

**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, Chengdu and Wuhan, as well as the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office (Taiwan) between October 2013 and September 2014. Details of the work of these six Offices are set out in Annexes 1 to 6.

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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 (HKSAR), the Central People's Government (CPG) and Mainland authorities in the 10 provinces / municipalities / autonomous regions under its coverage<sup>1</sup>; (b) promote Hong Kong in general and particularly its economic and trade relations with the 10 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, laws and regulations related to Hong Kong enterprises, at national level as well as in provinces / municipalities / autonomous regions under BJO's coverage, in respect of corporate taxation, social insurance, labour relations and import and export, etc.; and provided timely updates and news to Hong Kong enterprises and relevant bureaux and departments. Moreover, BJO also maintained close contact with a number of Mainland ministries and departments concerning economic and trade affairs, so as to understand the latest developments of the Mainland's policies, laws and regulations and their implications on Hong Kong.

3. To enhance the dissemination of information to Hong Kong enterprises, BJO has, starting from June 2013, 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, BJO compiled a Topical Newsletter with information and analysis on policies related to business operations such as taxation, labour, intellectual property and social insurance etc., which were of ongoing concerns to Hong Kong enterprises. The Newsletters, which also covered in-depth analysis on areas in labour, value-added tax, policies on finance and taxation of free trade zone and patent legislation, were disseminated to chambers of commerce and Hong Kong enterprises from time to time. Moreover, BJO organised workshops and seminars in Beijing and Tianjin and invited experts to explain relevant policies, laws and regulations on taxation, value-added tax and labour laws to Hong Kong enterprises and answered their enquiries. These seminars were all very well received.

5. During the report period, BJO participated in a number of trade activities held in the regions under its purview. For instance, BJO assisted in organizing the "17<sup>th</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The 10 provinces / municipalities / autonomous regions under BJO's coverage are Beijing, Tianjin, Hebei, Liaoning, Jilin, Heilongjiang, Inner Mongolia, Xinjiang, Ningxia and Gansu. (Before the establishment of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Wuhan of the HKSAR on 1 April 2014, Shandong, Shanxi, Qinghai, Tibet and Henan were also under BJO's coverage.)

Beijing-Hong Kong Economic Co-operation Symposium” held in Beijing in October 2013 to promote trade and economic co-operation between Hong Kong and Beijing. To strengthen our ties with the relevant local authorities, commerce bureaux and enterprises, BJO also participated in the “2014 China-Tianjin Investment and Trade Fair cum PECC International Investment and Trade Expo”, “China (Langfeng) International Economic and Trade Fair 2014”, “3<sup>rd</sup> China Beijing International Fair for Trade In Services”, “1<sup>st</sup> China Russia Expo”, “20<sup>th</sup> China Lanzhou Investment and Trade Fair”, “8<sup>th</sup> China National Commodities Trade Fair”, “4<sup>th</sup> China-Eurasia Expo” etc., and organised exhibitions titled “Hong Kong – Asia’s World City” in Shenyang and Jinan. This also helped promote Hong Kong’s economic advantages and Hong Kong serving as a platform for Mainland enterprises to go global. During the report period, BJO continued to establish hyperlinks to BJO’s website on major developments and investment projects in provinces / municipalities / autonomous regions under BJO’s purview in order to enable Hong Kong enterprises to obtain the most up-to-date and immediate information on business opportunities in the Mainland.

6. At the same time, BJO organised the Hong Kong Week in Harbin in September 2014 to help the trades tap into the Northeastern market. The Hong Kong Week covered a range of activities such as seminars on the promotion of Hong Kong’s strengths as a platform for local enterprises to go global; trade opportunities between the Heilongjiang Province and Hong Kong; Hong Kong’s creative branding and strengths in environmental friendly management. BJO invited various partners to co-organise the Hong Kong Week, including Hong Kong Trade Development Council, Hong Kong Productivity Council, Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited, and professional associations in Hong Kong, etc. During the same period, the Chinese Manufacturers’ Association of Hong Kong also held the Hong Kong Trendy Products Expo in Harbin. The two events complemented each other in promoting Hong Kong’s brands and services, with a view to enhancing economic and trade cooperation between the Heilongjiang Province and Hong Kong.

7. BJO also maintained close liaison with relevant offices of the Hong Kong Trade Development Council and the Hong Kong Tourism Board in the Mainland to deepen the promotion of Hong Kong’s strengths in the Mainland.

### **Investment Promotion**

8. On attracting Mainland enterprises to establish operations and invest in Hong Kong, the North China Investment Promotion Unit of BJO has endeavoured to liaise with and visit potential enterprises, as well as relevant commercial and industrial organizations, and introduced to them the competitive edges of Hong Kong as a platform for Mainland enterprises to develop their overseas business. Those interested in setting up businesses in Hong Kong will be offered comprehensive assistance and consultation services. During the report period, the Unit proactively reached out to different organisations 454 times, generated 35 live projects and completed 23 projects through enabling the relevant companies to invest in Hong Kong. In terms of investment promotion events, BJO organised or attended 30 industry-specific or investment seminars and exhibitions, which included investment promotion seminars / roundtables held in Tianjin and Shijiazhuang of the Hebei Province in March 2014; Beijing in April 2014; Yinchuan in the Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region and Beijing in May 2014 in; and Harbin in the Heilongjiang Province in September 2014. These events which aimed to highlight the strengths and business friendly environment of Hong Kong were well-received.

## **Public Relations**

9. During the report period, BJO held a series of roving exhibitions at major economic and trade promotional activities in various provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions under BJO's purview. The series aim to demonstrate how Hong Kong leveraged on its strengths and contribute to the nation's development. The exhibition contents cover Hong Kong's four major industries, the win-win co-operation with the Mainland, and the colourful facets of Hong Kong as an international metropolis. The roving exhibitions attracted more than several hundred thousand visitors. BJO also co-organised the "Taste of Hong Kong" gourmet art exhibition in Beijing with the Hong Kong Tourism Board to introduce the essence of Hong Kong's gourmet culture to the people on the Mainland.

10. On the promotion of arts and culture, BJO co-produced a series of videos and feature reports to promote Hong Kong's arts and culture on television and websites. BJO also sponsored performances by various arts and cultural groups in Hong Kong, including the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra, City Contemporary Dance Company and Asian Youth Orchestra. Meanwhile, BJO also provided support to the Leisure and Cultural Services Department in organising the 2014 Hong Kong and Macau Visual Arts Biennial in Beijing.

11. BJO also co-organised a Hong Kong film festival with Broadway Cinematheque. Director Ann HUI was invited to be the honorary curator of the festival to promote Hong Kong's movies to the Mainland audience. Meanwhile, during Harbin's Hong Kong Week in September 2014, BJO staged an exhibition on Hong Kong's comics and animation to promote Hong Kong's creative industries to the people on the Mainland, whose response was overwhelming.

12. BJO, in collaboration with China National Radio and its "Voice of China" and "Voice of Huaxia" channels, introduced the charity activities, cultural exchanges and economic development projects launched by Hong Kong in the Mainland through weekly radio programmes and special feature series. The programmes covered 31 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions.

13. Moreover, BJO collaborated with the People's Net to produce a dedicated website on promoting Hong Kong. The website contains a series of interviews with Hong Kong people living or working in the Mainland and Mainland people living or working in Hong Kong, with the aim of enhancing mutual understanding between people of the two places.

## **Work to Strengthen "Homeland Relationship"**

14. To complement the HKSARG's efforts to strengthen "Homeland Relationship", 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. During the report period, BJO continued to enhance 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 regular reports to relevant bureaux and departments of the 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 reduction of items subject to administrative examinations and approvals, the latest economic statistics, labour and tax policies and food safety, etc. BJO also provided logistical support to HKSARG officials during their visits to the Mainland.

15. Apart from maintaining liaison with the Hong Kong associations in Beijing (including the Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce in China, the Hong Kong Professionals (Beijing) Association, and the Hong Kong Association of China Business), BJO also met with representatives of Hong Kong residents and businessmen in the Tianjin Municipality, Langfang and Shijiazhuang of the Hebei Province, Shenyang of the Liaoning Province, Harbin of the Heilongjiang Province, Lanzhou of the Gansu Province, Hohort of Inner Mongolia, and Jilin of the Changchun Province to learn about their situation and assist them to reflect their concerns to the local authorities for follow-up.

16. Moreover, BJO supported Hong Kong students studying in the Mainland to promote Hong Kong in the campus through various activities. We also provided them with information regarding recruitment of Government positions. During the report period, BJO organised the “Employment Seminar for Hong Kong Students in Beijing”. Professionals from relevant fields were invited to brief Hong Kong students studying in Beijing on the prospects and trends of the employment markets to facilitate students’ planning of their careers at an early stage. The seminar received an enthusiastic response. BJO also encouraged relevant organisations in Beijing to provide summer internship opportunities for Hong Kong students studying in the Mainland.

17. BJO launched a fully revamped website in December 2013 with more comprehensive information on living, doing business, working and studying in the Mainland, including new topics such as “Living in the Mainland”, “Doing Business and Investing in the Mainland” and “Emergency Help”. The website provided practical information on living in the Mainland, including information on medical services, law, application for birth registration, and emergency services, etc. Topics which were of particular concern to Hong Kong enterprises, such as setting up a business, labour and tax, as well as business promotion activities in various provinces and municipalities, was also provided. Moreover, a mobile version of the website was available for Hong Kong people to browse online anytime.

18. During the report period, BJO also produced the Beijing and Tianjin chapters of a booklet titled “Practical Guide for Hong Kong Residents Living in the Mainland” to provide Hong Kong people in Beijing and Tianjin with detailed information on various aspects such as working, living, doing business, investing and studying in the two cities. The booklets have been uploaded to BJO’s website and can be obtained for free at BJO.

19. BJO also updated the “Information on Living in the Mainland” to Hong Kong people in the provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions under the purview of BJO issued from time to time to provide them with the latest information on living in the Mainland. It contains policies that might be of concern to Hong Kong people living in the Mainland and includes information such as the Beijing Subway’s adjustment of ticket fare by the end of this year, Beijing’s intention to ban smoking in all public indoor places and the cancellation of long-term vehicle entry permits to Beijing, etc.

### **Immigration-related Matters and Assistance Rendered**

20. 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. From October 2013 to September 2014, BJO received a total of 133 requests for assistance from Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland. Of these, 43 cases involved the loss of travel documents or monies, 75 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 15 cases involved the detention of Hong Kong residents in the Mainland. In addition, BJO processed 4 906 entry applications and handled 21 086 enquiries.

21. In addition, BJO received a total of 21 other assistance cases and made referrals to and followed up on the cases with the relevant Mainland authorities during the report period.

### **Liaoning Liaison Unit**

22. During the report period, BJO has actively made preparatory work for the establishment of a liaison unit in Liaoning. Relevant preparation is close to final with a view to commencing service by the end of 2014.

### **Looking ahead**

23. 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 for facilitating assessment on the implications on Hong Kong. BJO will also continue to provide strengthened services, information and other support to the Hong Kong people living, working or studying in Beijing.

## **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, Guangdong, Guangxi, Hainan and Yunnan<sup>1</sup> (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, Hong Kong residents in the area, relevant groups as well as trade associations to, on the one hand, assist in disseminating information on relevant Mainland policies and measures to Hong Kong businessmen, and on the other hand, help reflect views of the Hong Kong businessmen to the relevant authorities. Besides, GDETO handles enquiries and request for assistance from Hong Kong residents in the five provinces / region. GDETO also promotes Hong Kong through different media.

2. Representatives from the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, the Hong Kong Tourism Board, the Hong Kong Productivity Council, the Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited, etc. stationed in the five provinces / region and regional industry and trade associations are our essential working partners. GDETO maintains close liaison to jointly promote trade and economic co-operation between Hong Kong and the five provinces / region.

3. Over the past year, GDETO continued to participate in high-level forums and large-scale trade events held in the five provinces / region, including providing logistical support to Hong Kong's participation in the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2014, etc. GDETO also assisted government departments on both sides in planning and coordinating a number of meetings and mutual visits by senior officials from the two places. The twelfth PRD Annual Gala Dinner was held in Zhongshan in December 2013. 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.

### **Commercial Relations**

4. GDETO continues its efforts in providing Hong Kong enterprises with a wide range of services to facilitate their business operation in the five provinces / region, including continuing to reflect views in relation to their concerns to the relevant local government authorities. 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 related to issues of concern common to Hong Kong enterprises to promote the business development of these 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, CEPA, customs facilitation measures, intellectual property rights and tax issues, etc. They included –

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<sup>1</sup> Arising from the commencement of operation of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Wuhan from 1 April 2014, the service area of GDETO has been revised to cover Fujian, Guangdong, Guangxi, Hainan and Yunnan.

- Seminar on “2013 Hot Topics in Taxation in the Mainland” in Guangzhou in October 2013;
- Forum on “CEPA Implementation Facilitation” in Shenzhen in January 2014;
- Seminar on “Latest Customs Policies and Measures” in Guangzhou in May 2014; and
- Seminar on “Guangdong / Hong Kong Intellectual Property Rights and Brand Building” in Guangzhou in September 2014.

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 2013 and July 2014 respectively in Hong Kong. The meetings discussed issues of common concern, and reviewed the difficulties experienced by the trade in their course of transformation and upgrading, in particular issues related to enterprises’ upgrading technology and equipment and staff vocational training.

7. To help the Hong Kong business community have better understanding on the latest development and investment opportunities of various regions in the Mainland and to facilitate the communication and co-operation between the Hong Kong business community and local enterprises, GDETO assisted in organising business missions led by CE to visit the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, the Fujian Province and the Chaoshan Region of the Guangdong Province in November 2013, January 2014 and March 2014 respectively.

8. GDETO joined effort with the Hong Kong Trade Development Council and Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce in China – Guangdong to publish the “Directory of Hong Kong Service Enterprises in Guangdong” in August 2014 to promote Hong Kong / Guangdong co-operation in service trade and assist Hong Kong service enterprises to develop their Mainland market.

9. GDETO also closely monitored the development of Qianhai, Nansha and Hengqin. We actively participated in the related consultation sessions and reflected the views of the HKSAR Government and Hong Kong business community. We also assisted in arranging study missions of various Hong Kong business delegations to these areas. In addition, GDETO kept in view development in respect of the Guangdong Province's application for the setup of the "Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Free Trade Zone", and closely monitored the opportunities to Hong Kong service enterprises and professional services in the Guangdong market arising from Guangdong's full liberalisation in trade in services to Hong Kong within this year.

### **Investment Promotion**

10. 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, we have continued to contact, attract and assist enterprises to invest in Hong Kong.



11. During the report period, GDETO conducted 415 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 48 live projects, completed 20 projects, and organised a total of 33 major investment promotion activities. Major promotional activities GDETO organised included –

- Seminar to promote listing and investing in Hong Kong for TMT<sup>2</sup> enterprises held in Guangzhou of the Guangdong Province co-organised with InvestHK in March 2014;
- Investment Promotion Seminar cum Presentation of the Greater Pearl River Delta Publication held in Guangzhou of the Guangdong Province co-organised with InvestHK in May 2014;
- Seminar to promote listing and financing in Hong Kong held in Guangzhou of the Guangdong Province co-organised with InvestHK in June 2014;
- Investment promotion activity titled “Hong Kong – Your Platform to Go Global” Seminar-cum-CEO Luncheon held in Quanzhou of the Fujian Province co-organised with InvestHK in July 2014;
- Investment promotion activity titled “Hong Kong – Your Platform to Go Global” Seminar-cum-CEO Luncheon held in Kunming of the Yunnan Province co-organised with InvestHK in August 2014; and
- Seminar titled “Hong Kong – Your Platform to Go Global” co-organised with InvestHK, Department of Outward Investment and Economic Co-operation of the Ministry of Commerce etc. in September 2014 during the 18<sup>th</sup> China International Fair for Investment and Trade in Xiamen of the Fujian Province.

## **Public Relations**

12. CE and other Principal Officials conducted frequent visits to the five provinces / region which have helped foster connections between the HKSAR Government and the Mainland authorities. The highlights of such visits included the missions led by CE to visit the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region and the Fujian Province in November 2013 and January 2014 respectively, his call on the Party Secretary of the Guangdong Province and visit to the Shenzhen Bao’an International Airport in February 2014, his two-day visit to Shenzhen, Shantou, Jieyang and Chaozhou of the Guangdong Province in March 2014, and his attendance at the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2014 held in the Hainan Province in April 2014, etc. GDETO co-ordinated media plans to facilitate local and Hong Kong media to cover the visits.

13. During the report period, GDETO organised a cocktail reception to celebrate the 17<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR in Guangzhou in July 2014. We invited representatives from the government departments in the five provinces / region, the commerce and industry sectors and relevant organisations to attend the function with a view to strengthening our ties with them. GDETO also staged photo exhibitions in Zhuhai of the

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<sup>2</sup> TMT refers to technology, media, telecommunications.

Guangdong Province, Fuzhou of the Fujian Province, and Kunming of the Yunnan Province in March, May and June 2014 respectively with a view to giving local residents a better understanding of Hong Kong's development and promoting a positive image of Hong Kong.

14. GDETO supported / co-organised the Launching Ceremony of the "Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macau Film Industry Exchange Activity Series" organised by the Hong Kong Film Development Council in Guangzhou in April 2014, the "Hong Kong Pavilion" in the South China Book Festival organised by the Hong Kong Publishing Federation and the Hong Kong Printers Association in Guangzhou in August 2014, and the Second Hong Kong Film Festival in Guangdong held in Guangzhou in September 2014. GDETO also helped promote these events.

15. To enable members of the public in the Mainland to have a better understanding on various aspects of Hong Kong, GDETO co-produces with the Radio Guangdong a featured programme series of 12 episodes to promote Hong Kong and enhance locals' understanding of the close relationship between Hong Kong and Guangdong on various fronts. The featured programme series has been broadcast since April 2014 on the third Monday in each month on the Radio Guangdong News Station and Pearl Radio. The episodes have also been uploaded to the GDETO website. Content of the episodes, having been edited into articles, is also published on Radio Guangdong's Sheng Bao. Up till September 2014, six episodes of the programme have been broadcast by Radio Guangdong, covering topics such as Hong Kong's theatrical and dance culture, Hong Kong film, Guangdong and Hong Kong traditional folk activities, etc.

16. To promote Hong Kong's culture to local residents, GDETO complemented performances in the five provinces / region of major performing arts groups from Hong Kong (including Chung Ying Theatre Company, City Contemporary Dance Company, Hong Kong Philharmonic and Hong Kong Repertory Theatre) with general publicity for Hong Kong's arts and culture.

17. During the report period, GDETO also received delegates of the Service Corps and 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 introduce them to the work of GDETO and Hong Kong's economic and trade development.

### **Shenzhen Liaison Unit**

18. 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, including assisting in reflecting views of Hong Kong businessmen on issues of concern to relevant authorities in Shenzhen.

19. During the report period, the Chief Secretary for Administration (CS) co-chaired the Hong Kong / Shenzhen Co-operation Meeting with the Mayor of Shenzhen in Hong Kong in November 2013 and visited the Shenzhen-Hong Kong Modern Service Industries Co-operation Zone in Qianhai in July 2014. Besides, CE visited the new terminal of the Shenzhen Bao'an International Airport and paid visits to enterprises of science and technology in Shenzhen in February and March 2014 respectively. The Shenzhen Liaison

Unit arranged programmes and provided logistical support to the above activities.

20. The Shenzhen Liaison Unit also closely monitors promulgation of new policies, legislation and regulations in relation to the development of Qianhai, and helped disseminate such information to Hong Kong enterprises in a timely manner.

### **Fujian Liaison Unit**

21. The Fujian Liaison Unit enhances liaison with the Fujian provincial and municipal governments, non-government organizations and trade associations in order to strengthen mutual co-operation and provides support to Hong Kong residents and businessmen in Fujian (such as reflecting issues of concern of Hong Kong businessmen to the relevant authorities).

22. During the report period, CE led a Hong Kong business mission of over 140 delegates to visit Fujian in January 2014. CE met with the leaders of the Fujian Provincial, the Fuzhou and Xiamen Municipal Governments and local enterprises, participated in the Fujian-Hong Kong Economic and Trade Forum, and visited Fujian Liaison Unit and local enterprises. CE also met with Hong Kong residents in Fujian to better understand their living situation in Fujian. Aside from the logistical support provided to the CE and his delegation during their visit, the Fujian Liaison Unit also followed up on the agreement between CE and Fujian provincial leaders to enhance the cooperation between Hong Kong and Fujian, and assisted in the subsequent liaison work between relevant policy bureaux / departments and its counterparts in the Fujian Provincial Government to explore possible format and specific content of co-operation.

23. Besides the CE's visit to Fujian, the Fujian Liaison Unit also 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, and to promote a positive image of Hong Kong to local residents. Such activities include a seminar on tax issues and labour policies in Xiamen in November 2013 as well as "Taste of Hong Kong" Gourmet Art Exhibition in Fuzhou and "Vibrant Hong Kong" exhibition in Xiamen held in March and May 2014 respectively together with the Hong Kong Tourism Board to publicise Hong Kong's tourist attractions. In particular, the Fujian Liaison Unit had been closely monitoring the latest progress of the "Fujian Free Trade Zone"<sup>3</sup> proposed by Fujian to the Central Government and the promulgation of preferential policies, legislation and regulations relating to the Pingtan Comprehensive Experimental Zone so as to disseminate the latest information to Hong Kong businessmen.

### **Work to Strengthen "Homeland Relationship"**

24. To complement the HKSARG's efforts to strengthen "Homeland Relationship", 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. Specific work included –

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<sup>3</sup> Xiamen News reported in February 2014 that Fujian intended to apply for "Haixi Free Trade Zone" covering Fuzhou, Xiamen and Pingtan. At the 2014 Economic Work Focus Meeting of the Administrative Committee of Xiamen Xiangyu Free Trade Zone held in March 2014, the committee briefed the meeting on the matter, including that the Free Trade Zone might be called "China (Fujian) Free Trade Zone" instead as it was applied by the three places.

- (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. Examples include–
- GDETO met with Hong Kong enterprises in the five provinces / region from time to time to understand their latest operating situation.
  - GDETO proactively liaised and exchanged views with Hong Kong university students in the five provinces / region to better understand their living and study situation. Examples include exchange sessions / gatherings with students studying in Shenzhen of the Guangdong Province in October 2013 and May 2014; and four "Seminar for Hong Kong Students in Fujian" in October 2013, November 2013 and March 2014 in Xiamen and Quanzhou of the Fujian Province. To facilitate Hong Kong students studying in / graduated from universities in the five provinces / region in searching for internship or employment opportunities locally, GDETO also encouraged enterprises in the five provinces / region to provide internship and employment opportunities suitable for these students and assisted in relaying such recruitment information to relevant universities.
- (c) enriching the content of the GDETO Newsletters to cover information related to Hong Kong residents living in the Mainland.
- (d) publishing the “Directory of Hong Kong Service Enterprises in Guangdong” jointly with the Hong Kong Trade Development Council and Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce in China – Guangdong with a view to assisting Mainland enterprises and residents as well as Hong Kong residents and enterprises in the Guangdong Province to contact Hong Kong service enterprises and professionals for exploring co-operation opportunities.
- (e) 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.
- (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, sharing information on business environment for Hong Kong enterprises in the five provinces / region and taking necessary follow-up action, and jointly collecting information on major developments and investment projects in the relevant provinces / region and cities.

## **Immigration-related Matters and Assistance Rendered**

25. 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. Between October 2013 and September 2014, GDETO received a total of 164 requests for assistance from Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland. Of these, 9 cases involved the loss of travel documents or monies, 144 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 11 cases involved the detention of Hong Kong residents in the Mainland. In addition, GDETO handled 1 156 enquires.

26. In addition, GDETO received a total of 77 other assistance cases and made referrals to and followed up on the cases with the relevant Mainland authorities during the report period.

## **Looking Ahead**

27. In the light of the close liaison and co-operation between the HKSAR and the Mainland provinces / municipalities 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 measures complementing to the National 12<sup>th</sup> 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.

28. 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.

29. 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.

**Report on the Work of  
the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Shanghai  
of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region**

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 Shandong<sup>1</sup> (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 sectors and help them explore business opportunities on the Mainland. Our work included –

- (a) Supporting industry delegations and study missions from Hong Kong to visit the region to deepen their understanding of business and investment environments. For example, SHETO helped to arrange part of Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce's tour to Shanghai in February 2014; and accompanied Federation of Hong Kong Industries' delegation to visit Shanghai in April 2014;
- (b) Through participation in trade promotional activities, encouraging and promoting economic exchange between Hong Kong and the region. For example, SHETO participated in the Jiangsu-Hong Kong Cooperation Forum in Nanjing in February 2014, 24<sup>th</sup> East China Fair in Shanghai in March 2014 and Ningbo-Hong Kong Economic Cooperation Forum in Ningbo in July 2014. In addition, SHETO joined the opening ceremony of the Hong Kong Pavilion organised by Federation of Hong Kong Industries and Hong Kong Mould and Die Council in Chinaplas 2014 in April 2014, and the opening ceremony of "Shoe Fountain" organised by the Federation of Hong Kong Footwear Limited in May 2014, to show support for promoting the Hong Kong brand and encourage the industry to expand their business through domestic sales;
- (c) Organising trade seminars and exchange activities between HKSARG officials and the trade to strengthen support and assistance for Hong Kong traders in the region. During September to November 2013, SHETO co-organised five labor and tax seminars with the Shanghai, Wuhan and Hangzhou branches of Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce in China. In addition, SHETO assisted in arranging the Secretary for Transport and Housing to participate in the 2013 Marintec China and meet with the Hong Kong community in Shanghai in December 2013, and the Secretary for Development to participate in the Shanghai-Hong Kong Metropolitan Development Seminar in Shanghai in March 2014;

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<sup>1</sup> With the establishment of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Wuhan of the HKSAR (WHETO), the service coverage of the Mainland Offices of HKSARG has been adjusted since 1 April 2014. SHETO took up the responsibility to contact and communicate with Shandong Province, while Hubei Province was taken over by WHETO.

- (d) Providing assistance to provinces and cities in the region in organising trade events in Hong Kong and coordinating meetings between senior HKSARG officials and visiting Mainland officials. For example, SHETO assisted in arranging Deputy Director of Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of Jiangsu Province Zhang Songping to meet with official from the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau in March 2014; trade promotional activities during the visit of Vice Governor of Shandong Province Xia Geng to Hong Kong in July 2014; visit by Chairman of Shanghai Municipal Commission of Commerce Shang Yuying to Hong Kong in the second half of 2014. In addition, SHETO provided assistance in relation to investment promotional activities of Hubei Province and the city of Wuhan held in Hong Kong in December 2013 and January 2014 respectively;
- (e) Maintaining close relations with Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC), Hong Kong trade associations and related communities in the region, particularly Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce in China, and actively participating in and supporting their activities. In April 2014, SHETO supported a welcoming lunch organised by Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce in China (Shanghai) to promote exchange between members of the Legislative Council, HKSARG and Hong Kong people in Shanghai. SHETO also maintained contacts and cooperation with Hong Kong businessmen in the Shanghai, Hangzhou and Qingdao branches of Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce in China and Jinan Hong Kong-Macao Chamber of Commerce;
- (f) Providing timely reports to relevant HKSARG bureaux and departments, and keeping 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. During the report period, SHETO issued 198 circulars / newsletters;
- (g) Monitoring closely policy developments and legislation in the region that may have an impact on Hong Kong enterprises for reporting to Hong Kong and answering enquiries from the trade; collecting views of Hong Kong enterprises on these developments / legislation and reflecting their views to relevant Mainland authorities where appropriate. Examples included the Bill on Protection and Promotion of Investments from Hong Kong and Macao in Jiangsu Province, which attracts attention of Hong Kong enterprises;
- (h) Monitoring closely latest developments in the China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone (SHFTZ), and disseminating timely information to the industry and answering their enquiries. During the report period, SHETO issued 9 special newsletters on SHFTZ and assisted in arranging / participated in 6 visits to the SHFTZ ; and
- (i) Collecting information on major developments and investment promotion projects in the region, and upload such information onto the official website.

### **Investment Promotion**

3. The Investment Promotion Unit (IPU) 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 IPU conducted 28 investment promotion visits, met with 308 companies and generated 30 live projects. During this period, 20 projects were successfully completed.

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

- (a) In October 2013, Associate Director-General of Invest Hong Kong (InvestHK) visited Shanghai and attended the 2013 Shanghai and Hong Kong Development Forum on Economic Transformation and Cooperation organised by the Shanghai Academy of Social Science, the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) Shanghai Committee and The Better Hong Kong Foundation, introducing the business environment of Hong Kong and its policy to attract foreign investment;
- (b) In November 2013, IPU accompanied Director-General of Investment Promotion (DGIP) to attend the World Forum for Foreign Direct Investment 2013 held in Shanghai. IPU also arranged DGIP to call upon Invest Shanghai (Shanghai Overseas Investment Development Board);
- (c) In March 2014, IPU attended the seminar "Hong Kong – Platform to Go Global" organized by InvestHK with Associate Director-General and China Business Unit of InvestHK who visited Hefei of Anhui Province and introduced the business environment and opportunities as well as the latest economic situation in Hong Kong to more than 200 Anhui enterprises and representatives of local organisations. The media interview of Associate Director-General was published by 57 news agencies;
- (d) In June 2014, IPU attended the SmartHK 2014 in Nanjing city of Jiangsu Province. The event was jointly hosted by the HKTDC, various departments of Jiangsu Provincial People's Government and the Nanjing Municipal People's Government;
- (e) In August 2014, IPU attended the Go Global Roadshow Seminar hosted by InvestHK in Hangzhou and Wuxi with Director-General and representatives of the China Business Unit of InvestHK who visited Hangzhou of Zhejiang province and Wuxi of Jiangsu province. There were 150 and 130 representatives of organizations and enterprises attended the seminars respectively. They introduced the business environment and opportunities as well as the latest economic situation in Hong Kong to the participants and had deeper discussion with about 60 enterprises. The media interview of DGIP was published by a number of news agencies;
- (f) In September 2014, Head of Financial Services of InvestHK visited Shanghai to attend the 2014 AsiaHedge China Forum and set up booth to promote Hong Kong;
- (g) In September 2014, Head of Business & Professional Services of InvestHK visited cities of Qingdao, Nanjing and Shanghai. He participated in 2014 Hong Kong Legal Services Forum on "Hong Kong Legal Services – Think Global, Think Hong Kong" organised by Department of Justice at Qingdao and spoke to more than 600 participants on Hong Kong's legal services environment. He also spoke at two business and professional services roundtable meetings at Nanjing and Shanghai



respectively to introduce to participating enterprises the business environment of Hong Kong, development opportunities of business and professional services as well as ways to expand their business in Hong Kong; and

- (h) Organising / participating in 51 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, enhance mutual understanding between Hong Kong and the region, and present the cooperation between Hong Kong and the region over trade, economic and other areas. During the report period, the activities organised by SHETO included –

- (a) Organising roving exhibition in the regions under SHETO's purview: From October to December 2013, SHETO held a roving exhibition with the theme of "Hong Kong and the Mainland - Same Root, Same Heart" in nine cities, which attracted approximately 260,000 visitors. On occasions of the opening ceremonies for the exhibitions, SHETO paid visits to the relevant local government departments and officials to explore cooperation opportunities. Arrangements were also made to meet representatives of Hong Kong businessmen and students to understand their local lives;
- (b) By organising exhibitions and promotion activities, SHETO strengthened its ties with Mainland offices of HKTDC and Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTB) to jointly promote the advantages of Hong Kong in all aspects. For example, in January 2014, SHETO co-organised "Taste of Hong Kong" delicacy and art exhibition with HKTB in Shanghai. In June 2014, SHETO participated in the SmartHK Exhibition and relevant seminars organised by HKTDC in Nanjing and set up the Hong Kong Pavilion;
- (c) Enhancing cultural exchanges between Hong Kong and the Mainland: The Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of Qingdao invited, through SHETO, eight members of Hong Kong Melody Makers of the Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups to participate in the Qingdao International Sister Cities Art Festival held in June 2014; SHETO supported Asian Youth Orchestra for their roving performances in Shanghai and Hangzhou in August 2014. Under the arrangement of SHETO, performers met with students from Shanghai Conservatory of Music;
- (d) In terms of the media relations, establishing and maintaining the relationships with both the Hong Kong and Mainland media, such as arranging interviews and gatherings about events of SHETO and other Hong Kong affairs. SHETO also assisted in organising media interviews and press conferences for the visits of senior officials from the Hong Kong Government to the Mainland (including the Chief Executive);
- (e) Promoting the cooperation with media: From October to December 2013, SHETO cooperated with Shanghai Television and produced a video of "Hong Kong and the Mainland - Same Roots, Same Heart" which was then broadcast in local media, including the News Channel of Shanghai Television and many popular websites. From October 2013 to March 2014, SHETO cooperated with Hubei Chu Tian

Radio Station and launched a radio programme with the theme of “Same Root, Same Heart”. The programme was broadcast five times a week;

- (f) Providing assistance to the visits of Mainland officials to Hong Kong in order to strengthen their understanding of Hong Kong and promote mutual exchange and cooperation. For example, SHETO assisted in arranging Yang Xiaodu, Secretary of Shanghai Municipal Discipline Inspection to visit the Independent Commission Against Corruption in October 2013 and Li Yiping, Secretary-General of Shanghai Municipal People’s Government to visit Hong Kong in March 2014. In August 2014, SHETO has assisted in arranging Zong Ming, Deputy Secretary-General of Shanghai Municipal People’s Government, to visit Hong Kong to promote Shanghai's cultural and art activities;
- (g) Receiving various Hong Kong student groups and give them briefings on the duties of SHETO and the economic and trade relationship between Hong Kong and Shanghai: From January to September 2014, SHETO received 8 Hong Kong post-secondary students’ delegations with a total of about 300 students.

### **Work to Strengthen “Homeland Relationship”**

6. To complement the HKSARG’s effort to strengthen “homeland relationship”, SHETO broadened and deepened liaison network through different kind of activities; stepped up information collection; and implemented various initiatives to provide stronger support to Hong Kong people in the region. The details of our work included –

- (a) Enhancing Government-to-Government work, through visiting various government organisations in the region and participating in their activities, to strengthen our communication and explore cooperation opportunities so as to make better use of the local government platform to provide assistance to Hong Kong trade when necessary; in 2014, SHETO visited with relevant government officials of different provinces / cities and levels within the region (including those responsible for commerce, Hong Kong and Macao, and judicial affairs) to establish the channel and exchange views in order to provide proper assistance to Hong Kong enterprises and citizens when necessary;
- (b) Provide full support to the preparation of the Third Plenary Session of the Hong Kong-Shanghai Economic and Trade Co-operation Conference to be held in October 2014 and serve as a bridge between relevant government bodies to facilitate the implementation of the cooperation initiatives as agreed at the Conference;
- (c) Liaising proactively with Hong Kong enterprises and Hong Kong people in the region to understand their needs and provide appropriate assistance, including actively contact with those who work, live and study in the regions and exchange views with them. For example, SHETO organised a gathering for Hong Kong students in 13 universities in Shanghai in April 2014 in order to know more about their daily and study lives here; in September 2014, in response to Hong Kong parents’ concern on their children’s further education, we took the initiative to contact universities in Hong Kong and their corresponding alumni’s associations in Shanghai and organised a Hong Kong Universities Admission Seminar in Shanghai on the relevant admission matters for Hong Kong students in Shanghai;

- (d) Arranging activities such as meetings and visits for principal officials of HKSARG during their visit in the region in order to provide a platform for Hong Kong citizens to exchange their views with the principal officials. For example, arranged the “Exploring housing plan in Hong Kong – to promote social and economic development” Seminar and meeting with the representatives of the alumni of Hong Kong universities in December 2013 during Secretary for Transport and Housing’s visit in Shanghai; arranged meeting with representatives from various Hong Kong organisations when Secretary for Development visit in Shanghai in March 2014 for introducing latest policy and exchanging views; arranged the representatives from Hong Kong enterprises and Chamber of Commerce to meet with the Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs in June 2014 during the opening ceremony for Hong Kong Week at the International Horticultural Exposition 2014 in Qingdao; arranged meetings with Hong Kong students and interns in March and July 2014 when Secretary for Education and Secretary for Home Affairs visited Shanghai and Ningbo;
- (e) Organised and accompanied the visit of the Chief Executive and the delegation of Legislative Council in Shanghai in April 2014, including arranging visits, studies and meeting with Hong Kong associations;
- (f) Actively conducting research and distributed information among Hong Kong citizens. SHETO gathers information related to Hong Kong people living on the Mainland, like information on medical services, education, legal services, and published the Practical Guide on Hong Kong People Living on the Mainland – Shanghai (with printed and online versions) in late 2013. The preparation work on the Practical Guide on Hong Kong People Living on the Mainland – Hangzhou is in progress; and
- (g) Encouraging organisations in the region to provide internship vacancies for Hong Kong students and to provide information, support and assistance to these interns from Hong Kong. SHETO also provided internship vacancies for some students.

### **Assistance Rendered to Hong Kong Residents**

7. SHETO received a total of 19 assistance cases and made referrals to the relevant Mainland authorities during the report period. SHETO will continue to monitor the progress of the cases.

### **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,

- (a) make preparatory work to set up a liaison unit in the Eastern region next year;
- (b) further strengthen the “Homeland Relationship” and 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;

- (c) carry out promotion campaign effectively through promoting Hong Kong's advantages and enhancing mutual understanding between Hong Kong and the Mainland, including the preparation of roving exhibition;
- (d) closely monitor any new developments in the region, timely disseminate relevant information and organise seminars so that Hong Kong business sector can timely respond to the changes and grasp the opportunities, such as policy developments in the SHFTZ, introduction of Shanghai-Hong Kong Stock Connect, implementation of CEPA, and other issues of interest to the Hong Kong trades (tax, labour issues, etc) ;
- (e) maintain a close contact with the relevant local government and organisations, to assist the implementation and enhancement of agreed initiatives of the Hong Kong-Shanghai Economic and Trade Co-operation Conference;
- (f) provide necessary information and assistance to Hong Kong enterprises / residents, including publication of guidebook on livelihood, organisation of seminars to provide trade-related or useful information about living in the region, etc;
- (g) support and facilitate Hong Kong trade missions to visit the region and explore business opportunities; and
- (h) identify and attract Mainland enterprises to invest, set up operations, and list in Hong Kong.

## **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 region covered by CDETO, 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.

2. Since 1 April 2014, the area covered by CDETO has been adjusted to include Sichuan, Chongqing, Guizhou, Shaanxi, Qinghai and Tibet<sup>1</sup>.

### **Commercial Relations**

3. 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 to explore new investment and co-operation opportunities for Hong Kong enterprises. Besides, CDETO conducted researches on and 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, monthly newsletters and non-periodic thematic newsletters.

4. During the report period, major events organised by CDETO include –

- Setting up a booth in various trade fairs, including the “14<sup>th</sup> Western China International Fair” in Chengdu, “18<sup>th</sup> Investment and Trade Forum for Cooperation between East and West China cum the Silk Road Economic and Trade Cooperation International Exposition” in Xi’an and “2014 China – Qinghai Green Development Investment and Trade Fair” in Xining, with a view to promoting Hong Kong’s advantages and its industries, introducing the latest development of “Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement” (CEPA), and introducing the services provided by CDETO;
- Undertaking research studies in Shaanxi and Guizhou respectively on the implementation of “Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement” (CEPA), with a view to further promoting the implementation of CEPA in the area. The study in Shaanxi has been completed and the results have been made public. In accordance with the recommendations of the study, a seminar on CEPA was co-organised by CDETO and local authorities, so as to promote the utilisation of CEPA, as well as to promote economic development of both Hong Kong and Shaanxi;
- Organising visit programmes for Hong Kong businessmen to different cities,

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<sup>1</sup> Prior to the establishment of Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Wuhan on 1 April 2014, the area covered by CDETO included Sichuan, Chongqing, Guizhou, Hunan, Shaanxi and Yunnan.

including Chengdu, Guiyang, Zunyi and Ruili, providing opportunities for them to discuss with local authorities and enterprises, so as to have a better understanding of the investment environment and relevant policies in Western China;

- Organising the “Ani-Com Exhibition Hong Kong 2014” and “Hong Kong Exported Toys Exhibition” and participating in the “12th China International Software Cooperation Conference”, “Chengdu-Hong Kong Software Industry Day” and “Chengdu-Hong Kong Software Industry Cooperation and Sharing Forum” in Chengdu; and organising “Hong Kong Gifts Design Exhibition” in Lhasa. These events showcased Hong Kong’s experience and provided opportunities for exchange between the enterprises in the Mainland and Hong Kong, with a view to promoting creative industry in Hong Kong, as well as to facilitating Hong Kong industries to explore the Mainland market; and
- Organising various focus group discussions between Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce in China and Sichuan Province’s Department of Commerce and Chengdu Investment Promotion Commission; as well as regular gathering with Hong Kong businessmen in different areas, so as to understand their investment in the Mainland and provide information on and assistance in doing business in the Mainland. In response to their feedback, CDETO organised seminars respectively in Chengdu, Guiyang, Kunming and Xian on taxation issues and labour law, so as to help them better understand and adapt to the taxation and labour law requirements and regulatory regime of the Mainland.

### **Investment Promotion**

5. CDETO continued to actively promote Hong Kong’s investment environment and provide Mainland enterprises which are interested in investing in Hong Kong with assistance and consultation services. During the report period, the Investment Promotion Division of CDETO visited 160 Mainland enterprises, initiated 11 new projects and successfully completed 9 projects.

6. During the report period, major investment promotion initiatives of the Investment Promotion Division of CDETO included –

- organising a seminar titled “Hong Kong – Your Platform to Going Global” in Kunming in October 2013 focusing on the business opportunities of the medicine industry;
- organising a seminar cum luncheon titled “Hong Kong – Your Platform to Going Global” in Changsha in November 2013, attracting about 160 representatives from local enterprises, co-organisers and media to attend the event;
- organising a seminar titled “Hong Kong – Your Platform to Going Global” in Chongqing in April 2014, with about 100 representatives from local enterprises attending the event; and
- participating in other investment promotion activities to enhance liaison with Mainland enterprises, including “The 12<sup>th</sup> China International Software Cooperation Conference” in Chengdu in April 2014 and “The 18<sup>th</sup> Investment and

Trade Forum for Cooperation between East and West China cum the Silk Road International Exposition” in Xi’an in May 2014.

7. The Investment Promotion Division 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 Division would regularly participate in investment promotion and cooperation events held in the region, and assist Mainland officials and business enterprises in arranging visits to Hong Kong, allowing them to learn about Hong Kong’s latest economic climate and investment environment.

### **Public Relations**

8. With the aim of boosting Hong Kong’s image on the Mainland, CDETO continued its role as a bridge between Hong Kong and the region we serve, through official visits, organising and taking part in economic and trade fairs, seminars and exhibitions.

9. During the report period, CDETO took part in trade fairs held in Chengdu, Xi’an, Chongqing and Xining respectively to promote services of the Office, Hong Kong’s edges, Hong Kong as Asia’s World City, the Basic Law and the “One Country, Two Systems”.

10. CDETO also extended its traditional role of promoting trade and commerce into other fields such as music and culture. Events held included –

- Teaming up with the Sichuan Radio and Television to launch a 12-series radio programme to showcase Hong Kong’s soft power, business opportunities and the win-win situation attained by Mainland-Hong Kong cooperation through thematic reports and exclusive interviews. It is meant to be a display of Hong Kong’s advantages on industrial and regional fronts;
- In March 2014, CDETO teamed up with Hong Kong Tourism Board to stage a gourmet art exhibition “Taste of Hong Kong” in Chengdu, to showcase Hong Kong’s rich food culture;
- In March 2014, a photo exhibition was held in Xi’an to promote cultural exchanges between Hong Kong and the city. Surrounding the four themes of “People”, “Folks”, “Scenes” and “Food”, the pictures showcased the dynamics, vitality and glamour of Hong Kong; and
- In July 2014, CDETO and HKMAO of Chengdu Municipal People’s Government invited members of the Hong Kong Harmonica Association (HKHA) to take part and perform in the “2014 Chengdu International Youth Music Festival”. Young musicians of the HKHA also visited two elderly homes during the trip, to extend love and care through charity performances.

11. CDETO continued to be active in fostering a close relationship with the local media through interviews, press conferences, media briefings and tea-gatherings. We 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, chambers of commerce and the business sector.

## **Work to Strengthen “Homeland Relationship”**

12. To complement the HKSARG’s effort to strengthen “homeland relationship”, CDETO had stepped up strengthening communication with and support to Hong Kong residents residing on the Mainland, , including –

- CDETO has organised 24 gatherings / sharing sessions for Hong Kong businessmen and residents working and residing in Chengdu, Chongqing, Changsha, Guiyang, Kunming and Xi’an during the report period (including the Chinese New Year Receptions and Mid-Autumn Festival Receptions in Chengdu and Xi’an, which were co-organised with Hong Kong Trade Development Council and local Hong Kong enterprises). These gatherings have helped us to cultivate a closer relationship with Hong Kong people and understand better their life and work in the Mainland;
- CDETO visited 13 tertiary institutions in Sichuan, Shaanxi and Chongqing where there were Hong Kong students studying, with a view to understanding better their life and studies in the Mainland as well as providing suitable support to them. In 2014, CDETO gathered information on more than 30 summer internship opportunities through various Chambers of Commerce comprises Hong Kong enterprises in Chengdu, Chongqing and Xi’an, and disseminated the information to the Hong Kong students in the region via respective tertiary institutions;
- CDETO produced and provided periodic updates for the Chengdu and Chongqing editions of the “Practical Guide for Hong Kong People Living on the Mainland” during the report period. The Practical Guide contains useful and practical information on living in the cities concerned which has been made available to the public through the CDETO website. Preparatory work for the Xi’an and Guiyang editions is in the pipeline;
- Apart from regular contacts and interactions with local officials, CDETO reached out to Hong Kong’s representatives in the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Committees to foster better communication between Hong Kong and the region we serve; and
- CDETO stepped up promotions on Hong Kong’s image through different channels, including staging roving photography exhibitions, inviting Hong Kong performing groups to perform in the Mainland and organising comics show to enhance cultural exchange between Hong Kong and the Mainland and to promote Hong Kong’s creative industry.

## **Chongqing Liaison Unit**

13. Chongqing Liaison Unit (CQLU) has been in close contact with local government and trade and industrial organisations to expand its network and promote economic and trade exchanges between Hong Kong and Chongqing. CQLU also 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 also disseminated to related chambers of commerce in Hong Kong and Hong Kong enterprises. Regular meetings with Hong Kong people / enterprises in Chongqing were also held, so as to better understand their needs.



14. During the report period, major events involving CQLU included –
- Setting up a booth in the “5<sup>th</sup> International Trade in Services (Chongqing) Summit”, the “17<sup>th</sup> China Chongqing International Investment and Global Sourcing Fair” and the “6<sup>th</sup> International Trade in Services (Chongqing) Summit” to introduce the work of CQLU, CEPA, Hong Kong’s advantages and business opportunities;
  - Organising the “Ani-Com Exhibition Hong Kong 2013”, to promote Ani-Com industry in Hong Kong and showcase Hong Kong experience. The events enabled representatives from Hong Kong and Chongqing to exchange experiences on nurturing ani-com talent and the development of the ani-com industry in the two places;
  - Organising the “Seminar on Chongqing-Hong Kong Exchanges in the Field of Urban Planning”. Exchanges were made on maintenance of green belts and property development above railway stations from urban planning and management’s perspective;
  - Holding the “Chongqing-Hong Kong Week 2014”, which was co-organised by the Hong Kong SAR Government and the Chongqing Municipal People’s Government in Chongqing. Major events included the “Hong Kong – Your Platform to Going Global” investment seminar to promote Hong Kong as a platform for Chongqing enterprises to establish their brands and access the world market; the seminar on CEPA to promote the utilisation of CEPA in Chongqing; the diverse Hong Kong exhibition which focused on promotion of tourism and introduced Hong Kong’s heritage features; the “2014 Hong Kong Trendy Products Expo, Chongqing”; the seminar on taxation issues and labour law, to help Hong Kong enterprises better understand and adapt to the taxation and labour law requirements and regulatory regime of the Mainland; and the “Seminar on Campus” activities which included a talk for Chongqing students on the ways to pursue further studies and seek employment after graduation in Hong Kong, and a talk for Hong Kong students studying in Chongqing on civil service recruitment; and
  - The “Chongqing-Hong Kong Vocational Student Exchange Programme” made good progress thanks to active assistance of CQLU. The exchange visits between the Vocational Training Council and Chongqing University of Education were held during the report period. The Programme helped build a platform for study, practice and exchanges between students from Chongqing and Hong Kong to enhance their vocational skills and broaden their horizons.

### **Support to Post-earthquake Reconstruction Works in Sichuan Province**

15. During the report period, except two highway and two Wolong projects, 147 out of the 151 projects with regard to HKSAR’s support to post-earthquake reconstruction works in Sichuan Province have been completed. CDETO will continue to act as a facilitator between HKSARG and Sichuan Provincial Government to complete and remaining follow-up work. During the report period, effective support was provided to visits by key Hong Kong government officials to Sichuan Province, including the visit by the Secretary for Development in March 2014, 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 for monitoring project progress and the conduct of inspections to the completed reconstruction projects.

### **Assistance Rendered to Hong Kong Residents**

16. Immigration Division of CDETO commenced operation in October 2013 and provides practical assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress within the region covered by CDETO. The main duties of the Division include the provision of viable support to Hong Kong residents who have lost their travel documents or encountered personal safety problems, and handling of immigration-related enquiries. During the report period, the Division received a total of 41 requests for assistance from Hong Kong residents in distress. Of these, 19 cases involved the loss of travel documents or monies, 21 cases were from persons who had encountered personal safety problems, such as having been injured in traffic accidents, sick or whose Hong Kong relatives had passed away in the Mainland, etc., and the remaining 1 case was about detention of Hong Kong residents in the Mainland. Besides, the Division also handled 240 immigration-related enquiries.

17. Apart from the above, CDETO also received a total of 9 other assistance cases during the report period. CDETO made referrals to the relevant Mainland government departments for follow up and monitored progress.

### **Looking ahead**

18. Through participating in and organising various types of economic and trade activities, missions, studying the latest business environment and preferential 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.

19. With regard to the support to post-earthquake reconstruction works in Sichuan Province, CDETO will continue to assist in the day-to-day liaison between the HKSAR Government, Sichuan Provincial Government and individual project owners to monitor progress of the reconstruction projects, identify problem issues and devise remedies. The emphasis of the work in the year ahead will be more on the coordination on closure of the completed projects. In addition, CDETO will continue to provide support to the three-tier coordination mechanism between the HKSAR and Sichuan governments on reconstruction matters, as well as to incoming visitors from Hong Kong.

## **Report on the Work of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Wuhan**

To assist Hong Kong residents and enterprises to better capitalise on the opportunities brought about by the rapid development of the central region, the Chief Executive announced in his 2013 Policy Address the plan to set up a new Economic and Trade Office in Wuhan. The Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Wuhan of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (WHETO) commenced operation on 1 April 2014. Its main functions are to (a) enhance liaison and communication between the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSARG) and the Mainland authorities in the five provinces of Hubei, Hunan, Shanxi, Jiangxi and Henan (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. WHETO proactively liaise and cooperate with relevant authorities and organisations in Hong Kong and the central region to promote Hong Kong's business sector and help them explore business opportunities in the Mainland. The specific 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 there, promoting economic and trade cooperation. For example, in May and September 2014, the Director of WHETO joined the activities of the trade mission of the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce to Wuhan of Hubei Province and Jiangxi Province respectively.
- (b) encouraging and promoting economic and trade exchanges between Hong Kong and the region through participation in trade promotional activities. For example, from 31 March to 1 April 2014, the Director of WHETO visited Zhengzhou, Henan Province to attend the 8<sup>th</sup> China Henan International Investment and Trade Fair.
- (c) supporting provinces / municipalities in the region to visit Hong Kong to organise trade promotion activities and coordinating meetings between visiting Mainland officials and senior HKSARG officials. For example, in May and June 2014, WHETO assisted in the business promotion activities in Hong Kong during the visits of the delegations led by Jiangxi Provincial CPC Secretary Qiang Wei and Henan Governor Xie Fuzhan respectively.
- (d) maintaining close relation with Hong Kong trade associations and organisations in the region, and actively participating in and supporting their activities. During the report period, WHETO met Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce in China – Wuhan as well as many Hong Kong enterprises investing in the provinces / municipalities in the region and attended relevant activities; and
- (e) keeping Hong Kong's major industry and trade organisations as well as Hong Kong residents and enterprises in the region informed of the latest economic and trade policies, legislations and measures in the region through newsletters; monitoring closely those latest policy developments and regulations that may have

an impact on Hong Kong enterprises and reporting to the relevant HKSARG bureaux and departments in a timely manner; collecting the views of Hong Kong enterprises on these developments / legislations and reflecting their views to relevant Mainland authorities for consideration where appropriate. From April to September 2014, WHETO issued 6 monthly newsletters and 8 “Topical Newsletters” to provide relevant information on business and investment in the Mainland as well as analysis of business policy issues which have always been of concern to Hong Kong businessmen (e.g. taxation, labor, intellectual property and social insurance, etc). The publications are also uploaded to the WHETO website.

### **Investment Promotion**

3. For the purpose of attracting Mainland enterprises to establish operations and invest in Hong Kong, the Investment Promotion Division (IPD) of WHETO was set up in July 2014. WHETO’s IPD endeavors to contact 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. Enterprises with interest will be offered comprehensive assistance and consultation services. During the report period, the IPD completed 1 investment project and proactively reached out and met with 56 enterprises and organisations to provide assistance on investment in Hong Kong to the enterprises concerned.

### **Public Relations**

4. As a bridge between Hong Kong and the region, WHETO promoted Hong Kong’s advantages and its positive image through official visits and taking part in various activities. WHETO’s website was launched on 1 April 2014 to provide an effective channel for disseminating information about the office, Hong Kong and the provinces / municipalities in the region to the public. Separately, WHETO has been building up a close relationship with the local media. During the report period, Mainland media such as the Hubei Changjiang Daily, the People’s Daily, Xinhua Net Wuhan and iFeng Hubei carried news on the preparation for the establishment of WHETO and the commencement of its operation. WHETO also confirmed the cooperation with the Rural Channel of Hubei Television to continue producing and broadcasting the radio programme “*Next Station, Hong Kong*”<sup>1</sup> in Hubei and other areas in the central region to promote Hong Kong.

### **Work to Strengthen “Homeland Relationship”**

5. Since the start of preparatory work in mid-February, WHETO met with the relevant government authorities of Hubei, Hunan, Henan, Jiangxi and Shanxi provinces to establish working relationships. Through these meetings, WHETO introduced the background of its establishment, the progress of its preparatory work and its functions. WHETO also got to know about the situation of different provinces / municipalities and established working partnerships in order to enhance co-operation and liaison with various parties in future.

6. To complement the HKSARG’s efforts to strengthen “Homeland Relationship”, WHETO strived to broaden and deepen liaison network, step up information collection, and

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<sup>1</sup> The programme is broadcast at 10 am on Monday to Friday, and can be downloaded from the internet.

implement various measures to better support Hong Kong residents who are living, doing business, working and studying in the region. The specific work included –

- (a) enhancing Government-to-Government liaison work. Strengthening our liaison with government authorities in the region and establishing cooperation platform through visits and participating in their organised / co-organised activities, in order to provide more effective assistance to Hong Kong enterprises where necessary. For example, WHETO had established regular communication mechanism with the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the Hubei Province to exchange information and views about each other's work and activities.
- (b) proactively liaising with Hong Kong enterprises and residents in the region to understand their needs and provide assistance as appropriate. For example –
  - organising visits and courtesy calls to meet with Hong Kong enterprises and residents in various provinces / municipalities in the region (including Wuhan of Hubei Province, Zhengzhou and Kaifeng of Henan Province, Changsha of Hunan Province and Taiyuan of Shanxi Province) to seek and collect their views on investing, doing business and living in the central region. These enterprises and residents are in various sectors, such as retail, education, medical, professional services, property development and information technology, etc.;
  - meeting with Hong Kong university students studying in Wuhan and the offices for Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan affairs in respective universities to understand students' living and study situation;
  - meeting with Hong Kong university students taking up internship in Wuhan and the representatives of the host companies to learn more about the details of the internship and their views. WHETO also planned to cooperate with the relevant business association to continue providing internship opportunities for Hong Kong students; and
  - promulgating through its website to provide information (e.g. that on HKSARG civil service recruitment) to Hong Kong residents in the region.
- (c) WHETO had preliminary exchanges on future cooperation with the relevant Mainland offices of the Hong Kong Trade Development Council and Hong Kong Tourism Board.

7. In addition, WHETO proactively rendered assistance to government officials of the provinces / municipalities it covers who attended events and conducted study tours in Hong Kong with a view to enhance their knowledge about Hong Kong and their understanding of the latest development. For example, in June, WHETO assisted in arranging the delegation of the Shanxi Provincial Foreign and Overseas Chinese Affairs Office to meet with the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau in Hong Kong. WHETO also assisted in arranging the delegation of the Nanchang Municipal Government of the Jiangxi Province to meet with the Yau Tsim Mong District Office under the Home Affairs Department and visit the Yau Tsim Mong District to facilitate their study on the social management of the grassroots.

## **Assistance Rendered to Hong Kong Residents**

8. WHETO received a total of 11 assistance cases during the report period. WHETO made referrals to and followed up on the cases with the relevant Mainland authorities and monitored progress.

## **Looking Ahead**

9. The preparatory work of WHETO had by and large been completed. Amongst others, WHETO had completed the first round of recruitment of locally engaged staff and set up its temporary office. To cater for the operational needs in the long run, WHETO is actively proceeding with the work to set up a long term office.

10. In the coming year, WHETO will continue to promote the economic and trade relations between Hong Kong and the region as well as promote Hong Kong to enhance Mainland people's understanding of Hong Kong. WHETO will also continue to strengthen the work on "Homeland Relationship" to fortify the Government-to-Government relations, enhance the liaison with and better serve the Hong Kong enterprises and residents in the region, including monitoring closely the latest developments in the central region, disseminating relevant information in a timely manner, and organising seminars on issues of interest to Hong Kong trade (e.g. CEPA, taxation, labor, etc.) and policies concerning the central region. We will collect practical information about living in the Mainland (e.g. work, business operation, medical care, study, legal services etc.) and publish booklet on practical information about living in the Mainland, which will be disseminated through WHETO's website. We will also monitor developments of major policies, legislations and measures in the region and report to relevant bureaux and departments in a timely manner for assessment on the implications on Hong Kong.

Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Wuhan  
October 2014

## **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 Taiwan 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 co-operated closely with the Taiwan Office of the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC) in supporting the establishment of the “Hong Kong Business Association in Taipei” which was officially founded in August 2014. HKETCO also 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 40 enquiries related to Hong Kong-Taiwan economic and trade matters.

4. During the report period, 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 flow of economic and trade information. Members of the public can download the newsletter from HKETCO’s website ([www.hketco.hk](http://www.hketco.hk)).

5. In order to strengthen the understanding of Hong Kong by Taiwan’s various sectors and foster closer economic co-operation and exchanges between the two places, HKETCO organised the “Hong Kong-Taiwan Economic Co-operation Forum” for the first time in Taipei in October 2013. The forum focused on the prospects of economic co-operation and collaboration on Renminbi business. Experts from both places were invited to deliver speeches at the event, including David Lie, Vice-chairperson of the Hong Kong-Taiwan Economic and Cultural Co-operation and Promotion Council (ECCPC), and the Under Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury. HKETCO organised another forum in Kaohsiung in May 2014 to discuss the development of and co-operation in the tourism and logistics industries.

### **Investment Promotion**

6. 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 320 companies located across northern, central and southern Taiwan and outlying islands, initiated 284 new projects and completed 5 projects.

7. IPD of HKETCO also assisted Invest Hong Kong and the Guangzhou Municipal Government of Guangdong Province in preparing for the “Hong Kong and Guangzhou: Your Business Partners in Mainland China” Seminar in Taipei scheduled to be held in October 2014. The event aimed at introducing the strengths of Hong Kong and Guangzhou in business development and as a comprehensive platform for overseas businesses to excel. In January 2014, IPD participated in the “Seminar on Marketing Strategies for Taiwan’s Creative Industries” organised by the Taiwan Cultural and Creative Industry Association in Taipei City and gave a presentation. IPD also participated and delivered a speech in the “Smart City Development of Cross-strait Co-operation Forum” organised by the Taipei Computer Association in February 2014; and co-organised a briefing session on Hong Kong’s investment environment with the Taitung County Small and Medium Enterprise Service Center in September 2014.

8. Moreover, IPD attended a number of exhibitions featuring Taiwan’s prime industries to establish contacts with the participating enterprises, with a view to identifying prospective investors in Hong Kong.

### **Cultural Promotion and Public Relations**

9. During the report period, HKETCO continued to establish relationships with various sectors of Taiwan, including the Directors and other members of the Taiwan-Hong Kong Economic and Cultural Co-operation Council (THEC), senior personnel of relevant Taiwan authorities, 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.

10. During the report period, the Director of HKETCO visited Keelung City, Hualien County and Taitung County and met with the respective mayors or magistrates and local industrial and commercial associations. He briefed them on HKETCO’s work and Hong Kong’s latest developments.

11. In addition, HKETCO actively promoted cultural exchanges between Hong Kong and Taiwan. Besides co-organising “Hong Kong Week 2013”, HKETCO also sponsored Hong Kong cultural groups and personalities to visit and perform in Taiwan or engage in exchanges.

12. During the report period, HKETCO’s main publicity work included –

- (a) publishing and distributing the third issue and two special issues of “Art & Culture @ Hong Kong” with a view to encouraging the general public of Taiwan to visit Hong Kong for in-depth tourism and explore Hong Kong’s arts, culture and tourist spots;
- (b) co-operating with a renowned Hong Kong comics and animation brand in manufacturing a live-size double-decker Hong Kong tram for display at the



Songshan Cultural and Creative Park in Taipei from November 2013 to February 2014 to promote Hong Kong; and in publishing a notebook which introduced various aspects of Hong Kong and her advantages;

- (c) participating in the “Central Taiwan Lantern Festival 2014” hosted by the Taichung City Government in February 2014, again in the capacity of a co-organiser. HKETCO displayed Hong Kong-made lanterns as well as lanterns made jointly by Hong Kong and Taiwan producers, and arranged a cheongsam fashion show and performances by Hong Kong singers at the closing gala. HKETCO also participated in the “Taiwan Lantern Festival” in Nantou County in February 2014, and displayed models of Hong Kong-style food and broadcast promotional videos about Hong Kong, so as to promote Hong Kong’s diversity to the general public of Taiwan;
- (d) hosting a spring reception in February 2014 and a second anniversary dinner in May to strengthen connections with various sectors of Taiwan and brief them on the latest developments of Hong Kong;
- (e) organising six cultural talks entitled “Art & Culture @ Hong Kong” in Taipei, Taichung and Kaohsiung from May to October 2014, with renowned Hong Kong cultural personalities invited as speakers. The talks aimed at promoting deeper understanding of Hong Kong’s cultural characteristics by the general public of Taiwan. The topics covered humanities, photography, food, fashion, design and xiqu;
- (f) co-operating with the Taiwan Office of the Hong Kong Tourism Board in organising a Hong Kong promotion campaign at Kaohsiung’s Zuoying MRT station in July 2014. Scenes of Hong Kong’s streets and MTR stations as well as books and publicity materials about Hong Kong were displayed. The event also included performances featuring iconic Hong Kong film characters. The event, with its lively and entertaining elements, worked to attract residents in the Kaohsiung area to visit Hong Kong and enhance their knowledge of Hong Kong;
- (g) publishing the “Dialogues between Hong Kong and Taiwan” column at Taiwan’s Global Views Monthly from May 2013 to March 2014 to promote exchanges between Hong Kong and Taiwan. In the column, one guest from each of the two places were invited to share their views and experiences on economic and trade, culture or city management, so as to promote mutual exchange. In May 2014, HKETCO launched a monthly column at Taiwan’s Commonwealth Magazine, featuring Hong Kong’s latest developments and the opportunities for co-operation with Taiwan;
- (h) publishing a booklet entitled “Hong Kong X Taiwan: Asia’s New Power” in September 2014 to promote Hong Kong’s business advantages and strengthen the understanding of Hong Kong by the business sector and the general public of Taiwan; and
- (i) 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**

13. HKETCO maintained regular communications with associations of Hong Kong residents and students, and offered them advice and assistance, as appropriate. During the report period, the Director of HKETCO paid visits to four tertiary education institutions with a relatively large number of Hong Kong students to learn more about their living and study conditions. HKETCO also co-operated with Delegação Económica e Cultural de Macau (Macao Economic and Cultural Office) in organising three large-scale student lunch gatherings in Taipei, Taichung and Kaohsiung to connect with Hong Kong and Macao students in Taiwan. Moreover, HKETCO organised two career talks to provide job-seeking information for Hong Kong students. Meanwhile, 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.

14. During the report period, HKETCO received 283 requests for assistance and relevant enquires from Hong Kong residents. They were mainly related to entering Hong Kong and exiting Taiwan, encountering accidents occurred in Taiwan and seeking legal assistance. In handling cases involving Hong Kong residents in distress, HKETCO maintained close liaison with the Hong Kong Immigration Department and offered all possible assistance in light of the circumstances, including providing advice on such matters as local administrative procedures, and how to liaise with the relevant organisations or seek legal advice. In addition, HKETCO published an information booklet for Hong Kong residents living in Taiwan, with a view to providing useful information to them.

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

15. During the report period, HKETCO actively supported the Administration and ECCPC in fostering closer co-operation and exchanges with Taiwan. The major work included—

- (a) assisting and arranging a maritime delegation led by the Secretary for Transport and Housing to visit Taipei in October 2013 during which they had exchanges with the shipping sector of Taiwan and attended the Hong Kong-Taiwan Maritime Services Seminar hosted by HKTDC and other parties. HKETCO also arranged the calls by the Secretary on senior members of the Taiwan authorities and his meeting with Hong Kong businessmen and students in Taiwan;
- (b) assisting the Hong Kong-Taiwan Cultural Co-operation Committee (HKTCCC) in organising “Hong Kong Week 2013” in Taipei from late November to December 2013, with a view to promoting Hong Kong’s arts and culture. HKETCO helped arrange the visit itineraries of Charles Lee, ECCPC Chairperson, and the Secretary for Home Affairs who was also ECCPC’s Vice-chairperson, in Taipei. The various activities of “Hong Kong Week” attracted more than 73 000 participants and received positive feedback from the Taiwan audience;
- (c) accompanying David Lie, ECCPC Vice-chairperson and Chairman of the Hong Kong-Taiwan Business Co-operation Committee, in calling on the New Taipei City Mayor, as well as the Taoyuan County Magistrate and THEC Chairman, in December 2013 and March 2014 respectively. The visits aimed at exchanging views on economic co-operation between Hong Kong and Taiwan;

- (d) assisting the Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs to visit Taipei and Taichung in May 2014. The itinerary included visiting Hong Kong businesses operating in Taiwan and meeting with Hong Kong students in Taichung to understand their work, needs and living conditions; attending the second anniversary dinner of HKETCO; and meeting with the Secretary-General of the Taichung City Government to foster closer exchanges on various levels and discuss co-operation plans;
- (e) co-organising the Hong Kong-Taichung Intercity Exchange Forum on 31 July 2014 with the Taichung City Government to discuss the developments of tourism and medical services, with the participation of about 150 officials, experts, academics and stakeholders from both places. The Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development and the Secretary for Food and Health, in their capacities as Vice-chairpersons of ECCPC, led a Hong Kong delegation of around 60 members to attend the event. It comprised representatives of the tourist industry and members of the Hong Kong Chinese Medicine Development Committee. HKETCO also helped arrange the delegation's side visits; and
- (f) assisting in arranging the visit of the Secretary for Home Affairs, who was also ECCPC Vice-chairperson, and HKTCCC members in Taipei from 22 to 23 August 2014. The visit included attending the Hong Kong-Taiwan Cultural Co-operation Forum and a youth cultural and creativity camp, as well as related activities.

### **Looking Ahead**

16. HKETCO has been in operation for about three years and has established links successfully with various sectors in Taiwan. HKETCO will continue to step up efforts in this respect. HKETCO will also actively encourage Taiwan companies to invest in Hong Kong, foster closer economic relationship between Hong Kong and Taiwan, support Hong Kong businesses in Taiwan (including the organisation of another Hong Kong-Taiwan Economic Co-operation Forum in December 2014), and promote cultural exchanges between the two places by such activities as organising "Hong Kong Week 2014" in Taipei in October to November 2014 and publishing the fourth issue of "Art & Culture @ Hong Kong". HKETCO will provide support to ECCPC in preparing its itineraries for the Fifth Joint Meeting with THEC to be held in Taipei later.