

The 2016 Policy Address

Policy Agenda

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Policy Agenda

Introduction

Promoting economic development and enhancing quality of life are the common wish of Hong Kong people. They are high in the priority list of the current-term Government. The Government is actively working with various sectors to plan for our future so as to meet the challenges posed by ageing population and a shrinking workforce, as well as the need to maintain our international competitiveness. Our goal is to build an economically vibrant and highly efficient city and make Hong Kong a comfortable home for people to enjoy a balanced material and cultural life.

Over the past few years, the current-term Government has formulated long-term policies in different policy areas and progressively implemented various measures to address Hong Kong's development needs and aspirations of the public. On the economic front, we have made a number of major strides, including the official launch of the Shanghai-Hong Kong Stock Connect and the basic liberalisation of trade in services between Hong Kong and the Mainland. Apart from strengthening our traditionally competitive industries, the Government established the Innovation and Technology Bureau in November last year to promote the application of innovation and technology so as to enhance Hong Kong's overall competitiveness. This will better facilitate our move towards a knowledge-based economy and provide more diversified employment opportunities for young people.

Meanwhile, the Government will continue to take forward major infrastructure projects, including the three-runway system at the Hong Kong International Airport, to reinforce our development edge.

On people's livelihood, the poverty alleviation initiatives introduced by the current-term Government have yielded considerable results. In 2014, the size of the poor population dropped to 960 000 and the poverty rate to 14.3%, both at their lowest level in six years. The Government will continue to adopt a multi-pronged approach to increase land supply, and will conduct land use reviews and take forward major new development areas in a timely manner, so as to support the continued development of our economy and society. The Government will also increase housing supply in line with the established direction of the Long Term Housing Strategy. We are also committed to promoting heritage and nature conservation, taking forward greening activities and implementing three policy blueprints on environmental protection, with a view to jazzing up the cultural aura and enhancing our living environment. To facilitate our sustainable development, the Government will press ahead with the population policy initiatives announced last year, including unleashing the potential of the labour force, raising the quality of locally-trained talent and attracting talent from outside Hong Kong.

By 2034, the percentage of our elderly population will increase to 30%. We announced in this year's Policy Address that we will further promote the building of an ageing-friendly environment for the elders to age in place, and implement various policies to cater for their needs, such as in healthcare, elderly services, transportation and community facilities. Besides, the Commission on Poverty has just embarked on a six-month public engagement exercise on the way forward for retirement protection. The Policy Address also places emphasis on

more resources being allocated to nurturing our young generations by implementing the free quality kindergarten education policy and various initiatives to enhance teaching quality. Increasing housing and land supply, providing support for the disadvantaged and promoting environmental protection will continue to be our policy focus. Details of these initiatives are set out in this Policy Agenda Booklet.

In the face of changing economic environment and social situation in Hong Kong, the Government will implement the various initiatives put forth in this Policy Agenda with resolve, and capitalise on the opportunities brought by the country's Belt and Road Initiative and the National 13th Five-Year Plan for laying a solid foundation for the future development of Hong Kong.

In the past two years, the community devoted a great deal of energy and time to discussing constitutional development and saw massive disputes over this issue. Following the universal suffrage proposals for the election of the Chief Executive being vetoed, the Government is focusing efforts to boost the economy and improve people's livelihood. These efforts call for the support and partnership of the whole community. We do hope that everyone would show more empathy, have more appreciation for our hard-earned achievements and do more to add value for Hong Kong. Let us join hands to strive for a brighter future.

Chapter 1

Economic Development and Innovation and Technology

Preamble

Continuous and sustainable economic growth is a prerequisite for Hong Kong to tackle housing, poverty, ageing population and environmental problems. Promoting economic development is therefore of utmost importance. We are committed to maintaining a business-friendly environment with a simple and low tax regime. It is pivotal for us to continue to invest in world-class infrastructure and promote the development of innovation and technology to support sustainable economic growth and sharpen our competitive edge.

To promote economic development, the Government will stay “appropriately proactive” and, through such channels as the Economic Development Commission and the Financial Services Development Council, gather industries’ views on the on-going formulation of a holistic industrial policy and ways to further Hong Kong’s economic success. The Government will consolidate and enhance Hong Kong’s position as a major platform of capital raising and financing for Mainland and overseas enterprises, broaden and deepen our co-operation with the Mainland in diverse fields, and give full play to Hong Kong’s combined advantages under “One Country” and “Two Systems” as well as its unique role in external liaison by capitalising on the enormous growth opportunities arising from the implementation of the National 13th Five-Year Plan and the Belt and Road Initiative.

We are striving for co-development of Hong Kong and our country while continuing to enhance our competitiveness.

The trading and logistics industry is a major contributor to Hong Kong's economy. We will continue to strengthen our relations with trading partners to secure better access to their markets. In particular, we will assist our business and service industries in tapping the Mainland market by taking advantage of the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA). Meanwhile, we will continue to actively promote high value-added logistics, maritime and aviation services, and collaborate with the industries to reinforce and enhance Hong Kong's position as an international maritime and aviation centre, including our role as a global aviation hub.

In maintaining Hong Kong's status as an international financial centre and the competitive edge of our financial services industry, the Government works actively to modernise the regulatory framework, strengthen investor protection and foster the diversification of services and products.

Hong Kong's economic success is built on our adherence to and respect for the rule of law. We will continue with the development of Hong Kong as an international legal and dispute resolution services centre in the Asia-Pacific region, seeking to enhance our status in the international legal, dispute resolution and business arenas.

New Initiatives

We will:

Centre for International Legal and Dispute Resolution Services in the Asia-Pacific Region

- Further promote Hong Kong's legal and dispute resolution services so that enterprises in the Mainland and in jurisdictions along the Belt and Road will make use of Hong Kong's professional services in their business development pursuant to the Belt and Road Initiative. (DoJ)
- Study the desirability of amending the relevant legislation (including the Arbitration Ordinance, Cap. 609) with a view to attracting more parties to resolve their intellectual property disputes by arbitration in Hong Kong. (DoJ)
- Explore the use of evaluative mediation (in addition to facilitative mediation) for resolving intellectual property disputes. (DoJ)
- Consider the introduction of an apology legislation to facilitate the resolution of disputes by clarifying the legal consequences of making an apology. (DoJ)

International Maritime and Aviation Centre

- Establish a new maritime body named the “Hong Kong Maritime and Port Board”, to be chaired by the Secretary for Transport and Housing, to enhance engagement with the industry to formulate and implement strategies to foster the growth of high value-added maritime services and nurture talents, thereby promoting the development of maritime services and enhancing Hong Kong’s position as an international maritime and aviation centre. (THB)

Financial Services Sector

- Discuss with the Central Government and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) the specific arrangements for Hong Kong to join the AIIB and ways to support the work of the AIIB by leveraging on Hong Kong’s status as an international financial centre (including our capital markets). (FSTB)
- Examine the existing regulatory arrangements of money lenders and related intermediaries to enhance protection for borrowers, and review the relevant provisions in the existing Money Lenders Ordinance when necessary; as well as step up public education to raise people’s awareness of debt management. (FSTB)

Enhancing External Links

- Prepare for the establishment of a new overseas Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (ETO) in Indonesia, with a view to strengthening ties with the ASEAN countries; and plan for setting up an ETO in Seoul to enhance trade and cultural exchanges with Korea. (CEDB)

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- Provide \$200 million funding to support the professional services sector of Hong Kong in their exchange, promotion and co-operation efforts with countries along the Belt and Road and other external markets (including Mainland China). (CEDB)

Creative Industries

- Develop and promote location filming and film production services in the Pearl River Delta Region (including Hong Kong), with a view to attracting overseas production crews to shoot films in the region and encouraging film production activities in Hong Kong. (CEDB)
- Support the trade to set up a theme-based exhibition area featuring local comic characters adjacent to the Golden Bauhinia Square for promoting the local animation and comics industry to the public and tourists, as well as enriching the experience of tourists. (CEDB)

Technological Research and Development

- Earmark \$2 billion for the Innovation and Technology Bureau for encouraging universities to carry out more mid-stream applied research projects which are translational and theme-based in key technology areas, to promote the development of innovation and technology in Hong Kong. (ITB)

- Continue to promote collaboration with scientific research institutions in other places. This year, the five new Hong Kong branches of the Chinese National Engineering Research Centres (CNERCs), together with 16 Partner State Key Laboratories and one CNERC already established, will conduct research and development (R&D) activities in a diverse range of disciplines such as infectious disease, molecular neuroscience, synthetic chemistry and precious metals material engineering. An annual funding of over \$100 million will be provided to support these projects. (ITB)

Developing High Value-added and Technology Industries

- Provide an injection of \$2,878 million and a guarantee for a commercial loan of \$1,107 million for the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation (HKSTPC) to finance the expansion of the Science Park, with a view to promoting the diversification and sustainable development of our economy through supporting the innovation and technology industries. (ITB)
- Leverage “re-industrialisation” as an opportunity for Hong Kong to look for new areas of economic growth. The Government and the HKSTPC have adjusted the industrial estate policy by developing high-efficiency multi-storey buildings in industrial estates and recovering lands on which corporates have ceased operation to promote smart manufacturing and attract high value-added technology industries as well as high value-added production processes suitable for Hong Kong, with a view to creating quality and diversified employment opportunities. (ITB)

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- Identify suitable land near Lian Tong/Heung Yuen Wai for the long-term development of Science Park and Industrial Estates. (ITB)

Supporting Technology Start-ups

- Cyberport will increase the annual quotas for its incubation programme and increase its Smart-Space small offices and workstation facilities by 50% within the next year to cater for the development needs of the local information and communications technology (ICT) sector. (ITB)
- Cyberport will allocate \$200 million to set up a new Cyberport Macro Fund to invest in its ICT start-ups. (ITB)
- Earmark \$2 billion for the Innovation and Technology Bureau to set up the Innovation and Technology Venture Fund for co-investing with private funds on a matching basis to enhance investments in technology start-ups. (ITB)

Digital Development and Smart City

- Further develop public Wi-Fi services by progressively doubling the coverage of free Wi-Fi services to 34 000 hotspots within three years through public-private sectors collaboration to provide such services for the public at locations of high patronage, including: public rental housing and public hospitals, markets, parks, sitting-out areas, promenades, tourist spots, public transport interchanges and land boundary control points. The existing Wi-Fi connection speed in government venues will also be progressively raised by 100% and the security of Wi-Fi service will be further enhanced. We will offer free Wi-Fi at all youth services centres and study rooms run by the Government and non-profit-making organisations and work with schools to improve the quality of their Wi-Fi service for supporting e-learning. (ITB)
- Together with research and academic institutions as well as public and private organisations, examine the details of developing Hong Kong into a smart city, and draw up a set of digital framework and standards suitable for developing smart city in Hong Kong. (ITB)

Innovation and Technology and Living

- Earmark \$500 million for the Innovation and Technology Bureau to set up the Innovation and Technology Fund for Better Living to provide funding for projects that make use of innovative ideas and technologies to improve people's daily living. (ITB)

Construction Cost

- Establish a dedicated office to devise, promote and co-ordinate project cost control and related cost reduction initiatives, with a view to bringing down the high construction cost in Hong Kong. (DEVB)
- The Central Government's Belt and Road Initiative will provide opportunities. We will study how to establish an effective platform for the relevant professions of the Hong Kong construction industry to participate in the associated infrastructural projects. (DEVB)

New Agriculture Policy

- Implement the New Agriculture Policy by adopting a more proactive approach in promoting the modernisation and sustainable development of local agriculture. Major measures include:
 - establishing an Agricultural Park;
 - commissioning a consultancy to study the feasibility of designating agricultural priority areas;
 - establishing a \$500 million Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund;
 - strengthening support for the sector to help farmers move up the value chain, including the marketing of products and brand building; and

- promoting leisure and educational activities that are related to agriculture. (FHB)
- Integrate the New Agriculture Policy with existing supportive measures for the agricultural and fisheries sectors, and strive to enhance the quality assurance of local agricultural and fisheries products to ensure food safety. (FHB)

Broadcasting and Telecommunications

- Prepare for the re-assignment of the 198.6 MHz of frequency spectrum in the 900 MHz and 1 800 MHz bands upon expiry of the existing assignments in 2020-21, including the launch of public consultation. (CEDB)

Support Hong Kong Residents and Enterprises in the Mainland

- Set up more liaison units to further strengthen the work of Mainland offices. (CMAB)
- Set up an Immigration Division under the Shanghai Economic and Trade Office to provide better support for Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland. (CMAB/SB)

Intellectual Property

- Review our copyright regime to ensure that it will meet the actual needs of Hong Kong and keep pace with international developments. (CEDB)

Ethical Governance

- Enhance ethical governance in the business sector through launching a three-year ethics promotion programme comprising the compilation and promulgation of a practical guide and training package for the senior management of listed companies. (ICAC)

Testing and Transportation Hub for Competition Horses

- Take advantages of Hong Kong's strength in high-performance horse racing, and our collaboration with the Mainland on the development of Hong Kong Jockey Club's Equine Training Centre and the Equine-Disease Free Zone in Conghua, Guangzhou, strengthen Hong Kong's testing services for equine diseases in the interest of facilitating Hong Kong's development into a testing centre and transportation hub for international high-performance competition horses. (FHB)

On-going Initiatives

We are:

Economic Development Commission

- Supporting the work of the Economic Development Commission to explore and identify sectors or clusters of sectors which present opportunities for Hong Kong's further economic growth. The commission will continue to recommend possible policies and other support measures for the relevant industries for the Government's consideration and implementation. (CEDB)
- Constructing a convention centre above the Exhibition Station of the Shatin to Central Link upon the latter's completion in around 2020. The Hong Kong Trade Development Council is currently working on the preliminary design of the centre. (CEDB)

Economic and Trade Relations with the Mainland and Regional Co-operation

(a) National Five-Year Plan

- Actively co-ordinating the implementation of the policy initiatives related to Hong Kong pursuant to the promulgation of the National 13th Five-Year Plan this year to consolidate and enhance Hong Kong's competitiveness and complement the nation's long-term development. (CMAB)

(b) CEPA

- Seeking to enrich the content of CEPA, with a view to securing for our businesses better access to the Mainland market. (CEDB)
- Working with the Mainland authorities through the CEPA Joint Working Group to assist our businesses in using CEPA to tap the Mainland market. (CEDB)

(c) Regional Co-operation

- Deepening regional co-operation through our co-operation mechanisms with the Pan-Pearl River Delta region, the Guangdong and Fujian Provinces, the municipalities of Beijing, Shanghai and Shenzhen and the Macao Special Administrative Region. (CMAB)
- Continuing to co-operate with the Guangdong provincial government as well as the municipal governments of Guangzhou, Zhuhai and Shenzhen to promote the development of Nansha, Hengqin and Qianhai respectively under the principle of “One Country, Two Systems”. (CMAB)
- Strengthening exchanges and co-operation between Hong Kong and Taiwan in trade, tourism, culture, social livelihood and other fronts through the Hong Kong-Taiwan Economic and Cultural Cooperation and Promotion Council and the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan. (CMAB/CEDB/HAB)

- Enhancing legal co-operation with Guangdong pursuant to the Framework Agreement on Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation. (DoJ)
- (d) Supporting Hong Kong Residents and Enterprises in the Mainland
- Supporting Hong Kong enterprises in developing brands, upgrading and restructuring operations, and exploring the domestic sales market through the \$1 billion Dedicated Fund on Branding, Upgrading and Domestic Sales. (CEDB)
 - Enhancing legal co-operation in civil and commercial matters between Hong Kong and the Mainland, so as to facilitate the resolution of civil and commercial disputes in a more cost-effective manner. (DoJ)
- (e) Encouraging Investment in Hong Kong
- Encouraging more enterprises from the Mainland, Taiwan and overseas (including the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and other countries along the Belt and Road) to invest in Hong Kong and strengthening aftercare services to encourage those enterprises already established in Hong Kong to upgrade their presence. We will continue to attract global start-ups to set up business in Hong Kong and promote Hong Kong as a leading hub for start-ups and entrepreneurship. (CEDB)

Economic and Trade Relations with Overseas Countries

- Seeking to enter into trade arrangements and investment agreements with more overseas economies and continuing to participate in the negotiations for a trade in services agreement to secure for our businesses better access to those markets. (CEDB)
- Continuing the negotiation of a free trade agreement with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations with a view to concluding the negotiation by 2016, thereby securing for our businesses more favourable access to the relevant markets. (CEDB)
- Strengthening economic ties and co-operation with countries along the Belt and Road and other emerging economies by promoting high-level reciprocal visits and exploring trade arrangements and investment agreements. (CEDB)
- Continuing to liaise with countries and regions with which we have close relationship on tourism and economic development for implementing reciprocal use of automated immigration clearance service for visitors. We have concluded agreements in this respect with Korea, Germany, Singapore and Australia. (SB)

Centre for International Legal and Dispute Resolution Services in the Asia-Pacific Region

- Enhancing co-operation with the Mainland authorities, the local legal profession, and arbitration and mediation institutions in Hong Kong to facilitate the provision of legal and dispute resolution services in the Mainland by Hong Kong professionals. (DoJ)

- Fostering the development of mediation services in Hong Kong with the efforts of the Steering Committee on Mediation by organising events, providing training and taking other relevant measures to enhance the awareness of the general public and targeted sectors for mediation and promote its wider use, as well as monitoring the effectiveness of the Mediation Ordinance and the operation of the Hong Kong Mediation Accreditation Association in maintaining the standard of mediators. (DoJ)
- Building a favourable environment and infrastructure so as to facilitate legal and dispute resolution institutions (especially world-class institutions) to develop services or establish in Hong Kong. Relevant measures include providing such institutions with certain office space in the West Wing of the former Central Government Offices and the former French Mission Building. (DoJ)
- Following up on the study conducted in conjunction with the Hong Kong Trade Development Council on the development of arbitration in Hong Kong and the challenges and opportunities faced by Hong Kong as a centre for international arbitration in the Asia-Pacific region. (DoJ)
- Enhancing the promotion of legal and dispute resolution services of Hong Kong among emerging economies in the Asia-Pacific region through, among other things, active participation in a sub-group on strengthening economic and legal infrastructure under the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation. (DoJ)

International Maritime and Aviation Centre

- Continuing to actively assist the Airport Authority in taking forward the development of the three-runway system at the Hong Kong International Airport to meet the long-term air traffic demand of Hong Kong. To ensure that the public and the main stakeholders can participate in the implementation of the three-runway system project more effectively, the Transport and Housing Bureau has set up the Aviation Development and Three-runway System Advisory Committee, which is chaired by the Secretary for Transport and Housing, to advise the Government on matters relating to the implementation of the project and to assist the Government in monitoring project implementation. (THB)
- Actively taking forward various initiatives and incentive schemes under the Maritime and Aviation Training Fund and continuing to promote tripartite collaboration with the industries and the academia with a view to supporting the manpower development of the maritime and aviation industries. (THB)
- Following up the results of a feasibility study and examining the detailed arrangements for the establishment of a civil aviation training institute with the support of the Working Group on Transportation under the Economic Development Commission. The institute aims at enhancing the skills of local and overseas practitioners of the aviation industry, thereby nurturing talents for the industry, enhancing the safety and efficiency of air transport, and further strengthening Hong Kong's leading status as a major aviation hub in the region. (THB)

- Progressively implementing port improvement measures including the provision of additional terminal yard space and barge berths in phases, enhancement of container handling capacity of the Kwai Tsing Container Terminals and better use of back-up land of the terminals to maintain the competitiveness of Hong Kong Port. (THB)
- Facilitating the provision of high value-added third-party logistics services in Hong Kong by continuing to work with the departments concerned to identify suitable sites for the development of modern logistics facilities. (THB)

Financial Services Sector

- (a) Financial Services Development Council
 - Continuing our support for the work of the Financial Services Development Council, a high-level cross-sectoral advisory body to the Government, in collecting views from the industry and formulating strategic proposals for the development of our financial services industry. (FSTB)
- (b) Promoting Market Development
 - Consolidating and enhancing Hong Kong's position as a major platform of capital raising and financing for Mainland and overseas enterprises, and serving as a vital bridge between our country and countries along the Belt and Road by capitalising on the opportunities presented by the national Belt and Road Initiative. (FSTB)

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- Reinforcing the status of Hong Kong as a global hub for offshore Renminbi business, advancing financial co-operation with the Mainland, deepening the mutual access between Hong Kong and Mainland financial markets, enhancing our Renminbi business links with overseas markets by strengthening our market infrastructure and financial platforms, and promoting Hong Kong's offshore Renminbi business. (FSTB)
 - Consolidating our leading role as an asset management centre in the Asia-Pacific region, and promoting a more comprehensive development of Hong Kong's fund and asset management industry through:
 - continuing to promote arrangement for mutual recognition of funds between the Mainland and Hong Kong, attracting more funds to domicile in Hong Kong, building up our fund manufacturing capabilities to complement the existing fund distribution network, and developing Hong Kong into a full fund service centre;
 - introducing an open-ended fund company structure to facilitate the setting up of investment funds by amending the Securities and Futures Ordinance; and
 - attracting multinational and Mainland enterprises to manage their global or regional treasury activities through the financial platform of Hong Kong by amending the Inland Revenue Ordinance. (FSTB)

(c) Enhancing Market Quality and Investor Confidence

- Implementing the Insurance Companies (Amendment) Ordinance 2015 in phases and preparing for the establishment of an Independent Insurance Authority to facilitate the sustainable development of the insurance industry. Arrangements will also be put in place to ensure a smooth transition to the new regime. (FSTB)
- Preparing legislation for the establishment of a policyholders' protection fund for better protection of policyholders. (FSTB)
- Promoting the quality of our financial markets through enhancing the regulatory regime and financial infrastructure, including working with the Legislative Council (LegCo) in their examination of the Financial Institutions (Resolution) Bill, which aims at establishing a regime to facilitate orderly resolution of financial institutions when risks are posed by their non-viability to the stability and effective working of the financial system of Hong Kong. (FSTB)
- Working with LegCo in the scrutiny of the Companies (Winding Up and Miscellaneous Provisions) (Amendment) Bill 2015, which aims at improving and modernising Hong Kong's corporate winding-up regime, and preparing legislation for the introduction of a statutory corporate rescue procedure and further discussing the drafting of the provisions with the relevant stakeholders. (FSTB)

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- Robustly pursuing anti-money laundering measures, enhancing risk assessment and participating actively in the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering. (FSTB)
 - Preparing legislation for improving the regulatory regime for listed entity auditors to ensure that the regime is independent from the audit profession and is benchmarked against international standards and practices. (FSTB)
 - Working out the detailed proposals of a risk-based capital regime for the insurance industry and carrying out quantitative impact studies, which aim to align Hong Kong's regulatory regime with international standards and make capital requirements more sensitive to the level of risk borne by insurance companies. (FSTB)

Tourism

- Continuing with the drafting of legislation for establishing the Travel Industry Authority and implementing a new regulatory framework for the tourism sector. We will seek to secure the passage of the bill by the LegCo as soon as possible. (CEDB)
- Overseeing the business development and operation of the Kai Tak Cruise Terminal, continuing to support the Hong Kong Tourism Board's promotion of cruise tourism and working closely with the Advisory Committee on Cruise Industry and the trade to develop Hong Kong into a leading cruise hub in the region. (CEDB)

- Supporting the Hong Kong Tourism Board in its continued promotion work in target source markets, particularly the markets relating to meetings, conventions and exhibitions, and incentive travels. (CEDB)
- Facilitating the Ocean Park in its implementation of the waterpark and hotel projects. (CEDB)
- Overseeing the expansion of the Hong Kong Disneyland, which includes a new themed area based on Marvel's Iron Man franchise and a new hotel with a theme dedicated to the spirit of exploration, to ensure completion of the two projects in 2016 and 2017 respectively. (CEDB)
- Discussing with The Walt Disney Company the Phase 2 development of the Hong Kong Disneyland Resort. (CEDB)

Creative Industries

- Encouraging local film production activities and nurturing local film talent through the Film Production Financing Scheme and the Film Production Grant Scheme under the Film Development Fund. (CEDB)
- Implementing the First Feature Film Initiative to continue grooming new filmmakers and their production teams. (CEDB)
- Supporting and encouraging the trade to organise programmes at the Comix Home Base and PMQ for promoting the development of creative industries. (CEDB/DEVB)

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- Implementing audience-building initiatives to promote film appreciation among students and young people, thereby fostering the development of the local film industry. (CEDB)
 - Implementing the recommendations of the Economic Development Commission by launching measures on a pilot basis in the next three years to promote the development of the fashion industry. (CEDB)

Innovation and Technology Industries

(a) Promoting R&D

- Promoting applied R&D, and supporting commercialisation of R&D outcomes and R&D in the private sector through financial support under the Innovation and Technology Fund and R&D Cash Rebate Scheme as well as the work of the R&D Centres. (ITB)
- Enhancing collaboration with the Mainland on science and technology and promoting realisation of R&D outcomes. (ITB)
- Working closely with the HKSTPC on the expansion project of the Science Park and implementing a Revised Industrial Estate Programme. (ITB)
- Organising a wide range of promotional activities in 2016, including the InnoTech Month, to enhance the community's awareness of innovation and technology. (ITB)

(b) Promoting ICT

- Facilitating the development of the local ICT industry by:
 - encouraging collaboration and exchanges with the Mainland to explore business opportunities;
 - organising ICT awards to recognise and promote Hong Kong's ICT achievements; and
 - launching the Enriched IT Programme in Secondary Schools through the running of information technology (IT) classes in eight secondary schools to groom IT talent; and organising some 50 IT activities each year for secondary schools across the territory to develop a pro-IT atmosphere and stimulate interest in IT in the school community. (ITB)
- Working with our technology partners and the ICT industry to organise the International IT Fest in 2016 to showcase Hong Kong's developments and accomplishments as a regional ICT hub. (ITB)
- Providing support to assist interested enterprises in setting up data centres in Hong Kong with a view to promoting the development of the data centre sector. (ITB)

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- Continuing to foster wider development and use of cloud computing service in Hong Kong through promoting the adoption of information security management system standards and good practices on the provision and use of cloud services, and encouraging better utilisation of innovative technology such as the Internet of Things and big data analytics in the Government and in the industries. (ITB)
 - Continuing to raise public awareness of the importance of information security, including the proper use of ICT facilities, measures to prevent cyber crime and ways to protect ICT resources and information assets. (ITB)

Testing and Certification Industry

- Working closely with the Hong Kong Council for Testing and Certification to continue:
 - implementing its market-oriented development plan to support development of the industry; and
 - exploring business opportunities through enhancing the promotion of testing and certification services required by selected trades. (ITB)

Construction Industry

- Investing in infrastructure development to promote economic growth, create employment opportunities and enhance the long-term competitiveness of Hong Kong. (DEVB)

- Continuing efforts in the following respects with a view to building up the overall capacity and capability of the construction industry, facilitating its healthy growth and encouraging innovation and creativity:
 - timely reviewing and enhancing the current procurement system for public works to facilitate participation of more contractors in public works, introduce new knowledge and technology and promote fair competition;
 - improving the management practice and procedures of public works projects from design to construction so as to enhance the constructability of works, increase productivity, encourage innovation and creativity and strengthen cost control; and
 - promoting manpower development. (DEVB)
- Collating the views received during the public consultation on the proposed Security of Payment Legislation for the Construction Industry which has been completed. We will then proceed with the drafting of legislation on the security of payment for the construction industry. The new legislation aims to enhance the security of payment in construction-related contracts to improve cash flow of the supply chain in the construction industry. (DEVB)
- Enhancing our capability to resolve cross-bureau and cross-departmental issues relating to the delivery of major infrastructure projects, and addressing strategic issues which might impede the progress in such projects. (DEVB)

Enhancing Wine Trading

- Supporting wine trading and distribution businesses in Hong Kong, riding on the growing demand across Asia. (CEDB)

Broadcasting and Telecommunications

- Monitoring the implementation of digital terrestrial television services and continuing publicity efforts to further boost the take-up rate. (CEDB)
- Monitoring the implementation of digital audio broadcasting services and reviewing the development of such services in Hong Kong. (CEDB)
- Handling the television/sound broadcasting licensing and regulatory matters. (CEDB)
- Implementing the arrangements for re-assignment of the frequency spectrum currently used for the provision of 3G mobile services upon expiry of the existing assignments in October 2016, including the licensing relating to the spectrum and the co-ordination of spectrum handover between operators. (CEDB)
- Monitoring the long-term implementation and effectiveness of the industry's Customer Complaint Settlement Scheme since May 2015. The scheme is aimed at helping resolve, through mediation, billing disputes in deadlock between telecommunications service providers and their customers. (CEDB)
- Overseeing the development plans for Radio Television Hong Kong as a public service broadcaster. (CEDB)

- Progressively commencing the review of the Broadcasting Ordinance and the Telecommunications Ordinance with a view to enhancing the regulatory regime for the broadcasting and telecommunications sectors. (CEDB)

Reviewing Future Demand and Supply of Economic Land Use

- Reviewing and updating the long-term land use planning and development strategy in the light of the latest projection on future land requirement of major economic uses, including industrial uses. (DEVB in collaboration with relevant bureaux)

Improving Regulatory Infrastructure

- Putting in place the legislation required for implementing the new standard for automatic exchange of tax information with a view to meeting the international standard for enhancing tax transparency and preventing tax evasion. (FSTB)
- Fully implementing the Competition Ordinance to uphold market competition. (CEDB)
- Continuing with the full implementation of the amended Trade Descriptions Ordinance to enhance protection for consumers against unfair trade practices. (CEDB)
- Working closely with stakeholders, including the Judiciary, to continue to work on amendments to the Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles Ordinance. (CEDB)

Intellectual Property

- Working to develop and implement an Original Grant Patent System that would be commensurate with the efforts to develop Hong Kong into a regional innovation and technology hub. (CEDB)

Fisheries Development

- Sustaining and promoting the development of the local fisheries sector through measures that help make it more competitive. They include making optimal use of the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund. (FHB)

Chapter 2

Land, Housing and Transportation

Preamble

Land is fundamental to Hong Kong's sustainability in terms of social and economic development and people's livelihood. In the short term, we will optimise the use of built-up land and its surrounding areas through land use rezoning and increasing development density as appropriate to meet the community's demand for land for housing and other purposes. In the medium term, we will make vigorous efforts to build up new development areas and extend new towns, so as to develop the next generation of new towns which will provide people with high-quality places to live and work, and strike the balance among housing, economic and community development and employment opportunities. For the longer term, we are considering reclamation outside the Victoria Harbour, cavern and underground space development, and exploring potential development areas in New Territories North, Lantau and the central waters. Supply of land takes time. We must prepare for the future and work out, through "Hong Kong 2030+", a visionary and flexible long-term territorial strategy for Hong Kong's overall development. The aim is to create sufficient capacity and build up a land reserve to address Hong Kong's future challenges arising from economic and social development, an ageing population and people's aspirations for improved living space and better quality of life.

Regarding housing policy, the Government announced the new Long Term Housing Strategy in end 2014. According to the strategy, our policy objectives for housing are to (a) assist grassroots families in securing public rental housing (PRH) to meet their basic housing needs; (b) assist the public in choosing accommodation according to their affordability and personal circumstances, and encourage those who can afford it to buy their own homes; (c) provide subsidised home ownership flats on top of PRH so as to build a progressive housing ladder; and (d) maintain the healthy and steady development of the private residential property market, with priority given to meeting the needs of Hong Kong permanent residents amidst a tight supply situation.

In accordance with the framework established under the Long Term Housing Strategy, we have drawn up and implemented various policy initiatives to increase housing land supply through a continued multi-pronged approach, expedite and increase the production of public housing flats for rental and sale, and project the rolling 10-year housing supply target while maintaining the 60:40 split between public and private housing supply. In the process of identifying land for housing development, public support is of vital importance. To support land and housing development, we will provide suitable transport facilities. However, our society as a whole is required to make difficult and tough choices and accept trade-offs.

Regarding transport, we will continue to encourage the use of public transport services and maintain a multi-modal public transport network, with railway as the backbone, complemented by other services such as buses, public light buses and taxis. We will also continue to enhance road-based transport services in order to ease road congestion, improve service efficiency, alleviate the pressure on

fare increases and reduce roadside emissions. We will continue to introduce other measures to alleviate road congestion.

The West Island Line was fully commissioned in March 2015. We are taking forward the other four railway projects under construction in full swing. Among them, the commissioning of the Kwun Tong Line Extension is expected to be in the third or fourth quarter of this year, and that of the South Island Line (East) at the end of this year.

In addition, we will continue to implement another seven new railway projects in the planning horizon up to 2031 according to the preliminary schedule recommended in the Railway Development Strategy 2014. Through the Public Transport Strategy Study which has been rolled out progressively since late 2014, we are systematically examining the roles and positioning of public transport services other than heavy rail.

To enhance Hong Kong's external transport links, we are pressing ahead with the construction of the local projects of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge and the Liantang/Heung Yuen Wai Boundary Control Point project.

New Initiatives

We will:

Updating Development Strategy

- Conduct the “Hong Kong 2030+: Towards a Planning Vision and Strategy Transcending 2030” study and its public engagement exercise to examine the strategy and possible options for overall spatial planning, and for land and infrastructure development for Hong Kong beyond 2030, with a view to adopting it as the territorial development strategy that caters for the latest planning circumstances in Hong Kong as well as creates sufficient capacity for sustainable development. (DEVB)

Energising Kowloon East

- Strengthen the co-operation with research and academic institutions to allow the public to enjoy the benefits of integrating technology into urban development and management in Kowloon East as soon as possible, and continue to collaborate with all sectors of the community in embracing social inclusion to lay a more solid foundation for smart city development. (DEVB)
- Stipulate conditions for green building design, provision of smart water meter system and electric vehicle charging facilities for sites to be sold for private development in Kowloon East. We will also require real-time parking information to be provided in commercial car parks at appropriate sites. (DEVB)

- Increase the commercial/office floor area of two action areas in Kwun Tong and Kowloon Bay in Kowloon East from 500 000 square metres to 560 000 square metres. The development of the Kowloon Bay Action Area will include commercial, office and other uses. It will adopt sustainable development concept and integrate smart city elements in respect of information dissemination, traffic management, building design and facilities management, refuse collection and handling, and greening. (DEVB)
- Undertake the Kai Tak Fantasy project including two planning and engineering studies for the tourism node development at the former airport runway tip and the Kwun Tong Action Area. We will endeavour to facilitate hosting of mega events and activities that are popular with Hong Kong people and tourists, and provide basic facilities for promoting a water-friendly culture in the area. (DEVB)
- Provide a convenient and comfortable pedestrian network to facilitate the transformation of Kowloon East into a quality core business district. If private landowners propose constructing footbridges or subways at their own cost in accordance with the planned pedestrian network, we will implement appropriate measures, including waiving the land premium for lease modification, to facilitate early implementation of the proposals. (DEVB)

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- Consider measures to strengthen the pedestrian connection between Ngau Tau Kok MTR Station and Kwun Tong Business Area and Kwun Tong Promenade, including extension and face-lifting of the pedestrian subway network connecting to Ngau Tau Kok MTR Station, beautification of a public transport interchange and improvement of pedestrian facilities, to create a comfortable walking environment for pedestrians heading for the business area and the promenade. (DEVB)

Developing Lantau

- Set up a dedicated Lantau Development Office under the Civil Engineering and Development Department to take forward the various short, medium and long-term development projects of Lantau more effectively. (DEVB)

Increasing Land Supply

- Conduct a new planning and engineering study for the future development of Tseung Kwan O Area 137, including exploration of residential, commercial and other suitable land uses, as well as the need for the originally reserved uses, with a view to making more optimal use of this piece of land in the urban area to meet the latest development needs of Hong Kong. (DEVB)

Making Optimal Use of Brownfield Sites

- Devise feasible and land-efficient measures to accommodate brownfield operations that are still needed in Hong Kong, including actively considering the possibility of moving some into multi-storey buildings, with a view to improving the environment of the rural New Territories and releasing land for new town development. (DEVB)

Building Maintenance

- Through the Urban Renewal Authority, enhance the technical support for building owners in carrying out repair and maintenance works. (DEVB)

Strategic Studies on Railways and Major Roads beyond 2030

- Commence strategic studies on railways and major roads beyond 2030 in the light of the study “Hong Kong 2030+: Towards A Planning Vision and Strategy Transcending 2030”, so that the planning of major transport infrastructure can cope with the needs arising from the overall long-term land development of Hong Kong. (THB)

Transport Infrastructure

- Continue to take forward the Central Kowloon Route for its early implementation. (THB)
- Seek funding within this legislative session with a view to commencing the construction of the Tseung Kwan O–Lam Tin Tunnel in 2016 with scheduled completion in 2021. (THB)

Public Transport Strategy Study

- Continue to conduct the “Public Transport Strategy Study”, which has been progressively rolled out since late 2014 and lasts for two and a half years, to examine the roles and positioning of public transport services other than heavy rail. The aim is to enhance the complementarity and long-term sustainable development of public transport services, so that the public can benefit from the further development of the heavy rail network, while enjoying efficient service and multi-modal choices provided by other public transport services. We have accorded priority to the reviews on taxi and public light bus services, including the feasibility of introducing premium taxis and increasing the seating capacity of public light buses. (THB)

Improving Ancillary Facilities for Public Transport

- Improve the ancillary facilities of public transport for the convenience of passengers through subsidising the installation of seats and bus arrival information display panels at suitable bus stops in phases by franchised bus companies. (THB)

Alleviating Road Traffic Congestion

- Step up our effort to tackle road traffic congestion by implementing measures such as launching a public engagement exercise for an electronic road pricing pilot scheme in Central and its adjacent areas, as well as strengthening actions to combat congestion-related traffic offences. (THB)

Providing a Comfortable, Convenient and Accessible Pedestrian Environment

- Continue to implement and enhance the “Universal Accessibility” Programme to benefit the elderly and those who need such access. Starting from the fourth quarter of 2016, the 18 District Councils (DCs) will be invited to further nominate not more than three walkways in each district for implementation in the next phase of the programme. The walkways eligible for consideration by the DCs will not be confined to public walkways maintained by the Highways Department, but have to meet certain criteria. (THB)
- Seek funding within this legislative session with a view to taking forward three hillside escalator links and elevator systems which are at a relatively advanced planning stage, including the Lift and Pedestrian Walkway System at Cheung Hang Estate, Tsing Yi, the Lift and Pedestrian Walkway System between Kwai Shing Circuit and Hing Shing Road, and the Lift and Pedestrian Walkway System at Waterloo Hill, for the convenience of the elderly and those travelling to and from uphill areas. (THB)
- Seek funding within this legislative session with a view to implementing two construction projects in Tseung Kwan O and Tsuen Wan to enhance the pedestrian access network of the districts for the convenience of the elderly and those who need such access. (THB)

On-going Initiatives

We are:

Long Term Housing Strategy

- Implementing the Long Term Housing Strategy, including the annual updating of long-term housing demand projection and deriving a rolling 10-year housing supply target accordingly. (THB/DEVB)
- Based on the latest projection, adopting 460 000 units as the long-term housing supply target for 2016-17 to 2025-26, including 200 000 PRH units, 80 000 subsidised sale flats and 180 000 private residential flats. (THB/DEVB)

Increasing Supply of Subsidised Housing

- Taking forward housing programmes to achieve the public housing (including PRH units and subsidised sale flats) supply target, which will be updated on a yearly basis under the Long Term Housing Strategy. Following the pre-sale of the first batch of new Home Ownership Scheme (HOS) flats in late 2014, the second batch of about 2 700 new HOS flats, scheduled for completion in 2018, will be put up for pre-sale in end February 2016. (THB)
- Continuing to optimise the development potential of each public housing site and maximise flat production as far as possible by relaxing the maximum domestic plot ratio and other development restrictions where planning conditions permit and no unacceptable impact is caused. (THB/DEVB)

- Ensuring the effective and rational use of PRH resources, including enhanced enforcement actions and publicity against tenancy abuse cases. In addition, households with living space exceeding the prescribed under-occupation standards will be arranged to move to other PRH units of more appropriate size. (THB)
- Working with the Hong Kong Housing Society on the provision of subsidised sale flats in Sha Tin, Tseung Kwan O and Tuen Mun as well as rental housing in Sha Tau Kok. (THB)
- A new round of interim scheme was launched in August 2015 to allow 2 500 buyers with White Form status to purchase subsidised sale flats with premium not yet paid in the HOS Secondary Market. (THB)

Increasing Land Supply

- Continuing to rezone suitable sites identified in land use reviews (including government sites which are vacant, held under short-term tenancy or held for other short-term or government uses, sites in Government, Institution or Community zone, Green Belt zone and other non-residential zone, and sites for which the originally earmarked purposes will no longer be pursued) to residential or other uses for which the community has more pressing needs. (DEVB)
- Reviewing and increasing the development density of individual residential sites, as well as reviewing and relaxing other development restrictions as far as permissible in planning terms, after appropriately increasing the maximum domestic plot ratios allowed in different Density Zones. (DEVB/THB)

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- Implementing the Pilot Scheme for Arbitration on Land Premium to facilitate agreement between the Government and private land owners on land premium payable for lease modification and land exchange transactions through arbitration. (DEVB)
 - Continuing the revitalisation measures until 31 March 2016 to facilitate redevelopment and wholesale conversion of old industrial buildings. (DEVB)
 - Taking forward the planning for residential development at the Kam Tin South West Rail Kam Sheung Road Station, Pat Heung Maintenance Depot and the adjoining areas. (DEVB)
 - Continuing to actively explore in collaboration with the MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL) the development potential of stations and railway-related sites along existing and future rail lines, such as Siu Ho Wan on Lantau. (DEVB)
 - Taking forward the planning and development of the former Diamond Hill Squatter Areas (Tai Hom Village), former Cha Kwo Ling Kaolin Mine, former Lamma Quarry and Anderson Road Quarry. We will also actively consider making use of private developers' capacity for development to provide infrastructure and ancillary facilities, and/or construct public and private residential units. (DEVB)

- Continuing with the planning and implementation of new development areas and new town extensions:
 - taking forward and implementing the plans for the Kwu Tung North and Fanling North New Development Areas as an extension to the Fanling/Sheung Shui New Town, tying in with the railway development of the Northern Link;
 - taking forward the planning for the Hung Shui Kiu New Development Area as a regional hub in the North West New Territories to complement the new towns of Tin Shui Wai, Yuen Long and Tuen Mun to provide housing, employment opportunities and civic facilities;
 - taking forward and implementing the development of Tung Chung New Town Extension to tie in with the development of Lantau, turning Tung Chung into a distinct and more comprehensively developed new town; and
 - taking forward the planning for deserted or damaged agricultural land and rural-based industrial sites in Yuen Long South as an extension to the Yuen Long New Town to meet housing and other development needs and improve the local rural environment. (DEVB)
- In the light of the findings of the Preliminary Feasibility Study on Developing the New Territories North, exploring the scope for further developing a new town of similar scale as Fanling/Sheung Shui in New Territories North. (DEVB)

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- Continuing to take forward near-shore reclamation by:
 - commencing a planning and engineering study for the reclamation in Sunny Bay, Lantau Island; and
 - conducting technical studies on the reclamations in Siu Ho Wan on Lantau Island, Lung Kwu Tan in Tuen Mun and Ma Liu Shui in Sha Tin. (DEVB)
 - Continuing with the site investigation, detailed environmental assessment, detailed design and public engagement exercise for the relocation of Sha Tin Sewage Treatment Works to caverns with a view to commencing the relocation works as soon as possible and vacating the site for development purpose. (DEVB)
 - Completing the feasibility studies on relocation of Diamond Hill Fresh Water and Salt Water Service Reservoirs, Sai Kung Sewage Treatment Works and Sham Tseng Sewage Treatment Works to caverns and formulating suitable relocation plans in the light of the findings of the studies, so as to release the land which has development potential but occupied by the government facilities in question, for other development purposes. (DEVB)
 - Completing the study on the long-term strategy of cavern development, including preparation of cavern master plans and formulation of guidelines to facilitate future cavern development, and drawing up preliminary plans for relocating suitable government facilities to caverns so as to release urban sites for development. (DEVB)

- Completing the territory-wide study to explore the development of underground space in urban areas, including developing some preliminary conceptual schemes for identifying more underground space for development purpose and for enhancing connectivity in the areas concerned, with a view to forming a basis for further promoting the development of underground space. (DEVB)
- Continuing with the detailed study on the underground space development in four urban districts, namely Causeway Bay, Happy Valley, Admiralty/Wan Chai and Tsim Sha Tsui West, including formulating a master plan for underground space development for each district and identifying suitable underground space development projects in the districts for preliminary planning and technical assessment, with a view to early implementation. (DEVB)
- Continuing to provide the market with more prime office space to support economic activities by converting into commercial use suitable government sites and offices in the Central Business Districts, including the Murray Road Public Carpark, the Rumsey Street Public Carpark and the three government office buildings at the Wan Chai waterfront; and reducing as far as possible the leasing of commercial office space in Central and Admiralty for government use. In 2015-16, the Government will release about 2 300 square metres of commercial office premises in Admiralty currently used as government offices. (DEVB/FSTB)

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- Working with the Airport Authority to develop the North Commercial District on the airport island so as to maximise the development potential of this site, taking into account the future development of the Hong Kong International Airport (including the three-runway system) as well as the synergy with Lantau and the Western Pearl River Delta region. (THB)
 - Keeping up the efforts to facilitate transformation of Kowloon East into another attractive core business district. At present, Kowloon East has more than 2 million square metres of commercial/office floor area. The sale of five sites in Kowloon East since 2012 provides a total of about 270 000 square metres of commercial/office floor area. It is estimated that in future, Kowloon East will potentially provide around 5 million square metres of commercial/office floor area, bringing the district's total to about 7 million square metres. (DEVB)
 - Revising the outline zoning plan of the Kai Tak Development Area in accordance with the Town Planning Ordinance and continuing with the public consultation on the proposed amendment, so as to secure the additional housing and office supply confirmed to be feasible in the area. (DEVB)
 - Undertaking a detailed feasibility study for the Environmentally Friendly Linkage System of Kowloon East with a view to identifying a suitable model and ascertaining its feasibility for early implementation to support the transformation of Kowloon East into another core business district. (DEVB)

- We will implement the Kai Tak Fantasy project in phases so that both Hong Kong people and visitors can use the facilities as early as possible. The project will also bring vibrancy and diversity to Kowloon East. (DEVB)
- Implementing gradually the relocation of the existing government facilities in the Kowloon Bay Action Area and Kwun Tong Action Area to tie in with the development of the two areas and release the potential of more commercial/office floor area. (DEVB)
- Continuing to explore opportunities to provide suitable space in the two Action Areas in Kowloon East to support the development of the art and creative industries. (DEVB)
- Developing the spaces underneath Kwun Tong Bypass into the “Fly the Flyover 0123” by assigning the project to a non-profit-making organisation as the operator. The “place-making” concept will be applied to the project to transform the space into uniquely designed and vibrant venues with facilities related to culture, art, recreation as well as green and healthy city to tie in with the development of the Kwun Tong waterfront. (DEVB)
- Continuing to enrich and update the Green Map on Energising Kowloon East Office’s website, showing green buildings which have obtained BEAM Plus Gold or above rating in Kowloon East. Nineteen buildings in the area have achieved such rating. (DEVB)

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- Showcasing the industrial culture of Kowloon East at the Tsun Yip Street Playground and other public facilities under the theme of “The Spirit of Creation”, providing guidelines for private development projects through an “advocacy statement”, and incorporating elements of industrial culture and creativity into urban design and public art. (DEVB)
 - Taking forward a detailed consultancy study on transforming the existing King Yip Street nullah into a green and vibrant Tsui Ping River with environmental and landscaping upgrading of the vicinity to achieve synergy effect. (DEVB)
 - Taking forward the face-lifting plan of Hoi Bun Road Park and improving the ancillary facilities along Hoi Bun Road. (DEVB)
 - Continuing to implement the concept of “walkable” Kowloon East in Kowloon Bay Business Area and Kwun Tong Business Area with a view to improving the pedestrian environment and traffic conditions. This includes carrying out preliminary design for an additional footbridge next to Kowloon Bay MTR Station to enhance connectivity with the future East Kowloon Cultural Centre and nearby residential areas. We continue to collaborate with different organisations and government departments on the Back Alley Project with the spirit of social inclusion to further improve pedestrian connectivity. (DEVB)

- Taking Kowloon East as a pilot district to explore the feasibility of developing a smart city through such measures as using technology to enhance accessibility for pedestrians and vehicles and manage district facilities, and disseminating information to the public by digital means so as to make the district a better place for work and leisure. (DEVB)
- Exploring the development of public housing at six government sites (including the redevelopment of Wah Fu Estate), which are expected to provide about 11 900 additional public housing units, following the partial lifting of the administrative moratorium on the development of Pok Fu Lam. We also propose to take forward the construction of the South Island Line (West) in accordance with the Railway Development Strategy 2014 announced by the Government to address the transport needs arising from new public housing developments and other development projects in the area. (THB/DEVB)

Developing Lantau

- Undertaking public engagement and promotional activities for seeking public views on the proposed development strategies of Lantau covering aspects of planning, conservation, economic and social development, recreation and tourism. (DEVB)
- Undertaking a feasibility study for topside development at the Hong Kong boundary crossing facilities island of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge for developing “bridgehead economy” and creating business and job opportunities. (DEVB)

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- Taking forward a strategic study for constructing artificial islands in the central waters between Hong Kong Island and Lantau Island for the development of the East Lantau Metropolis. (DEVB)
 - Implementing the planned improvement works for revitalisation of Mui Wo and Tai O in stages, and continuing to develop mountain bike trail networks. (DEVB)

Healthy Private Residential Property Market

- Implementing demand-side management measures, including the enhancement to the Special Stamp Duty, introduction of the Buyer's Stamp Duty and doubling of the Ad Valorem Stamp Duty, to:
 - stabilise the residential property market; and
 - accord priority to the housing needs of Hong Kong permanent residents in the midst of the tight supply situation. (THB)

Harbourfront Development

- Working with the Harbourfront Commission to engage the public in harbourfront-related planning, land use and urban design and carry out the stated mission to protect Victoria Harbour and beautify our harbourfront for the enjoyment of all. (DEVB)

Building Management

- Continuing to implement the Building Management Professional Advisory Service Scheme Phase 2 by engaging property management companies to provide one-stop and tailor-made support and advisory services on building management and maintenance for 1 200 old buildings without any form of management. (HAB)
- Setting up the Property Management Services Authority upon the passage of the Property Management Services Bill by the LegCo to implement a licensing scheme for regulating property management services. (HAB)
- Drawing up the proposed amendments to the Building Management Ordinance in the light of the views collected in the public consultation. (HAB)
- Continuing to promote and implement the Resident Liaison Ambassador Scheme in “three-nil” buildings to improve the management of these buildings and enhance the communication between residents and the Government. (HAB)
- Continuing to promote a building care culture by:
 - supporting the work of the Panel of Advisors on Building Management Disputes, and carrying on the collaboration with professional bodies in implementing pilot schemes to promote the use of mediation for dispute resolution;
 - organising more structured training for office-bearers of owners’ corporations and DC members; and

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- organising outreach activities for office-bearers of owners' corporations who have completed these training programmes so that they can share experience with other owners' corporations and property owners, thus promoting mutual help. (HAB)
 - Strengthening fire safety measures particularly in old buildings and enhancing public awareness of fire prevention. (SB)

Building Maintenance and Urban Renewal

- Strengthening the prosecution action against owners who fail to comply with statutory orders in the context of enforcement actions against industrial buildings suspected to have sub-divided flats for residential use. (DEVB)
- Working closely with the Hong Kong Housing Society and the Urban Renewal Authority to assist building owners in need to carry out repair and maintenance works through various schemes, including:
 - the Operation Building Bright;
 - the Building Maintenance Grant Scheme for Elderly Owners;
 - the Integrated Building Maintenance Assistance Scheme; and
 - the Mandatory Building Inspection Subsidy Scheme. (DEVB)
- Continuing with the efforts to enhance maintenance of private buildings through public education, publicity and participation of professional bodies. (DEVB)

- Continuing to enforce the Lifts and Escalators Ordinance, including the registration of qualified persons, for regulatory control over lift and escalator safety, and continuing to draw the attention of Responsible Persons to their obligations under the ordinance through education and publicity. (DEVB)
- Overseeing the implementation of the Urban Renewal Strategy. (DEVB)
- Working closely with the Urban Renewal Authority in support of its follow-up on the Pilot Scheme for the Redevelopment of Industrial Buildings introduced in 2012-13. (DEVB)
- Expanding the target group of the Pilot Scheme on Outreach Support Service for Elderly Owners to cover non-elderly owners, renaming the scheme as Pilot Scheme on Outreach Support Service for Minority Owners, and incorporating elements of publicity and public education on mediation in compulsory sale into the scheme to achieve synergy effect. (DEVB)

Improving Quality of Living in Public Rental Housing

- Implementing arrangements to promote mutual family support and care for the elderly, and providing recreational facilities for the elderly and improving the barrier-free facilities in existing PRH estates so as to enhance accessibility to meet the needs of elderly tenants. Meanwhile, we are implementing the Lift Addition Programme in PRH estates to improve existing pedestrian access. (THB)

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- Promoting sustainable public housing developments by designing for green and healthy living, and adopting the universal design concept to provide a safe and convenient living environment for different types of tenants including the elderly and people with disabilities. (THB)
 - Continuing with various environmental initiatives in PRH estates, and enhancing awareness of waste reduction among PRH residents to achieve the target of municipal solid waste reduction. We are also committed to increasing the green coverage for new public housing developments and provide green roofs and vertical greening in these projects wherever feasible. (THB)
 - Continuing to implement the recommendations of the Review Committee on Quality Assurance Issues Relating to Fresh Water Supply of Public Housing Estates of the Hong Kong Housing Authority to reduce the risk of the presence of lead in soldering materials and of excess lead in drinking water in new public housing developments. (THB)

Other Land Matters

- Continuing with the review of the small house policy and overseeing its implementation and related matters. (DEVB)
- Engaging key stakeholders to refine the proposed amendments to the Land Titles Ordinance. (DEVB)

Developing Railways

- Co-ordinating and overseeing the construction of the Kwun Tong Line Extension, with a view to commissioning service in the third or fourth quarter of 2016 in accordance with the revised target put forward by the MTRCL. (THB)
- Co-ordinating and overseeing the construction of the South Island Line (East), with a view to commissioning service in end 2016 in accordance with the revised target put forward by the MTRCL. (THB)
- Co-ordinating and overseeing the construction of the Shatin to Central Link, with a view to commissioning the “Tai Wai to Hung Hom Section” and the “Hung Hom to Admiralty Section” of the Link in 2019 and 2021 respectively in accordance with the revised targets put forward by the MTRCL. (THB)
- Continuing to take forward detailed planning work for the Northern Link (and Kwu Tung Station), the Tuen Mun South Extension and the East Kowloon Line pursuant to the recommendations in the Railway Development Strategy 2014. (THB)

Improving Road Traffic

- Overseeing the construction of the Central-Wan Chai Bypass and Island Eastern Corridor Link, originally scheduled for completion in 2017 but hampered by delays, with a view to overcoming the challenges and exploring feasible options for early commissioning of the project. (THB)

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- Continuing to pursue bus route rationalisation vigorously to enhance network efficiency, improve service quality, ease traffic congestion and reduce roadside air pollution. (THB)
 - Continuing to assist the taxi trade in exploring options for introducing taxi service of higher quality under existing legal framework to meet the public demand for such service. (THB)

Enhancing Monitoring of the MTRCL

- Enhancing our monitoring of the MTRCL in tandem with railway development and requiring the MTRCL to:
 - deliver new railway projects in a cost-effective manner;
 - provide safe and reliable railway services;
 - continue to suitably respond to public views on matters related to fares, having regard to the financial viability of the MTRCL as a listed company;
 - renew its railway assets in a timely manner; and
 - maintain an overall high standard of corporate governance.

Improving Marine Safety

- Implementing the improvement measures regarding the regulatory regime on local passenger-carrying vessels to enhance marine safety. We will continue to follow up the recommendations in the report of the Commission of Inquiry into the Collision of Vessels near Lamma Island on 1 October 2012. (THB)

Improving Pedestrian Environment

- Continuing to foster a pedestrian friendly environment, including taking forward the proposed pedestrian environment improvement schemes in Yuen Long, Causeway Bay and Mong Kok. (THB)
- Continuing to take forward the cycle track network in the New Territories by constructing the Tuen Mun to Sheung Shui section and reviewing the alignment of the Tsuen Wan to Tuen Mun section, and continuing to foster a “bicycle-friendly environment” in new towns and new development areas. (DEVB/THB)

Enhancing External Transport Links

- Working with the Airport Authority to implement initiatives which enhance airport capacity and airport services, including the midfield expansion project. Following the gradual commissioning of the Midfield Concourse in end 2015, the handling capacity of the airport will be increased by 10 million passengers each year, which will help meet the medium-term air traffic demand. (THB)

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- Coping with the expansion of flights operating at the Hong Kong International Airport and improving air traffic management through optimising the use of airspace and implementing measures to enhance the air traffic control system. (THB)
 - Forming new aviation partnership and reviewing the air services arrangements with our existing partners, with a view to further liberalising our air service regime, thereby supporting the continued growth and development of the local civil aviation industry. (THB)
 - Assisting the Airport Authority in expanding inter-modal connections to strengthen the links between the Hong Kong International Airport and the Pearl River Delta region. (THB)
 - Supporting the Air Transport Licensing Authority in regulating our local airlines. (THB)
 - Continuing to oversee the construction of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge local projects to dovetail with the commissioning of the Main Bridge within Mainland waters. (THB)
 - Co-ordinating and overseeing the construction of the Hong Kong section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link. Commissioning of service will be delayed to the third quarter of 2018 in accordance with the revised programme of the MTRCL. (THB)

- Continuing to oversee the construction of the Liantang/Heung Yuen Wai Boundary Control Point on Hong Kong side and going full steam ahead with the construction of the connecting road and the Passenger Terminal Building, with a view to completing the border control point in 2018. (DEVB)

Enhancing Building Safety

- Conducting a consultancy study on the formulation of a set of design standards for seismic-resistant buildings, with a view to further enhancing building safety in Hong Kong. (DEVB)

Chapter 3

Poverty Alleviation and Support for the Disadvantaged

Preamble

The Commission on Poverty (CoP) will continue to consider policies and measures to prevent and alleviate poverty and social exclusion, as well as to promote social mobility. Four Task Forces have been established under the CoP to focus on different areas of work, which include supporting the underprivileged who have special needs; promoting education, employment training and other measures to enhance upward mobility of young people from grassroots families; making good use of the Community Care Fund (CCF) to plug gaps in the existing system; and taking forward social innovation initiatives funded by the Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Fund (SIE Fund).

The poor population and poverty rate in 2014 dropped to 960 000 and 14.3% respectively. With both figures hitting a six-year low and the poor population dropping below 1 million for the second year, the poverty initiatives of the current-term Government continue to yield results. Since its full implementation in 2013, the Old Age Living Allowance (OALA) has benefited over 420 000 elderly people and produced notable results in alleviating elderly poverty. The 2014 poverty statistics show that the working poor is still the group that deserves the Government's priority attention. In order to lessen the financial burden on these low-income working families, the Government will introduce the Low-income Working Family Allowance (LIFA) Scheme in May this year to encourage working members of low-income families to stay in active

employment to achieve self-reliance. The allowance will also enhance support for children and young persons in these families.

Retirement protection is highly relevant to the problem of elderly poverty. As Hong Kong turns rapidly into an ageing society, our workforce is anticipated to start declining in a few years' time. In view of the changing demographic structure, the community has to consider ways to provide adequate retirement protection for the elderly with financial needs, whilst maintaining the sustainability of the whole system and taking into account the affordability of the community. "Who foots the bill?" is a question that we cannot evade. The CoP is now conducting a public engagement exercise on how retirement protection can be improved and members of the public are welcome to express their views.

As regards those disadvantaged members of the community who cannot support themselves, we will continue to meet their basic needs through the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme, which acts as a safety net of last resort. Regarding those who are capable of work, we will enhance education, training and employment support to enable them to share the benefits of economic growth. To help address intergenerational poverty, we will ensure that children and young people enjoy opportunities to quality education and training irrespective of their background.

We will strengthen the support for persons or families with special needs, including persons with disabilities, mental patients and ex-mentally ill persons, ethnic minorities, children with special needs, victims of domestic violence, and single parents and their families. The aim is to remove the barriers that hold them back from realising their potential. We will continue to develop client-centred, family-focused and community-based services that provide integrated and cross-sectoral support.

New Initiatives

We will:

Community Care Fund

- Invite the CCF to consider implementing a pilot scheme to provide free cervical cancer vaccination for teenage girls from eligible low-income families. (FHB)
- Invite the CCF to consider implementing the pilot schemes recommended by the Inter-departmental Working Group on Review of the Disability Allowance co-ordinated by the Labour and Welfare Bureau (LWB):
 - providing living allowance for low-income carers of persons with disabilities; and
 - raising the maximum level of disregarded earnings for disabled CSSA recipients, and providing additional allowance for disabled recipients of Higher Disability Allowance who are engaged in paid jobs subject to the fulfilment of criteria such as working hour requirement and income limit, in order to further encourage persons with disabilities to secure employment. (LWB)
- Invite the CCF to consider implementing a programme to provide a one-off grant for kindergarten students from needy families in the 2016/17 school year to cover their school-related expenses before the implementation of the free quality kindergarten education policy in the 2017/18 school year. (EDB)

- Invite the CCF to consider implementing a two-year pilot scheme, in collaboration with the Hospital Authority (HA) and the Social Welfare Department, based on a medical-social collaboration model to provide dementia care services to the elderly persons with mild or mild to moderate dementia in the community through the District Elderly Community Centres with a view to shortening the waiting time of patients for diagnosis and specialist services of the HA and enhancing the dementia care services in the community. (FHB/LWB)

Retirement Protection

- Collect public views through the six-month public engagement exercise on the way forward for retirement protection conducted by the CoP. The exercise was launched in December 2015 to promote informed discussion of retirement protection issues and to forge community consensus. (CSO)

Supporting Families in Need

- Through the following initiatives, implement the “parental responsibility model” and promote the continuing parental responsibility of divorced/separated parents towards their children, so as to serve the best interests of children:
 - following up the recommendations of the Law Reform Commission Report on Child Custody and Access by conducting public consultation on the related legislative and implementation proposals;

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- implementing a two-year pilot project on children contact service to facilitate divorced/separated parents in co-parenting and in establishing and maintaining satisfactory communication and contact with their children; and
 - providing “dedicated help service” to handle public enquiries and requests for assistance during the initial one to two years after the legislative proposals have come into effect. (LWB)

Enhancing Support for Victims of Domestic Violence

- Help victims of domestic violence and families in need to tide them over and to alleviate their distress through:
 - increasing the number of places and manpower of refuge centres for women and the Family Crisis Support Centre; and
 - providing additional manpower for refuge centres for women and the Multi-purpose Crisis Intervention and Support Centre (CEASE Crisis Centre) to enhance the support for children staying temporarily at these centres. (LWB)

Enhancing Services for Persons with Disabilities and Persons with Mental Illness

- Provide bus service for the Day Activity Centres cum Hostels for Severely Mentally Handicapped Persons and Community Rehabilitation Day Centres. (LWB)
- Strengthen the employment support of the Labour Department (LD) for job seekers with disabilities by engaging a non-governmental organisation (NGO) under a pilot scheme to help job seekers with disabilities in need of counselling service. (LWB)

- Provide a medical social services unit in the new Tin Shui Wai Hospital to provide patients and their families with suitable psycho-social intervention and assistance. (LWB)
- Implement various recommendations of the Inter-departmental Working Group on Review of the Disability Allowance co-ordinated by the LWB. (LWB)
- Explore the feasibility of setting up a public trust for persons with intellectual disabilities. (LWB)

Supporting Children with Special Needs and their Parents

- Establish a new Child Assessment Centre to maintain the performance pledge of providing early assessment and professional diagnosis for children with developmental problems within six months in the face of the increasing demand. (FHB)
- Further enhance support for children with special needs and their parents through:
 - increasing the training hours per month under the training subsidy programme for children on the waiting list for special child care centres;
 - waiving the fees of special child care centres and providing non-means-tested training subsidy for children on the waiting list for these centres to go in line with the implementation of the free quality kindergarten education policy in the 2017/18 school year; and

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- conducting a comprehensive review of the two-year pilot scheme, to help determine the mode of operation if and when the scheme is regularised to provide on-site rehabilitation services for children with special needs who are studying in ordinary kindergartens or kindergarten-cum-child care centres. (LWB)
 - Further enhance the School-based Educational Psychology Service by progressively improving the ratio of educational psychologist to schools to 1:4 from the 2016/17 school year for public sector primary and secondary schools with a large number of students with special educational needs (SEN). (EDB)

Community Involvement

- Build mutual help networks among residents of public housing estates in various districts in the coming years through the Community Investment and Inclusion Fund to strengthen the care and support for elderly singletons and elderly couples. (LWB)

On-going Initiatives

We are:

Work of the Commission on Poverty

(a) CoP

- Updating the poverty line annually to monitor Hong Kong's poverty situation on an on-going basis and provide scientific data for policy formulation and effectiveness evaluation. (CSO)
- Reviewing the existing policies and exploring new measures, as well as fostering cross-sectoral collaboration in promoting poverty alleviation through its Task Forces to prevent and ease poverty. (CSO)

(b) CCF Task Force

- Implementing a number of assistance programmes under the CCF. The programmes rolled out in 2015-16 include:
 - providing a one-off special subsidy for students on full grant under the School Textbook Assistance Scheme before the launch of the LIFA Scheme;
 - implementing a pilot programme to provide a grant for ordinary schools with relatively more students with SEN and financial needs to arrange designated SEN co-ordinators;

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- enhancing the academic expenses grant for post-secondary students with SEN and financial needs;
 - providing a one-off subsidy again for CSSA households living in rented private housing and paying a rent which exceeds the maximum rent allowance under the CSSA Scheme; and
 - providing a living subsidy for the third time for low-income households not living in public housing and not receiving CSSA. (CSO)
- Expanding the Elderly Dental Assistance Programme from September 2015 to cover elders who are OALA recipients by phases, starting with those aged 80 or above in the first phase. (CSO)
 - Regularising the CCF programme of providing extra travel subsidy for needy special school students in the 2015/16 school year. The CCF will continue to draw up more new pilot programmes in collaboration with the other Task Forces under the CoP to further assist the disadvantaged and low-income families. (CSO)

- (c) Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Fund Task Force
- Implementing the capacity building programmes and providing funding support under innovative programmes through appointed intermediaries, and engaging a new intermediary to implement the flagship project on food support with a view to setting up information infrastructure and network for more effective operation of the stakeholders involved in the food support service. (CSO)
 - Fostering the development of social innovation ecosystem, encouraging cross-sector collaboration and addressing social needs in innovative ways so as to bring benefits to the community, including promoting the implementation of “Creating Shared Values” concept in Hong Kong, which encourages businesses to deliver social impact while gaining profits. Conducting an evaluation study of the SIE Fund to assess the effectiveness of the initiatives of the Task Force in achieving the Fund’s objectives. Exploring the possibility of applying the “Collective Impact” concept in Hong Kong on a trial basis with a view to integrating efforts of various sectors to address the increasingly complex social problems in a collaborative manner. Continuing the effort to interact with different stakeholders through various channels to study and understand the opportunities and challenges in pursuing social innovation. (CSO)

(d) Special Needs Groups Task Force

- Continuing to monitor the progress and effectiveness of implementing the Chinese Language Curriculum Second Language Learning Framework and the Applied Learning Chinese Language Course for ethnic minority students in secondary and primary schools, and conducting a thematic study on the poverty situation of the ethnic minorities. (CSO)
- Following up the poverty situation report on persons with disabilities released in 2014, and continuing to explore specific measures to promote the employment of persons with disabilities and facilitate their integration into the community. (CSO)
- Reviewing the existing policies and measures which support other underprivileged groups with special needs (including students with SEN, single-parent families and new arrivals). (CSO)

(e) Youth Education, Employment and Training Task Force

- Strengthening the development and promotion of vocational training, and exploring ways to enhance the Pilot Training and Support Scheme by studying overseas experience. (CSO)
- Exploring the follow-up actions to be taken in the light of the analysis of the study on earnings mobility situation of post-secondary graduates from grassroots families conducted by the Government Economist and the Census and Statistics Department. (CSO)

- Conducting major community involvement activities, promoting cross-sectoral collaboration, encouraging young people from grassroots families to join mentorship programmes and providing them with career aspiration coaching service and training opportunities. (CSO)

Poverty Alleviation

(a) Helping Low-income Families

- Introducing the LIFA in May 2016 to encourage employment and strengthen the support for the next generation. (LWB)
- Continuing with a comprehensive review of the Work Incentive Transport Subsidy Scheme. (LWB)

(b) Enhancing Upward Mobility

- Continuing to implement projects under the Child Development Fund to promote the long-term development of children from a disadvantaged background. (LWB)
- Implementing various student financial assistance schemes to ensure that no students in Hong Kong will be denied access to education due to a lack of means. (EDB)
- Continuing to implement the following CCF programmes which have been incorporated into the Government's regular assistance programme:
 - Enhancement of financial assistance for needy students pursuing eligible programmes below the sub-degree level;

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- Provision of free lunch at schools for primary students receiving full grant assistance under the Student Financial Assistance Schemes through the whole-day schools;
 - Enhancement of the flat-rate grant for primary and secondary students under the School Textbook Assistance Scheme; and
 - Provision of extra travel subsidy for needy students of special schools. (EDB)
- Providing a subsidy of up to HK\$15,000 starting from the 2014/15 academic year for needy students pursuing full-time locally-accredited undergraduate or sub-degree programmes and receiving student financial assistance. The subsidy serves as an incentive for them to participate in exchange programmes outside Hong Kong. (EDB)
- (c) Social Security and Retirement Protection
- Reviewing the OALA to ascertain, among other things, whether the asset limits should be relaxed. (LWB)
 - Exploring the feasibility of extending the OALA to Guangdong, having regard to the operating experience gained from the implementation of the Guangdong Scheme. (LWB)
 - Continuing to implement the Integrated Employment Assistance Programme for Self-reliance and engaging NGOs to provide employment assistance services for employable able-bodied CSSA recipients. This will enhance their employability, and help and encourage them to secure employment and achieve self-reliance. (LWB)

- Striving to secure the early enactment of the Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes (Amendment) Bill 2015 to launch a fee-controlled and highly standardised Default Investment Strategy (i.e. the “core fund”) which is based on a long-term investment strategy to balance investment risk and return, with the aim of facilitating the choice of fund by Mandatory Provident Fund (MPF) scheme members and achieving more substantial reduction in MPF fees. (FSTB)

Supporting the Disadvantaged

(a) Supporting Families in Need

- Increasing in phases the number of residential child care places to enhance support and protection for children and families in need. (LWB)
- Combating domestic violence through enhancing the provision of preventive, supportive and specialised services for victims and families in need, as well as making publicity and public education efforts. Counselling and psycho-educational services are also provided for batterers to change their abusive attitude and behaviour. (LWB)
- Monitoring the implementation of the Domestic and Cohabitation Relationships Violence Ordinance. (LWB)
- Providing support services for victims of sexual violence. (LWB)

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- (b) Enhancing Services for Persons with Disabilities and Persons with Mental Illness
- Promoting the spirit and core values enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in collaboration with the Rehabilitation Advisory Committee, the rehabilitation sector and the public at large. (LWB)
 - Launching a pilot project to strengthen the support for persons with autism and their parents/carers. (LWB)
 - Improving rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities by providing additional day, residential and pre-school places. (LWB)
 - Launching a pilot scheme through NGOs operating subvented pre-school rehabilitation services to provide on-site rehabilitation services for children with special needs who are studying in ordinary kindergartens or kindergarten-cum-child care centres. (LWB)
 - Providing support for parents and relatives/carers of persons with disabilities and ex-mentally ill persons, including children or young persons with special needs, through subvented Parents/Relatives Resource Centres. (LWB)
 - Providing subsidy for pre-school children from low-income families to obtain self-financing rehabilitation services run by NGOs while they are wait-listing for subvented services so as to facilitate their learning and development. (LWB)
 - Providing home care services for persons with severe disabilities on a territory-wide basis. (LWB)

- Providing subsidy for needy persons with severe physical disabilities who live in the community and require constant care to cover their expenses for renting medical equipment and purchase of medical consumables. One-stop support services (including casework counselling, occupational therapy/ physiotherapy, nursing care service and financial support service) co-ordinated and arranged by case managers in accordance with the needs of these persons are provided to enable them to continue living in the community and integrate into society. (LWB)
- Continuing to implement the case management service in District Support Centres for Persons with Disabilities. (LWB)
- Continuing to provide funding for the Financial Support Scheme for Self-help Organisations for Persons with Disabilities/Chronic Illnesses to enhance the support for the operation and development of self-help organisations. (LWB)
- Providing sign language interpretation services for persons with hearing impairment through Multi-service Centres for Hearing Impaired Persons and relevant Social and Recreational Centres for the Disabled. (LWB)
- Strengthening the support for athletes with disabilities by means of the \$200 million injected into the Hong Kong Paralympians Fund. (LWB/HAB)
- Continuing to provide short-term day and residential care services for persons with disabilities to relieve the stress of their families/ carers. (LWB)

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- Implementing the Bought Place Scheme for private residential care homes for persons with disabilities to:
 - upgrade the service standards of private residential care homes for persons with disabilities;
 - help the market develop more service options for persons with disabilities; and
 - increase the supply of subsidised residential care places. (LWB)
 - Enhancing care and support services for ageing service users in rehabilitation service units. (LWB)
 - Providing one-stop district-based community support services through Integrated Community Centres for Mental Wellness for ex-mentally ill persons, persons with suspected mental health problems, their families/carers and local residents. (LWB)
 - Promoting the employment of persons with disabilities by:
 - (i) providing allowance for employers under the Work Orientation and Placement Scheme to encourage employers to employ persons with disabilities and provide them with on-the-job training and support; and (ii) increasing job attachment allowance and wage subsidy under the On the Job Training Programme for People with Disabilities and the Sunnyway — On the Job Training Programme for Young People with Disabilities to provide job attachment opportunities for persons with disabilities;

- providing subsidy for employers for procurement of assistive devices and/or workplace modifications;
 - providing financial incentive for mentors rendering workplace assistance and guidance to employees with disabilities; and
 - promoting the Talent-Wise Employment Charter and Inclusive Organisations Recognition Scheme to mobilise employers in the territory to actively participate in facilitating the employment of persons with disabilities. (LWB)
- Providing support for businesses funded under the Enhancing Employment of People with Disabilities through Small Enterprise Project to create more employment opportunities for persons with disabilities. (LWB)
- Implementing measures to ensure that persons with disabilities will continue to have equal access, like other applicants, to job opportunities in the Government. (CSB)
- Enhancing transport services for persons with disabilities through improvement to rehabus service. We are also examining ways to further improve the accessibility of transport services for persons with disabilities. (LWB/THB)

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- Continuing to implement the Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities to enable elderly people aged 65 or above and eligible persons with disabilities aged below 65 to travel on the MTR lines, franchised bus routes, ferry routes and most green minibus routes covered by the scheme anytime at a concessionary fare of \$2 per trip, with a view to building a caring and inclusive society by encouraging these people to participate more in community activities. (LWB)
 - Including sign language into the domain of the Continuing Education Fund (CEF) and accepting applications from course providers for the registration of sign language courses as CEF courses. (LWB)

(c) Services for Ethnic Minorities

- Continuing to implement various measures for the ethnic minorities to facilitate their early integration into the community, including provision of language classes, adaptation courses and youth dedicated programmes for the ethnic minorities through six support service centres and two sub-centres; implementation of the Ambassador Scheme for ethnic minority youths etc.; and continued employment of non-civil service contract staff who are familiar with the cultures and languages of the ethnic minorities to assist in the implementation of the relevant measures. (HAB)
- Implementing measures to ensure that the ethnic minorities will continue to have equal access, like other applicants, to job opportunities in the Government. (CSB)

- Supporting non-Chinese speaking (NCS) students and students with SEN through a youth college under the Vocational Training Council (VTC) to provide them with alternative progression pathways. (EDB)
- Reviewing and implementing various support measures for NCS students, including the implementation of the Chinese Language Curriculum Second Language Learning Framework and related support measures, and provision of Applied Learning Chinese Course (for NCS students) as an alternative recognised qualification for further studies or employment to facilitate their mastery of the Chinese language in a structured manner and their integration into the community; and analysing the preliminary findings of the review. (EDB)
- Continuing with the work of the Police to engage with the ethnic minorities and to promote to them police services and fight crime initiatives. The Police will continue to encourage ethnic minority youths to join the Junior Police Call. (SB)

(d) Supporting Students with SEN

- Supporting students with SEN in the VTC through an annual provision of \$12 million. (EDB)

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- Continuing to provide additional resources, professional support and teacher training to help primary and secondary schools cater for their students with SEN, and expand the School-based Educational Psychology Service to cover all public sector primary and secondary schools by the 2016/17 school year. We also adjust the rates of the Learning Support Grant on an annual basis according to the established mechanism. (EDB)
 - Continuing to implement improvement measures in special schools, including the provision of an additional grant to enhance the support for boarders with complex medical conditions, strengthening of manpower for boarding services, provision of additional teacher assistants for some special schools, and progressive reduction of class size in schools for children with visual impairment and schools for social development. (EDB)

(e) Promoting Digital Inclusion

- Implementing various digital inclusion programmes to help the elderly and the underprivileged groups (including persons with special needs and students from low-income families) use ICT to enhance their opportunities and their integration with society. (ITB)

(f) Strengthening Cross-sectoral Collaboration

- Encouraging further cross-sectoral collaboration through the Partnership Fund for the Disadvantaged to launch projects that can cater for the various needs of the disadvantaged and benefit more people. A dedicated fund is set aside to provide more after-school learning and support programmes for primary and secondary school students from grassroots families. (LWB)

Social Welfare Planning and Administration

- Continuing to identify suitable sites and facilitate the provision of necessary manpower to meet the current and future needs of social welfare services. (LWB)
- Continuing to implement the Special Scheme on Privately Owned Sites for Welfare Uses, under which targeted assistance is provided for participating social welfare organisations during the planning or development process. The scheme aims at providing diversified subvented services and self-financing facilities, in particular elderly and rehabilitation service facilities. (LWB)
- Continuing to study the feasibility of setting up a centralised platform to provide one-stop administrative service to receive, process and approve applications for public benefits, and extending the scope of study to cover social impact assessments. (CSO)

Chapter 4

Medical Services, Public Health and Elderly Care

Preamble

Hong Kong has a quality healthcare system supported by a team of highly professional healthcare workers. Our public and private medical sectors provide a full range of diversified services, including a low-cost public healthcare “safety net” that ensures no one in Hong Kong is denied medical care due to a lack of means.

To ensure the sustainability of our healthcare system, we will continue to increase investment in public healthcare facilities and make improvements to them through redevelopment of existing hospitals and construction of new ones. We are also committed to implementing a series of reform measures, including the promotion of long-term development of primary care and Chinese medicine, taking forward by phases the recommendations of the Strategic Review on Healthcare Manpower Planning and Professional Development, proposed introduction of the Voluntary Health Insurance Scheme, revamp of the regulatory regime for private healthcare facilities and implementation of electronic health record sharing.

In face of the challenges brought about by an ageing population and the changes in the prevalence of diseases, we will uphold our commitment to providing quality and affordable public healthcare services. We will increase the capacity of the healthcare system on the

one hand and enhance service quality on the other through service and infrastructure development.

The Government is committed to building and maintaining a healthy community. We spare no efforts in ensuring that the wide variety of food available for consumption is safe, and the public at large are free from threats of animal diseases. We also work relentlessly to provide a clean and hygienic environment, and remain vigilant in taking actions to prevent and control diseases.

Ageing population has brought about various challenges to our society, of which long-term planning and sustainable development of elderly care services is particularly important. Our objective is to enable our senior citizens to live in dignity and to provide the necessary support for them to promote their sense of belonging, security and worthiness. We will continue to implement a host of measures and initiatives to enhance elderly care on all fronts.

For the frail elderly, we strive to provide quality and cost-effective long-term care services based on the principle of “ageing in place as the core, institutional care as back-up”. To this end, we will continue to strengthen and expand community and home care services, as well as increase and enhance subsidised residential care services. We will also carry on with our efforts to provide support services for carers of the elderly.

New Initiatives

We will:

Enhancing Healthcare Services Provision

- Enhance healthcare services for the elderly by setting up the 5th joint replacement centre in the territory, extending the coverage of visits by the Community Geriatric Assessment Teams to residential care homes for the elderly, and strengthening the support for terminally ill patients in residential care homes. (FHB)
- Implement the recommendations of the Steering Committee on Review of HA through measures like refining the cluster boundary, shortening waiting time and adopting a refined population-based resource allocation model, etc. to enable HA to better meet the challenges of an ageing population, increasing prevalence of chronic diseases and increasing healthcare cost due to advance in medical technology. (FHB)
- Strengthen the services for critical illness and chronic diseases through, for example, increasing the service capacity of echocardiogram for cardiac service, enhancing the service quota of haemodialysis for renal service, and extending the service hours of radiotherapy for cancer service. (FHB)

Chinese Medicine

- Invite expressions of interest in the first quarter of 2016 from non-profit-making organisations which are interested in developing and operating a Chinese medicine hospital at the reserved site in Tseung Kwan O. (FHB)
- Launch a pilot study on the standard setting for Chinese medicines decoction pieces under the Hong Kong Chinese Materia Medica Standards Project. (FHB)

Healthcare Service Development and Infrastructure

- Commence the development of the second stage of the electronic health record programme, which tentatively includes addition of other sharable data, sharing of radiological images, enhancement of patients' control/selection of data, development of a patient portal etc. (FHB)
- Formulate the hospital development plan for the coming 10 years with a view to addressing the long-term healthcare needs of the population. In addition to the on-going projects, the development plan includes the construction of a new acute general hospital in the Kai Tak Development Area, the expansion of Haven of Hope Hospital, North District Hospital and Lai King Building of Princess Margaret Hospital, the phase 2 redevelopment of Prince of Wales Hospital, the phase 1 redevelopment of the Grantham Hospital and the redevelopment of Our Lady of Maryknoll Hospital. (FHB)

Ensuring Long-term Sustainability of Healthcare System

- Take steps to establish a new regulatory regime for private healthcare facilities through consultation with stakeholders on technical details and eventually the enactment of a new piece of legislation. (FHB)

Disease Prevention and Control

- Set up a high-level steering committee chaired by the Secretary for Food and Health to tackle the threat of antimicrobial resistance to public health. With a concerted effort of its members which comprise representatives from the relevant government departments, public and private hospitals, healthcare facilities and relevant professional bodies, the committee will formulate strategies and action plans against antimicrobial resistance from various aspects. (FHB)
- Relieve the pressure of seasonal influenza and its complications on the public healthcare system through a pilot project to expand the scope of subsidised vaccination in 2015-16:
 - to expand the scope of the Government Vaccination Programme to provide free seasonal influenza vaccination for persons with intellectual disability and elders aged 65 or above; and
 - to expand the scope of the Vaccination Subsidy Schemes to cover persons with intellectual disability.

The above measures will be regularised starting from 2016-17. (FHB)

Healthcare Manpower Planning and Professional Development

- Take forward by phases the recommendations of the Strategic Review of Healthcare Manpower Planning and Professional Development, including first introducing a bill into the LegCo in the first quarter of 2016 to amend the Medical Registration Ordinance, with an aim to adding four lay members in the Medical Council of Hong Kong, improving its complaint handling and disciplinary inquiry mechanism, and increasing its flexibility for the admission of non-locally trained doctors to meet local demand. In addition, the Government will increase the publicly-funded degree places in medicine, dentistry and other health disciplines by 50, 20 and 68 respectively in the 2016/17-2018/19 funding cycle for universities, and establishing a voluntary accredited registers scheme for healthcare personnel who are currently not subject to statutory regulation. (FHB)

Mental Health Policy

- Implement a three-year territory-wide public education and promotion campaign in the light of the recommendations of the Review Committee on Mental Health chaired by the Secretary for Food and Health to promote to the public the importance of mental health. (FHB)

Food Safety

- Put forth specific legislative proposals in respect of the regulation of nutrition and health claims for formula products and prepackaged food for infants and young children under the age of 36 months. (FHB)

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- Redevelop the Food Safety Laboratory of the Government Laboratory to increase its testing capacity in preparation for the implementation of new legislation on food safety as well as enhancing its operational efficiency. (FHB)
 - Put forth legislative proposals in respect of the regulation of the safety and quality standards of edible fats and oils and recycling of waste cooking oils. (FHB/ENB)
 - Conduct public consultation on the regulation of the level of heavy metal in food. (FHB)

Tobacco Control

- Strengthen the enforcement actions in statutory no-smoking areas by the Tobacco Control Office of the Department of Health (DH), including designation of new no-smoking areas at bus interchanges located at the tunnel portal areas. (FHB)
- Formulate legislative proposal in respect of the regulation of electronic cigarettes. (FHB)

Ageing in Place

- Implement a pilot scheme under the Lotteries Fund to enhance the training for foreign domestic helpers in taking care of elderly persons. (LWB)
- Set up a dedicated team to provide assistance for participants of the Second Phase of the Pilot Scheme on Community Care Service Voucher for the Elderly. (LWB)

Long-term Care Services for the Elderly

- Strengthen the inspection and monitoring of residential care homes for the elderly and those for persons with disabilities. (LWB)
- Convert existing EA2 places of the Enhanced Bought Place Scheme to EA1 places which are of a higher quality. (LWB)
- Increase the subvention for the Visiting Medical Practitioner Scheme to enhance the primary medical service for ageing service users at residential care homes. (LWB)

On-going Initiatives

We are:

Enhancing Healthcare Services Provision

- Increasing the number of public hospital beds, the number of operating theatre sessions and the quota for endoscopy examination so as to enhance the service capacity for addressing the ever rising healthcare needs. (FHB)
- Increasing the quota for general out-patient consultation and providing additional quota for emergency medicine wards to improve the waiting time for out-patient and emergency services. (FHB)
- Planning and implementing initiatives to promote the development of primary care, formulating reference frameworks for specific population groups and chronic diseases, promoting the Primary Care Directory, and co-ordinating and planning the works projects for the establishment of community health centres in various districts. (FHB)
- Enhancing public healthcare services through public-private partnership to increase service volume, reduce waiting time, offer additional choices to patients and enhance cost-effectiveness. We are implementing the following projects:
 - procuring additional places for haemodialysis services from the private sector to provide treatment for eligible patients with end-stage renal disease;

- providing outsourced radiological investigation services for selected groups of cancer patients; and
 - subsidising patients to receive cataract operation in the private sector. (FHB)
- Widening the scope of the HA Drug Formulary to enhance the efficacy of treating various diseases. (FHB)
- Strengthening the manpower of the psychiatric healthcare team and introducing a peer support element to the Case Management Programme for patients with severe mental illness based on the recommendations of the Review Committee on Mental Health. (FHB)
- Increasing the number of psychiatric beds in Siu Lam Hospital based on the recommendations of the Review Committee on Mental Health, with a view to clearing up cases of severe intellectual disabilities on the waiting list in phases in the coming three years. (FHB)
- Planning for the launch of the Colorectal Cancer Screening Pilot Programme in mid-2016 to provide subsidised colorectal cancer screening in phases for eligible Hong Kong residents aged 61 to 70 within three years. (FHB)

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- Implementing an 18-month Pilot Study on Newborn Screening for Inborn Errors of Metabolism (IEM) in two public hospitals by the DH and the HA starting from October 2015. The first phase of the pilot study (from 1 October 2015 to 31 March 2016) covers 21 IEM. In the second phase (from 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017), the pilot study will be extended to cover 24 IEM in total. It is estimated that about 10 000 babies can be screened for IEM each year. (FHB)
 - Planning to expand the scope of the pilot General Out-patient Clinic Public-Private Partnership Programme in Kwun Tong, Wong Tai Sin and Tuen Mun districts to cover more chronic diseases and patients, in the light of the result of the interim review of the programme. We will extend the programme to all 18 districts of the territory in phases in the coming three years. (FHB)

Healthcare Service Development and Infrastructure

- Constructing Tin Shui Wai Hospital and the Hong Kong Children's Hospital at Kai Tak, commencing the expansion works of United Christian Hospital and actively pursuing the redevelopment of Kwong Wah Hospital, Queen Mary Hospital and Kwai Chung Hospital and the extension of the Operating Theatre Block of Tuen Mun Hospital. (FHB)
- Continuing with the minor works projects to improve facilities in public hospitals and clinics by utilising the one-off grant of \$13 billion allocated to the HA in 2014. (FHB)
- Commissioning the first stage of the electronic health record sharing system which will facilitate the sharing of the electronic health records of voluntary participants between public and private healthcare providers. (FHB)

- Facilitating the further development of private hospitals with a view to ensuring the healthy development of a twin-track healthcare system in Hong Kong. (FHB)

Regulation of Medical Devices

- Developing proposals for statutory regulation of medical devices, in the process of which a consultancy study on the regulatory framework will be conducted. We will take into account the findings of the study, other assessment results and views of stakeholders. (FHB)

Chinese Medicine

- Continuing with the Integrated Chinese-Western Medicine Pilot Project launched in September 2014 in seven hospitals of the HA in order to gather experience in the operation of integrated Chinese-Western medicine and Chinese medicine in-patient services, which will serve as the basis for formulating the mode of operation of the Chinese medicine hospital. Implemented in two phases, the pilot project provides treatment with integrated Chinese-Western medicine for three disease areas, namely stroke treatment, low back pain care and palliative care for cancer. (FHB)

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- Conducting a review of the development of the Chinese medicine sector through the Chinese Medicine Development Committee established in February 2013 to formulate a strategy to raise the professional standard and status of Chinese medicine practitioners, support research and development of Chinese medicine, promote treatment with integrated Chinese-Western medicine, expand the role of Chinese medicine in the public healthcare system, and examine the feasible mode of operation of a Chinese medicine hospital. (FHB)
 - Continuing to subsidise and monitor the 18 public Chinese medicine clinics to enhance Chinese medicine service in our public healthcare system. (FHB)
 - Planning and developing a testing centre for Chinese medicines by the DH. The testing centre will be specialised in the testing of, and scientific research on, Chinese medicines, with a view to setting reference standards for the safety, quality and testing methods of Chinese medicines. Before the establishment of a permanent testing centre for Chinese medicines, we will set up a temporary testing centre for Chinese medicines which is expected to operate in phases from 2017. (FHB)
 - Continuing with the research work after completing the compilation of Hong Kong Chinese Materia Medica Standards for 236 Chinese materia medica commonly used in Hong Kong. Our target is to set reference standards for around 28 Chinese materia medica each year. (FHB)

Ensuring Long-term Sustainability of Healthcare System

- Implementing the Voluntary Health Insurance Scheme to provide more choices and better protection for users of private healthcare services. (FHB)

Disease Prevention and Control

- Implementing the Prevention and Control of Disease Ordinance and improving our infectious disease surveillance, control and notification system. (FHB)
- Implementing a multi-pronged strategy to minimise the risk of and enhance Hong Kong's preparedness for influenza pandemic. (FHB)
- Continuing to implement and improve the subsidy schemes for eligible children and elderly people to receive seasonal influenza and pneumococcal vaccinations to enhance primary care and disease prevention. (FHB)
- Adopting a comprehensive preventive and surveillance programme to reduce the risk of avian influenza outbreaks and human infections in Hong Kong. We will keep the situation under review and update the relevant policies in a timely manner. (FHB)
- Implementing control on the import of poultry eggs to minimise the risk of avian influenza and other food safety hazards. (FHB)
- Implementing the Strategic Framework for Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases to promote cross-sectoral co-operation in the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases. (FHB)

Health Promotion

- Making progressive efforts in tobacco control through the multi-pronged approach of publicity, promotion, education, legislation, enforcement, taxation and smoking cessation service. (FHB)
- Promoting registration on the Central Organ Donation Register to the public through collaboration with relevant organisations. (FHB)

Food Safety and Healthy Eating

- Commencing the preparatory work for the regulation of cooked meat, which includes studying the regulatory regime of other countries, with a view to conducting a public consultation exercise. (FHB)
- Devising and implementing a strategic plan for encouraging reduced intake of salt and sugar in food to promote a healthy diet. (FHB)

Animal Welfare

- Pursuing actions to tighten up the regulation of pet trading through legislative amendments with a view to implementing a new regulatory framework for enhancing animal welfare. (FHB)
- Implementing the “Trap-Neuter-Release” trial programme for stray dogs and monitoring and assessing its effectiveness. (FHB)

Veterinary Service

- Drawing up regulations on the election of members from the veterinary profession to the Veterinary Surgeons Board of Hong Kong in accordance with the new provisions of the Veterinary Surgeons Registration (Amendment) Ordinance 2015. We will also support the Board in making preparations for organising the election. (FHB)

Safe Use of Pesticides and Veterinary Drugs

- Continuing our efforts to promote and ensure the safe and proper use of pesticides. (FHB)
- Refining the details of the proposed regulatory framework governing veterinary drug residues in food with reference to the requirements and implementation of the Pesticide Residues in Food Regulation. (FHB)

Elderly Healthcare Services

- Continuing to promote the Elderly Health Care Voucher Scheme, which subsidises elderly people aged 70 or above to use private primary care services, including Western and Chinese medicine, dental and other preventive care services. (FHB)
- Continuing to implement the Outreach Dental Care Programme for the Elderly to provide dental care and treatment for elderly people in residential care homes and similar facilities. (FHB)

Ageing in Place

- Implementing the Pilot Scheme on Community Care Service Voucher for the Elderly to enable eligible elderly people to choose the services that suit their individual needs with the use of service vouchers. (LWB)
- Increasing the number of community care places for the elderly to support ageing in place. (LWB)
- Implementing the Pilot Scheme on Living Allowance for Carers of the Elderly Persons from Low Income Families through the CCF to enhance support for carers of elderly persons. (LWB)

Long-term Care Services for the Elderly

- Continuing with the implementation of the Pilot Residential Care Services Scheme in Guangdong to provide elderly persons on the Central Waiting List for subsidised residential care places with an option to choose to live in the two elderly homes located in Shenzhen and Zhaoqing which are run by Hong Kong NGOs. (LWB)
- Continuing with the work of the Elderly Commission to study the feasibility of introducing vouchers for residential care service for the elderly. (LWB)
- Increasing the number of subsidised residential care places for the elderly through:
 - the Enhanced Bought Place Scheme;
 - better use of space in subvented homes;

- building of new contract homes; and
 - identification of sites for new homes. (LWB)
- Exploring the option of converting or redeveloping Wong Chuk Hang Hospital, which mainly provides extended care, into a care home for the elderly with more residential places. (LWB)
 - Implementing the Navigation Scheme for Young Persons in Care Services to encourage more young people to join the care service profession in the welfare sector. (LWB)

Planning and Integration of Elderly Services

- Continuing to provide support for the Elderly Commission to formulate the Elderly Services Programme Plan. (LWB)
- Considering suitable sites and operating mode for setting up Integrated Elderly Services Centres on a pilot basis to provide one-stop, multi-disciplinary healthcare and social services for the elderly at community level. (FHB/LWB)

Municipal Services

- Continuing to take forward the five-year assistance scheme launched in 2013 for improving the fire safety and design of hawker stalls in 43 fixed-pitch hawker areas. (FHB)
- Seeking support for public columbarium development on shortlisted sites across the territory whilst promoting green burials in parallel. (FHB)

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- Working with the LegCo for early enactment of the Private Columbaria Bill. (FHB)
 - Conducting a comprehensive review of the fee levels and charging policy for the municipal services and facilities managed by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department. (FHB)
 - Keeping up our efforts to mobilise community support for fortifying the good habit of keeping Hong Kong clean, in collaboration with government bureaux, departments and the DCs. (FHB)
 - Amending the Chinese Permanent Cemeteries Ordinance and the Chinese Permanent Cemeteries Rules to relax the restrictions on the use of cemetery facilities and provide for improvements in the management and use of Chinese Permanent Cemeteries to better serve the community's prevailing needs. (HAB)
 - Consulting stakeholders on concrete improvement proposals for a number of public markets after considering the consultant's recommendations, and actively following up the works. The proposals pursued will provide reference for future improvement to other public markets. (FHB)

Live Poultry

- Drawing reference from the consultant's recommendations, including how best to cope with the ever present threats posed by avian influenza, with a view to consulting the public on matters surrounding the future of the live poultry trade in Hong Kong and whether the sale of live poultry remains appropriate in present-day circumstances. (FHB)

Chapter 5

Environment and Conservation

Preamble

Sustainable development is premised on a proper balance among environmental protection, heritage conservation, economic development and provision for social needs.

The current-term Government has mapped out clear targets and work plans for improving air quality, waste management and energy conservation in three published blueprints. We are committed to achieving the targets in the blueprints through implementation of various measures and programmes in proactive partnership with various sectors.

For conserving our natural environment, we are developing a Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (BSAP) for Hong Kong under the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity.

To combat climate change, we have introduced various initiatives to achieve higher energy efficiency, promote green building and encourage a less carbon intensive lifestyle in our community.

To make Hong Kong a better city for all, we will continue to enhance our infrastructure to provide a safe and quality living environment. At the same time, we will improve the greening, landscape and tree management regime by promoting a holistic approach to enrich biodiversity and enhance place ecology.

We wish to preserve the city's charm while respecting the need for development. We are implementing the recommendations of the Antiquities Advisory Board pursuant to the policy review on conservation of built heritage.

New Initiatives

We will:

Air Quality

- Review the Fifth Technical Memorandum with a view to further tightening the air pollutant emission caps on power companies from 2021 onwards in the light of the installation progress of the new gas-fired generation units in the coming years. (ENB)
- Prepare for tightening vehicular emissions standards to Euro VI for newly registered vehicles. (ENB)
- Enhance the charging network for electric vehicles to promote their wider use. (ENB)
- Embark on a review of the Air Quality Objectives. (ENB)

Energy

- Discuss with the two power companies the terms of the new Scheme of Control Agreements (SCAs) as the current ones will expire in 2018. We will take into account the views received during the Public Consultation on the Future Development of the Electricity Market in finalising the new SCAs. (ENB)
- Step up the monitoring of liquefied petroleum gas vehicle fuel systems and the inspection of facilities and workshops that are engaged in the maintenance and repair of such systems to ensure compliance with statutory gas safety requirements. (ENB)

Combating Climate Change and Energy Conservation

- Expand the scope of the Mandatory Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme to cover more types of electrical appliances so as to help the public choose more energy-efficient electrical appliances for energy conservation. (ENB)
- Arrange for high-level discussions between the Chief Executive and the private sector to understand their preparations for climate-readiness and explore collaboration on combating climate change. (ENB)
- Set up an inter-departmental steering committee to be chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration to steer and co-ordinate the climate actions of various departments. (ENB)
- Step up publicity and education efforts to encourage different sectors of the community to join together in combating climate change. (ENB)

Enhancing Waste Management

- Implement the findings of the review of the Construction Waste Disposal Charging Scheme with a view to achieving full-cost recovery, and continue to explore other necessary measures to enhance construction waste management in Hong Kong. (ENB)

- Step up efforts in mobilising the community to engage in the food wise culture under the Food Wise Hong Kong Campaign and implementing the Food Wise Eateries Scheme to prevent and reduce food waste at source. We will continue with the food waste recycling and reduction projects at housing estates and give more support to NGOs in collecting surplus food for donation to the needy, with a view to achieving the win-win objective of waste reduction and caring for the needy. (ENB)
- Commence a study for the planning of future waste management and transfer facilities. Based on the concepts of circular economy and smart city, the study will establish the requirements for additional waste facilities for bulk transfer and treatment of municipal solid waste and construction waste to meet Hong Kong's needs for sustainable development up to 2041. (ENB)
- Commence the Food Waste/Sewage Sludge Anaerobic Co-digestion Pilot Trial to confirm the feasibility of food waste/sewage sludge anaerobic co-digestion and determine the technical requirements for using such technology to convert food waste to energy. Results of the trial will provide the basis for our formulation of medium to long-term development roadmaps and action plans. (ENB)
- Introduce administrative regulatory measures to ensure that waste cooking oils produced by local licensed food premises are recycled through legitimate means, and consider making amendments to the Waste Disposal Ordinance to strengthen the regulation of waste cooking oils. (ENB/FHB)

Promoting Nature Conservation

- We are very concerned about the poaching of elephants in Africa. In this connection, we will initiate the legislative procedures as soon as possible to ban the import and export of elephant hunting trophies and actively explore other appropriate measures. Meanwhile, we will continue to strengthen enforcement and to take vigorous actions against the smuggling and illegal trade in ivory. (ENB)

Water Quality of Victoria Harbour

- With the commissioning of Stage 2A of the Harbour Area Treatment Scheme in 2015, and all sewage from both sides of Victoria Harbour being properly treated at the Stonecutters Island Sewage Treatment Works before disposal, we are planning to construct dry weather flow interceptors and rehabilitate trunk sewers in Kowloon and Tsuen Wan to reduce residual pollution discharge in Victoria Harbour as soon as possible to further improve water quality. (ENB)

Greening, Landscape and Tree Management

- Promote a holistic approach to landscape based on the enrichment of biodiversity and enhancement of place ecology. (DEVB)
- Enforce “Right Tree, Right Place” through developing the concepts of lifecycle planning and life expectancy for trees and a street tree selection guide. (DEVB)
- Devise a strategy to more effectively manage the risk of stonewall trees. (DEVB)

- Improve the current risk management strategy for urban tree assets to assess risk quantitatively and set priorities to identify and handle trees with the highest risk. (DEVB)
- Launch the Handbook on Tree Management for private property owners and incorporate the Handbook into the Code of Practice issued under the Building Management Ordinance (Cap. 344). (DEVB/HAB)

Safeguarding Drinking Water Quality

- Launch a raft of measures to restore public confidence in the quality of drinking water to address the grave public concern about the incidents of excessive lead content in drinking water in public housing estates and other premises. The measures include stepping up control of materials used in plumbing installation of inside service, enhancing the inspection and approval regime for inside service, extending the monitoring scope and requirements for water sampling, studying overseas practices on water safety, and considering legislative amendments to the current Waterworks Ordinance and its Regulations. (DEVB)

Water Management

- Strengthen enforcement action against leakage, collaborate with government departments in launching a pilot scheme for proper maintenance of water pipes, and promote leakage detection and rehabilitation and replacement of private water pipes, in order to minimise water loss caused by the lack of proper maintenance or prolonged repairs of inside service. (DEVB)

On-going Initiatives

We are:

Improving Air Quality

(a) Greening Road Transport

- Encouraging the transport sector and non-profit-making organisations to test out green and innovative transport technologies through the Pilot Green Transport Fund. (ENB)
- Providing funding support for franchised bus companies to retrofit Euro II and III franchised buses with selective catalytic reduction devices to reduce roadside air pollution. (ENB)
- Continuing to procure more electric vehicles, subject to the availability of suitable models on the market and the operational needs of bureaux and departments. (ENB)
- Continuing to implement an incentive-cum-regulatory scheme to phase out progressively by the end of 2019 some 82 000 highly polluting diesel commercial vehicles which only comply with pre-Euro or Euro I to III emission standards to improve roadside air quality. (ENB)
- Running hybrid buses and electric buses on a trial basis. (ENB)
- Designating low emission zones for franchised buses on busy roads in Causeway Bay, Central and Mong Kok, allowing only low-emission buses to run in these zones. (ENB)

(b) Regional Co-operation

- Implementing the Pearl River Delta Regional Air Quality Management Plan together with the Guangdong Provincial Government to continue to improve regional air quality. (ENB)
- Conducting a mid-term review with the Guangdong Provincial Government to assess the achievements made in emission reduction of air pollutants in the two places in 2015 and finalise the emission reduction targets for 2020. (ENB)
- Conducting a study with the governments of Guangdong and Macao on fine suspended particulates (PM2.5) for the Pearl River Delta region to provide a robust scientific basis for mapping out the strategies for further improvement in regional air quality. (ENB)
- Co-operating with the Guangdong Provincial Government to foster exchanges and trainings in the two places in respect of regional air pollution forecasting technology. (ENB)
- Implementing the Cleaner Production Partnership Programme in collaboration with the Guangdong Provincial Government to continue to promote cleaner production technologies and practices among Hong Kong-owned factories in Guangdong and Hong Kong to enhance energy efficiency and reduce pollutant emissions, thereby improving quality of the regional environment. (ENB)

(c) Others

- Commencing operation of the general air quality monitoring station in Tseung Kwan O in the first quarter of 2016. (ENB)

Enhancing Waste Management

(a) Reducing Waste and Promoting Recycling

- Continuing with the preparation for implementation of quantity-based municipal solid waste charging and supporting extensive community involvement projects with funding from the Environment and Conservation Fund. (ENB)
- Continuing to promote the “clean recycling” campaign, encourage public participation in waste reduction at source and improve the recycling facilities to increase the recycling value and recovery rate of waste materials, thereby alleviating the pressure on landfills and facilitating the sustainable development of the recycling industry. (ENB)
- Promoting the development of the recycling industry through infrastructural support, green procurement, subsidies for technology research and development, support for manpower training of the industry and implementation of a registration system. (ENB)
- Promoting and implementing the measures and action plan under A Food Waste & Yard Waste Plan for Hong Kong to reduce, recycle and treat food waste and yard waste. (ENB)
- Actively encouraging the recycling sector to apply for the Recycling Fund, which facilitates the upgrading of the operational capabilities and efficiency of the recycling industry in support of the industry’s sustainable development, thereby promoting recovery and recycling of waste. (ENB)

(b) Implementing Producer Responsibility Schemes

- Continuing with the legislative work and development of treatment facilities for the mandatory Producer Responsibility Scheme on waste electrical and electronic equipment and enhancing the relevant publicity and education efforts. (ENB)
- Continuing with the legislative work for the mandatory Producer Responsibility Scheme on glass beverage containers and the efforts to promote voluntary recycling of glass containers at community level. (ENB)

(c) Developing Waste Treatment and Disposal Facilities

- Pursuing landfill extension. (ENB)
- Taking forward the phase 1 project of the Organic Waste Treatment Facilities, monitoring its progress, and working out the operational arrangements for the facilities to convert food waste collected into renewable energy and compost products. (ENB)
- Preparing for tendering of the phase 2 project of the Organic Waste Treatment Facilities. (ENB)
- Commencing the tendering exercise for the phase 1 project of the Integrated Waste Management Facilities for municipal solid waste treatment. (ENB)

Combating Climate Change and Energy Conservation

- Mapping out implementation strategies and detailed recommendations for promoting green building, as well as launching the dialogue platform proposed under the Energy Saving Plan for Hong Kong's Built Environment 2015~2025+ for discussion with built environment stakeholders on ways to expedite green building practices in the private sector. (ENB)
- Revising the Building Energy Codes issued under the Buildings Energy Efficiency Ordinance to enhance the energy performance standards for building services installations such as air-conditioning, lighting, electrical installations, lifts and escalators. (ENB)
- Completing energy-cum-carbon audits for 120 government buildings and public facilities, and continuing to encourage bureaux and departments to conduct carbon audits so as to identify room for carbon reduction. (ENB)
- Launching the Charter on External Lighting based on the recommendations of the Task Force on External Lighting to encourage owners or persons-in-charge of external lighting installations to switch off external lighting of decorative, promotional or advertising purposes at the preset time, and organising educational and publicity activities to enhance public awareness of issues associated with external lighting. (ENB)

- Continuing to achieve the target of reducing electricity consumption by 5% for government buildings in the financial years from 2015-16 to 2019-20 under comparable operating conditions (taking the 2013-14 financial year as the baseline). (ENB)

Improving Water Quality

- Continuing to monitor the performance of Stage 2A of the Harbour Area Treatment Scheme commissioned in 2015 and assess the improvement in the water quality of Victoria Harbour. (ENB)
- Conducting a consultancy study to explore various practicable options to effectively reduce near-shore pollution and enhance the water quality of the coastal waters with a view to improving the overall environment of both sides of Victoria Harbour. (ENB)

Total Water Management Strategy

- Engaging a consultant to conduct a review of the Total Water Management Strategy to ensure sustainable use of precious water resources and timely introduction of new initiatives to strengthen our resilience and preparedness against uncertainties and challenges. (DEVB)

Development of Desalination

- Continuing with the phased implementation of the design work for the desalination plant at Tseung Kwan O and its associated infrastructure. (DEVB)

Water Intelligent Network

- Continuing with the study and progressive establishment of a Water Intelligent Network with sensors installed in the water supply networks to continuously monitor their health condition. We are also continuing with the study of various intelligent network management systems and other technologies, including using data mining technique to predict the possible burst of water mains, to facilitate collection and analysis of data for early identification of defective water mains and follow-up actions. (DEVB)

Water Conservation and Reclamation

- Adopting a multi-pronged approach and more proactive strategy to step up the promotion of water conservation in Hong Kong. In respect of promotion, flow controllers have been distributed to nearly 140 000 participating households so far in the Let's Save 10L Water Campaign. On the education front, the Integrated Education Programme on Water Conservation for Water Conservation Campus was introduced to primary schools in the new school year in 2015. Furthermore, a Water Resources Education Centre at Tin Shui Wai is under design to replace the existing temporary centre. As regards high water consumption industries, we have developed water efficiency practice guidelines for the catering sector and encouraged the private sector to conduct water efficiency review. (DEVB)

- Continuing with the initiative of using reclaimed water for toilet flushing and other non-potable purposes in the north-eastern part of the New Territories (including Sheung Shui and Fanling). This includes taking forward the design of related infrastructure and commissioning a consultancy study on the financial and legal framework for the supply of reclaimed water. (DEVB)

Green Construction

- Implementing measures for low carbon construction, emission reduction and use of recycled materials in public works projects, including:
 - promoting the use of electric vehicles in works projects;
 - using biodiesel as fuel for construction machineries in construction sites;
 - adopting green site offices; and
 - continuing to conduct trials on the use of waste glass as fill materials in site formation, backfilling and reclamation.(DEVB)

Supporting Community Green Actions

- Enhancing community participation in environmental protection through district-based environmental education, promotion and publicity programmes, as well as collaboration with DCs in organising promotion activities on “Use Less, Waste Less” and “clean recycling” at district level. (ENB)

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- Providing long-term and sustained support for green actions initiated by the community through the investment returns generated from the Environment and Conservation Fund. (ENB)
 - Continuing with the development of Community Green Stations in phases in each of the 18 districts. (ENB)
 - Supporting the Council for Sustainable Development in conducting public engagement exercises on issues of public concern, and funding community education and publicity projects through the Sustainable Development Fund. (ENB)

Promoting Green Economy

- Actively applying green specifications in government procurement as well as cleansing and vehicle hiring service contracts. We also seek to widen the scope of green procurement in public works projects. (ENB)
- Supporting the local environmental industry in participating in environmental exhibitions, trade missions and related events to promote the industry and explore business opportunities in the Mainland and overseas markets. (ENB)
- Actively promoting green procurement. The Government has expanded the list from 103 items to 150 items with updated green specifications. The Government will encourage the public and the business sector to adopt green procurement practices, and will also ask professional bodies, industry groups and trade associations to appeal to their members to adopt green procurement practices as far as possible. (ENB)

Promoting Nature Conservation

- Implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. We are consulting the public on the BSAP being formulated. Subject to the outcome of the public consultation, we would finalise the BSAP as soon as practicable, with a view to implementing enhanced measures on nature conservation and supporting sustainable development in the coming years. (ENB)
- Implementing measures to better protect country park enclaves. (ENB)
- Taking forward the proposal to improve marine ecosystems and the statutory procedures to designate the Brothers Marine Park, and providing better protection for marine organisms. (ENB)

Greening, Landscape and Tree Management

- Delivering higher quality landscape planning and design in the upstream and more diligent vegetation management and maintenance in the downstream. (DEVB)
- Strengthening co-ordination amongst departments and communication with stakeholders and the public. (DEVB)

Heritage Conservation

- Implementing the recommendations of the Antiquities Advisory Board pursuant to the policy review on conservation of built heritage, including the establishment of a fund for built heritage conservation. (DEVB)

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- Working closely with the selected non-profit-making organisations to continue implementing the first four batches of projects under the Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme. (DEVB)
 - Launching Batch V of the Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme. (DEVB)
 - Taking forward the conservation and revitalisation of the Central Police Station Compound in partnership with the Hong Kong Jockey Club. (DEVB)

Safe and Quality Living Environment

- Continuing with the Landslip Prevention and Mitigation Programme to:
 - upgrade and landscape government man-made slopes;
 - mitigate the landslide risk of natural terrain with known hazards; and
 - conduct safety screening studies for private slopes. (DEVB)
- Conducting studies to:
 - assess the flood risk levels of rivers in rural areas; and
 - develop flood warning systems and mitigation measures for flood-prone rivers. (DEVB)

- Continuing with Phase 2 construction works of an underground stormwater storage tank in Happy Valley to further relieve the flood risks in the district and adjacent areas. (DEVB)
- Reviewing the Drainage Master Plans of Sha Tin, Tai Po, Sai Kung and North Hong Kong Island to assess the flood risks in these districts and formulate improvement measures. (DEVB)
- Continuing with the reconstruction and rehabilitation works of the Kai Tak River to alleviate the flood risks in the areas concerned. (DEVB)
- Continuing with the design of the improvement works for the Yuen Long Town Centre Nullah to enhance the quality of the local environment and the ecological value of the nullah. (DEVB)
- Undertaking a consultancy study for exploring the practicable options for applying the concept of revitalising water bodies to nullahs and river channels when carrying out large-scale drainage improvement works and drainage planning for new development areas. Apart from achieving efficient drainage, such objectives will promote greening, biodiversity, beautification and water friendliness; build sustainable drainage facilities; and provide a better living environment. (DEVB)
- Continuing the implementation of the Restored Landfill Revitalisation Funding Scheme for early conversion of the restored landfill sites for recreational, sports, environmental protection and other appropriate community uses. (ENB)

Conservation of Marine Living Resources

- Following up the drafting of legislation to set up a control scheme for the trading of toothfish in Hong Kong to meet the requirements of the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources. (FHB)

Chapter 6

Education, Population and Human Resources

Preamble

People are our most precious resource, providing the impetus for the continued social and economic development of Hong Kong. To address the challenges brought about by the anticipated decline in labour force from 2018, the Steering Committee on Population Policy, led by the Chief Secretary for Administration, formulated in late 2014 a series of measures with the major objectives of unleashing the local labour force and attracting talent from outside Hong Kong. These measures were subsequently announced in the 2015 Policy Address. The latest population and labour force projections released by the Census and Statistics Department in September 2015 confirm that our labour force will probably decline from 2018 onwards. The projected figures also show that our population is entering an era of rapid ageing. The elderly population is expected to rise from 1.12 million at present to 2.56 million by 2064. To make Hong Kong a better home for our elderly citizens so that they will lead a respectful and enjoyable life here, we have put forward a number of initiatives in this year's Policy Address with a view to developing Hong Kong into an age-friendly city.

The issue of manpower is one of quantity and quality. We will give priority to nurturing local talent, which starts with education. Starting from the 2017/18 school year, we will implement the free quality kindergarten education policy and provide kindergartens with direct subsidy with a view to greatly enhancing the quality of kindergarten

education and laying a solid foundation for children's balanced development and lifelong learning. Primary and secondary education is an important stage for students to accumulate knowledge, develop personal character and equip themselves for challenges ahead. We will enhance the support for secondary schools to provide life planning education and career guidance services to help young people better understand themselves and plan for their future. At the same time, we will provide flexible and diversified study and articulation pathways with multiple entry and exit points and promote continuous learning. These will help young people equip themselves to pursue their dreams and will strengthen their confidence in the future. We will continue to provide opportunities for young people to enrol on quality post-secondary programmes, and further develop and promote vocational and professional education and training (VPET) to cater for their diversified interests.

Apart from the school, support and nurturing from the family are pivotal to the development of young people. Therefore, we must strengthen the family and make it one of the core values of the community. We will collaborate with various sectors in the community to create a family-friendly culture and enhance the functions of families. We will also promote family-friendly employment practices and encourage employers to help their employees achieve a balance between work and family life. A new law was implemented last year granting eligible male employees three days of paid paternity leave under the Employment Ordinance.

Promoting employment of local workers and protecting the rights and benefits of workers have always been our priority. We will continue to provide recruitment and employment services for employers and job seekers with different employment needs. We take rigorous enforcement actions against violation of labour laws and will actively follow up the work of the Standard Working Hours Committee.

New Initiatives

We will:

Population Policy

(a) Creating an Age-friendly Community

- Provide covers on certain walkways connecting to public transport facilities so that members of the public, especially the elderly, can walk under shelter without being exposed to the weather. (THB)
- Examine the application of technologies to extend the pedestrian green time to facilitate the elderly and the disabled to cross signalised road junctions. (THB)
- Enhance the service of the HKeTransport to facilitate its use by the elderly. (THB)
- Update the facilities in public libraries and organise activities to promote reading among senior citizens. (HAB)
- Install more fitness facilities for the elderly in recreation and sports venues of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) to encourage the elderly to participate regularly in health-building activities, and designate priority seats at indoor recreation venues to better meet the needs of the elderly. (HAB)
- Continue the Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities and extend it to cover all green minibus routes. (LWB)

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- Provide additional resources for DCs to promote the building of age-friendly communities at the district level, and encourage DCs to participate in the World Health Organization's "age-friendly community" accreditation scheme. (LWB)

(b) Supporting Women in Fulfilling Work and Family Commitments

- Implement the free quality kindergarten education policy to provide direct subsidy for eligible local non-profit-making kindergartens from the 2017/18 school year. The basic provision will enable kindergartens to provide quality half-day service for all eligible children aged between three and six. The Government will also provide an additional grant for whole-day and long whole-day kindergartens to alleviate the financial burden of school fees on parents and encourage kindergartens to provide whole-day services to support working parents. Additional financial assistance will also be given to students from needy families. (EDB)

(c) Building an Inclusive Society

- Focus on social groups with special needs in the development of courses and services by the Employees Retraining Board (ERB), including the development of more dedicated courses for mature persons, women and ethnic minorities. The ERB will also launch a pilot part-time job referral platform known as "Smart Starter" to provide registration, vacancy referral and follow-up services for new arrivals who have completed ERB courses. (LWB)

Kindergarten Education

- Implement the free quality kindergarten education policy from the 2017/18 school year to improve the quality of kindergarten education in various aspects, through the following measures:
 - providing eligible local non-profit-making kindergartens with a basic subsidy for the provision of three-year quality half-day service for all eligible children. The Government will also provide an additional subsidy to eligible whole-day and long whole-day kindergartens. Besides, the Government will revise the planning standards to provide more whole-day places progressively;
 - further improving the teacher-pupil ratio to 1:11 so as to strengthen the support for students with diverse needs. We will encourage kindergartens to establish a career ladder and provide competitive remuneration for teachers to retain and attract quality teaching staff;
 - reviewing the Guide to the Pre-primary Curriculum, taking into consideration the experience of learning and teaching in kindergartens, the changes of society as well as future needs;
 - refining the Quality Assurance Framework; enhancing the governance and transparency of kindergartens, and the Government's monitoring;
 - strengthening the support for students from needy families, NCS students, and students with diverse learning needs;
 - enhancing parent engagement and parent education; and

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- improving school premises and facilities, and exploring feasible measures to increase the provision of kindergarten premises in the long run. (EDB)
 - Before the implementation of the new policy in the 2017/18 school year, invite the CCF to consider implementing a programme to provide a one-off grant for kindergarten students from needy families in the 2016/17 school year to cover their school-related expenses. (EDB)

Primary and Secondary Education

- Upon the completion of the New Academic Structure Medium-term Review at senior secondary level, recommendations were announced in stages. To enhance the implementation of the senior secondary curriculum and strengthen life planning education and related guidance services, the Government plans to turn two recurrent grants namely the Senior Secondary Curriculum Support Grant and the Career and Life Planning Grant into regular teaching posts. This is expected to provide about 1 000 regular teaching posts at the Graduate Master/Mistress rank. (EDB)
- To cater for students' learning interests and to further stabilise the teaching force, the surplus teachers arising from the reduction of Secondary One classes in aided secondary schools in the 2013/14 and 2014/15 school years are allowed to be retained, where there are sufficient justifications, until the end of the 2017/18 school year. (EDB)

- To cultivate more talents, the Government proposes the setting up of a Gifted Education Fund of \$800 million in support of the Hong Kong Academy for Gifted Education's work in nurturing exceptionally gifted students aged between 10 and 18 and providing special academic and non-academic training as well as counselling services. Meanwhile, the Education Bureau (EDB) will continue to implement school-based gifted education programmes, which include training for principals and teachers in primary and secondary schools, establishing school networks to share practices and experiences, so as to enable schools to identify more talents, expand the talent pool in Hong Kong and enhance our competitiveness. (EDB)
- Encourage students to learn the languages of countries along the Belt and Road so as to strengthen their skills in communicating with people from these countries, and also enhance students' understanding of the historical, economic, religious and cultural developments of these countries and regions through the relevant course subjects and learning activities. These will enable them to contemplate the significance of the Belt and Road Initiative for the world today, its importance to the future development of Hong Kong and the opportunities it presents. Furthermore, we will set up priority theme under the Quality Education Fund to encourage students to learn more about the Belt and Road and to have exchange in the region. (EDB)

Post-secondary Education

- Increase the number of offers under the Targeted Scholarship Scheme with a view to encouraging more students from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and nearby regions along the Belt and Road to pursue study in Hong Kong. (EDB)
- Strengthen the connection with and support for students from regions along the Belt and Road to enhance their understanding of the culture of China and Hong Kong, and encourage tertiary institutions to organise visits to regions along the Belt and Road for Hong Kong post-secondary students in the form of exchange, field trip or short-term internship, with a view to facilitating interactions and exchanges in the whole region. (EDB)
- Advance the review of the three-year pilot Mainland University Study Subsidy Scheme as to how to expand its scope to benefit more students studying in the Mainland. (EDB)

Vocational and Professional Education and Training

- Actively consider how to implement the recommendations in the report of the Task Force on Promotion of Vocational Education submitted to the Government in July 2015, including:
 - conducting a series of publicity and promotional activities;

- subsidising fully the provision of Applied Learning courses by secondary schools;
 - extending the Pilot Training and Support Scheme to benefit two more cohorts of 2 000 students in total; and
 - supporting major VPET providers in organising large-scale skills competitions. (EDB)
- Plan to first earmark a site in the urban district for developing a VTC campus with adequate capacity and state-of-the-art facilities, having considered the recommendations of the Task Force and the strategic campus development plan submitted by the VTC in August 2015. (EDB)

Women

- Implement a pilot scheme to test the application of gender mainstreaming in the welfare sector. (LWB)

Employment Support and Employees' Welfare

- Follow up the work of the Standard Working Hours Committee. (LWB)
- Conduct a public engagement exercise on the proposed code of practice for employment agencies so as to protect the interests of foreign domestic helpers and their employers, and continue to work closely with the home countries of foreign domestic helpers. (LWB)

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- Set up a dedicated employment information platform to enhance employment support for job seekers with higher education, in particular Hong Kong students educated in overseas tertiary institutions as well as persons from overseas with higher academic/professional qualifications. (LWB)
 - Establish a task force comprising representatives of relevant bureaux/departments and public bodies to explore the proposals put forward by the inter-departmental working group, consult stakeholders about relevant issues in a timely manner, and implement the agreed measures so as to improve protection for injured employees in high-risk industries. (LWB)

Occupational Safety and Health

- The LD will collaborate with trade associations, workers' unions, professional bodies, related organisations and other government departments to explore measures to enhance work-at-height safety to further protect workers' safety while working at height. These measures include urging contractors and workers to use standard-conforming mobile working platforms and requiring workers to use safety helmets with chin straps. (LWB)

On-going Initiatives

We are:

Population Policy

- (a) Development Strategy for a Diversified Economy
 - Developing policy and support measures necessary for the further development of four clusters of sectors (namely transportation; convention and exhibition industries and tourism; manufacturing industries, innovative technology, and cultural and creative industries; and professional services) through the Economic Development Commission and its four working groups with a view to diversifying our economy and creating more employment opportunities. (CEDB/DEVB/THB/ITB)
- (b) Adhering to the Direction of Sustainable Development
 - In the context of the “Hong Kong 2030+: Towards a Planning Vision and Strategy Transcending 2030” study and its public engagement exercise, examining the strategy and possible options for the development of Hong Kong beyond 2030, aligning with the objectives of our population policy from the perspectives of creating capacity for improved living space and better quality of life, enhancing economic competitiveness and facilitating sustainable development. (DEVB)

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- Developing high value-added industries to broaden our economic base and provide new areas of economic growth. This will also give the young generation a wide variety of job opportunities with good prospects. (All relevant bureaux)

(c) Extending Working Life

- Since 1 June 2015, the retirement age for new recruits to the civilian grades has been raised to 65 and that for the disciplined services grades to 60. As regards extending the service of serving civil servants, a Post-retirement Service Contract Scheme has been introduced, which enables departments to engage retired civil servants on contract terms to undertake ad hoc duties requiring specific civil service expertise or experience. Meanwhile, the staff sides have been engaged in discussions about the implementation details of adjusted mechanism on further employment of civil servants beyond retirement age. The above measures enable the Government, as an employer, to take early actions to address the challenges arising from an ageing population and provide flexibility for meeting the manpower needs of departments taking into account their different operational and succession needs. (CSB)
- In line with the Government's arrangement of extending the retirement age of civil service new recruits, encouraging other employers, in particular public and subvented organisations, to implement appropriate measures according to their own circumstances to extend the working life of their employees. We will also review the existing welfare arrangements to see if they may reduce the incentive for older persons to continue to work. (All relevant bureaux)

- Implementing the measure to raise the upper age limit of Category B security personnel from 65 to 70. (SB)
- Examining whether and how the new policy concerning the retirement age of newly recruited government school teachers should be extended to aided schools through consultation with educational bodies conducted by the EDB. The EDB is formulating the development plan having regard to the analysis of the relevant views. (EDB)

(d) Enhancing Employment Support for Elderly People and Others

- Continuing to promote the employment of elderly persons by enhancing the employment support services for elderly job seekers. We will continue to implement various publicity initiatives to raise public awareness of the part played by elderly persons in the potential labour force and encourage employers to build an elderly-friendly working environment. (LWB)
- Continuing to provide on-the-job training allowance of up to \$3,000 per month for employers for a period of three to six months under the Employment Programme for the Middle-aged, so as to give employers financial incentive to employ elderly persons in full-time or part-time jobs and provide them with on-the-job training. (LWB)

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- Taking the elderly as one of the target groups in the future, the ERB will help elderly people rejoin the job market. The ERB has conducted a market research on elderly or retired persons and employers to understand elders' views on continuing employment as well as opinions of employers on hiring elderly or retired persons. The ERB will explore suitable types of work for these people and continue to launch training courses on a pilot basis. (LWB)
 - Continuing to organise large-scale, district-based and thematic job fairs regularly in collaboration with employers from different sectors and through the recruitment centres established specifically for the retail, catering and construction sectors. Job seekers can submit job applications and attend interviews on the spot. (LWB)
 - Continuing to organise large-scale job fairs which include employment and vacancy information on the Mainland so as to help job seekers, in particular young people, better understand the employment opportunities on the Mainland and find suitable jobs. (LWB)

(e) Supporting Women in Fulfilling Work and Family Commitments

- Continuing to make an annual provision of around \$240 million to support needy students to participate in after-school activities including after-school support on learning through schools and NGOs. A \$200 million matching fund is provided through the Partnership Fund for the Disadvantaged to encourage the business sector to work with organisations and schools to launch more after-school learning and support programmes for primary and secondary school students from grassroots families. (EDB/LWB)
- Setting an example on the part of the Government as a good employer by implementing more family-friendly employment practices for other employers to follow. Apart from considering to offer more part-time positions on non-civil service contract terms, the Government, subject to exigencies of the service and sufficient personal grounds, will also continue with the existing arrangements of giving priority and sympathetic consideration to leave applications, including unpaid leave, on family care grounds. (CSB)
- Providing in phases about 5 000 additional places of Extended Hours Service at aided child care centres and kindergarten-cum-child care centres in districts with high demand from 2015-16 onwards so that more pre-primary children in need (aged below six) can continue to receive extended hours of service in the same service units being attended by them, with a view to alleviating the pressure on their working parents. (LWB)
- Providing in 2018-19 about 100 additional aided long full-day child care places for children aged below three. (LWB)

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- Continuing to invite NGOs to establish work-based child care centres through the Special Scheme on Privately Owned Sites for Welfare Uses. Besides, the Government will continue to explore the feasibility of providing in the proposed Government Complex in Tseung Kwan O, on a pilot basis, 100 NGO-operated child care places for staff members. (LWB)
 - Commissioning a consultancy study in 2015-16 to advise on the long-term development of child care services. (LWB)
 - Implementing a pilot project in 2015-16 to help grandparents become well-trained child carers in a home setting, with a view to reinforcing support for nuclear families. (LWB)
 - Enhancing the provision of training and employment services for women by the ERB to help them rejoin the job market. (LWB)
 - Continuing to step up the LD's efforts in promoting family-friendly employment practices, including the use of Announcements of Public Interest on television and radio, to encourage employers to help employees achieve a balance between work and family life. (LWB)

(f) Providing Better Support for People to Start a Family

- Continuing to meet the housing needs of the public, including young married couples, by providing more PRH units and subsidised sale flats and maintaining the steady development of the private property market. On PRH, we will encourage young married couples to live with or near their elderly parents through the Harmonious Families Priority Scheme, with a view to promoting mutual care among family members, including the assistance provided by the elders in taking care of young children. (THB)
- Strengthening the promotion of breastfeeding and encouraging the implementation of breastfeeding-friendly measures in the community and workplaces through the Committee on Promotion of Breastfeeding under the Food and Health Bureau, with a view to enhancing sustained breastfeeding and promoting breastfeeding as a norm widely accepted by the general public for baby care. (FHB)
- Considering enhancing collaboration among hospitals in various clusters through the HA to improve the waiting time for assisted reproductive technology services. (FHB)

(g) Building an Inclusive Society

- Keeping in view the implementation of the One-Way Permit Scheme and maintaining effective communication with the Mainland authorities for the orderly entry of eligible Mainland residents into Hong Kong for family union. (SB)

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- Improving the employment opportunities of persons with disabilities through:
 - continuous provision of follow-up service for job seekers with disabilities for at least six months after placement so as to provide support for employers and help employees with disabilities adapt to their work; and
 - implementation of a two-year pilot project funded by the Lotteries Fund in 2015-16 for trained ex-mentally ill persons to serve as peer supporters to provide support and encouragement for other persons in rehabilitation through sharing their recovery experience. The project also aims to improve the employment opportunities of ex-mentally ill persons. (LWB)
 - Continuing to implement a pilot project to engage trainees of the Youth Employment and Training Programme who can communicate in ethnic minority language as Employment Services Ambassadors in the Job Centres and job fairs of the LD to provide employment services for ethnic minority job seekers. The LD will review the pilot project and draw up future arrangements. (LWB)
 - Helping different social groups seek employment and integrate into the community through the ERB's new courses and support services geared towards their needs, including:
 - organising dedicated training courses for new arrivals;
 - continuing to conduct training courses in the support centres for ethnic minorities under the Home Affairs Department on a pilot basis to facilitate attendance of ethnic minorities;

- organising dedicated training courses for persons with disabilities; and
 - extending the Modular Certificates Accumulation System to cover other in-demand programmes to enable trainees to obtain full-time course certificates upon completion of a number of specified half-day or evening courses. This allows trainees who are unable to pursue full-time courses due to work or family commitments to make flexible arrangement for further studies and acquire recognised qualifications. (LWB)
- Continuing to strengthen the support platforms for social enterprises and step up publicity and public education to promote social enterprises. Through co-ordination between social enterprises and NGOs, on-site training opportunities in social enterprises and related support services will be offered to persons with disabilities and other groups in need in order to enhance their employment prospect. We will continue to implement the Enhancing Self-Reliance Through District Partnership Programme with enhanced measures to benefit more types of social enterprises and encourage greater participation of the commercial sector. (HAB).

(h) Attracting Overseas Talent

- Continuing to expand our pool of talent by encouraging talent and entrepreneurs to come and stay in Hong Kong in accordance with the relaxed stay arrangements under the General Employment Policy, the Admission Scheme for Mainland Talents and Professionals, and the Quality Migrant Admission Scheme. (SB)

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- Continuing to attract a larger pool of talent with excellent educational background or international work experience to come to Hong Kong in accordance with the adjusted General Points Test under the Quality Migrant Admission Scheme. (SB)
 - Studying the feasibility of drawing up a talent list in the light of overseas practices so that we can attract people with exceptional quality in a more effective and focused manner to support Hong Kong's development into a high value-added and diversified economy. (LWB)
 - Setting out clearly the factors for consideration when processing applications to enter Hong Kong for investment under the General Employment Policy to attract more entrepreneurs from overseas to run their business in Hong Kong. (SB)
 - Continuing to implement the pilot scheme to attract the second generation of Chinese Hong Kong permanent residents who have emigrated overseas to return to Hong Kong. (SB)
 - Continuing to step up the promotion of the above-mentioned admission schemes by the overseas Economic and Trade Offices and Mainland offices of the Government. (CEDB/CMAB)
 - Encouraging non-locally trained healthcare professionals to practise in Hong Kong through introducing more flexibility into the internship arrangements for non-locally trained doctors and increasing the frequency of examination sittings for non-locally trained dentists and nurses. (FHB)

- Continuing to improve air quality and increase the provision of international school places as necessary with a view to enhancing Hong Kong's attractiveness to overseas talent. (ENB/EDB)
- (i) Importation of Labour
- Importing labour on an appropriate, limited and targeted basis to relieve the manpower shortage of individual sectors on the premise of according priority in employment to local workers. (LWB)
- (j) Active Ageing
- Continuing to install barrier-free facilities such as lifts at the existing PRH estates and public walkways maintained by the Highways Department. This will allow people in need, including the elderly, to move around in the community with greater ease. (THB)
 - Upgrading the physical setting, facilities and equipment of some 230 elderly centres under the Improvement Programme on Elderly Centres. (LWB)
 - Implementing the new Opportunities for the Elderly Project after it is merged with the Neighbourhood Active Ageing Project for better use of resources in encouraging elderly people to actively take part in community affairs. (LWB)

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- Enhancing district network support for elder academies, promoting their curriculum development and training for trainers, so that these elder academies can provide the elderly with diversified courses on an on-going basis for the promotion of life-long learning and cross-sectoral harmony. (LWB)
 - Continuing to implement the Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities to enable elderly people aged 65 or above and eligible persons with disabilities aged below 65 to travel on the MTR lines, franchised bus routes, ferry routes and most green minibus routes covered by the scheme anytime at a concessionary fare of \$2 per trip, with a view to building a caring and inclusive society by encouraging these people to participate more in community activities. (LWB)
 - Providing choices of service for the elderly and at the same time promoting the development of the silver hair market through the Senior Citizen Residences Scheme and the Reverse Mortgage Programme, which are operated by the Hong Kong Housing Society and the Hong Kong Mortgage Corporation Limited respectively. (THB/FSTB)

(k) Implementation and Progress Monitoring

- Monitoring regularly the implementation of the above initiatives through the Steering Committee on Population Policy led by the Chief Secretary for Administration. To incorporate views of experts, academics, service organisations and other stakeholders into the work relating to population policy, the Steering Committee conducts seminars where appropriate to disseminate the effectiveness of the population policy initiatives and seeks participants' comments on the enhancement of various initiatives having regard to the latest developments. (CSO)

Kindergarten Education

- Continuing to implement the Pre-primary Education Voucher Scheme and the Kindergarten and Child Care Centre Fee Remission Scheme to provide support for parents with children attending eligible kindergartens before the introduction of the free quality kindergarten education policy. (EDB)

Primary and Secondary Education

- Continuing to implement relief measures to facilitate the sustainable development of secondary schools and stabilise the teaching force before the overall Secondary One student population rebounds progressively. (EDB)

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- Monitoring the demand of cross-boundary students and babies born to Mainland women in Hong Kong whose fathers are not Hong Kong permanent residents (Type II babies) for public sector primary school places, and continuing to implement flexible measures to increase the supply of school places to cope with the demand. The measures include:
 - temporarily expanding the size of each class to cope with transient demand; and
 - further diverting cross-boundary students through the revised arrangements for the central allocation under the Primary One Admission System, and utilising fully the handling capacities of the existing immigration control points to facilitate the arrangements for cross-boundary students of tender age through proper management of traffic and security measures at the boundary areas. (EDB)
 - Monitoring the impact of demographic changes on the long-term planning for the provision of public sector school places, including the transient impact on primary and secondary education caused by Type II babies. (EDB)
 - Monitoring the supply and demand of international school places, and facilitating the development of international schools mainly through allocating vacant school premises and greenfield sites as well as supporting in-situ expansion of existing international schools to meet the demand, especially that of overseas families. (EDB)

- Continuing to provide professional support for schools to enhance the effectiveness of learning and teaching, including catering for learner diversity, after completing the medium-term review of the senior secondary curriculum, assessment and related measures under the New Academic Structure. (EDB)
- Continuing to organise teacher training and student learning activities. We have sought the views of the education sector on the renewal of the curricula of Science, Technology and Mathematics education, and held a STEM forum for teachers. We will also organise a related student education fair. (EDB)
- Continuing to renew the curricula of humanities subjects like Chinese History and World History, and enhancing students' interest in and understanding of Chinese history and culture as well as broadening their global outlook by enlivening classroom resources for learning and teaching and providing students with rich learning experiences. (EDB)
- Consolidating the experiences and results of the Pilot Project on Strengthening Schools' Administration Management and, continuing to disseminate good practices through various channels with a view to benefiting other public sector schools and teachers by providing them with support. (EDB)
- Providing principals and teachers with structured training on curriculum and management, keeping them abreast of the latest development of the New Academic Structure. (EDB)

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- Fully implementing the Fourth IT in Education Strategy starting from the 2015/16 school year. The major measure is to upgrade the Wi-Fi infrastructure in some 1 000 public sector schools across Hong Kong to facilitate e-learning through the use of mobile learning devices. As at the first term of the 2015/16 school year, about half of the eligible schools have completed the enhancement process, while the works for the remaining 500 schools will commence in the next two school years as scheduled. Furthermore, other related measures such as establishing centres of excellence for schools to share experience, revising curricula, providing training for school leaders and teachers and increasing the supply of e-learning resources have also commenced. (EDB)
 - Creating an environment conducive to language learning through a wide range of initiatives planned and undertaken by the Standing Committee on Language Education and Research as scheduled, such as enhancing the teaching of English, conducting a study on the learning of Chinese by ethnic minorities, providing support for young children in learning Chinese and English, and offering Vocational Chinese Language courses to ethnic minority school leavers. The aim is to promote biliteracy and trilingualism and enhance the language standards of our students to meet the changing needs of the community. (EDB)

- Providing secondary schools with support and strengthening professional training for teachers to promote life planning education and related guidance services. We will continue to deepen the co-operation between schools and the business sector and related organisations by encouraging more business organisations to form stronger partnership with schools in organising various career exploration activities in the triennium from the 2015/16 school year to help secondary students better understand the world of work and prepare themselves for further studies and employment in the future. We will also consolidate the key elements of effective practices to facilitate the setting up of a platform for showcasing exemplars of business-school partnership and sharing successful experience. (EDB)
- Continuing to provide more Mainland exchange opportunities for primary and secondary students through a variety of strategies. Apart from reinforcing and consolidating students' classroom learnings and deepening their understanding of the relationship between our country and Hong Kong, the exchanges enable students to gain first-hand experience of our country's development in aspects of history, culture and economics from multiple perspectives. (EDB)
- Providing designated funding and professional support for local public sector or Direct Subsidy Scheme primary and secondary schools as well as special schools that have formed sister schools with the Mainland under the three-year pilot scheme launched in the 2015/16 school year. The scheme will serve the purpose of further promoting professional exchanges and enhancing the breadth and depth of co-operation between local and Mainland sister schools. (EDB)

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- Further enhancing the ratio of graduate teacher posts in public sector primary schools to 60% and 65% in the 2016/17 and 2017/18 school years respectively upon increasing such ratio from 50% to 55% in the 2015/16 school year. The aim is to attract more talent to join the teaching force of primary education so as to enhance the quality of teaching. (EDB)

Post-secondary Education

- Increasing progressively senior year intake places of institutions funded by the University Grants Committee (UGC) to 5 000 per annum by the 2018/19 academic year. (EDB)
- Supporting UGC's initiatives to strengthen the internationalisation efforts of UGC-funded institutions, such as funding student-initiated projects that encourage multi-cultural integration. (EDB)
- Providing funding support for VTC's Industrial Attachment Programme for students so as to enhance their employability and prepare them for a smooth transition from study to work. (EDB)
- Supporting the quality and sustainable development of the self-financing post-secondary education sector through a package of support measures. The measures which have been implemented so far include:
 - 11 sites and six vacant school premises were allocated under the Land Grant Scheme. In 2013, the scheme was modified to cover self-financing institutions offering part-time locally-accredited post-secondary programmes and make available vacant government premises to be leased out at nominal rent under the scheme;

- 39 loans amounting to about \$7.3 billion were granted under the Start-up Loan Scheme. The ambit of the scheme was expanded in 2012 to provide financial support for self-financing degree awarding institutions to develop student hostels; and
 - The Self-financing Post-secondary Education Fund, with total injections of \$3.52 billion, will continue to provide scholarships and awards and enhance the quality of teaching and learning in the sector. (EDB)
- Providing over 9 000 scholarships and awards for post-secondary students under the Government Scholarship Fund and the Self-financing Post-secondary Education Fund in the 2014/15 academic year. (EDB)
- Implementing incremental steps to enhance the quality assurance mechanism of post-secondary education, and overseeing the implementation of periodic external quality audits of sub-degree operations of UGC-funded institutions by a newly formed working group. (EDB)
- Continuing to implement measures and relevant arrangements to facilitate Hong Kong's development into a regional education hub to attract and retain non-local students. These include relaxing employment and immigration restrictions for non-local students of locally-accredited local programmes, as well as implementing the PhD Fellowship Scheme and Targeted Scholarship Scheme for outstanding local and non-local students. (EDB)

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- Implementing the Study Subsidy Scheme for Designated Professions/Sectors starting from the 2015/16 academic year to subsidise about 1 000 students per cohort to pursue self-financing undergraduate programmes in selected disciplines to meet Hong Kong's manpower needs. The scheme will benefit three cohorts of students, and is being reviewed on its effectiveness. (EDB in collaboration with relevant bureaux)
 - Implementing the Hong Kong Scholarship for Excellence Scheme to support up to 100 outstanding students per cohort to pursue undergraduate and postgraduate studies in renowned universities outside Hong Kong with effect from the 2015/16 academic year to help nurture a diversified pool of top talent to propel Hong Kong's development. The scheme will benefit three cohorts of students, and will then be subject to a review of its effectiveness. As at mid December 2015, a total of 92 students were selected as the first cohort of awardees. (EDB)

Qualifications Framework

- Providing a steady source of income through the Qualifications Framework (QF) Fund, which was established by the Government on 1 September 2014 with a financial commitment of \$1 billion, to support the sustainable development and implementation of the QF, benefiting various stakeholders such as students, practitioners, employers, education and training providers as well as quality assurance bodies. (EDB)

Vocational Training and Manpower Development

(a) On-the-job Training

- Funding the VTC to implement the traineeship scheme in services industries such as beauty care and hairdressing, aiming to provide young people aged 15 or above with in-service training and relevant vocational education. (LWB)

(b) International Culinary Institute

- Developing the International Culinary Institute under the VTC as a centre of excellence in international cuisine. The institute aims at enhancing Hong Kong's status as Gourmets' Paradise and regional education hub, and improving education opportunities for young people. (EDB)

(c) Manpower Development for the Construction Industry

- Continuing to collaborate with the Construction Industry Council and other key stakeholders to monitor the manpower situation in the construction industry and implement measures to meet the industry's manpower demand in the future. (DEVB)
- Working closely with the Construction Industry Council to facilitate registration of construction workers and implementation of prohibition in phases in order to fully launch the construction workers registration scheme. (DEVB)
- Facilitating local construction workers to find jobs and employers of the industry to recruit workers through the newly established Construction Industry Recruitment Centre. (LWB/DEVB)

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- Continuing with the further enhancement measures introduced in May 2015 to increase the flexibility in deploying imported workers for public sector works contracts so as to achieve a more effective utilisation of the productivity of the workers. (LWB/DEVB)

(d) Manpower Development for the Welfare Sector

- Training additional enrolled nurses and allied health professionals for the welfare sector. (LWB)

(e) Manpower Development for the Retail Industry

- Implementing a series of measures on vocational education and training, employment support, promotion etc. with a view to supporting manpower development of the retail industry. (CEDB)

Supporting the Family

- Working with the Family Council to ensure that family perspectives are duly considered in the policy-making process. We will commission a study to review the effectiveness of the assessment framework, and organise training and experience sharing activities for civil servants. (HAB)
- Working with the Family Council to:
 - advocate a pro-family environment and further promote family core values of “Love and Care”, “Respect and Responsibility” and “Communication and Harmony” as well as the positive messages and values on family formation to encourage the community to attach importance to the family; and

- foster a culture of loving families. (HAB)
- Introducing family education packages through the Family Council to:
 - address the needs of different types of families; and
 - further promote family education at the district level in collaboration with relevant bureaux/departments. (HAB)
- Riding on the success of the first two rounds of Family-Friendly Employers Award Scheme (Award Scheme), the Home Affairs Bureau and the Family Council will launch the third Award Scheme to continue to promote family-friendly employment practices in the community in 2015-16. (HAB)

Women's Interests

- Providing support for the Women's Commission in promoting the interests and well-being of women through:
 - provision of an enabling environment;
 - empowerment of women, including implementing the Capacity Building Mileage Programme; and
 - public education. (LWB)
- Continuing to apply gender mainstreaming in major policies and initiatives across the board, and working with the Women's Commission to further promote gender mainstreaming. (LWB)

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- Continuing to enhance women's participation in the work of government advisory and statutory bodies. (LWB)

Employees' Welfare

- Supporting the Minimum Wage Commission in its review of the Statutory Minimum Wage rate. (LWB)

Occupational Safety and Health

- Continuing with the publicity, education and enforcement efforts, including prevention of accidents owing to systemic deficiencies by containing work risks at source, to promote the occupational safety and health of construction workers in view of booming development of new works projects and building renovation and maintenance works. (LWB)
- Continuing to launch large-scale promotional programmes to raise the standard of occupational safety and health in sectors such as the construction industry and food and beverage services sector and the awareness of relevant stakeholders. (LWB)

Chapter 7

Youth, Sport, Arts and Culture

Preamble

Young people are precious assets of our society and our future. Our youth development policy will focus on creating opportunities for them and helping them realise their potential, so that they may bring what they have learnt into play and seek advancement. We will continue to partner with relevant NGOs to foster a culture of multi-faceted excellence and offer multiple avenues for young people to pursue their studies, career and interests.

Engaging the Commission on Youth, uniformed groups and NGOs, we aim to enhance our networking with young people, and help them develop positive values and find their own direction and position.

The Government's policy for developing sport in Hong Kong is threefold — to promote sport in the community, to support elite sport, and to maintain Hong Kong as a centre for major international sports events. Underlying this policy is the view that participation in sport contributes significantly to good physical and psychological health, and provides a basis for social interaction and promoting a sense of belonging to the community.

On culture and art, our vision is to develop Hong Kong into an international cultural metropolis with a distinct identity grounded in Chinese traditions and enriched by different cultures. We provide opportunities for wide participation in culture and art, and offer

chances to those with potentials to develop their artistic talents. We support the preservation and promotion of our traditional cultures (including intangible cultural heritage) while encouraging artistic creation and innovation, developing Hong Kong into a prominent hub of cultural exchanges. We will continue to strengthen our cultural software to tie in with the development of the West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD).

New Initiatives

We will:

Youth Development

- Strengthen the dialogue between the Government and young people through additional communication channels, and encourage their participation in public affairs, including the work of government advisory and statutory bodies. (HAB)
- Launch the Youth Development Fund to support NGOs, in the form of matching funds, in helping young people start their own business, and to support NGOs in organising innovative youth development activities not covered by existing schemes. (HAB)
- Organise an integrated online-offline programme to engage primary, secondary and tertiary students in multimedia productions (e.g. campus TV programmes, web videos, e-games, advertisements etc.) to help promote probity messages, including integrity, honesty, fairness, law compliance and self-discipline. (ICAC)
- Set up a youth chapter under the ICAC Club to further enhance the engagement of young people in the anti-corruption cause through participation in ICAC activities or voluntary work. (ICAC)

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- Establish a Junior Police Call Permanent Activity Centre-cum-Integrated Youth Training Camp at Pat Heung under the Police, providing discipline, physical and team-building training for the youth. The Police will also increase the number of school liaison officers at district level. (SB)

Supporting Art Groups

- Launch a \$300 million Art Development Matching Grants Pilot Scheme, under which the amount of private donation and sponsorship secured by eligible local art groups will be matched by grants. It will encourage different sectors of the community to sponsor local art and cultural activities, and help sustain the development of the cultural industry, jazzing up the cultural aura of the city. (HAB)

Promoting Cultural Exchange

- Deploy dedicated staff to the Beijing Office to enhance promotion of cultural exchange and co-operation. (HAB/CMAB)

Civic Affairs

- Launch a territory-wide and large-scale corruption prevention programme to enhance Hong Kong's probity culture by engaging people from different walks of life in a host of community involvement programmes, including slogan design competition, district activities, exhibitions and online-offline activities. (ICAC)

Recreational, Sports and Cultural Facilities

- Implement a pilot scheme to establish angling zones and ancillary facilities in suitable venues under the management of the LCSD to provide the public with a pleasant environment for angling activities. (HAB)
- Provide on a trial basis three self-service library units, one each on Hong Kong Island, in Kowloon and in the New Territories, at locations with heavier pedestrian flow and far from existing libraries. The self-service units will provide round-the-clock services such as borrowing, return, payment and pickup of reserved library materials. (HAB)

Supporting Athletes

- Set up a support platform to provide retired athletes with opportunities to assist in the organisation of sports programmes in schools or support the management of national sports associations, with the aim of facilitating their career planning and laying a good foundation for future development. (HAB)

On-going Initiatives

We are:

Youth Development

- Continuing to expand the Mainland and overseas youth exchange and internship schemes to provide more opportunities for young people to broaden their horizons. (HAB)
- Enhancing communication with young people through district networks, including organising more exchange activities, to encourage their participation in community affairs. (HAB)
- Continuing to provide under the Service Corps programme more opportunities for young people to serve in underprivileged areas in the Mainland. (HAB)
- Continuing to implement the Youth Hostel Scheme. Subject to the progress of various projects, funding approval of the LegCo Finance Committee will be sought in 2016 for taking forward the three projects at Sheung Wan, Tai Po and Yuen Long, and maintaining close liaison with interested NGOs to help them launch new projects as soon as practicable. (HAB)
- Continuing to promote the culture of multi-faceted excellence by implementing the Multi-faceted Excellence Scholarship to fund additional undergraduate places for Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education graduates who excel in sport, art and music as well as community service. (HAB)

- Continuing to take forward the Funding Scheme for Youth Life Planning Activities to support the collaboration between NGOs and secondary schools in organising projects to help students and their parents/teachers better understand life planning and multiple pathways. (HAB)
- Continuing to enhance the promotion of the Working Holiday Scheme between Hong Kong and other economies, and explore the signing of Working Holiday Scheme arrangements with more economies so that more of our young people can enrich their global exposure. (LWB)
- Expanding the Cadet Corps of Auxiliary Medical Service with a view to strengthening youth training in respect of leadership, discipline and team building. (SB)
- Providing recurrent subvention to 11 youth uniformed groups and two NGOs to support their continual provision of diversified development platforms for young people. (HAB)

Youth Volunteers

- Continuing to implement the Hong Kong-United Nations Youth Volunteers Programme with the United Nations Volunteers. (HAB)
- Continuing to encourage young people's participation in voluntary services in Hong Kong and the Mainland. (HAB)

Increasing Sports Facilities

- Continuing to take forward the planning of the Multi-purpose Sports Complex at Kai Tak, carry out relevant pre-construction works and engage the sports community and other stakeholders. (HAB)

Promoting Sport

- Promoting sport in the community by:
 - working with DCs and national sports associations to introduce more sports programmes to suit the needs of people of different age groups and physical fitness levels;
 - liaising with the business sector to sponsor the free attendance of more underprivileged groups at major sports events;
 - strengthening the promotion of major sports events to encourage more spectator participation and promote Hong Kong as a centre of international events;
 - helping national sports associations implement effective feeder systems for early identification of potential elite athletes; and
 - organising events such as the “Sports For All Day” to promote regular and continued participation in sport. (HAB)
- Continuing to implement the Pilot Scheme for Student Athlete Support to provide more opportunities for students from lower income families to take part in sports programmes at school. (HAB)

- Supporting the long-term development of football by providing funding for the Hong Kong Football Association for the implementation of its five-year strategic plan. (HAB)

Supporting Elite Athletes

- Supporting the strategic growth of the Hong Kong Sports Institute as a world-class institution to provide elite athletes with training and all-round support. (HAB)
- Providing support on various fronts for our elite athletes in their preparation for the 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games and other major international sports events. (HAB)

Civic Affairs

- Working with the Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education to promote civic education outside schools with emphasis on “Respect the Rule of Law, Embrace Different Voices”. For greater social harmony, we urge mutual respect and communication as well as tolerance towards people from diverse cultural backgrounds with different views and perspectives. We also promote the core civic values of upholding the rule of law. (HAB)
- Working with the Commission on Youth, the Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education and youth uniformed groups to provide young people with appropriate non-formal education and training. Making use of the Youth Square and the Civic Education Resource Centre to enhance the promotion of youth development and civic education outside schools, including the civic and social participation of young people and national education. (HAB)

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- Working with the Ping Wo Fund Advisory Committee and stakeholders to mount a dedicated publicity campaign against gambling problems. (HAB)
 - Continuing to review the Chinese Temples Ordinance, and will take into account the public views in proposing amendments to the ordinance so as to cater for the prevailing circumstances of Chinese temples and their management needs. (HAB)

Supporting Art Groups

- Providing funding and other support for the major performing arts groups to:
 - stage quality performing arts programmes for the community; and
 - exhibit the unique cultural and artistic landscape of Hong Kong through (i) promoting art education and audience building, (ii) supporting and nurturing local talent and art groups, (iii) fostering artistic creation and innovation to enhance the development of performing arts in Hong Kong, and (iv) organising cultural exchange activities overseas and in the Mainland. (HAB)
- Supporting small and medium performing arts groups by:
 - engaging them in the programmes and activities of the LCSD, including (i) year-round cultural presentations, arts festivals and other performing arts programmes, (ii) audience building and art education activities as well as (iii) the Venue Partnership Scheme;

- presenting and promoting their productions in both LCSD and non-LCSD venues; and
 - sponsoring their performances through the provision of free venues, ticketing services, publicity support and/or programme fees. (HAB)
- Providing policy and funding support for the Hong Kong Arts Development Council (HKADC) to support its work in promoting art development in Hong Kong, including development and provision of art space, and providing funding and other types of support to small and medium art groups. (HAB)
 - Continuing to implement the Arts Capacity Development Funding Scheme to support larger scale and cross-year art and cultural initiatives/projects, and to encourage the community and private sector to sponsor culture and arts. (HAB)

Opening up Art Space

- Supporting the Tai Po District Council and the HKADC to convert the premises of a vacant school in Tai Po into an art centre to provide space for art development. (HAB)
- Reserving a certain portion of floor area in the future development at a site in Aberdeen to provide space for the HKADC to support art development. (HAB)

Grooming Art Talent

- Enhancing measures to strengthen the training and development of art administrators, curators and stage technicians over five years since 2013-14. These include attachment/internship opportunities for young people and scholarships for art professionals to attend training programmes offered by overseas, Mainland and local organisations. (HAB)
- Promoting the work of young and talented art practitioners to overseas, Mainland and local communities through:
 - various performing and visual arts programmes organised by the LCSD; and
 - acquisition and commissioning of local artists' artworks by the LCSD. (HAB)
- Providing funding and policy support for the HKADC to groom local artists practising various art forms by implementing a variety of training and internship schemes. (HAB)

Promoting Art and Cultural Programmes

- Promoting knowledge and appreciation of various art forms through audience building, art education and public art projects organised by the LCSD, the HKADC and other art organisations funded by the Government. (HAB)

- At the district level, (i) lining up quality cultural programmes to support district art festivals, and (ii) launching specially curated entertainment programmes, community cultural events, student performances etc. through the LCSD for audience building and art education. (HAB)

Cultural Facilities, Museums and Libraries

- Continuing to launch major exhibitions and extended educational activities at public museums, and renew their permanent exhibitions for audience building. (HAB)
- Planning and building new cultural facilities to meet community needs, including construction of the East Kowloon Cultural Centre in Ngau Tau Kok, which is scheduled for completion by the end of 2020. (HAB)
- Expanding and renovating the Hong Kong Museum of Art to provide additional gallery space for displaying the works of local and international artists. (HAB)
- Planning and enhancing library facilities and services to meet community needs, and continuing to develop on-line library services for use by the public at any time and place. (HAB)

Intangible Cultural Heritage

- Continuing to enhance the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage by strengthening various aspects of work, including the identification, documentation, research, preservation, promotion and transmission of such heritage. We will select items of high cultural value and urgent need for preservation from the Hong Kong's intangible cultural heritage inventory for more in-depth study and draw up the representative list of the intangible cultural heritage for Hong Kong. (HAB)
- Promoting knowledge and appreciation of China's intangible cultural heritage through on-going exhibitions and performances organised in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture. (HAB)

West Kowloon Cultural District

- Monitoring the development of art and cultural facilities in WKCD by the WKCD Authority, including:
 - monitoring the planning, design and construction processes and progress for the facilities in WKCD;
 - co-ordinating interface issues of WKCD with the integrated basement, public infrastructure and community facility projects in the vicinity; and
 - co-ordinating the interface between venues in WKCD and other art and cultural venues managed by the Government and its collaborators. (HAB)

- Working closely with the WKCD Authority to enrich people's cultural life through:
 - organising a variety of quality art and cultural programmes to nurture local talent and build audience; and
 - broadening Hong Kong's exchanges with other places in contemporary art, performing arts and visual culture. (HAB)

Chapter 8

Rule of Law, Governance, Elections and District Administration

Preamble

The rule of law is vital for safeguarding our rights and freedoms. It is also instrumental in promoting our long-term development as an international financial and commercial centre. We will continue to perfect our legal system and enhance our legal infrastructure to ensure that justice is upheld.

Law and order is the cornerstone of a stable society. Our disciplined services are firmly committed to maintaining Hong Kong as one of the safest cities in the world. We also provide quality emergency rescue services to protect the life and property of our people.

We will continue to take forward the concept of “addressing district issues at the local level and capitalising on local opportunities” in strengthening district administration. We have strengthened the support for DCs to help them play an enhanced role in resolving district issues, participating in the management of some district facilities, and implementing District Minor Works Programme and community involvement activities.

We will engage the public, including the LegCo and DCs, as early as practicable in the planning and implementation of government policies and programmes as appropriate.

An effective government relies heavily on a professional and dedicated civil service. Our civil servants will stay committed to serving the community with tenacity and passion.

We will strive to implement citizen-centric e-Government services to provide quality services that benefit the public.

New Initiatives

We will:

District Administration

- In the light of the success of the District Administration Pilot Scheme in Sham Shui Po and Yuen Long districts, we will extend the scheme to all the 18 districts and rename it “District-led Actions Scheme”. The District Management Committees and DCs in the 18 districts will discuss the projects to be implemented under the scheme in the new term of DCs. (HAB)

Public Elections

- Introduce to the LegCo the legislative amendments required to finalise the arrangements for the 2016 Election Committee Subsector Elections and the 2017 Chief Executive Election. (CMAB)
- Work closely with the Electoral Affairs Commission to ensure that the 2016 LegCo Election, the 2016 Election Committee Subsector Elections and the 2017 Chief Executive Election will be conducted in a fair, open and honest manner in accordance with the relevant legislation. (CMAB)

Enhancing e-Government Services

- Enhance online government services by fully digitising the process of online submission of government forms to provide more user-friendly e-Government services for the public while enhancing the operational efficiency of government departments. (ITB)

Maintaining a Professional and Dedicated Civil Service

- Set up the sixth Families Clinic and enhance specialised dental services for civil service eligible persons. (CSB)
- Increase the number of awards under the Secretary for the Civil Service's Commendation Award Scheme. (CSB)

Maintaining Law and Order

- Conduct a comprehensive review of the strategy of handling non-refoulement claims and strive to enhance the capacity of the unified screening mechanism for addressing the issue of a large number of illegal immigrants who resist removal from Hong Kong by lodging a claim. (SB)

Legal Aid and Legal Advice Services

- Increase the fees payable to private solicitors and counsel undertaking criminal litigation work on behalf of the Legal Aid Department, with a view to attracting more legal professionals to provide legal representation for criminal legal aid cases and enhancing the quality of criminal law professionals in Hong Kong. (HAB)
- Regularise the Pilot Scheme to Provide Legal Advice for Litigants in Person and retitle it as the Legal Advice Scheme for Unrepresented Litigants on Civil Procedures to assist unrepresented litigants in the proper handling of relevant proceedings and maintain the smooth operation of judicial procedures. (HAB)

On-going Initiatives

We are:

Working with the Legislative Council

- Continuing to work closely with the LegCo in the formulation of government policies and programmes. (All bureaux)
- Continuing to draw up the Government's legislative programme and monitor its progress. (CSO)

District Administration

- Continuing to work with the 18 DCs in implementing signature projects. (HAB)
- Increasing progressively the provisions for the District Minor Works Programme to \$400 million per annum over the current term of DCs. The increased resources will cover the capital expenditures as well as recurrent expenditures for the management and maintenance of the completed facilities. (HAB)
- Continuing to take forward the action plan of the Summit on District Administration to enhance district administration. (HAB)
- Continuing to provide funds for DCs to implement community involvement activities, and providing an additional annual funding of \$20.8 million from 2015-16 to 2019-20 to further support DCs in promoting arts and cultural activities in the districts. (HAB)

- Continuing to facilitate communication between DCs and the Government through participation of relevant Heads of Departments in DC meetings or briefings for DC members on government policies. (HAB)
- Enhancing remuneration packages for DC members, which include increasing their honorarium by 15% in real terms, and providing each DC member with a new provision of \$10,000 per term to cover expenses for duty visits. (HAB)
- Strengthening the manpower of District Offices as appropriate to further enhance the district co-ordination work of District Officers. (HAB)

Promoting the Basic Law

- Continuing with our work on the active promotion of the Basic Law. We will make use of different channels to allow the public to have a more comprehensive and thorough understanding of the “One Country, Two Systems” policy and the Basic Law. (CMAB)

Public Elections

- Strengthening publicity and checking efforts on voter registration to tie in with the 2016 LegCo Election and 2016 Election Committee Subsector Elections. Efforts are made to:
 - encourage eligible persons to register as electors; and
 - remind electors of their civic responsibility of (i) providing accurate information for registration, and (ii) updating their registration particulars in a timely manner. (CMAB)

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- Implement measures to enhance the voter registration system having regard to the results of public consultation. (CMAB)

Improving the Legal System and Enhancing Legal Infrastructure

- Improving the quality and efficiency of legal services, including advisory work and preparation and presentation of criminal cases, as well as raising the standards of advocacy through the provision of comprehensive training programmes for prosecutors and better use of resources. (DoJ)
- Enhancing the capability and effectiveness of the prosecution work in the conduct of criminal proceedings. (DoJ)
- Enhancing the quality of criminal justice by promoting transparency in public prosecutions, improving accountability to the community, and studying possible areas of the criminal law that may require reform. (DoJ)
- Promoting co-operation among prosecutors at regional and international levels through active participation in international prosecuting organisations. (DoJ)
- Continuing with the annual “Prosecution Week” event and “Meet the Community” programme to further enhance public understanding (in particular that of young people) of the criminal justice system, their role therein and their appreciation of the importance of the rule of law, through activities such as visits, talks, mock court and different types of competitions. (DoJ)

- Furthering the work on the establishment of an electronic database of Hong Kong legislation with legal status. We are implementing the Legislation Publication Ordinance in stages. (DoJ)
- Enhancing the quality of legislative drafting services by providing on-the-job training and professional development programmes for drafters, and by fostering their contact and exchange with local and overseas experts. (DoJ)

Law Reform Proposals

- Supporting the cross-sectoral Working Group on Class Actions in considering the Law Reform Commission's proposals on "Class Actions". (DoJ)
- Conducting a public consultation on a bill to implement the Law Reform Commission's recommendations on Enduring Powers of Attorney with regard to personal care. The proposed bill aims to extend the scope of an enduring power of attorney beyond the donor's property and financial affairs to include matters relating to the donor's personal care when the donor becomes mentally incapacitated. (DoJ)
- Conducting a public consultation on a bill to implement the Law Reform Commission's recommendations made in the report on Criteria for Service as Jurors. The proposed bill aims to ensure that the criteria for appointment to and exemption from jury services are set out clearly and precisely and are appropriate to present-day circumstances. (DoJ)

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- Conducting a consultation on a bill to implement the Law Reform Commission's recommendations made in the report on Hearsay in Criminal Proceedings. The proposed bill aims mainly to reform the existing rule that hearsay evidence is generally inadmissible in criminal proceedings by giving the courts the discretionary power to admit hearsay evidence in criminal proceedings if the statutory "necessity" and "threshold reliability" criteria are satisfied. (DoJ)
 - Assisting the high level Inter-departmental Working Group on Gender Recognition, chaired by the Secretary for Justice, in undertaking a detailed study on possible legislation to deal with various aspects of gender recognition in the light of the observations made in the judgement of the Court of Final Appeal in the *W Case* (FACV 4/2012), and in conducting a public consultation on the first part of the study. (DoJ)

Human Rights

- Promoting a culture of diversity, tolerance and mutual respect in the community. Regarding the recommended strategies and measures put forward by the Advisory Group on Eliminating Discrimination Against Sexual Minorities to the Government, we will closely liaise with different stakeholders and consider how the recommendations should be followed up. (CMAB)
- Promoting children's rights through the Children's Rights Education Funding Scheme and the Children's Rights Forum etc. (CMAB)

Legal Aid and Legal Advice Services

- Enhancing access to legal aid and free legal advice services to benefit more people who cannot afford private legal fees. (HAB)

Maintaining Law and Order

- Sustaining the anti-drug momentum through a five-pronged strategy of preventive education and publicity, treatment and rehabilitation, legislation and enforcement, external co-operation and research. Major initiatives include:
 - continuing with the efforts against youth drug abuse to strengthen the resistance of young people and working youths against the temptation of drugs, including promoting the implementation of the Healthy School Programme with a drug testing component in secondary schools;
 - encouraging people with drug problems to seek help early, promoting community and parental awareness and mobilising support of different sectors to facilitate early identification and intervention to tackle the hidden drug abuse problem;
 - encouraging the development of various drug treatment and rehabilitation programmes to meet the challenges of the evolving drug scene as well as the treatment and rehabilitation needs of different drug abusers in a more holistic manner; and
 - continuing with rigorous law enforcement action and bringing new types of drugs under statutory control where appropriate. (SB)

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- Promoting the establishment of a reporting system on the physical cross-boundary transportation of large quantities of currency and bearer negotiable instruments, pursuant to a recommendation of the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering and in view of public consultation results. (SB)
 - Continuing with the Sexual Conviction Record Check Scheme to step up protection of children and mentally incapacitated persons against sexual assault. (SB)
 - Seeking short-term and long-term solutions to improve ageing penal facilities. (SB)
 - Delivering rehabilitation programmes which match the needs of persons in custody, and organising market-oriented vocational programmes to increase their employability. (SB)
 - Continuing to discuss with the Mainland and other jurisdictions on bilateral co-operation relating to transfer of sentenced persons. (SB)

Emergency Support

- Enhancing emergency ambulance service and educating the public on the proper use of the service. (SB)
- Continuing to implement effective measures to assist our residents in distress outside Hong Kong. These include:
 - a three-colour Outbound Travel Alert system;
 - services of the Assistance to Hong Kong Residents Unit of the Immigration Department; and

- relevant contingency and notification mechanism. (SB)

Public Finance

- Implementing measures to cope with population ageing and the Government's other long-term commitments, including setting up the Future Fund and making further injection to the Housing Reserve. (FSTB)

Strengthening Anti-corruption Efforts

- Launching the "Support Clean Elections" programme comprising a series of education and publicity activities to uphold integrity and fairness in public elections, including the LegCo election in 2016 and the Chief Executive election in 2017. Resources will continue to be dedicated to providing the authorities concerned with corruption prevention advice on the scrutiny and formulation of new electoral legislation, procedures and guidelines, and providing the organisations representative of the LegCo functional constituencies with similar advice on their membership administration systems. (ICAC)

Maintaining a Professional and Dedicated Civil Service

- Giving due consideration to additional manpower needs where justified for delivering effective services to the public. (CSB)
- Providing training programmes to boost the innovation and drive of civil servants and to foster a learning culture in the civil service. (CSB)

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- Providing national studies and Basic Law training in a systematic manner, which takes into account the needs of civil servants of different levels and work nature. (CSB)
 - Maintaining a rigorous, effective and efficient disciplinary system against misconduct in the civil service, as well as sustaining efforts to further improve efficiency and productivity in the civil service. (CSB)
 - Fostering close partnership with the civil service, enhancing communication with the staff sides and encouraging fuller use of various commendation schemes to recognise and motivate exemplary performance. (CSB)
 - Carrying out the 2015 Starting Salaries Survey and the 2016 Pay Trend Survey in accordance with the Improved Civil Service Pay Adjustment Mechanism so as to maintain broad comparability between civil service pay and private sector pay. (CSB)
 - Enhancing the provision of medical and dental benefits for civil service eligible persons. (CSB)
 - Expediting the departmental quarters construction projects for six disciplined forces. (SB)

e-Government

- Continuing to enhance and deliver more e-Government services on the Government Cloud Platform. (ITB)

- Upholding the Government's information security policies and practices by stepping up compliance checks on bureaux and departments, updating security best practices with reference to international standards, conducting health checks on web services and drills on information security incidents, and developing a strong information security culture in the Government. (ITB)
- Continuing to release free online government information in digital formats by various government departments to facilitate re-use of public sector information for the development of more innovative applications. (ITB)
- Revamping the layout of the GovHK portal and adopting a responsive web design to facilitate smooth public access to government information and use of e-Government services by different devices. (ITB)
- Building a government data centre complex to meet the demands of bureaux and departments for long-term IT development and data centre services. (ITB)

Government Records Management

- Ensuring proper records management in the Government, facilitating public access to archival records and promoting electronic records management in bureaux and departments progressively. (CSO)

Abbreviations

AIIB	Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
BSAP	Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
CCF	Community Care Fund
CEDB	Commerce and Economic Development Bureau
CEF	Continuing Education Fund
CEPA	Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement
CMAB	Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
CNERC(s)	Chinese National Engineering Research Centre(s)
CoP	Commission on Poverty
CSB	Civil Service Bureau
CSO	Chief Secretary's Office
CSSA	Comprehensive Social Security Assistance
DC(s)	District Council(s)
DEVB	Development Bureau
DH	Department of Health

DoJ	Department of Justice
EDB	Education Bureau
ENB	Environment Bureau
ERB	Employees Retraining Board
ETO	Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office
FHB	Food and Health Bureau
FSTB	Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau
HA	Hospital Authority
HAB	Home Affairs Bureau
HKADC	Hong Kong Arts Development Council
HKSTPC	Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation
HOS	Home Ownership Scheme
ICAC	Independent Commission Against Corruption
ICT	information and communications technology
IEM	Inborn Errors of Metabolism
IT	information technology
ITB	Innovation and Technology Bureau

LCSD	Leisure and Cultural Services Department
LD	Labour Department
LegCo	Legislative Council
LIFA	Low-income Working Family Allowance
LWB	Labour and Welfare Bureau
MPF	Mandatory Provident Fund
MTRCL	MTR Corporation Limited
NCS	non-Chinese speaking
NGO(s)	non-governmental organisation(s)
OALA	Old Age Living Allowance
PRH	public rental housing
QF	Qualifications Framework
R&D	research and development
SB	Security Bureau
SCAs	Scheme of Control Agreements
SEN	special educational needs
SIE Fund	Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Fund

THB	Transport and Housing Bureau
UGC	University Grants Committee
VPET	vocational and professional education and training
VTC	Vocational Training Council
WKCD	West Kowloon Cultural District