

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

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

This paper gives an account of the work undertaken by the Office of the Government of the HKSAR in Beijing, the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices in Guangdong, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan, as well as the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office (Taiwan) between October 2015 and September 2016. Details of the work of these six Offices are set out in Annexes 1 to 6.

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

The main functions of the Office of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region in Beijing (BJO) are to (a) enhance liaison and communication between the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), the Central People's Government (CPG) and Mainland authorities in the ten provinces / municipalities / autonomous regions under its coverage¹; (b) promote Hong Kong in general and particularly its economic and trade relations with the ten provinces / municipalities / autonomous regions; (c) handle immigration-related matters; and (d) provide assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress.

Commercial Relations

2. BJO (including its Liaoning Liaison Unit (LNLU)) closely monitored the policies, laws and regulations related to Hong Kong enterprises, at the national level as well as in provinces / municipalities / autonomous regions under BJO's coverage, in areas of corporate taxation, social insurance, labour relations and import and export, etc.; and provided timely updates and news to Hong Kong enterprises and the relevant bureaux and departments. Moreover, BJO also maintained close contact with a number of Mainland ministries and departments, so as to understand the latest development on Mainland's policies, laws and regulations relating to economic and trade matters, and their impact on Hong Kong.

3. To enhance the dissemination of information to Hong Kong enterprises, BJO has issued "Newsletter on Mainland Economic and Trade Policies, Laws and Regulations" and "Newsletter on Business Promotion, Investment and Economic and Trade Activities in the Mainland", providing information on the Mainland's economic and trade policies and regulations, as well as business promotion, investment and economic and trade activities, to chambers of commerce of Hong Kong in the Mainland and to Hong Kong enterprises. These newsletters which carry relevant information at the national level and at the level of the provinces / municipalities / autonomous regions under BJO's coverage are also uploaded onto BJO's website for public browsing.

4. At the same time, BJO has been compiling "Topical Newsletters" with information and analysis on policies related to business operations such as taxation, labour, intellectual property, social insurance, significant national development strategies, etc., which were of ongoing concern to Hong Kong enterprises for issue to Hong Kong business associations and Hong Kong enterprises from time to time. During the report period, the Newsletters covered in-depth analysis on areas of taxation, labour, investment, the "National 13th Five-Year Plan" and the "Belt and Road" Initiative, etc. Some of these policies and regulations might have a relatively significant impact on the Hong Kong businesses. For instance, the Notice Concerning Retail Import Tax Policy for Cross-border E-Commerce issued by the Ministry of Finance (MoF), the General Administration of Customs and the State Administration of Taxation (SAoT) in March 2016 specified a new import tax policy for cross-border retail e-commerce. The Policy would result in a tax increase for most products under cross-border retail e-commerce and Hong Kong enterprises engaged in the sale of the relevant products through cross-border e-commerce should be prepared to work out the most

¹ The ten provinces / municipalities / autonomous regions under BJO's coverage are Beijing, Tianjin, Hebei, Liaoning, Jilin, Heilongjiang, Inner Mongolia, Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region and Gansu.

appropriate import arrangement and mode of trading in response to the tax increase. The Notice Concerning Full Implementation of the Pilot Policy on Changing the Levy of Business Tax to Value-added Tax issued by MoF and SAoT in March 2016 specified that the Pilot Policy would be fully implemented from 1 May 2016 onwards. In order to ensure compliance in making value-added tax payments, Hong Kong enterprises operating in the Mainland should understand fully the principles behind value-added tax and the content of the Pilot Policy, familiarise themselves with the various requirements as to how to make tax payments, filing declaration forms and handling invoices. It would be advisable for them to undertake a comprehensive assessment of the impact of the change from business to value-added tax on their accounting for revenue and cost as well as the change in profit.

5. In addition, BJO organised workshops in Beijing and invited experts to explain the relevant policies, laws and regulations on taxation, labour, trademark and social insurance to the Hong Kong enterprises and answered their questions. In November 2015, BJO co-organised a seminar on “Belt and Road” Initiative with the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC) and the Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce in China (HKCCC) (Beijing) for the Hong Kong enterprises in Beijing during which experts were invited to speak on the unique functions of Hong Kong in the “Belt and Road” Initiative, and the investment prospect and related risk management in the countries/territories along the Maritime Silk Road. The workshops were all very well received.

6. During the report period, BJO participated in a number of trade activities held in the region under its coverage, including, for instance, the “2nd China-Russia Expo”, the “1st China-Mongolia Expo”, the “China-Tianjin Investment and Trade Fair 2016 and PECC International Trade and Investment Fair”, the “4th China (Beijing) International Fair for Trade in Services”, the “27th Harbin International Economic and Trade Fair”, the “22nd Lanzhou Investment and Trade Fair”, the “Northeast Asia International Commodities Fair” and the “5th China-Eurasia Expo”. Participation in these activities helped strengthen the ties with the relevant local authorities, commerce bureaux and enterprises, as well as promote Hong Kong’s economic advantages and Hong Kong’s role as a platform for the Mainland enterprises to ‘go global’. BJO continued to establish relevant hyperlinks between the BJO website and the websites of organisations with major development and investment projects in provinces / municipalities / autonomous regions under BJO’s coverage in order to facilitate Hong Kong enterprises in accessing the most up-to-date information on business opportunities in the Mainland in the first instance.

7. BJO has maintained close liaison with the Mainland offices of the HKTDC and the Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTB) to promote the advantageous position of Hong Kong to the Mainland more extensively.

Work to Strengthen “Homeland Relationship”

8. BJO strived to broaden and deepen the liaison network with the Mainland authorities and organisations, Hong Kong enterprises and people through various activities. BJO also strengthened the collection and dissemination of information so as to better support Hong Kong people working, doing business and living in the Mainland. During the report period, BJO continued to enhance Government-to-Government work. BJO stepped up liaison with the central and local authorities through meetings and participation in their activities for establishing platforms for co-operation. BJO also liaised with the CPG and other Mainland authorities over relevant laws and regulations and policies, as well as provided regular reports to the relevant bureaux and departments of the HKSAR Government

to facilitate their timely understanding of the policies and developments in the Mainland and assessment of possible implications on Hong Kong. Examples included the “National 13th Five-Year Plan”, “Belt and Road” Initiative, “Coordinated Development for the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei Region”, Internet Plus, and the policy on changing the levy of Business Tax to Value-added Tax, etc. BJO also provided logistical support to the HKSAR Government officials during their visits to the Mainland.

9. Apart from keeping close contact with the Hong Kong business associations in Beijing (including the HKCCC, the Hong Kong Professionals (Beijing) Association, the Hong Kong Association of China Business), BJO would also arrange to meet the locally-based Hong Kong people and businessmen in the regions under its coverage so as to learn about their situation and to refer their concerns to the relevant authorities when necessary.

10. BJO has been providing support to Hong Kong students studying in the Mainland through various channels. This includes, inter alia, staying in close contact with the student associations organised by them to learn more about their daily lives, their studies and their job placement; supporting their campus activities to promote Hong Kong; and providing them with timely information on employment opportunities. In April this year, BJO organised the “Employment Seminar for Hong Kong Students in Beijing and Tianjin”. Professionals from different fields and BJO colleagues of different grades were invited to share with the students information on the prospects and trend of the employment market, as well as the duties of civil servants in different grades. The “Orientation Session for Hong Kong Students in Beijing and Tianjin” was organised in September to provide a platform of communication and exchange for the students. In addition to providing internship positions at its office, BJO also joined force with HKCCC and other relevant organisations in Beijing and Tianjin to identify summer internship opportunities in Hong Kong enterprises and some Mainland organisations for Hong Kong students studying in these two municipalities. During their internship, BJO also visited the relevant enterprises and organisations and met the student interns and representatives of the organisations to show support.

11. BJO is also very supportive of internship and youth exchange programmes in the Mainland for visiting Hong Kong students. During the report period, BJO participated in various activities of visiting student groups, met the organisers and participating students, and introduced to them the work of BJO.

12. BJO is committed to promoting the various strengths of Hong Kong, including cultural achievements, in the provinces / municipalities / autonomous regions under its service area to strengthen an understanding of Hong Kong by the people of the Mainland. In July 2016, a new position of Head (Cultural Exchange) was created at BJO. During the report period, BJO supported the Beijing premiere of “A Bowlful of Kindness” presented by Hong Kong Repertory Theatre, “The Legend of the Mad Phoenix” presented by the Spring-Time Experimental Theatre, and sponsored the Asian Youth Orchestra’s touring performances in Beijing and Tianjin. BJO also supported the “2016 Hong Kong and Macau Visual Arts Biennial” exhibition in Beijing which was presented by the Ministry of Culture and organised by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department.

13. During the report period, BJO continued to publish the “Information on Living in the Mainland” from time to time to Hong Kong people staying in the provinces / municipalities / autonomous regions under its coverage so as to provide them with the latest information on living in the Mainland. These publications carried information on policies

that might be of concern to or might have impact on Hong Kong people living in the Mainland, including information on the one-stop service of the Beijing Government Affairs Service Center, the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei Transportation Card, the mobile application of the Beijing Traffic Police, etc.

Investment Promotion

14. On attracting Mainland enterprises to invest and establish operations in Hong Kong, the North China Investment Promotion Unit (the Unit) of BJO has been endeavoring to liaise with and visit potential enterprises, as well as relevant commercial and industrial organisations, and to introduce to them the competitive edge of Hong Kong as a platform for Mainland enterprises to develop their overseas businesses. Those interested in setting up businesses in Hong Kong will be offered comprehensive assistance and consultation services. During the report period, the Unit proactively reached out to different organisations 380 times, generated 30 live projects and completed 26 investment projects through enabling the relevant enterprises to invest in Hong Kong. In terms of investment promotion events, BJO organised or attended 35 industry-specific or investment promotion seminars and exhibitions. BJO also attended and supported the “TGN (TusPark Global Network) Fintech Platform Launching Seminar” in May 2016 and two investment promotion seminars respectively in Baotou of Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region in July 2016, and Tianjin in September 2016. They aimed to promote the business advantages and entrepreneurship friendly environment of Hong Kong.

Public Relations

15. During the report period, BJO held eight roving exhibitions at large-scale trade promotional activities in provinces / municipalities / autonomous regions under its coverage, welcoming over 440 000 visitors and achieving good publicity effect. The roving exhibitions focused on the unique advantages of Hong Kong in the finance, trade, transportation, logistics, professional and legal services sectors, as well as the role of Hong Kong and opportunities presented to Hong Kong in the implementation and sustainable development of the nation’s “Go Global” and “Belt and Road” strategies. For the second consecutive year, BJO received a design award and a green award for the exhibitions held respectively in Harbin of Heilongjiang Province and Lanzhou of Gansu Province. To tie in with the roving exhibitions, BJO placed newspaper advertisements in the provinces and municipalities where the roving exhibitions were held to maximise publicity effect.

16. Between December 2015 and January 2016, BJO collaborated with HKTB in conducting a nationwide (with particular focus on Beijing, Tianjin, Shenyang and Dalian) publicity campaign through media channels such as television, the Internet, outdoor advertising, newspapers and magazines. Centering on the themes of “Hong Kong’s Winter”, “Hong Kong Winterfest”, the campaign aimed to promote Hong Kong’s tourism, festivals, culture and traditions so as to attract Mainland visitors for festive celebrations in Hong Kong.

17. To enhance the dissemination of information relating to Hong Kong, BJO launched its official WeChat account in January 2016 with a view to extending its network of communication through social media to provide the latest information on policies / regulations, major economic and trade promotion activities as well as investment information in the ten provinces / municipalities / autonomous regions under its coverage. As at 30 September 2016, more than 540 people have subscribed to the account, and the number of page-views recorded is over 126 000.

18. BJO also collaborated with the People's Daily Online (PDO) to maintain a dedicated Hong Kong webpage in promoting Hong Kong, highlighting the development of Hong Kong in various aspects under the principle of "one country, two systems", with a view to enhancing the mutual understanding of people in the Mainland and Hong Kong. At the invitation of BJO, PDO visited Hong Kong from 17 to 24 January 2016 to conduct a series of in-depth interviews. After the visit, PDO issued a series of 15 media reports, over 100 photos and ten videos on its homepage for half of a month reporting on Hong Kong. These reports were picked up and carried by several hundreds of other media organisations. Government officials and experts from various fields such as commerce, finance, culture, information and technology, and professional services were interviewed.

19. To publicise the advantage of Hong Kong in the creative industries, in June 2016, BJO partnered with CreateHK to collaborate with the "Fa Xian Zhong Guo" programme of China Central Television (CCTV)'s "Outlook" channel to produce a 15-minute episode entitled "Hong Kong – the Bridge for Eastern and Western Creative Industries". The episode introduced how Hong Kong had seized the opportunities of the times to develop a creative industry culture and explored the future development of Hong Kong's creative industries in this ambience.

20. BJO joined hands with Broadway Cinematheque again in presenting the 5th Hong Kong Film Festival in Dalian, Beijing and Shenyang from August to November 2016 with a view to fostering closer co-operation between the Hong Kong and Mainland film industries as well as promoting cultural exchange among industry workers. The Festival also aimed at promoting the Hong Kong films to the Mainland audience as well as promoting the creative industry in Hong Kong.

21. In addition, BJO continued to collaborate with the National China Radio's "Voice of China" and "Voice of Huaxia" channels to introduce the latest development in Hong Kong through the weekly radio programmes. The radio programmes are broadcast in 31 provinces / municipalities / autonomous regions in the Mainland.

Liaoning Liaison Unit

22. It has been nearly two years since the establishment of LNLU. LNLU continued to enhance communication between the HKSAR Government and different levels of government in the three north-eastern provinces in the Mainland and provide support to Hong Kong people and enterprises in the area. LNLU's work included calling on the government agencies of the three north-eastern provinces (Heilongjiang Province, Jilin Province, Liaoning Province) to strengthen Government-to-Government liaison; and providing support to the government agencies of the three north-eastern provinces for their visits to Hong Kong, etc.

23. During the report period, LNLU organised a number of events to promote the advantages of Hong Kong in the aspects of business, creativity, the arts and tourism, etc. In October 2015, LNLU staged a four-day "Creative Hong Kong" exhibition, attracting around 8 000 visitors in total. During the same period, LNLU held a thematic film festival "Flashing Swords Flickering Shadow – a Revisit of Hong Kong Wuxia Cinema" in collaboration with Broadway Cinematheque, attracting over 1 000 movie goers. In August 2016, LNLU organised a 10-day mega event "Savouring Hong Kong • Liaoning 2016" in Dalian to promote Hong Kong and to expand and strengthen exchange and co-operation on

various fronts between Hong Kong and the Mainland. The mega event included a thematic seminar co-organised with HKTDC, a thematic film festival co-organised with Broadway Cinematheque, a “Taste of Hong Kong” exhibition co-organised with HKTDC to promote Hong Kong’s culinary culture and tourism, the “Belt and Road Initiative – Joining Hands for Mutual Benefits” roving exhibition, and the “2016 Hong Kong Trendy Products Expo, Dalian” organised by the Chinese Manufacturers’ Association of Hong Kong. The activities complemented each other in a bid to promote Hong Kong and foster co-operation between Liaoning and Hong Kong.

24. LNU also maintained close liaison with the HKCCC (Shenyang) and supported its activities. LNU also met Hong Kong people working in Harbin, Changchun, Shenyang and Dalian and representatives of Hong Kong enterprises to understand the business environment of the area and to enhance liaison with them from time to time. To facilitate Mainland enterprises and local people to make contact with Hong Kong enterprises and Hong Kong professionals in Shenyang and Dalian, LNU published the “Electronic Directory of Hong Kong Enterprises in Shenyang and Dalian” which would also help promote the business of these Hong Kong enterprises in the area.

25. In addition, LNU also actively promoted youth exchange, cultural exchange and exchanges in other areas between Hong Kong and the three north-eastern provinces. During the report period, major exchange programmes completed included meeting the Hong Kong students studying in Harbin and Changchun to learn more about their college lives in the north-eastern district; liaising with Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra to stage an open rehearsal for teachers and students from the Liaoning Normal University School of Music for exchange purpose; facilitating the Hong Kong United Youth Association (HKUYA) to extend its Hong Kong student summer internship programme to Harbin; assisting the Education Bureau to organise a tour entitled “An Exploration into the History and Culture of Northeast China 2016” in September this year, which attracted around 80 Hong Kong secondary school students to participate. LNU also received different exchange groups visiting the three north-eastern provinces, including the “Hong Kong Young Civil Engineers – Mainland Exchange Camp” organised by the Civil Division of the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers, a youth exchange programme to Harbin organised by HKUYA, as well as a delegation of Hong Kong lawyers visiting Liaoning and a delegation of the Hong Kong wine industry visiting Shenyang organised by HKTDC.

Immigration-related Matters and Assistance Rendered

26. Immigration matters handled by BJO included processing applications for entry to Hong Kong, liaising and maintaining contacts with counterparts in the relevant departments on immigration-related issues and matters relating to applications for Chinese nationality in Hong Kong, conducting negotiations on visa-free access with foreign diplomatic missions in Beijing, handling enquiries on immigration matters, promoting the talent admission schemes and providing practical assistance to Hong Kong residents who have lost their documents or encountered personal safety problems in the Mainland. From October 2015 to September 2016, BJO received a total of 87 requests for assistance from Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland. Of these, 35 cases involved the loss of travel documents or monies, 37 cases were from persons who were involved in traffic accidents, injured, sick or whose relatives had passed away in the Mainland, etc., and the remaining 15 cases involved the detention of Hong Kong residents in the Mainland. In addition, BJO processed 4 754 entry applications and handled 23 890 enquiries.

27. In addition, BJO received a total of 33 other assistance cases during the report period. BJO made referrals to the relevant Mainland authorities for follow up and monitored the progress.

Tianjin Liaison Unit

28. During the report period, BJO actively prepared for the establishment of a liaison unit in Tianjin which is expected to commence service in the first half of 2017.

Looking Ahead

29. BJO will continue to promote Hong Kong in the provinces / municipalities / autonomous regions under its coverage and to liaise with the governments of these provinces / municipalities / autonomous regions in respect of economic, trade and other matters with a view to enhancing trade, investment, cultural exchange and communication, etc. between Hong Kong and the Mainland. BJO will continue to monitor developments in major policies, laws and regulations and initiatives in the Mainland and to make timely reports to the relevant bureaux and departments to facilitate assessment on their implications on Hong Kong. BJO will also continue to provide strengthened service, information and other support to the Hong Kong people living, working or studying in Beijing.

30. The year 2017 marks the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR. BJO will actively prepare for related celebration events.

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

The Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong (GDETO) is responsible for handling economic and trade matters between the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) and the five provinces / region of Fujian, Guangdong, Guangxi, Hainan and Yunnan and seeks to attract investment into Hong Kong. Through its main office in Guangzhou, its Shenzhen Liaison Unit (SZLU) and Fujian Liaison Unit (FJLU), GDETO continues to strengthen liaison with local government authorities, non-government organisations (including the representatives of Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC), Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTB), Hong Kong Productivity Council and Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited, etc. in the five provinces / region), Hong Kong residents in the area, relevant groups as well as trade associations to, on one hand, assist in disseminating information on relevant Mainland policies and measures, and on the other hand, help reflect views of the Hong Kong businessmen to the relevant authorities. Besides, GDETO handles enquiries and request for assistance from Hong Kong residents in the five provinces / region. GDETO also promotes the positive image of Hong Kong through introducing Hong Kong's latest development in various aspects, our strategic industries, and our role as "super-connector", etc. to the Mainland public through exhibitions and different media channels.

2. During the report period, GDETO actively participated in enhancing the cooperative relationship between Hong Kong and Guangxi as well as Fujian. In respect of Guangxi-Hong Kong cooperation, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region Government and the HKSAR Government signed three co-operative agreements in December 2015 so as to strengthen the co-operation in processing trade, professional services and tourism. On Hong Kong-Fujian co-operation, the Chief Secretary for Administration (CS) and the Vice-Governor of Fujian Province, Liang Jianyong, co-chaired the Second Hong Kong-Fujian Co-operation Conference in Hong Kong in April 2016. Both sides agreed to further enhance co-operation in economic and trade, finance, innovation and technology, youth exchange, as well as exchanges on cultural and creative industries. Moreover, GDETO continued to participate in high-level forums and large-scale trade events held in the five provinces / region, including the 19th Plenary of the Hong Kong / Guangdong Co-operation Joint Conference held in September 2016, the Shenzhen-Hong Kong Co-operation meeting held in February 2016; the attendance of the Chief Executive (CE) in the "14th Pearl River Delta Annual Gala Dinner" in Jiangmen in December 2015, his visit to Huizhou and Shenzhen in April 2016 to meet with the Party Secretary and Mayor of the municipality and visit enterprises there; the "Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2016" in Hainan Province in March 2016; setting up of large-scale Hong Kong Pavilion at the "4th China-South Asia Expo and the 24th China Kunming Import and Export Fair" in Yunnan Province in June 2016, etc.

Commercial Relations

3. GDETO continued its efforts to support Hong Kong enterprises through promoting and facilitating their business operation in the five provinces / region. GDETO's services include collecting the latest information on the Mainland's trade-related policies, laws and regulations and economic development, disseminating such information through the weekly "GDETO Newsletters", organising seminars on issues of common concern to Hong Kong enterprises (for example, labour law, social insurance, tax issues, e-commerce and liberalisation of trade in services, etc.) to assist the trade to capitalise on business

opportunities, and to help reflect their views and concerns to the relevant Mainland government authorities. During the report period, a total of 12 seminars have been held by GDETO in Guangzhou, Kunming, Nanning and Shenzhen.

4. GDETO has been closely monitoring the economic and social development of the five provinces / region, including their respective “13th Five-Year Plan” and implementation plan for the “Belt and Road” Initiative, with particular attention to efforts to strengthen co-operation with Hong Kong, in order to better understand the parts in which Hong Kong can participate in and co-operate with the provinces and cities, and to identify business opportunities for the Hong Kong business sector. GDETO also closely monitored the development of Guangdong Pilot Free Trade Zone (Qianhai, Nansha and Hengqin) and Fujian Pilot Free Trade Zone, assisted in reflecting the views of the Hong Kong business sector to the relevant Mainland authorities, and arranged visits for Hong Kong business delegations to these zones. Since the promulgation of the “Overall Scheme of Guangdong Pilot Free Trade Zone” and “Overall Scheme of Fujian Pilot Free Trade Zone” by the State Council in 2015, Guangdong and Fujian Provincial Governments have issued a number of policy documents, including the “Construction and Implementation Plan of Guangdong Pilot Free Trade Zone” issued in July 2015, the “Development Plan on Industries of the Fujian Pilot Free Trade Zone (2015 - 2019)” issued in August 2015, the “Regulation of Guangdong Pilot Free Trade Zone” issued by Guangdong Provincial People’s Congress in May 2016, etc., which outlined the industrial clusters to be developed, the plan to establish the Cooperation Demonstration Area, and initiatives to promote Hong Kong-Fujian co-operation. In order to encourage Hong Kong enterprises to capitalise on the opportunities of these two Pilot Free Trade Zones, GDETO co-organised seminars with the Administrative Office of Guangdong Pilot Free Trade Zone and the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of Fuzhou respectively in June 2015 and March 2016, to introduce details of the overall plans, investment environment, and policy advantages of the two Pilot Free Trade Zones, with a total of 530 trade representatives attending. GDETO also organised the “Seminar on service trade in Guangdong and Hong Kong” and “How to develop businesses in the Guangdong Pilot Free Trade Zone” respectively in August and September 2016, to help Hong Kong enterprises understand the latest policies of Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao services trade liberalisation and Guangdong Pilot Free Trade Zone, and the business opportunities. There were over 410 trade representatives in total attending the above two seminars. GDETO will continue to monitor the development of the Pilot Free Trade Zones, as well as the progress of Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao services trade liberalization.

5. During the report period, the Mainland announced a decision to terminate the bonded policy on import of steel under processing trade, and to expand the “Catalogue of Prohibited Products for Processing Trade” (“the Catalogue”) to include additional 78 steel items, four fur items and five plastic scraps items, which has serious implications on the operation of Hong Kong enterprises. GDETO, together with the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau and Trade and Industry Department, reflected the concerns of Hong Kong processing trade enterprises in Guangdong to the Guangdong Provincial Government and relevant authorities under the Central People’s Government, arranged direct dialogue between relevant Guangdong government officials and Hong Kong enterprises, and participated in the research study conducted by the Ministry of Commerce and the Liaison Office of the Central People’s Government in the HKSAR (CPGLO) on the Hong Kong processing trade enterprises in the Pearl River Delta region. These actions have successfully caught the attention of the Ministry of Finance, the General Administration of Customs and the State Administration of Taxation, which agreed to extend the transition period for implementation of the policy and to remove some of the fur and plastic scraps items from the

Catalogue. GDETO will continue to closely monitor the development of the related policies and provide support to the Hong Kong business sector in reflecting their concerns.

6. During the report period, GDETO made significant progress in helping the Hong Kong business community to voice their concerns on the overall business environment and policy suggestions. In January 2016, GDETO arranged a meeting between major Hong Kong industry and trade organisations (HKITOs) and the Governor of Guangdong, and obtained positive response to issues of concern such as reducing fees and charges for the trade and suspending the adjustment of minimum wage standard, and also led to the setting up of a regular communication and liaison mechanism (“the Mechanism”) between the provincial government and the major HKITOs, which will be under the leadership of a Deputy Governor of Guangdong and participated by all relevant departments. The Mechanism, with the first meeting expected to be held within this year, will serve as a standing platform for exchanging views, discussion and resolving problems. Separately, GDETO co-organised with the Dongguan Municipal Government and major HKITOs the “Joint Conference on the Transformation and Upgrading of Hong Kong-invested Enterprises in Dongguan” in December 2015 and June 2016 respectively in Hong Kong. At the conferences, the Dongguan Municipal Government introduced the latest policies on technology innovation and the building of the comprehensive pilot city of open economy system, and discussed issues that concerned the Hong Kong trade including training of talents, technological innovation leading to the transforming and upgrading of the foreign trade, etc.

Investment Promotion

7. One of the major duties of GDETO is to promote the positive image of Hong Kong as a good business partner and an ideal platform for enterprises in the five provinces / region to expand their businesses to overseas markets. Through building up and maintaining strategic working relationship with the relevant local government authorities and local industry and trade organisations, GDETO has continued to liaise and assist Mainland enterprises to invest in Hong Kong, and promote Hong Kong as a “super-connector” and a platform for Mainland enterprises to “go global”.

8. From October 2015 to September 2016, Investment Promotion Division of GDETO conducted 403 meetings with Mainland enterprises, providing advice and assistance to them for setting up a presence or expanding their existing business in Hong Kong. During this period, GDETO organised or attended 31 investment or industry-specific seminars / roundtables and exhibitions to highlight the strengths and business friendly environment of Hong Kong, with positive responses – generating 34 live projects and completing 25 investment projects. Major investment promotion initiatives by GDETO included –

- In October 2015, GDETO arranged and accompanied the Head of Consumer Products of Invest Hong Kong (InvestHK) to visit Foshan and Shenzhen respectively, to meet with relevant government departments, business associations and enterprises; to collaborate with InvestHK and the Shenzhen Foreign Economy and Trade Service Centre to organise a seminar titled “Hong Kong – Platform to Go Global” in Shenzhen for companies from Shenzhen consumer products sector;
- In April 2016, GDETO collaborated with InvestHK and the Bureau of Commerce of Dongguan City to organise a seminar titled “Collaboration

between Dongguan and Hong Kong on Supporting Enterprises to Explore New Business Opportunities in the ‘Belt and Road’ Market” in Dongguan;

- In May 2016, GDETO arranged and accompanied the Head of Business and Professional Services of InvestHK to visit Zhongshan and Guangzhou, during which seminars titled “Belt and Road, Together We Grow” were co-organised respectively with the Bureau of Commerce of Zhongshan City in Zhongshan and Guangzhou Market Intermediary Service Industry Association in Guangzhou; and
- In September 2016, GDETO arranged and accompanied the Associate Director-General of Investment Promotion to visit Xiamen and attend the “19th China International Fair for Investment and Trade” in Xiamen. A seminar titled “Belt and Road, Together We Grow” was also co-organised with the InvestHK, the Overseas Investment and Economic Co-operation Department of the Ministry of Commerce and the Trade Office of the Economic Affairs Department of CPGLO in Hong Kong.

Public Relations

9. To promote a positive image of Hong Kong and to enhance the overall understanding of the Mainland people on Hong Kong, during the report period GDETO staged exhibitions in Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Dongguan and Heyuan of Guangdong Province, Fuzhou and Quanzhou of Fujian Province, and Kunming of Yunnan Province. Echoing with the “Belt and Road” Initiative, the exhibitions also emphasised the strengths of Hong Kong in commerce and trade, financial and other professional services, as well as our vast international business network, and promoted Hong Kong as the “super-connector” between the Mainland and countries along the “Belt and Road” which help Mainland enterprises to “go global” to invest and develop in overseas countries. Moreover, GDETO organised a cocktail reception to celebrate the 19th anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR in Guangzhou in August 2016, introducing the latest developments of Hong Kong to around 450 representatives from government departments, trade associations and relevant Hong Kong organisations in the five provinces / region.

10. On promoting arts and culture of Hong Kong, GDETO co-organised “The 3rd Hong Kong Film Festival in Guangdong” with Guangdong Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Film and TV, Hong Kong Film Development Council, Create Hong Kong and the Guangdong Association of the Film Industry in November 2015. Moreover, GDETO complemented performances of major performing groups from Hong Kong in Guangdong (including Chung Ying Theatre Company, City Contemporary Dance Company and Hong Kong Repertory Theatre) with general publicity for Hong Kong’s arts and culture, and also helped promote the respective events.

11. To enable members of the public in the Mainland to have a better understanding of various aspects of Hong Kong, besides co-producing a featured radio programme “Guangdong-Hong Kong Under the Same Roof”, GDETO also launched a new initiative during the report period, co-producing a featured programme series “Heart to Heart, Guangdong and Hong Kong” with Guangzhou TV, which introduces the social and cultural characteristics of Hong Kong, participation of Hong Kong enterprises, institutions and members of the public in community and voluntary services, economic development and cultural exchange in the Mainland. This programme series highlights the advantages of

Hong Kong's industries and geographical location, opportunities for "win-win" co-operation and deep-rooted bonds of the people of the two places.

12. To enhance the publicity efforts of our promotional events, GDETO published featured articles on specific promotional themes of Hong Kong in major newspapers from time to time, and arranged media coverage of major business activities and exhibitions organised by GDETO. For example, GDETO held a large-scale Hong Kong Exhibition for six days in the 4th China-South Asia Expo in Kunming in Yunnan Province in June 2016. A total of 62 reports were generated by the media (including televisions / radio stations, newspapers and online media), disseminating information widely to the people of the Mainland.

Work to Strengthen "Homeland Relationship"

13. GDETO strived to broaden and deepen liaison network through various activities; stepped up information collection; and implemented various measures to better support Hong Kong residents in the region. Specific work included –

- (a) Strengthening Government-to-Government work, actively participating and co-organising activities with various government organisations, so as to promote Hong Kong and foster mutual cooperation and to provide assistance to Hong Kong residents and businessmen when necessary;
- (b) Enhancing liaison with Hong Kong enterprises and residents, as well as students in the five provinces / region to better understand their needs and provide appropriate assistance;
- (c) Enriching the content of the "GDETO Newsletters" to cover information related to Hong Kong residents living in the Mainland, internship offers for Hong Kong students in the Mainland as well as the Free Legal Advisory Service, apart from the latest information on trade-related policies / regulations and activities;
- (d) Publishing the "2016 Directory of Hong Kong Service Enterprises in Guangdong" ("the Directory") jointly with HKTDC and Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce in China – Guangdong in August 2016 and update the website of the Directory, with a view to assisting Mainland and Hong Kong residents and enterprises in Guangdong to contact Hong Kong service enterprises and professionals in Guangdong for exploring co-operation opportunities;
- (e) Stepping up the collection of information on major developments and investment projects in the relevant provinces / region and cities, disseminating such information and organising seminars / talks on topics of concern to Hong Kong businessmen;
- (f) Enhancing liaison with relevant offices of the HKTDC and the HKTB in the Mainland to jointly promote Hong Kong, sharing information on business environment and development opportunities for Hong Kong enterprises in the five provinces / region; and

- (g) Disseminating information through the WeChat platform, in addition to GDETO's website and "GDETO Newsletters" via email, to facilitate easy access by Hong Kong enterprises and residents to information disseminated by GDETO. Information is sent directly to mobile devices of registered users and they could also register for GDETO's activities through the platform.

14. GDETO strived to enhance liaison with Hong Kong students in the Mainland, to understand their living and study situation, and to provide the required information and assistance. During the report period, GDETO visited 11 tertiary institutions in Guangdong and Fujian to meet with school officials and Hong Kong students therein. GDETO also strengthened the co-operation with other youth organisations and non-government organisations, holding seminars, sharing sessions and company visits, etc. from time to time, to enable students to understand the latest developments in the Mainland, and to get prepared for their career planning. Relevant activities for Hong Kong students in Guangdong include visits to Hong Kong-invested enterprises in Jiangmen and exchange sessions with the company representatives; "Dream Salon" programme series featuring experts in various fields to share their work experiences; visits to Guangdong Pilot Free Trade Zone Qianhai and Shekou Area to understand the development; photo exhibition for Fujian and Hong Kong students and career talk for Hong Kong students, etc. During the report period, GDETO has reached some 1 850 Hong Kong students. Moreover, GDETO supported relevant bureaux to enhance youth exchange, volunteer services and internship schemes in the Mainland, including the Hong Kong Service Corps which provides voluntary teaching services in Guangdong, the "Guangdong-Hong Kong Summer Internship Scheme" which provides internship opportunities in enterprises and organisations in seven cities in Guangdong, etc. To assist Hong Kong students to search for internship and employment opportunities in the Mainland, GDETO encouraged Hong Kong-invested enterprises in the Mainland to provide internship and job openings. During the report period, GDETO disseminated information on 295 internship / job openings through relevant universities to Hong Kong students in the five provinces / region as well as its website.

Shenzhen Liaison Unit

15. The SZLU is responsible for liaison with the Shenzhen Municipal Government, non-government organisations, trade associations, Hong Kong residents, students and enterprises in Shenzhen in implementing GDETO's various aspects of work. Apart from the examples mentioned in the paragraphs above, other work priorities of SZLU during the report period included –

- to closely monitor promulgation of new policies, legislation and regulations in relation to the development of Qianhai Shenzhen-Hong Kong Modern Service Industry Co-operation Zone of Shenzhen and the Qianhai and Shekou Area of the Guangdong Pilot Free Trade Zone, and disseminate such information to Hong Kong enterprises in a timely manner;
- to arrange high-level official visits of the HKSAR Government and Shenzhen Municipal Government and to provide logistics support. Examples included –
 - visit by the Financial Secretary and a delegation of Hong Kong businessmen to Qianhai in Shenzhen, with a call on the Party Secretary of Shenzhen Municipal Committee in November 2015;

- attendance by CS at a meeting of the Advisory Committee of the China Guangdong Pilot Free Zone Qianhai and Shekou area of Shenzhen in November 2015, the “12•7” series of activities of the Qianhai Shenzhen-Hong Kong Modern Service Industry Co-Operation Zone in December 2015, and the celebration for the first anniversary of the establishment of the Guangdong Pilot Free Zone Qianhai and Shekou area of Shenzhen in April 2016;
 - attendance by the Secretary for Justice at the “Presentation Ceremony of Appointment Letters and Training Session for Hong Kong Arbitrators of the South China International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission” in January 2016, “Qianhai Hong Kong-Related Commercial Mediation Forum cum Plaque Unveiling Ceremony” of the Mediation Centre of the Shenzhen Qianhai Cooperation Zone People’s Court in May 2016, and the “Seminar on Co-operation in Legal Services between Hong Kong, Guangdong and Shanghai” in August 2016;
 - the Party Secretary of Shenzhen Municipal Committee visited Hong Kong with a call on the CE in March 2016; and
 - visit by Secretary for Innovation and Technology to Shenzhen and met with the Vice Mayor of Shenzhen in April 2016.
- organised seven events on issues of common concern to Hong Kong enterprises, including “Workshop on Mainland’s Tax and Cross-border E-commerce Issues”, “Workshop on Mainland’s Labour Law Issues 2016”, “Hong Kong / Shenzhen Standard for Quality Excellence Forum”, visits to Guangdong Pilot Free Trade Zone Qianhai and Shekou Area of Shenzhen for members of the Hong Kong business community, Hong Kong Logistics Association, etc.; and
 - on promotion of Hong Kong, major activities of SZLU included the setting up of a Hong Kong Pavilion at the “International Cultural Industry Fair” (ICIF) in Shenzhen in May 2016 to introduce Hong Kong’s cultural and creative industries to people in the Mainland. The five-day “Hong Kong Pavilion” attracted about 59 000 visitors and generated a total of 19 media reports. The “Hong Kong Pavilion” received “Outstanding Organisation Award” and “Outstanding Exhibit Award” in ICIF for two consecutive years.

Fujian Liaison Unit

16. The FJLU is responsible for liaison with the provincial and municipal governments, non-government organisations, trade associations, Hong Kong residents, businessmen and students in Fujian. Apart from the examples mentioned in the paragraphs above, FJLU’s major duties during the report period included –

- to closely monitor promulgation of new policies, legislation and regulations in relation to the development of the Fujian Pilot Free Trade Zone and disseminate such information to Hong Kong enterprises in a timely manner;
- to arrange high-level official visits of the HKSAR Government and Fujian

Provincial Government and to provide logistics support. Examples included –

- the Secretary for Home Affairs led a delegation of 295 members to participate in the “1st National Youth Games” in Fuzhou, and visited Quanzhou in October 2015;
 - the Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs visited Xiamen and Quanzhou to officiate at the opening of the “Meet Hong Kong” exhibition in November 2015;
 - the Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs visited Fuzhou to attend the “2015 Pan-Pearl River Delta Regional Co-operation Chief Executive Joint Conference” in December 2015; and
 - Liang Jianyong, the Vice-Governor of Fujian Province, led a delegation to Hong Kong, and co-chaired the second “Hong Kong-Fujian Co-operation Conference” with CS in April 2016.
- to organise two events targeting Hong Kong enterprises, including the “2016 Workshop on Mainland’s Labour Law, Tax and Cross-border E-commerce Issues cum Dinner Gathering for Xiamen-based Hong Kong People and Enterprises” in Xiamen in January 2016, and “2016 Fuzhou-Hong Kong Exchange” in Fuzhou in March 2016. The two events attracted a total of 220 Hong Kong businessmen / representatives of Hong Kong enterprises to participate; and
 - on promotion of Hong Kong, major activities of FJLU included –
 - co-organised a promotional campaign titled “Invitation by Fellow Clansmen, Reunion in Hong Kong” with the HKTB and a number of Fujian media, which promoted the positive image of Hong Kong as a tourist destination to the 38 million Fujian people from September to October 2015. A total of 66 media reports were generated, including five TV news, six newspapers and 55 online news;
 - organised a large scale “Meet Hong Kong” exhibition in Quanzhou in November 2015 to promote Hong Kong’s cultural and creative industries. The 11-day exhibition attracted 80 000 visitors. Media reports from four TV news, nine newspapers and 45 online news were generated;
 - organised a number of integrated exhibitions to promote Hong Kong in Fuzhou and Xiamen in May 2016, including the “Hong Kong Exhibition” held at the “21st Maritime Silk Road Expo cum the 18th Cross Straits Fair for Economy and Trade” in Fuzhou. The five-day event attracted a total of 410 000 visitors; and
 - organised two Hong Kong films “My Voice My Life” and “Happiness” to participate in the “3rd Silk Road International Film Festival” held in Fuzhou in September 2016 and arranged for two dedicated film shows which attracted 380 audiences. Media reports from two newspapers and eight online news were generated.

Immigration-related Matters and Assistance Rendered

17. Matters handled by the Immigration Division of GDETO included answering immigration-related enquiries, promoting the talent admission schemes, and providing practical assistance to Hong Kong residents who have lost their travel documents or encountered personal safety problems in areas under the coverage of GDETO. During the report period, GDETO received a total of 202 requests for assistance from Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland. Of these, 13 cases involved the loss of travel documents or monies, 177 cases were from persons who were in danger, involved in traffic accidents, injured, sick or whose relatives had passed away in the Mainland, etc., and the remaining 12 cases involved the detention of Hong Kong residents in the Mainland. In addition, GDETO handled 1 224 enquiries.

18. Moreover, GDETO received a total of 55 other assistance cases during the report period. GDETO made referrals to the relevant Mainland authorities for follow up and monitored the progress.

Looking Ahead

19. 2016 marks the commencement of implementation of the “National 13th Five-Year Plan”. Individual provinces / cities have issued their respective “13th Five-Year Plan” and the implementation plan for the “Belt and Road” Initiative, many of which have included suggestions for strengthening co-operation with Hong Kong. GDETO will continue to play a bridging role between Hong Kong and the five provinces / region, enhancing liaison with the relevant Mainland authorities, assisting the HKSAR Government’s efforts in deepening co-operation between Hong Kong and Guangdong, Fujian, Guangxi, Yunnan and Hainan and participating in Pan-Pearl River Delta regional co-operation, closely monitor and introduce to the Hong Kong business sector various opportunities arising from implementation of the “13th Five-Year Plan” and the “Belt and Road” Initiative.

20. GDETO will also continue its efforts in strengthening homeland relationship to better serve Hong Kong enterprises and people in the relevant regions, and also to enhance publicity work in promoting the strengths of Hong Kong and fostering understanding of people in the Mainland about Hong Kong.

21. In addition, GDETO together with its Liaison Units will make good preparations for celebrating the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR and organise different celebration activities in the region. GDETO will also prepare for the setting up of a new liaison unit in Guangxi Province in the first half of 2017.

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

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

Commercial Relations

2. The Commercial Relations Division of SHETO continued to work with stakeholders in Hong Kong and the region to promote Hong Kong’s business sectors and help them explore business opportunities in the Mainland. The work included –

- (a) Supporting industry delegations from Hong Kong to visit the region to deepen their understanding of business and investment environments. For example, SHETO assisted the Chinese Executive Club of the Hong Kong Management Association in arranging visit programmes in Shanghai and Hangzhou in November 2015, and assisted the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce in arranging visit programmes in Shanghai in April 2016;
- (b) Encouraging and promoting economic exchange between Hong Kong and the region through participation in and support for various trade promotional activities. For example, Director of SHETO introduced to the guests about Hong Kong’s edge in the wine industry at the “Wine Soiree in Shanghai” organised by the Hong Kong Wine Chamber of Commerce in December 2015; promoted Hong Kong as an international mediation and arbitration centre at the seminar on practices in commercial mediation jointly organised by the Shanghai Commercial Mediation Center, the Joint Mediation Helpline Office and the Hong Kong Mediation Council in March 2016; attended the “19th International Business Forum” organised by the Shanghai Municipal Commission of Commerce and the Shanghai Municipal Bureau of Foreign Experts in May 2016. In addition, SHETO supported the “2015 Shanghai and Hong Kong Development Forum” organised by the Committee for Compatriots from Hong Kong, Macao, Taiwan and Overseas Chinese of the Shanghai Municipal Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference, the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences and the Better Hong Kong Foundation in October 2015;
- (c) Organising trade seminars as well as arranging and providing support to exchange activities between the HKSAR Government officials and their Mainland counterparts as well as industry players to strengthen support and assistance to Hong Kong traders in the region. For example, SHETO organised the “Seminar on the Belt and Road Initiative, Foreign Investment Law and Pilot Free Trade Zones” in November 2015 and “Seminar on Labour Issues, Enterprise Production Safety Management and Social Insurance

Policy” in January 2016. In addition, SHETO supported a Hong Kong delegation led by the Transport and Housing Bureau to visit Shanghai and Ningbo during November to December 2015; supported the Secretary for Justice to visit Shanghai to attend the “3rd Shanghai-Hong Kong Commercial Mediation Forum” jointly organised by the Shanghai Commercial Mediation Center, the Joint Mediation Helpline Office and the Hong Kong Mediation Council and participate in other activities during March 2016; supported the Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs to visit Shanghai in April 2016 so as to enhance the liaison with the local government and exchange with Hong Kong businessmen and people; supported the Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury to participate in the “Lujiazui Forum 2016” and sign a co-operation agreement with the Financial Services Office of Shanghai Municipal Government in June 2016; and supported the Financial Secretary to participate in the G20 Leaders Summit and related activities in September 2016 in Hangzhou;

- (d) Providing assistance to provinces and cities in the region in organising trade events in Hong Kong and co-ordinating meetings between senior government officials of the HKSAR and visiting Mainland officials. For example, SHETO assisted in arranging the Under Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development to attend the “Nanjing Modern Services Sector Development Opportunities (Hong Kong) Promotion Seminar” and deliver a speech in June 2016; and lined up a meeting between Mayor of Nanjing, Miao Ruilin, and the Financial Secretary in June 2016;
- (e) Maintaining close relations with the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC) and Hong Kong trade associations in the region, and actively participating in and supporting activities of these organisations. In October 2015, SHETO collaborated with the Shanghai Municipal Commission of Commerce (SMCC), HKTDC and the Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce in China – Shanghai to organise an exchange session on “Hong Kong-Shanghai Co-operation in Creative Industry”; and collaborated with the SMCC and HKTDC to organise another exchange session with Hong Kong enterprises in Shanghai in November 2015. SHETO also maintained close contact with the Shanghai and Hangzhou branches of the Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce in China;
- (f) Providing timely reports to relevant bureaux and departments of the HKSAR Government, and keeping Hong Kong businesses and trade organisations informed, through newsletters and email circulars, of the latest economic and trade policies, regulations and measures on the Mainland and the region. During the report period, SHETO issued 51 circulars / newsletters;
- (g) Monitoring closely the latest policies and legislation in the region that may have impact on Hong Kong enterprises, reporting to Hong Kong on a timely manner and answering enquiries from the trade. Examples included Outline of the 13th Five-Year Plan for National Economic and Social Development for Shanghai, Jiangsu, Zhejiang and Anhui, the “Belt and Road” Initiative and developments relating to the Yangtze River Economic Belt;

- (h) Monitoring closely latest developments in the China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone (SHFTZ), including those after the Zone's expansion and relevant financial measures, disseminating timely information to the industry and answering related enquiries. During the report period, SHETO issued five special newsletters on the SHFTZ; and
- (i) Collecting major economic and trade information of the region, and disseminating such information through SHETO's official website.

Investment Promotion

3. The Investment Promotion Division (IPD) of SHETO continued to actively promote Hong Kong's investment environment, proactively identify and approach Mainland enterprises and provide them with free one-stop services to assist them in investing or setting up operations in Hong Kong. During the report period, the IPD conducted 32 investment promotion visits, met with 333 companies and generated 45 live projects. Twenty investment projects were successfully completed.

4. During the report period, the IPD carried out a number of major investment promotion initiatives in the region, including –

- (a) In October 2015, arranging for and accompanying Head of Innovation and Technology of Invest Hong Kong (InvestHK) in the visit to Shanghai and Yuhang District, Hangzhou of Zhejiang Province. In collaboration with InvestHK, the IPD also organised investment promotion seminars with relevant government agencies of Shanghai Municipality and Yuhang District respectively to introduce the investment environment of Hong Kong. The two events attracted more than 120 and 80 enterprises and government representatives to attend respectively;
- (b) In November 2015, arranging for and accompanying Associate Director-General of Investment Promotion of InvestHK (ADGIP) to visit Shanghai during which visits to the incubation facilities in Shanghai Fudan University and Zizhu National Hi-tech Industrial Development Zone were arranged, with a general discussion with Shanghai counterparts on the business startup environment in Hong Kong and Shanghai. Meetings with three enterprises were also arranged to promote the investment environment of Hong Kong;
- (c) In March 2016, arranging and accompanying a delegation comprising representatives of enterprises from Anhui and Shandong to visit Hong Kong to attend InvestHK's programme. The programme included a seminar entitled "Belt and Road, Together We Grow", which aimed to promote the investment environment of Hong Kong, and the Spring Reception, both organised by InvestHK;
- (d) In May 2016, arranging for and accompanying ADGIP to visit Qingdao of Shandong Province. During the visit, SHETO and SDLU co-organised a seminar to promote Hong Kong as a platform for Mainland companies to "go global" on 11 May. InvestHK was one of the co-organisers. ADGIP

presented at the seminar to introduce Hong Kong's business environment. The seminar attracted over 160 government and enterprises representatives;

- (e) In May 2016, arranging for and accompanying Head of Business and Professional Services of InvestHK to visit Shanghai. During the visit, the IPD co-organised two seminars together with InvestHK and two relevant industry associations in Shanghai. The seminars aimed to promote Hong Kong's investment environment to Shanghai companies in consultancy service sector, human resources service sector, and testing and certification service sector;
- (f) In August 2016, arranging for and accompanying ADGIP to visit Changzhou of Zhejiang Province. During the visit, a seminar entitled "Belt and Road, Together We Grow" was held to promote Hong Kong's investment environment. The seminar was co-organised with Changzhou Bureau of Commerce and other parties, which attracted 70 government and enterprises representatives; and
- (g) Organising and participating in 17 seminars / forums / exhibitions / trade fairs in the region, promoting Hong Kong's investment environment.

Public Relations

5. SHETO continued to organise activities to promote Hong Kong's latest developments, enhance mutual understanding between Hong Kong and the region and introduce the co-operation between Hong Kong and the region over trade, economic and other areas. During the report period, the activities organised by SHETO included –

- (a) Organising roving exhibitions in the region. From October to December 2015, SHETO held roving exhibitions on the theme "Same Root, Same Heart – For Mutual Success" in eight cities, which attracted approximately 736 000 visitors in total. Posts published on the WeChat and Weibo public accounts of the roving exhibition were warmly welcomed by netizens. On the occasions of the opening ceremonies of the roving exhibitions in different cities, SHETO took the opportunity to call on relevant local government departments and officials as well as representatives from Hong Kong entrepreneurs and enterprises to strengthen communication and explore co-operation opportunities;
- (b) Strengthening its ties with Mainland offices of Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTB) by jointly organising promotional activities to promote Hong Kong's strengths in all aspects and its latest economic and social developments. For example, from September 2015 to February 2016, SHETO and HKTB jointly launched three rounds of promotional campaigns on the themes of National Day, Hong Kong Wine and Dine Month, Hong Kong WinterFest and Hong Kong Chinese New Year respectively;
- (c) In December 2015, SHETO supported the Shanghai-Hong Kong Association in organising a three-week exhibition on Hong Kong comics' characters in Shanghai and sponsored "Comix Home Base", which was under Hong Kong Arts Centre, to stage an exhibition in Shanghai with a view to promoting

Hong Kong culture to people in the Mainland. In April 2016, SHETO supported a folk music concert, which was staged by Museum of Oriental Musical Instruments of Shanghai Conservatory of Music and co-organised by Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra and Folk Music Department of Shanghai Conservatory of Music, with a view to promoting cultural exchanges on the Chinese music front between Shanghai and Hong Kong. In the same month, SHETO arranged for Hong Kong veteran theatrical producer Clifton Ko Chi-sum and Hong Kong theatrical director Wong Shu-fai to interact with teachers and students at Shanghai Theatre Academy with a view to promoting cultural exchanges on the drama front between Shanghai and Hong Kong. In August 2016, SHETO supported Asian Youth Orchestra for their performance in Shanghai and also arranged for music students in Shanghai to meet with members of the Orchestra;

- (d) On media relations, establishing and maintaining relationship with the local and Hong Kong media, such as making press arrangements for activities that involved SHETO and affairs relating to Hong Kong as well as organising media gatherings. SHETO also assisted the local and Hong Kong media in conducting media interviews and press briefings during visits of senior officials from the HKSAR Government to the provinces and cities in the region. For example, SHETO made media arrangements for the visit of the Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs to Shanghai and Jinan in April 2016, during which he attended the opening ceremony of the SDLU of the HKSAR Government;
- (e) Promoting co-operation with the media. In February 2016, SHETO co-operated with the People's Radio in Jian, Shandong and launched a radio programme to introduce the different aspects of Hong Kong, including its history, culture, tourism, outstanding personalities, as well as the economic and trade between Hong Kong and Shandong, to local residents;
- (f) Liaising actively with the local and Hong Kong media as well as local and Hong Kong residents in the region through different channels. In June 2016, SHETO's public account on WeChat was officially launched. Through this platform, SHETO would provide the region with latest information about economic, trade, investment, culture and other aspects as appropriate with a view to promoting co-operation and exchanges between Hong Kong and the Mainland; and
- (g) Receiving students from various tertiary institutions of Hong Kong and introducing to them the economic and trade relations, investment opportunities and cultural exchanges between Hong Kong and the eastern part of China. During the report period, SHETO received some 480 students from various Hong Kong secondary and tertiary institutions.

Work to Strengthen “Homeland Relationship”

6. SHETO strived to broaden and deepen liaison network through different activities; enhanced information collection effort; and implemented various initiatives to provide stronger support to Hong Kong people in the region. Details of SHETO's work included –

- (a) Enhancing Government-to-Government work, through visiting various government organisations in the region and participating in their activities, to strengthen the communication and explore bilateral partnership and co-operation opportunities so as to better utilise the local government platform to provide assistance to Hong Kong enterprises and citizens when necessary. During the report period, SHETO visited various levels of relevant government officials of different provinces / cities within the region (including those responsible for commerce, Hong Kong and Macao affairs, judicial systems, culture, education and youth programme) to establish the communication channel and exchange views on the provision of proper assistance to Hong Kong enterprises and citizens;
- (b) Following up on the 27 co-operation initiatives agreed at the 3rd Meeting of the Hong Kong-Shanghai Economic and Trade Co-operation Conference. SHETO will continue to serve as a bridge between relevant government bodies and facilitate multi-faceted co-operation between the two places;
- (c) Liaising proactively with Hong Kong people in the region to learn about their needs and provide appropriate assistance, including maintaining active contact with those who work, live and study in the region and exchange views with them (refer to paragraphs 7 to 10 for details); and
- (d) Actively collecting and disseminating information for the Hong Kong communities here. SHETO updated the “Practical Guide on Living in the Mainland – Shanghai” and the “Practical Guide on Living in the Mainland – Hangzhou” in early 2016 in order to provide the latest and comprehensive information to the Hong Kong people residing in the relevant Mainland cities.

7. To further enhance the communication with Hong Kong people in the region, SHETO organised and participated in various meetings, gatherings, seminars and visits. For example, in October 2015, SHETO organised two student gatherings for Hong Kong students in Shanghai and Zhejiang, attracting some 150 students from 20 universities. In November 2015 and January 2016, SHETO organised two visits for Hong Kong students in Shanghai and Hong Kong interns to visit District People’s Court, Shanghai Office of Tencent and a Hong Kong enterprise to understand the judicial system in Mainland as well as the operation of various enterprises. In March 2016, SHETO organised the “2016 Recruitment Workshop for Hong Kong Young People” in Shanghai. Representatives from 18 international, Mainland and Hong Kong enterprises were invited to share about the market outlook, interview skills and employment information. The seminar attracted some 80 students from 19 universities in Shanghai, Zhejiang and Jiangsu provinces. In April 2016, SHETO organised the first “Individual Mock Interview Programme” for Hong Kong students studying in Shanghai. In April 2016, Director of SHETO attended the “Spring Reception cum Tea Gathering for Hong Kong People in Huangpo District” organised by the Shanghai - Hong Kong Association and strengthened ties with over 150 participants at the event. In July 2016, SHETO organised a gathering for some 50 interns in Shanghai to learn more about their internship programme and life in Shanghai. During the report period, SHETO paid visits to five universities in Shanghai to meet with the leaders and students of the universities. In addition, SHETO attended a number of exchange and sharing sessions for various internship programmes in Shanghai between May and August 2016 so as to demonstrate its full support to youth development and exchange.

8. SHETO made arrangements for Hong Kong residents in the region to meet with visiting principal officials of the HKSAR Government. For example, in April 2016, arrangements were made for the Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs to meet with some 20 Hong Kong people in Shanghai during his visit there to exchange views.

9. SHETO actively supported Hong Kong young people and students working and studying in the Mainland to organise diversified activities. For example, SHETO supported the “2015 Shanghai-Hong Kong-Macao Youth Economic Development Forum” in November 2015 organised by Hong Kong Shanghai Youth Association; attended the “2015 Fantasia – Inter-university Christmas Ball” organised by the Student Committee of the Hong Kong-Shanghai Youth Association, and provided internship opportunities for the first internship programme organised by the Student Committee. SHETO also provided students with recruitment information on civil service posts in the HKSAR Government and latest living information.

10. SHETO encouraged organisations in the region to provide internship opportunities for Hong Kong students. Meanwhile, SHETO would provide information, support and assistance to these interns from Hong Kong. SHETO also provided a number of internship vacancies for Hong Kong students in its office and organised various visits to financial organisations, Hong Kong enterprises, museums and community service organisation so as to enhance their overall understanding of the latest development of Shanghai.

Shandong Liaison Unit

11. Since its establishment on 30 April 2015, the SDLU strived to strengthen the connections with the local governments and trade organisations with an aim to further broaden network and facilitate promotion and co-operation in economic, trade and cultural activities between Hong Kong and Shandong Province, and assist the Shandong enterprises in using Hong Kong as a platform to “go global”. In addition, the SDLU met with local Hong Kong people and enterprises regularly and maintained close contact with the Hong Kong students studying in Shandong to better understand their needs and provide assistance to them as appropriate.

12. During the report period, the SDLU continued to extend visits to various municipal governmental organisations, including the municipal governments, the Foreign and Overseas Chinese Affairs Offices, Bureaux of Commerce, as well as Development and Reform Commissions of Binzhou, Rizhao, Weihai, Dongying, Zaozhuang, Linyi, Jining and Taian, to establish mutual contacts and communication networks. At the same time, the SDLU maintained frequent communications and exchanged views with the People’s Government of Shandong Province, the municipal governments of Jinan, Qingdao and Yantai, on work objectives and arrangements.

13. On promotion and publicity, the SDLU organised a seven-day exhibition on the theme of “Asia’s World City – Hong Kong” in Jinan during the period from October to November 2015, in order to showcase and promote Hong Kong’s development on various fronts and promote the SDLU’s establishment and operation, with a view to enhancing the knowledge of Shandong people on Hong Kong and promoting the co-operation and exchanges between Hong Kong and Shandong Province. In collaboration with the InvestHK, the SDLU organised “Jinan Enterprises Going Global with support of Hong Kong Super-Connector Seminar” and “Qingdao Enterprises Going Global with support of Hong Kong Super-Connector Seminar” in March and May 2016 respectively, to further promote

Hong Kong's favourable investment environment and the professional services the InvestHK could provide to facilitate Mainland enterprises "going global".

14. Apart from maintaining close ties with the two trade associations in Shandong Province, namely, Jinan Hong Kong – Macao Chamber of Commerce and Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce in China – Qingdao, the SDLU also actively participated in their events and activities and met with local Hong Kong people and enterprises in Jinan and Qingdao to build up connection and gain better understanding of their business environment and needs. The SDLU was also active in fostering youth, cultural and other exchanges between Hong Kong and Shandong Province, including establishing and keeping close contacts with Hong Kong students studying in Shandong to understand their education situations, as well as receiving delegations from Hong Kong attending exchange programmes in Shandong, such as Hong Kong university students joining the Yantai summer internship scheme organised by the Hong Kong United Youth Association and other students on exchange visits to Shandong as organised by Hong Kong tertiary institutes. The SDLU also served as a connection point for the HKSAR participating in cultural activities such as "The 6th Shandong Cultural Industries Fair" held in Jinan in August 2016 and the "2016 Connectivity by Confucianism, Modern City of Springs Jinan Cultural Week" in September 2016.

15. In April 2016, the opening ceremony of SDLU was held in Jinan. Officiated by the Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs, the event was attended and well-received by the provincial and municipal government officials, as well as the Hong Kong enterprises and people working or studying in the Province. During his visit in the Province, the SDLU arranged meetings for the Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs to meet the senior officials of the Shandong People's Government, Hong Kong entrepreneurs as well as university students from Hong Kong studying in the Province.

Assistance Rendered to Hong Kong Residents

16. SHETO received a total of 28 assistance cases during the period. SHETO made referrals to the relevant Mainland authorities for follow up and monitored the progress.

Looking Ahead

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

- (a) set up an Immigration Division in October 2016 to provide better support for Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland;
- (b) through the SDLU, continue to promote the economic and trade relationships between Hong Kong and Shandong Province, and to further promote the positive image of Hong Kong there and enhance Shandong people's understanding of Hong Kong. The SDLU will continue to strengthen "Homeland Relationship" and enhance support to Hong Kong enterprises and Hong Kong people in Shandong Province. The SDLU will actively work on promoting Hong Kong's latest development, enhance understanding

between Hong Kong and Shandong Province; and closely monitor policy, legislation and related measures on economic and trade developments in Shandong Province and provide timely information to relevant Hong Kong enterprises;

- (c) further strengthen “Homeland Relationship”, and enhance Government-to-Government work and liaison with Hong Kong enterprises as well as Hong Kong people, so as to provide better service and act as a bridge between the local government and the business sector;
- (d) promote Hong Kong’s advantages through staging exhibitions and launching publicity campaigns online with a view to enhancing mutual understanding between Hong Kong and the Mainland;
- (e) organise a series of activities in Shanghai and provinces and cities under SHETO’s purview to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR, including large scale exhibitions on the latest development of Hong Kong, celebration dinner, cultural performances, publicity campaigns, investment and trade seminars;
- (f) closely monitor any new developments in the region, timely disseminate relevant information and organise seminars so that the Hong Kong business sector can promptly respond to the changes and grasp the opportunities concerned, such as latest developments relating to the SHFTZ, “Belt and Road” Initiative and Yangtze River Economic Belt, implementation of “Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement”, and other issues of interest to Hong Kong enterprises;
- (g) liaise with relevant government departments and organisations in Shanghai and Hong Kong, so as to assist the implementation and enhancement of agreed initiatives of the Hong Kong-Shanghai Economic and Trade Co-operation Conference;
- (h) provide necessary information and assistance to Hong Kong enterprises and residents, including publication of the guidebook on livelihood, organisation of seminars to provide trade-related or useful information about living in the region;
- (i) support and facilitate Hong Kong trade missions to visit the region and explore business opportunities;
- (j) identify and attract Mainland enterprises to invest, set up operations, seek listing in Hong Kong and leverage on the business advantages of Hong Kong to “go global”; and
- (k) prepare for the establishment of a new liaison unit in Zhejiang Province which is expected to commence service in the first half of 2017

Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Shanghai
October 2016

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

The main functions of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Chengdu (CDETO) (including its Chongqing Liaison Unit (CQLU)) of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) are (a) to promote economic and trade co-operation and ties between the HKSAR and Sichuan Province, Chongqing Municipality, Guizhou Province, Shaanxi Province, Qinghai Province and Tibet Autonomous Region, to provide support to Hong Kong enterprises as well as to attract Mainland enterprises to invest in Hong Kong and feature Hong Kong as a platform to “go global”; (b) to promote Hong Kong and to enhance co-operation, communication and liaison between the HKSAR and the region in general; and (c) to provide appropriate information and assistance to Hong Kong enterprises and people operating, working and studying in the region as well as to handle enquiries and requests for assistance from Hong Kong residents in the region.

Commercial Relations

2. With a view to providing support to Hong Kong enterprises operating or intending to operate in the region, CDETO organised and participated in various expositions as well as economic and trade exchanges and visits, and maintained close liaison and exchanges with the relevant government departments and public bodies. Besides, to assist Hong Kong businessmen in exploring new investment and co-operation opportunities, CDETO conducted study visits to different districts and counties in the region in order to gather the latest information about business operation and preferential treatments in the region, and disseminated the information to Hong Kong businessmen through website, WeChat public account and newsletters on a regular basis. During the report period, major events included–

- Setting up a booth in various national trade fairs (including “Western China (Sichuan) Import Expo and International Investment Fair” in Chengdu of Sichuan Province, “The 2016 Silk Road International Exposition and the 20th Investment and Trade Forum for Co-operation between East and West China” (SRIE) in Xi’an of Shaanxi Province, “Qinghai China Investment and Trade Fair for Green Development” in Xining of Qinghai Province, and “SmartHK” organised by the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC) in Chengdu) to introduce the services and functions of CDETO, Hong Kong’s advantages under the “Belt and Road” Initiative, services provided by the Immigration Department and various admission schemes for talents and professionals, the Basic Law, “Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement” (CEPA), Hong Kong wine trade, Free Trade Agreement Transshipment Facilitation Scheme (FTA Scheme), and free services provided by Invest Hong Kong (InvestHK) to help Mainland enterprises “go global”;
- Co-organising the “Seminars on Hong Kong’s Professional Services for Belt and Road – Sichuan/Guizhou-Hong Kong Logistics Co-operation” with the respective provincial Departments of Commerce, relevant logistics associations, InvestHK and Hong Kong Productivity Council with a view to promoting the co-operation and exchanges between Hong Kong and Sichuan / Guizhou in

logistics industry and facilitating active participation in the “Belt and Road” Initiative. The seminars introduced the latest development of as well as use of information system and technology by the Hong Kong logistics industry. Outstanding Hong Kong logistics enterprises also shared their experience;

- Organising the “2016 Chengdu-Hong Kong Festival” in June 2016 to further promote economic and trade, cultural and creative industries as well as music exchanges and co-operation between Hong Kong and Sichuan Province. Trade and commerce related activities included “Seminar on Hong Kong Creative Designs” and “Hong Kong Colourful Photo Exhibition cum Gifts Design Exhibition”. There were two main areas in the exhibition, and the gifts design exhibition displayed the winning products of “Hong Kong Smart Gifts Design Award”, including accessory gifts, corporate promotional gifts, festive gifts, travel accessories and leisure toys. The “Hong Kong Colourful Photo Exhibition cum Gifts Design Exhibition” was also held in Lhasa of Tibet Autonomous Region in September 2016 to promote exchanges and co-operation on economic and trade, cultural and creative industries between Hong Kong and Tibet;
- Organising the “Belt and Road Seminars on Hong Kong Legal and Arbitration Services” in Guiyang and Xi’an respectively to promote Hong Kong’s important role as a centre for international legal and dispute resolution services in the Asia-Pacific Region. Specifically, the seminars introduced the services which could be provided by Hong Kong’s legal and arbitration professions to Hong Kong businesses in the Mainland and Mainland enterprises to “go global”, as well as in enhancing economic, trade and transport links among “Belt and Road” countries and furthering the development of Yangtze River Economic Belt;
- Organising regular gatherings with Hong Kong businessmen and members of chambers of commerce so as to understand their business operations and provide them with appropriate information and assistance in doing business in the Mainland; publishing the “Directory of Hong Kong Service Enterprises / Providers in Sichuan” to introduce and promote the development of Hong Kong service industries in the Mainland; organising “Seminars on Taxation, Labour Law and Trademark Law” in Chengdu, Guiyang and Xi’an respectively so as to enhance the Hong Kong businessmen’s understanding of and responsiveness to the taxation, labour and trademark law requirements and to give an account of the opportunities and challenges brought about by the relevant policies;
- Conducting, in collaboration with trade and commerce authorities in the region, study visits to different districts to collect information about important policies, regulations, major developments and investment projects, in particular paying close attention to the strategy planning and policy measures relating to the “13th Five-Year Plan” of the relevant provinces / municipalities / autonomous regions and “Belt and Road” Initiative to report the latest development and analysis in a timely manner, and to understand the advantages of geographical locations and business environment of different districts in the “Belt and Road” Initiative with a view to promoting economic development of Hong Kong and the region. During the report period, CDETO visited Yibin, Nanchong, Xichong, Langzhong and TianFu New Area of Sichuan Province, Caotang Science and

Technology Park in Hu County of Xi'an of Shaanxi Province, and Bijie of Guizhou Province; and

- Supporting provinces and municipalities in the region to visit Hong Kong to organise exchange activities, and coordinating meetings between Mainland officials and senior HKSAR government officials. For example, CDETO arranged programmes and provided logistical support for the delegation led by the Chief Secretary for Administration to visit Sichuan in May 2016, and assisted in the business promotion activities during the visit of a delegation led by Vice-Governor of Sichuan Province Zhu Hexin to Hong Kong in September 2016.

Investment Promotion

3. CDETO continued to actively promote Hong Kong's investment environment and provide Mainland enterprises interested in investing in Hong Kong with assistance and consultation services. During the report period, the Investment Promotion Division of CDETO visited 169 Mainland enterprises, generated nine live projects and successfully completed seven investment projects. Major investment promotion initiatives included –

- In October 2015, CDETO co-organised with InvestHK investment promotion seminars titled “Hong Kong – Your Platform to Go Global” in Chengdu and Mianyang respectively ;
- In November 2015, CDETO co-organised with InvestHK “Seminars on Hong Kong's Professional Services for Belt and Road – Sichuan / Chongqing-Hong Kong Logistics Co-operation” in Chengdu and Chongqing respectively;
- In February 2016, CDETO co-organised with InvestHK “Belt and Road Seminars on Hong Kong Legal and Arbitration Services” in Guiyang and Xi'an respectively;
- In March 2016, CDETO co-organised with InvestHK an investment promotion seminar titled “Belt and Road, Together We Grow” in Chongqing;
- In June 2016, CDETO co-organised with InvestHK “Seminar on Hong Kong Creative Designs” in Chengdu;
- In July 2016, CDETO co-organised with InvestHK an investment promotion seminar titled “Belt and Road, Together We Grow” in Xi'an; and
- Participating in other investment promotion activities to enhance liaison with Mainland enterprises, including “SRIE” in Xi'an in May 2016 and “China (Chengdu) Global Innovation and Entrepreneurship Fair” in Chengdu in June 2016.

4. The Investment Promotion Division of CDETO maintained close working relationship with the government departments and trade and industry organisations in the region in order to strengthen the liaison network. The Division would regularly participate in investment promotion and co-operation events held in the region, and assist Mainland officials and business enterprises in arranging visits to Hong Kong, enabling them to learn

about Hong Kong's latest economic climate and investment environment.

Public Relations

5. To further promote Hong Kong' in the Mainland, CDETO continued its role as a bridge between Hong Kong and the region through official visits as well as organisation of and participation in economic and trade fairs, seminars and exhibitions. During the report period, CDETO took part in trade fairs held in Chengdu, Xi'an, Chongqing and Xining respectively to promote services of CDETO, Hong Kong's advantages, Hong Kong's role and contribution to the national "Belt and Road" Initiative, the Basic Law, the "one country, two systems" principle, services provided by InvestHK and various admission schemes for talents and professionals.

6. Apart from organising commerce and trade activities, CDETO promoted cultural exchanges and co-operation between Hong Kong and the region. Events held included –

- Staging a miniature exhibition in Chengdu to showcase Hong Kong's unique culture and lifestyle through fine miniature models in November 2015;
- Organising the Sichuanese-Cantonese opera performance and exchange activities in June 2016. Young artists from the Chinese Artists Association of Hong Kong in tandem with renowned artists from the Sichuanese Opera Institute of Sichuan Province and the Sichuanese Opera Research Institute of Chengdu Municipality performed episodes of classical Cantonese and Sichuanese operas, and classes were also arranged for the young artists from Hong Kong to learn the performance technique of Sichuanese opera with a view to promoting the artistic and cultural exchange between Hong Kong and Sichuan;
- Organising a film festival presenting a series of quality Hong Kong films and the "Film Salon" enabling a Hong Kong film maker to interact with the Mainland people during the "2016 Chengdu-Hong Kong Festival" in June 2016 to enhance Sichuan people's understanding of Hong Kong's cultural and creative industries so as to promote the development of Hong Kong film industry;
- Organising a "Hong Kong Colourful Photo Exhibition cum Gifts Design Exhibition" during the "2016 Chengdu-Hong Kong Festival" in June 2016. There were two main areas in the exhibition, and the photo exhibition displayed photos presenting the beautiful sceneries, cuisines, facets of life, customs and festive activities of Hong Kong. The audience was given a full picture of a modern and diversified Hong Kong as a metropolis where East met West; and
- Arranging a small Hong Kong a cappella group "Yat Po Singers" to present a dedicated concert during the "2016 Chengdu-Hong Kong Festival" in July 2016, and to join the "2016 Chengdu International Sister Cities Youth Music Festival", bringing a new and creative music genre to the audience in Chengdu.

7. CDETO also co-operated with the local media, HKTDC and the Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTB) to further promote Hong Kong in the Mainland. Projects included –

- Continuing to team up with the Chongqing Radio to launch a series of radio programme from July to December 2015 and the Shaanxi Broadcast Radio to launch a series of television features and programme from March to May 2016 to showcase Hong Kong's positive images, professional services, business advantages, services of InvestHK, various admission schemes for talents and professionals, etc., and to introduce the tourist spots, culture, lifestyle and cuisines in Hong Kong;
- Co-operating with the Chongqing Radio to organise a photo competition to collect photos of Hong Kong taken by the Mainland people, and to promote the event as well as Hong Kong's tourist spots through radio channels and WeChat public account;
- Co-operating with HKTB to promote Hong Kong's winter festivals and events through various promotional channels in Chengdu and Chongqing from December 2015 to January 2016 so as to attract the Mainland visitors to Hong Kong; and co-operating with HKTDC to promote "SmartHK" held in Chengdu in May 2016 through local radio channels and digital media from April to May 2016; and
- Arranging media placements on newspapers, news webpages and WeChat public account to promote activities organised by CDETO.

8. CDETO continued to be active in fostering a close relationship with the local media through interviews, press conferences, media briefings and tea gatherings to introduce to them the work and services of CDETO. In addition, CDETO regularly updated key local partners on major events in Hong Kong, activities of CDETO and other relevant information through CDETO's website and WeChat public account, which had helped foster better understanding and closer interaction between CDETO and its counterparts in local governments, non-governmental organisations, the business sector, the media, Hong Kong people and the local people.

Work to Strengthen "Homeland Relationship"

9. CDETO had strengthened the liaison work with Hong Kong people in the region to have a better understanding of their life in the Mainland and provide stronger support to them. It also stepped up the communication and promotion work with different parties in the region. These activities included –

- Organising 19 gatherings / sharing sessions for Hong Kong people living and studying in the region as well as representatives of Hong Kong enterprises, etc. to cultivate a closer relationship with them and understand better their life and needs in the Mainland so as to provide them with necessary services and information;
- Providing updates to the Chengdu, Chongqing, Xi'an and Guiyang editions of the "Practical Guide for Hong Kong People Living in the Mainland" every six months during the report period; and useful and practical information on living in the cities concerned to the public through CDETO's website and WeChat public account;

- Establishing relationship and maintaining close contact with relevant authorities such as Foreign and Overseas Chinese Affairs Offices / Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Offices / Bureaux of Letters and Calls in the region, with a view to conducting timely communication on the overall situation of the assistance cases lodged by Hong Kong people; and
- Reaching out to Hong Kong and Macao representatives of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Committees in the region, in addition to regular liaison with local officials, to foster better communication between Hong Kong and the region.

10. CDETO had maintained close relationship with 16 tertiary institutions in Sichuan Province, Shaanxi Province and Chongqing Municipality where there were Hong Kong students studying there, with a view to understanding better their life and studies in the region. CDETO also invited them to activities and provided them with information on the HKSAR civil service job openings. In addition, CDETO organised a welcome gathering for Hong Kong students in Xi'an and Chengdu in the new academic year, in which existing and new students were invited so as to enhance mutual support among Hong Kong people there. CDETO organised a visit to the historical and cultural industry in Chengdu for Hong Kong students studying in Chengdu, with a view to enhancing CDETO's closer relationship with them as well as their understanding and knowledge of the Mainland historical culture.

11. During the report period, CDETO encouraged enterprises and organisations in Chengdu, Chongqing and Xi'an to provide summer internship placements, and more than 40 placements were opened for application by Hong Kong students studying in the Mainland.

12. CDETO also encouraged public organisations in the region to provide internship vacancies for students studying in Hong Kong, with a view to enhancing students' understanding of the Mainland and promoting a closer relationship between the Mainland and Hong Kong. CDETO also offered internship vacancies for students.

13. CDETO had liaised with the Sports Bureau of Qinghai Province and the University Sports Federation of Hong Kong to arrange representatives from Hong Kong tertiary institutions to participate in the "Tour of Qinghai Lake 2016 for National College Students" so as to promote sports exchanges between Hong Kong and Qinghai.

Chongqing Liaison Unit

14. CQLU had been in close contact with local government and trade and industry organisations to expand its network and promote economic and trade exchanges between Hong Kong and Chongqing. In addition, CQLU conducted study visits to districts and counties in Chongqing to learn about the latest business environment and preferential policies so as to explore new investment and co-operation opportunities for Hong Kong enterprises. Relevant information gathered would be disseminated to related chambers of commerce in Hong Kong and Hong Kong businessmen. Regular meetings with Hong Kong people and enterprises in Chongqing would also be held to better understand their needs. During the report period, major events included –

- Organising two gatherings / sharing sessions, including career talk, visit to the world natural heritage site, etc., for Hong Kong students studying in Chongqing

to maintain a closer relationship with them and understand better their life and studies so as to provide them with necessary services and information as well as enhance their understanding and knowledge of the local culture;

- Organising the “Seminar on Hong Kong’s Professional Services for Belt and Road – Chongqing-Hong Kong Logistics Co-operation” to enhance co-operation between Chongqing and Hong Kong in logistics industry as well as active participation in the “Belt and Road” Initiative. Specifically, the seminar introduced the development and advantages of the logistics industry in Hong Kong and Chongqing, new technologies applied to the Hong Kong logistics industry, and shared the experience of Hong Kong logistics enterprises in setting up operations in Chongqing;
- Organising “2015 Chongqing-Hong Kong Film Festival” to provide an opportunity for Chongqing people to enjoy the diversified Hong Kong film culture so as to strengthen cultural exchange and mutual understanding between Chongqing and Hong Kong, and to promote exchanges between the film industries in the two places and explore opportunities for co-operation;
- Organising “Hong Kong Photo Exhibition cum Travel Fair-Wanzhou” to promote the positive image and advantages of Hong Kong;
- Organising a seminar on economic policy and labour law to promote Hong Kong’s role and opportunities in the “Belt and Road” Initiative, and to help Hong Kong enterprises to have a better understanding of taxation matters in the Mainland, the foreign investment law and the legal interpretation of labour disputes;
- Setting up a booth in the “19th China Chongqing International Investment and Global Sourcing Fair” to introduce the services and functions of CDETO and CQLU, services provided by the Immigration Department and various admission schemes for talents and professionals, Hong Kong as the platform for Mainland enterprises to “go global”, the Basic Law, CEPA, Security Bureau’s mobile application “Safeguard HK”, China’s Global Financial Centre and Hong Kong’s advantages (including being the international meetings, conventions and exhibitions capital, Hong Kong wine trade and FTA Scheme, etc.). A thematic exhibition on “Belt and Road” Initiative was set up to promote Hong Kong’s various advantages under the “Belt and Road” Initiative;
- Visiting Dazu, Wanzhou, Kaizhou, Jiangjin, Liangping and Dianjiang to understand their latest measures to attract foreign investment / preferential policies and study the local business environment with a view to helping Hong Kong enterprises explore new investment / co-operation opportunities for opening up new market niches in the Mainland;
- Publishing the “Directory of Hong Kong Service Enterprises / Providers in Chongqing” to promote the co-operation in service industries between Chongqing and Hong Kong as well as the services provided by Hong Kong enterprises and people in Chongqing, enabling the service industries in the Mainland and Hong Kong to explore co-operation opportunities;

- Paying close attention to Chongqing’s strategy planning and policy measures relating to its “13th Five-Year Plan” and “Belt and Road” Initiative, and reporting the latest development and analysis in a timely manner; and
- The “Chongqing-Hong Kong Vocational Student Exchange Programme” made good progress through proactive support by CQLU. Exchange visits between the Hong Kong Vocational Training Council and Chongqing University of Education were held during the report period. The Programme helped build a platform for study, practice and exchanges between students from Chongqing and Hong Kong to enhance their vocational skills and broaden their horizons.

Immigration-related Matters and Assistance Rendered

15. Immigration matters handled by CDETO include handling immigration-related enquiries, promoting the talent admission schemes, and providing practical assistance to Hong Kong residents who have lost their travel documents or encountered personal safety problems in the region covered by CDETO. During the report period, CDETO received a total of 37 requests for assistance from Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland. Of these, 16 cases involved the loss of travel documents or monies, 19 cases were from persons who were in danger, involved in traffic accidents, injured, sick or whose relatives had passed away in the Mainland, etc., and two cases involved the detention of Hong Kong residents in the Mainland. In addition, CDETO handled 873 enquiries.

16. Moreover, CDETO received a total of eight other assistance cases during the report period. CDETO made referrals to the relevant Mainland authorities for follow up and monitored the progress.

Looking Ahead

17. Through participating in and organising various types of economic and trade activities, missions, studying the latest business environment and preferential policies, searching for and disseminating updated information to Hong Kong enterprises, CDETO, together with the CQLU, will continue to maintain close ties with local government departments and business organisations, supporting Hong Kong enterprises to operate or extend their business in the region. Meanwhile, CDETO will continue to enhance liaison with the government departments and other organisations in the region covered, to promote Hong Kong as the best investment destination for Mainland enterprises, and to enhance exchanges and co-operation between the HKSAR and the Mainland in different aspects. CDETO will continue to reach out to Hong Kong people, businessmen and students in the Mainland, and provide useful information and support to them. In particular, CDETO will continue to explore the feasibility of organising more activities relating to “Belt and Road” professional services in the region and actively participating in “Belt and Road” activities organised by the local authorities in the region so as to further promote Hong Kong’s unique advantages under the “Belt and Road” Initiative. CDETO will also continue to pay close attention to the proposals and policies of the provinces, municipality and autonomous region covered by CDETO under the “Belt and Road” Initiative and the “13th Five-Year Plan”, and to the strategies, policies and initiatives of provinces concerned for deepening the Pan-Pearl River Delta regional co-operation. CDETO will proactively liaise with authorities concerned to gather relevant information, and report the latest development and analysis in a timely manner so as to explore new business opportunities for Hong Kong enterprises

through promoting Hong Kong as a platform to “go global” and furthering the economic co-operation between Hong Kong and the Mainland.

18. In addition, CDETO together with CQLU will make good preparations for celebrating the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR and organise different celebration activities in the region. CDETO will also prepare for the setting up of a new liaison unit in Shaanxi Province in the first half of 2017.

Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Chengdu
October 2016

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

The main functions of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Wuhan of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (WHETO) are to (a) enhance liaison and communication between the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) and the Mainland authorities in the five provinces of Hubei, Hunan, Shanxi, Jiangxi and Henan (“the region”); (b) promote Hong Kong and enhance economic and trade co-operation between Hong Kong and the region; and (c) provide appropriate information and assistance to Hong Kong enterprises and residents operating, working and living in the region.

Commercial Relations

2. WHETO proactively liaised and co-operated with relevant authorities and organisations in Hong Kong and the central region to promote Hong Kong’s business sector and help them explore business opportunities in the Mainland. The specific work included –

- (a) promoting various sectors of Hong Kong to the Mainland as well as deepening Hong Kong enterprises’ understanding of the business and investment environment in the central region to facilitate economic and trade co-operation. For example, at “The Belt and Road Initiative: Hong Kong Legal and Arbitration Services Seminar” held in Wuhan in April 2016, experts from the Department of Justice, Hong Kong Bar Association, the Law Society of Hong Kong, Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre, Hong Kong Arbitration Center of China International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission as well as International Chamber of Commerce were invited to introduce the legal and arbitration services of Hong Kong and its competitive edges as a centre for international legal and dispute resolution services in Asia-Pacific region to legal professionals, representatives of enterprises and government officials in Hubei Province; and at the “Seminar on Hong Kong Urbanisation Experience Sharing” held in Wuhan in June 2016, representatives of Hong Kong Institute of Architects and Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors were invited to share experiences with relevant officials and professionals of Hubei Province in order to promote the exchanges between the two places. The feedback of the two events shows that many Mainland officials and members of the sectors recognise the competitive edges of Hong Kong’s professional services and its unique role in respect of the “Belt and Road” Initiative;
- (b) encouraging and promoting economic and trade exchanges between Hong Kong and the region through participation in trade promotion activities. For example, WHETO visited Zhengzhou to attend the “10th China Henan International Investment and Trade Fair” in April 2016 and attended the “Forum on Global Production Capacity and Business Cooperation” in Wuhan in June 2016;
- (c) supporting provinces / municipalities in the region to visit Hong Kong to organise trade promotion activities and co-ordinating meetings between visiting Mainland officials and senior officials of the HKSAR Government.

For example, in November 2015, March and May 2016, WHETO assisted in the activities in Hong Kong during the visits of delegations led by Hubei Governor Wang Guosheng, Hunan Executive Vice-Governor Chen Xiangqun, Jiangxi Province Secretary Qiang Wei, Hunan Vice-Governor He Baoxiang and Director of the Liaison Division of United Front Work Department of the Chinese Communist Party Shanxi Provincial Committee Sun Shaopin respectively;

- (d) maintaining close liaison with Hong Kong trade associations and organisations in the region, and actively participating in and supporting their activities. During the report period, WHETO met Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce in China – Wuhan, Hunan Association of Enterprises with Foreign Investment as well as a number of Hong Kong enterprises investing in the provinces / municipalities in the region and attended their activities;
- (e) keeping Hong Kong’s major industrial and trade organisations as well as Hong Kong residents and enterprises in the region informed of the latest economic and trade policies, legislations and measures in the region through newsletters and sharing sessions; monitoring closely those latest policy developments and regulations that may have an impact on Hong Kong enterprises and reporting to the relevant bureaux and departments of the HKSAR Government in a timely manner; and collecting the views of Hong Kong enterprises on these developments / legislations and reflecting their views to relevant Mainland authorities for consideration where appropriate. During the report period, WHETO issued 12 “Monthly Newsletters”, 21 “Topical Newsletters” and four quarterly “Mainland Economic and Trade Activities Newsletter” to provide relevant information on business and investment in the Mainland as well as analysis of business policy issues which have always been of concern to Hong Kong businessmen (for example, taxation, labour, intellectual property and social insurance, etc.). Moreover, WHETO organised a seminar between Wuhan Municipal Government and Hong Kong enterprises in Wuhan in July 2016 to provide an opportunity for Hong Kong enterprises to communicate directly with and reflect views to various local government authorities. Relevant Wuhan officials were also invited to introduce the “13th Five-Year Plan” of Wuhan and the implementation regulations of “Replacing Business Tax with Value-added Tax”;
- (f) organising seminars with experts invited to talk about issues of common concern, such as taxation, labour laws and social security system of the Mainland, to Hong Kong enterprises operating business in the Mainland. For example, the “Salary Survey, Foreign Investment Laws and Analysis of Free Trade Zone Policies Seminar” and the “Seminar on Trademark Law” were held in Wuhan in January and June 2016 respectively; the “Seminar on Trademark Law” was held in Changsha and Zhengzhou respectively in December 2015 and the “Seminar on Practical Issues and Legislative Developments of Labour Law” was held in the two cities in June 2016; and
- (g) paying close attention to the region’s policies relating to the “13th Five-Year Plan” of the region and their latest initiatives in integrating into the “Belt and Road” strategy as well as the related measures and latest development of

major development plans like Yangtze River Middle Reaches City Clusters of Hubei, Hunan and Jiangxi, Zhengzhou Airport Economic Zone of Henan, Xiangjiang New Area of Hunan and Ganjiang New Area of Jiangxi, etc., through, *inter alia*, visits to the Departments of Commerce, Development and Reform Commissions and other agencies in the region. Special attention is paid to the business opportunities in the Mainland market for Hong Kong services enterprises and professional service providers brought by these policies. WHETO also provides timely reports to the HKSAR Government on the relevant information.

Investment Promotion

3. For the purpose of attracting Mainland enterprises to establish operations and invest in Hong Kong, the Investment Promotion Division (IPD) of WHETO endeavoured to contact and visit potential enterprises and relevant commercial and industrial organisations to introduce the competitive edges of Hong Kong as a platform for Mainland enterprises to develop their overseas business. Enterprises with interest will be offered comprehensive assistance and consultation services. During the report period, the IPD proactively reached out and met different enterprises and organisations 178 times, generated ten live projects and completed six investment projects.

4. During the report period, major investment promotion initiatives of the IPD included –

- (a) co-organising with Invest Hong Kong (InvestHK) the “Business Roundtable on Innovation and Technology Sector Investing in Hong Kong” in Wuhan in April 2016;
- (b) partnering with InvestHK for a seminar with construction-related companies in Wuhan in June 2016;
- (c) introducing to the local enterprises in Wuhan, Changsha, Nanchang and Zhengzhou the development opportunities of various sectors and ways to expand their business in Hong Kong together with InvestHK in November 2015 and from April to June 2016; and
- (d) participating in other investment promotion activities to enhance connection with more Mainland enterprises in the region. For example, the IPD participated in the “China Jingdezhen International Ceramic Fair” and the “8th China Wuhan Finance Expo and Central China (Hubei) Venture Capital Conference” in October 2015, the “Central China (Hunan) International Agriculture Fair” in November 2015, the “China (Henan) International Investment and Trade Fair” in April 2016 and the “Forum on Global Production Capacity and Business Cooperation-cum-Enterprises Cooperation Fair” in June 2016, etc.

Public Relations

5. As a bridge between Hong Kong and the region, WHETO promoted Hong Kong’s advantages and its positive image in the region through official visits and taking part in various activities. The specific work included –

- (a) collaborating with the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC) to promote Hong Kong's status as an international fashion and gourmet capital in Zhengzhou in November 2015;
- (b) supporting the charitable performance of the Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra in Wuhan in December 2015 and distributing the "Art Link @ Hong Kong" booklet at the venue to promote the art and cultural scene of Hong Kong as Asia's World City;
- (c) organising in the five cities of Nanchang, Zhengzhou, Changsha, Taiyuan and Yichang the roving exhibitions "This is Hong Kong" for the central region to enhance local residents' understanding of various aspects of Hong Kong, including economy, trade, education, culture, environmental protection, and creative industries. The exhibitions attracted nearly 20 000 visitors in total;
- (d) collaborating with the Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTB) to promote tourism of Hong Kong through various channels like television, radio, outdoor LED panels, mobile platform as well as newspapers and magazines in Wuhan, Changsha, Zhengzhou and Taiyuan from December 2015 to January 2016;
- (e) placing BrandHK advertisements in two top-selling and influential newspapers in each of Jiangxi and Shanxi Provinces in March 2016 to promote Hong Kong as a cultural and art hub as well as a green city to local residents;
- (f) publishing advertisements and feature stories in two top-selling and influential newspapers in Hunan Province (Hunan Daily and Xiaoxiang Morning Post) in May 2016, to introduce Hong Kong and Hunan Liaison Unit (HNLU) which just came into operation to residents in Hunan Province, and to bring home the message of mutual co-operation in pursuing common development and prosperity between Hong Kong and Hunan Province;
- (g) organising the "Discover A Better World-Hong Kong Film Week 2016" in Changsha and Wuhan respectively in June 2016 with open screenings of four high quality Hong Kong films produced in recent years and Hong Kong director's exchange talks with the audience, with a view to promoting Hong Kong's film culture and creative industries;
- (h) organising in Wuhan and Changsha in August and September 2016 respectively the roving exhibitions "Hong Kong's Food Culture" for the central region, to promote Hong Kong and enhance local residents' understanding on its nature as a pluralistic society through an introduction of Hong Kong's unique food culture by fusing Eastern and Western flavours;
- (i) setting up an exhibition booth at the "2016 China Food and Catering Expo" in Changsha in September 2016 to showcase Hong Kong's unique advantages as Asia's wine hub;
- (j) publishing advertisements and feature stories in two top-selling and influential newspapers in Henan Province (Henan Daily and Orient Today) in September

2016, to introduce Hong Kong and Henan Liaison Unit (HALU) which just came into operation to residents in Henan Province, and to bring home the message of mutual co-operation in pursuing common development and prosperity between Hong Kong and Henan Province;

- (k) collaborating with the Rural Channel of Hubei Television to produce and broadcast the radio programme “Next Station, Hong Kong” in Hubei and other areas in the central region to promote various aspect of Hong Kong;
- (l) disseminating information related to WHETO and Hong Kong through the official WeChat account. During the report period, a total of 154 messages of news and activities were disseminated;
- (m) collaborating with the CN Hubei website (www.cnhubei.com) to release on a designated Hong Kong web page daily news relating to Hong Kong and features on “Hong Kong as Asia’s Wine Hub”, “Hong Kong Residents in Wuhan” and “Hong Kong’s Roles and Competitive Edges under the ‘Belt and Road’ Initiative”, etc. during the report period;
- (n) collaborating with the “iLife” magazine in Wuhan to publish Hong Kong’s image advertisements and feature articles on “Hong Kong as Asia’s Wine Hub” and “Enhancement Measures of Talent Admission Schemes” to promote Hong Kong; and
- (o) collaborating with the Business and Travel high speed railway magazine to publish Hong Kong’s image advertisements and feature articles on “Hong Kong’s Unique Food Culture” to promote Hong Kong.

Work to Strengthen “Homeland Relationship”

6. WHETO strived to broaden and deepen liaison network, step up information collection, and implement various measures to better support Hong Kong residents living, doing business, working and studying in the region. The specific work included –

- (a) enhancing Government-to-Government liaison work; strengthening the liaison and co-operation with government authorities in the region through visits and participating in their organised / co-organised activities. WHETO also liaised with the relevant authorities to obtain details on planning and policies, etc. of the region and report to the HKSAR Government. During the report period, WHETO proactively rendered assistance to government officials of the region who attended events and conducted study tours in Hong Kong with a view to enhancing their knowledge about Hong Kong and their understanding of the latest development. For example, in December 2015, WHETO assisted in arranging respectively a delegation of the Shanxi Province Bureau of Quality and Technical Supervision to visit Hong Kong to learn about operation supervision and management of the lift and escalator industry and a delegation led by the Deputy Director of the Standing Committee of Hubei Provincial People’s Congress, Zhao Bin, to visit Hong Kong to tap into Hong Kong’s experience in the promotion of volunteer work. WHETO also assisted in arranging a delegation of Wuhan Municipal

Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference to have a study tour at Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks in June 2016. In July 2016, WHETO assisted in arranging a delegation of the Hubei Provincial Deepening Medical and Health System Reform Leading Group Office to visit Hong Kong to learn about Hong Kong's medical and healthcare systems;

- (b) proactively liaising with Hong Kong enterprises and residents in the region to understand their needs and provide assistance as appropriate. For example –
- organising meetings and functions to maintain close liaison with Hong Kong enterprises and residents in the region to understand their work and lives in the central region as well as their needs. For example, WHETO organised a “Spring Reception for Hong Kong Residents in Hubei Province 2016” in February 2016;
 - meeting with Hong Kong university students studying in Wuhan and Changsha as well as the offices for Hong Kong and Macao affairs in respective universities to understand students' lives and studies; and disseminate information of summer internship, civil service recruitment and Mainland University Study Subsidy Scheme, etc. through the offices for Hong Kong and Macao affairs in respective universities and Hong Kong students' unions;
 - encouraging Hong Kong-invested enterprises in Wuhan to provide internship opportunities for Hong Kong university students studying in Wuhan and Changsha, and disseminating relevant information to Hong Kong students. In addition, WHETO organised two talks on employment and entrepreneurship for Hong Kong students in Wuhan in March and September 2016 providing information related to career planning and employment with a view to assisting the Hong Kong students to plan for their development and prepare for the future. WHETO also arranged Hong Kong speakers of legal, architectural and surveying services attending seminars in Wuhan in April and June 2016 to share their experiences with Hong Kong students studying related professions in Wuhan, with a view to enabling the students to have a better understanding of the development of relevant sectors in both places; and
 - providing information (for example, on civil service recruitment of the HKSAR Government, etc.) to Hong Kong residents in the region through its website and WeChat official account.
- (c) maintaining close liaison with the relevant Mainland offices of the HKTDC and the HKTb to collaborate on various initiatives including those promoting Hong Kong; and
- (d) supporting relevant bureaux to enhance youth exchange and internship schemes in the Mainland. For example, WHETO attended at the kick-off ceremony of “Hubei-Hong Kong Scout Internship Programme 2016” organised by the Scout Association of Hong Kong in June 2016. During the report period, WHETO received 34 visiting Hong Kong young people and

students, briefing them on WHETO's work and functions as well as introducing the latest developments of Hong Kong's co-operation with the central region.

Hunan Liaison Unit

7. The HNLU under WHETO came into operation on 25 May 2016 to assist Hong Kong people and companies in better capitalising the opportunities brought about by the development of the central region. Located in Changsha, the capital city of Hunan Province, HNLU strives to strengthen relations between Hong Kong and Hunan Province as well as its municipalities by enhancing Government-to-Government co-operation, promoting exchange and co-operation between Hong Kong and the relevant province and municipalities on economic and trade and cultural fronts as well as providing support to Hong Kong residents and companies in the area.

8. Since its establishment, the HNLU called on the relevant authorities of the Hunan Provincial, the Changsha Municipal and the Yiyang Municipal governments to introduce the establishment and functions of HNLU and exchange views on its work plans. The HNLU also assisted in the communication between the HKSAR Government and relevant institutions in Hunan Province. For example, the HNLU assisted in arranging a delegation of Department of Commerce of Hunan Province to visit the Trade and Industry Department and the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks in August 2016.

9. In addition, HNLU has been actively promoting Hong Kong's wine industry in the Mainland with a view to enhancing closer collaboration and exchanges between Hong Kong and Hunan. HNLU set up a booth in "2016 China Food & Catering Expo" ("Food Expo") in September 2016 to promote the advantages of Hong Kong as Asia's wine hub. During the Food Expo, HNLU co-organised with the Department of Commerce of Hunan Province a forum and business matching event on wine industry between Hong Kong and Hunan. The event, where experts and practitioners from both Hong Kong and Hunan shared their experience, helped enhance collaboration and exchange between the two places in respect of wine trade.

10. During the report period, the HNLU established close liaison with Hong Kong residents and enterprises in Hunan Province. For example, the HNLU hosted a dinner on its first day of operation in May 2016 to understand their work and lives in Hunan as well as their needs. HNLU also organised a dinner gathering during the mid-autumn festival in September 2016 with Hong Kong enterprises and people in Changsha to further strengthen understanding and establish connection.

Henan Liaison Unit

11. The HALU under WHETO came into operation on 28 September 2016 to assist Hong Kong people and companies in better capitalising the opportunities brought about by the development of the central region. Located in Zhengzhou, the capital city of Henan Province, HALU strives to strengthen relations between Hong Kong and Henan Province as well as its municipalities by enhancing Government-to-Government co-operation, promoting exchange and co-operation between Hong Kong and the relevant province and municipalities on economic and trade and cultural fronts as well as providing support to Hong Kong residents and companies in the area. The HALU has called on the relevant authorities of the

Henan Provincial government to introduce the establishment and functions of HALU and exchange views on its work plans.

Assistance Rendered to Hong Kong Residents

12. WHETO received a total of three requests for assistance during the report period. WHETO made referrals to the relevant Mainland authorities for follow up and monitored the progress.

Looking Ahead

13. WHETO will continue to promote the economic and trade relations between Hong Kong and the region as well as promote Hong Kong in the region to enhance Mainland people's understanding of Hong Kong. WHETO will also continue to strengthen the Government-to-Government relations, enhance the liaison with and better serve the Hong Kong enterprises and residents in the region, including monitoring closely the latest developments in the central region, disseminating relevant information in a timely manner, and organising seminars on issues of interest to Hong Kong trade (for example, taxation, labour, etc.) and policies concerning the central region. WHETO will collect practical information about living in the Mainland (for example, work, business operation, medical care, study, legal services, etc.) which will be disseminated through WHETO's website. WHETO will also monitor latest developments of major policies, legislations and measures in the region and report to bureaux and departments to assess the impact on Hong Kong. To tie in with the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR in 2017, WHETO will organise activities in the region and enhance the work related to promotion and publicity of Hong Kong. The HNLU and HALU are now operating from temporary offices so as to commence service as early as possible. To cater for the operational needs in the long run, WHETO is actively proceeding with the work to set up long term offices for them.

Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Wuhan
October 2016

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

The Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office (Taiwan) (HKETCO) commenced operation in Taipei City, Taiwan in December 2011 as Hong Kong's multi-functional office in Taiwan. HKETCO has been leveraging on its local presence to enhance liaison and provide services, and forging close ties with key economic, cultural, academic and media organisations to promote economic, trade and cultural exchanges between Hong Kong and Taiwan. HKETCO also promotes Hong Kong's strengths and image through organising and joining various activities, allowing the Taiwan community to appreciate the developments and unique culture of Hong Kong. In addition, HKETCO attaches great importance to maintaining close contact with Hong Kong people, businesses and students in Taiwan, and provides them with appropriate assistance to the extent possible.

Commercial Relations

2. Hong Kong and Taiwan are each other's fourth largest trading partners in terms of merchandise trade. Taiwan is also Hong Kong's fifth largest trading partner in terms of trade in services. During the report period, HKETCO continued to promote economic relations, investment, financial services and business exchanges, etc. between Hong Kong and Taiwan through various channels.

3. HKETCO continued its liaison with various stakeholders in the industrial and commercial sector, including major Taiwan industrial and commercial associations as well as industrial and commercial associations in various cities and counties, so as to keep them abreast of the latest economic and trade development in Hong Kong.

4. During the report period, HKETCO also furthered its connection with Hong Kong businesses in Taiwan. By meeting with Hong Kong people working in various industries and visiting Hong Kong companies, HKETCO learnt about their situation and needs as well as the development of the relevant industries in Taiwan. In addition, HKETCO worked closely with the Taiwan Office of the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC) and the Hong Kong Business Association in Taiwan¹ to share and exchange information relating to commerce and trade of Hong Kong and Taiwan.

5. HKETCO also received a number of Hong Kong business delegations visiting Taiwan, exchanged views with them on the latest development of Hong Kong-Taiwan economic and trade relations, and provided them with advice and assistance as appropriate.

6. HKETCO also kept a close watch on important information and messages in Hong Kong and Taiwan relating to economic and trade matters as well as business operations, such as changes of relevant regulations in the two places². HKETCO disseminated these messages to Hong Kong businesses operating in Taiwan, industry and trade organisations in Taiwan, and Taiwan enterprises interested in investing in Hong Kong, by publishing the

¹ With the support of HKETCO and the Taiwan Office of HKTDC, the Hong Kong Business Association in Taiwan was jointly established in August 2014 by Hong Kong businessmen in Taiwan and Taiwan entrepreneurs who are interested in promoting Hong Kong-Taiwan cooperation.

² During the report period, amendments made by the Taiwan Authorities on regulations relevant to Hong Kong and Taiwan are mainly related to insurance and work arrangements of labour within Taiwan, as well as the qualifications of establishing startups in Taiwan by people of Hong Kong and Macao as well as foreigners.

monthly “Hong Kong-Taiwan Economic and Trade Newsletter” as well as by issuing ad-hoc emails, with a view to enhancing the flow of economic and trade information. Members of the public can also download the aforesaid newsletters from HKETCO’s website (www.hketco.hk). Besides, HKETCO also handled 45 enquiries relating to Hong Kong-Taiwan economic and trade matters during the report period.

7. In order to strengthen the understanding of Hong Kong by Taiwan’s various sectors and foster closer economic cooperation and exchanges between the two places, HKETCO organised the “Hong Kong-Taiwan Economic Co-operation Forum” in Taipei City in November 2015. The Forum focused on exploring the trends of economic development and business opportunities in financial services in the Greater China region. It also discussed how Hong Kong and Taiwan could enhance collaboration and create new opportunities in the two areas of mutual recognition of funds and financial technology. Besides, HKETCO organised the “Hong Kong-Hsinchu Economic Co-operation Seminar” in Hsinchu, an important base of high-tech industries in Taiwan, in April 2016, as well as the “Hong Kong-New Taipei Investment Promotion Seminar” in New Taipei City in September 2016. At the seminars, HKETCO delivered on topics such as the latest developments of economic and trade relations between Hong Kong and Taiwan, as well as investments and business environment in Hong Kong, etc.

Investment Promotion

8. The Investment Promotion Division (IPD) of HKETCO actively encouraged Taiwan enterprises to invest in Hong Kong and make use of the various services and advantages of Hong Kong to explore the Mainland and overseas markets. It also provided assistance and services to enterprises interested in investing in Hong Kong. During the report period, IPD visited 316 companies in various parts of Taiwan, generated 25 live projects and completed 19 investment projects.

9. IPD actively assisted InvestHK in organising promotion activities in Taiwan, including a seminar in Taichung held in November 2015 to brief enterprises in Taiwan on the business environment and investment advantages of Hong Kong.

10. In order to understand the latest developments and trends of Taiwan’s startups and major industries, IPD participated in a number of events during the report period, such as the “2015 Meet Taipei” held in November 2015, the “2016 Taipei Game Show” held in January 2016, and the “2016 Fintech Summit” held in April 2016. At the events, IPD met with companies that are interested in investing in Hong Kong. IPD also attended a number of exhibitions featuring Taiwan’s prime industries to establish contacts with the participating enterprises, with a view to identifying prospective investors to Hong Kong.

Cultural Promotion and Public Relations

11. During the report period, HKETCO actively promoted cultural exchanges between Hong Kong and Taiwan. Major work includes –

- (a) supporting the organisation of the “Hong Kong Week 2015” between September and October 2015 (see paragraph 19 (a) below);
- (b) organising a total of three “Art & Culture @ Hong Kong” cultural talks in Taipei

City and Tainan City. Renowned Hong Kong cultural personalities were invited as speakers of the forums, enabling the general public of Taiwan to have a deeper understanding of Hong Kong's cultural characteristics;

- (c) supporting the Hong Kong Publishing Federation and the Hong Kong Printers Association to participate in the "Taipei International Book Exhibition" in February 2016, during which the "Soaring Creativity - Hong Kong Pavilion" was set up to showcase the diversity of Hong Kong's publishing and printing industry. Publications introducing Hong Kong were also distributed to promote Hong Kong's cultural characteristics;
- (d) installing lantern displays showcasing Hong Kong at the "2016 Taiwan Lantern Festival" held in Taoyuan City and the "2016 Central Taiwan Lantern Festival" held in Taichung City in February 2016. Twenty-five metres in length, the Hong Kong lantern area of the lantern festival in Taoyuan carried the theme of "Trendy. Splendid. Hong Kong Welcomes You". Through unique lantern displays, the public in Taiwan were presented to the rich and diverse characteristics of Hong Kong. With the theme "A Fantastic Tour to the Dynamic City of Hong Kong", the Hong Kong lantern displays in Taichung featured a double-decker tram model with a video clip containing sketches of Hong Kong's streets screened inside the compartment, which allowed the public to experience the charm of Hong Kong;
- (e) supporting the Asian Youth Orchestra, which is based in Hong Kong, to perform in Taipei City and Chiayi City in August 2016; and
- (f) planning to publish the sixth edition of "Art & Culture @ Hong Kong" to deepen the understanding of the general public of Taiwan in Hong Kong's living styles, arts and culture. The publication is expected to be issued in November 2016.

12. HKETCO also exchanged with members and organisations of the cultural sector in Hong Kong who came to perform or participate in exhibitions in Taiwan, and actively met with members and organisations of various fields of the cultural sector in Taiwan.

13. During the report period, HKETCO also continued to establish relationships with stakeholders from various sectors of Taiwan, briefing them on HKETCO's work and promoting the strengths of Hong Kong, thereby facilitating exchanges between Hong Kong and Taiwan. Apart from stakeholders based in Taipei City, the Director and key members of HKETCO also visited a number of cities and counties, carrying out different activities such as meeting with local business and industry associations, cultural organisations, universities and the academia etc., as well as visiting infrastructural facilities, and art and cultural venues.

14. HKETCO also conducted a series of publicity work during the report period. Major publicity work includes –

- (a) co-operating with a youth magazine "30" and a financial magazine "Business Weekly" in Taiwan, to produce a bimonthly column at the two magazines

alternately from June 2015 to May 2016, featuring interviews with people from Hong Kong and Taiwan. The columns helped promote the various advantages of Hong Kong in the fields of logistics, international arbitration, investment environment, technology, design and art, etc. Similar columns have also been produced in two other magazines in Taiwan namely “Business Today” and “Global Views Monthly” since August 2016;

- (b) co-organising the 2016 Spring Reception with the HKTDC Taiwan Branch and the Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTB) Taiwan Branch in March 2016, with a view to strengthening ties with various sectors in Taiwan, as well as Hong Kong people and businessmen in Taiwan. Videos featuring Hong Kong’s unique culture and tourism were broadcast during the event. Along with decorations rich in “Hong Kong flavours”, guests were given an opportunity to experience the glamour of Hong Kong as Asia’s world city;
- (c) supporting the HKTB Taiwan Branch in launching the “Short Break @ Hong Kong: Family Promotion” tourism promotion campaign in June 2016. The campaign included collaborating with “Din Dong”, a renowned comic character in Hong Kong, to film a video on family travel to Hong Kong. The video has been viewed on the internet for over three million times. The campaign also promoted tourist spots for families in Hong Kong through dedicated website and newspaper reports. Besides, HKETCO also supported the HKTB Taiwan Branch in launching a series of activities in September 2016 promoting the “Hong Kong Halloween Treats”, attracting youngsters and families to visit Hong Kong; and;
- (d) furnishing information about Hong Kong to members of the Taiwan public through opening up the reading area of HKETCO, distributing publications and materials, and conducting routine liaison work.

Assistance Rendered to Hong Kong People in Taiwan

15. HKETCO strived to enhance the breadth and depth of its network with Hong Kong people, businessmen and students, with a view to understanding their daily lives in Taiwan, facilitating more expeditious dissemination of information, and offering them with necessary advice and assistance to the extent possible.

16. Regarding Hong Kong students in Taiwan, the Director and key members of HKETCO visited a total of 12 universities located at various cities and counties during the report period, exchanging with the Hong Kong students there to understand their learning and daily lives. HKETCO also organised a student gathering in each of the northern, central and southern part of Taiwan respectively. In addition, HKETCO maintained close contact with Hong Kong student associations in Taiwan, and made use of their channels to disseminate useful messages to the students. Given that a number of traffic accidents involving Hong Kong students happened in Taiwan, HKETCO took the aforesaid opportunities to remind students to pay attention to road safety. Moreover, HKETCO organised career talks in May and September 2016 to provide job seeking information to Hong Kong students in Taiwan, and offered opportunities for them to gain work experience through internship programmes. HKETCO also supported student groups to organise activities to strengthen mutual support and relationships among students, and to promote Hong Kong.

17. HKETCO also maintained regular communications with associations of Hong Kong people in Taiwan. To connect with them, a football competition was organised in April 2016. In addition, HKETCO published an information booklet for Hong Kong people living in Taiwan, with a view to providing useful information to them. HKETCO also received a number of non-governmental study missions and delegations from Hong Kong, briefing them on the work of HKETCO and exchanging views with them on Hong Kong-Taiwan co-operation.

18. During the report period, HKETCO received 107 requests for assistance and relevant enquires from Hong Kong people. They were mainly related to immigration matters, accidents occurred in Taiwan and seeking legal assistance. In handling cases involving Hong Kong people in distress in Taiwan, HKETCO always maintained close liaison with the Hong Kong Immigration Department and offered all possible assistance according to the circumstances, including providing advices on such matters as local administrative procedures, and how to liaise with the relevant organisations or seek legal advice.

Supporting the Work of the Government and the Hong Kong-Taiwan Economic and Cultural Cooperation and Promotion Council

19. During the report period, HKETCO actively supported the Government and the Hong Kong-Taiwan Economic and Cultural Cooperation and Promotion Council (ECCPC) in fostering closer cooperation and exchanges with Taiwan. Major work includes –

- (a) assisting the Hong Kong-Taiwan Cultural Co-operation Committee in organising “Hong Kong Week 2015” in Taipei City from September to October 2015 to promote Hong Kong’s art and culture. The various activities of “Hong Kong Week 2015” attracted more than 77 000 participants and received positive feedback from the Taiwan audience; and
- (b) accompanying the ECCPC Chairperson to a visit to Taoyuan City in February 2016, attending the lighting ceremony of the Hong Kong Lantern Area of the “2016 Taiwan Lantern Festival” as well as other activities.

Looking Ahead

20. HKETCO has been in operation for nearly five years and has successfully established links with various sectors in Taiwan. HKETCO will continue to step up efforts in this respect. We will also continue to promote the strengths of Hong Kong in Taiwan; actively encourage Taiwan companies to invest in Hong Kong, foster closer economic relationship between Hong Kong and Taiwan, and support Hong Kong businesses in Taiwan, including the organisation of another Hong Kong-Taiwan Economic Co-operation Forum in November 2016 in New Taipei City; as well as promote cultural exchanges between the two places through various means.