

**Information Paper for
LegCo Panel on Commerce and Industry**

**Report on the Work of
HKSAR Government's Offices in the Mainland and Taiwan**

This paper gives an account of the work undertaken by the Office of the Government of the HKSAR in Beijing, the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices in Guangdong, Shanghai and Chengdu, as well as the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office (Taiwan) between October 2012 and September 2013. Details of the work of these five Offices are set out in Annexes 1 to 5.

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**Report on the Work of
the Office of the Government of the Hong Kong
Special Administrative Region in Beijing**

The main functions of the Office of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region in Beijing (BJO) are to (a) enhance liaison and communication between the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSARG), the Central People's Government (CPG) and Mainland authorities in the 15 provinces/municipalities/autonomous regions¹ under its coverage; (b) promote Hong Kong in general and particularly over economic and trade relations with the 15 provinces/municipalities/autonomous regions; (c) handle immigration related matters; and (d) provide assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress.

Commercial Relations

2. BJO closely monitored the policies and regulations in respect of corporate taxation, social insurance, labour relations and import/export of products, etc. which were of interest to Hong Kong businesses, and kept Hong Kong businesses and relevant bureaux and departments abreast of the latest news. BJO also maintained close contact with Mainland authorities on economic and trade issues, so as to understand the latest development of the relevant policies and their implications on Hong Kong.

3. To step up the dissemination of information to Hong Kong businesses, starting from June 2013, BJO issued to major business chambers and Hong Kong enterprises a Newsletter on Economic and Trade Policies and Regulations in the Mainland on a weekly basis, and a Newsletter on Business Promotion, Investment and Economic and Trade Activities in the Mainland on a monthly basis. These Newsletters reported information on economic and trade policies and regulations, business promotion, investment as well as economic and trade activities at the national level and in the provinces/municipalities/ autonomous regions under BJO's coverage. The Newsletters were also uploaded onto BJO's website for public browsing.

4. At the same time, in respect of business policies related to taxation, labour and intellectual property, etc. which were of ongoing concerns to Hong Kong enterprises, BJO compiled the relevant information and analysis into Topical Newsletters. BJO, together with other Economic and Trade Offices in the Mainland, issued Topical Newsletters to business chambers and Hong Kong enterprises from time to time. Besides, BJO invited experts on such topical issues to organise workshops to explain the relevant policies and regulations to Hong Kong enterprises and answer enquiries.

5. During the report period, BJO participated in a number of trade activities held in the regions under its coverage. For instance, BJO assisted in organising the "16th Beijing-Hong Kong Economic Co-operation Symposium" held in Hong Kong in November 2012 to promote trade and economic co-operation between the two places. BJO also participated in the "8th Expo Central China 2013", the "20th China Tianjin Investment and Trade Fair", the "24th China Harbin International Economic and Trade Fair" and the "9th China-Northeast Asia Expo", etc. BJO also attended a number of trade fairs held in Qinghai,

¹ The 15 provinces/municipalities/autonomous regions under BJO's coverage are Beijing, Tianjin, Hebei, Henan, Shandong, Shanxi, Liaoning, Jilin, Heilongjiang, Inner Mongolia, Xinjiang, Gansu, Ningxia, Qinghai and Tibet.

Gansu, Shandong, Inner Mongolia, etc. to strengthen our ties with the relevant local authorities, commerce units and enterprises. On the other hand, BJO assisted in the arrangement of the attendance of the HKSARG principal officials in trade promotion events held in Hong Kong by Shandong, Heilongjiang, Jilin, Inner Mongolia, Xinjiang and Ningxia governments, etc. In addition, BJO commenced the preparatory work for the “17th Beijing-Hong Kong Economic Co-operation Symposium” scheduled for October 2013 in Beijing. During the report period, BJO contacted the relevant Mainland commerce and related bureaux under its coverage in establishing hyperlinks to BJO’s website for their major investment projects and business information in order to facilitate Hong Kong enterprises in reaching such information.

Investment Promotion

6. On the task of attracting Mainland enterprises to establish operations and invest in Hong Kong, the North China Investment Promotion Unit of BJO has endeavoured to proactively liaise with and visit potential enterprises, and relevant commercial and industrial organisations to introduce the competitive edges of Hong Kong as a platform for Mainland enterprises to develop their overseas business. Those with interest will be offered comprehensive assistance and consultation services. During the report period, the Unit proactively reached out to different organisations 491 times and generated 45 live projects. During the same period, the Unit completed 23 projects through enabling the relevant companies to invest in Hong Kong. On investment promotion events, BJO organised or attended 35 industry-specific or investment seminars and exhibitions. Notably amongst them were the investment promotion seminars held in March 2013 in Tianjin; April 2013 in Zhengzhou in Henan Province; and August 2013 across three northeast cities, namely Dalian in Liaoning Province, Changchun in Jilin Province and Harbin in Heilongjiang Province. These seminars aimed to highlight the strengths and business friendly environment of Hong Kong, and were well received.

Public Relations

7. To enhance Mainland people’s understanding of Hong Kong, BJO staged a total of 13 exhibitions at major trade and promotional events in the provinces/municipalities/autonomous regions under BJO’s purview during the report period. The exhibitions featured the latest developments of Hong Kong’s economy, the win-win co-operation between Hong Kong and the Mainland, as well as the five core values of Hong Kong’s city brand as “Asia’s world city”. The exhibitions attracted about 360 000 visitors.

8. BJO also organised activities to promote Hong Kong’s art, culture and creativity to bring home the multifarious aspects of the city to the Mainland public. They included the “Hong Kong – Art Events Capital” exhibition co-organised with the Hong Kong Tourism Board; “A Better Tomorrow” contemporary art exhibition which used Hong Kong’s pop culture as a platform jointly organised with the Chinese Cultural Friendship Association; as well as a film festival to showcase Hong Kong’s film industry. Besides, BJO also provided support to Hong Kong’s art bodies to stage performances such as dance and theatrical shows in Beijing to foster cultural exchanges between Hong Kong and the Mainland.

9. On media publicity, BJO co-produced with the China National Radio (CNR) regular weekly radio programmes to update the Mainland audiences on Hong Kong’s latest developments. The reach of the programmes spanned over the 31 provinces/municipalities/autonomous regions on the Mainland. BJO also co-operated with CNR’s Hua Xia Zhi Sheng channel to produce 12 feature episodes to introduce Hong Kong’s charitable and disaster

relief work, cultural exchange and economic development on the Mainland through in-depth reporting of Hong Kong and Mainland stakeholders, organisations and officials. The episodes aimed to demonstrate the co-operation between Hong Kong and the Mainland to attain mutual benefits as well as the deep-rooted bonds and friendship between people of both places.

10. BJO also co-operated with the People's Daily Online to produce a dedicated website to promote Hong Kong. The monthly hit rate of the website exceeded 960 000.

Work to strengthen “Homeland Relationship”

11. To complement the HKSARG's efforts to take forward work on “Homeland Relationship”, and to implement relevant initiatives in the 2013 Policy Address, BJO strived to broaden and deepen the liaison network with the Mainland authorities, Hong Kong enterprises and residents through various activities. BJO further stepped up the collection and dissemination of information to better support Hong Kong residents living, working and doing business in the Mainland. The specific work included -

- (a) BJO enhanced Government-to-Government work. BJO strengthened liaison and established platform for co-operation with the central and local authorities through meetings and participation in the activities organised by such authorities. BJO also liaised with the CPG and other Mainland authorities on relevant regulations and policies, as well as provided logistical support to HKSARG officials during their visits to the Mainland. BJO also provided regular reports to relevant bureaux and departments of HKSARG to facilitate their timely understanding of the policies and developments in the Mainland and assessment of possible implications on Hong Kong. Examples included the Renminbi cross-border trade settlement and financial policies, the latest economic data, as well as important regulations and news regarding food safety, labour, trade and tax regulations etc.
- (b) BJO further stepped up liaison with Hong Kong businessmen and residents in the Mainland to understand their needs and provide suitable assistance. Some examples were as follows –
 - BJO met with representatives of Hong Kong residents and businessmen in the Beijing Municipality, Tianjin Municipality, Jinan and Qingdao of Shangdong Province, Shengyang of Liaoning Province, Zhengzhou of Henan Province, Hohhot of Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, Harbin of Heilongjiang Province, Lanzhou of Gansu Province, Taiyuan of Shangxi Province, Changchun of Jilin Province, Yinchuan of Ningxia Autonomous Region to learn about their situation and help them reflect their concerns to the local authorities for follow-up.
 - BJO, the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC) and the Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce in China (HKCCC) co-organised experience sharing sessions on business operations, inviting Hong Kong enterprises in Beijing in different sectors (retail, catering, professional services, real estate and information technology) to share views on doing business in Beijing. The sessions aimed at further strengthening the connections with Hong Kong enterprises and understanding their views.

- BJO co-organised seminars with the local governments of the Beijing Municipality, the Tianjin Municipality and Taiyuan of Shangxi province to facilitate Hong Kong residents to exchange views with local authorities on their needs for services and experience of living and doing business in these areas.
 - Apart from maintaining regular liaison with Hong Kong residents and organisations in the Mainland, BJO also supported activities organised by Hong Kong students in Mainland universities, and provided them with information on civil service recruitment exercises. In addition, BJO encouraged HKCCC and its Tianjin Branch to consider providing internship opportunities to Hong Kong students.
- (c) BJO uploaded onto its website a set of frequently asked questions about assistance provided to Hong Kong residents in the Mainland (e.g. birth, marriage, travel documents, etc.). BJO was also collecting practical information such as medical care, study, legal services etc. for dissemination to Hong Kong residents in the Mainland through publication of booklets and BJO's website.
- (d) BJO was conducting policy research on national policies related to taxation, labour and intellectual property which were of concerns to Hong Kong enterprises, with a view to analysing the impact and opportunities brought about by these policies to Hong Kong enterprises. BJO also arranged experts to host seminars in the Mainland and compiled a Topical Newsletter to disseminate the findings to business chambers and Hong Kong enterprises. To enhance the dissemination of information to Hong Kong residents and businessmen, BJO issued the Newsletter on Mainland Economic and Trade Policies, Laws and Regulations and the Newsletter on Promotion, Investment and Economic and Trade Activities in the Mainland to major business chambers and Hong Kong enterprises on a weekly and monthly basis respectively.
- (e) BJO invited experts to organise talks on other topical issues which were of ongoing concerns to Hong Kong enterprises. For example, in December 2012, BJO and HKCCC-Tianjin co-organised the "Seminar on the Implementation of the Pilot Programme to Replace Business Tax with Value-added Tax in Tianjin". The Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the Tianjin Municipal Government, the Tianjin Finance Bureau and the Tianjin Municipal Office of the State Administration of Tax were the supporting organisations. The seminar was held to brief Hong Kong-invested enterprises in Tianjin. In addition, in May 2013, BJO and HKCCC jointly organised the "Briefing on the Application for the Dedicated Fund on Branding, Upgrading and Domestic Sales (BUD Fund)", with HKTDC as the supporting organisation. Representative from the BUD Fund Secretariat of the Hong Kong Productivity Council was invited to brief Hong Kong enterprises in Beijing on the assessment procedures and the funding arrangements for applications to the Fund. In September 2013, BJO organised a topical seminar on labour-related issues and the response was encouraging.
- (f) BJO enhanced liaison with relevant offices of the HKTDC and the Hong Kong Tourism Board in the Mainland to jointly promote Hong Kong, share

information on business operating situation of Hong Kong enterprises in the region and take necessary follow-up action, and jointly collect information on major development and investment projects in the region.

Immigration-related Matters and Assistance Rendered

12. Immigration matters handled by BJO included processing applications for entry to Hong Kong, liaising and maintaining contacts with counterparts in relevant departments on matters relating to application for Chinese nationality in Hong Kong, conducting negotiations on visa-free access with foreign diplomatic missions in Beijing, handling enquiries on immigration matters, and providing practical assistance to Hong Kong residents who have lost their documents or encountered personal safety problems in the Mainland. During the report period, BJO received a total of 157 requests for assistance from Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland. Of these, 54 cases involved the loss of travel documents or monies, 89 cases were from persons who were involved in traffic accidents, injured, sick or whose relatives had passed away in the Mainland, etc, and the remaining 14 cases involved the detention of Hong Kong residents in the Mainland. In addition, BJO processed 4 786 entry applications and handled 18 365 enquiries.

13. Since March 2001, BJO has started an arrangement to provide emergency financial assistance to Hong Kong residents in the Mainland who have lost their monies and were unable to seek immediate financial assistance from their family members. BJO would advance a reasonable amount of money to the persons in need subject to their undertaking to repay the advanced sum in full and return to Hong Kong immediately. During the report period, there were 5 such assistance cases where emergency financial assistance was provided.

14. In addition, BJO received a total of 16 other assistance cases¹ and made referrals to and followed up on the cases with the relevant Mainland authorities during the report period.

Looking Ahead

15. BJO will continue to promote Hong Kong in the provinces/municipalities/autonomous regions under its coverage and liaise with the governments of these provinces/municipalities/autonomous regions in respect of economic, trade and other matters with a view to enhancing trade, investment, cultural exchanges and communications, etc. between Hong Kong and the Mainland. BJO will continue to monitor developments in major policies, regulations and initiatives in the Mainland and report to relevant bureaux and departments in a timely manner for assessment on the implications on Hong Kong. BJO will also continue to strengthen the services, information and other support, as appropriate, to the Hong Kong people living, working or studying in Beijing.

The Office of the Government of the HKSAR in Beijing
October 2013

¹ The figure refers to the number of new assistance cases received. If it is counted on the basis of number of referral request handled, the total would be 105.

Report on the Work of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong

The Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong (GDETO) is responsible for handling economic and trade matters between the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) and the five provinces/region of Fujian, Jiangxi, Guangdong, Guangxi and Hainan (the five provinces/region), and seeks to attract investment into Hong Kong. GDETO (including its Shenzhen Liaison Unit and Fujian Liaison Unit) continues to strengthen liaison with local government authorities, non-government organisations, as well as trade associations to provide support to Hong Kong enterprises in the five provinces/region, and disseminate information on relevant Mainland policies and measures. GDETO also solicits views and suggestions from them and helps reflect them to the relevant authorities. Besides, GDETO handles enquiries and request for assistance from Hong Kong residents in the five provinces/region.

2. Hong Kong business organisations stationed in the five provinces/region and industry and trade associations are our essential working partners. GDETO works closely together to provide better services to Hong Kong enterprises and assist them in looking for investment opportunities in the Mainland. The 11th Pearl River Delta (PRD) Annual Gala Dinner was held in Guangzhou in December 2012. About 1 000 Hong Kong businessmen attended the event. The Chief Executive (CE) also attended the event as an officiating guest and delivered a speech.

3. Over the past year, GDETO continued to provide logistical support to major meetings/activities held in the five provinces/region, including the Eighth Pan-PRD Regional Co-operation and Development Forum, the Hong Kong/Shenzhen Co-operation Meeting, the 18th Working Meeting of Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation Joint Conference, the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2013, etc. GDETO also assisted government departments on both sides in planning and coordinating a number of mutual visits by senior officials from the two places.

Commercial Relations

4. GDETO continued its efforts in providing Hong Kong enterprises with a wide range of services to facilitate their business operation in the five provinces/region. The weekly GDETO Newsletters provided the latest information on the rules and regulations as well as economic and trade-related development in the five provinces/region. It also publicised the various activities organised by GDETO.

5. GDETO organised a number of activities to promote the business development of Hong Kong enterprises in the five provinces/region and enhance their understanding of relevant rules and regulations in the Mainland. These activities covered a variety of topics of concern among Hong Kong businessmen, e.g. transformation and upgrading of enterprises, adjustment of minimum wage standard of Guangdong Province, collection of labour union funds in Guangdong Province, labour policies and tax issues, etc. They included -

- Forum on “Implementation of Pilot Measures to levy Value-added Tax instead of Business Tax in Guangdong Province” in Shenzhen in October 2012;

- Two “Exchange Sessions with Heads of Hong Kong Industry and Trade Organisations” in Shenzhen in February 2013 and June 2013 respectively ; and
- Seminar on “Mainland Labour Law and Social Insurance System” in Guangzhou in September 2013.

6. Separately, GDETO co-organised with the Dongguan Municipal Government and Hong Kong’s industry and trade associations two meetings of the “Joint Conference on the Transformation and Upgrading of Hong Kong-invested Enterprises in Dongguan” in December 2012 and May 2013 respectively in Hong Kong. The meetings discussed issues of common concern, and reviewed the difficulties experienced by them in their course of transformation and upgrading.

7. GDETO continued to actively assist Hong Kong enterprises in reflecting their concerns to the relevant local government authorities and taking follow-up actions. More important issues included adjustment of minimum wage standard of Guangdong Province, collection of labour union funds in Guangdong Province, environmental protection standard, elimination of the use of cyanide in the electroplating industry, labour policies, transformation and upgrading of enterprises, expanding domestic sales, custom’s surveillance, pilot measures to levy value-added tax instead of business tax, etc.

8. GDETO also closely monitored the development of Qianhai, Nansha and Hengqin. GDETO actively participated in the related consultation sessions and reflected the views of the HKSAR Government and Hong Kong business community. GDETO also visited these areas to conduct study missions together with various business delegations.

Investment Promotion

9. One of the major duties of GDETO is to promote the positive image of Hong Kong, and Hong Kong as the ideal platform for enterprises in the five provinces/region to expand their businesses and go global. Through building up and maintaining strategic working relationship with the relevant local government authorities and local industry and trade organisations, GDETO has continued to contact, attract and assist enterprises to invest in Hong Kong.

10. During the report period, GDETO conducted 419 meetings with Mainland enterprises, and provided advice and assistance to them for setting up a presence or expanding their existing business in Hong Kong. During this period, GDETO generated 31 live projects, completed 26 projects, and organised a total of 22 investment promotion activities. Major promotional activities GDETO co-organised with Invest Hong Kong included -

- Investment promotion activities titled “Hong Kong – Your Platform to Go Global”, including a CEO Luncheon in Foshan, a CEO Dinner in Zhongshan and a CEO Luncheon in Zhuhai in December 2012;
- Investment promotion seminar titled “Hong Kong – Your Platform to Go Global” during the “2013 Fujian Xiamen Hong Kong Week” in April 2013;
- Investment promotion activities titled “Hong Kong – Your Platform to Go Global”, including a seminar-cum-CEO Luncheon each in Haikou of Hainan Province and Nanning of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region in May 2013;

- Investment promotion activity titled “Hong Kong – Your Platform to Go Global” Seminar-cum-CEO Luncheon in Chaozhou of Guangdong Province in August 2013; and
- Seminar titled “Hong Kong – Your Platform to Go Global” co-organised with Department of Outward Investment and Economic Co-operation of the Ministry of Commerce etc. in September 2013 during the 17th China International Fair for Investment and Trade in Xiamen.

Public Relations

11. The Chief Executive (CE) and other Principal Officials conducted frequent visits to the five provinces/region which helped foster connections between the HKSAR Government and the Mainland authorities. The highlights of such visits included CE’s participation at the 8th Pan-PRD Regional Co-operation and Development Forum held in the Hainan Province in end November – early December 2012, his call on the Party Secretaries of the Guangdong Province and Shenzhen Municipality in February 2013, his attendance at the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2013 held in the Hainan Province in April 2013, etc. GDETO coordinated media plans to facilitate local and Hong Kong media to cover the visits.

12. During the report period, GDETO organised a cocktail reception to celebrate the 16th anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR in Guangzhou in July 2013. GDETO invited representatives from the government departments in the five provinces/region, the commerce and industry sector and relevant organisations to attend the function with a view to strengthening our ties with them. GDETO also staged “This is Hong Kong” photo exhibitions at popular venues in Beihai, Yulin and Nanning in the Guangxi Region and Guangzhou in the Guangdong Province in February and March 2013 with a view to giving local residents a better understanding of Hong Kong’s development and promoting a positive image of Hong Kong.

13. GDETO supported/co-organised the Hong Kong Pavilion in the South China Book Festival, Hong Kong Films Exhibition 2013 and SmartHK organised by the Hong Kong Publishing Federation/the Hong Kong Printers Association, the Hong Kong Film Development Council and the Hong Kong Trade Development Council respectively in Guangzhou in August 2013. GDETO also helped promote these events.

14. During the report period, GDETO also received a number of study missions from Hong Kong students and briefed them of our work. Moreover, the Director of GDETO gave multiple interviews to reporters of major Mainland newspapers and Hong Kong reporters stationed in the Mainland to brief them on the work of GDETO, including the promotion of Hong Kong’s economic and trade development in the region.

15. The Guangdong Scheme was opened for application starting from 1 August 2013. GDETO helped promote the scheme and applicants might obtain leaflets, guidance note, application forms, etc at our office.

Shenzhen Liaison Unit

16. The Shenzhen Liaison Unit strengthens the co-operation between Hong Kong and Guangdong and that between Hong Kong and Shenzhen by enhancing liaison with the Shenzhen municipal government, non-government organisations and trade associations and providing support to Hong Kong residents and enterprises in Shenzhen.

17. During the report period, more important high-level meetings included the Hong Kong/Shenzhen Co-operation Meeting co-chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration (CS) and the Mayor of Shenzhen in Shenzhen in January 2013. Besides, CS and the Mayor of Shenzhen officiated the inauguration of “Shenzhen-Hong Kong Youth Innovation Entrepreneurship Base” in Shenzhen in June 2013 and visited the young people from Hong Kong there.

18. The Shenzhen Liaison Unit’s major areas of work are to facilitate the co-operation between Hong Kong and Shenzhen in the promotion of service industries in Qianhai, to monitor promulgation of new policies, legislation and regulations in relation to the development of Qianhai, and to disseminate such information in a timely manner.

19. To provide support to Hong Kong businessmen in Shenzhen, the Shenzhen Liaison Unit actively collected their views and reflected their concerns to the relevant Shenzhen authorities. These issues included transformation and upgrading of processing trade enterprises, labour policies, minimum wage standard in Shenzhen, social insurance, collective bargaining, pilot measures to levy value-added tax instead of business tax, etc.

Fujian Liaison Unit

20. The Fujian Liaison Unit enhances liaison with the Fujian provincial and municipal governments, non-government organisations and trade associations in order to strengthen co-operation and provides support to Hong Kong residents and enterprises in Fujian (as well as to reflect operation problems of individual enterprises to the relevant authorities).

21. In areas of economic and trade, the Fujian Liaison Unit’s major areas of work are to monitor and follow up on the “Double Extension Proposals”¹ raised by the Fujian Provincial Government and the promulgation of preferential policies, legislation and regulations relating to the Pingtan Comprehensive Experimental Zone, and to disseminate the latest information to Hong Kong businessmen.

22. During the report period, the Fujian Liaison Unit attended large-scale investment promotion activities and related seminars organised by the Fujian provincial and municipal governments to explore business opportunities for Hong Kong businessmen. The Fujian Liaison Unit also organised various activities to introduce to Hong Kong businessmen the latest economic and trade policies and business opportunities. Such activities included CEPA seminars in Fuzhou and Xiamen. The “2013 Fujian Xiamen Hong Kong Week” was also promoted at the CEPA seminar held in Xiamen.

“2013 Fujian Xiamen Hong Kong Week”

23. The HKSAR Government and the Fujian Provincial and Xiamen Municipal Governments jointly organised the “2013 Fujian Xiamen Hong Kong Week” (HK Week) during 27 April - 2 May 2013 with the aim of expanding and deepening the exchanges and co-operation between the HKSAR and the Fujian Province in areas such as economy and trade, culture and tourism. Through showcasing Hong Kong’s trendy and creative products, services and industries, the HK Week enhanced the local community’s understanding of the

¹ The "Double Extension Proposals" mainly involve extending all policies and measures in CEPA applicable to Guangdong/HKSAR/Macao SAR to Fujian and all provisions in EFCA applicable to Fujian/Taiwan to Guangdong/HKSAR/Macao SAR.

HKSAR and promoted the overall branding image of Hong Kong. The HK Week not only assisted Hong Kong enterprises in building up their brand image and exploring the Mainland domestic sales market, but also further supported the transformation and upgrading of enterprises to capitalise on the opportunities arising from the “National 12th Five-Year Plan”.

24. The HK Week was the largest campaign held in the Fujian Province to promote the HKSAR after the set up of the Fujian Liaison Unit in 2012. The first part of the HK Week activities targeted members of the general public. These activities included -

- “2013 Hong Kong Trendy Products Expo, Fujian Xiamen” organised by the Chinese Manufacturers’ Association of Hong Kong. A showcase gallery displaying Hong Kong brands was also set up (with the financial support from the Dedicated Fund on Branding, Upgrading and Domestic Sales (BUD Fund) of the Trade and Industry Department). The showcase gallery displayed 100 Hong Kong product and service brands with the theme “trendy and prestige lives”. The Expo attracted some 300 000 visitors; and
- “Hong Kong Pavilion” consisting of four exhibitions: “This is Hong Kong” organised by GDETO, “Hong Kong Auto Parts and Accessory Systems Exhibition” organised by the SAE-HK, “Hong Kong Comics Pavilion” organised by the Hong Kong Comics and Animation Federation and “2013 Xiamen-Hong Kong International Furniture Festival” organised by the Hong Kong Furniture Association. Among them, the “Hong Kong Auto Parts and Accessory Systems Exhibition” was financially supported by the BUD Fund.

25. The second part of the HK Week activities, targeted at the business community of Hong Kong and the Fujian Province, included seminars, business matching events and themed workshops. They included the “Investment Promotion Forum”, “CEPA Seminar” and “Seminar on Hong Kong Legal and Arbitration Services” co-organised by Invest Hong Kong, the Trade and Industry Department and the Department of Justice with GDETO respectively. These seminars were well attended.

26. With regard to publicity, apart from promoting the HK Week through media briefings, newspaper advertisements, LED boards, leaflets/pamphlets, flags, banners, etc, GDETO, joining efforts with the Information Services Department, also arranged journalists of six electronic and printed media organisations in the Fujian Province and Xiamen Municipality to conduct interviews in Hong Kong before the HK Week and to produce and broadcast the reports in a timely manner so as to create a good promotional atmosphere for the commencement of the event.

Work to strengthen “Homeland Relationship”

27. To complement the HKSAR Government’s efforts to take forward work on “Homeland Relationship”, and to implement relevant initiatives in the 2013 Policy Address, GDETO strived to broaden and deepen liaison network through various activities; stepped up information collection; and implemented various measures to better support Hong Kong residents in the region. The specific work included -

- (a) strengthening Government-to-Government work, e.g. strengthening our liaison with various government organisations in the five provinces/region and exploring co-operation opportunities with them through visits and participation

in their activities, so as to make better use of the local government platform to provide assistance to Hong Kong businessmen when necessary.

- (b) enhancing liaison with Hong Kong enterprises and residents in the five provinces/region to better understand their needs and provide appropriate assistance. Some examples were as follows -
- GDETO organised two “Exchange Sessions with Heads of Hong Kong Industry and Trade Organisations” in Shenzhen in February 2013 and June 2013 respectively.
 - GDETO proactively liaised and exchanged views with local Hong Kong university students to better understand their living and study situation. An example was the organisation of exchange sessions/gatherings with student representatives studying in Guangzhou of the Guangdong Province and Fuzhou of the Fujian Province respectively in March 2013.
- (c) enriching the content of the GDETO Newsletter to cover information related to Hong Kong residents living in the Mainland.
- (d) stepping up the collection of information on major developments and investment projects in the relevant provinces/region and cities, and continuing to disseminate such information through the GDETO Newsletter and GDETO’s website, as well as organising fora/talks on topics of concern to Hong Kong businessmen.
- (e) enhancing liaison with relevant offices of the Hong Kong Trade Development Council and the Hong Kong Tourism Board in the Mainland to jointly promote Hong Kong, share information on business operating situation of Hong Kong enterprises in the five provinces/region and take necessary follow-up action, and jointly collect information on major developments and investment projects in the relevant provinces/region and cities.

Immigration-related Matters and Assistance Rendered

28. Immigration matters handled by GDETO included handling immigration-related enquiries, and providing practical assistance to Hong Kong residents who have lost their travel documents or encountered personal safety problems in areas under the coverage of GDETO. During the report period, GDETO received a total of 173 requests for assistance from Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland. Of these, 4 cases involved the loss of travel documents or monies, 159 cases were from persons who were in danger, involved in traffic accidents, injured, sick or whose relatives had passed away in the Mainland, etc, and the remaining 10 cases involved the detention of Hong Kong residents in the Mainland. In addition, GDETO handled 1 130 enquires.

29. In addition, GDETO received a total of 76 other assistance cases and made referrals to and followed up on the cases with the relevant Mainland authorities during the report period.

Looking Ahead

30. In the light of the close liaison and co-operation between the HKSAR and the

Mainland provinces/cities in the areas of finance, economy and trade, infrastructure development, environmental protection, medical and public health services, culture and education, etc, GDETO will continue to play a pivotal bridging role between Hong Kong and the five provinces/region, enhancing liaison with the relevant Mainland authorities and assisting in the HKSAR Government's efforts in implementing the complementing work relating to the National 12th Five-Year Plan, the Outline of the Plan for the Reform and Development of the Pearl River Delta, and the Framework Agreement on Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation.

31. GDETO will continue to maintain close liaison with the governments of the five provinces/region and the municipalities in various areas including economy and trade. GDETO shall monitor policies and measures which will affect Hong Kong enterprises, disseminate relevant information and provide support to the trade as appropriate.

32. GDETO is exploring with the Guangdong Radio the co-production of regular monthly programmes with planned commencement in the 4th quarter of 2013, so as to reach out to the wider Mainland community and to enable them to have a better understanding on various aspects of Hong Kong.

33. GDETO will continue our efforts in facilitating inward investment of potential enterprises from the five provinces/region into Hong Kong and in encouraging Mainland enterprises to use Hong Kong as their base to open up international markets.

Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong
October 2013

Report on the Work of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Shanghai

The main functions of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Shanghai (SHETO) are to (a) enhance liaison and communication between the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSARG) and the Mainland authorities in the Municipality of Shanghai and the four provinces of Jiangsu, Zhejiang, Anhui and Hubei (the region); (b) promote Hong Kong and enhance economic and trade co-operation between Hong Kong and the region; and (c) provide appropriate information and assistance to Hong Kong enterprises and residents operating, working and living in the region.

Commercial Relations

2. The Commercial Relations (CR) Unit of SHETO continued to work with stakeholders in Hong Kong and the region to promote Hong Kong's business sector and help them explore business opportunities in the Mainland. Our work included –

- (a) supporting industry delegations and study missions from Hong Kong to visit the region to deepen their understanding of the business and investment environment in the region. For example, in March and June 2013, SHETO respectively accompanied the study delegation of Hong Kong Maritime Forum and the delegation for “Shanghai – Hong Kong Financial Development Forum” to Shanghai to understand the progress of the construction of International Shipping Centre and Financial Centre, and joined in some of the activities;
- (b) through the participation in trade promotional activities, encouraging and promoting economic and trade exchanges between Hong Kong and the region. For example, in April and May 2013, SHETO participated in the “2013 China-Nanjing Sci-tech Entrepreneurship Innovation & Major Projects Forum” and China Nantong Jianghai International Expo in Nanjing and Nantong respectively. SHETO also attended the 23rd East China Fair and the 1st session of the China (Shanghai) International Technology Fair;
- (c) organising a number of trade related seminars to strengthen the support and assistance for Hong Kong trade in the region. In October 2012, SHETO, in conjunction with the Trade and Industry Department and Shanghai Municipal Commission of Commerce, jointly organised a CEPA seminar in Shanghai. In January 2013, SHETO, together with the Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce in China – Shanghai, organised a briefing on the “Dedicated Fund on Branding, Upgrading and Domestic Sales”;
- (d) providing assistance to provinces and cities in the region in organising trade promotion activities in Hong Kong and organising meetings with senior HKSARG officials for visiting Mainland officials. For example, SHETO assisted in the coordination of economic and trade promotion activities in Hong Kong during the visit of Hubei Governor Wang Guosheng's and Jiangsu Vice-Governor Shi Heping's visit to Hong Kong in November 2012 and August 2013 respectively;

- (e) maintaining close relation with Hong Kong trade associations and related communities in the region, in particular, the Hong Kong China Chamber of Commerce in the region and actively participating in their activities. In March 2013, SHETO joined the study activity jointly organised by Hong Kong Institute of Architects, Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors, the Hong Kong Branch of the Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineer. SHETO also attended the Inauguration Ceremony of the Hong Kong China Chamber of Commerce – Hangzhou in May 2013;
- (f) providing timely reports to relevant HKSARG bureaux and departments, and keep Hong Kong businesses and trade organisations informed, through newsletters and special notices, of the latest economic and trade policies, regulations and measures in the region. From October 2012 to September 2013, SHETO issued a total of 144 circulars/newsletters; and
- (g) monitoring closely the policy developments and legislation in the region that may have an impact on Hong Kong enterprises and report back to Hong Kong; and collecting the views of Hong Kong enterprises on these developments/legislation and reflecting their views to relevant Mainland authorities for consideration where appropriate. Examples included the “Legislation of Promotion and Protection of Investments by Compatriots from Hong Kong and Macao in Jiangsu (Bill)” and the regulations and latest developments relating to China (Shanghai) Free Trade Pilot Zone which were of interest to the Hong Kong business sector.

Investment Promotion

3. The Investment Promotion (IP) Unit of SHETO continued to actively promote Hong Kong’s investment environment, proactively identify and approach Mainland companies and provide them with free one-stop services to assist them in investing or setting up operations in Hong Kong. During the report period, the IP Unit conducted 36 investment promotion visits, met with 239 companies and generated 30 live projects. During this period, 19 projects were successfully completed.

4. During the report period, the IP Unit completed a number of major investment promotion initiatives in the region, including –

- (a) organising a business roundtable in Hangzhou in February 2013 with focus on financial sector and met with 26 enterprises sharing business and investment opportunities of Hong Kong;
- (b) in March 2013, Head of Information & Communications Technology (ICT), Invest Hong Kong visiting the cities of Suzhou and Shanghai. On 5 March, with the help of Suzhou Federation of Industry and Commerce, Invest Hong Kong hosted the ICT Roundtable Seminar, in which 16 local enterprises of Suzhou took part;
- (c) in March 2013, Invest Hong Kong launching in Wuhan the “Hong Kong - Your Platform to Go Global” CEO Dinner Roundtable Seminar. At the event, Director-General of Investment Promotion shared with local government departments/organisations and representatives of over 120

enterprises the role of Hong Kong as the platform for growth and globalisation for Mainland enterprises;

- (d) in March 2013, co-hosting the “2013 Forum on IPO in Hong Kong” with the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, Hong Kong Trade Development Council and Hangzhou Municipal Government Financial Services Office, introducing to about 270 participating Zhejiang enterprises the business environment of Hong Kong; as well as ways to use Hong Kong’s financial services to serve their financing needs and expand their business;
- (e) in May 2013, participating and setting up an exhibition booth in the 2013 China (Shanghai) International Technology Fair, the first exhibition of its kind in Mainland China, promoting Hong Kong’s investment environment to about 1 000 exhibitors from 31 countries of various technology background and other participants of the Fair;
- (f) in May 2013, Assistant Director-General of Investment Promotion visiting Wuxi of Jiangsu Province and attending the IP Seminar - "Hong Kong – Your Platform to Go Global” to share with government agencies and representatives of 130 Mainland enterprises Hong Kong’s investment environment and latest development; and
- (g) organising/participating in 45 seminars/forums in the region promoting Hong Kong’s investment environment.

Public Relations

5. SHETO continued to organise activities to promote Hong Kong’s latest development and present the co-operation between Hong Kong and the region over trade, economic and other areas. During the report period, activities held by SHETO included –

- (a) organising activities, liaising with counterparts in the region and publicising the latest information of Hong Kong. In February 2013, SHETO hosted the 2013 spring reception in Shanghai with the attendance of nearly 200 guests including leaders from the governments, as well as representatives from business and industrial organisations, Hong Kong trade sector and enterprises in the region; co-organising with China Photographic Society of Hong Kong to hold a photographic exhibition; and displaying the creative furniture by Hong Kong art designer, to showcase the various perspectives of Hong Kong;
- (b) providing assistance to visits by senior Mainland officials to Hong Kong so as to deepen their understanding of Hong Kong and promote mutual exchange and co-operation. For example, in March/April 2013, SHETO respectively provided assistance for the Executive Vice-Mayor of Shanghai Tu Guangshao, the Secretary of Nanjing Municipal Party Committee Yang Weize and the Mayor of the Yichang Municipality Huang Chuping to visit Hong Kong and exchange with relevant departments;
- (c) receiving various groups of Hong Kong students and introducing to them the work of SHETO as well as the trade relationship between Shanghai and Hong Kong, including meeting with university students who took their internships in Shanghai under “the 2013 Pilot Scheme for Cross-border Study Tour for

Post-secondary Financial Talents”, “Shanghai-Hong Kong Future Leaders Internship Programme 2013” and “2013 Hong Kong University Students Summer Internship Programme” in June and July 2013 respectively;

- (d) organising press interviews and gatherings with local media and Hong Kong journalists stationed in Shanghai, to cover the work of the office and other prevailing subject matters. In order to broaden the scope of information dissemination, dedicated web pages and hyperlinks to SHETO websites had been created on two Mainland websites viz. the EastDay Net in Shanghai and Cnhubei.com in Hubei Province to promote Hong Kong messages since February and March 2013;
- (e) actively planning co-operation with media in the region, including television, radio and Internet, to produce and broadcast television API and radio programmes and to establish dedicated websites so as to deliver the message on “Hong Kong and China – Same Roots, Same Heart” and publicise the contribution of Hong Kong toward the Mainland’s development and the mutual support spirit between the people of the two places; and
- (f) planning for the roving exhibitions on the theme of “Hong Kong and China – Same Roots, Same Heart” in nine cities in the region from October to December 2013 to promote the positive images of Hong Kong.

Work to strengthen “Homeland Relationship”

6. To complement the HKSARG’s efforts to take forward work on “Homeland Relationship”, and to implement relevant initiatives in the 2013 Policy Address, SHETO strived to broaden and deepen liaison network through various activities; stepped up information collection; and implemented various measures to provide stronger support to Hong Kong people in the region. The specific work included –

- (a) enhancing Government-to-Government work, e.g. strengthening our liaison with various government organisations in the region and exploring co-operation opportunities with them through visits and participating in their activities, so as to better make use of the local government platform to provide assistance to Hong Kong trade where necessary.
- (b) proactively liaising with Hong Kong enterprises and Hong Kong residents in the region to understand their needs and provide appropriate assistance. Some examples were as follows –
 - SHETO organised an exchange session and dinner with the Hong Kong trade association and student representatives in Wuhan in March 2013 to understand their operating and living situation there; and exchanged views with the newly founded Hong Kong China Chamber of Commerce – Hangzhou in May and August 2013.
 - SHETO proactively liaised with Hong Kong university students in the region, including exchanging views with those studying in the Fudan University, East China University of Political Science and Law, University of Shanghai for Science and Technology, Shanghai Jiao Tung

University and Wuhan University to better understand their living and study situation.

- SHETO supported Hong Kong enterprises and residents in the region through provision of information and assistance. In early 2013, there were human infection cases of Influenza A (H7N9) in the eastern region of the Mainland. SHETO closely monitored the development through various sources. To keep the Hong Kong people groups in the region abreast of latest development, SHETO issued notices to the Hong Kong chamber of commerce and other Hong Kong stakeholder groups in the region. These notices set out information on the latest infection development about cases of human infection, the precautionary measures to take and means to obtain further information and assistance.
- (c) stepping up the collection of practical information such as medical care, study, legal services etc. for dissemination to Hong Kong residents in the Mainland through publication of booklets and SHETO's website.
- (d) stepping up the collection of information on major developments and investment projects in the relevant provinces and cities, and disseminating the information through SHETO's website. The relevant information of Shanghai has been published on SHETO's website in August 2013.
- (e) enhancing liaison with relevant offices of the Hong Kong Trade Development Council and the Hong Kong Tourism Board in the Mainland to jointly promote Hong Kong, share information on business operating situation of Hong Kong enterprises in the region as well as CEPA cases and take necessary follow-up action, and jointly collect information on major development and investment projects in the region.

Assistance rendered to Hong Kong Residents

7. SHETO received a total of 26 assistance cases¹ and made referrals to and followed up on the cases with the relevant Mainland authorities during the report period.

Looking Ahead

8. In the coming year, SHETO will continue to promote the economic relationship between Hong Kong and the region, promote Hong Kong to enhance Mainland people's positive understanding of Hong Kong. SHETO will also continue to strengthen the work on "Homeland Relationship" to better serve the Hong Kong enterprises and people in the region. SHETO will, in particular,

- (a) enhance Government-to-Government work and liaison with Hong Kong enterprises/people, so as to provide better service and act as a bridge between the local government and the business sector;

¹ The figure refers to the number of new assistance cases received. If it is counted on the basis of number of referrals made to the relevant Mainland authorities, the figure will be 108.

- (b) step up our publicity efforts to promote Hong Kong's advantages and positive image, so as to foster mutual understanding between the Mainland and Hong Kong;
- (c) closely monitor any new developments in the region and timely disseminate the relevant information so that Hong Kong business sector can timely respond and grasp opportunities, such as CEPA, issues of interest to Hong Kong trade (tax, labour, etc.) and the policy development on China (Shanghai) Free Trade Pilot Zone;
- (d) provide necessary information and assistance to Hong Kong enterprises/residents, including publication of guidebook on living in the region, organisation of seminars to provide trade-related or useful information about living in the region;
- (e) support and facilitate Hong Kong trade missions to arrange visits to the region so as to explore business opportunities; and
- (f) identify and attract Mainland enterprises to invest, set up operations, and list in Hong Kong.

Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Shanghai
October 2013

Report on the Work of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Chengdu

The main functions of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Chengdu (CDETO) are (a) to promote economic and trade co-operation and ties between the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) and the five provinces of Sichuan, Yunnan, Guizhou, Hunan, Shaanxi and the Municipality of Chongqing, to provide support to Hong Kong enterprises and to attract Mainland enterprises to invest in Hong Kong; (b) to promote Hong Kong and to enhance liaison and communication between the HKSAR and the above places; and (c) to provide suitable assistance to Hong Kong residents in need.

Commercial Relations

2. With a view to providing support to Hong Kong enterprises operating or intending to operate in the region covered, CDETO organised and participated in various economic and trade activities such as exchanges and visits, and also maintained close liaison and exchange with the relevant government departments and public bodies. Besides, CDETO disseminated the latest economic and trade policies and information in the region to the relevant government departments in Hong Kong, chambers of commerce in Hong Kong and Hong Kong enterprises through website and monthly newsletters.

3. During the report period, major events organised by CDETO included -

- (a) co-organising a New Year gathering with Hong Kong Xi'an Trade Association to meet with Hong Kong businessmen and residents working in Xi'an in January 2013. The Xi'an Sub-council of the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade was also invited to join. Three sides exchanged views on future economic and trade co-operation between Xi'an and Hong Kong;
- (b) organising a Chinese New Year gathering in February 2013 to strengthen the liaison with Hong Kong businessmen and residents working in Chengdu. Participants shared their experience of living and running business in Sichuan. Co-organisers included Trade Development Council and Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce in China – Chengdu;
- (c) undertaking a study of “CEPA Implementation in Shaanxi Province” jointly with relevant departments of the Shaanxi Provincial People’s Government in order to analyse how to utilise CEPA effectively to develop a more robust investment platform for Hong Kong businessmen to explore the Mainland market;
- (d) organising the visit of The Hong Kong Chinese Executives Club (a sub-organisation under Hong Kong Management Association), which included meeting the Chengdu Investment Promotion Commission and visiting the Chengdu Hi-tech Industrial Development Zone and several Chengdu enterprises in March 2013; and

- (e) assisting in the visit of Financial Secretary (FS) to Changsha in August 2013, where FS met with officials from Hunan Province and Changsha Municipal People's Government to foster closer co-operation between Hong Kong and Hunan Province. During the visit, FS also visited enterprises and took the opportunity to meet with Hong Kong businessmen and residents in Changsha to learn about their experience of living and running business there.

Investment Promotion

4. CDETO continued to provide Mainland enterprises with a wide range of services to facilitate their business development in Hong Kong. It also devoted much efforts to deepening their understanding of Hong Kong's advantages and attracting them to invest in Hong Kong. During the report period, the investment promotion unit of CDETO visited 139 Mainland enterprises, initiated 7 new projects and successfully completed 4 projects, and assistance was provided to these enterprises in establishing operation in Hong Kong.

5. To update Mainland enterprises on Hong Kong's business environment and appeal to them to utilise Hong Kong's resources and advantages as a platform to tap the international market, the investment promotion unit of CDETO and Invest Hong Kong organised a seminar cum luncheon for the catering industry of Sichuan in October 2012. The seminar, entitled "Hong Kong – Your Platform to Going Global", was co-organised with the Chengdu City of Gastronomy Association and Sichuan Provincial Hospitality Industrial Association. Response for the seminar was overwhelming, facilitating exchanges and co-operation between participating Sichuan enterprises and the Hong Kong catering sector.

6. In October 2012, the investment promotion unit of CDETO and Invest Hong Kong also organised a seminar cum luncheon for the catering industry of Chongqing. The seminar, entitled "Hong Kong – Your Platform to Going Global", was co-organised with Chongqing City Food Chamber of Commerce. Positive response on the seminar was received from the Hong Kong catering sector and local enterprises, facilitating much exchanges and co-operation between the two cities.

7. To introduce Hong Kong's investment and business environment, as well as advantages of the service sectors and development opportunities, encouraging Guizhou enterprises to utilise Hong Kong as an international commercial platform to expand into the international market, the investment promotion unit of CDETO and Invest Hong Kong, in collaboration with Commercial Office of the Economic Affairs Department of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the HKSAR, organised an investment promotion seminar in Guizhou, entitled "Hong Kong – Your Platform to Going Global" in September 2013. Response for the seminar was overwhelming; with over 150 representatives from local enterprises attending the event, facilitating investment and economic exchanges and co-operation in the two areas.

8. During the report period, CDETO also participated in other investment promotion activities to enhance its liaison with Mainland enterprises. They included "17th Investment and Trade Forum for Co-operation between East and West China" held in Shaanxi Province in April 2013, "16th China Chongqing International Investment and Global Sourcing Fair" held in Chongqing in May 2013, the "1st China-South Asia Expo", the "21st China Import & Export Fair, Kunming" and the "8th South Asia Business Forum" held in Yunnan Province in June 2013.

9. The investment promotion unit of CDETO maintained close working relationship

with the government departments and trade and industry organisations in the region covered in order to strengthen the liaison network. The unit would participate in investment promotion and co-operation events held in the region, and assist Mainland officials and business leaders in arranging visits to Hong Kong, allowing them to learn about Hong Kong's latest economic climate and investment environment.

Public Relations

10. With the aim of boosting Hong Kong's advantages and positive image on the Mainland, CDETO continued its role as a bridge between Hong Kong and the region CDETO serves, through official visits, organising and taking part in economic and trade fairs, seminars and exhibitions.

11. During the report period, CDETO took part in trade fairs held in Chengdu, Xi'an, Chongqing and Kunming respectively to promote services of the Office, Hong Kong as Asia's World City, the Basic Law and the "One Country, Two Systems", as well as the HKSAR's effort to support the post-earthquake reconstruction in Sichuan.

12. CDETO also extended its traditional role in promoting trade and commerce into other fields such as music and culture. Events held included -

- (a) From October 2012 to July 2013, photo exhibitions were held in Chengdu, Chongqing, Kunming and Guiyang to promote cultural exchanges between Hong Kong and respective cities. Surrounding the four themes of "People", "Folks", "Scenes" and "Food", the pictures showcased the dynamics, vitality and glamour of Hong Kong, a city full of legends; and
- (b) In July 2013, CDETO and HKMAO of Chengdu Municipal People's Government joined hands to invite SIU2, a local Hong Kong music group to take part in the "2013 Chengdu International Youth Music Festival" and stage a concert entitled "East meets West – SIU2's Chinese Fusion". The concert was attended by more than 1 000 Chengdu public and has won wide acclaim in the local community.

13. During the report period, CDETO continued to be active in fostering a close relationship with the local media through interviews, press conferences, media briefings and tea-gatherings. CDETO regularly updated key local partners about major events in Hong Kong and activities of CDETO, which had helped foster better understanding and closer interaction between the Office and its counterparts in local governments, non-governmental organisations, chamber of commerce and the business sector.

Support to Post-earthquake Reconstruction Work in Sichuan Province

14. Currently, over 90% of the projects with regard to HKSAR's support to post-earthquake reconstruction works in Sichuan Province have been completed. CDETO continued to enhance liaison between the HKSAR Government and the Sichuan Provincial Government in completing the residual work. CDETO also provided support to the three-tier coordination mechanism agreed between the two governments in holding regular meetings on matters related to reconstruction and Sichuan-Hong Kong co-operation. During the report period, effective support was provided to visits by key government officials from Hong Kong to Sichuan Province, including the visit by the Chief Secretary for Administration in February 2013. CDETO also provided support to the relevant government bureaux,

departments and independent technical consultants engaged by the HKSAR Government, as well as professional volunteer consultants, on matters such as visits to the construction sites in Sichuan Province and the conduct of inspections to the completed reconstruction projects.

Chongqing Liaison Unit (CQLU)

15. Since its establishment in January 2012, CQLU has been in close contact with local government and trade and industrial organisations to expand the network and promote economic and trade exchange between Hong Kong and Chongqing. During the report period, CQLU conducted several study visits to districts and counties in Chongqing to learn about the business environment and preferential policies so as to explore new investment and co-operation opportunities for Hong Kong enterprises. Relevant information gathered was disseminated to related chambers of commerce in Hong Kong and Hong Kong enterprises after the visits.

16. During the report period, major events involving CQLU included -

- (a) organising the 2013 Spring Reception in collaboration with the Hong Kong and Macau Entrepreneurs Branch, Chongqing Overseas Association in March 2013 to connect with Hong Kong people and related groups in Chongqing and to learn more about their needs and business situation in the Mainland;
- (b) organising a Hong Kong photo exhibition to promote Hong Kong to the Mainland public in March 2013;
- (c) setting up a booth in the “16th China Chongqing International Investment and Global Sourcing Fair” in May 2013 to introduce the work of CQLU, CEPA, Hong Kong’s advantages and business opportunities;
- (d) assisting the Chongqing Longmenhao Vocational School (LVS) and the Vocational Training Council (VTC) in Hong Kong to establish a student exchange partnership scheme. Under the scheme, a group of 30 students from the LVS attended a 5-day training programme in VTC in May 2013 while VTC will organise a study trip for its students to Chongqing in December 2013, with a view to promoting exchanges on vocational training between the two places;
- (e) organising a sharing session for Hong Kong Students studying in Chongqing in collaboration with the HKMAO of Chongqing Municipality in June 2013. The session allowed CQLU to meet with Hong Kong students studying in Chongqing universities and learn more about their daily life and needs. In response to their needs, CQLU provided information on further studies in Hong Kong and overseas and employment opportunities after the session; and
- (f) Assisting in organising the programme for the Chief Executive (CE) to lead a Hong Kong trade and economic delegation to visit Chongqing in September 2013 including meetings with the leaders of Chongqing Municipal Government and Chongqing enterprises, participating in the Chongqing-Hong Kong Business Symposium, visits to new development area and local enterprises. CQLU also arranged for CE to meet with Hong Kong people in Chongqing to understand better their life in Chongqing.

Work to strengthen “Homeland Relationship”

17. To complement the HKSAR Government’s efforts in taking forward work on “Homeland Relationship”, and to implement relevant initiatives in the 2013 Policy Address, CDETO strengthened liaison with Hong Kong residents in the Mainland to better understand their situation; strived to provide information and appropriate assistance to Hong Kong people; and enhanced communication with and promotion to different sectors in the Mainland. In this connection, CDETO stepped up its services in the relevant areas, including -

- (a) enhancing Government-to-Government work and liaison with the governments of the relevant provinces/cities, e.g. strengthening our liaison with various government organisations in the region and exploring co-operation opportunities with them through visits and participation in their activities, so as to make better use of the local government platform to provide assistance to Hong Kong businessmen where necessary.
- (b) reaching out to Hong Kong residents and enterprises in the Mainland to provide useful information and support. CDETO organised 15 gatherings/sharing sessions for Hong Kong businessmen, students, people working and residing in Chengdu, Chongqing, Changsha, Guiyang, Kunming and Xi’an since February 2013, so as to cultivate a closer relationship with them, better understand their living and working situation in the Mainland, as well as provide information and assistance to them when necessary.
- (c) collecting practical information such as medical care, study, legal services etc. for dissemination to Hong Kong residents in the region through production of a booklet and CDETO’s website.
- (d) preparing for the setting up of Immigration Team with a view to providing timely assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland.
- (e) stepping up the collection of information on major developments and investment projects in the relevant provinces and cities, and disseminating the information to Hong Kong enterprises in the region through monthly newsletters and CDETO’s website.
- (f) enhancing liaison with relevant offices of the Hong Kong Trade Development Council and the Hong Kong Tourism Board in the Mainland to jointly promote Hong Kong, share information on business operating situation of Hong Kong enterprises in the region and take necessary follow-up action, and jointly collect information on major developments and investment projects in the relevant provinces and cities.

Assistance Rendered to Hong Kong Residents

18. CDETO received a total of 19 assistance cases and made referrals to and followed up on the cases with the relevant Mainland authorities during the report period.

Looking Ahead

19. Through participating in and organising various types of economic and trade activities, missions, studying the latest business environment and favourable policies,

searching for and disseminating updated information to Hong Kong enterprises, CDETO, together with CQLU, will continue to maintain close ties with local government departments and business organisations, supporting Hong Kong enterprises to operate or extend their business in the region. Meanwhile, CDETO will continue to enhance liaison with the government departments and other organisations in the region covered, to promote Hong Kong as the best investment destination for Mainland enterprises, and to enhance exchange and co-operation between the HKSAR and the Mainland in different aspects. CDETO will continue to reach out to Hong Kong people living in the Mainland and provide useful information and support to them.

Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Chengdu
October 2013

Report on the Work of the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office (Taiwan)

The main functions of the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office (Taiwan) (HKETCO) are to (a) promote economic relations, investment, financial services and business exchanges, etc. between Hong Kong and Taiwan; (b) enhance cultural, education, tourism and other exchanges between Hong Kong and Taiwan; (c) strengthen co-operation between Hong Kong and Taiwan in areas such as technology, transport, medical services, public health and food safety, etc.; (d) provide assistance to Hong Kong residents in Taiwan to the extent possible; (e) assist in handling matters relating to entry applications from Taiwanese residents where necessary; and (f) provide other relevant services.

Commercial Relations

2. During the report period, HKETCO continued to build up and strengthen relationships with the Taiwan authorities in charge of economic and trade affairs, major industrial and commercial associations in Taiwan and those in various cities and counties.

3. HKETCO also continued to establish links with Hong Kong businesses in Taiwan. Our work included visiting a number of Hong Kong companies and participating in the activities of Hong Kong associations in Taiwan. In addition, HKETCO received a number of Hong Kong business delegations visiting Taiwan, and exchanged views with them on the latest developments of Hong Kong-Taiwan economic and trade relations. During the report period, HKETCO handled 47 enquiries related to Hong Kong-Taiwan economic and trade matters.

4. Since March 2013, HKETCO has been publishing monthly “Hong Kong-Taiwan Economic and Trade Newsletters” for the Hong Kong businesses operating in Taiwan, chambers of commerce in Taiwan and Taiwan enterprises interested in investing in Hong Kong, with a view to enhancing the circulation of economic and trade information. Members of the public can download the newsletter from HKETCO’s website (www.hketco.hk).

Investment Promotion

5. The Investment Promotion Division (IPD) of HKETCO actively encouraged Taiwan enterprises to invest in Hong Kong and make use of the various services and advantages of Hong Kong to develop the Mainland and overseas markets. It also provided assistance and services to such enterprises. During the report period, IPD visited 230 companies located across northern, central and southern Taiwan and outlying islands, initiated 177 new projects and completed 9 projects.

6. IPD assisted Invest Hong Kong and the Zhaoqing City Government of Guangdong Province in organising the “Hong Kong and Zhaoqing: Your Business Partners in Mainland China” Seminar in Taipei in September 2013 and introduced the strengths of Hong Kong in business development and as a comprehensive platform for overseas businesses to excel. The Director-General of Investment Promotion attended and spoke at the seminar, which attracted a turnout of more than 270 company representatives.

7. Moreover, IPD attended a number of exhibitions featuring Taiwan's prime industries to establish connections with Taiwan enterprises, with a view to identifying prospective investors in Hong Kong.

Cultural Promotion and Public Relations

8. During the report period, HKETCO continued to establish relationships with various sectors of Taiwan, including through the Directors of Taiwan-Hong Kong Economic and Cultural Co-operation Council (THEC), senior personnel of relevant Taiwan authorities, heads of city and county governments, industrial and commercial associations, cultural organisations, academic and research institutions, the media, Hong Kong businesses in Taiwan, and associations of Hong Kong residents and Hong Kong students in Taiwan.

9. Since the establishment of HKETCO in December 2011, the Director of HKETCO has paid visits to 13 cities and counties, including Taipei City, New Taipei City, Yilan County, Taoyuan County, Hsinchu City, Hsinchu County, Miaoli County, Taichung City, Changhua County, Nantou County, Tainan City, Kaohsiung City and Kinmen County, met with their mayors, magistrates or senior officials and local industrial and commercial groups. He briefed them on HKETCO's work and Hong Kong's latest developments.

10. In addition, HKETCO actively promoted cultural exchanges between Hong Kong and Taiwan. Besides co-organising "Hong Kong Week 2012" (see paragraph 14(a) below), HKETCO also sponsored Hong Kong cultural groups and personalities to visit and perform in Taiwan or engage in exchanges; and supported Taiwan cultural publications to produce special reports that featured Hong Kong.

11. During the report period, HKETCO's main publicity work included –

- (a) publishing and distributing the second issue of "Art & Culture @ Hong Kong" and the "Hong Kong Heritage Walk" booklet to promote Hong Kong's arts and culture, revitalised historical buildings, and related tourist spots;
- (b) assisting the Hong Kong Publishing Federation and the Hong Kong Printers Association to set up the "Hong Kong Pavilion" in the Taipei International Book Exhibition in January 2013 to showcase the achievements of Hong Kong's publishing and printing industries;
- (c) as a co-organiser for the first time, participating in the "Central Taiwan Lantern Festival 2013" organised by the Taichung City Government in February to March 2013 by displaying a pair of fortune god lanterns with Hong Kong characteristics, and inviting a Hong Kong singer to perform at the closing gala;
- (d) co-organising with the Hong Kong Tourism Board's Taiwan Office the "Taste of Hong Kong" gourmet art exhibition at the Huashan Creative Park of Taipei in early April 2013 to promote Hong Kong's food culture and tourism. The exhibition attracted more than 26 000 visitors. Some exhibits were later displayed in the tourism trade fairs in Taichung and Kaohsiung respectively;
- (e) participating in Taiwan's large-scale festivals and art events (such as "Kuandu Arts Festival 2012", "2012 Taichung Jazz Festival", "Kaohsiung Spring Arts Festival 2013" and "Taiwan Lantern Festival 2013 at Hsinchu County") and

displaying or distributing materials to promote Hong Kong;

- (f) organising a reception to commemorate the first anniversary of the opening of HKETCO in May this year to strengthen the relationship with Taiwan's various sectors; and promoting Hong Kong's image by broadcasting a short promotional video on Hong Kong at the platform TVs of Taipei's Metro Rapid Transit stations, and placing advertisements in major newspapers;
- (g) in co-operation with the Global Views Monthly, launching a "Dialogues between Hong Kong and Taiwan" column in the magazine commencing June this year to promote exchanges between Hong Kong and Taiwan. In the column, one guest from each of the two places would be invited to share their views and experiences on economic and trade, cultural and city management issues; and
- (h) furnishing information about Hong Kong to members of the Taiwan public by opening up the reading area of HKETCO, mailing publications and materials to all Taiwan's public libraries, and routine liaison work.

Assistance Rendered to Hong Kong Residents

12. HKETCO maintained regular communications with associations of Hong Kong residents and students, and offered advice and assistance, as appropriate. The Director of HKETCO has paid visits to more than 10 tertiary education institutions with a greater number of Hong Kong students to learn more about their living and study conditions. Moreover, HKETCO received a number of non-governmental study missions and delegations from Hong Kong, and exchanged views with them on issues such as Hong Kong-Taiwan relations.

13. During the report period, HKETCO received 123 requests for assistance from Hong Kong residents. They were mainly related to entering Hong Kong and exiting Taiwan, encountering accidents occurred in Taiwan and seeking legal assistance. HKETCO offered all possible assistance in light of the circumstances, or referred the cases to the relevant authorities in Taiwan for following up.

Supporting the Work of the Administration and the Hong Kong-Taiwan Economic and Cultural Co-operation and Promotion Council

14. HKETCO actively supported the Administration and the Hong Kong-Taiwan Economic and Cultural Co-operation and Promotion Council (ECCPC) in fostering closer co-operation and exchanges with Taiwan. The major work included—

- (a) assisting the Hong Kong-Taiwan Cultural Co-operation Committee (HKTCCC) to organise the first "Hong Kong Week" in Taipei from 23 November to 2 December 2012, with a view to promoting Hong Kong's performing arts, films and culture. HKETCO helped arrange the itineraries of Mr Charles Lee, ECCPC Chairperson, and the Secretary for Home Affairs who was also ECCPC's Vice-chairperson, in visiting Taipei. The first "Hong Kong Week" attracted more than 12 500 participants and positive feedback from the Taiwan audience;
- (b) co-organising with the Taipei City Government the Hong Kong-Taipei Intercity Forum which attracted around 200 officials, experts, academics and

relevant stakeholders from Hong Kong and Taipei to discuss topics surrounding municipal waste management and revitalisation of historic buildings on 7 June 2013. The Financial Secretary and ECCPC Honorary Chairperson, the Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs and Executive Vice-chairperson of ECCPC, the Secretary for the Environment and the Secretary for Development (both Vice-Chairpersons of ECCPC) led a delegation of around 90 members to attend the Forum and conduct relevant visits arranged by HKETCO; and

- (c) arranging the ECCPC Chairperson to visit Taipei in mid-August this year, to meet with Mr Liu Te-hsun, THEC Chairman and officiate at the cocktail reception of the Taipei tour of the Asian Youth Orchestra.

Looking Ahead

15. HKETCO has been in operation for about two years and has established links with various sectors in Taiwan. HKETCO will continue to actively encourage Taiwan companies to invest in Hong Kong, foster closer economic relationship between Hong Kong and Taiwan, support Hong Kong businesses in Taiwan, and promote cultural exchanges between the two places by activities such as an economic and trade co-operation forum in Taipei in October 2013; and the “Hong Kong Week 2013” in Taipei in late November to December 2013 in collaboration with HKTCCC.

Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office (Taiwan)
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