

香港特別行政區政府

創新及科技局

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INNOVATION AND
TECHNOLOGY BUREAU

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE HONG KONG
SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION

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By email

20 March 2017

Mr Desmond LAM,
Clerk to Panel on Commerce and Industry,
Legislative Council Complex,
1 Legislative Council Road,
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Mr LAM,

**Information requested at the meeting of the
Panel on Commerce and Industry on 25 January 2017**

At the meeting of the Panel on Commerce and Industry held on 25 January 2017, Members requested for information on the target companies and universities in the Mainland and overseas which the Government strived to attract to Hong Kong for developing high value-added innovation and technology (“I&T”) industries, as well as a holistic policy for nurturing I&T talents. Having consulted the relevant policy bureaux, our reply is as follows:

The 2017 Policy Address announced that the Innovation and Technology Bureau (“ITB”), Invest Hong Kong and the various Economic and Trade Offices should strive to attract companies in industries having advantages in the process of “re-industrialisation” in Hong Kong, including: biotechnology, big data, Internet of Things, artificial intelligence and smart city, etc., to Hong Kong.

Having consulted relevant stakeholders, we are drawing up a list of target companies and universities in the Mainland and overseas. The relevant factors for consideration include: the achievements made by the institution in its technology area (e.g. rankings by different studies or surveys, impact created by its invention or product, reputation of its key members in the industry, etc.), the institution’s existing operation in Hong Kong (e.g. any co-operation with local institutions, the intention of developing business in Hong Kong), etc. However, as the list contains sensitive commercial information and disclosure of the list would affect our work in striving

for the presence of these institutions in Hong Kong, we regret that we cannot provide the relevant information.

The nurturing of talents is a crucial part in promoting local I&T development. In recent years, the Government has been vigorously promoting the development of the I&T industries, and the local I&T environment has greatly improved. The series of I&T infrastructure projects driven by the Government, such as the Data Technology Hub, Advanced Manufacturing Centre, Hong Kong Science Park expansion programme, “Hong Kong-Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Park” in the Loop area, etc., are all conducive to attracting local young people to join the I&T field and overseas talents to come to Hong Kong. The Government has also introduced different initiatives for nurturing talents, such as the eight-year “Enriched IT Programme in Secondary Schools” introduced in the 2015/16 school year to provide in-depth information technology (“IT”) training for students with interest in IT and arrange for internship opportunities for senior secondary students; and subsidise 85 secondary schools to organise IT activities to cultivate students’ creativity. In addition, we increased the monthly allowance of the Internship Programme last year and extended the programme to cover the incubatees and SME tenants of the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation and Cyberport, with a view to encouraging university students to join the I&T field. We also promote I&T culture through organising different I&T events, such as the InnoTech Month and InnoCarnival.

Other relevant policy bureaux also support the training of I&T talents in their respective policy areas. The Education Bureau strives to promote science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education at secondary and primary schools, gradually implementing the recommendations set out in the “*Report on Promotion of STEM Education – Unleashing Potential in Innovation*” published in end 2016. The Labour and Welfare Bureau, through the Continuing Education Fund, subsidises adults with learning aspirations to pursue continuing education and training, allowing them to take courses covered by the Fund, including those related to I&T. The ITB will continue to maintain close liaison with the relevant policy bureaux to support the nurturing of local I&T talents.

Yours sincerely,



(Ricky Chong)

for Secretary for Innovation and Technology

c.c. Education Bureau (Attn.: Mr Sheridan LEE)
Labour and Welfare Bureau (Attn.: Ms Lydia LAM)