

The 2017 Policy Address Policy Agenda

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Policy Agenda

Introduction

Over the past four years or so, Hong Kong has encountered many difficulties and experienced major social incidents. The Government also needs to address a number of deep-seated problems, but we are committed to a clear and firm direction. The Government must continue to work hand-in-hand with the community in building an economically vibrant, creative, harmonious and caring city with balanced development and quality living, so as to sustain Hong Kong's success story and lay a solid foundation for the future.

Through the determination and efforts of the entire Government, we have made major strides on a number of important subjects. To consolidate the economic foundation of Hong Kong, we established the Innovation and Technology Bureau to promote the development of innovation and technology, nurture smart production and high value-added industries with the aim of facilitating economic restructuring. At the same time, we capitalise on the opportunities brought by the National 13th Five-Year Plan and the Belt and Road Initiative to foster economic diversification and social development. The Government is engaging the public on the territorial development strategy "Hong Kong 2030+: Towards a Planning Vision and Strategy Transcending 2030" with a view to updating it. We are planning in phases the implementation of seven new railway schemes in accordance with the Railway Development Strategy 2014 to enhance public transport services. Also, to meet the public's housing aspirations, we are taking a multi-pronged approach to increasing the supply of land for housing, thereby ensuring the sustainable development of Hong Kong.

Improving people's livelihood and supporting the underprivileged is at the top agenda of the current-term Government. Through the work of the Commission on Poverty and making good use of public resources, we have launched a number of initiatives to render targeted assistance to the elderly, poor working families, persons with disabilities, women and other persons in need. The initiatives include the Old Age Living Allowance and Low-income Working Family Allowance. During this government term, the recurrent expenditure on social welfare has increased by 55%, which far exceeded the 32% rise in the overall recurrent government expenditure in the same period. The Government also injected an additional \$15 billion into the Community Care Fund to take forward more assistance programmes to plug the gaps in the system. Our efforts are delivering results. The poor population in 2015 remained below one million for the third consecutive year and the poverty rate of working families hit a record low since data became available in 2009. These are hard-earned achievements.

In response to the challenges arising from an ageing population and a shrinking workforce, the current-term Government has set up the Steering Committee on Population Policy to co-ordinate and implement measures to raise the quality of local talent, unleash the potential of the local labour force, attract talent from outside Hong Kong and actively develop Hong Kong into an age-friendly city, all aimed at supporting our future development. We have made long-term planning for improving public healthcare services by setting aside a dedicated provision of \$200 billion for pursuing a ten-year hospital development plan. In addition, the Government continued to invest heavily in education. Key measures include increasing the financial provision for pre-primary education to \$6.7 billion starting

in the 2017/18 school year for implementation of the free quality kindergarten education policy; improving the hardware and software of primary and secondary schools; stabilising the teaching force; providing diverse, high-quality post-secondary education as well as vocational and professional education and training; and promoting life planning education, with the aim of enabling our next generation to fully realise their potential.

The Government also strives to fulfil public aspirations for a more ideal living environment and quality living. We actively promote heritage and nature conservation, as well as greening activities. Besides, we are implementing various initiatives on air quality improvement, waste management, energy saving and biodiversity enhancement according to the objectives and plans set out in the four policy blueprints on environmental protection, whilst pressing ahead with our work on combating climate change. We also spare no effort in promoting the development of arts, culture and sports through the planning and construction of the territory's largest sports facility, Kai Tak Sports Park for hosting international and local events and for public use, and the development of the West Kowloon Cultural District for enriching people's cultural life.

In the past few years, we faced immense challenges and the society experienced huge divergence on certain issues. Nevertheless, it is the Government's duty to work tirelessly with the public to build a better society, as we share a common belief and objective to sustain economic development and improve people's livelihood. In the days to come, we hope to forge a more understanding and inclusive society. The Government is determined to joining hands with the public to continue to uphold our core values, viz the rule of law, and a free and clean society; and together endeavour to build a better Hong Kong.

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. We should also 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 sustain and broaden 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 various 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 through the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA). Meanwhile, in collaboration with our industry stakeholders, we will continue to actively promote high value-added logistics and maritime services, capitalising on the opportunities created by the Belt and Road Initiative 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 a centre for international legal and dispute resolution services in the Asia-Pacific region and the enhancement of our status in the international legal, dispute resolution and business arenas.

New Initiatives

We will:

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

- Amend the Arbitration Ordinance (Cap. 609) to make it clear that disputes over intellectual property rights (IPRs) are capable of resolution by arbitration and it would not be contrary to public policy to enforce an arbitral award solely because the award is in respect of a dispute which concerns IPRs. (DoJ)
- Amend the Arbitration Ordinance (Cap. 609) and the Mediation Ordinance (Cap. 620) to make it clear respectively that third party funding for arbitration and mediation is permitted under Hong Kong law. (DoJ)
- Introduce an Apology Bill within 2016-17, after two rounds of public consultation in June 2015 and February 2016 respectively on the proposal. The majority view from the two consultations is clearly in support of enacting apology legislation. (DoJ)
- Provide mediation facilities in the vicinity of the West Kowloon Law Courts Building to encourage the use of mediation by members of the public to resolve suitable Small Claims Tribunal cases and other appropriate types of disputes through a mediation scheme, with a view to promoting more extensive use of mediation to resolve disputes and enhancing public awareness of mediation as a means of dispute resolution. (DoJ)

International Maritime and Aviation Centre

- Step up the promotional efforts of Invest Hong Kong to support the Hong Kong Maritime and Port Board in attracting key overseas maritime enterprises to Hong Kong to further strengthen our maritime cluster. (THB)

Financial Services Sector

- Amend the relevant legislation to improve the existing regulatory regime for listed entity auditors in order to enhance the independence of the regime from the audit profession, thereby ensuring that the regime is benchmarked against international standards and practices and maintaining the confidence of investors in Hong Kong's overall financial regulatory regime with regard to the capital market. (FSTB)
- Prepare legislation for amending the Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorist Financing (Financial Institutions) Ordinance to prescribe statutory customer due diligence and record-keeping requirements applicable to designated non-financial businesses and professions; and the Companies Ordinance to require companies incorporated in Hong Kong to maintain a register of beneficial ownership for inspection by law enforcement agencies and the public, to ensure that the regulatory framework of Hong Kong is in line with the global standards set by the Financial Action Task Force. (FSTB)

Creative Industries

- Encourage crossover collaboration among different creative sectors and achieve synergy through unleashing the intellectual property potential of creative industries such as film, design, and animation and comics, so as to enable Hong Kong's creative industries move towards the direction of diversified and high value-added development. (CEDB)
- Collaborate with the film industry to organise a training programme, and review how best to enhance an overseas training scheme, with a view to providing our film talents with more local and overseas training opportunities. Trade delegations will also be organised to visit the Belt and Road region to promote Hong Kong's post-production and location filming and production facilitation services. (CEDB)

Hong Kong-Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Park

- Collaborate with Shenzhen to develop "Hong Kong-Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Park" in the Lok Ma Chau Loop Area. (ITB)

Promoting the Adoption of Innovation and Technology by the Government for Better Public Services

- Earmark \$500 million for the Innovation and Technology Bureau to assist government departments to use technology to enhance the quality of public services. (ITB)

Attracting Technology Talent and Fostering an Innovative Atmosphere

- Establish an “Inno Space” with the Hong Kong Productivity Council to promote the translation of innovative and technological ideas into industrial designs or products, nurture a start-up culture in Hong Kong and support “re-industrialisation”. (ITB)
- Support the construction by the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation (HKSTPC) of an “InnoCell” adjacent to the Science Park to provide residential units and ancillary facilities to staff of the incubatees and start-ups in the Science Park, or overseas and Mainland scientific research personnel who work for other companies in the Park, with a view to promoting talent interaction, knowledge sharing and joint development. (ITB)

Construction Industry

- Devise, promote and co-ordinate project cost control and related cost reduction initiatives through the Project Cost Management Office established in mid-2016, with a view to bringing down the high construction cost in Hong Kong. (DEVB)

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- Encourage innovation and apply technologies to enhance productivity of the local construction industry and support Construction Industry Council in establishing an innovation and technology application centre. The centre is expected to be in operation in the second half of this year, starting with collecting latest information on the local and overseas construction technologies to establish a knowledge hub, enhancing the productivity and safety performance of the construction industry. In the long run, the centre aims at establishing a global research network to promote interdisciplinary research and application on enhancement of productivity. (DEVB)
 - Keep up the robust development of Hong Kong's construction and related professional services over the past years facilitated by the CEPA measures for "Early and Pilot Implementation in Guangdong". According to the "Agreement on Trade in Services" signed under the CEPA framework in November 2015, most of the liberalisation measures implemented in Guangdong are extended to Guangxi and Fujian. The Development Bureau is discussing the specific implementation arrangements with the two provinces, aiming to come to conclusion in 2017. (DEVB)
 - Draw reference from the successful examples of Hong Kong's construction consultant companies participating in the country's foreign aid construction projects in Nepal and Cambodia, and continue to pursue with the Ministry of Commerce for provision of further opportunities for Hong Kong's consultant companies to take part in more and different types of construction projects, and expansion of their scope of work by allowing them to perform, in addition to supervision work, "full-range" Hong Kong-style services from project planning to completion. (DEVB)

Broadcasting and Telecommunications

- Conduct a public consultation on strengthening the regulation of person-to-person telemarketing calls and consider the way forward. (CEDB)

Supporting Hong Kong Residents and Enterprises in the Mainland

- Set up an Immigration Division under the Wuhan Economic and Trade Office to provide better support for Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland. (CMAB/SB)

Enhancing External Links

- Explore the establishment of new Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs) in other major trading entities to further expand the ETOs' network and strengthen promotion work outside Hong Kong. (CEDB)

On-going Initiatives

We are:

Economic Development Commission

- Supporting the work of the Economic Development Commission to continue to study ways to strengthen and broaden our economic base and to identify sectors which present opportunities for Hong Kong's further economic development. 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 design of the centre. (CEDB)

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

(a) National Five-Year Plan

- Continuing to steer and co-ordinate with policy bureaux and departments through the Steering Committee on Co-operation with the Mainland chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration to actively implement the development strategies related to Hong Kong in the Outline of the National 13th Five-Year Plan, with a view to consolidating and enhancing Hong Kong's competitive advantages and complementing the long-term development of the country. (CMAB)

(b) CEPA

- Seeking to enrich the content of CEPA, with a view to securing better access to the Mainland market for our businesses and promoting trade and investment between the two places. (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 liaise with the Guangdong Provincial Government as well as the municipal governments of Guangzhou, Zhuhai and Shenzhen under the principle of “one country, two systems” regarding their efforts in promoting the development of Nansha, Hengqin and Qianhai. (CMAB)
- Fostering 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)

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- 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)
 - Continuing to promote 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)
 - Setting up more liaison units to further strengthen the work of Mainland offices. (CMAB)
- (e) Encouraging Investment in Hong Kong
- Continuing to actively attract foreign enterprises (including those from the members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and other countries along the Belt and Road) to invest in Hong Kong and strengthen aftercare services to encourage those enterprises already established in Hong Kong to upgrade their presence; to encourage more Mainland enterprises to use Hong Kong as a platform to “go global”; and continuing to attract global start-ups to set up businesses in Hong Kong and promote Hong Kong as a leading hub for start-ups and entrepreneurship. (CEDB)

Economic and Trade Relations and Ties 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 ASEAN with a view to concluding the negotiation by early 2017, thereby securing for our businesses more favourable access to the relevant markets. (CEDB)
- Strengthening ties with ASEAN countries through the newly established ETO in Jakarta, and setting up an ETO in Seoul as soon as possible to enhance trade and cultural exchanges with Korea. (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)

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- Formulating and implementing strategies and policies for Hong Kong's participation in the Belt and Road Initiative under the direction of the Steering Committee for the Belt and Road chaired by the Chief Executive. The Commissioner for Belt and Road and the Belt and Road Office (BRO) under her commenced work on 1 August 2016. The Commissioner will continue to advise the Chief Executive and the Steering Committee and, together with the BRO, will continue to undertake related studies and liaise with relevant Mainland authorities, as well as various parties in Hong Kong and other places, with the view to further tapping the opportunities under the Initiative. (All relevant bureaux)

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

- With the recent establishment of the Joint Dispute Resolution Strategy Office to enhance the overall co-ordination of mediation and arbitration work etc. of the Department of Justice, further promoting Hong Kong's international 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)
- Promoting the use of evaluative mediation (in addition to facilitative mediation) for resolving intellectual property disputes. (DoJ)

- Enhancing co-operation with the Mainland authorities, the local legal profession, and arbitration and mediation institutions in Hong Kong to facilitate the provision of international 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 of 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 international legal and dispute resolution institutions (especially world-class institutions) to develop services or become established in Hong Kong. Relevant measures include providing such institutions with office space in the West Wing of the former Central Government Offices and the former French Mission Building. (DoJ)
- Enhancing the promotion of international legal and dispute resolution services of Hong Kong among emerging economies in the Asia-Pacific region through, among others, active participation in a sub-group on strengthening economic and legal infrastructure under the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation. (DoJ)

International Maritime and Aviation Centre

- Through the newly established Hong Kong Maritime and Port Board, strengthening the maritime cluster as well as fostering the growth of high value-added and professional maritime services to enhance Hong Kong's position as an international maritime centre. (THB)
- Continuing to actively assist the Airport Authority Hong Kong (AAHK) in implementing the three-runway system at the Hong Kong International Airport to meet the long-term air traffic demand of Hong Kong. The relevant reclamation works have already started in August 2016, and the entire three-runway system project is expected to be completed in approximately eight years. To ensure that the public and major stakeholders can more effectively participate in the implementation of the project, the Transport and Housing Bureau will continue to gauge their views on matters relating to the implementation of the project through the Aviation Development and Three-runway System Advisory Committee chaired by the Secretary for Transport and Housing. The Committee will also help the Government monitor the 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 trade and academia, with a view to supporting manpower development of the maritime and aviation industries. (THB)

- Supporting the establishment of a civil aviation academy (now known as Hong Kong International Aviation Academy) by the AAHK to nurture local and regional talents in the aviation sector. The establishment of the Academy is endorsed by the Working Group on Transportation under the Economic Development Commission and has made reference to the findings of a consultancy study commissioned by the Civil Aviation Department earlier. The Academy plans to launch its first batch of courses in April 2017. (THB)
- Progressively implementing port enhancement measures to maintain the competitiveness of Hong Kong Port, including provision of additional terminal yard space and barge berths in phases to increase the container handling capacity of the Kwai Tsing Container Terminals, and the better use of back-up land of the terminals. (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-sector 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 an important link between our country and countries along the Belt and Road by capitalising on the opportunities brought about by the National 13th Five-Year Plan as well as the Belt and Road Initiative. (FSTB)
- Completing the process of joining the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), striving to secure the AIIB's agreement to set up an office in Hong Kong and leveraging our status as an international financial centre and our capital markets to support the AIIB's operation. (FSTB)
- Reinforcing the status of Hong Kong as a global hub for offshore Renminbi business, deepening our financial co-operation with the Mainland and mutual financial market access between Hong Kong and Mainland, as well as enhancing our market infrastructure and financial platforms, with a view to strengthening our Renminbi business links with overseas markets 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. We will formulate rules on open-ended fund companies (OFCs) to set out the operational and procedural details so that the OFC regime can be implemented as soon as practicable to facilitate the setting up of investment funds. We will also continue to promote mutual recognition of funds arrangements. (FSTB)

(c) Enhancing Market Quality and Investor Confidence

- Assisting the newly established Insurance Authority in taking over in phases the existing functions of the Office of the Commissioner of Insurance, and implementing the licensing regime for insurance intermediaries. (FSTB)
- Preparing legislation for the establishment of a policy holders' protection scheme for protecting policy holders' interests and stabilising the market in the event of insurer insolvency. (FSTB)
- Introducing regulations on protected arrangements as subsidiary legislation under the Financial Institutions (Resolution) Ordinance enacted in June 2016 to enhance the regulatory mechanism so as to meet the latest international standards. (FSTB)
- Preparing legislation for the introduction of a statutory corporate rescue procedure and insolvent trading provisions to provide an option for companies in short-term financial difficulties to initiate the procedure with a view to reviving their business, instead of pursuing liquidation immediately to wind up the company. (FSTB)
- Working out the detailed proposals of a risk-based capital regime for the insurance industry and preparing to carry 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)
- Enforcing the new licensing conditions on money lender licences to tackle money lending-related malpractices for better protection of borrowers, and stepping up public education to raise public awareness of debt management. (FSTB)

Tourism

- Continuing with the work for establishing the Travel Industry Authority and implementing a new regulatory framework for the tourism sector. We will seek to introduce the bill to the Legislative Council within the current term of Government. (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)
- Taking forward the expansion projects of the Hong Kong Disneyland, including a new hotel with a theme dedicated to the spirit of exploration and other projects under its expansion and development plan, to maintain its attractiveness and competitiveness. (CEDB)

Creative Industries

- Continuing to encourage local film production activities and nurture local film talent through the Film Production Financing Scheme and the Film Production Grant Scheme under the Film Development Fund. (CEDB)

- Continuing to implement the First Feature Film Initiative to groom new filmmakers and their production teams. (CEDB)
- Implementing audience-building initiatives to promote film appreciation among students and young people, thereby fostering the development of the local film industry. (CEDB)
- Promoting 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 their film production activities in Hong Kong. (CEDB)
- Completing the policy study on requiring developers to include cinemas in their development projects as appropriate in the terms and conditions of the land lease, and drawing up relevant supporting arrangements. (CEDB)
- Continuing to implement the relevant recommendations of the Economic Development Commission by launching measures on a pilot basis to promote the development of the fashion industry. (CEDB)

Innovation and Technology Industries

(a) Promoting Research and Development (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 (ITF) as well as the R&D Centres, and encouraging universities funded by the University Grants Committee to conduct more midstream and translational research in focused technology areas through the newly established Midstream Research Programme for Universities under the ITF. (ITB)
- Continuing to promote collaboration with scientific research institutions in other places, including supporting 16 Partner State Key Laboratories and six Hong Kong branches of the Chinese National Engineering Research Centres to conduct R&D activities in a diverse range of disciplines. (ITB)

(b) Developing High Value-added and Technology Industries

- Working closely with the HKSTPC on the Science Park expansion project, and developing an Advanced Manufacturing Centre and a Data Technology Hub in Tseung Kwan O Industrial Estate to promote “re-industrialisation”. (ITB)
- Preparing for a feasibility study with HKSTPC on the location and planning for the long-term development of Science Park and Industrial Estates near Liantang/Heung Yuen Wai boundary control point. (ITB)

(c) Promoting Information and Communications Technology (ICT)

- Facilitating the development of the local ICT industry by:
 - enhancing collaboration and exchanges with the Mainland to explore business opportunities;
 - organising ICT awards to recognise and promote Hong Kong's ICT achievements; and
 - continuing to implement the Enriched IT Programme in Secondary Schools. (ITB)
- Organising the second Internet Economy Summit and the International IT Fest 2017 to showcase Hong Kong's developments and accomplishments as a regional ICT hub. (ITB)
- Promoting the incentive measures to encourage the conversion of industrial buildings and the development of high-tier data centre in industrial lots for data centre use, and continuing to provide support for interested enterprises to set up data centres in Hong Kong, with a view to promoting the development of the data centre sector. (ITB)
- 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)

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- 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)

(d) Digital Development and Smart City

- Continuing to develop public Wi-Fi services by progressively expanding the coverage of free Wi-Fi services to 34 000 hotspots through public-private sectors collaboration. The security of Wi-Fi services will be further enhanced. (ITB)
- Preparing to provide subsidies for non-profit-making organisations in offering free Wi-Fi at youth services centres and study rooms run by these organisations. (ITB)
- Conducting a consultancy study to facilitate the formulation of a long-term Smart City Development Blueprint for Hong Kong, and in the light of the study findings, consulting stakeholders on various pilot schemes and drawing up implementation proposals; and encouraging government departments to enhance public service through big data analytics and applications. (ITB)

(e) Supporting Technology Start-ups

- Launching the Innovation and Technology Venture Fund in 2017 to encourage venture capital funds to invest in local innovation and technology start-ups. (ITB)
- Following up Cyberport's planned consolidation of its incubation programme, the Cyberport Macro Fund, and Smart-Space small offices and workstation facilities for nurturing ICT start-ups. (ITB)

- Providing funding through the extended Public Sector Trial Scheme and Internship Programme for start-ups in the Science Park and Cyberport to conduct trials on their R&D outcomes in the public sector and to engage local university graduates as interns, with a view to further strengthening the local start-up ecosystem. (ITB)
- (f) Innovation and Technology and Living
- Launching the Innovation and Technology Fund for Better Living in 2017 to subsidise innovation and technology projects which will bring more convenient, more comfortable and safer living to the public or will address the needs of specific community groups. (ITB)
 - Providing funding under the newly established Technology Voucher Programme for small and medium enterprises to use technological services and solutions to improve productivity or facilitate upgrading and transformation. (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 the 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 improve people's livelihood, 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)
- With the public consultation on the proposed Security of Payment Legislation for the Construction Industry completed in 2015, taking forward 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)
- Capitalising on the opportunities provided by the Central Government's Belt and Road Initiative, we will facilitate the relevant professions of the Hong Kong construction industry in their participation in the associated infrastructural projects to boost the development of our professional services. (DEVB)

Professional Services

- Through the \$200 million Professional Services Advancement Support Scheme, supporting Hong Kong's professional services sector in undertaking projects on exchanges, publicity and enhancement of professional standards, thereby tapping business opportunities in external markets. (CEDB)

Enhancing Wine Trading

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

Broadcasting and Telecommunications

- Continuing to monitor the implementation of digital terrestrial television services and continuing publicity efforts to further boost the take-up rate. (CEDB)
- Completing the review of digital audio broadcasting in Hong Kong to map out the way forward. (CEDB)

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- Handling the television/sound broadcasting licensing and regulatory matters. (CEDB)
 - Working with the Communications Authority to conduct a public consultation on the arrangements for the re-assignment of 198.6 MHz of frequency spectrum in the 900 MHz and 1 800 MHz bands upon expiry of the existing assignments in 2020-21 and the related spectrum utilisation fee, and to make decisions on the relevant matters. (CEDB)
 - Overseeing the development plans for Radio Television Hong Kong as a public service broadcaster. (CEDB)
 - Reviewing 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

- Implementing the arrangement for automatic exchange of tax information with partner countries and jurisdictions, and formulating legislative proposals for implementation of measures by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development to tackle base erosion and profit shifting (BEPS), with a view to meeting the international standards for enhancing tax transparency and preventing tax evasion. (FSTB)
- Continuing with the full implementation of the Competition Ordinance to uphold market competition. (CEDB)
- Working closely with stakeholders, including the Judiciary, to continue to work on amendments to the Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles Ordinance. (CEDB)

Ethical Governance

- Continuing to implement the three-year ethics promotion programme for listed companies and to compile a training package and practical guide, comprising case studies, training videos and corporate corruption prevention policies/programmes, on ethical governance of listed companies; and starting to organise a conference on business ethics. (ICAC)

Intellectual Property

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

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

Fisheries Development

- Sustaining and promoting the development of the local fisheries sector through measures that enhance the competitiveness of the whole sector, including leveraging the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund. (FHB)

New Agriculture Policy

- Continuing to 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;
 - utilising a \$500 million Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund;
 - commissioning a consultancy to study the feasibility of designating Agricultural Priority Areas;
 - 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)

- Continuing our efforts to enhance the quality assurance of local agricultural and fisheries products to ensure food safety. (FHB)

Testing and Transportation Hub for Competition Horses

- Continuing our collaboration with the Mainland on the development of Hong Kong Jockey Club's Guangzhou Horse Training Centre and Equine-Disease Free Zone to 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 horses for international competitions. (FHB)

Chapter 2

Land, Housing and Transportation

Preamble

Land is key to Hong Kong's sustainability in terms of social and economic development and people's livelihood. The Government is committed to facilitating steady and continued land supply, not only for providing people with a place to live and work, but also for the developments of Hong Kong's commerce, industry, innovation and technology and various emerging sectors. Planning and development of land also creates the conditions for better town planning, and builds a solid foundation for meeting future challenges. The Government's multi-pronged strategy on land supply is bearing fruit. In the short to medium term, we will continue to optimise the use of built-up land and its surrounding areas to meet the community's pressing demand for land for housing and other purposes. For the medium to long term, we are making 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. We will also continue to study reclamations outside the Victoria Harbour and development of caverns and underground space as sources of further land and space supply.

To plan for the long-term future of Hong Kong, we are conducting the study on "Hong Kong 2030+: Towards a Planning Vision and Strategy Transcending 2030" and its public engagement. We have proposed three building blocks, namely "planning for a liveable high-density

city”, “embracing new economic challenges and opportunities” and “creating capacity for sustainable development” to strengthen Hong Kong’s position as Asia’s world city, so as to rise up to various opportunities and challenges, such as ageing population and building stock, structural changes in the economy, growing demand for social services, as well as higher aspirations of the community for a better quality of life. We are also exploring how to develop two strategic growth areas, namely the East Lantau Metropolis and the New Territories North, and regenerating the existing urban areas for space expansion for Hong Kong’s sustainable development.

Regarding housing policy, we have, in accordance with the framework established under the Long Term Housing Strategy, drawn up and implemented various policy initiatives, and continued to increase housing land supply through a multi-pronged approach, expedite and increase the production of public housing flats for rental and sale, and project the rolling ten-year housing supply target. We have encountered various difficulties and resistance in the process of identifying land for housing development. Hence, public support is of vital importance. To support land and housing development, we will provide transport and public facilities as appropriate. However, the society as a whole needs to make tough decisions and accept trade-offs.

On 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 improve service efficiency, alleviate the pressure on fare increases and reduce roadside emissions. We will introduce measures to alleviate road traffic congestion. We

will also strive to enhance the city's walkability and make walking an integral part of Hong Kong as a sustainable city.

The Kwun Tong Line Extension and the South Island Line (East) were commissioned in October and December last year respectively. We are taking forward, in full swing, the other railway projects, including the Hong Kong section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link (XRL) and the Shatin to Central Link. The Hong Kong section of the XRL is expected to be commissioned in the third quarter of 2018, whereas the "Tai Wai to Hung Hom Section" and the "Hung Hom to Admiralty Section" of the Shatin to Central Link are expected to be commissioned in 2019 and 2021 respectively.

In addition, we are taking forward detailed planning work for the Northern Link (and Kwu Tung Station), the Tuen Mun South Extension and the East Kowloon Line, and will continue to implement the other four new railway projects, in the planning horizon up to 2031 according to the indicative implementation window recommended in the Railway Development Strategy 2014. We are examining the roles and positioning of public transport services other than heavy rail under the Public Transport Strategy Study (PTSS). The study has been rolled out progressively since late 2014, and is expected to complete in mid-2017. We are also reviewing the MTR Fare Adjustment Mechanism with the MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL).

To enhance Hong Kong's external transport links, we are pressing ahead with the construction of the Hong Kong portions 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 study on “Hong Kong 2030+: Towards a Planning Vision and Strategy Transcending 2030” and its public engagement to examine the strategy and possible options for overall spatial planning and for land and infrastructure development of Hong Kong beyond 2030, with a view to planning for a liveable high-density city, embracing new economic challenges and opportunities, and creating capacity for sustainable development. (DEVB)

Energising Kowloon East

- Commence a review on the future use of the land released upon the relocation of the Ngau Tau Kok Divisional Police Station, which is expected to take place in around 2020. (DEVB)
- Consult the public this year on two studies related to the Kai Tak Fantasy project, one on the design plan of the former airport runway tip and the other on the preliminary proposals for development of the Kwun Tong Action Area. (DEVB)

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- Carry out proof-of-concept trials relating to the Smart City development in Kowloon East to examine the effectiveness of different innovative concepts and their implementation modes and strategies. These trials cover a kerbside loading/unloading bay monitoring system; a persona-based pedestrian navigation system; crowd management for major events; and sharing of data on parking vacancies and energy consumption of buildings in the area. (DEVB)
 - Collaborate with different research and academic institutions, using Kowloon East as a major component in investigating Smart City development, on subjects including indoor and outdoor geographical information system, data mining techniques and environmental air quality forecast, etc. (DEVB)

Developing and Conserving Lantau

- Establish a “Sustainable Lantau Office” under the Civil Engineering and Development Department with a multi-disciplinary professional team equipped with relevant knowledge and experience in planning, engineering, traffic and transport, and conservation to take forward the development and conservation work for Lantau more efficiently. (DEVB)
- Conduct a study on the traffic and transport network of Lantau and its capacity to receive visitors taking into account the needs arising from the development of the island and the increase in its visitor numbers. (DEVB)
- Draw up and implement measures to conserve nature, antiquities and monuments, and cultural heritage on Lantau and collaborate with the relevant interest organisations. (DEVB)

Increasing Land Supply

- Through the on-going land use reviews together with the newly identified potential housing sites, make available some 25 sites, most of which are expected to be ready for production of more than 60 000 flats (more than 80% for public housing) in the five years from 2019-20 to 2023-24, subject to timely amendments to the relevant statutory plans and/or completion of the necessary procedures. (DEVB)

Revitalising Agricultural Land

- Commence a study on Agricultural Priority Areas through the joint efforts of the Food and Health Bureau and the Development Bureau later this year in accordance with the New Agriculture Policy announced in 2016 to identify relatively large area of quality agricultural land and formulate policies and measures for promoting rehabilitation of fallow agricultural land, with a view to supporting local agricultural development and improving the rural environment. (DEVB/FHB)

Harbourfront Development

- The Government will first partner with the Harbourfront Commission and implement harbourfront enhancement initiatives through a dedicated team and with dedicated funding before further deliberations on the proposal of establishing a statutory Harbourfront Authority. The aim is to further extend the waterfront promenade along both sides of the Victoria Harbour, beautify areas in the vicinity and improve accessibility to the waterfront for the enjoyment of all. The Government has earmarked \$500 million for the first stage for taking forward harbourfront development. (DEVB)

Making Optimal Use of Brownfield Sites

- Continue to plan and develop the northwestern and northern parts of the New Territories where brownfield sites are concentrated and take Hung Shui Kiu as a pilot case area for considering actively the possibility of accommodating some brownfield operations into multi-storey buildings, with a view to releasing land for development under the new town development approach. In parallel, we will conduct a comprehensive survey on the distribution, use and operation of brownfield sites in the New Territories in order to explore appropriate policies and measures to tackle brownfield sites in different areas, aiming to make optimal use of land and improve the rural environment. (DEVB)

Lok Ma Chau Loop

- Undertake statutory planning procedures to prepare a draft Outline Zoning Plan for the Lok Ma Chau Loop area according to the proposed planning and land uses in order to support the development of the “Hong Kong/Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Park”. (DEVB)

Enforcement against Misuse of Industrial Buildings

- Actively consider introducing new legislative provisions to strengthen our enforcement efforts against illegal domestic units in industrial buildings. (DEVB)

Pier Improvement Programme

- In the light of the existing policy which places particular emphasis on utilisation, launch a pier improvement programme under a new initiative to enhance the structural and facility standard of a number of existing piers in remote areas in order to respond to the public requests and improve the accessibility to some remote scenic spots and natural heritages. (DEVB)

Enhancing Fire Safety Standards of Old Industrial Buildings

- Introduce legislation for enhancing fire safety standards of old industrial buildings, and strengthen manpower for inspection of and enforcement against industrial buildings. (SB)

Building Management

- Launch the Phase 3 Building Management Professional Advisory Service Scheme to enhance professional support for owners of old buildings and assist owners of “three nil” buildings in forming owners’ corporations and discharging their responsibilities in building management. (HAB)

Public Transport Strategy Study

- Release a report on PTSS which examines the roles and positioning of public transport services other than heavy rail. The report is expected to be completed by mid-2017. (THB)
- Examine how to enhance personalised and point-to-point transport services to meet the demand of various passenger groups. (THB)

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- Complete the study on Public Light Bus (PLB) service, with its focus on increasing the seating capacity of PLBs (including both green and red minibuses) for enhancing their overall carrying capacity. The same seat increase will also be applicable to private light buses. We will carry out the preparatory work for necessary legislative amendments. (THB)

Taking Forward Transport Infrastructure Projects

- Implement the Central Kowloon Route (CKR) project, which will link the Yau Ma Tei Interchange in West Kowloon with Kowloon Bay and the Kai Tak Development in East Kowloon. It will enhance the capacity of major east-west road corridors in Kowloon, thus relieving traffic congestion and meeting future traffic demands. Upon the commissioning of CKR, the journey time between West Kowloon and Kowloon Bay via CKR will be around five minutes during rush hours, about 25 minutes less compared with current journey time. (THB)

Conducting Feasibility Study on Route 11

- In view of the future developments in Northwest New Territories (NWNT), including the proposed Hung Shui Kiu New Development Area and Yuen Long South development, we need a new strategic route (Route 11) to connect NWNT and the urban areas to cope with the increase in traffic demand. At the same time, we need to improve the “external connectivity” of Lantau and the airport island. The Route 11 will provide a third strategic access to Lantau on top of Tsing Ma Bridge and Tuen Mun-Chek Lap Kok Link, thus enhancing the robustness of the road network connecting to the airport. We therefore propose to conduct a feasibility study on Route 11 to link up North Lantau and Yuen Long. (THB)

Improving Ancillary Facilities for Public Transport

- Provide subsidies to facilitate the replacement of tram tracks at key locations with new technology to provide more comfortable service for passengers and reduce the impact of track replacement works on traffic. (THB)
- Carry out pilot renovation projects to enhance the design and facilities of suitable covered public transport interchanges and ferry piers with a view to providing passengers with a better waiting environment. (THB)

MTR Fare Adjustment Mechanism

- Jointly review with the MTRCL the MTR Fare Adjustment Mechanism. The review is expected to be completed in the first half of 2017, and thereafter the MTR fares will be adjusted according to the new mechanism. (THB)

Alleviating Road Traffic Congestion

- Step up our effort to tackle road traffic congestion by implementing measures such as commissioning a study on the overall strategy for the rationalisation of traffic distribution among the three road harbour crossings, commencing a parking policy review to accord priority to considering and meeting the parking demand of commercial vehicles, conducting an in-depth feasibility study on the Electronic Road Pricing Pilot Scheme in Central and its adjacent areas. (THB)

Transport for All

- Carry out a trial with low-floor wheelchair-accessible light bus models on a few green minibus routes serving hospitals to ascertain whether it would be feasible and desirable to use this type of light buses to serve certain suitable routes. (THB)

Outlying Island Ferry Services

- In the next mid-term review (in the first half of 2019) for the next three-year licence period (2017-20), the Government will review whether the special helping measures would be the most desirable long-term operation model for maintaining the financial viability of ferry services. This review will cover, inter alia, a detailed study on the merits and demerits of other possible options such as extending the licence duration and letting the Government own the ferry fleet and outsource its operation. The objective is to ensure service quality, long-term financial sustainability of ferry operation, and a fair share of fare burden. (THB)

Establishing an Independent Air Accident Investigation Authority

- Establish an air accident investigation authority under the Transport and Housing Bureau, which will be independent from the Civil Aviation Department, in order to comply with the new requirement of the International Civil Aviation Organization, ensuring impartiality in aircraft accident investigation. (THB)

Promoting Aircraft Leasing Business in Hong Kong

- Propose to amend the Inland Revenue Ordinance (Cap. 112) to create a dedicated tax regime for offshore aircraft leasing business in Hong Kong. Drafting of the relevant legislation is underway. (THB)

Corruption Prevention Work for the Three-Runway System

- Assist the Airport Authority Hong Kong (AAHK) in strengthening its corruption prevention regime for the tendering and administration of works and consultancy contracts for the development of the Three-Runway System. (ICAC)

Corruption Prevention Work for New Engineering Contract

- Assist the Development Bureau and works departments in enhancing their corruption prevention measures for the tendering and administration of works contracts for implementation of projects commissioned under New Engineering Contract. (ICAC)

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 ten-year housing supply target accordingly. (THB)
- Based on the latest projection, adopting 460 000 units as the long-term housing supply target for 2017-18 to 2026-27 and a 60:40 split between public and private housing supply, including 200 000 public rental housing (PRH) units, 80 000 subsidised sale flats and 180 000 private residential flats. (THB)

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 annually under the Long Term Housing Strategy. For subsidised sale flats, the third batch of some 2 000 new Home Ownership Scheme (HOS) flats provided by the Hong Kong Housing Authority (HKHA), scheduled for completion in 2018-19, will be put up for pre-sale in early 2017. (THB)

- Continuing to work with the Hong Kong Housing Society (HKHS) on the provision of a new batch of about 600 new subsidised sale flats in Tseung Kwan O and Tuen Mun, which are scheduled for completion in 2019-20 and will be put up for pre-sale in 2017. HKHS will also provide new rental housing in Sha Tau Kok. (THB)
- The subsidised sale flats in San Po Kong under the Green Form Subsidised Home Ownership Pilot Scheme (GSH) were put up for pre-sale in October 2016. After flat intake in mid-2017, HKHA will conduct a review on the scheme to decide whether to proceed with other GSH projects. (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. As at mid-December 2016, about 1 480 White Form buyers had purchased flats in this round of the scheme. HKHA will conduct a comprehensive review to decide on the future of the interim scheme upon completion of this new round in the first half of 2017. (THB)
- Ensuring the effective and rational use of PRH resources, including enhanced enforcement actions and publicity against tenancy abuse cases; and considering various ways to focus efforts on allocating PRH resources to people with pressing housing needs. 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)

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- Continuing to optimise the development potential of each public housing site and maximise and expedite 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, and providing additional staff and resources for the department. (THB/DEVB)

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)
- Extending 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 to explore whether restrictions on uses in industrial buildings can be further relaxed suitably without compromising fire and building safety requirements. (DEVB)

- Continuing to take 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 MTRCL the development potential of stations and railway-related sites along existing and future rail lines, such as Siu Ho Wan on Lantau Island, with a view to taking forward relevant projects having regard to the results of the studies. (DEVB)
- Continuing to take 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 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 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;

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- taking forward and implementing the plans 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, providing housing, employment opportunities and civic facilities; 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)
- Conducting 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)
 - In the light of the findings of the Preliminary Feasibility Study on Developing the New Territories North, conducting public consultation on the New Territories North strategic growth area within the framework of “Hong Kong 2030+” and exploring the scope for further developing a new town of similar scale as Fanling/Sheung Shui in New Territories North. (DEVB)
 - Continuing to take forward near-shore reclamation by:
 - commencing a planning and engineering study for the reclamation in Sunny Bay, Lantau Island; and

- completing the 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. For the Ma Liu Shui reclamation of about 60 hectares, we intend to commence a planning and engineering study as soon as practicable. The study will take into account the future planning of the adjoining 28-hectare site vacated after relocation of the Sha Tin Sewage Treatment Works into caverns with a view to providing land for development of high technology and knowledge-based industries, housing and other uses. To provide land for industrial and other uses, we also plan to commence a planning and engineering study as soon as possible for Lung Kwu Tan reclamation of about 200 hectares. (DEVB)
- Continuing with the site investigation, detailed impact assessments and detailed design for the relocation of Sha Tin Sewage Treatment Works to caverns. We will implement the works in phases with a view to releasing the site of the existing sewage treatment works for development use as soon as possible. (DEVB)
- Conducting public consultation on the development options for relocating the Diamond Hill Fresh Water and Salt Water Service Reservoirs, Sai Kung Sewage Treatment Works and Sham Tseng Sewage Treatment Works to caverns, in preparation for the next phase of work. (DEVB)
- Implementing the recommendations of the study on the long-term strategy of cavern development, including promulgation of the Cavern Master Plans, implementation of guidelines to facilitate future cavern development and carrying out of a technical study on underground quarrying for cavern development. (DEVB)

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- Continuing with the detailed study on the underground space development in Causeway Bay, Happy Valley, Admiralty/Wan Chai and Tsim Sha Tsui West and conducting public consultation on potential sites for underground space developments, including Kowloon Park, Victoria Park and Southorn Playground, in preparation for the preliminary planning and technical assessment to be conducted in the next stage. (DEVB)
 - Continuing to provide the market with more prime office and commercial 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. (DEVB/FSTB)
 - Continuing to support the AAHK in its development of the Airport North Commercial District (SKYCITY) which is of strategic importance to the economic and social development of Lantau and Hong Kong. It will generate significant investment, business and employment opportunities for Hong Kong. It will also enhance the attractiveness and competitiveness of the Hong Kong International Airport as a global aviation hub and promote the further development of tourism. The SKYCITY is a long-term development which will be implemented in phases. According to the plan of AAHK, the first phase of development includes a hotel and a facility combining retail, dining and entertainment purposes. AAHK invited tenders for the hotel development in end 2016. It also plans to invite tenders for the retail, dining and entertainment facilities in early 2017. The first phase is planned for completion by 2021. (THB)

- Keeping up the efforts to facilitate transformation of Kowloon East into another attractive core business district. At present, Kowloon East has more than 2.3 million square metres of commercial/office floor area. The sale of six sites in Kowloon East since 2012 provides a total of about 370 000 square metres of commercial/office floor area. Kowloon East has potential to further supply about 4.7 million square metres commercial/office floor area in future, bringing the total supply in the district to about 7 million square metres. (DEVB)
- With the recent completion of the review for further increasing the residential development intensity of the Kai Tak Development Area and the confirmation that additional residential flats can be provided, consulting the public on the proposal and will amend the Kai Tak Outline Zoning Plan in accordance with the Town Planning Ordinance. (DEVB)
- Continuing with the detailed feasibility study for the Environmentally Friendly Linkage System of Kowloon East and the public consultation on the recommended transport mode before commencing the next phase of study. (DEVB)
- Endeavouring to facilitate hosting of mega events and activities in Kowloon East that are popular with Hong Kong people and tourists, and promoting a water-friendly culture. (DEVB)

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- 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, providing 560 000 square metres of commercial/office floor area. We would provide cultural, creative and technology spaces in the Kowloon Bay Action Area and continue to explore development opportunities for the industries in the Kwun Tong Action Area. (DEVB)
 - Developing the spaces underneath Kwun Tong Bypass into the “Fly the Flyover 0123” project. 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. The venue facilities are under construction, expected to be open for use around mid-2017. (DEVB)
 - Continuing to enrich and update the Green Map on the Energising Kowloon East Office’s website, showing buildings which have obtained BEAM Plus Gold or above rating in Kowloon East. A total of 23 buildings in the area have achieved such accredited rating. (DEVB)
 - Continuing to take forward a detailed consultancy study on transforming the 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)

- Continuing to showcase the industrial culture of Kowloon East at the Tsun Yip Street Playground and other parks in the district that will undergo improvements under the theme of “The Spirit of Creation”. (DEVB)
- Continuing to implement the concept of “walkability” in Kowloon East with a view to improving the pedestrian environment and traffic conditions. This includes carrying out detailed 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. In parallel, we are working on the design for the extension and face-lifting of the pedestrian subway network connecting to Ngau Tau Kok MTR Station, face-lifting 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. We continue to collaborate with different organisations and government departments to further take forward the Back Alley Project with the spirit of co-creation and social inclusion to improve pedestrian connectivity. (DEVB)
- Continuing to take forward the policy of waiving the land premium for lease modification to encourage private landowners to construct footbridges or subways at their own cost. (DEVB)
- Continuing to use Kowloon East as a pilot area to explore the feasibility of developing a smart city. This includes stipulating conditions for achieving BEAM Plus Gold or above ratings, provision of smart water meter system and electric vehicle charging facilities for land sale sites for private development. We will also require real-time parking information to be provided in commercial car parks at appropriate sites. (DEVB)

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- Proceeding to establish a Common Spatial Data Infrastructure, a geo-platform for the integration, exchange and sharing of geographic spatial data, to support the development of a smart city. (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. Subject to the actual land development of the area in the vicinity of Wah Fu Estate and the redevelopment schedule of Wah Fu Estate, we will take forward the implementation of the South Island Line (West) recommended under the Railway Development Strategy 2014. (THB/DEVB)

Developing and Conserving Lantau

- Publishing the “Sustainable Lantau Blueprint” in the first half of this year. We will undertake various studies and development projects and expedite the conservation work for Lantau Island in accordance with the blueprint. (DEVB)
- Completing the feasibility study for topside development at the Hong Kong boundary crossing facilities island of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge and preparing for the design and site investigation works for the associated infrastructures to support the topside development. (DEVB)
- Taking forward strategic studies for constructing artificial islands in the central waters between Hong Kong Island and Lantau Island for the development of the East Lantau Metropolis. (DEVB)

- Continuing to implement the planned improvement works for revitalisation of Mui Wo and Tai O, and the improvement and expansion works for the mountain bike trail networks in South Lantau. (DEVB)

Healthy Private Residential Property Market

- Implementing appropriate demand-side management measures, including the enhanced Special Stamp Duty, Buyer's Stamp Duty, and introducing the New Residential 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)

Building Management

- Following up the implementation of the Property Management Services Ordinance by setting up the Property Management Services Authority to implement a licensing scheme for regulating property management services. (HAB)
- Drawing up the proposed amendments to the Building Management Ordinance. (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 domestic use. (DEVB)

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- Working closely with the HKHS 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;
 - the Mandatory Building Inspection Subsidy Scheme; and
 - “Smart Tender” Building Rehabilitation Facilitating Services (Pilot 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 to support its implementation of redevelopment projects under a holistic and district-based approach with a view to enhancing overall planning benefits for the community. (DEVB)

- Continuing to implement the Pilot Scheme on Outreach Support Service for Minority Owners to provide relevant information and appropriate support services to owners of old buildings affected by compulsory sale. (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 lift addition projects in PRH estates to improve existing pedestrian access. (THB)
- 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 people of all ages and abilities. (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. (THB)

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- Exploring and enhancing HKHA’s internal mechanism for risk assessment and management in response to the recommendations of the “Report of the Commission of Inquiry into Excess Lead Found in Drinking Water” and the requirements of the Water Authority. In addition, we will continue with the rectification works to replace water pipes in the 11 affected PRH developments with excess lead in drinking water in order to resolve the problem completely as soon as possible. (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)

Strategic Studies on Railways and Major Roads beyond 2030

- Preparing to take forward strategic studies on railways and major roads beyond 2030 based on the results of the “Hong Kong 2030+: Towards a Planning Vision and Strategy Transcending 2030” study and its public engagement exercise with regard to the planning directions for Hong Kong beyond 2030, so that the planning of major transport infrastructure can complement the needs arising from the overall long-term land development of Hong Kong. (THB)

Developing Railways

- Co-ordinating and overseeing the construction of the Kwun Tong Line Extension and various pre-commissioning preparation works, so that the Extension was smoothly commissioned in the fourth quarter of 2016 (October) in accordance with the revised target put forward by the MTRCL to provide residents of Ho Man Tin and Whampoa with convenient and fast railway service. (THB)
- Co-ordinating and overseeing the construction of the South Island Line (East) and various pre-commissioning preparation works, so that the service was smoothly commissioned in end 2016 in accordance with the revised target put forward by the MTRCL to provide residents of Southern District with convenient and fast railway service. (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 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 the Island Eastern Corridor Link, originally scheduled for completion in 2017 but hampered by delays due to unforeseeable problems in work site handover, with a view to overcoming the challenges and exploring feasible options for commissioning of the project in late 2018/first quarter of 2019. (THB)
- Overseeing the construction of the Tseung Kwan O-Lam Tin Tunnel with a view to completing it in 2021. The Tunnel, together with the Trunk Road T2 under planning and the proposed CKR, will form Route 6, which will link West Kowloon with Tseung Kwan O. (THB)
- 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 work with 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)

Improving Ancillary Facilities for Public Transport

- Continuing to subsidise the installation of seats and bus arrival information display panels at suitable bus stops in phases by franchised bus companies for passengers' convenience. (THB)

Enhancing Monitoring of the MTRCL

- Enhancing our monitoring of the MTRCL in tandem with railway development, we require 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. (THB)

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)

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- Continuing to take forward the development of the cycle track network in the New Territories by constructing the Tuen Mun to Sheung Shui section; commencing the detailed design for the Tuen Mun to So Kwun Wat section; and reviewing the alignment of the remainder of the Tsuen Wan to Tuen Mun section. We will continue to foster a “bicycle-friendly environment” in new towns and new development areas. (DEVB/THB)
 - Continuing to implement the “Universal Accessibility” Programme to benefit the elderly and those who need such access. In the second quarter of 2017, we will have invited the 18 District Councils (DCs) to further nominate not more than three walkways in each district for implementation in the next phase of the programme. The walkways eligible for selection by the DCs will not be confined to public walkways maintained by the Highways Department, although they will have to meet certain criteria. (THB)
 - Continuing to take forward the construction of three hillside escalator links and elevator systems, including the Lift and Pedestrian Walkway System at Cheung Hang Estate in 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)
 - Continuing to take forward the elevated walkway project between Tong Ming Street and Tong Tak Street in Tseung Kwan O, and the footbridge project connecting Tsuen Wan Plaza, Skyline Plaza and the adjacent landscaping area to enhance the pedestrian access network of the districts for the convenience of the elderly and those who need such access. (THB)

Enhancing External Transport Links

- Working with the AAHK to implement initiatives to enhance airport capacity and airport services. With the commissioning of the Midfield Concourse in end 2015, the airport can now handle an additional ten million passengers each year. The remaining parts of the midfield expansion project will be completed in phases by 2020. (THB)
- Coping with the expansion of flights operating at the Hong Kong International Airport, the Civil Aviation Department formally commissioned the new air traffic control system in full in November 2016 to enhance air traffic management. (THB)
- Forming new aviation partnership and reviewing air services agreements 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. Of the 60 or so Belt and Road countries, Hong Kong has signed air services agreements or international air services transit agreements with 41, including the signing of a new agreement with Serbia in October 2016. We will continue with such efforts and seek to discuss air services agreements with other aviation partners along the Belt and Road routes. This will reinforce Hong Kong's position as an international aviation hub. (THB)
- Assisting the AAHK in expanding inter-modal connections to strengthen the links between the Hong Kong International Airport and the Pearl River Delta region. (THB)

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- Continuing to oversee the construction of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge local projects (i.e. the Hong Kong Boundary Crossing Facilities and Hong Kong Link Road) to dovetail with the commissioning of the Main Bridge within Mainland waters; and continuing to oversee the construction of the Tuen Mun-Chek Lap Kok Link with a view to early completion for commissioning. (THB)
 - Continuing to co-ordinate and oversee the construction of the Hong Kong section of the XRL and take forward various pre-commissioning preparation works with a view to accomplishing the targeted commissioning of service in the third quarter of 2018. (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 Boundary 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

Poverty alleviation and support for the disadvantaged are at the top of the current-term Government's agenda. The poverty alleviation initiatives implemented in the past four years have clear vision and direction and are effective. The current-term Government's philosophy in poverty alleviation is to encourage and support people capable of working to achieve self-reliance through employment, and put in place a reasonable and sustainable social welfare system. In 2016-17, the estimated recurrent government expenditure on social welfare is \$66.2 billion, representing an increase of 55% over the level four years ago.

The poor population in 2015 stood at about 970 000, which is below one million for the third consecutive year, and the poverty rate remained at a low level of 14.3%. Given that the poverty rate has been pushed up by our ageing population and a growing number of one- and two-person elderly households, our achievements in poverty alleviation did not come easy. These demonstrate that the poverty alleviation initiatives of the current-term Government are delivering sustained results. The Old Age Living Allowance (OALA), implemented in full in 2013, is now benefiting about 440 000 elderly persons, producing particularly notable results in alleviating elderly poverty. The 2015 poverty figures also show that the poverty rate of

working households has improved and hit a record low since statistics became available in 2009.

After consulting the public and upholding the current-term Government's vision of striving to build a just and caring society, we have drawn up a package of measures to strengthen each of the pillars under the existing system. Regarding the pillars of social security and public services, we have proposed specific measures to improve OALA and healthcare services for the elderly persons. Subject to funding approval by the Legislative Council, we will implement these proposals as soon as possible. To enhance the pillar of private savings, we will carry out studies on such financial products as public annuity scheme and Silver Bond with a longer tenor to assist the elderly persons in converting their assets into a steady stream of monthly income. As for the pillar of the Mandatory Provident Fund (MPF) System, we have formulated a specific proposal to progressively abolish the "offsetting" arrangement as the basis for further discussion with major stakeholders in the coming three months. Our target is to finalise the details of abolishing the "offsetting" arrangement and submit the final proposal to the Executive Council for decision by end-June this year.

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 the last resort. For economically active families with low income, the Government launched the Low-income Working Family Allowance (LIFA) Scheme in May 2016 to encourage families with working members to achieve self-reliance by staying in active employment. The Scheme also focuses on supporting the children and young people of these families so as to ease

intergenerational poverty. Having regard to the policy objectives of the LIFA Scheme, the absence rule under the LIFA Scheme was abolished in late 2016. For 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 also 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-sector support.

New Initiatives

We will:

Community Care Fund

- Invite the Community Care Fund (CCF) to consider implementing the following pilot schemes:
 - providing drug subsidies for eligible patients with uncommon disorders (e.g. Paroxysmal Nocturnal Haemoglobinuria); (FHB)
 - providing subsidies for eligible public hospital patients to purchase specified implantable medical devices for interventional procedures; (FHB)
 - providing subsidies for eligible low-income women to receive cervical cancer screening and education on prevention to reduce the risk of developing cervical cancer; (FHB)
 - providing transitional care and necessary support for elderly persons discharged from public hospitals after treatment to avoid their premature admission into elderly homes; (LWB)
 - providing home care and support services for elderly persons with mild impairment to encourage ageing in place; (LWB) and
 - providing a special subsidy for persons with permanent stoma from low-income families to purchase medical consumables. (LWB)

Social Security

- Facilitate elderly persons' retirement on the Mainland by:
 - once again exempting under the Guangdong Scheme, on a one-off basis for a one-year period, eligible elderly persons already residing in Guangdong from the requirement of having resided in Hong Kong continuously for at least one year immediately before the date of application; and
 - introducing the Fujian Scheme to provide monthly Old Age Allowance (OAA) for eligible elderly persons who choose to reside in Fujian. (LWB)

Retirement Protection

- After consulting the public, promote the future development of retirement protection based on five major principles:
 - continue the existing multi-pillar retirement protection system and enhance it where necessary;
 - improve each pillar while maintaining the sustainability and financial viability of the system;
 - enhance the MPF pillar to maximise the protection for employees;
 - continue to target our resources towards supporting the elderly in need through two pillars, namely social security and public services; and

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- assist the middle-class elderly in using their assets to deal with longevity risks. (CSO)
 - Propose to enhance the multi-tiered social security pillar through the following measures:
 - adding a layer of enhanced assistance under OALA by providing a higher monthly allowance of \$3,435 per person for elderly persons with more financial needs who are eligible for the allowance, i.e. elderly singletons with assets not exceeding \$144,000 or elderly couples with assets not exceeding \$218,000;
 - relaxing the asset limits for the existing OALA from \$225,000 (with effect from 1 February 2017) to \$329,000 for elderly singletons and from \$341,000 (with effect from 1 February 2017) to \$499,000 for elderly couples to benefit more elderly persons with financial needs;
 - while maintaining the requirement that applicants under the CSSA Scheme will need to apply on a household basis, abolishing the arrangement for the relatives concerned to make a declaration on whether they provide the elderly persons who apply for CSSA on their own (e.g. an elderly person who does not live with his/her children) with financial support (the so-called “bad son statement”). The information is required to be submitted by the elderly applicants only;

- raising the eligible age for elderly CSSA from 60 to 65 to align with the direction of our population policy on the extension of retirement age. Elderly persons aged between 60 and 64 who are receiving CSSA before the new policy takes effect will, however, not be affected; and
 - implementing the Pilot Scheme on Residential Care Service Voucher for the Elderly to offer elderly persons in need of residential care service with an additional choice. Under the scheme, an eligible elderly person will receive a service voucher with a monthly value of \$12,416 (much higher than the current average monthly allowance of \$8,400 for an elderly CSSA recipient residing in a private residential care home for the elderly (RCHE)), so that he/she may select a quality-assured RCHE under the “money-following-the-user” approach. Besides, those opting for service vouchers are eligible for OAA, OALA or Disability Allowance. (CSO)
- Propose to meet the healthcare needs of the elderly and reduce their medical expenses through the following measures:
- extending the medical fee waiver of public healthcare services to cover the older OALA recipients with more financial needs (i.e. those aged 75 or above with assets not exceeding \$144,000 (elderly singletons) or \$218,000 (elderly couples)); and
 - lowering the present eligible age of 70 for Elderly Health Care Vouchers to 65 so as to subsidise more elderly persons to use private primary care services. (CSO)

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- Propose to enhance the MPF System through the following measures:
 - progressively abolishing the “offsetting” arrangement between the MPF contributions and the severance payment (SP) or long service payment (LSP). Specific proposals include setting the date of implementation of the abolition on a future date (the Effective Date) and allowing the accrued benefits attributable to the employers’ MPF contributions before the Effective Date to be used for “offsetting” purpose; reducing the SP/LSP entitlements for employment period from the Effective Date from the existing entitlement of two-thirds of the monthly wages to half a month’s wages as compensation for each year of service; and providing government subsidy within ten years after the Effective Date to share part of the additional expenses on SP or LSP of employers;
 - applying the “offsetting” arrangement only to employees covered by the Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes Ordinance (MPFSO) or other statutory retirement schemes. For those employees who are not covered by MPFSO or other statutory retirement schemes, given that they are not to be affected by the abolition of the “offsetting” arrangement, their SP or LSP entitlements at the current quantum will remain unchanged and will continue to be calculated in accordance with the existing provisions of the law; and
 - further studying the feasibility of putting in place an electronic platform “eMPF” to streamline and standardise the MPF scheme administration, allowing more room for cost reduction. (CSO)

- Establish a more robust pillar of personal savings by exploring the feasibility of introducing such financial products as public annuity scheme and Silver Bond with a longer tenor to assist those elderly persons who have a certain amount of assets in managing longevity risks. (CSO)
- Implement the proposals relating to OALA and healthcare services as soon as possible, subject to approval of funding by the Legislative Council; and conduct more in-depth discussion on the proposal of abolishing the MPF “offsetting” arrangement with stakeholders in the coming three months, with the aim of submitting the final proposal to the Executive Council for decision by end-June this year. (CSO)

Supporting the Families in Need

- Increase the level of various foster care allowances, provide 240 additional foster care places in phases, and recruit more foster parents. (LWB)

Rehabilitation Programme Plan

- Start formulating a new Hong Kong Rehabilitation Programme Plan upon the completion of the task of formulating the Elderly Services Programme Plan by the Elderly Commission and make reference to the relevant experience, so as to ensure that rehabilitation services will keep abreast with the times. (LWB)

Enhancing Support for Persons with Disabilities and Persons with Mental Illness

- Step up the support for ex-mentally ill persons through Integrated Community Centres for Mental Wellness. (LWB)

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- Regularise the Pilot Project on Peer Support Service in Community Psychiatric Service Units. (LWB)
 - Inject additional funding of \$100 million into the Enhancing Employment of People with Disabilities through Small Enterprise Project for directly creating more employment opportunities for persons with disabilities. The maximum funding for each social enterprise project will increase to \$3 million. (LWB)
 - Provide additional day care service places and strengthen outreaching services of the district support centres for persons with disabilities to enhance support for ageing persons with disabilities in the community. (LWB)

Supporting Children with Special Needs and their Parents

- Convert the Pilot Scheme on On-site Pre-school Rehabilitation Services, upon its conclusion, into a regular government subsidy programme, under which 7 000 service places will be provided in phases. (LWB)
- Continue to develop in the 2017/18 school year an evidence-based model with strategies and related teaching and learning resources for supporting the learning and development of students with autism having average to high average intelligence, premised on a support model having been developed by phases for primary to junior secondary school students with autism. (EDB)

- Provide additional grant to schools for children with severe intellectual disability, schools for children with physical disability and schools for children with visual impairment cum intellectual disability for employing additional nurses and related staff to strengthen support for 24-hour ventilator-dependent students. (EDB)

Community Involvement

- Seek funding from the Lotteries Fund for injection of \$300 million into the Community Investment and Inclusion Fund. The aim is to enable the fund to continue to support social capital development projects and build up mutual help networks in the community through cross-sector collaboration. (LWB)

On-going Initiatives

We are:

Work of the Commission on Poverty

(a) Commission on Poverty (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-sector 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 2016-17 include:
 - providing a one-off grant for needy families with kindergarten students 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;
 - implementing a pilot scheme to provide free cervical cancer vaccination for teenage girls from eligible low-income families;

- implementing three pilot schemes for supporting persons with disabilities to provide living allowance for low-income carers of persons with disabilities, raise the maximum level of disregarded earnings for recipients with disabilities under the CSSA Scheme, and provide subsidy for Higher Disability Allowance recipients in paid employment to hire carers;
 - implementing a pilot scheme named Dementia Community Support Scheme to strengthen support services for elderly with dementia based on a medical-social collaboration model at the community level;
 - continuing to provide a one-off subsidy for CSSA households living in rented private housing and paying a rent which exceeds the maximum rent allowance under the CSSA Scheme; and
 - extending the Special Care Subsidy for the Severely Disabled. (CSO)
- Expanding the Elderly Dental Assistance Programme to cover elderly persons who are OALA recipients aged 75 or above in the second phase. (CSO)
 - Continuing to draw up more new pilot programmes under the CCF 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 commissioning 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 Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Fund to assess the effectiveness of the initiatives of the Task Force in achieving the Fund’s objectives. 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 Applied Learning Chinese (for Non-Chinese Speaking Students) in primary and secondary schools, and commissioning an outside organisation to conduct a study to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the awareness of the ethnic minorities about key public services and how satisfied they are with such services. (CSO)
- Continuing to monitor the implementation of various measures that 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 special educational needs (SEN), single-parent families and new arrivals), and setting up a website to provide information for parents of students and youth with SEN, thereby helping them take care of their children and relieve parenting stress. (CSO)

(e) Youth Education, Employment and Training Task Force

- Strengthening the development and promotion of vocational and professional education and training, and following up the progress of delivering life planning education in secondary schools. (CSO)
- Exploring measures to enhance upward mobility of young people from grassroots families. (CSO)

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- Conducting major community involvement activities, promoting cross-sector 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

- Continuing to implement the LIFA Scheme to encourage employment and strengthen the support for the next generation. An overall policy review of the scheme will be conducted one year after its implementation (i.e. in May 2017). (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)
- Raising the ceiling of the subsidy for exchange programmes outside Hong Kong for needy students pursuing full-time locally-accredited undergraduate or sub-degree programmes and receiving student financial assistance from \$15,000 to \$60,000 starting from July 2016, and introducing the Scheme for Subsidy on Exchange to Belt and Road Region for Post-secondary Students, so as to encourage and support needy local post-secondary students to go on exchanges in the Belt and Road region. (EDB)

(c) Retirement Protection

- Implementing the Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes (Amendment) Ordinance 2016 on 1 April 2017 to launch a fee-controlled and highly standardised Default Investment Strategy 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 MPF scheme members and achieving more substantial reduction in MPF fees. (FSTB)

Supporting the Disadvantaged

(a) Supporting Families in Need

- Increasing by phases the number of residential child care places to enhance support and protection for children and families in need. (LWB)
- Increasing the number of places and manpower of refuge centres for women and the Family Crisis Support Centre, and 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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- Continuing to implement the “parental responsibility model” and promote the continuing parental responsibility of divorced/separated parents towards their children through public education and publicity activities, so as to serve the best interests of the children. Having regard to the results of public consultation, consideration will be given to formulating the legislative timetable in taking forward the recommendations of the Law Reform Commission Report on Child Custody and Access. (LWB)
 - Continuing to implement the two-year Pilot Project on Children Contact Service to assist the divorced/separated parents in rebuilding and maintaining satisfactory communication with their children, and enable the children to have safe and conflict-free contact with their parents. (LWB)
- (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)
 - Continuing to progressively implement the recommendations of the Inter-departmental Working Group on Review of the Disability Allowance co-ordinated by the Labour and Welfare Bureau. (LWB)
 - Continuing to implement 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)
- Enhancing support for children with special needs and their parents by:
 - continuing to implement a pilot scheme through non-governmental organisations (NGOs) operating subvented pre-school rehabilitation services to provide on-site rehabilitation services for children with special needs who are studying in kindergartens or kindergarten-cum-child care centres. We are also conducting a comprehensive review of the pilot scheme to help determine the mode of operation when the scheme is regularised;
 - providing support for persons with disabilities and ex-mentally ill persons, including parents and relatives/carers of children or young persons with special needs, through subvented parents/relatives resource centres;
 - providing subsidy for pre-school children from low-income families to obtain self-financing rehabilitation services run by NGOs while they are waitlisted for subvented services so as to facilitate their learning and development; and
 - waiving the fees of special child care centres and providing non-means-tested training subsidy for children on the waiting list for these centres. (LWB)
- Providing home care service for persons with severe disabilities on a territory-wide basis. (LWB)

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- 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 purchasing 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 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)

- 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) providing 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;

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- 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;
 - procuring services from a NGO in the welfare sector to strengthen counselling support of the Labour Department for job seekers 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)
- Continuing to examine the feasibility of setting up a special needs trust for persons with intellectual 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)
 - Implementing an internship scheme in government departments for students with disabilities to strengthen their competitiveness before joining the job market. (CSB)

- Enhancing transport services for persons with disabilities through improvement to rebus service, and examining ways to further improve the accessibility of transport services for persons with disabilities. (LWB/THB)
- Providing bus service for the day activity centres cum hostels for severely mentally handicapped persons and community rehabilitation day centres. (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 green minibus routes covered by the scheme 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)

(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)

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- 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)
 - Continuing to collect and analyse relevant information and data to facilitate evaluation of the effectiveness of the support measures for NCS students, including the implementation of the Chinese Language Curriculum Second Language Learning Framework in primary and secondary schools, and refining these measures as appropriate, thereby facilitating the mastery of the Chinese language by NCS students in a structured manner and their integration into the community. (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 Children/Students with SEN
- Supporting students with SEN in the VTC through an annual provision of \$12 million. (EDB)

- Continuing to provide additional resources, professional support and teacher training to help primary and secondary schools cater for their students with SEN, and to adjust the rates of the Learning Support Grant on an annual basis according to the established mechanism; continuing to provide the School-based Educational Psychology Service for all public sector primary and secondary schools, and to provide enhanced service for schools with a large number of students with SEN progressively. (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)
- Preparing for the establishment of 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)

(e) Promoting Digital Inclusion

- Continuing to implement various digital inclusion programmes to help the elderly and the underprivileged groups use information and communications technology to enhance their opportunities and integration with society. (ITB)

(f) Strengthening Cross-sector Collaboration

- Encouraging further cross-sector 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 portion of the Fund is set aside to implement 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 and self-financing facilities, in particular additional places for elderly and rehabilitation services. (LWB)
- Using the findings from the social impact assessment of a centralised benefits administration system together with a prototype platform to engage prospective operators in discussion of pilot testing of revised approaches to non-CSSA schemes. (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 in 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 the 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 effort 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

- Strengthen and make better use of the pharmacist manpower of the Hospital Authority (HA) to expand clinical pharmacy services (including oncology and paediatric clinical pharmacy services) and enhance drug reconciliation, consultation, checking and management services for patients in order to promote proper drug consumption and reduce drug wastage. (FHB)
- Increase the number of public hospital beds and operating theatre sessions and the quota for endoscopy examination and diagnostic radiological service so as to enhance the service capacity for addressing the ever rising healthcare needs. (FHB)
- Increase the quota for general out-patient and specialist out-patient consultation and enhance the Accident & Emergency Services to improve the waiting time for out-patient and emergency services. (FHB)

Chinese Medicine

- Prepare to finance the construction of a Chinese medicine hospital on a reserved site in Tseung Kwan O and invite the HA to assist in identifying by way of tender a suitable non-profit-making organisation to take forward and operate the hospital. (FHB)

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- Continue to implement and expand the Integrated Chinese-Western Medicine Pilot Project through the HA. (FHB)

Healthcare Service Development and Infrastructure

- Commence the development of the second stage of the Electronic Health Record Sharing System, which includes enhancement of patients' control/selection of data, development of a patient portal and addition of other sharable data (including radiological images). (FHB)
- Consider formulating a more robust policy and legislative framework to facilitate end-of-life care planning and the provision of palliative care outside hospital settings. (FHB)

Ensuring Long-term Sustainability of Healthcare System

- Introduce a bill on the regulation of private healthcare facilities into the Legislative Council in the first half of 2017, with a view to ensuring patient safety and protecting consumer rights. (FHB)
- Implement the Voluntary Health Insurance Scheme to improve the quality and transparency of individual hospital insurance products, and examine the details of providing tax deduction for purchase of regulated health insurance products to encourage the public to use private healthcare services. (FHB)

Combating the Threat of Infectious Diseases

- Reduce the pressure of seasonal influenza and its complications on the public healthcare system through a pilot project in 2016-17 to expand the scope of the Government Vaccination Programme and Vaccination Subsidy Scheme. The target groups of recipients of free or subsidised seasonal influenza vaccination, originally covering children from six months to under six years old, has been expanded to cover children from six months to under 12 years old. Pregnant women and recipients of disability allowance have also been included. The above measures will be regularised as from 2017-18. (FHB)

Strengthening Medical Services for Non-communicable Diseases

- Gradually enhance the HA's management and treatment of life-threatening diseases, including its stroke care and cardiac services, with a view to strengthening service quality and capacity. The 24-hour intravenous thrombolytic therapy for stroke patients will be made available in individual hospital clusters in phases. The HA will also enhance its percutaneous coronary intervention, echocardiography and cardiac care unit services. (FHB)

Safeguarding Public Health

- Continue to provide the relevant screening services in the two public hospitals concerned upon completion of the 18-month "Pilot Study on Newborn Screening for Inborn Errors of Metabolism (IEM)" implemented by the Department of Health (DH) and the HA since October 2015. The pilot study has proved effective in reducing and preventing severe problems arising from IEM. The DH and the HA plan to extend the screening service to all public hospitals with maternity wards in phases starting from the second half of 2017-18. (FHB)

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- Examine the relevant legislative options for the regulation of health products for advanced therapies. (FHB)

Healthcare Manpower Planning and Professional Development

- Announce the outcome of the first territory-wide Strategic Review of Healthcare Manpower Planning and Professional Development. (FHB)

Mental Health Policy

- Set up a standing advisory committee on mental health based on the recommendation of the Review Committee on Mental Health chaired by the Secretary for Food and Health. (FHB)
- Follow up the Student Mental Health Support Scheme launched in the 2016/17 school year on a pilot basis to assist schools in supporting students with mental health needs by enhancing communication and collaboration among healthcare, education and social welfare professionals. The Government will map out the way forward in the light of the experience of the pilot scheme and by making reference to the actual operation. (FHB)
- Strengthen psychiatric healthcare manpower to improve patients' waiting time, and improve the case manager to patient ratio of the HA's Case Management Programme for patients with severe mental illness. (FHB)

Tobacco Control

- Launch a pilot public-private partnership programme on smoking cessation. (FHB)

Ageing in Place

- Provide support for the elderly living alone and families of elderly couples through cross-sector collaboration, including the participation of doctors. (LWB)
- Invite the Community Care Fund (CCF) to implement a pilot scheme to provide transitional care and necessary support for elderly persons discharged from public hospitals after treatment to avoid their premature admission into elderly homes. (LWB)
- Invite the CCF to implement a pilot scheme to provide home care and support services for elderly persons with mild impairment to encourage ageing in place. (LWB)
- Strengthen the community care and support services by providing an additional 2 000 vouchers under the Second Phase of the Pilot Scheme on Community Care Service Voucher for the Elderly to support ageing in place for elderly persons with moderate or severe impairment. (LWB)

Long-term Care Services for the Elderly

- Extend the Pilot Residential Care Services Scheme in Guangdong for three years to provide elderly persons waiting for subsidised care-and-attention places with an option to live in the two elderly homes located respectively in Shenzhen and Zhaoqing which are run by Hong Kong non-governmental organisations (NGOs). (LWB)
- Implement a pilot scheme under the Lotteries Fund to provide specialised residential care service for elderly persons with special needs at designated residential care homes for the elderly. (LWB)

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- Implement the Pilot Scheme on Residential Care Service Voucher for the Elderly by adopting “money-following-the-user” approach with a view to offering elderly persons in need of residential care service with an additional choice and providing an incentive for residential care homes for the elderly to improve their services. (LWB)
 - Increase the funding for Infirmity Care Supplement and Dementia Supplement in order to provide enhanced support for frail and demented elderly persons. (LWB)

Strengthening Elderly Healthcare Services

- Increase the manpower of the Health Care Voucher Unit of the DH for the implementation of the enhanced measure of lowering the eligible age for the Elderly Health Care Voucher to 65. At the same time, the Government is reviewing the effectiveness of the scheme with a view to ensuring that the scheme will enhance the provision of primary care services for the elderly, including preventive care. (FHB)
- Extend the medical fee waiver for public healthcare services to cover Old Age Living Allowance recipients aged 75 or above with assets not exceeding \$144,000 (elderly singletons) or \$218,000 (elderly couples) and consider adjusting the HA’s fee levels having regard to the review findings of the HA. (FHB)
- Provide free or subsidised 13-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV13) for the elderly group under the Government Vaccination Programme and Vaccination Subsidy Scheme respectively with a view to strengthening elders’ immunity against pneumococcal infection. (FHB)

- Increase the manpower of the Elderly Health Service of the DH to enhance the capacity of and the services provided by its Elderly Health Centres (EHCs) and Visiting Health Teams, which include strengthening the provision of health promotion activities, providing priority to the needy elders to use the services of the EHCs, and allocating more first-time health assessment quotas to new members. (FHB)
- Enhance support for elderly patients with fragility fractures by increasing the HA's operating theatre sessions for surgery and traumatology, and setting up geriatric fragility fracture co-ordination services in designated acute hospitals; and enhance physiotherapy service for elderly patients. (FHB)
- Enhance the services provided by the HA's Community Geriatric Assessment Teams for terminally ill patients living in residential care homes for the elderly. (FHB)
- Strengthen medical-social collaboration through the joint efforts of the HA and the Social Welfare Department with a view to providing a full range of transitional care services and the required assistance for those elderly persons discharged from public hospitals, enabling them to age at home after the transitional period. (FHB)

Improving the Operation of the Medical Council of Hong Kong

- Introduce the Medical Registration (Amendment) Bill into the Legislative Council in the first half of 2017, with a view to improving the complaint investigation and disciplinary inquiry mechanism of the Medical Council of Hong Kong (MCHK), allowing more lay participation in the MCHK, and extending the valid period of limited registration of non-locally trained doctors to be approved by the MCHK from not exceeding one year to not exceeding three years. (FHB)
- Increase the manpower and resources of the MCHK Secretariat and strengthen its legal support in order to shorten the administrative processing time in handling complaints and conducting disciplinary inquiries. (FHB)

Animal Welfare

- Implement a new regulatory regime to strengthening the regulation of animal trading and dog breeding activities for enhancing animal welfare. (FHB)

Municipal Services

- Identify suitable sites in Tung Chung New Town Extension Area and Hung Shui Kiu New Development Area to build new public markets. (FHB)
- Intensify the cleansing of the environment and strengthening the related enforcement and prosecution work. (FHB)

On-going Initiatives

We are:

Enhancing Healthcare Services Provision

- Strengthening the services for chronic diseases through, for example, increasing the service capacity of chemotherapy and radiotherapy for cancer service, enhancing the service quota of haemodialysis for renal service, and stepping up complications screening for diabetic patients. (FHB)
- Continuing to implement the recommendations of the Steering Committee on Review of Hospital Authority through measures like refining the delineation of cluster boundary, shortening waiting time and adopting a refined population-based resource allocation model to enable the HA to better meet the challenges of an ageing population, increasing prevalence of chronic diseases and rising healthcare cost due to advance in medical technology. (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)

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- 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;
 - subsidising patients to receive cataract operation in the private sector; and
 - enhancing the choices of infirmary care services for applicants on the Central Infirmary Waiting List managed by the HA through collaboration between the HA and NGOs. An Infirmary Service Public-Private Partnership Programme has been implemented on a pilot basis with an NGO which will operate infirmary services at the Wong Chuk Hang Hospital. (FHB)
 - Widening the scope of the HA Drug Formulary to improve the drug treatment for patients in public hospitals. (FHB)
 - Providing subsidised colorectal cancer screening in phases for eligible Hong Kong residents aged 61 to 70 within three years through the “Colorectal Cancer Screening Pilot Programme” launched in September 2016. (FHB)

- Continuing to extend the coverage of the General Out-patient Clinic Public-Private Partnership Programme to more areas, with a view to covering all 18 districts of the territory in phases in the coming two years. (FHB)

Healthcare Service Development and Infrastructure

- Continuing with the implementation of the Ten-year Hospital Development Plan. In addition to the redevelopment of Kwong Wah Hospital, Queen Mary Hospital and Kwai Chung Hospital, the Operating Theatre Block of Tuen Mun Hospital (Foundation Work) and the expansion of United Christian Hospital and Haven of Hope Hospital, which have already commenced, the preparation work for the construction of a new acute hospital at Kai Tak Development Area and the redevelopment of Prince of Wales Hospital (Phase 2) (Stage 1), and the main works for the extension of the Operating Theatre Block of Tuen Mun Hospital are also being planned. (FHB)
- Continuing to utilise the one-off grant of \$13 billion allocated to the HA in 2014 in carrying out minor works projects to improve facilities in public hospitals and clinics. (FHB)
- Continuing with the operation of the first stage of the electronic health record sharing system which allows public and private healthcare providers to upload and access electronic health records of voluntary participants. (FHB)
- Continuing our efforts to facilitate further development of private hospitals with a view to ensuring the healthy development of a twin-track healthcare system in Hong Kong. (FHB)

Mental Health Policy

- Continue to take forward the implementation of Joyful@HK, a three-year territory-wide public education and promotion campaign to promote to the public the importance of mental well-being. (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 has been conducted. We will take into account the findings of the study, other assessment results and views of stakeholders. (FHB)

Chinese Medicine

- Implementing the Integrated Chinese-Western Medicine Pilot Project 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 a Chinese medicine hospital. Launched in September 2014, 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, in seven hospitals of the HA. (FHB)
- 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 the Government Chinese Medicines Testing Institute through the DH. The Institute will specialise 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. Pending the establishment of a permanent Government Chinese Medicines Testing Institute, we will set up a temporary one, which will be operated in phases from the first quarter of 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. A pilot study has also been launched on the standard setting for Chinese medicines decoction pieces under the Hong Kong Chinese Materia Medica Standards Project. (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 influenza pandemic and enhance Hong Kong's preparedness for the pandemic. (FHB)

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- Continuing to implement and improve the vaccination schemes/ vaccination subsidy scheme to provide free/subsidised seasonal influenza and pneumococcal vaccinations for eligible persons, with a view to enhancing 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 the Strategic Framework for Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases to promote cross-sector co-operation in strengthening the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases. (FHB)
 - Providing guidance under a “one health” framework, formulating strategies and implementing action plans against antimicrobial resistance from various aspects through the High-level Steering Committee on Antimicrobial Resistance, which was set up in June 2016, comprising representatives from relevant government departments, public and private hospitals, healthcare organisations, academia and relevant professional bodies. (FHB)

Healthcare Manpower Planning and Professional Development

- Launching the Accredited Registers Pilot Scheme for healthcare professionals who are currently not subject to statutory registration, so as to facilitate members of the public in making informed decisions when using these services. (FHB)

Health Promotion

- Formulating legislative proposal for the regulation of electronic cigarettes. (FHB)

- Strengthening collaboration with relevant organisations to promote organ donation and encourage the public to register at the Centralised Organ Donation Register. (FHB)

Food Safety and Healthy Eating

- Studying the latest development on regulation of nutrition and health claims for formula products and prepackaged food for infants and young children under the age of 36 months, with a view to putting forth specific legislative proposals. (FHB)
- Studying the feasibility of re-provisioning and expanding the Food Safety Laboratory of the Government Laboratory to enhance its testing capability and operational efficiency for tests relating to food safety. (FHB)
- Putting forth legislative proposals in respect of the regulation of the safety and quality standard of edible fats and oils, and commissioning local universities to conduct studies on “cooking oils in use” with a view to assisting the Centre for Food Safety to develop guidelines on good practices on “cooking oils in use” for the trade. (FHB)
- Initiating consultation on strengthening the regulation of the levels of heavy metallic contamination in food. (FHB)
- Continuing to study the regulation of cooked meat including looking into international practices. (FHB)
- Continuing to devise and implement a strategic plan for encouraging the public to reduce intake of salt and sugar in food to promote a healthy diet. (FHB)

Veterinary Surgeons Board Election Arrangements

- Drawing up regulations for the election of members from the veterinary profession to the Veterinary Surgeons Board of Hong Kong in accordance with the new provisions in the Veterinary Surgeons Registration (Amendment) Ordinance 2015; and supporting the Board in organising and holding 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)
- Consider optimising the regulatory framework governing veterinary drug residues in food with reference to the implementation of the Pesticide Residues in Food Regulation. (FHB)

Elderly Healthcare Services

- 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

- Continuing to increase the number of community care places for the elderly to support ageing in place. (LWB)
- Continuing to implement 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)

- Planning to implement a pilot scheme under the Lotteries Fund to enhance training for foreign domestic helpers in taking care of elderly persons. (LWB)

Long-term Care Services for the Elderly

- Enhancing and stepping up the inspection and monitoring of residential care homes for the elderly and those for persons with disabilities; helping the industry to improve service quality through various means, including strengthening staff training. (LWB)
- Continuing to increase 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)
- Continuing with the conversion of existing EA2 places of the Enhanced Bought Place Scheme to EA1 places which are of a higher quality. (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)
- Continuing to implement 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)

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- Continuing to enhance the primary medical service for ageing service users at residential care homes by providing subvention under the Visiting Medical Practitioner Scheme. (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)

Animal Welfare

- Continuing to implement the “Trap-Neuter-Release” trial programme for stray dogs and monitoring and assessing its effectiveness. (FHB)

Municipal Services

- Sustaining our efforts to improve the fire safety and design of hawker stalls in 43 fixed-pitch hawker areas through the five-year assistance scheme launched in 2013. (FHB)
- Continuing our efforts to seek support for public columbarium development on shortlisted sites across the territory whilst promoting green burials in parallel. (FHB)
- Working with the Legislative Council for early enactment of the Private Columbaria Bill. (FHB)

- Continuing to consult stakeholders on concrete improvement proposals for a number of public markets and actively follow up the works. (FHB)

Live Poultry

- With consideration given to the consultant's recommendations, consulting the public on the future of the live poultry trade. (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, energy conservation and biodiversity in four 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 waste management, we will continue with the preparation for implementation of quantity-based municipal solid waste (MSW) charging, and will submit the legislative proposal on its implementation to the Legislative Council (LegCo) for deliberation. We will also implement, in phases, the mandatory producer responsibility schemes (PRSs) on waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) and glass beverage containers, including the commissioning in mid-2017 of the WEEE Treatment and Recycling Facility. To reduce food waste, we will continue with the Food Wise Hong Kong Campaign and development of the network of Organic Waste Treatment Facilities (OWTFs), phase 1 of which will be completed in the second half of 2017 for treatment of food waste. We will also encourage organisations

such as tertiary institutions, and primary and secondary schools to adopt on-site treatment of food waste.

To further protect elephants in Africa, we will take forward a series of measures, including initiating legislative procedures to phase out local trade in elephant ivory, imposing heavier penalties on smuggling and illegal trading of endangered species, and stepping up law enforcement.

To further promote revitalisation of remote rural areas, we will form a conservation fund preparatory committee with the participation of the Government and stakeholders of various sectors to study the ambit and modus operandi of such a fund, as well as the legislation and resources required.

To combat climate change, we have introduced various initiatives to achieve higher energy efficiency, promote renewable energy (RE) and green building, and encourage a low carbon lifestyle in our community. To deliver our pledge made in 2015 to reduce electricity consumption by 5% for government buildings in five years' time, the Government will take the lead in promoting energy efficiency; and provisions will be earmarked for energy saving projects for government buildings. By setting higher targets for government buildings in the use of RE and earmarking necessary provisions, we will further enhance the use of RE in government buildings and venues. Furthermore, we will discuss with the two power companies ways to further facilitate building energy saving and development of RE under the new Scheme of Control Agreements (SCAs). All bureaux and departments will also strengthen their carbon management and start conducting regular carbon audits on major government buildings. Meanwhile, we will

further enhance the city's walkability and promote walking as an important part of Hong Kong as a sustainable city.

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 further promote the adoption of a holistic approach to formulate urban forestry strategies, develop proper urban arboricultural practices, enrich vegetation diversity and enhance place ecology for sustainable development of our cityscape.

We wish to preserve the city's charm while respecting the need for development. We have set up the Built Heritage Conservation Fund to provide subsidies for public education, community involvement and publicity activities, as well as academic research. The fund also subsidises certain existing government measures and initiatives on built heritage conservation.

New Initiatives

We will:

Air Quality

- Review the Sixth Technical Memorandum in 2017 with a view to further tightening the air pollutant emission caps for power companies from 2022 onwards. (ENB)

Combating Climate Change and Energy Conservation

- Propose to set aside \$10 million from the Environment and Conservation Fund to subsidise non-profit-making organisations to carry out publicity and education activities and demonstration projects with climate change as the theme, with a view to strengthening publicity and public education to encourage the community to make concerted efforts to combat climate change. (ENB)
- Request all bureaux and departments to enhance carbon management by starting to conduct regular carbon audits on major government buildings and disclosing their carbon emission information, with a view to exploring room for carbon reduction. (ENB)
- Earmark \$200 million for the Government to install RE facilities in government buildings, venues and facilities to promote the development of RE, reduce carbon emissions and mitigate the impact of climate change. (ENB)

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- Consider the provision of district cooling systems in new development areas, including the topside development at the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Hong Kong Boundary Crossing Facilities and the Tung Chung New Town Extension. (ENB)
 - Earmark not less than \$500 million to implement various energy saving projects for government buildings to reduce their electricity consumption, with a view to achieving the target of reducing electricity consumption by 5% for government buildings in the financial years 2015-16 to 2019-20. (ENB)
 - Foster the concept of “Walk in HK” with a view to tackling the challenges posed by climate change; promoting sustainable development of Hong Kong; encouraging a healthy lifestyle; strengthening community interaction; and building an age-friendly environment. In the light of the unique environment of Hong Kong, we will implement a series of new measures along four themes: “Make it smart” by providing user-friendly information on walking routes; “Make it connected” by enhancing our pedestrian networks; “Make it enjoyable” by making walking a pleasant experience; and “Make it safe” by providing a safe and quality pedestrian environment. Examples include selecting two areas in Hong Kong for pilot study to test out innovative measures for a comfortable walking environment; and exploring relaxing the existing requirements for adding covers to public walkways as stipulated in the Transport Planning and Design Manual. We will continue to take forward the various hillside escalator links and elevator systems (HEL), and also commence a study at the end of 2017 to review and improve the assessment mechanism for proposed HEL projects. We will join hands with stakeholders such as the MTR Corporation Limited to promote “Walk in HK”. (THB)

Enhancing Waste Management

- Introduce into LegCo the legislative proposal for the implementation of MSW charging. (ENB)
- Commence a feasibility study on introducing mandatory PRS for suitable plastic product containers. (ENB)
- Introduce legislation to mandate the use of Global Positioning System on construction waste collection vehicles to facilitate enforcement action against fly-tipping of construction waste. (ENB)
- Launch trial schemes on source separation and collection of food waste generated from wet markets and cooked food centres managed by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, as well as wet markets and shopping malls managed by the Hong Kong Housing Authority, for delivery to and treatment by phase 1 of the OWTs, which will be commissioned in the second half of 2017, with a view to encouraging the commercial and industrial sectors to recycle food waste properly and achieving the waste-to-energy purpose. (ENB)
- Provide appropriate professional support for organisations such as tertiary institutions, and primary and secondary schools with suitable venues for on-site treatment of food waste, so as to reduce food waste disposal at landfills and at the same time enhance teachers' and students' awareness of the food waste problems and food wise culture. (ENB)

Promoting Nature Conservation

- Initiate legislative procedures to phase out local trade in elephant ivory, impose heavier penalties on smuggling and illegal trade of endangered species, and continue to step up law enforcement against the smuggling and illegal trade of ivory. (ENB)
- Carry on with the preparatory work to designate Robin's Nest as a new country park. (ENB)
- Form a conservation fund preparatory committee to study the ambit and modus operandi of such a fund, as well as the legislation and resources required, to further promote revitalisation of remote rural environment. (ENB)
- Take places such as Tai O, Shui Hau and Pui O on Lantau as the pilot areas for implementing rural conservation policies, under which Government and community resources will be deployed to take forward, as appropriate, various rural conservation initiatives including nature conservation and education, revitalisation of old village buildings, village life experience enhancement and promotion of ecological and cultural tourism, to support the efforts in developing and conserving Lantau. (ENB/DEVB)
- Implement the first Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for Hong Kong in the next five years to step up nature conservation efforts and support sustainable development. We will take forward a series of measures to strengthen conservation of biodiversity, such as conducting various studies and exercises to enhance public awareness and formulating a species-specific action plan for incense tree to conserve this native tree species, from which Hong Kong got her name. (ENB)

Green Building

- Review the current arrangement under which a development project is only required to register for Building Environmental Assessment Method (BEAM) Plus as a prerequisite for application for gross floor area concession for amenity features, with a view to further promoting green buildings in the private market. (DEVB)

Urban Forestry

- Formulate an urban forestry management strategy and develop proper urban arboricultural practices with a holistic approach. Develop sustainable urban landscape and promote vegetation diversity, and draw up a practice note on urban arboriculture. (DEVB)
- Raise public awareness on urban forestry through publicity and education. (DEVB)
- Promote capacity-building for the arboriculture and horticulture industry and assist the Arboriculture and Horticulture Industry Training Advisory Committee in developing a qualification framework. (DEVB)

Safeguarding Drinking Water Quality

- Continue to press ahead to follow up the recommendations put forward by the Commission of Inquiry into Excess Lead Found in Drinking Water to address the grave public concern about the incidents of excess lead in drinking water in public rental housing estates and other premises and to restore public confidence in the quality of drinking water. These measures include:

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- studying overseas practices with a view to developing drinking water standards and water sampling protocols suitable for Hong Kong; further enhancing the Water Safety Plan of the Water Supplies Department; and developing templates for Water Safety Plan for buildings;
 - consulting the International Expert Panel appointed by the Development Bureau on the various items of follow-up work;
 - reviewing the Waterworks Ordinance and its Regulations for submitting some of the amendments, including those defining the duties of licensed plumbers and plumbing workers and updating the standards for plumbing materials in the inside service, to the LegCo for deliberation in the 2016-17 legislative session; and
 - stepping up the regulation of pipe materials and fittings of the inside service. (DEVB)

Water Resources Management

- Continue to strengthen enforcement action against leakage cases in order to minimise water loss caused by the lack of proper maintenance or prolonged repairs of the inside service. In the meantime, we also collaborate with other government departments to take forward the Pilot Scheme for Leakage Detection for underground water pipes and will promote leakage detection and maintenance for private underground water pipes. (DEVB)

Enhancing the Water Safety Regime for Hong Kong

- Develop a holistic plan for safeguarding drinking water quality and put forward proposal on introducing legislation on drinking water safety, which include developing a set of drinking water standards suitable for the local situation and a water quality regulatory framework, as well as putting in place a comprehensive programme for monitoring the safety and quality of drinking water from the source to the consumers' taps. (DEVB)

Building Information Modelling Technology

- Actively seek to apply the Building Information Modelling (BIM) technology in the design of major government capital works projects from 2018 onwards. Consultants and contractors undertaking the design and construction work for these projects will be required to use the BIM technology. (DEVB)

Safe and Quality Living Environment

- Conduct investigations and, where necessary, carry out rehabilitation works for aged drainage systems to minimise flooding risk and safety hazards arising from pipe collapse. (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 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)
- Continuing to enhance the charging network for electric vehicles to promote their wider use. (ENB)
- Taking forward the tightening of vehicular emissions standards for newly registered vehicles in accordance with appropriate international standards. (ENB)

(b) Regional Co-operation

- Continuing to implement the Pearl River Delta Regional Air Quality Management Plan together with the Guangdong Provincial Government to keep improving 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 (PM_{2.5}) 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

- Continuing with the review of the Air Quality Objectives (AQOs), consulting via a working group the stakeholders' views about continuous improvement to air quality, and exploring the further tightening of the AQOs. (ENB)

Enhancing Waste Management

(a) Reducing Waste and Promoting Recycling

- Continuing with the preparation for implementation of quantity-based MSW charging and supporting extensive community involvement projects with funding from the Environment and Conservation Fund. (ENB)
- Continuing to encourage public participation in waste reduction at source and improve the recycling facilities to increase the 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 the Recycling Fund, green procurement, infrastructural support, 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)

- Continuing to mobilise the community to engage in the food wise culture under the Food Wise Hong Kong Campaign and Food Wise Eateries Scheme to prevent and reduce food waste at source, and continuing with the food waste recycling and reduction projects at housing estates and giving more support to non-governmental organisations 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)
 - Continuing to implement administrative regulatory measures to require that waste cooking oils produced by local licensed food premises be recycled through legitimate means, and considering amendments to the Waste Disposal Ordinance to strengthen the regulation of waste cooking oils. (ENB/FHB)
- (b) Practising the “Polluter Pays” principle and implementing Producer Responsibility Schemes
- Continuing with the preparatory work for the two mandatory PRSs on WEEE and Glass Beverage Containers for phased implementation of the schemes. (ENB)
- (c) Developing Waste Treatment and Disposal Facilities
- Pursuing extension of landfills. (ENB)
 - Continuing to take forward the phase 1 project of the OUTFs, monitoring its progress and working out the operational arrangements for the facilities to convert food waste collected into RE and compost products. (ENB)

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- Commencing the tendering exercise for the phase 2 project of the OWTFs. (ENB)
 - Inviting tenders for the Food Waste/Sewage Sludge Anaerobic Co-digestion Pilot Trial and commencing construction works. (ENB)
 - Conducting the tendering exercise and assessing tenders for the phase 1 project of the Integrated Waste Management Facilities for MSW treatment. (ENB)
 - Continuing with the study for the planning of future waste management and transfer facilities to establish the requirements for additional waste facilities for bulk transfer and treatment of solid waste to meet Hong Kong's needs up to 2041. (ENB)

Energy

- Continuing to discuss with the two power companies the terms of the new 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)

Combating Climate Change and Energy Conservation

- Co-ordinating and following up the various measures in the enhanced climate change work plan put forward by the Steering Committee on Climate Change. (ENB)

- Continuing to implement the Charter 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)
- Continuing with the “Energy Saving for All” Campaign to promote energy saving for combating climate change. Our efforts include inviting various sectors to sign up for the Energy Saving Charter to pledge to maintain the average indoor temperature at their premises between 24 and 26 degrees Celsius during mid-summer, switch off electrical appliances when they are not in use and procure energy-efficient appliances. (ENB)
- Expanding 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)
- Continuing with the 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 challenges brought about by climate change. The related work is expected to be completed in 2017. (DEVB)

Improving Water Quality

- Continuing to monitor and assess the progress of improvement in the water quality of Victoria Harbour. (ENB)
- Exploring various practicable options under a consultancy study commenced in January 2016 to enhance the water quality of the near-shore waters of Victoria Harbour, and constructing dry weather flow interceptors and rehabilitate trunk sewers in Kowloon and Tsuen Wan to reduce residual pollutants discharged from various urban activities, misconnection of sewers to storm drains and leakage of aged/broken sewers into Victoria Harbour to further improve water quality and reduce odour problems. (ENB)

Development of Desalination

- Continuing with the design work for the desalination plant at Tseung Kwan O and seeking to complete the design of its associated infrastructure as early as possible. (DEVB)

Water Intelligent Network

- Taking forward gradually the establishment of a comprehensive Water Intelligent Network to continuously monitor the health condition of the water mains network. The work includes continuous installation of sensors in the water distribution network for establishing District Metering Areas (DMAs); undertaking design for the remaining DMAs; and preparing a tendering exercise for an intelligent network management computer system for analysing the data collected from the sensors. We are also preparing to commission a consultant to use data mining technique to predict the possibility of water main bursts for early identification of defective water mains and follow-up actions. (DEVB)

Water Conservation and Reclamation

- Continuing to adopt a multi-pronged approach and more proactive strategy to step up the promotion of water conservation in Hong Kong. In respect of promotion, the Water Conservation Week 2016 was launched in mid-November 2016. Through this large-scale public event, we engaged different sectors of the community, including education, environmental protection, catering, hotels and property management, to promote water conservation. On the education front, the “Cherish Water Campus” Integrated Education Programme was introduced to primary schools at the start of the 2015/16 school year. To date, over 200 primary schools have joined the programme. Furthermore, the design work for the Water Resources Education Centre at Tin Shui Wai for replacing the existing temporary centre has commenced. As regards high water consumption industries, we have developed best practice guidelines for water usage in the catering and hotel industries and encouraged the private sector to conduct review on water usage. (DEVB)
- Continuing to take forward the initiative of the use of reclaimed water for toilet flushing and other non-potable purposes in the north-eastern part of the New Territories (including Sheung Shui and Fanling). The design of advance infrastructure works is almost completed while the study on the financial and legal framework for the supply of reclaimed water is currently underway. (DEVB)

Green Construction

- Implementing measures for low carbon construction, emission reduction and use of recycled materials in public works projects, including:
 - continuing to promote the use of electric vehicles in works projects;
 - continuing to use biodiesel as fuel for construction machineries in construction sites;
 - continuing to adopt green site offices; and
 - continuing to conduct trials on the use of waste glass as fill materials for 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 District Councils in organising promotion activities on “Use Less, Waste Less” and “clean recycling” at district level. (ENB)
- Continuing with the development of Community Green Stations in phases in each of the 18 districts. (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)
- Continuing to encourage the public and the business sectors to adopt green procurement practices, suggesting professional bodies, industry groups and trade associations 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. The Government announced the first Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for Hong Kong in December 2016. (ENB)

Greening, Landscape and Tree Management

- Delivering higher quality landscape planning and design in the upstream by adopting a multi-pronged approach and proactive strategy for enriching vegetation diversity and enhancing place ecology, while undertaking more diligent vegetation management and maintenance in the downstream. (DEVB)
- Further promoting the concepts of lifecycle planning and life expectancy for trees and continuing to enforce “Right Tree, Right Place”. (DEVB)
- Continuing to improve the current risk management strategy and handle trees in the urban areas according to priorities. (DEVB)

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- Implementing a more effective risk management strategy for stonewall trees. (DEVB)
 - Strengthening co-ordination amongst departments and communication with stakeholders and the public. (DEVB)
 - Continuing to consider how the Handbook on Tree Management published by the Development Bureau in April 2016 should be incorporated into the Code of Practice issued under the Building Management Ordinance (Cap. 344). (HAB)

Heritage Conservation

- Taking forward progressively new funding schemes for public engagement projects and thematic research under the new Built Heritage Conservation Fund, which has also expanded the scope of the Financial Assistance for Maintenance Scheme and raised the grant ceiling for each works project. (DEVB)
- Continuing to work closely with the selected non-profit-making organisations to implement the first four batches of projects under the Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme which now falls within the funding scope of the Built Heritage Conservation Fund. (DEVB)
- Taking forward the assessment work for 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)
- Completing the River Flood Study and putting in place progressively the flood warning systems and mitigation measures for flood-prone rivers in the rural areas. (DEVB)
- Continuing with phase 2 construction works of an underground stormwater storage tank in Happy Valley to relieve further the flood risks in the district and adjacent areas. (DEVB)
- Continuing to review the Drainage Master Plans of Sha Tin, Tai Po, Sai Kung, North Hong Kong Island, Lantau and the outlying islands 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)

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- Continuing with the 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 as well as in providing the impetus for the continued social and economic development of Hong Kong. To carry through the population policy objectives of unleashing the local labour force, attracting talent from outside Hong Kong and developing an age-friendly city as set out in the Policy Addresses of the past two years, we will continue to implement a series of initiatives to effectively address the challenges to our human resources brought about by an ageing population and a shrinking labour force.

The issue of manpower involves both 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 actively promote family-friendly employment practices at different levels and encourage employers to help their employees balance their roles and responsibilities in work and family.

Promoting employment of local workers and protecting the rights and benefits of workers have always been our priority. We accept the recommendation made by the Minimum Wage Commission to increase the Statutory Minimum Wage (SMW) rate from the existing \$32.5 per hour to \$34.5 per hour. Subject to approval by the Legislative Council, the revised SMW rate will be implemented from 1 May 2017. Furthermore, we will inject an additional \$1.5 billion into the Continuing Education Fund (CEF) to encourage the public to pursue continuing education. We will continue to provide diversified recruitment and employment services for employers and job seekers with different employment needs. We will also take rigorous enforcement actions against violation of labour laws. We will take full account of the report of the Standard Working Hours Committee and the views of various sectors of the community to map out as soon as possible the working hours policy direction that best suits the socio-economic situation of Hong Kong.

New Initiatives

We will:

Population Policy

- (a) Promoting Continuing Education and Self-advancement
 - Inject an additional \$1.5 billion into the CEF to encourage the public to pursue continuing education. (LWB)
- (b) Enhancing Employment Support for Ethnic Minorities
 - Engage staff proficient in ethnic minority languages to provide services at selected job centres of the Labour Department (LD) on a pilot basis. (LWB)
- (c) Supporting Women in Fulfilling Work and Family Commitments
 - Provide additional resources for units of day/residential child care services and pre-school rehabilitation services for enhancing the remuneration for qualified child care staff, so as to retain and attract such staff. (LWB)

Kindergarten Education

- Implement the free quality kindergarten education policy from the 2017/18 school year to provide eligible local non-profit-making kindergartens with a direct subsidy for the provision of 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. Under the new policy, the Government will improve the quality of kindergarten education in various aspects and provide a grant for kindergarten students from needy families to cover their school-related expenses. (EDB)
- Provide a one-off start-up grant in the 2016/17 school year for kindergartens participating in the Free Quality Kindergarten Education Scheme to facilitate their transition to this new scheme. (EDB)
- Organise a Guangdong-Shenzhen-Hong Kong-Macao forum on kindergarten education to enhance the quality of kindergarten education and deepen the exchange and collaboration among Hong Kong, the Mainland and Macao in kindergarten education. (EDB)

- Invite the Standing Committee on Language Education and Research (SCOLAR) to consider making use of the Language Fund to provide Chinese and English enhancement programmes for kindergarten teachers (including training on skills in teaching Chinese to non-Chinese speaking students) in order to dovetail with the launch of the updated Kindergarten Education Curriculum Guide. (EDB)

Primary and Secondary Education

- Enhance the learning and teaching environment of existing school premises and in this regard, improve the facilities of the 26 “matchbox-style school premises” as agreed with the sector. (EDB)
- Introduce a paid non-local study leave scheme on a pilot basis for serving secondary school teachers to broaden their professional perspective and acquire the latest global education developments by taking part in professional development activities, such as specific courses or experiential learning attachment programmes lasting for about one to three months. The scheme is expected to benefit some 150 teachers during its three-year pilot run. (EDB)
- Starting from the 2017/18 school year, the Learning Support Grant for public sector ordinary primary and secondary schools will cover students with mental illness in order to help schools cater for their learning, social, emotional and behavioural needs. (EDB)

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- Enhance the support for English learning in primary schools by inviting SCOLAR to consider making use of the Language Fund to provide a grant for primary schools for enriching the language environment on campus and refining the school-based English Language curriculum, catering in particular for the transition from kindergarten to junior primary as well as learner diversity with equal emphasis on more able and less able students. (EDB)
 - Invite SCOLAR to consider making use of the Language Fund to provide a vocational English programme for senior secondary students who are interested in pursuing VPET or prepared to work, so as to enhance their English proficiency and provide opportunities for attaining relevant recognition for further study and employment. (EDB)
 - Capitalise on the advantage of Hong Kong as an international city to enhance co-operation and exchange on educational aspects with countries and regions along the Belt and Road to facilitate the understanding of students on the varied cultures of different ethnic groups, and the development and opportunities of these countries and cities. Related measures include updating or fine-tuning the curricula of primary and secondary schools, providing suitable learning and teaching resources, widening opportunities for students to learn foreign languages (e.g. Russian and Arabic), and further promoting through the Quality Education Fund, student visits and exchange activities in the Mainland and countries along the Belt and Road, such as participating in service-learning and English Language Immersion programmes, with a view to enhancing our students' skills of communication with people of these countries as well as showcasing the contributions that Hong Kong, as an international city, can make towards promoting the Belt and Road Initiative. (EDB)

- Promote Chinese history and culture by strengthening teachers' professional development and providing a one-off grant to support the teaching of Chinese Language, Chinese History and Chinese Literature, so as to enable primary and secondary students to admire and inherit the spirit of excellence and the civilisation of Chinese people. (EDB)
- Allow aided secondary schools with surplus teachers arising from reduction of secondary one classes in the 2016/17 school year to apply to extend the retention period of the teachers concerned up to the 2017/18 school year, following last year's similar initiative for surplus teachers arising likewise in the 2013/14 and 2014/15 school years to be retained up to the 2017/18 school year, so as to further sustain the development of secondary schools affected by the temporary decline in secondary student population and stabilise their teaching force. (EDB)

Post-secondary Education

- Regularise the Study Subsidy Scheme for Designated Professions/ Sectors after the current three-cohort pilot run, making it a recurrent initiative from the 2018/19 academic year onwards and increasing the number of subsidised places from about 1 000 per cohort to about 3 000 per cohort. Current students of the designated programmes will also receive the subsidy starting from that academic year. It is estimated that about 13 000 students can benefit from the scheme in each academic year. (EDB)
- Launch the seventh round of Matching Grant Scheme with a commitment of up to \$500 million for eligible self-financing local degree-awarding institutions to apply. (EDB)

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- Continue to support the newly-established Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao University Alliance (GHMUA) in synergising and deepening the co-operation among higher education institutions in the three places in areas such as teaching, research and technology transfer, and student exchange; and by making reference to the GHMUA experience, actively support universities in Hong Kong to strengthen co-operation with leading institutions in other Mainland cities such as Beijing and Shanghai, thereby raising the level and standard of regional co-operation. (EDB)
 - Request the University Grants Committee (UGC) to complete the review on the allocation of the Research Portion of their grants within one year and expand the assessment criteria to include research impact and effectiveness of knowledge and technology transfer. We will also request, through the UGC, all universities to refine their three-year knowledge and technology transfer plans within six months and strengthen the role of their Knowledge Transfer Offices in co-ordinating and commercialising research output. (EDB)

Vocational and Professional Education and Training

- Further enhance the facilities for VPET by carrying out planning work of a site identified in Cha Kwo Ling, Kowloon East to develop a Vocational Training Council (VTC) campus with adequate capacity and state-of-the-art facilities. Besides, the Government supports the VTC in principle to construct the Aviation and Marine Engineering Centre on the site of the Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education (Tsing Yi). (EDB)

Qualifications Framework

- Play an active role in the setting up of the country's Qualifications Framework (QF) and share our experience in the implementation of QF in Hong Kong and provide advice where needed. We will also continue to explore opportunities for co-operation with other countries or places in the development of QF. The Education Bureau has executed Cooperation Arrangement or Memorandum of Understanding with relevant authorities in New Zealand, Scotland and Ireland, and is conducting comparability study of QFs with them. (EDB)

Women

- Establish a Gender Focal Point network among listed companies, following the setting up of such a network among government bureaux/departments, District Councils and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in the social welfare sector. (LWB)

Employment Support and Employees' Welfare

- Take full account of the report of the Standard Working Hours Committee and the views of various sectors of the community to map out as soon as possible the working hours policy direction that suits the socio-economic situation of Hong Kong. (LWB)
- Strive to maintain Hong Kong as a favourable place of work for foreign domestic helpers (FDHs) by:
 - promoting and strengthening co-operation with governments of FDH home countries and enhancing the publicity and educational efforts;

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- implementing the Code of Practice for Employment Agencies, which sets out the requirements expected of the employment agencies (including those placing FDHs) by the Commissioner for Labour as the licensing authority; and
 - introducing legislative amendments to specify the power for the Commissioner for Labour to promulgate a Code of Practice for Employment Agencies. The penalty against employment agencies (including those placing FDHs) which charge job-seekers excessive placement fees or those operate without a licence will also be increased, with a view to imposing a more potent deterrent effect. (LWB)
- Follow up on the outcome of the review of the implementation of statutory paternity leave. (LWB)
 - Prepare for the implementation of the revised SMW rate. (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

- The retirement age for new recruits to the civilian grades in the civil service has been raised to 65 and that for the disciplined services grades to 60 since 1 June 2015. As regards 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, preparations are being made for implementing the 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)

- As the proposal of extending the retirement age for new teacher recruits of aided schools to 65 has gained support from the sector, the Education Bureau is working out the necessary arrangements, including introducing amendments to relevant parts of the Education Ordinance (Cap. 279), the Grant Schools Provident Fund Rules (Cap. 279C) and the Subsidized Schools Provident Fund Rules (Cap. 279D). (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 adopt friendly employment practices for the elderly. (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)
- Including elderly people continuously as one of the future target groups, the Employees Retraining Board (ERB) will help them rejoin the job market. The ERB has completed a market research and, in view of the findings, developed various training and support services to cater for the needs of mature persons, including a series of “Workplace Re-entry” courses and practical activities to equip the mature participants with the necessary skills and assist them in exploring suitable types of work. (LWB)

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- Continuing to organise large-scale job fairs which include employment and vacancy information on the Mainland so as to help job seekers, in particular the young people, better understand the employment opportunities on the Mainland and find suitable jobs. (LWB)
 - Enhancing employment support for job seekers with higher education, in particular Hong Kong students educated in overseas tertiary institutes as well as persons from overseas with higher academic/professional qualifications through a newly-created dedicated employment information e-platform on the internet. (LWB)

(e) Supporting Women in Fulfilling Work and Family Commitments

- Providing an additional grant for whole-day and long whole-day kindergartens under the free quality kindergarten education policy from the 2017/18 school year to encourage them to provide whole-day services to support working parents. (EDB)
- 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. Besides, matching grants are provided through the Partnership Fund for the Disadvantaged to encourage the business sector to work with organisations and schools to implement more after-school learning and support programmes for primary and secondary school students from grassroots families under a dedicated portion of the Fund. (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 continuing to consider offering more part-time positions on non-civil service contract terms, the Government, subject to exigencies of the service and sufficient personal grounds, will also maintain the existing arrangements of giving priority and sympathetic consideration to leave applications, including unpaid leave, on family care grounds. (CSB)
- Providing by 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 they are attending, 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)
- Continuing to encourage NGOs participated in the Special Scheme on Privately Owned Sites for Welfare Uses to establish work-based child care centres. 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)
- Taking forward a consultancy study to advise on the long-term development of child care services. (LWB)

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- Continuing to implement a pilot project 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 such as implementing, by the ERB, a “First-Hire-Then-Train Pilot Programme” with measures to cater for the family commitments of middle-aged women and homemakers, to help them rejoin the job market. (LWB)
 - Continuing with the LD’s efforts in promoting family-friendly employment practices through various channels and a wide range of educational and promotional activities, to encourage employers to help employees keep a balance between their work and family commitments. (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 public rental housing (PRH) units and subsidised sale flats and maintaining the steady and healthy development of the private property market. On PRH, in order to enhance family cohesion, the Hong Kong Housing Authority (HKHA) encourages young families to live with or near their elderly parents/dependants through various “Harmonious Families” schemes, with a view to establishing a family-based support network and 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, as well as implementing the “Hong Kong Code of Marketing of Formula Milk and Related Products, and Food Products for Infants & Young Children” 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)

(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)
- 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
 - continuous implementation of a two-year pilot project funded by the Lotteries Fund for trained ex-mentally ill persons to serve as peer supporters for other persons in rehabilitation. The project also aims to improve the employment opportunities of ex-mentally ill persons. (LWB)

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- Continuing to implement the Employment Services Ambassador Programme for Ethnic Minorities to engage trainees of the Youth Employment and Training Programme who can communicate in ethnic minority languages as Employment Services Ambassadors at job centres, industry-based recruitment centres and job fairs of the LD to provide employment services for ethnic minority job seekers. (LWB)
 - Targeting the social groups with special needs continuously, ERB will develop courses and services to meet their needs with a view to helping them seek employment and integrate into the community. These include:
 - organising dedicated training courses for new arrivals, ethnic minorities, persons with disabilities and persons recovered from work injuries, and ex-offenders, and launching an outreach training consultancy service through which training consultants will provide counselling for different social groups;
 - launching 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;
 - continuing to conduct training courses in the support centres for ethnic minorities under the Home Affairs Department to facilitate attendance of ethnic minorities; and

- extending the Modular Certificates Accumulation System to cover other in-demand programmes to enable trainees to make flexible arrangement for further studies and apply for a certificate bearing a qualification equivalent to a corresponding full-time course upon completion of a number of specified half-day or evening courses. (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, we will continue to offer on-site training opportunities in social enterprises and related support services to persons with disabilities, ethnic minorities and senior citizens 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)
- 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)

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- The Labour and Welfare Bureau has commenced a consultancy study on the feasibility of drawing up a talent list so as to attract high-quality talent in a more effective manner to support Hong Kong's development as a high value-added and diversified economy. The study is expected to be completed this year. (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)
 - 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
- Allowing the importation of labour on an appropriate, limited and targeted basis to relieve the manpower shortage of individual sectors on the premise of according employment priority to local workers. (LWB)

(j) Creating an Age-friendly Community

- Continuing to install barrier-free facilities such as lifts at the existing PRH estates and continuing to implement the “Universal Accessibility” Programme. This will allow people in need, including the elderly, to move around in the community with greater ease. (THB)
- Continuing to upgrade the physical setting, facilities and equipment of some 230 elderly centres under the Improvement Programme of Elderly Centres. (LWB)
- Continuing to take forward initiatives to build an age-friendly environment, including providing covers on certain walkways connecting to public transport facilities; examining the application of information technologies to extend the pedestrian green time to facilitate the elderly and people with mobility difficulties in crossing signalised road junctions; and enhancing the service of HKeTransport to facilitate its use by the elderly. (THB)
- Continuing to implement the new Opportunities for the Elderly Project after its merging with the Neighbourhood Active Ageing Project for better use of resources in encouraging elderly people to actively take part in community affairs. (LWB)
- Enhancing district network support for elder academies, promoting their curriculum development and training for trainers, so that the elder academies can provide elderly persons with diversified courses on an on-going basis for the promotion of life-long learning and cross-sector harmony. (LWB)
- Continuing to promote the building of age-friendly communities at the district level and participation in the World Health Organization’s “age-friendly community” accreditation scheme. (LWB)

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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 green minibus routes covered by the scheme 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 market through the Senior Citizen Residences Scheme and the Reverse Mortgage Programme, which are operated by the Hong Kong Housing Society (HKHS) and the Hong Kong Mortgage Corporation Limited respectively. Since October 2016, the Reverse Mortgage Programme has been extended to HKHA's and HKHS's subsidised sale flats with premium not yet paid to enable the elderly owners of these flats to benefit from the programme without the need to pay the premium. (THB/FSTB)
 - Implementing a two-year pilot scheme launched since 2016 to issue Silver Bond, so as to encourage the financial sector to tap into the silver market by introducing elderly investors to a larger spectrum of appropriate investment products with steady returns. (FSTB)
 - Continuing to update the facilities in public libraries and organise activities to promote reading among senior citizens. (HAB)
 - Continuing to install more fitness facilities for the elderly in government recreation and sports venues to encourage the elderly to participate regularly in health-building activities. (HAB)

(k) Implementation and Progress Monitoring

- Monitoring regularly the implementation of the relevant initiatives through the Steering Committee on Population Policy led by the Chief Secretary for Administration. (CSO)

Kindergarten Education

- Continuing to implement the Pre-primary Education Voucher Scheme and the Kindergarten and Child Care Centre Fee Remission Scheme and to provide a one-off grant through the Community Care Fund for needy families to cover their school-related expenses 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)
- With public sector Primary One places anticipated to peak in the 2018/19 school year, continuing with flexible measures to increase the supply of public sector primary school places, including temporary expansion of the size of each class, to cope with the transitional demand; further diverting cross-boundary students through the revised arrangements for the central allocation under the Primary One Admission System, and facilitating the arrangements for cross-boundary students of tender age through proper management of traffic and security measures at the boundary areas. (EDB)
- Continuing to monitor the impact of demographic changes on the long-term planning for the provision of public sector school places and to take corresponding measures in a timely manner. (EDB)

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- Monitoring the supply and demand of international school places, including conducting relevant consultancy studies, 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)
 - Compiling the Secondary Education Curriculum Guide and updating the curriculum guides for various Key Learning Areas to support the on-going renewal of the school curriculum, and continuing to provide professional support for schools to enhance the effectiveness of learning and teaching, including catering for learner diversity. (EDB)
 - Following up on the views collected from the education sector on the renewal of the curricula of Science, Technology and Mathematics education, the Education Bureau has published a report on STEM education. We have provided additional resources for schools, and organised a STEM forum for teachers, education fair for students as well as teacher training and student learning activities. (EDB)
 - Taking forward the renewal of the curricula of the two humanities subjects of Chinese History and World History, the Curriculum Development Council completed the month-long phase 1 consultation in late October 2016 with a view to fine-tuning the curricula contents of these subjects. Meanwhile, we are enhancing students' interest in and understanding of Chinese history and culture and broadening their global outlook by enlivening classroom resources for learning and teaching and enriching their learning experiences. (EDB)

- Summing up the experiences and results of the Pilot Project on Strengthening Schools' Administration Management, we provided a one-off Strengthening School Administration Management Grant in 2016 for public sector and Direct Subsidy Scheme (DSS) schools which had not participated in the pilot project before, for enhancing the effectiveness of school administration management and unleashing teachers' capacity. We will continue to enhance the Web-based School Administration and Management System to further strengthen our support to all schools. (EDB)
- Providing principals and teachers with structured training on curriculum and management, keeping them abreast of the latest situation of curriculum development, and strengthening their school-based planning on Basic Law education. (EDB)
- Continuing to implement the Fourth Strategy on IT in Education. As at the first term of the 2016/17 school year, about 80% of some 1 000 public sector schools in Hong Kong have completed the enhancement of their Wi-Fi infrastructure to facilitate e-learning through the use of mobile computing devices. The whole project is expected to complete in one to two school years. (EDB)
- Creating an environment conducive to language learning through a wide range of initiatives planned and undertaken by the SCOLAR 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)

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- Continuing to provide secondary schools with support and to strengthen professional training for teachers to promote life planning education and related guidance services. We are encouraging more business organisations to form closer partnership with schools in organising various career exploration activities to help secondary students better understand the world of work and prepare themselves for further studies and employment in the future. We are also consolidating 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 encourage students to enhance their understanding of countries along the Belt and Road by, among others, increasing the funding for the Diversity Learning Grant-Other Languages from the 2016/17 school year to encourage students to learn the languages of these countries so as to strengthen their skills in communicating with people from these countries; and to enhance students' understanding of the historical, economic, religious and cultural developments of these countries and regions through the relevant subject curricula and learning activities. These will enable students 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. (EDB)

- Continuing to provide more Mainland exchange opportunities that align with the curriculum for primary and secondary students through a variety of strategies. We aim to consolidate students' classroom learning, deepen their understanding of the relationship between our country and Hong Kong and the national development strategy through their first-hand experience of our country's development in various aspects. Subsidy quotas are expected to be further increased to over 90 000 in the 2016/17 school year with a view to enabling every student to join at least one Mainland exchange programme in both the primary and secondary stages. (EDB)

- Following up the provision of designated funding and professional support for local public sector or DSS 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 serves to further promote exchanges between sister schools in the two places. Successful applicant schools have started using the funding to organise different modes of exchange activities for deepening professional sharing from multiple perspectives and multi-faceted collaborations. We expect the number of local schools participating in the Sister School Scheme to increase progressively to about 600 in three years. (EDB)

- Having increased the ratio of graduate teacher posts in public sector primary schools from 50% to 55% and 60% in the 2015/16 and 2016/17 school years respectively, the ratio will be further enhanced to 65% in the 2017/18 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)

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- Allowing schools to turn the Senior Secondary Curriculum Support Grant and the Career and Life Planning Grant into regular teaching posts from the 2016/17 school year for enhancing the implementation of the senior secondary curriculum and strengthening life planning education and related guidance services. About 230 public sector secondary schools have turned the Senior Secondary Curriculum Support Grant and/or the Career and Life Planning Grant into regular teaching posts in the 2016/17 school year. (EDB)
 - Supporting the work of the Hong Kong Academy for Gifted Education in nurturing exceptionally gifted students aged between 10 and 18 and providing special academic and non-academic training as well as counselling services with the establishment of a Gifted Education Fund of \$800 million for cultivating more talents. Meanwhile, the Education Bureau 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)

Post-secondary Education

- After increasing the senior year intake places of institutions funded by the UGC to 4 600 per annum in the 2016/17 academic year, further increasing the number to 5 000 per annum by the 2018/19 academic year. (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 eight government properties 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 as well as the internship opportunities and support for students. (EDB)
- Providing about 9 700 scholarships and awards for post-secondary students under the Government Scholarship Fund and the Self-financing Post-secondary Education Fund in the 2015/16 academic year. (EDB)

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- Continuing to implement a pilot scheme to provide an option for Hong Kong sub-degree graduates to articulate to top-up degree programmes offered by Huaqiao University in Fujian province. (EDB)
 - Implementing incremental steps to enhance the quality assurance mechanism of post-secondary education, and will, through the Quality Assurance Council under the UGC, conduct external quality audits of sub-degree operations of all funded universities. (EDB)
 - Continuing to implement measures and relevant arrangements to facilitate the development of Hong Kong 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 (TSS) for outstanding local and non-local students. (EDB)
 - Continuing with the Hong Kong Scholarship for Excellence Scheme, which started in the 2015/16 academic year to subsidise up to 100 outstanding local students per cohort in their pursuit of undergraduate and postgraduate studies in world-renowned universities outside Hong Kong, with a view to helping nurture more top talent in various fields to support the development of Hong Kong. The scheme will benefit three cohorts of students before its effectiveness is reviewed. As at November 2016, a total of 185 students had been awarded scholarship under the scheme. (EDB)

- Continuing to encourage students from regions along the Belt and Road to enrol in post-secondary programmes in Hong Kong. Following the provision of ten additional offers of scholarship for students from Indonesia under the TSS starting from the 2016/17 academic year, more offers of Belt and Road Scholarship, funded by private donations, will be provided for students from other regions in the 2017/18 academic year. (EDB)
- Following up the Scheme for Subsidy on Exchange to Belt and Road Region introduced for local students exclusively in July 2016 to encourage tertiary institutions to organise exchange visits to regions along the Belt and Road for Hong Kong post-secondary students. (EDB)
- Expanding the Mainland University Study Subsidy Scheme from the 2016/17 academic year to cover all financially needy Hong Kong students pursuing undergraduate studies in the designated Mainland institutions, irrespective of the channels of their admission to the institutions. (EDB)

Vocational and Professional Education and Training

- Continuing to actively implement the recommendations in the report of the Task Force on Promotion of Vocational Education submitted to the Government in July 2015, including co-organising a VPET Forum with the VTC and funding the WorldSkills Hong Kong Competition organised by the VTC in 2017. (EDB)

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- 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)
 - Continuing to provide funding support for the 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)
 - Continuing to provide funding for the VTC to implement a traineeship scheme for the beauty care and hairdressing trades, aiming to provide young people aged 15 or above with in-service training and relevant vocational education. (LWB)
 - Providing funding for the VTC to implement the Pilot Subsidy Scheme for Students of Professional Part-time Programmes to provide tuition fee subsidy for students admitted to designated professional part-time programmes in the disciplines of construction, engineering and technology. The scheme is expected to benefit about 5 600 students in total for three cohorts. (EDB)

Manpower Development

(a) 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 maintain a construction workforce of sufficient strength and quality to meet the industry's manpower demand in the future. (DEVB)

- Working closely with the Construction Industry Council to implement the “designated workers for designated skills” requirement under the relevant legislation in April 2017 in order to fully launch the construction workers registration scheme. (DEVB)
 - Continuing to assist local construction workers in finding jobs, and employers of the industry in recruiting workers, through the Construction Industry Recruitment Centre. (LWB/DEVB)
- (b) Manpower Development for the Welfare Sector
- Training additional enrolled nurses and allied health professionals for the welfare sector. (LWB)
- (c) 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)

Qualifications Framework

- Providing a steady source of income through the 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)

Supporting the Family

- Working with the Family Council to ensure that family perspectives are duly considered in the policy-making process. We have commissioned a study to review the effectiveness of the assessment framework, and will 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)

Women’s Interests

- Continuing to provide 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 continued implementation of the Capacity Building Mileage Programme; and
 - public education. (LWB)
- Continuing to implement gender mainstreaming in major government policies and initiatives across the board, collaborating with the Women’s Commission in encouraging NGOs in the welfare sector to apply gender mainstreaming when formulating policies and programmes, and promoting the establishment of gender focal points in the welfare sector and in listed companies. (LWB)
- Continuing to promote women’s participation in the work of government advisory and statutory bodies. (LWB)

Employees’ Welfare

- Implementing progressively improvement measures agreed by the Task Force on Improving Work Injury Protection for Employees in High-risk Industries coordinated by the LD so as to improve work injury protection for the employees concerned. (LWB)

Occupational Safety and Health

- Continuing to 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)

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- 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 the 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 non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to foster a culture of multi-faceted excellence and offer multiple avenues for young people to pursue their studies, career and interests. We also encourage our young people to “go global” through exchanges and experience sharing with their counterparts overseas and in the Mainland to broaden their horizons.

Engaging the Commission on Youth, 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 arts, 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 arts, and offer chances to those with potential 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 implement an enhanced financial arrangement with a view to providing the West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD) Authority with sufficient resources to sustain its operations and deliver its third batch of arts and cultural facilities, thereby meeting the vision and mission set for the WKCD project.

New Initiatives

We will:

Youth Development

- Launch a two-year Youth Integrity Fest programme, comprising campus activities, multi-media productions as well as a large-scale youth art fair, to reinforce the core value of integrity among the youth. (ICAC)

Civic Affairs

- Produce a multi-language integrity publicity package including audio-visual materials to enhance the dissemination of anti-corruption messages and Hong Kong's probity culture to new arrivals and ethnic minorities. (ICAC)
- Organise an online-offline publicity programme to mark the 20th Anniversary of the ICAC Club in 2017 to continue to promote public participation in the Independent Commission Against Corruption's (ICAC) community education activities or voluntary service. (ICAC)

Sport for All

- Implement a five-year plan to increase or enhance the provision of sports and recreational facilities across the territory to promote sport for all. (HAB)

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- Allocate additional resources to the national sports associations to further enhance their corporate governance and enable them to organise more international sports events and competitions, as well as to launch more community sports programmes. (HAB)
 - Develop a new intelligent system for Hong Kong's public sports and recreational services to allow more efficient, convenient and user-friendly booking of the sports and recreational facilities provided by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD), thereby encouraging members of the public to exercise regularly and lead a healthy lifestyle. (HAB)

Elite Sports Development

- Inject \$1 billion into the Elite Athletes Development Fund to support the development of elite sport in Hong Kong and the operation of the Hong Kong Sports Institute. (HAB)
- Provide \$9 million to the Hong Kong Athletes Career and Education Programme to support career development, education and life-skill support programmes for athletes. (HAB)

Promoting Hong Kong as a Sports Events Capital

- Enhance the current funding framework to better support Hong Kong's hosting of various types of major international sports events. (HAB)
- Implement the Kai Tak Sports Park project to provide facilities of international standard for future sports development, with a view to attracting major sports events to Hong Kong, increasing the provision of quality sports facilities for schools and the community, and providing our athletes with more opportunities to compete on home ground. (HAB)

West Kowloon Cultural District

- Implement an enhanced financial arrangement through which the government-owned development right of the hotel/office/residential portion of the WKCD will be granted to the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority (WKCDA). The WKCDA may develop the hotel/office/residential facilities jointly with private sector through open tender and Build-Operate-Transfer arrangement and share rental revenue from such facilities to sustain the operation of the WKCD. With financing arrangement, it can also develop the third batch of arts, cultural and related facilities, particularly a world-class Music Centre. (HAB)

On-going Initiatives

We are:

Youth Development

- Continuing to run the Youth Development Fund to support NGOs, in the form of matching funds, in helping young people start their own businesses, and to support NGOs in organising innovative youth development activities not covered by existing schemes. (HAB)
- Continuing to implement and enhance the Mainland and overseas youth exchange and internship funding schemes to provide more quality opportunities of exchange and internship for young people to broaden their horizons. (HAB)
- Continuing to enhance communication with young people through the Commission on Youth and district youth networks to provide more platforms for their dialogue with the Government and encourage their participation in public affairs, including joining government advisory bodies and statutory bodies. (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. Apart from taking forward the projects at Tai Po and Yuen Long, we expect that funding approval by the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council for implementation of the project at Sheung Wan can be sought within this year. We will also maintain 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 subsidise additional undergraduate places for Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education graduates who excel in sport, arts and music as well as community service. (HAB)
- Continuing to implement the Funding Scheme for Youth Life Planning Activities to support the collaboration between NGOs and secondary schools in organising projects to help students, parents and 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)
- Establishing a Junior Police Call Permanent Activity Centre and Integrated Youth Training Camp at Pat Heung under the Police, providing discipline, physical and team-building training for the youth. The Police are also increasing the number of school liaison officers at district level. (SB)
- Continuing to strengthen youth training in respect of leadership, discipline and team building through the Cadet Corps of Auxiliary Medical Service. (SB)
- Providing recurrent subvention to 11 youth uniformed groups and two NGOs to support their continuous provision of diversified development platforms for young people. (HAB)

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- Setting up a youth chapter under the ICAC Club in 2017 to further enhance the engagement of young people in the anti-corruption cause through participation in ICAC activities or voluntary work. (ICAC)

Work to Foster People-to-People Bond under the Belt and Road Initiative

- Working with the Commission on Youth and the Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education to encourage Hong Kong young people's participation in one-way, two-way or multi-way exchange activities with their counterparts in the Belt and Road countries through different funding schemes to foster "people-to-people bond". (HAB)
- As to culture, continuing to promote Hong Kong's arts and culture through organising performances, exhibitions, seminars, forums, etc. in the Mainland and overseas. We are also playing the role of a "super-connector" in fostering people-to-people bond under the Belt and Road Initiative. (HAB)

Youth Volunteers

- Continuing to implement the United Nations Volunteers – Hong Kong Universities Volunteer Programme with the United Nations Volunteers and extend the coverage of beneficiaries and service points. (HAB)
- Continuing to encourage young people's participation in voluntary services in Hong Kong and the Mainland. (HAB)

Increasing Recreational and Sports Facilities

- Implementing 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)

Promoting Sport

- Promoting sport in the community by:
 - working with District Councils 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 “Sport For All Day” to promote regular and continued participation in sport. (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)

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- Drawing reference from the recommendations in the report of the Consultancy Study on Sport for People with Disabilities in Hong Kong and the relevant views solicited through the public consultation exercise, with a view to providing more comprehensive support for disabled athletes and encouraging people with disabilities to take part in sports activities. (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)
- Making use of a support platform to continue 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 their future development. (HAB)

Civic Affairs

- Working with the Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education to promote civic education outside schools, with emphasis on the core civic values of “Respect and Inclusiveness”, “Responsibility” and “Love”, and encouraging mutual respect and communication as well as tolerance towards people from diverse cultural backgrounds with different views and perspectives. (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. (HAB)

- Working with the Ping Wo Fund Advisory Committee and relevant stakeholders to implement education and publicity initiatives as well as support services to address gambling problems. (HAB)
- Continuing to review the Chinese Temples Ordinance and take into consideration the public views collected in formulating proposals to update the regulatory regime for Chinese temples, so as to cater for the prevailing social circumstances and needs. (HAB)
- Continuing to run a corruption prevention programme with the theme of “All for Integrity” in partnership with various sectors in the community, including the business sector, government departments, young people, voluntary agencies, community bodies, etc. to further enhance Hong Kong’s probity culture. (ICAC)

Supporting Arts 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 arts education and audience building, (ii) supporting and nurturing local talent and arts 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)

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- 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 arts 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 arts development in Hong Kong, including development and provision of arts space, and providing funding and other types of support for small and medium arts groups. (HAB)
 - Continuing to implement the Arts Capacity Development Funding Scheme to support larger scale and cross-year arts and cultural initiatives/projects, and to encourage the community and private sector to sponsor culture and arts. (HAB)
 - Continuing to implement the Art Development Matching Grants Pilot Scheme, under which the amount of private donation and sponsorship secured by eligible local arts groups will be matched by grants. It will encourage different sectors of the community to sponsor local arts and cultural activities, and help sustain cultural development, jazzing up the cultural aura of the city. (HAB)

Opening up Arts Space

- Supporting the Tai Po District Council and the HKADC to convert the premises of a vacant school in Tai Po into an arts centre to provide space for arts 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 arts development. (HAB)

Grooming Art Talent

- Enhancing measures to strengthen the training and development of arts 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, the Mainland and local organisations. We will review the effectiveness of the training efforts and map out the way forward. (HAB)
- Promoting the work of young and talented art practitioners to overseas, the 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 Arts and Cultural Programmes

- Promoting knowledge and appreciation of various art forms through audience building, arts education and public art projects organised by the LCSD, the HKADC and other arts organisations funded by the Government. (HAB)
- At the district level, (i) lining up quality cultural programmes to support district arts festivals, and (ii) launching specially curated entertainment programmes, community cultural events, student performances, etc. through the LCSD for audience building and arts 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)

- Continuing to plan and enhance library facilities and services, which include launching, on a trial basis, three self-service library units, one each on Hong Kong Island, in Kowloon and in the New Territories to provide round-the-clock services for borrowing and return of library materials. (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 with an urgent need for preservation from the Hong Kong's intangible cultural heritage inventory to draw up a list of representative intangible cultural heritage items 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 arts and cultural facilities in the WKCD by the WKCD Authority, including:
 - monitoring the planning, design and construction processes and progress for the facilities in the WKCD;
 - co-ordinating interface issues of the WKCD with the integrated basement, public infrastructure and community facility projects in the vicinity; and

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- co-ordinating the interface between venues in the WKCD and other arts 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 arts 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 Hong Kong's development as an international financial and commercial centre. We will continue to improve our legal system and enhance our legal infrastructure to ensure that the rule of law and justice are 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 lives and properties 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 District Councils (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 (CI) activities.

We will engage the public, including the Legislative Council (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

- Provide an additional \$100 million a year for the CI programmes to further enhance the implementation or sponsorship of CI projects by DCs, and to meet local needs. (HAB)

Public Elections

- Review the number of elected seats for the sixth term of DCs. (CMAB)

Maintaining a Professional and Dedicated Civil Service

- Set up additional specialised dental surgeries for civil service eligible persons, and enhance the clinical psychology service provided by Families Clinics. (CSB)

Maintaining Law and Order

- Continue to conduct a comprehensive review of the strategy of handling non-refoulement claims and put forward proposals for amending the Immigration Ordinance to improve the screening procedures for such claims and related matters. Pending implementation of the new screening mechanism, we will enhance the law enforcement capabilities of departments to tackle the acute problems of illegal immigration and overstaying, and strive to increase the number of claims to be handled under the unified screening mechanism for addressing the issue of a large number of claimants remaining in Hong Kong. (SB)

Strengthening the Legislation on Anti-terrorism and Enhancing Emergency Response

- Amend the United Nations (Anti-Terrorism Measures) Ordinance with a view to further improving the anti-terrorism regime of Hong Kong. (SB)
- Increase our capability in preventing and tackling terrorism-related activities; enhance emergency response and relevant training of the disciplined services in order to provide continued protection for Hong Kong people. (SB)

Strengthening Cross-jurisdiction Anti-corruption Efforts

- Fulfil Hong Kong's obligation under the United Nations Convention Against Corruption to assist other States Parties in developing and implementing corruption prevention measures, and expand Hong Kong's global anti-corruption network. Such exchanges with and assistance provided to the emerging markets, including countries along the Belt and Road, will benefit different sectors of Hong Kong for venturing into business in these countries. (ICAC)

Improving the Legal System and Enhancing the Legal Infrastructure

- Suggest legislative amendments to give the court a discretion, on its own motion or on application, to permit complainants of certain sexual offences to give evidence by way of a live television link, so as to enhance the protection for such complainants during court proceedings. (DoJ)

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 CI 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)

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- 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)
 - Providing an annual funding of \$63 million for the 18 districts to implement the District-led Actions Scheme. The 18 District Offices, in collaboration with DCs, local communities and related government departments, are forging ahead with dozens of projects on improving environmental hygiene and managing public spaces under the scheme. (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 enable the public to have a more comprehensive and thorough understanding of the “one country, two systems” policy and the Basic Law. (CMAB)

Public Elections

- Working closely with the Electoral Affairs Commission to ensure that the 2017 Chief Executive Election will be conducted in a fair, open and honest manner in accordance with the relevant legislation. (CMAB)

- Continuing with our publicity and checking efforts on voter registration 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)
- In the light of the public consultation results, following up on the longer-term measures which involve amendments to various pieces of electoral legislation as proposed in the Consultation Report on Enhancement of Voter Registration System published in January 2016. Specific proposals to be drawn up include improving the objection mechanism, raising the penalties for the offence of making false statements in voter registration, and introducing the requirement of submitting address proofs by electors. (CMAB)

Improving the Legal System and Enhancing Legal Infrastructure

- Enhancing the quality and effectiveness of criminal prosecution work, including raising the professionalism and standard of advocacy of our prosecutors through the provision of training programmes and better use of resources. (DoJ)
- Promoting co-operation among prosecutors at regional and international levels through active participation in international prosecuting organisations. (DoJ)

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- 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 in it and their appreciation of the importance of the rule of law, through visits, talks, mock court and different types of activities. (DoJ)
 - Continuing to further 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 work 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-sector 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 of Hong Kong. (DoJ)
- 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 on gender recognition issues. Upon completion of the first part of the study, the Working Group will move to the next stage of the study concerning post-recognition issues. (DoJ)

Human Rights

- Promoting a culture of diversity, inclusiveness and mutual respect in the community, including following up on the measures as listed below:
 - providing training and resources for personnel in specific fields to enhance their knowledge of and sensitivity towards sexual minorities;
 - drawing up a charter on non-discrimination of sexual minorities for voluntary adoption by relevant organisations and individuals;
 - enhancing public education and publicity to promote the message of non-discrimination;
 - reviewing and reinforcing the relevant support services; and
 - conducting further study on the experience of other jurisdictions in implementing anti-discrimination measures to provide a basis for future consultations. (CMAB)
- Initiating discussion with the LegCo on the prioritised recommendations under the Discrimination Law Review as proposed by the Equal Opportunities Commission. (CMAB)
- Continuing to promote 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)

Public Policy Research Funding Scheme

- Continuing to implement and promote the Public Policy Research Funding Scheme and Strategic Public Policy Research Funding Scheme, with a view to fostering a culture of evidence-based, rigorous, high-quality public policy research in Hong Kong, and nurturing local talent in this field to assist the Government in policy implementation. The scheme is funded by an annual provision of \$30 million. Since 2013-14, funding totalling around \$54 million has been granted to 103 applications, covering diverse research subjects including land and housing, poverty alleviation, care for the elderly, retirement protection, environmental protection, economic development, the Belt and Road Initiative, and Mainland, Taiwan and Hong Kong affairs etc. (CPU)

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;

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- 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)
- Taking forward the legislative work on 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)
 - 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

- Continuing to deploy resources, preserve the revenue base and manage the Future Fund in a prudent manner to ensure the sustainability of public finances and to cope with ageing population and the Government's other long-term commitments. (FSTB)

Strengthening Anti-corruption Efforts

- Continuing with the "Support Clean Elections" programme comprising a series of education and publicity activities; assisting the authorities concerned in the review of electoral legislation, procedures and guidelines (including the procedures and guidelines of the latest DC and LegCo elections) and providing corruption prevention advice; and enhancing enforcement actions with dedicated efforts against any conduct suspected to be in violation of the Elections (Corrupt and Illegal Conduct) Ordinance so as to uphold integrity and fairness in elections, including the Chief Executive election in 2017. (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)
- 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)
- Continuing to carry out relevant pay surveys 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)
- Continuing the preparatory work for setting up the sixth Families Clinic and 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 promote the delivery of 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; raising the overall awareness and capabilities of the Government regarding cyber security by setting up a cyber security information sharing platform to facilitate the sharing of information on risks of cyber threats and contingency arrangements among bureaux and departments. (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)
- Planning to build a government data centre complex to meet the demands of bureaux and departments for long-term information technology development and data centre services. (ITB)
- Continuing to enhance online government services, with various departments digitising the process of submission of government forms to provide more user-friendly e-Government services for the public while enhancing the operational efficiency of the departments. (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

AAHK	Airport Authority Hong Kong
AIIB	Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
AQO	Air Quality Objective
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
BEAM	Building Environmental Assessment Method
BEPS	base erosion and profit shifting
BIM	Building Information Modelling
BRO	Belt and Road Office
CCF	Community Care Fund
CEDB	Commerce and Economic Development Bureau
CEF	Continuing Education Fund
CEPA	Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement
CI	community involvement
CKR	Central Kowloon Route
CMAB	Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
CoP	Commission on Poverty

CPU	Central Policy Unit
CSB	Civil Service Bureau
CSO	Chief Secretary's Office
CSSA	Comprehensive Social Security Assistance
DC	District Council
DEVB	Development Bureau
DH	Department of Health
DMA	District Metering Area
DoJ	Department of Justice
DSS	Direct Subsidy Scheme
EDB	Education Bureau
EHC	Elderly Health Centre
ENB	Environment Bureau
ERB	Employees Retraining Board
ETO	Economic and Trade Office
FDH	foreign domestic helper
FHB	Food and Health Bureau
FSTB	Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau

GHMUA	Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao University Alliance
GSH	Green Form Subsidised Home Ownership Pilot Scheme
HA	Hospital Authority
HAB	Home Affairs Bureau
HEL	hillside escalator links and elevator systems
HKADC	Hong Kong Arts Development Council
HKHA	Hong Kong Housing Authority
HKHS	Hong Kong Housing Society
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
IPRs	intellectual property rights
IT	information technology
ITB	Innovation and Technology Bureau
ITF	Innovation and Technology Fund

LCSD	Leisure and Cultural Services Department
LD	Labour Department
LegCo	Legislative Council
LIFA	Low-income Working Family Allowance
LSP	long service payment
LWB	Labour and Welfare Bureau
MCHK	Medical Council of Hong Kong
MPF	Mandatory Provident Fund
MPFSO	Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes Ordinance
MSW	municipal solid waste
MTRCL	MTR Corporation Limited
NCS	non-Chinese speaking
NGO	non-governmental organisation
NWNT	Northwest New Territories
OAA	Old Age Allowance
OALA	Old Age Living Allowance
OFC	open-ended fund company

OWTFs	Organic Waste Treatment Facilities
PLB	Public Light Bus
PRH	public rental housing
PRS	producer responsibility scheme
PTSS	Public Transport Strategy Study
QF	Qualifications Framework
R&D	research and development
RCHE	residential care home for the elderly
RE	renewable energy
SB	Security Bureau
SCA	Scheme of Control Agreement
SCOLAR	Standing Committee on Language Education and Research
SEN	special educational needs
SMW	Statutory Minimum Wage
SP	severance payment
THB	Transport and Housing Bureau
TSS	Targeted Scholarship Scheme

UGC	University Grants Committee
VPET	vocational and professional education and training
VTC	Vocational Training Council
WEEE	waste electrical and electronic equipment
WKCD	West Kowloon Cultural District
WKCDA	West Kowloon Cultural District Authority
XRL	Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link