dismissed unreasonably and unlawfully, and to require the employer to pay a further sum to the employee for failing to comply with such an order.
- Review the Code of Practice for Safe Use of Tower Cranes, taking into account the guidelines issued by the Construction Industry Council, to enhance the safety in the use of tower cranes on construction sites.
- Invite NGOs for enhanced partnering functions with Estate Management Advisory Committees to promote community building and neighbourliness in public rental housing estates.

On-going Initiatives

We are:

- Co-ordinating cross-bureaux efforts in taking forward and completing HKSAR's post-quake reconstruction support work in Sichuan. Following Legislative Council's approval to inject \$9 billion into the Trust Fund in Support of Reconstruction in the Sichuan Earthquake Stricken Areas (the Trust Fund), the HKSAR Government has in three stages undertaken 152 reconstruction support projects in Sichuan. These projects cover education, medical and rehabilitation, social welfare, highway infrastructure and reconstruction of the Wolong Nature Reserve. The Trust Fund has also provided funding to Hong Kong NGOs to undertake reconstruction support projects in Sichuan.
- Continuing our work on the promotion of human rights.
- Continuing our work on facilitating ethnic minorities to integrate into the community, including sponsoring NGOs to operate support service centres for ethnic minorities and taking forward administrative guidelines for relevant public authorities to promote racial equality and ensure equal access to public services in key areas concerned.
- Preparing legislative proposals to strengthen consumer protection with a view to consulting the public by end-2009 or early 2010; and stepping up publicity and education efforts.

- Continuing with the implementation of the District Cyber Centres pilot scheme, to extend the support service to more affiliated centres with a view to enabling children from low income families and other needy local residents in more districts to gain access to the rich pool of information and knowledge in the cyber space.
- Working closely with the Ping Wo Fund Advisory Committee on the use of the Ping Wo Fund to finance public education to prevent gambling-related problems, to provide counselling and support services to pathological gamblers, and to conduct research on studies on gambling-related issues.
- Together with stakeholders, encouraging further development of social enterprises to foster a caring society. We are also reinforcing the district-based approach in alleviating poverty through implementing the Enhancing Self-Reliance Through District Partnership Programme and other district co-ordination work.
- Working closely with the Family Council to promote family core values and family education, to study and address problems from a family perspective, and to create a pro-family environment and foster work-life balance.
- Continuing the legislative amendment exercise to enhance the enforcement of Labour Tribunal awards with a view to strengthening the protection of employees' rights and benefits.
- Continuing the legislative exercise for the Minimum Wage Bill and undertaking preparatory work for its implementation.

- Continuing the legislative amendment exercise of the Occupational Deafness (Compensation) Ordinance to enhance the statutory compensation for persons with occupational deafness.
- Collecting statistical data on employees not engaged under a continuous contract to facilitate the review on the definition of continuous employment under the Employment Ordinance, and continuing to consult relevant stakeholders.
- Continuing to promote family-friendly employment practices with a view to encouraging wider adoption of such practices in the workplace.
- Continuing enforcement action against wage offences.
- Continuing with intelligence-based and proactive strategy in combating illegal employment.
- Continuing to promote the occupational safety and health performance of renovation and maintenance works through publicity and promotion to heighten safety awareness of people engaged in such works and stepping up enforcement to ensure compliance with relevant legislation.
- Implementing short-term food assistance services throughout the whole territory to support the needy.
- Co-ordinating efforts across the Government in poverty alleviation through the Task Force on Poverty and monitoring progress in implementing the recommendations made by the then Commission on Poverty with a view to improving the livelihood of the disadvantaged groups and people in need.

- Monitoring the implementation of the first batch of Child Development Fund (CDF) pioneer projects and overseeing the consultancy study on the evaluation of these pioneer projects. Taking into account the evaluation results and practical experience in implementing the first batch of pioneer projects, we will consider the timing for rolling out the second batch of CDF projects as well as the longer-term model for promoting the personal development of children from a disadvantaged background with a view to reducing inter-generational poverty.
- Continuing to encourage and help able-bodied Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients to become self-reliant. In addition to the Integrated Employment Assistance Scheme, a new phase of the Special Training and Enhancement Programme (My STEP) and New Dawn Project will commence to strengthen support to CSSA youths, single parents and child carers so as to build up their capacity for self-help and facilitate their integration into the community.
- Providing support to the Women's Commission in promoting the interests and well-being of women through the provision of an enabling environment, empowerment of women, including the Capacity Building Mileage Programme, and public education.
- Continuing to apply the Gender Mainstreaming Checklist or the concept in different policy areas progressively, and working with the Women's Commission to further promote gender mainstreaming.
- Continuing with the study on long-term social welfare planning.

- Continuing to implement and further develop the batterer intervention programme; and continuing to implement the anti-violence programme for abusers as provided under the Domestic Violence Ordinance.
- Continuing to prevent and tackle domestic violence through public education and enhanced training for related professionals.
- Continuing to implement the pilot project on Child Fatality Review.
- Following through the scrutiny of the Domestic Violence (Amendment) Bill 2009 by the Legislative Council to extend the civil protection provided under the Ordinance to same-sex cohabitants.
- Enhancing transport services for persons with disabilities through improvements to rebus service, and examining ways of further improving accessibility of transport services.
- Promoting, in collaboration with the Rehabilitation Advisory Committee, the rehabilitation sector and the community at large, the spirit and core values enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- Upgrading subvented residential care places to provide long-term care for frail elders to meet the growing care needs of elders.
- Continuing with outreaching efforts of elderly centres to singleton and hidden elders to help them develop social life, and strengthening the referral, counselling and support services to elders in need.

- Providing integrated support services to both elderly hospital discharges who have difficulty taking care of themselves and their carers through the Integrated Discharge Support Trial Programme for Elderly Patients.
- Helping needy elders who live in dilapidated homes improve their home conditions through the Home Environment Improvement Scheme for the Elderly.
- Training additional Enrolled Nurses for the welfare sector.
- Completing the review on the permissible limit of absence from Hong Kong under the Old Age Allowance scheme, and decide on the way forward.
- Continuing to promote flexible child care services to meet the varying needs of families.
- Implementing in phases a series of measures to enhance our training and retraining services, in accordance with the recommendations made in the strategic review on the future directions of the Employees Retraining Board.
- Encouraging schools to collaborate with NGOs in providing school-based after-school learning and support services for needy students.
- Maintaining supply of public rental housing (PRH) for needy applicants with an average waiting time of around three years.
- Conducting the first PRH rent review in 2010 under the new rent adjustment mechanism.

- Implementing a set of enhanced public housing arrangements to promote mutual family support and care for the elderly.
- Continuing to facilitate the implementation of an elderly housing project by the Hong Kong Housing Society on Tanner Road, North Point.
- Installing as far as practicable lifts/escalators connecting common areas in hillside public housing estates and lifts in low-rise public housing blocks without lifts to facilitate access of residents.
- Finalising the study on the assessment system on the provision of hillside escalator links and elevator systems with a view to establishing the assessment system by the end of 2009.
- Implementing a series of measures to tackle the youth drug abuse problem, following long-term, holistic and sustainable policies recommended by the Task Force on Youth Drug Abuse led by the Secretary for Justice.
- Mapping out how mediation can be more effectively and extensively applied in both commercial disputes and at the community level, with the assistance of a Working Group on Mediation chaired by the Secretary for Justice.

Chapter 4

Optimising Our Demographic Structure And Attracting Talent

Preamble

Hong Kong is facing the challenge of an ageing population. The proportion of elderly population in Hong Kong will rise rapidly over the next two decades, at a rate much faster than most other advanced economies. This will have a far-reaching impact on the economy, healthcare, welfare, retirement protection, education and public finance. We need to prepare for this challenge.

We need to continue enhancing the quality and competitiveness of our population in order to meet the challenges of a knowledge-based economy. To this end, we will continue to devote substantial resources to education and vigorously develop retraining services.

To meet the rising expectation of the public on healthcare services, the Government is progressively increasing the resources devoted to healthcare to respond to the changing demographic structure, increasing healthcare needs and rising health expenditure so as to enhance healthcare services and implement service reforms initiatives before the healthcare financing arrangements are finalised.

In 2009, to fight against the human swine influenza (Influenza A (H1N1)), which is posing a global threat, we have stepped up our efforts in the prevention, containment and mitigation of the disease. We are also prepared for the imminent winter peak of influenza. As we deal with a public health crisis, we also have to continue to develop measures to ensure the long-term sustainability of the healthcare system. For this purpose, the Government aims to put forward more concrete proposals on various healthcare reform issues, including healthcare financing, in 2010 and launch the second stage public consultation to deepen the discussion and galvanise consensus.

New Initiatives

We will:

- Allocate additional resources and establish a dedicated team to implement the initial recommendations of the Working Group on Primary Care in the next few years, including –
 - (a) developing protocols for managing individual chronic diseases to facilitate the provision of more comprehensive care to chronic disease patients, and promoting these protocols to the patients through healthcare professionals in the public and private sectors;
 - (b) preparing a Primary Care Directory to facilitate the establishment of networks among healthcare professionals providing primary care so as to promote comprehensive primary care services and the family doctor concept, and to advocate continuous training and education of healthcare personnel; and
 - (c) launching pilot projects in various districts to set up community health centres and networks under different service models to provide more comprehensive primary care services to patients through collaboration of the public sector, private sector and non-government organisations.
- From 2009 onwards, introduce a subsidy scheme for elderly aged 65 and above to receive seasonal influenza and pneumococcal vaccinations to enhance primary health care and disease prevention.

- In anticipation of the winter peak of seasonal influenza in 2009-10, provide vaccination against human swine influenza for high risk groups.
- Openly invite expression of interest from the market by end of 2009 to develop private hospitals at four reserved sites (at Wong Chuk Hang, Tseung Kwan O, Tai Po and Lantau).
- Conduct the second-stage public consultation in 2010 on various healthcare reform issues, including the overall development strategy on primary care, legal framework for protecting the privacy of personal data in electronic health records, and concrete proposals on healthcare financing.
- Strengthen the community platform for the provision of mental health services. The Hospital Authority (HA) will enhance collaboration with the social welfare sector in providing intensive community support for persons with mental illness. To this end, we will –
 - (a) launch a case management programme to provide intensive community support to persons with severe mental illness; and
 - (b) enhance the assessment and treatment services for people with common mental disorders and the support to primary care professionals in providing integrated mental health care.

- Complete the review on the regulation of pharmaceutical products in Hong Kong before the end of 2009 to strengthen the regulatory control on the supply of drugs and to raise the standard of the pharmaceutical sector with a view to ensuring patients' safety and safeguarding public health. Legislative amendments will be proposed if necessary.
- Review the Post-Secondary Colleges Ordinance (Cap. 320) to provide a legal framework to facilitate the development of self-financing post-secondary education institutions with potential and capabilities.
- Explore the possibility of allowing Mainland students to pursue studies in non-local courses at degree level or above.
- Explore allowing the admission of Mainland senior secondary students to short-term programmes offered by local degree-awarding institutions.
- Explore the possibility for Mainland students to pursue studies at our non public-sector senior secondary schools.
- Take forward recommendations made by the Working Group on Textbooks and E-learning Resources Development which include a series of measures to address the public's concern on continuing textbook price increase and measures to enhance and accelerate the development of the online depository of curriculum-based learning and teaching resources and the development of e-learning with a view to enhancing students' effectiveness in learning.

- Kick start the review on the implementation of Pre-primary Education Voucher Scheme (PEVS) for continuous improvement to the quality of pre-primary education.
- Conduct a review on the operation of the non-means-tested loan schemes, with a view to ensuring that reasonable financial support is provided to students pursuing post-secondary and continuing and professional education, effective measures are in place to reduce loan default rate, as well as proper use of public resources.

On-going Initiatives

We are:

- Continuing to encourage and promote public policy research in higher education institutions as a means to improve our policy-making capabilities, in particular the quality of policy research.
- Continuing to devote substantial resources in education to enhance the quality of our young generation, promote social mobility, and meet the needs and challenges of a changing economy.
- Continuing to enhance the quality of pre-primary education by progressively increasing the level of direct fee subsidy for eligible parents and providing financial support for teachers' professional upgrading through the PEVS.
- Planning with four remaining primary schools to turn into whole-day schooling.
- Preparing for the implementation of the fine-tuning of medium of instruction for secondary schools in the 2010-11 school year, starting from Secondary 1.
- Continuing to provide a broad range of school-based professional support services for kindergartens, primary and secondary schools to help them take forward education reform initiatives.

- Continuing to transform senior secondary and higher education through professional capacity building and supporting institutional preparation to implement the new senior secondary academic structure from 2009.
- Implementing the Qualifications Framework by phases through the formation of industry training advisory committees to develop competency-based qualifications for individual industries, and developing a quality assurance mechanism to underpin the Qualifications Framework.
- Continuing to enhance the learning and teaching of English in primary schools by introducing measures to attract talent to the teaching profession; enhancing the professionalism of serving teachers; and providing additional resources for primary schools to develop school-based enhancement measures and to enrich their English language environment in schools.
- Strengthening support to teachers through the provision of professional development opportunities for the smooth implementation of the New Senior Secondary Curriculum and Assessment.
- Promoting overseas exchange programmes to nurture students' global perspective and encouraging their participation in international events and activities.
- Implementing small class teaching in public sector primary schools in the 2009-10 school year, starting from Primary 1.

- Increasing the respective ratios of graduate teacher posts in public sector primary and secondary schools to 50% and 85% with effect from the 2009-10 school year.
- Continuing to implement measures to develop Hong Kong as a regional education hub to attract and retain non-local students. These include increasing the non-local student quota for publicly-funded programmes, awarding government scholarships to outstanding students from the \$1 billion HKSAR Government Scholarship Fund, and relaxing employment and immigration restrictions for non-local students.
- Continuing to organise Mainland study trips and exchange programmes for teachers and students of both primary and secondary schools as well as to give support to teachers in the teaching of national education in the school curricula.
- Participating in the work of the Standing Committee on Legal Education and Training to keep under review and make recommendations on the system and provision of legal education and training in Hong Kong, including the provision of vocational training of prospective legal practitioners.
- Continuing the promotion of various talent admission schemes and reviewing their application procedures from time to time with a view to streamlining the arrangements for the employment of talents and professionals.

- In accordance with the direction of the healthcare reform, before the healthcare financing arrangements are finalised for implementation, making use of the increased government funding for healthcare to strengthen existing healthcare services and to start implementing various service reforms, including the on-going initiatives set out below –
 - (a) Strengthening healthcare support for chronic diseases to facilitate early detection, prevention and treatment; educate patients and their carers; encourage need- and risk-based proactive care for secondary prevention; and provide early prevention and intervention of complications to reduce the need for hospitalisation. Continuing to prepare and implement a series of pilot projects to provide support to chronic disease patients;
 - (b) Continuing the three-year pilot scheme launched in early 2009 to provide five health care vouchers per year of \$50 each to elderly aged 70 or above as partial subsidy for their use of private primary care services in their neighbourhood community;
 - (c) Building a hospital in Tin Shui Wai to strengthen medical services in the district;

- (d) Preparing for the establishment of multi-partite medical centres of excellence in paediatrics and neuroscience to improve the quality of clinical services to patients suffering from complex and serious illnesses as well as to enhance the standards of research and training in the two respective medical disciplines. To contribute to the long-term development of paediatrics and neuroscience, the Centres will bring together medical professionals in the public, private and academic sectors from both within and outside Hong Kong, and partner with major international medical centres in professional collaborations, research and training;
- (e) Enhancing public healthcare services through public-private partnership to increase the volume, reduce waiting time, offer additional choices for patients, and enhance cost-effectiveness. To continue planning and implementing a series of pilot projects, including: purchasing of primary care services from the private sector in Tin Shui Wai North for specific patient groups under the care of public General Out Patient Clinics; implementing public-private shared care programme for chronic disease patients; purchasing haemodialysis service from private centres for end stage renal disease patients currently under the care of public hospitals, etc;
- (f) Continuing to explore other public-private partnership initiatives to facilitate integration of the public and private healthcare sectors, promote healthy competition for service quality and professional standards, and provide more choices for the public;

- (g) Under the newly-established Electronic Health Record Office, continuing to develop a territory-wide patient-oriented electronic health record system for sharing important medical and health records of patients among healthcare providers subject to the patients' consent so as to provide a pivotal infrastructure for implementing healthcare reform, planning for the work relating to protection of personal data privacy and system security, and promoting the partnership of public and private sectors;
 - (h) Further expanding the HA's "Electronic Patient Record Sharing Pilot Project" to allow more private healthcare providers, including those participating in public-private partnership projects, to access their patients' records kept at HA and enter the patients' clinical information upon the patients' consent with a view to promoting sharing of patients' records;
 - (i) Enhancing professional training and facilitating professional development for medical and healthcare practitioners, and improving their working arrangements; and
 - (j) Overseeing the implementation of the three-year interim funding arrangement for the HA pending the development of a sustainable long-term funding arrangement in the light of the outcome of public consultation on the healthcare reform.
- Strengthening the regulation of Chinese medicine with the full implementation of the registration of proprietary Chinese medicines and enhancing inspections of Chinese medicines traders.

- Preparing for the establishment of four public Chinese Medicine clinics, thereby increasing the number of clinics from 14 to 18, so as to enhance Chinese medicine service in our public healthcare system.
- Implementing the Prevention and Control of Disease Ordinance and continuing to improve our infectious disease surveillance, control and notification system.
- Developing a multi-pronged strategy to minimise the risk of avian influenza outbreaks, including the development of a poultry slaughtering centre.
- Implementing the Strategic Framework for Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases, which is a comprehensive strategy to co-ordinate multi-sectoral efforts in the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases.
- Enhancing cancer surveillance by improving case reporting.
- Continuing our efforts in tobacco control through the multi-pronged approach of publicity, promotion, education, legislation, taxation and smoking cessation, and implementing the fixed penalty system to strengthen enforcement of the smoking ban.
- Promoting healthy eating habit in schools and food premises and creating an environment conducive to making healthy choices of food to protect the public from life-style diseases.
- Developing a statutory regulatory proposal on medical devices, taking into account the findings of the regulatory impact assessment and the views of the stakeholders.

- Through collaboration with relevant organisations, continuing to promote registration for organ donation on the Central Organ Donation Register among the public.

Chapter 5

Developing Democracy And Enhancing Governance

Preamble

Hong Kong has taken a critical step forward in its constitutional development. The Decision adopted by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress makes it clear that the election of the HKSAR Chief Executive may be implemented by universal suffrage in 2017. The Decision also makes it clear that after the Chief Executive is selected by universal suffrage, the election of the Legislative Council may also be implemented by universal suffrage. That is, after the election of the Chief Executive is implemented by universal suffrage in 2017, the Legislative Council may also be elected by universal suffrage in 2020. The Decision has brought Hong Kong's constitutional development to a new stage. We should seize on this valuable opportunity and pursue constitutional development in a rational, pragmatic and inclusive manner. We should look for common ground while respecting differences of opinion in order to forge a consensus on the constitutional arrangements for the year 2012. This will enable Hong Kong to move towards the ultimate goal of universal suffrage. The Government will consult the public, before the end of this year, on the electoral arrangements for 2012, and put forth our proposed package within 2010, with a view to determining the two electoral methods within the tenure of the current-term Government.

Apart from pursuing the development of democracy, we will enhance governance and improve the quality of public services at the same time. We will continue to uphold the principle of people-based governance and strengthen our communications with the public to bring our policies more in line with public opinion.

New Initiatives

We will:

- Carry out the public consultation on the possible options for amending the methods for electing the Chief Executive and for forming the Legislative Council in 2012 and present to the Legislative Council within 2010 the proposed amendments to Annexes I and II to the Basic Law, with a view to determining the two electoral methods within the tenure of the third-term HKSAR Government. This could then lay a foundation for attaining universal suffrage for the Chief Executive in 2017, and for the Legislative Council in 2020.
- Enhance the transparency and legal certainty of the existing licensing regime for sound broadcasting service by introducing an amendment bill to stipulate a set of clear licensing criteria under the Telecommunications Ordinance.
- Develop and implement the first wave of electronic information management strategies for participating bureaux/departments to provide a convenient and efficient way to create, access and use accurate, timely and complete information about Government business.
- Design and implement new processes, tools and governance arrangements for Government IT-enabled change projects to maximise the realisation of business benefits.

- Enhance the accessibility of legislation through improved design and greater clarity.
- Embark on a territory-wide, senior secondary school ambassador programme to nurture a culture of probity, morality and ethical leadership in the younger generations, in addition to integrity-building endeavours across the spectrum from kindergarten to junior secondary.
- Commence a youth leadership programme with a view to inciting exchanges amongst local university students and their counterparts from the Mainland and overseas, through a participatory approach in workshops, training camps and case studies.
- Enhance the measures to assist Hong Kong residents travelling abroad. These will include: instituting a three-colour Outbound Travel Alert System; enhancing the services of the “Assistance to Hong Kong Residents Unit” of the Immigration Department; and strengthening the relevant contingency mechanism.
- Enhance the screening of torture claims through setting up a new appeal system, providing legal assistance to claimants, enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of the processing of claims, and introducing legislation to underpin the enhanced screening procedure.

On-going Initiatives

We are:

- Continuing to implement the Political Appointment System.
- Continuing to facilitate the implementation of “One Country, Two Systems” and to demonstrate its success; and to strengthen our efforts in promoting public awareness and understanding of the Basic Law.
- Preparing for the implementation of the improved arrangements for village representative elections in the next village ordinary election in 2011, after the enactment of the Village Representative Election Legislation (Miscellaneous Amendments) Ordinance 2009.
- Continuing to enhance the communication between District Councils (DCs) and the Administration through participation of Heads of Departments in DC meetings and briefings for DC members on government policies.
- Strengthening our liaison network through District Officers.
- Continuing to consult DCs on government policies and proposals.
- Continuing to take into account public opinion gathered during policy-formulation.
- Strengthening our network at district level to facilitate the collation, assessment and analysis of community feedback.

- Continuing to foster a close working relationship between the executive authorities and the legislature in accordance with the delineation of functions set out in the Basic Law.
- Continuing to work with the Commission on Youth, Committee on Promotion of Civic Education and youth uniformed groups to provide young people with appropriate non-formal education and training, prepare for the full operation of the new Youth Square, enhance the promotion of youth development and civic education outside schools, particularly on the civic and social participation of young people and the promotion of national education.
- Capitalising on the “60th anniversary of the Founding of the People’s Republic of China” this year to organise various national education activities in collaboration with the Commission on Youth, Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education and major community organisations.
- Continuing to enrich the content and features of the Youth Portal to provide more useful and interesting information and services for local youth aged 15 to 24.
- Continuing to control the size of the civil service by providing the necessary management tools to assist bureaux and departments to make more effective use of manpower resources and enhance efficiency, while at the same time giving due consideration to the need for additional manpower resources for delivering new and improved services.

- Continuing to provide civil servants with training and development opportunities. We shall also continue to enhance the variety and content of the training materials on our e-learning portal, and promote wider use of e-learning, as part of our endeavours to fortify a culture of continuous learning in the civil service.
- Continuing to implement an action plan which will ensure that the Basic Law forms an integral part of training for civil servants, and that the training is provided in a systematic and planned manner which takes into account the needs of civil servants of different levels and work nature.
- Continuing with the development of an effective arrangement for implementing both upward and downward pay adjustments in future, as part and parcel of the improved civil service pay adjustment mechanism.
- Taking follow-up action in respect of the recommendations in the reports of the grade structure reviews for the directorate grades, the disciplined services grades, and selected civilian grades facing recruitment and retention difficulties submitted by the relevant advisory bodies on civil service salaries and conditions of service.
- Continuing to maintain and enhance morale of the civil service, and encourage fuller use of various commendation schemes to recognise and motivate exemplary performance.

- Continuing to maintain a vigorous, effective and efficient disciplinary system against misconduct in the civil service. Continuing to monitor closely the removal of under-performers under the established procedures while sustaining efforts to further improve efficiency and productivity in the civil service.
- Continuing the Be the Smart Regulator Programme to improve the clarity, efficiency and relevance of regulatory and licence arrangements.
- Monitoring the reports of the major international competitiveness ranking institutes to identify opportunities for improvements in the delivery of public services.
- Formulating measures to streamline food business licensing, including the introduction of a composite licence/permit scheme to facilitate the operation of food business which manufacture and sell various types of ready-to-eat food items.
- In line with the principle of keeping expenditure within the limits of revenue, continuing the strive to achieve a fiscal balance, avoid deficits and keep the budget commensurate with the growth rate of Gross Domestic Product; managing public finances with regard to the principles of commitment to society, sustainability and pragmatism; and continuing to implement the asset sale and securitisation programme.
- Studying options for broadening the tax base and to consult the public further on those options which are more practical in due course.

- Continuing to review the small house policy with a view to formulating preliminary proposals for more in-depth discussion and continuing with the implementation of a set of streamlined procedures to expedite the processing of small house applications.
- Continuing to implement a Dedicated Team in the District Lands Office (Hong Kong South and West) for handling lease modification and land exchange applications; to centralise premium determination of high impact cases at the Lands Department Headquarters; and to continue to find ways to expedite the processing of land transactions.
- Furthering the standards of advocacy and preparation in criminal cases through the provision of comprehensive training arrangements for prosecutors.
- Enhancing the quality of criminal justice by promoting transparency in public prosecutions, liaising closely with justice partners (including the Police, the Independent Commission Against Corruption and the departmental prosecutors) and reviewing the disclosure arrangements of law enforcement agencies.
- Promoting co-operation amongst prosecutors at the global level by actively participating in the work of the International Association of Prosecutors.
- Continuing to enhance the law drafting skill of law draftsmen through an in-house mentorship programme and enrich their drafting experience by organising training programmes.

- Continuing with the review of the provisions of the Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles Ordinance and the public engagement exercise to map out future options for improvement.
- Continuing to enhance the Governmental portal, GovHK, to provide more personalised interface for services and information to better meet the needs of users.
- Continuing to ensure that our legislative regime for combating terrorism is current and meets the need of changing circumstances.
- Continuing to seek long-term solutions to address the problems of outdated facilities and overcrowding in some of our penal institutions.
- Continuing discussions with the Mainland and other jurisdictions on bilateral co-operation relating to Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, Surrender of Fugitive Offenders and Transfer of Sentenced Persons.
- Continuing to implement the Risks and Needs Assessment Protocol to identify prisoners prone to custodial and re-offending risks, and to deliver rehabilitative programmes matching their needs, with a view to more effectively reducing re-offending.