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**Legislative Council**

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**Panel on Commerce and Industry**

**Minutes of policy briefing by videoconferencing held on  
Friday, 15 January 2021, at 11:30 am  
in Conference Room 2B of the Legislative Council Complex**

- Members present** : Hon CHUNG Kwok-pan (Chairman)  
Hon Jimmy NG Wing-ka, BBS, JP (Deputy Chairman)  
Hon Jeffrey LAM Kin-fung, GBS, JP  
Hon WONG Ting-kwong, GBS, JP  
Hon YIU Si-wing, BBS  
Hon MA Fung-kwok, GBS, JP  
Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan, SBS, JP  
Ir Dr Hon LO Wai-kwok, SBS, MH, JP  
Hon SHIU Ka-fai, JP  
Hon CHAN Chun-ying, JP  
Hon LAU Kwok-fan, MH
- Members absent** : Hon Christopher CHEUNG Wah-fung, SBS, JP  
Hon Martin LIAO Cheung-kong, GBS, JP  
Dr Hon Junius HO Kwan-yiu, JP
- Public officers attending** : Agenda item I  
Commerce and Economic Development Bureau  
Mr Edward YAU, GBS, JP  
Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development  
Miss Eliza LEE, JP  
Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic  
Development (Commerce, Industry and Tourism)  
Mr Denis YIP  
Commissioner for Belt and Road

Ms Vivian SUM, JP  
Deputy Secretary for Commerce and Economic  
Development (Commerce and Industry)1

Mr Eric CHAN, JP  
Deputy Secretary for Commerce and Economic  
Development (Commerce and Industry)2

Ms Betty HO  
Deputy Secretary for Commerce and Economic  
Development (Commerce and Industry)3

Mr Brian LO, JP  
Director-General of Trade and Industry

Mr David WONG, JP  
Director of Intellectual Property

Mr Stephen PHILLIPS  
Director-General of Investment Promotion

Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Mr Erick TSANG, IDSM, JP  
Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Mr Roy TANG, JP  
Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland  
Affairs

Mr Benjamin MOK  
Acting Commissioner for the Development of the  
Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area

Ms Elizabeth TAI, JP  
Deputy Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland  
Affairs (2)

Innovation and Technology Bureau

Mr Alfred SIT, JP  
Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Ms Annie CHOI, JP  
Permanent Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Ms Rebecca PUN, JP  
Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Mr Arthur AU  
Deputy Commissioner for Innovation and  
Technology

Mr Alan LO  
Deputy Secretary for Innovation and Technology (1)

Related Organization

Mr Patrick LAU  
Deputy Executive Director of Hong Kong Trade  
Development Council

**Clerk in attendance** : Mr Boris LAM  
Chief Council Secretary (1)3

**Staff in attendance** : Ms Connie HO  
Senior Council Secretary (1)3

Mr Joey LO  
Senior Council Secretary (1)8

Mr Terence LAM  
Council Secretary (1)3

Ms May LEUNG  
Legislative Assistant (1)3

Miss Zoe YIP  
Clerical Assistant (1)3

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**I. Briefings by the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, the Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs and the Secretary for Innovation and Technology on the Chief Executive's 2020 Policy Address**

(LC Paper No. CB(1)330/20-21(03) -- Administration's paper on 2020 Policy Address — Policy initiatives of Commerce, Industry and Tourism Branch, Commerce and Economic Development Bureau

LC Paper No. CB(1)330/20-21(04) -- Administration's paper on 2020 Policy Address — Policy initiatives of Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau in relation to Mainland co-operation and Taiwan affairs

LC Paper No. CB(1)330/20-21(05) -- Administration's paper on 2020 Policy Address — Policy initiatives of Innovation and Technology Bureau

LC Paper Nos. CB(1)473/20-21(01) to (03) -- Speaking notes of the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs, and Secretary for Innovation and Technology)  
(*Chinese version only; issued on 15 January 2021*)

Relevant papers

The Chief Executive's 2020 Policy Address and Supplement (*issued on 25 November 2020*)

Presentation by the Administration

At the invitation of the Chairman, Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development ("SCED") briefed the Panel on the relevant policy initiatives of the Commerce, Industry and Tourism Branch of the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau ("CEDB") in the 2020 Policy Address. Details were set out in the Administration's paper (LC Paper No. CB(1)330/20-21(03)) and SCED's speaking note (LC Paper No. CB(1)473/20-21(01)).

2. SCED highlighted the economic development strategy of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region ("HKSAR") Government as announced by the Chief Executive in the 2020 Policy Address. As the overall strategy guiding economic development, the current-term Government emphasized leveraging Hong Kong's unique advantages under "One Country, Two Systems" to integrate proactively into national development, enhancing support for small and medium enterprises ("SMEs"), striving to resolve the two major bottlenecks of land and talents, and investing substantially in innovation and technology ("I&T") industries. At the same time, Hong Kong would continue to enhance connections with the world to explore business opportunities. While promoting free trade and maintaining Hong Kong's market economy, the HKSAR Government was committed to playing the role of a "facilitator" and "promoter", and would join hands with enterprises and support professional service providers to explore market opportunities beyond Hong Kong.

3. Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs ("SCMA") then gave a briefing on the policy initiatives of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau ("CMAB") in relation to Mainland cooperation and Taiwan affairs featured in the 2020 Policy Address. Details were set out in the Administration's paper (LC Paper No. CB(1)330/20-21(04)) and SCMA's speaking note (LC Paper No. CB(1)473/20-21(02)).

4. SCMA said that the HKSAR Government would, under the "One Country, Two Systems" principle, capitalize on the enormous growth opportunities arising from the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area ("Greater Bay Area") and the National 14th Five-Year Plan to enhance co-operation with the Mainland on various fronts through a series of initiatives with a view to expanding Hong Kong's scope for further development. Normal cross-boundary activities amongst residents in Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao would resume gradually in an orderly manner, when the Coronavirus Disease 2019 ("COVID-19") epidemic situation further stabilized. The HKSAR Government would also launch publicity programmes in the Mainland to rebuild confidence in Hong Kong to pave way for the resumption of economic activities and people flow between the two places in an orderly manner after the epidemic.

5. Lastly, the Secretary for Innovation and Technology ("S for IT") briefed the Panel on the relevant policy initiatives of the Innovation and Technology Bureau in the 2020 Policy Address. Details were set out in the Administration's paper (LC Paper No. CB(1)330/20-21(05)) and S for IT's speaking note (LC Paper No. CB(1)473/20-21(03)).

6. S for IT said that talent was the key to success of I&T development. S for IT highlighted the major new initiatives in this regard, including the Global

STEM Professorship Scheme and the Greater Bay Area Youth Employment Scheme (I&T Sector). He also briefed members on the progress of the development of the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Park ("HKSITP") and the smart city initiatives.

## Discussion

### *Resumption of cross-boundary people flow*

7. Mr MA Fung-kwok noted that only 28 877 Hong Kong residents had returned to Hong Kong under the "Return2HK" Scheme from 23 November 2020 to 13 January 2021. Mr MA urged the Administration to strive for the resumption of cross-boundary flow of people amongst Hong Kong, Guangdong and Macao through mutual recognition of health code with COVID-19 test results, in order for Hong Kong to capitalize on the country's strategy of "dual circulation".

8. SCMA advised that the HKSAR Government attached great importance to economic recovery after the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result of the pandemic, Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao had respectively implemented strict immigration quarantine measures. The HKSAR Government understood that a lot of people, especially those having relatives in the Mainland or those who needed to cross the boundary to do business, hoped that the Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao governments could agree to resume normal cross-boundary activities amongst the three places. Meanwhile, the HKSAR Government would maintain stringent quarantine measures to bring the pandemic under control as soon as possible.

### *Strengthening investment promotion*

9. Mr MA Fung-kwok noted that there were 9 025 overseas and Mainland companies in Hong Kong in 2020, up 9.7% over 2017. Nevertheless, Mr MA was concerned that the ongoing trade disputes and geopolitical tensions between China and the United States as well as the economic downturn resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic might cause some overseas and Mainland companies to retreat from Hong Kong. He enquired what measures the Administration would take to attract and retain such companies. Sharing a similar concern, Dr CHIANG Lai-wan suggested that SCED should lead overseas delegations to the United States and Europe when the pandemic subsided to dispel the misunderstanding which the overseas community might have on the situation in Hong Kong.

10. SCED advised that according to the findings of the 2020 annual survey, the number of business operations in Hong Kong with parent companies overseas and in the Mainland was 9 025, broadly the same as in 2019 (9 040). In terms of

source country/territory, the Mainland continued to rank first for the third consecutive year as a result of the Mainland's "Go Global" investment strategy, followed by Japan, the United States, the United Kingdom and Singapore. Despite concerns over the social unrest, COVID-19 pandemic and the enactment of the Law of the People's Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region ("the National Security Law") in Hong Kong, en masse retreat of overseas companies was not in evidence, according to the exchange between the HKSAR Government and overseas chambers of commerce. On the contrary, our strengths in high-end service industries, including the financial services and I&T industries, remained strong.

11. SCED noted that some overseas companies which had or were looking to set up bases in Hong Kong were very concerned about social stability. He said that CEDB, in collaboration with the Security Bureau and the Department of Justice, had provided briefings on the National Security Law to such overseas companies in Hong Kong as well as overseas chambers of commerce and think-tanks to allay their concerns. He added that apart from planning for overseas duty visits which would be carried out when the pandemic situation had stabilized, the Administration had carried out different online promotion campaigns targeting at overseas news media, business associations and think-tanks through overseas Economic and Trade Offices ("ETOs") and the Information Services Department, etc. Regarding the suggestion of leading delegations overseas, SCED said that the HKSAR Government organized delegation visits to other countries from time to time, and it also collaborated with the Ministry of Commerce for a trip to Belt and Road countries with the participation of Mainland enterprises, including state-owned enterprises. He foresaw that such collaboration would continue in future after the pandemic had subsided.

12. Mr CHAN Chun-ying noted that in order to rebuild confidence of overseas communities in Hong Kong upon further stabilization of the pandemic, the Administration would, through the ETO network and together with various overseas organizations, promote the successful implementation of "One Country, Two Systems" and Hong Kong's advantages on various fronts, and encourage enterprises to use Hong Kong as the launch pad to expand into the Mainland and Asian markets. Mr CHAN opined that as Hong Kong's financial stability was a major concern for overseas investors, the Administration should engage, apart from representatives from CEDB and Invest Hong Kong ("InvestHK"), also representatives from the Financial Services and Treasury Bureau and the Hong Kong Monetary Authority ("HKMA") in external promotion activities, so as to present a comprehensive picture of Hong Kong's situation to the international community.

13. SCED said that the HKSAR Government's promotion effort outside Hong Kong was multi-faceted. Depending on the focus of the target markets, InvestHK's offices outside Hong Kong, ETOs and the offices and liaison units of the HKSAR Government in the Mainland would work with bureaux and agencies, including HKMA, in updating their interlocutors on Hong Kong's latest developments. For example, the Chief Executive of HKMA led representatives of Hong Kong Association of Banks to attend their annual meeting with the Mainland's financial regulators in end December 2020 by videoconferencing. SCED added that in August 2020, he co-chaired a videoconference with Southeast Asian Nations Economic Ministers to further regional cooperation.

*Support for the convention and exhibition industry*

14. Mr YIU Si-wing noted that the Administration had announced that it would extend the Convention and Exhibition Industry Subsidy Scheme under the Anti-epidemic Fund to 31 December 2021 to encourage more convention and exhibition ("C&E") activities to be held in Hong Kong. He urged the Administration review the need for further extension of the Scheme to the first quarter of 2022 by listening to the views of the industry, so as to facilitate their early planning of activities.

15. SCED assured members that the Administration had noted the views of the industry, and would keep the situation in view and consider the need for extension of the scheme as and when necessary.

16. Mr YIU Si-wing noted that the Administration had decided against the proposal to develop a new convention centre on the site above the Exhibition Station of the Shatin and Central Link ("SCL"). Moreover, some premises at the AsiaWorld-Expo ("AWE") had been designated as community treatment facilities for COVID-19 patients, further diminishing the supply of C&E facilities for physical exhibitions and conventions. Noting that the Administration would continue to take forward two plans to expand major C&E facilities, i.e. the redevelopment of the three government towers in Wan Chai North and Kong Wan Fire Station into C&E facilities, and the construction of phase two of AWE on the airport island, Mr YIU enquired whether the Administration's measures to tackle the shortage of C&E facilities would be sufficient in the face of keen competition from neighbouring areas such as Shenzhen and Macao. Sharing a similar concern, Mr WONG Ting-kwong enquired about the timetable for the redevelopment of the three government towers in Wan Chai North and Kong Wan Fire Station into C&E facilities.

17. SCED said that although a number of major physical conventions and exhibitions had been cancelled due to the pandemic, not all C&E activities had



been put to a halt as many C&E activities had gone online. For example, the fifth Belt and Road Summit, jointly organized by the HKSAR Government and the Hong Kong Trade Development Council ("HKTDC"), was successfully held online from 30 November to 1 December 2020. With the new virtual platform helping to overcome geographical boundaries, more than 6 000 participants from about 80 countries and regions attended the event, which were more than that of the fourth Summit held in 2019. Of course, the new mode of delivery had also brought new challenges. SCED added that while the size of C&E facilities in Hong Kong was smaller than those in neighbouring regions, with the latest trend in organizing C&E activities in hybrid mode, size of facilities was no longer the only key to stand out from competition.

18. SCED said that the redevelopment of the three government towers in Wan Chai North and Kong Wan Fire Station into C&E facilities and the construction of phase two of AWE on the airport island could increase C&E space. For the construction of the new convention centre on the site above the Exhibition Station of SCL, given the technical difficulties involved to establish feasibility, it was considered time-consuming and not cost-effective to take forward the project.

19. SCED reiterated that notwithstanding the decision to release the site above the Exhibition Station for other purposes, the redevelopment of the three government towers in Wan Chai North and Kong Wan Fire Station into C&E facilities would remain the centerpiece of the Administration's effort to increase C&E space, as the redeveloped C&E facilities would serve to connect and expand the existing C&E facilities at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, creating a synergy effect. The construction of phase two of AWE after its temporary usage as community treatment facilities had come to an end would also provide flexibility in terms of synergy with the future SKYCITY development on the airport island. SCED added that in discussing with the Hong Kong Airport Authority on the phase two development of AWE, consideration was also given to making the facilities suitable for multiple purposes.

20. Mr SHIU Ka-fai welcomed the introduction of the Convention and Exhibition Industry Subsidy Scheme and the enhancement measures to the SME Export Marketing Fund ("EMF"). He urged the Administration to ensure that the relevant subsidies would be passed on to the exhibitors. He learnt that some organizers of C&E activities under the Convention and Exhibition Industry Subsidy Scheme had not passed on the rental subsidies to exhibitors. SCED suggested that Mr SHIU could refer individual cases to CEDB for follow up.

*Enhancing promotion in the Mainland after the pandemic*

21. Mr YIU Si-wing noted that to rebuild connections with the Mainland after

the pandemic, the five Mainland Offices of the HKSAR Government would, in collaboration with relevant departments and organizations, launch publicity programmes through diversified platforms in various places in the Mainland, organize and participate in business, commercial, cultural and art activities in the Mainland. As tourism was a major area of connection between the Mainland and Hong Kong, Mr YIU asked whether CMAB would work with CEDB and the Hong Kong Tourism Board to step up tourism promotion in the Mainland.

22. SCMA advised that the social unrests in 2019 dealt a heavy blow to Hong Kong's image as a safe city in the Mainland, and had affected the impression of and confidence in Hong Kong amongst various sectors in the Mainland. To rebuild their confidence in Hong Kong, the HKSAR Government planned to enhance promotion in the Mainland after the epidemic. The five Mainland Offices of the HKSAR Government would launch publicity programmes, focusing not only on trade promotion and cultural and arts activities, but also on tourism. The programmes aimed to enable various sectors in the Mainland to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the latest situation in Hong Kong, promote Hong Kong's unique advantages and opportunities under the development of the Greater Bay Area, and rebuild Hong Kong's positive image as a safe, law-abiding, civilized, pluralistic and inclusive society.

23. Mr WONG Ting-kyong opined that in order for the economy to rebound after the pandemic, Hong Kong had to capitalize on the enormous growth opportunities arising from the development of the Greater Bay Area. Mr WONG suggested that a long-term showroom be set up in Hong Kong to showcase the different facets of life of the people of the nine municipalities of the Greater Bay Area, with regularly updated information provided to Hong Kong people interested to develop their careers in the Greater Bay Area. Likewise, the Administration should also strive for the setting up of such a showroom for Hong Kong in the nine municipalities to facilitate mutual information exchanges. Sharing a similar concern, Dr CHIANG Lai-wan enquired what facilitation measures the Administration would take to attract Mainland enterprises to invest in Hong Kong.

24. SCMA advised that the HKSAR Government had relayed to the Central People's Government the aspirations of Hong Kong enterprises to participate in the domestic circulation and integrate into the overall development of the country by using the development of the Greater Bay Area as an entry point. The Central People's Government expressed strong support in this regard. HKTDC would launch a one-stop "GoGBA" platform in collaboration with Guangdong Province and related chambers of commerce, and set up a SME Centre in the Greater Bay Area to provide multi-faceted support, including market information on the Greater Bay Area and related government policies, enquiry service and training, as well as business promotion, development and matching services. HKTDC would help

Hong Kong enterprises gain access to the large-scale e-commerce platforms in the Mainland through the provision of training and the operation of the "Online Design Gallery", with a view to allowing Hong Kong enterprises to acquire the necessary skills and knowledge on digital marketing, whilst promoting the awareness and image of Hong Kong products on these platforms. HKTDC would also use its physical network in the Mainland to provide business support for Hong Kong enterprises in handling operational issues such as import declaration, logistics and settlement of payment. SCMA added that a Pan-Greater Bay Area Inward Investment Liaison Group would be established to enable InvestHK and its counterparts in other cities in the Greater Bay Area to develop holistic and joint inward investment propositions with a view to enhancing synergy. Apart from the above, the HKSAR Government would continue to provide information on the development of the Greater Bay Area to Hong Kong enterprises and residents through different channels including the official dedicated website for the Greater Bay Area and the Hong Kong ETO in Guangdong.

25. Mr SHIU Ka-fai welcomed the HKTDC's launching of the "GoGBA" platform to provide support to SMEs looking for development opportunities in the Greater Bay Area. Mr SHIU urged the HKSAR Government to rebuild Hong Kong's image as a safe city in the Mainland in the aftermath of the social unrests in recent years, and said that the business community stood ready to provide support to the Administration in this regard.

26. SCMA advised that the HKSAR Government would, in collaboration with HKTDC and the Guangdong authorities, endeavor to assist Hong Kong enterprises in tapping into the Mainland domestic market to leverage on the enormous business opportunities on offer. The HKSAR Government attached great importance to promoting Hong Kong in the Mainland in the coming year, and would endeavor to rebuild Hong Kong's positive image as a free and safe society.

*Support for small and medium enterprises and self-employed persons*

27. Mr MA Fung-kwok said that measures to assist the cultural and creative industries to tide over the economic downturn amidst the COVID-19 pandemic were seriously lacking. In particular, not enough attention and assistance was given for self-employed persons in the performing, music and recreational industries. Sharing a similar view, Mr WONG Ting-kwong urged the Administration to provide more targeted assistance to those SMEs in genuine need and avoid subsidizing those which were financially strong or thrived amidst the COVID-19 pandemic while neglecting the ones which were in dire straits.

28. SCED said that the Administration was mindful of the need to provide more targeted assistance to employers and self-employed persons, and had disbursed

wage subsidies to eligible employers through the Employment Support Scheme under the Anti-epidemic Fund. The Administration would continue to listen to members' views in this regard.

29. Mr CHAN Chun-ying noted that the Administration would extend the eligibility for funding under EMF to enterprises other than SMEs. He enquired about the measures to prevent the funding from benefitting large enterprises which were not in need of assistance.

30. SCED said that in order to support enterprises in conducting local market promotion activities through both online and offline exhibitions, as well as to maintain Hong Kong's leading position in large-scale merchandise exhibitions, the Administration proposed to extend the funding scope of EMF, from specifically aiming at markets outside Hong Kong to also covering large-scale exhibitions held by organizations with good track records targeting at the local market, as well as virtual exhibitions organized by HKTDC and reputable exhibition organizers with good track records, for a period of two years. SCED assured members that SMEs were the major beneficiaries of EMF and the Dedicated Fund on Branding, Upgrading and Domestic Sales ("BUD Fund"). Under both EMF and the BUD Fund, funding would be provided on a matching basis and with a ceiling. These Funds, together with the Convention and Exhibition Industry Subsidy Scheme, were all targeted at assisting SMEs.

31. Mr CHAN Chun-ying noted that the Administration had enhanced the Special 100% Guarantee Product under the SME Financing Guarantee Scheme ("SFGS") in September 2020 by, inter alia, increasing the maximum loan amount from the total of employee wages and rents for six months to that for 12 months. Given the persistence of the pandemic, Mr CHAN suggested that the Special 100% Guarantee Product be further enhanced by further raising the maximum loan amount to the total of employee wages and rents for 18 months.

32. SCED said that the Special 100% Guarantee Product had met with good response and SMEs found it much easier to obtain loans from the participating lending institutions. From mid-2020 until the present, over 25 000 enterprises, mainly SMEs, had been able to obtain loans under the Special 100% Guarantee Product, involving a total approved loan amount of about \$40 billion. The unused total financial commitment of the 80%, 90% and 100% Special Guarantee Products now stood at around \$73.1 billion.

33. Mr SHIU Ka-fai welcomed the various enhancement measures introduced by the Administration to assist SMEs in sailing through the hard times. He urged the Administration to consider the Liberal Party's suggestion of further raising the maximum loan amount of the Special 100% Guarantee Product under SFGS to

\$10 million, and by extending the use of credit facilities to repayment of interests and settlement of bills.

34. SCED advised that while demand was strong (over 20 000 applications) for the Special 100% Guarantee Product, the loan amount of individual applications remained moderate (on average less than \$2 million, compared to the ceiling of \$5 million). So far, out of the total funding commitment of \$50 billion for the Special 100% Guarantee Product, loans of about \$40 billion had been approved. Should SMEs require a higher amount of guaranteed loan, they could also resort to the 80% or 90% Guarantee Product which provided higher guaranteed loan ceilings. To allow more flexibility in the allocation of funding, the financial commitments for the 80%, 90% and Special 100% Guarantee Products were pooled together so that the Special 100% Guarantee Product could go beyond its financial commitment of \$50 billion if demand for this product turned out to be exceptionally strong. Moreover, the Administration had been listening to views of members and SMEs, and implemented enhancements to various support measures for SMEs. For example, the Administration had increased the funding ceiling per enterprise under EMF and proposed to extend the funding scope from aiming at markets outside Hong Kong to also covering exhibitions targeting at the local market. Meanwhile, the Administration had established the \$1.02 billion Convention and Exhibition Industry Subsidy Scheme under the Anti-epidemic Fund to reinvigorate the C&E industry by subsidizing both the participants and organizers of C&E activities in terms of participation fees and venue rentals. At present, there remained a total balance of about \$5.1 billion under EMF and BUD Fund available for application. SCED assured members that the Administration would continue to gauge the views of members and the business sector and make further improvements as and when necessary.

35. Dr CHIANG Lai-wan enquired what assistance the Administration would provide to Hong Kong SMEs which had encountered difficulties in opening bank accounts in the Mainland.

36. SCMA said that in order to assist Hong Kong enterprises/persons in opening bank accounts in the Mainland, the Bank of China had operated a pilot service for cross-boundary account opening. The HKSAR Government would continue to follow up with the Mainland authorities on the possible further expansion of the network for the pilot service.

#### *Development of Innovation and Technology*

37. Dr CHIANG Lai-wan noted that Shenzhen had made good progress in developing the Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Zone (located north of Shenzhen River and adjacent to the Lok Ma Chau Loop ("Loop")) while Hong

Kong had greatly lagged behind developing HKSITP in the Loop. Dr CHIANG urged the Administration to expedite the development of HKSITP as a matter of great urgency.

38. S for IT advised that the Administration was pressing ahead with the development of HKSITP. The Administration would seek funding approval from the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council soon, with a view to completing relevant infrastructure and the Batch 1 Development in phases between 2024 and 2027. The HKSAR Government was exploring with the Shenzhen Municipal People's Government the feasibility of allowing the Hong Kong Science and Technology Park Corporation to lease and manage certain areas of the I&T Zone in Futian, Shenzhen before the completion of the HKSITP's first batch of buildings, so that institutes and enterprises that were interested in starting their business in the Greater Bay Area could first establish a presence in Shenzhen. Such cooperation would better leverage the complementary strengths and create synergy between Hong Kong and Shenzhen.

39. Mr SHIU Ka-fai said while many metropolises around the world were put into lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic, making use of I&T in e-commerce and digitizing government services had become more and more important in our daily lives. The development of I&T was also in line with China's national strategy. As such, Mr SHIU urged the Administration to step up effort in developing Hong Kong's I&T, in order to boost the economy and improve people's livelihood. He also urged the Administration to enhance the various schemes to attract Mainland and overseas I&T talents to Hong Kong, e.g. the Technology Talent Admission Scheme.

40. S for IT said that I&T development played a key role in Hong Kong's overall development. Integration with the Greater Bay Area and nurturing talent were vital for Hong Kong's I&T development. The Greater Bay Area Youth Employment Scheme (I&T sector) would help local youth understand the latest I&T development in the Greater Bay Area and encourage them to seize the opportunities there for career development. Since its launch on 8 January 2021, many enterprises had expressed support and hundreds of employment opportunities in the Greater Bay Area were ready for application under the Scheme. Likewise, the Global STEM Professorship Scheme would pool together top-notch global talents to Hong Kong.

*Development of Hong Kong-Taiwan relations after the pandemic*

41. Mr YIU Si-wing enquired about the Administration's plan for relaxation of quarantine measures and resumption of tourism cooperation with Taiwan after the pandemic. SCMA said that apart from economic, trade and cultural exchanges,

tourism cooperation would also be a focus of effort of the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan. The Office would continue to work towards that end. Relevant promotion work would be carried out at full steam when the pandemic situation subsided.

**II. Any other business**

42. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 1:01 pm.

Council Business Division 1  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
22 March 2021