

**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 informs Members of the work undertaken by the Beijing Office, four Economic Trade Offices (the five Mainland Offices) and 11 Liaison Units in the Mainland, as well as the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan between October 2016 and October 2017.

2. The Chief Executive announced in the 2017 Policy Address that to fully participate in and capitalise on the opportunities brought by the “Belt and Road” Initiative, and to leverage our edge under the “what the country needs, what Hong Kong is good at” policy, the HKSAR Government will step up communication with the Central Authorities to gain a deeper understanding of the policy directions and implementation of the Belt and Road Initiative. The HKSAR Government will also co-operate with enterprises and chambers of commerce to translate policies into business opportunities.

3. Capitalising on the opportunities arising from the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area is another focus of work mentioned in the 2017 Policy Address. The HKSAR Government will actively participate in taking forward the development of the Bay Area, so as to create favourable conditions for diversifying our industries, in particular for promoting innovation and technology development. Moreover, the HKSAR Government will seek further facilitation measures for Hong Kong people to study, work, and start up and operate business, live and retire in the Bay Area and thereby facilitating the flow of people, goods, capital and information between Hong Kong and other cities in the Bay Area and making it a quality living circle for Hong Kong people.

4. The five Mainland Offices viz. the Beijing Office, the Guangdong Economic and Trade Office (ETO), the Shanghai ETO, the Chengdu ETO and the Wuhan ETO are responsible for strengthening communication and liaison between Hong Kong and the Mainland, including enhancing government-to-government co-operation, comprehensively enhancing and promoting Hong Kong's trade and commercial relations with Mainland provinces and municipalities, fostering exchange and co-operation between the two places, facilitating investment, promoting Hong Kong, and providing support to the Hong Kong people and enterprises in the Mainland. Besides, Immigration Divisions set up in the Mainland Offices provide practical assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland, and HKSAR passport replacement service to Hong Kong residents in the Mainland. The Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office (Taiwan) (HKETCO) in Taipei is Hong Kong's multi-functional office in Taiwan. Its main role is to promote economic, trade and cultural exchanges between Hong Kong and Taiwan. In future, the Mainland and Taiwan Offices will align their work with the focuses outlined in the

above paragraphs¹ and continue their efforts in promoting Hong Kong to their target audiences as set out in paragraphs 5 to 8 below.

Government and Non-Government Organisations

5. The Mainland Offices have been maintaining close contact with the Mainland authorities at central, provincial and municipal levels so as to understand the latest development of the Mainland's policies, laws and regulations relating to economic and trade matters (e.g. the "Belt and Road" Initiative) and their impact on Hong Kong. These Offices also supported and facilitated visits by Mainland officials to Hong Kong so that they may gain a comprehensive understanding of Hong Kong's latest development.

6. The Mainland and Taiwan Offices have continued to strengthen liaison and co-operation with non-government organisations (e.g. Hong Kong Trade Development Council, Hong Kong Tourism Board and Hong Kong Productivity Council, etc.), and actively supported their activities with a view to promoting Hong Kong.

Business Sector

7. The Mainland and Taiwan Offices have actively liaised and assisted enterprises in the regions to develop business in Hong Kong, to promote Hong Kong as a platform to "go global" and its edge as an international city. These Offices have organised and participated in exhibitions and various trade activities to promote Hong Kong's investment environment. Efforts have also been made to enhance the dissemination of information on local business environment, development opportunities and policies relevant to Hong Kong enterprises in the Mainland and Taiwan. To this end, regular newsletters providing information on local economic and trade policies and regulations; and business promotion, investment and economic and trade activities have been published. On the other hand, the Mainland Offices have helped reflect views of the Hong Kong businessmen to the relevant authorities. Meetings between provincial/municipal government departments and Hong Kong business community were lined up as necessary. Some Offices (e.g. Guangdong and Wuhan ETOs) have established mechanism with relevant Mainland authorities for holding regular meetings/seminars with Hong Kong enterprises/business communities to exchange views.

General Public

8. The Mainland and Taiwan Offices have been promoting Hong Kong's advantages and its positive image in the regions through various channels, official visits and taking part in various activities. The Offices have made use of both traditional and new media (e.g. co-producing television programmes to promote Hong Kong, using new media such as Weibo and WeChat to promote various activities organised by the Offices) to proactively reach out to the local communities. During the report period, the Mainland Offices organised a wide range of activities celebrating the 20th anniversary of the establishment of HKSAR in the Mainland and these activities were well received by local communities. The Mainland and Taiwan

¹ The main role of HKETCO is to promote economic, trade and cultural exchanges between Hong Kong and Taiwan and hence its adjustment in approach would be less significant than other Mainland Offices.

Offices have been providing assistance and support to Hong Kong art groups to stage cultural performances and exchanges in the Mainland and Taiwan to promote Hong Kong.

Looking Ahead

9. We have upgraded the network and functions for our offices in the Mainland. At present, our five offices cover 31 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions, with each office having at least two liaison units. With the establishment of a new Immigration Division in Wuhan ETO by end-2017, each Mainland Office will have an Immigration Division to provide immigration-related services to Hong Kong people in the Mainland. In future, the Mainland Offices and their liaison units will continue to enhance government-to-government connection both at the central and local levels, strengthen the promotion of Hong Kong in the Mainland and establish platforms for direct communication between Hong Kong's business sector and relevant Mainland authorities. This will further enhance the close relationship between Hong Kong and the Mainland, and support Hong Kong people and businesses to fully grasp the development opportunities in the Mainland. The HKETCO will also continue to promote economic, trade and cultural exchanges between Hong Kong and Taiwan.

Reports from the Mainland and Taiwan Offices

10. The work reports of individual Mainland and Taiwan Offices are set out in the following Appendices -

	<u>Appendix</u>
Beijing Office	1
Guangdong ETO	2
Shanghai ETO	3
Chengdu ETO	4
Wuhan ETO	5
HKETCO	6

11. The performance indicators and the relevant figures in 2015 and 2016 in respect of enhancing trade opportunities, promotion of strengths of Hong Kong, investment promotion and immigration-related matters of the Mainland and Taiwan Offices are set out in Appendix 7.

**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 and cultural exchange 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 Tianjin and Liaoning Liaison Units (TJLU and LNLU respectively)) closely monitored the policies, laws and regulations relating 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, financial policies 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 the Mainland's policies, laws and regulations relating to economic and trade matters, and their impact on Hong Kong.

3. To further 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" on a weekly and monthly basis respectively, providing information on the economic and trade policies and regulations at the national level and at the level of the ten provinces / municipalities / autonomous regions under its coverage, as well as business promotion, investment and economic and trade activities in those regions, to chambers of commerce of Hong Kong in the Mainland and to Hong Kong enterprises since 2013. These newsletters 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 of policies relating to business operations such as taxation, labour, intellectual property, social insurance, significant national development strategies, etc., which are of ongoing concern to Hong Kong enterprises for issue to the chambers of commerce and Hong Kong enterprises from time to time. In the past year, the Newsletters covered in-depth analysis on areas of taxation, labour, investment, trademark, public-private-partnership ("PPP"), the National 13th Five-Year Plan, etc. Some of these policies and regulations might have an impact on or bring opportunities for the Hong Kong enterprises. For instance, the Industrial Catalogue for Foreign Investment (2017 Revision) promulgated by the National Development and Reform Commission and the Ministry of Commerce in June 2017 which further relaxed foreign capital restrictions in manufacturing, mining and service industries might benefit Hong Kong enterprises planning to invest in the Mainland.

¹ Beijing, Tianjin, Hebei, Liaoning, Jilin, Heilongjiang, Inner Mongolia, Xinjiang, Gansu and Ningxia.

5. In addition, BJO organised workshops on labour issues, human resources and entrepreneurship and innovation in Beijing last year. Experts were invited to speak on the relevant policies, laws and regulations to the Hong Kong enterprises and Hong Kong people in Beijing, share with them views on the potential opportunities and address their questions. In November 2016, BJO co-organised a seminar on labour policy with the Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce in China (HKCCC) - Beijing, during which experts were invited to elaborate and provide analyses on proposals under contemplation to amend the Labour Contract Law, measures that Hong Kong enterprises could adopt to increase their competitiveness in the human resources market in the Mainland, etc. In December 2016, BJO co-organised a seminar on “Entrepreneurship and Innovation in Beijing and Hong Kong” with HKCCC – Beijing, during which experts were invited to speak on policies in both the Mainland and in Hong Kong which aimed at encouraging entrepreneurship and innovation. Hong Kong entrepreneurs also shared their personal experiences in starting up business in Hong Kong while investors from Beijing and Hong Kong exchanged views on the enterprising and innovative environment of the two cities.

6. During the report period, BJO participated in a number of trade activities held in the regions under its coverage, including the 2017 China (Langfang) International Economic & Trade Fair, the Conference on Overseas Chinese Pioneering and Developing in Tianjin China 2017 cum World Project and Commodity of Global Entrepreneurs Expo, the 28th Harbin International Economic and Trade Fair, the 23rd China Lanzhou Investment and Trade Fair, the 2017 (China) Eurasia Commodity and Trade Expo, the 11th China-Northeast Asia Expo, the 2017 China-Arab States Expo and the 2nd China-Mongolia Expo 2017. Participation in these activities helped strengthen ties with the relevant local authorities, commerce bureaux and enterprises, and promote Hong Kong’s competitive edge and role as a platform for the Mainland enterprises to “go global”. BJO continued to provide relevant hyperlinks on the BJO website to the websites of organisations with major development and investment projects in provinces / municipalities / autonomous regions under BJO’s coverage so as 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 Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC) and the Hong Kong Tourism Board to promote the advantageous position of Hong Kong to the Mainland in a more comprehensive manner.

Strengthen Liaison with the Mainland Authorities and Support to Hong Kong People in the Mainland

8. During the report period, BJO strived to enhance the Government-to-Government work through visits to the central and local authorities and participation in their activities to step up liaison and establish platforms for co-operation. BJO also liaised with the central and other Mainland authorities over relevant laws and regulations and policies, providing 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 (such as the “Belt and Road” Initiative) and assessment of possible implications on Hong Kong. BJO also provided logistical support to the HKSAR Government officials during their visits to the Mainland.

9. BJO also strived to enhance liaison efforts to broaden and deepen the liaison network with Hong Kong enterprises and people through various activities, and to strengthen the collection and dissemination of information so as to better serve Hong Kong people

working, doing business, studying and living in the Mainland. BJO continued to keep 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 and the Hong Kong Hebei Chamber of Commerce, etc.) and to meet the locally-based Hong Kong people and businessmen, so as to learn about their situation in doing business, working and living and, when necessary, to refer concerns they have to the relevant authorities.

10. BJO has been providing support to Hong Kong students studying in the Mainland through various means. This includes, inter alia, staying in close contact with the student associations concerned to learn more about their daily lives, their studies and their job placement situation; supporting their campus activities to promote Hong Kong; and providing them with timely information on employment opportunities. BJO will also organise for the students one orientation session and one employment career talk as the two major student activities every year. Apart from providing internship positions at BJO, we also joined force with the relevant organisations to set up the “Hong Kong Students in Beijing – Finance Mentorship Programme” in 2017. Under the programme, Hong Kong students in Beijing who aspired to join the financial sector after graduation were assigned mentors from the financial sector to give them career guidance and to share experience with them.

11. During the report period, BJO had reflected to the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council the policy barriers and practical difficulties encountered by Hong Kong people in studying, working and living in the Mainland, and received positive feedback from it.

12. Besides, BJO has also been very supportive of internship and youth exchange programmes in the Mainland for Hong Kong students visiting Beijing. During the report period, BJO participated in various activities of visiting student groups whether on internship or youth exchange programmes in Beijing, such as the Cultural Internship Programme for University Students from Hong Kong and Macao 2017, and the Mainland China Legal Internship Programme for Hong Kong Youth 2017 and provided suitable support to them. BJO also invited the organiser of the latter programme to recruit Hong Kong students studying in Beijing into the programme.

13. Since 2014, BJO has started publishing the “Information on Living in the Mainland” to provide Hong Kong people staying in the provinces / municipalities / autonomous regions under its coverage with the latest information on policies that may be of concern to or may have impact on them.

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 endeavouring 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 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 422 times, generated 40 live projects and completed 26 investment projects, enabling the relevant enterprises to invest in Hong Kong. In terms of investment promotion events, the Unit organised or attended 20 industry-specific or investment promotion seminars and exhibitions.

In particular, the Unit organised three investment promotion seminars in October 2016 (in Beijing), April 2017 (in Liaoning Province) and October 2017 (in Beijing) respectively, supported and attended the “Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei-Hong Kong ‘One Belt One Road’ Investment and Trade Promotion Meeting” during the “20th session of the Beijing-Hong Kong Economic Cooperation Symposium” as well as the “Shenzhen-Hong Kong Stock Connect Exchanges’ Roadshow” in November 2016. It also supported and attended the “Road to IPO Seminar in Zhongguancun” and “One Belt One Road Forum - Leveraging the Hong Kong Capital Markets” in July 2017 and October 2017 respectively to promote Hong Kong’s competitive edge of capital markets and business-friendly environment for innovation and entrepreneurship.

15. The Unit maintains good working relationship with government departments and commercial organisations in the regions it serves. Apart from organising and participating in investment promotion activities in the Mainland from time to time, the Unit also assists Mainland government officials and entrepreneurs to pay visits to Hong Kong to better understand the economic situation and investment environment, and facilitates enterprises to set up businesses in Hong Kong.

Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR

“Together · Progress · Opportunity - Exhibition in Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Return of Hong Kong to the Motherland”

16. To celebrate the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR, the HKSAR Government organised the “Together · Progress · Opportunity - Exhibition in Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Return of Hong Kong to the Motherland” at the National Museum of China from 27 June to 16 July 2017. Presented in ten sections, the exhibition featured over 40 exhibits, 40 video clips and 230 photos, as well as models, multimedia programmes and interactive elements. The exhibition was unveiled on 26 June by the Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, Mr Zhang Dejiang; the then Chief Executive, Mr C Y Leung; and the then Chief Executive-elect, Mrs Carrie Lam. Over 500 Mainland and Hong Kong guests attended the opening ceremony.

17. The three-week exhibition attracted some 120,000 visitors including more than 50 organised groups. The “heart-beat” interactive installation at the entrance of the exhibition gallery recorded a total of 900,998 “heart beats”. The exhibition was accorded wide coverage by national and Beijing media, including reports carried in news websites; and reports filed by printed and web media who visited the exhibition, as well as TV stations and video media. Publicity via new media such as Weibo and WeChat directly or indirectly impacted an audience of 5.7 million.

18. To allow those who have yet to view the exhibition to do so, the Beijing Office launched an online version of the exhibition on the last day of the exhibition. Using virtual reality (VR) technology, the online exhibition has recreated the real exhibition, the curtain for which never falls (The hyperlink to the online exhibition is www.bjo.gov.hk/online_exhibition/index.html).

"Let's Celebrate in Beijing" Events Platform

19. To enhance publicity impact and to achieve synergy, BJO collaborated with the Beijing offices of the HKTDC and the Hong Kong Tourism Board to set up an events platform entitled "Let's Celebrate in Beijing". Information on the 20th Anniversary celebration activities organised in Beijing in 2017 by the HKSAR Government, our major performing arts groups from Hong Kong, Hong Kong people and Hong Kong enterprises in Beijing has been centrally disseminated through the website since the second quarter of this year. As at the end of October, the platform uploaded information on 11 exhibitions / roving exhibitions organised by BJO; 14 cultural activities including drama, concert, dance and film festival organised by 8 major performing arts groups, and 17 celebration events organised by Hong Kong people / Hong Kong enterprises (including student groups).

Roving Exhibitions in Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Return of Hong Kong to the Motherland

20. To enhance the understanding of Hong Kong's developments in the past 20 years amongst the people in provinces / municipalities / autonomous regions under the coverage of BJO, we held roving exhibitions carrying the theme of the 20th anniversary at large-scale trade promotional activities in Tianjin, Hebei, Gansu, Xinjiang, Ningxia and Inner Mongolia, welcoming over 400 000 visitors. Tying in with those exhibitions, BJO placed newspaper supplements with the 20th anniversary theme in those provinces / municipalities / autonomous regions to maximise publicity effect.

Performing Arts Programmes

21. From April to July 2017, a number of performing arts groups from Hong Kong visited Beijing, Tianjin and Shenyang to stage performances in celebration of the 20th anniversary of Hong Kong's return to the Motherland and the establishment of the HKSAR. In April 2017, the HKSAR Government sponsored the Hong Kong Repertory Theatre in three performances of the musical "Field of Dreams" in Beijing. In early June, the Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra held the concert "Jing Qi Shen" in Tianjin, Beijing and Shenyang. In mid-June, the Hong Kong Ballet staged three performances of "The Swan Lake" in Beijing. In mid-July, the Hong Kong Dance Company performed "L'Amour Immortel" in Beijing. In the same month, the City Contemporary Dance Company performed "Amidst the Wind" in Beijing and organised a series of exchange activities under the banner of the "Beijing Dance Festival".

6th Hong Kong Thematic Film Festival

22. In August 2017, BJO and Broadway Cinematheque jointly presented the 6th Hong Kong Thematic Film Festival as one of the major programmes in celebration of the 20th anniversary of the return of Hong Kong to the motherland and the establishment of the HKSAR. Classic movies were selected from the chronicle of the Hong Kong Film Awards over the past years and they would be brought to 16 Mainland cities for screening with post-screening talks arranged. The festival was kicked off on 31 July 2017 in Beijing, attracting some 200 guests from various background.

Cultural Exchange

23. BJO created the post of Head (Cultural Exchange) in July 2016. Since then, BJO has fostered closer and more frequent contacts with the Ministry of Culture (MoC). Regular meetings with MoC have been held to explore more cultural exchange opportunities for the Hong Kong arts groups. In the past year, through a variety of activities, Head (Cultural Exchange) of BJO has built connections and strengthened relationships with the arts and cultural institutions in Beijing, Tianjin, Shenyang, Harbin and Dunhuang, etc., and has made timely reports to HAB and LCSD on opportunities of collaboration between Hong Kong artists and arts groups and the cultural venues in the Mainland.

24. During the report period, in addition to sponsoring the above-mentioned 20th Anniversary celebration programmes, BJO has also supported a range of other cultural activities, including the “100 Must See Hong Kong Movies” screening-cum-seminar activity which was jointly presented with the Museum of the Central Academy of Fine Arts and the Hong Kong Film Archive; the Hong Kong Youth Chinese Orchestra’s cultural exchange tour to Shenyang, during which the orchestra performed collaboration concerts with the Shenyang Conservatory of Music Northern National Traditional Orchestra and the Yucai Youth Chinese Orchestra from Northeast China, and participated in music exchange activities with Mainland students; the staging of “The Golden Cangue” by Perry Chiu Experimental Theatre in Tianjin, Harbin and Beijing; “The Future Development of Chinese Musical Forum” which explored the new trends and opportunities for Chinese Musical and facilitated exchanges on its local adaptations co-presented by the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority and the Beijing Tianqiao Performing Arts Centre, and jointly supported by BJO and the Hong Kong Repertory Theatre; the Hong Kong Youth Symphony Orchestra’s cultural exchange tour to Daqing and Harbin, during which the orchestra performed at the Daqing Opera House and the Harbin Grand Theatre, and participated in music exchange activities with Mainland students; the “Hong Kong Dance Exchange Activities” organised by the City Contemporary Dance Company under the banner of the “Beijing Dance Festival” which featured dance performances, international dance camp, post-performance artist sharing sessions and masterclasses to enhance in-depth exchanges and cooperation between Hong Kong and the Mainland young dancers.

Public Relations

25. For years, BJO has been collaborating with the China National 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. The year 2016/17 marked the 10th anniversary of the broadcast of the radio programme “Tuning in for Hong Kong” and on this special occasion, BJO and the China National Radio’s “Voice of Huaxia” channel co-produced a publication on the past interviews conducted with the Hong Kong celebrities to tie in with the 20th anniversary of the return of Hong Kong to the Motherland.

26. Since 2007, BJO has collaborated with the People’s Daily Online (PDO) to maintain a dedicated Hong Kong webpage in promoting Hong Kong. At the invitation of BJO, PDO visited Hong Kong from 28 November to 2 December 2017 for five days to conduct in-depth interviews under the theme “Same Root Same Heart, Joining Hands for Mutual Benefits”, covering topics such as the role of Hong Kong in the nation’s Belt and Road Initiative, technology and creativity, environmental protection and cultural development.

POD subsequently issued six in-depth reports with photos and videos. The reports were picked up and carried by many Mainland media.

27. To enhance the dissemination of information relating to Hong Kong, BJO launched its official WeChat account in January 2016 with a view to also using 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 31 October 2017, more than 15 000 people have subscribed to the account, and the number of page-views recorded is over 529 000.

Liaoning Liaison Unit

28. LNLU was set up for nearly three years and has continued to enhance liaison between the HKSAR Government and different levels of the local governments in the three north-eastern provinces as well as providing 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 as well as providing support to the government agencies of the three north-eastern provinces on their visits to Hong Kong, etc.

29. During the report period, to facilitate Hong Kong enterprises seize the opportunities brought about by the newly-established "Liaoning Pilot Free Trade Zone (FTZ)", LNLU jointly organised the "Policy Briefing on the China (Liaoning) Pilot FTZ" in May 2017 with the Liaoning Provincial Office of Foreign Affairs, the Liaoning Provincial Department of Commerce, the Liaoning Provincial Development and the Reform Commission, etc. The policy briefing received staunch support from HKCCC – Shenyang and the HKTDC, attracting very enthusiastic response with an attendance of over 250. LNLU and BJO also organised a focus group discussion session after the briefing during which Hong Kong people and representatives of Hong Kong enterprises in Liaoning shared their views on the establishment of the Liaoning FTZ. LNLU had reflected those views to the Liaoning Provincial Government after the session.

30. LNLU has all along maintained close liaison with HKCCC – Shenyang, HKCCC – Harbin, and the Jilin Province Hong Kong Enterprises Association and supported their activities. LNLU also met Hong Kong people working and studying in Harbin, Changchun, Shenyang and Dalian, representatives of Hong Kong enterprises and Hong Kong students from time to time to understand the business environment and study environment of the area and to enhance liaison with them. To facilitate Mainland enterprises and local people to make contact with Hong Kong enterprises and Hong Kong professionals in Shenyang and Dalian and to help promote the business of these Hong Kong enterprises in the area, LNLU published the "Electronic Directory of Hong Kong Enterprises in Shenyang and Dalian" which is being updated regularly.

31. In addition, LNLU has also actively promoted youth exchange, cultural exchange and other exchanges between Hong Kong and the three north-eastern provinces, and has provided assistance through receiving groups from Hong Kong conducting exchanges in the area. During the report period, major programmes completed included meeting the Hong Kong students studying in Harbin, Changchun and Dalian to learn more about their college lives in the north-eastern provinces; supporting the Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra's performance in Shenyang; supporting the Hong Kong Youth Symphony Orchestra's performance and exchange in Heilongjiang Province; supporting the Hong Kong United

Youth Association's Hong Kong student summer internship programme in Harbin; supporting the Harbin Institute of Technology's "Little Satellite Scholars Programme" in which 250 students from universities in Hong Kong participated; supporting the summer training programme of the Dalian Maritime University for law students from universities in Hong Kong; assisting in receiving a 100-people youth delegation visiting Harbin which was led by the Association for the Promotion of Hong Kong Heilongjiang Economy; support for receiving a 320-people delegation from 14 youth uniformed groups visiting Shenyang which was under the "10,000 Miles Friendship Trek 2017" exchange programme; and assisting in the programme planning of a 100-people delegation from the "Passing on the Torch, Promoting Chinese Culture" universities' students exchange group organised by the Jinggong Mountain Education Foundation.

32. To celebrate the 20th anniversary of the return of Hong Kong to the Motherland, LNLU organised a gala dinner on 16 October 2017 which was attended by over 200 guests. Besides, the 20A roving exhibition with the theme of "Together · Progress · Opportunity" and the Hong Kong Film Festival in Shenyang and Dalian were unveiled in October respectively.

Tianjin Liaison Unit

33. TJLU commenced operation on 27 February 2017. TJLU strives to strengthen relations with the Tianjin Municipal Government, enhance Government-to-Government liaison, assist in fostering economic, trade and cultural ties with Tianjin and Hebei, and support Hong Kong people and enterprises in these areas.

34. Since commencing operation, TJLU has called on different government departments in Tianjin and Hebei to establish ties. It has also participated in various trade activities organised by the Tianjin Municipal Government and the Hebei Provincial Government to promote Hong Kong's business advantages, including the "2017 China (Tianjin) Investment Fair for Investment and Trade & the PECC Exposition" held in Tianjin in May; the "Conference on Overseas Chinese Pioneering and Developing in Tianjin China 2017 cum World Project and Commodity of Global Entrepreneurs Expo in Tianjin ("Expo")" in June; and the "2017 China (Langfang) International Economic & Trade Fair" held in Langfang, Hebei, in May. TJLU co-organised with the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the Office of the Tianjin Municipal People's Government, the Tianjin Commission of Commerce, HKCCC – Tianjin and the HKTDC the "Seminar on the Belt and Road Initiative and the Development of Tianjin and Hong Kong" during the period of the Expo to allow enterprises from Hong Kong and Tianjin to appreciate the opportunities presented by the Belt and Road Initiative.

35. In addition, TJLU actively engages Hong Kong people and enterprises in Tianjin and Hebei, including HKCCC - Tianjin and the Hong Kong Hebei Chamber of Commerce, maintains close contacts with them and supports their activities. Also, TJLU has been active in promoting exchanges between Hong Kong and Tianjin in youth development, culture and other areas, as well as receiving visiting delegations on exchange in Tianjin. Major activities completed during the reporting period include receiving Hong Kong exchange groups visiting Tianjin, and visiting Hong Kong students studying in Tianjin as well as

visiting the Hong Kong-Macao-Taiwan Affairs Office of different tertiary institutions in Tianjin so as to understand the learning and living conditions of the Hong Kong students there; and supporting the drama performance of Perry Chiu Experimental Theatre in March, the Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra's concert in June and the "Exhibition of Paintings and Calligraphy in Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Return of Hong Kong to the Motherland". The Committee on Hong Kong, Macao, Taiwan, Overseas Chinese and Foreign Affairs of the Tianjin Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference was adviser to this Exhibition.

36. On 14 September 2017, TJLU organised the gala lunch in celebration of the 20th anniversary of the return of Hong Kong to the Motherland and the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR, and unveiled the office plaque of TJLU on the occasion. In addition, the roving exhibition with the theme of "Together · Progress · Opportunity" and the Tianjin edition of the Hong Kong Film Festival were also opened in September 2017.

Immigration-related Matters and Assistance Rendered

37. Immigration matters handled by BJO included processing applications for entry to Hong Kong, providing HKSAR passport replacement service, 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 November 2016 to October 2017, BJO received a total of 89 requests for assistance from Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland. Of these, 31 cases involved the loss of travel documents or monies, 45 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 13 cases involved the detention of Hong Kong residents in the Mainland. In addition, BJO processed 7 304 entry applications, 673 applications for HKSAR passport replacement and handled 24 513 enquiries.

38. In addition, BJO received a total of 17 other assistance cases during the report period. BJO made referrals to the relevant Mainland authorities for follow up and monitored the progress.

Looking Ahead

39. 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 of their implications on Hong Kong. BJO will also continue to provide enhanced service and information to the Hong Kong people living, working or studying in the provinces / municipalities / autonomous

regions under its coverage, in particular the facilitation measures for Hong Kong people studying, working and living in the Mainland which are being put in place by the relevant authorities of the CPG.

The Office of the Government of the HKSAR in Beijing
November 2017

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 namely, Fujian, Guangdong, Guangxi, Hainan and Yunnan and seeks to attract Mainland enterprises to invest in Hong Kong. Through its main office in Guangzhou, its Shenzhen Liaison Unit (SZLU), Fujian Liaison Unit (FJLU) and Guangxi Liaison Unit (GXLU), GDETO continues to strengthen liaison with local government, non-government organisations (including the representatives of organisations such as 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 people and businessmen in the area, relevant groups and trade associations to, on one hand, disseminate information on local business environment, development opportunities and policy, and on the other hand, help reflect views of the Hong Kong businessmen to the relevant authorities. GDETO also handles enquiries and requests for assistance from Hong Kong people in the five provinces / region. GDETO also promotes the positive image of Hong Kong through introducing Hong Kong's latest development in various aspects to the trade and public of the Mainland through exhibitions and different media channels.

2. During the report period, GDETO actively assisted in enhancing the co-operation between Hong Kong and Guangxi as well as Guangdong. In respect of Hong Kong/Guangxi co-operation, Guangxi Regional Government and relevant bureaux/departments of the HKSAR Government signed two co-operation agreements in October 2016 to strengthen the cooperation in financial services and logistics. Besides, in April 2017, the GXLU of GDETO was set up in Nanning to strengthen ties with government at all levels in Guangxi as well as to serve Hong Kong people and businessmen therein. As regards Hong Kong/Guangdong co-operation, at the annual Hong Kong/Shenzhen Co-operation Meeting in January 2017, the then Chief Secretary for Administration (CS) and the Vice Mayor of Shenzhen Municipality signed the "Memorandum of Understanding on Jointly Developing the Lok Ma Chau Loop by Hong Kong and Shenzhen". In July 2017, witnessed by President Xi Jinping, the Framework Agreement on Deepening Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Cooperation in the Development of the Bay Area was signed in Hong Kong by Mr He Lifeng, Chairman of the National Development and Reform Commission, Mrs Carrie Lam, Chief Executive of the HKSAR, Mr Ma Xingrui, Governor of Guangdong Province, and Mr Chui Sai-on, Chief Executive of the Macao SAR. GDETO continued to assist in arranging high-level official visits and participate in high-level forums and large-scale trade events held in the five provinces / region, including the "Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2017" and its sub-forum "Free Trade and Globalisation: Hong Kong's Perspective and Experience" held in Hong Kong attended by the then CE and the Financial Secretary (FS) in March 2017, the visit led by the then CE to six cities in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area in April 2017, and the 2017 Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao co-operation forum on the Bay Area attended by CS in July 2017, etc..

Commercial Relations

3. GDETO continued its efforts to support the business development of Hong Kong enterprises in the five provinces / region. GDETO's key services include collecting the latest information on the Mainland's trade-related policies, laws and regulations as well as

economic development, disseminating such information through the weekly “GDETO Newsletters” to Hong Kong businessmen through email and social media, organising seminars on issues of general concern to Hong Kong enterprises (for example, taxation, Customs and environmental protection policies; social insurance and labour law; CEPA, development of the service industry, development of Free Trade Zones etc.) to assist Hong Kong enterprises to capitalise on business opportunities, and to help reflect their views and concerns to the relevant Mainland authorities. During the report period, a total of 11 seminars were held by GDETO in Guangzhou, Kunming, Nanning, Shenzhen and Xiamen.

4. GDETO has been closely monitoring the economic and social development of the five provinces / region, including their respective plans on participating in the “Belt and Road” Initiative. Through disseminating the information, organising seminars and other activities, GDETO helped the Hong Kong enterprises to seize business opportunities. GDETO also closely monitored the development of Guangdong Pilot Free Trade Zone and Fujian Pilot Free Trade Zone, timely reflected the views of the HKSAR government and business sector to the relevant Mainland authorities, and arranged visits for Hong Kong business delegations to these free trade zones. Since the promulgation of the “Overall Scheme of Guangdong and 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 “Notice on Replicating and Promoting the Fourth Batch of Replicable Innovative Measures of Fujian Pilot Free Trade Zone” issued in December 2016, “Notice on Beginning the Recommendation Work on Overseas High-end Talents including those from Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan in the China (Guangdong) Pilot Free Trade Zone” issued in May 2017, etc.. The policy documents introduced replicable matters for reform in the Free Trade Zone, the standards and procedures for accreditation of high-end talents from Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan, etc.. 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 liberalisation.

5. GDETO continued to reflect the concerns of the Hong Kong business community on the business environment and put forward policy suggestions. In December 2016, GDETO coordinated the organisation of the “First meeting for communication and liaison between relevant Provincial authorities and key Hong Kong chambers of commerce” in Guangzhou, in which both sides exchanged views on the business environment of Hong Kong enterprises in Guangdong and suggestions on policy implementation. The then Vice Governor of Guangdong Province, He Zhongyou, leaders from Guangdong Human Resources and Social Security Department, Office of Guangdong Pilot Free Trade Zone and Office of Guangdong Hong Kong and Macao Affairs, and the representatives of key Hong Kong business associations as well as GDETO attended the meeting. The 2nd meeting is expected to be held in late 2017 or early 2018, which will discuss issues including participation of Hong Kong enterprises in the development of Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area and Hong Kong enterprises to join hands with Guangdong in developing the markets along the “Belt and Road”. Moreover, GDETO coordinated two meetings with Guangdong Environmental Protection Department (GDEP) respectively in January and July 2017 for the representatives of relevant industry and trade organizations of Hong Kong to reflect their concerns about the implementation of policies and environmental standards in industries such as paper-making, electroplating and environmental protection. In July 2017, GDETO also organised a “Seminar on Mainland Environmental Protection Policy” in Guangzhou. Representatives from GDEP and experts were invited to introduce the Mainland’s reform on waste discharge permit system and exchange views with the enterprises. GDETO will continue to closely monitor the development of the related

policies and follow up with the Hong Kong business sector.

6. To support the national “Belt and Road” Initiative, GDETO organised and attended various activities to promote the role of Hong Kong and encourage Hong Kong and Mainland enterprises to “go global” together for overseas investment and development. For example, GDETO organised the “Seminar on Guangzhou and Hong Kong Entrepreneurs to join hands in ‘going global’” with Hong Kong & Macao Affairs Office of Guangzhou (GZHKMAO) and Guangzhou Federation of Industry & Commerce (GZFIC) in June 2017. Representatives of Guangzhou were invited to introduce the participation of Guangzhou in the Belt and Road Initiative. Representatives from Guangzhou enterprises were invited to share their experiences of “going global”, and representatives of Hong Kong professional services sector introduced how Hong Kong professional services could assist Mainland enterprises in “going global”. FJLU co-organised the “Fujian Enterprise CEO Summit” with InvestHK, HK Exchanges and Clearing Ltd, and the relevant departments of Fujian Province in March 2017, to encourage Fujian enterprises to list or raise fund in Hong Kong, and introduce Hong Kong’s role in assisting Mainland enterprises to seize the opportunities under the Belt and Road Initiative.

Investment Promotion

7. Through strategic partnership with the relevant local government authorities and industrial and trade organisations of the five provinces / region, as well as relevant organisations in Hong Kong, GDETO actively liaised and assisted Mainland enterprises in the five provinces/ region to develop business in Hong Kong, to promote Hong Kong as a platform to “go global” and its edge as an international city, so as to capitalise on the business opportunities brought about by the “Belt and Road” Initiative.

8. During the report period, Investment Promotion Division of GDETO conducted 449 meetings with Mainland enterprises to promote business advantages of Hong Kong and offer advice and assistance to enterprises with interest in setting up office or expanding business in Hong Kong. Besides, GDETO had co-organised or participated in 23 “Belt and Road” Initiative-related or industry-specific investment promotion events and exhibitions with relevant Mainland authorities and Hong Kong organisations to jointly promote the strengths and business-friendly environment of Hong Kong, including the Admission Scheme for Mainland Talents and Professionals. Major promotion events include –

- (a) Co-organising a luncheon cum seminar on listing and financing in Hong Kong with the Financial Affairs Bureau of the Dongguan Municipal People’s Government, InvestHK and Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Ltd in October 2016;
- (b) Co-organising the “Belt and Road, Together We Grow - Fujian-Hong Kong Innovation and Technology Seminar” with the Department of Science and Technology of Fujian Province, Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the Fujian Provincial People’s Government, InvestHK and FJLU in November 2016. Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation and Hong Kong Applied Science and Technology Institute Company Limited were invited to speak on the advantages of Hong Kong on innovation and technology development;

- (c) Co-organising a thematic seminar on Overseas Investment of China with the HKTDC, InvestHK, Fujian Provincial Department of Commerce and Fujian Provincial Department of Finance at the “SmartHK 2017” in Fuzhou in May 2017;
- (d) Co-organising an investment promotion luncheon on financial enterprise investment with the Shenzhen Outbound Alliance in May 2017 etc..

9. The above work has created positive results and Investment Promotion Division has started 45 live investment projects and completed 24 investment projects in Hong Kong during the report period.

Public Relations

10. To promote a positive image of Hong Kong and to enhance the overall understanding of the Mainland people on Hong Kong, GDETO staged large-scale exhibitions in Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Dongguan and Zhanjiang of Guangdong Province, Fuzhou of Fujian Province, and Nanning of Guangxi Region during the report period to introduce the latest situation on various aspects of Hong Kong to the Mainland people, promote the business-friendly environment and strengths of Hong Kong, the Admission Scheme for Mainland Talents and Professionals, etc., with the aim to enhance mutual understanding of the general public of the two places. Complementing with the “Belt and Road” Initiative, the exhibitions showcased the strengths of Hong Kong in commerce and trade, financial and other professional services, as well as our vast international business network and connections, and promoted Hong Kong’s role as an international city in connecting the Mainland with countries along the “Belt and Road”, which helps Mainland enterprises to “go global” to invest and develop business overseas. Moreover, GDETO continued to promote positive image of Hong Kong through the mass media, including co-producing a featured programme series “Heart to Heart, Guangdong and Hong Kong” with Guangzhou TV, co-producing featured articles with local newspapers, and promoting relevant messages through GDETO WeChat to introduce 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.

Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR

11. GDETO organised a series of celebration activities including large-scale exhibitions, cultural performances, concerts, photo competitions etc. in areas under its coverage, to share the joy of the 20th Anniversary of the return of Hong Kong to the motherland with the public in the five provinces / region. Major events included the Exhibition in celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Return of Hong Kong to the Motherland held in Guangzhou of Guangdong Province in August and Nanning of Guangxi Region in October to exemplify the dual advantages of Hong Kong under the "one country, two systems" principle and showcase the close relationship between Hong Kong and the Mainland. GDETO also organised gala dinners and cocktail receptions in celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR in Guangzhou and Shenzhen of Guangdong Province, Nanning of Guangxi Region, and Fuzhou of Fujian Province from May to September 2017. A total of about 1 000 guests including leaders of government departments, representatives of trade associations and relevant Hong Kong organisations attended the four events.

12. GDETO also actively promoted Hong Kong's arts, cultural and creative industries in HKSAR's 20th Anniversary celebration events. GDETO co-organised the "4th Hong Kong Film Festival in Guangdong" in November 2016 in Guangzhou, and organised the "Hong Kong Retrospective Film Show for HKSAR's 20th Anniversary" in September 2017 in Guangzhou. GDETO also arranged a number of Hong Kong performing groups of small and medium size to stage performances in Guangdong and Fujian Provinces, including arranging the "Hong Kong Episodes" Multi-media concert and workshop by DripMusc held in Guangzhou and Shenzhen in Guangdong Province, Nanning in Guangxi Region and Xiamen in Fujian Province in May 2017, which involved performance of original music by Hong Kong young musicians, melded with imagery and videos of Hong Kong to enable audience to understand Hong Kong's unique music culture; organising the large-scale Hong Kong Children's Symphony Orchestra Concerts in Fuzhou and Xiamen of Fujian Province in July 2017; and assisting in performances of Chung Ying Theatre Company, Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra, Hong Kong Dance Company and Hong Kong Repertory Theatre in the five provinces/ region to promote Hong Kong's arts and culture.

13. To widely publicise the celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR to the public in the five provinces/region, GDETO held a press briefing in Guangzhou in April 2017 to introduce to the media the significance of the HKSAR's 20th Anniversary and GDETO's series of celebration events. Relevant information was disseminated through the 20th Anniversary event platform on GDETO's website and GDETO's WeChat platform. GDETO also arranged a number of feature articles for publishing in newspapers and conducted interviews with the media regarding the celebration events to enhance the promotional effects.

Strengthen Liaison with the Mainland Authorities and Support to Hong Kong People in the Mainland

14. 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 with the five provinces/ region, actively participating and co-organising activities with various government organisations, with a view to generating synergy in promoting Hong Kong and fostering mutual co-operation and to provide assistance to Hong Kong people and businessmen when necessary;
- (b) Enhancing liaison with Hong Kong people, businessmen and students in the five provinces / region to better understand their needs and provide appropriate assistance; 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; disseminating information directly to mobile devices of registered users through WeChat platform and email. Users could also register for GDETO's activities directly through mobile devices;
- (c) GDETO, HKTDC and Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce in China-Guangdong jointly published the "2017 Directory of Hong Kong

Service Enterprises in Guangdong” in August 2017. Together with online version for use by the public, the Directory aims to facilitate the enterprises and individuals in the Mainland as well as Hong Kong people and businessmen in Guangdong, to contact the Hong Kong service enterprises and professionals in Guangdong and to explore co-operation opportunities; and

- (d) Stepping up the collection of information on major developments and investment projects in the relevant provinces and cities, disseminating such information to Hong Kong professionals and Hong Kong businessmen in the Mainland, and organising seminars on topics of concern to them; enhancing liaison with relevant offices of the HKTDC and the HKTB in the Mainland to jointly promote Hong Kong and to share information on business environment and development opportunities for Hong Kong enterprises in the five provinces / region.

15. GDETO strived to enhance liaison with Hong Kong students in the Mainland, to understand their living and study situation and provide the required information and assistance. During the report period, GDETO visited 14 tertiary institutions in Guangdong Province, Guangxi Region and Fujian Province and met with school officials and Hong Kong students therein. GDETO also strengthened co-operation with other youth organisations and non-government organisations, holding sharing sessions and company visits to enable students to understand the latest developments in the Mainland. GDETO organised a series of “Career Salon” for Hong Kong students, featuring experts in various fields to share their work experiences in the Mainland in order to broaden the horizons of Hong Kong students and to prepare for their career planning; assisted Hong Kong NGOs to arrange internship targeting Hong Kong students in Guangdong under the “Guangdong-Hong Kong Summer Internship Scheme”. During the report period, GDETO has reached some 1,540 Hong Kong students in the five provinces/ region. GDETO also supported relevant bureaux to enhance youth exchange, internship and voluntary services and schemes in the Mainland, including voluntary teaching services in Guangdong of the Hong Kong Service Corps, the “Guangdong-Hong Kong Summer Internship Scheme” which provides internship opportunities in enterprises in Guangdong Province, etc.. To facilitate Hong Kong students in the five provinces/ region seeking internship and employment opportunities, GDETO encouraged Hong Kong-invested enterprises in the Mainland to provide internship offers and job openings. Relevant information was disseminated through universities and GDETO website, so that Hong Kong students in the Mainland may apply for those internship and jobs.

Shenzhen Liaison Unit

16. SZLU is responsible for liaison with the Shenzhen Municipal Government, non-government organisations, trade associations, Hong Kong people, businessmen and students in Shenzhen in implementing GDETO’s various aspects of work. Apart from the examples mentioned in the paragraphs above, SZLU’s major duties during the report period included –

- (a) Closely monitoring the promulgation of new policies, legislation and regulations in Shenzhen and disseminate such information to Hong Kong enterprises in a timely manner. For example, the “Guidelines on Record-filing of Professionals from Hong Kong Engineering and Construction Sectors in the Qianhai Co-operation Zone” issued by the Qianhai Management Authority of Shenzhen in November 2016, and the “Several

Measures on Further Expanding the Usage of Foreign Investment and Improving the Quality of Using Foreign Capital” issued by the Shenzhen Municipal Government in April 2017 etc..

- (b) Arranging high-level official visits of the HKSAR Government and Shenzhen Municipal Government and to provide logistics support. Examples included –
- Attendance by the Secretary for Justice at the promulgation of the new arbitration rules and opening ceremony of the new office of the Shenzhen Court of International Arbitration in October 2016;
 - Attendance by the Secretary for Environment at the annual joint meeting with the State Oceanic Administration in Shenzhen in December 2016;
 - Visit by the then Party Secretary of Shenzhen Municipality to Hong Kong and call on the then CE in January 2017;
 - Attendance by the then Secretary for Education at the annual meeting of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao University Alliance cum Presidents’ Forum in Shenzhen in June 2017 etc..
- (c) Organising events on issues of common concern to Hong Kong businessmen, including “2017 Workshop on Mainland’s Labour Law”, Spring Reception for Hong Kong and Macao Members of Shenzhen Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) to exchange views on Shenzhen-Hong Kong co-operation, and visits to Guangdong Pilot Free Trade Zone Qianhai and Shekou Area of Shenzhen for the Hong Kong Logistics Association.
- (d) Playing a bridging role between the Municipal Government and Hong Kong-invested enterprises, including leading the Federation of Hong Kong Industries and Hong Kong Metals Manufacturers Association to meet with the Shenzhen Administration of Work Safety in April 2017 to exchange views on the management of factories with dust-generating processes. Following the meeting, a standing liaison mechanism was established between the two sides to maintain liaison on the subject.
- (e) Promoting Hong Kong and its cultural and creative industries. GDETO joined hands with Hong Kong young architects and designers in staging a Hong Kong Pavilion with a blend of Chinese and western characteristics at the “13th China (Shenzhen) International Cultural Industry Fair” (ICIF) in Shenzhen in May 2017 to introduce Hong Kong’s cultural and creative industries. The “Hong Kong Pavilion” received “Outstanding Organisation Award” and “Outstanding Exhibit Award” of ICIF for three consecutive years.

Fujian Liaison Unit

17. FJLU is responsible for liaison with the Fujian Provincial and Municipal governments, non-government organisations, trade associations, Hong Kong people,

businessmen and students in Fujian in implementing GDETO's various aspects of work. Apart from the examples mentioned in the paragraphs above, FJLU's major duties during the report period included –

- (a) Closely monitoring promulgation of new policies, legislation and regulations in relation to the development of Fujian Province (including Fujian Pilot Free Trade Zone) and disseminate such information to Hong Kong enterprises in a timely manner. For example, the Fujian Provincial People's Government issued a notice on the "Implementation of the State Council's Circular on Several Measures for Expansion of Liberalisation and the Active Utilisation of Foreign Investment" on 7 March 2017;
- (b) Arranging high-level official visits of the HKSAR Government and Fujian Provincial Government and to provide logistics support. Examples included –
 - Visit by the then Secretary for Development to Xiamen in October 2016 to attend the "World Cities Day Forum 2016" and meet with the Xiamen Municipal Development and Reform Commission
 - Visit by the then Vice Governor of Fujian Province to Hong Kong in December 2016 to meet with the then Secretary for Food and Health and the Chairman of the Hospital Authority and visit Tseung Kwan O Hospital and Kwun Tong Community Health Centre; and
 - Visit by the then Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development to Fuzhou in May 2017 to attend the opening ceremony of SmartHK 2017 and meet with Vice Governor of Fujian Province
- (c) Organising events focusing on issues relevant to Hong Kong businessmen, including the "Fuzhou-Hong Kong Exchange" in Fuzhou in December 2016, and the "2017 Workshop on Mainland's Labour Law" cum "Dinner Gathering for Xiamen-based Hong Kong People and Enterprises" in Xiamen in January 2017, and;
- (d) On promotion of Hong Kong and the celebration the 20th Anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR, major activities organised included –
 - Co-organising a promotional campaign with the HKTb and Fujian media to promote the positive image of Hong Kong between October to November 2016;
 - Organising the "Hong Kong · Music – KJ Wong x Set Tone Men" Concert in Xiamen in November 2016 to promote Hong Kong's small arts group and foster cultural and youth exchange between Fujian and Hong Kong;
 - Organising the "2017 Fujian-Hong Kong Week" in Fujian in May 2017, which included the "Colourful Hong Kong Exhibition" held at the "19th Cross Straits Fair for Economy and Trade", co-organised with HKTDC and HKTb to promote Hong Kong's advantages and Fujian-Hong Kong co-operation; and "Hong Kong Wine Brand Week" co-organised with Hong

Kong Wine Chamber of Commerce to promote Hong Kong's wine industry;

- Co-organising a promotional campaign with HKTDC and Fujian media to promote Hong Kong's service industries in May 2017;
- Organising the "Hong Kong Children's Symphony Orchestra Concert" in July 2017 in Fuzhou and Xiamen to foster cultural and youth exchange between Fujian and Hong Kong;

Guangxi Liaison Unit

18. GXLU is responsible for liaison with the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region Government, non-government organisations, Hong Kong people, businessmen and students in Guangxi in implementing GDETO's various aspects of work. Apart from actively calling on the governments and relevant departments of Guangxi Region and its cities, as well as the examples mentioned in the paragraphs above, GXLU's major duties during the report period included –

- (a) Closely monitoring promulgation of new policies, legislation and regulations in relation to the development of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, and disseminating such information to Hong Kong enterprises in a timely manner. For example, Guangxi Government issued the "Measures on Recognition and Administration of Demonstration Base for Early and Pilot Implementation of CEPA in Guangxi (Trial Run)" in June 2017 to attract HK-invested enterprises to leverage on CEPA to enter into Guangxi Region.
- (b) Arranging high-level official visits of the HKSAR Government and Guangxi Government and to provide logistics support. Examples included –
 - Visit by the then Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs to Nanning, Guangxi in May 2017 to officiate at the Opening Ceremony of GXLU cum Gala Dinner in celebration of the 20th Anniversary of HKSAR and to visit Hong Kong students at the Guangxi University of Chinese Medicines
 - Visit led by the Vice Chairman of the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region to Hong Kong in August 2017 to meet with the Secretary for Education to exchange views on how to strengthen co-operation between the two sides on education
- (c) On promotion of Hong Kong and the celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR, major activities organised include -
 - Organising a roving photo exhibition with Guangxi Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office in all the 14 Prefecture level cities in Guangxi from June to September 2017 to showcase achievements of Hong Kong-Guangxi co-operation since 2013 and its prospects;
 - Organising an exhibition in celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the return of Hong Kong to the motherland in Nanning in October 2017 to showcase Hong Kong's vibrant city landscape through the use of promotional videos, 3-D exhibits, photos, advertisements in all subway stations in Nanning and

Nanning Dong Railway Station.

Immigration-related Matters and Assistance Rendered

19. Matters handled by the Immigration Division of GDETO included handling immigration-related enquiries, promoting the talent admission schemes, 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, and handling HKSAR passport replacement service for eligible Hong Kong residents. During the report period, GDETO received a total of 201 requests for assistance from Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland. Of these, 21 cases involved the loss of travel documents or monies, 156 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 24 cases involved the detention of Hong Kong residents in the Mainland. For enhancement of service, the provision of HKSAR passport replacement service was commenced on 7 November 2016. During the report period, GDETO processed 1,006 passports replacement applications. In addition, GDETO handled 8,421 enquiries.

20. Moreover, GDETO received a total of 28 other assistance cases during the report period. GDETO made referrals to the relevant Mainland authorities for follow up and monitored the progress.

Looking Ahead

21. The year of 2018 will be the peak period for provinces and cities to introduce concrete measures in implementing the “13-5” Year plan and the national “Belt and Road” Initiative. Each of the five provinces / region under GDETO has its respective role to play under the “Belt and Road” Initiative. It is expected that measures will be introduced to enhance co-operation with Hong Kong, providing more opportunities for Hong Kong people and enterprises. GDETO will continue to enhance liaison with relevant Mainland authorities to deepen co-operation between the HKSAR Government and Guangdong, Fujian, Guangxi, Yunnan and Hainan and assist the Hong Kong business sector to grasp opportunities. Moreover, the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area has become an important national development strategy. After the promulgation of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area Development Plan, GDETO will maintain close liaison with relevant bureaux and departments of HKSAR Government, various levels of Guangdong Provincial Government and the Hong Kong business sector in Guangdong, to reflect the views of the business sector and assist HKSAR Government in taking forward the Bay Area development in 2018.

22. GDETO will also continue its efforts in strengthening liaison with the Mainland authorities and support to Hong Kong people in the Mainland, with a view to better serving Hong Kong enterprises and people in the regions, enhancing publicity work in promoting the strengths of Hong Kong and fostering the understanding of Mainland people about Hong Kong.

**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) and Zhejiang Liaison Unit (ZJLU)) 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 of the Division 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 Hong Kong Institute of Directors in arranging their visit to Shanghai in October 2016, supported the visit of the Hong Kong Shipowners Association in Shanghai in June this year as well as the activities organised by the Council of the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Hong Kong Auto Parts Industry Association in Shanghai in May and September this year respectively; and the activities organised by the Fashion Farm Foundation and the Toys Manufacturers’ Association of Hong Kong in October this year;
- (b) Encouraging and promoting economic exchange between Hong Kong and the region through participation in and support for various trade promotional activities. For example, SHETO attended the 2017 Briefing on Shanghai’s Commerce and Trade organised by the Shanghai Municipal Commission of Commerce in March this year, attended the “Hong Kong-Shanghai Software Industry Cooperation Seminar” organised by the Hong Kong Software Industry Association and the Shanghai Software Industry Association in April this year, and attended “2017 Lujiazui Forum” organised by the Shanghai Municipal Government in June this year;
- (c) Strengthening support and assistance to Hong Kong traders in the region through organising trade seminars, arranging and providing assistance in exchange activities between the HKSAR Government officials and their Mainland counterparts as well as industry players. For example, SHETO supported the then Secretary for Development to attend the “Ningbo-HK Economic Co-operation Forum” in November 2016 and to meet with the relevant officers from Ningbo; supported the Secretary for Justice to organise Hong Kong Legal Services Forum in Nanjing in November 2016 and to meet with local leaders; co-organised the “2016 Seminar on Cooperation and Exchange between Hong Kong and Shanghai in Creative Industries” with Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the Shanghai Municipal People’s

Government, the Shanghai Municipal Commission of Economy and Informatization, and Shanghai Municipal Administration of Culture, Radio, Film and TV in December 2016. In addition, SHETO organised the seminars on “replacing business tax with value-added tax, mass entrepreneurship and innovation and e-business”, and on “labour law contracts, brand risk management for enterprises, social insurance policy and general industry compensation for personnel from Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan” and “The Belt and Road Initiative : To Co-operate, To Innovate and To Grasp New Opportunities in celebration of the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region for 20 years” in March, May and October this year respectively in Shanghai; supported the then Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development to attend the “Expo Central China 2017” in May this year in Hefei, Anhui; supported the then Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury to attend the 7th Working Meeting of Hong Kong-Shanghai Financial Cooperation in Shanghai in May this year and to meet with Shanghai leaders; and co-organised a seminar on the opening up policy in the Mainland with the Shanghai Municipal Commission of Commerce;

- (d) Assisting 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 co-ordinating the delegations led by Wu Xingbao, Deputy Director of Shanghai Municipal Commission of Commerce; and Gao Xiaomei, the Vice Chairman of The Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference Shanghai Committee, to visit Hong Kong in May and August this year respectively;
- (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. For example, SHETO attended, as supporting organisation, the “New Frontiers, New Modes, New opportunities - the Belt and Road Initiative Cooperation Forum” co-organised by the Shanghai Municipal Commission of Commerce, the HKTDC and the Shanghai Federation of Industry and Commerce in April this year in Shanghai, attended the inauguration ceremony of the Shanghai-Hong Kong Coalition of Professionals under the Shanghai Chinese Overseas Friendship Association in June this year in Shanghai. SHETO has also maintained close contact with the Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce in China – Shanghai;
- (f) Keeping relevant bureaux and departments of the HKSAR Government, Hong Kong businesses and trade organisations informed of the latest economic and trade policies, regulations and measures on the Mainland and the region through timely issue of newsletters and email circulars. During the report period, SHETO issued 72 circulars and newsletters;
- (g) Monitoring closely the latest policies and legislation in the region that may have impact on Hong Kong enterprises, reporting timely to Hong Kong and answering enquiries from the trade on subjects including the 13th Five Year Plans for different industries in 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), disseminating timely information to the industry and answering related enquiries. These included meetings with the SHFTZ Administration to keep track of the latest development; monitoring the plans for deepening reforms and special administrative measures (2017 negative list) promulgated by the State Council and implementation of relevant financial measures. During the report period, SHETO issued eight 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 Unit (IPU) of SHETO continued to actively promote Hong Kong’s investment environment, proactively identify and approach Mainland companies and provide them with free one-stop services to assist them in investing or setting up operations in Hong Kong. During the report period, the IPU conducted 42 investment promotion visits, met with 388 companies and generated 45 live projects. Twenty two projects were successfully completed.

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

- (a) In October 2016, visiting Shanghai and Taizhou of Zhejiang Province, and co-organising together with InvestHK and relevant government agencies in Shanghai an investment promotion seminar to introduce the investment environment of Hong Kong. The seminar attracted over 30 company participants and government representatives;
- (b) In November 2016, visiting Ningbo of Zhejiang Province, during which an investment promotion seminar was co-organised together with Ningbo Municipal Commission of Commerce and Taizhou Bureau of Commerce to promote the investment environment of Hong Kong. The seminar attracted over 110 participants;
- (c) In November 2016, visiting Nanjing of Jiangsu Province, and attending “2016 Legal Services Forum” organised by DoJ, SHETO and relevant government agencies of Jiangsu Provincial Government in Nanjing. The Forum attracted over 600 participants;
- (d) In January this year, visiting Ningbo of Zhejiang Province, and organising an investment promotion seminar together with Ningbo Port and Shipping Administration Bureau to promote the investment environment of Hong Kong. The seminar attracted over 40 company participants;
- (e) In March this year, arranging a delegation comprising enterprises from Zhejiang and Shandong to visit Hong Kong to attend InvestHK visit

programme. The visit programme included a seminar entitled “Belt and Road, Together We Grow” aiming to promote the investment environment of Hong Kong, and the InvestHK Spring Reception;

- (f) In June this year, visiting Jinan of Shandong Province, during which an investment promotion seminar was organised together with the Trade Office of the Economic Affairs Department under the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government (CPGLO) in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) and the Department of Commerce of Shandong Province. The seminar was supported by the Shandong Liaison Unit. The seminar aiming to promote HK’s business advantages attracted over 160 participants; and
- (g) Organising and participating in 37 seminars / forums / exhibitions / trade fairs in the region, to promote 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 co-operation between Hong Kong and the region in trade, economic and other areas. During the report period, the activities organised by SHETO included –

- (a) Organising roving exhibitions in the region: From November 2016 to January this year, SHETO held roving exhibitions on the theme “Same Root, Same Heart – For Mutual Success” in eight cities, which attracted approximately 820 000 visitors in total. Posts about the roving exhibition published in SHETO’s public account and other public accounts on WeChat were warmly welcomed by netizens. On the occasion 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 development. For example, from October 2016 to January this year and from March to June this year, SHETO and HKTB jointly launched of promotional campaigns;
- (c) The Broadway Cinematheque presented the 5th Hong Kong Film Festival in Shanghai with support from SHETO from October 21 to 30, 2016 with a view to fostering co-operation between film industries in Hong Kong and in the Mainland as well as promoting cultural exchange among industry workers. SHETO arranged for film director and actor as well as a veteran film critic in Shanghai to interact with teachers and students at the Shanghai Theatre Academy (STA) on October 21 and 22 respectively. SHETO also made arrangements for theatrical producer, directors and actors from Hong Kong to interact with teachers and students at the STA in October 2016 and April this year respectively to promote cultural exchange between Shanghai and Hong Kong in respect of Hong Kong stage plays;

- (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 covering visits of senior officials from the HKSAR Government to the provinces and cities in the region as well as press briefings by them. For example, SHETO made media arrangements for the visit of the Chief Executive to Shanghai and Hangzhou in August this year, during which she officiated at the opening ceremony of the Gala Dinner held in celebration of the HKSAR 20th Anniversary in Shanghai. Media arrangements were also made for the visit of the Under Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs to Hangzhou in June this year, during which he officiated at the opening ceremony of the Zhejiang Liaison Unit cum HKSAR 20th Anniversary Gala Dinner; and
- (e) Liaising actively with the local and Hong Kong media as well as local and Hong Kong residents in the region through different channels. Through its public account on WeChat, 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 exchange between Hong Kong and the Mainland.

Strengthen Liaison with the Mainland Authorities and Support to Hong Kong People in the Mainland

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

- (a) Enhancing Government-to-Government liaison work, through visiting various government organisations in the region and participating in their activities, to strengthen communication and explore bilateral partnership and co-operation opportunities to provide assistance to Hong Kong enterprises and citizens when necessary. During the period from October 2016 to October 2017, 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 better communication channels and exchange views on the provision of proper assistance to Hong Kong enterprises and citizens. From October 2016 to October this year, SHETO paid visits to Pudong New Area, Changning, Jinshan, Hongkou, Putuo districts to strengthen liaison and explore opportunities for future cooperation and exchange between the two places.
- (b) Following up on the co-operation initiatives agreed at the 3rd Meeting of the Hong Kong-Shanghai 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 (refer to paragraphs 7 to 10 for details); and
- (d) Actively collecting and disseminating information for the Hong Kong communities here. SHETO not only updated the “Practical Guide on Living in the Mainland – Shanghai” and the “Practical Guide on Living in the Mainland – Hangzhou” but also published the “Practical Guide on Living in the Mainland – Shandong” in second half of this year to provide the latest comprehensive information to the Hong Kong people residing in the relevant Mainland cities.

7. To further enhance communication with Hong Kong people in the region, SHETO organised and participated in various meetings, gatherings, seminars and visits during the report period. For example, in October and November 2016, SHETO organised “Together for Hong Kong · Together for our Future” student gatherings for Hong Kong students in Shanghai and Hangzhou, attracting some 220 students from 23 universities. In February this year, Director of SHETO attended the High Table Dinner of The University of Hong Kong (HKU) Shanghai Alumni Network to maintain liaison with HKU alumni. In March this year, SHETO organised the “2017 Recruitment Workshop for Hong Kong Young People” in Shanghai, attracting some 70 students from 19 universities in Shanghai, Zhejiang and Jiangsu provinces. In August this year, SHETO organised a gathering for some 60 interns in Shanghai. During the report period, SHETO paid visits to one university in Shanghai to meet with the management and students there. In addition, representatives of SHETO attended a number of exchange and sharing sessions for various internship programmes in Shanghai between May and August this year to demonstrate its full support to youth development work. Moreover, during the reporting period, SHETO held meetings and gatherings with various major Hong Kong people groups, such as the Hong Kong Institute of Human Resource Management, Alumni Associations of Universities in Hong Kong, Shanghai Hong Kong Association, Hong Kong Shanghai Economic Development Association and Hong Kong-Shanghai Youth Association (including the Hong Kong Shanghai Student Affairs Committee) on regular basis to further explore the scope for cooperation with these organisations.

8. SHETO made arrangements for Hong Kong residents in the region to meet with visiting principal officials of the HKSAR Government. For example, in October 2016, arrangements were made for the then Secretary for Education to meet with some 20 representatives of the Hong Kong people groups in Shanghai during his visit there to exchange views. In November 2016, arrangements were made for the then Secretary for the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs to meet with the Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce (China) – Hangzhou over a dinner, to visit China Academy of Art and meet with Hong Kong students studying in the institution. In August this year, arrangements were made for the Chief Executive and the Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs to meet with some 60 representatives of Hong Kong people groups in Shanghai.

9. SHETO actively supported Hong Kong young people and students working and studying in the Mainland to organise diversified activities. For example, SHETO provided support to the orientation programmes organised by the Student Committee of the Hong Kong-Shanghai Youth Association, and provided internship opportunities for the 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 also 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.

Immigration-related Matters and Assistance Rendered

11. The Immigration Division of SHETO of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government began operation on 25 October 2016 to handle immigration-related enquiries, promoting the talent admission schemes, providing practical assistance to Hong Kong residents who have lost their travel documents or encountered personal safety problems in the region covered by SHETO. For enhancement of service, with effect from 7 November 2016, the Immigration Division of the SHETO started to handle applications for entry visas and entry permits to Hong Kong and to provide HKSAR passport replacement services for Hong Kong residents on the Mainland. During the report period, SHETO received a total of 64 requests for assistance from Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland and processed 241 entry applications, 1,332 passport renewal applications and handled 5,685 enquiries.

12. In addition, SHETO received a total of 28 other assistance cases during the report period. SHETO made referrals to the relevant Mainland authorities for follow up and monitored the progress.

Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR

13. To celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR with the mainlanders as well as Hong Kong people in the eastern part of China, SHETO has organised a series of cultural performances, large-scale exhibitions, celebration dinners, publicity campaigns, trade and investment promotion seminars, gatherings for youth exchanges etc under the theme of “Together•Progress•Opportunities” in the region. These events include:

- (a) Supporting the Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra to stage a concert in Shanghai on 6 June this year;
- (b) Supporting the Hong Kong Ballet to perform Swan Lake and Mixed Bill in Shanghai on 23 and 25 June this year respectively;
- (c) Co-organising with Drip Music to stage Hong Kong Episodes jazz concerts in Nanjing and Shanghai on 7-8 August and 10 August this year respectively;
- (d) Staging the roving exhibition in areas under SHETO’s purview named “Together · Progress · Opportunity - Exhibition in Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Return of Hong Kong to the Motherland” in Shanghai, Nanjing and Hefei from August to November this year, attracting 135,445 and 115,457 visitors for the exhibition held in Shanghai and Nanjing respectively. Posts about the roving exhibition published in SHETO’s public account and

other popular public accounts on WeChat were warmly welcomed by netizens. On the occasion of the opening ceremonies of the roving exhibition in different cities, SHETO took the opportunities to call on relevant local government departments and officials as well as Hong Kong businessmen and representatives from Hong Kong enterprises to strengthen communication and explore co-operation opportunities;

- (e) At the invitation of SHETO, representatives from the Dragon TV, the Ningbo Guangbo Dianshi Jituan, eastday.com, the Hong Kong Ta Kung Wen Wei Media Group's newsroom in eastern China, a radio channel under the Nanjing Broadcasting System, the Hangzhou Daily and the DushiKuaibao paid visits to Hong Kong in May this year. These visits resulted in 33 in-depth media reports on the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR (20A). These reports were picked up and carried by several hundreds of other media organisations. The Chief Executive, HKSAR Government officials, a Legislative Council member and representatives from public organisations were interviewed during the visits;
- (f) SHETO and HKTB jointly collaborated with shopping malls developed and run by Hong Kong developers in Shanghai to place advertisements in advertising space inside and outside the shopping malls to promote the 20A from June to July this year. SHETO also partnered with HKTB in launching a campaign to put up publicity lamp-post bunting along Huaihai Road and West Nanjing Road in Shanghai thus creating a festive atmosphere of the 20A in the city centre of Shanghai;
- (g) SHETO organised a gala dinner to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the establishment of HKSAR on 22 August this year. The dinner invited over 200 guests including Shanghai leaders, representatives of the 4 provinces, and Hong Kong people living in Shanghai;
- (h) SHETO attended, as one of the supporting organisations, the "Symposium on the Implementation of 'One Country, Two Systems', Co-operation Prospects between Hong Kong and Shanghai, and the 20th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR" co-organised by the Sub-Committee for Hong Kong, Macao, Taiwan Compatriots and Overseas Chinese of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference Shanghai Committee, the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences and the Better Hong Kong Foundation in June this year; and the "All in One Heart" activity co-organised by more than 20 Hong Kong people groups in June this year. SHETO also supported the "Art of Dining Restaurant Festival" organised by the Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce in China – Shanghai in July this year, and the "20.....43 - Business of Hong Kong Design" exhibitions organised by the Hong Kong Federation of Design Associations in Suzhou, Shanghai and Hangzhou in July, August and September-October this year respectively. SHETO also organised a seminar on the opportunities arising from the "Belt and Road" initiative in October this year; and
- (i) SHETO had attended a number of celebration activities organised by various Hong Kong people groups in Shanghai. These included a large-scale celebration event organised by Shanghai Hong Kong Association (SHKA) for

Hong Kong students in Shanghai to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Establishment of HKSAR in June this year and some 200 Hong Kong students attended the event, the opening ceremony of the “Museum for the Reunification of Hong Kong with the Motherland” organised by SHKA in June this year, the opening ceremony of a photo exhibition of old Shanghai buildings cum Hong Kong classical films organised by the Shanghai Municipal Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office in June 2017, and the opening ceremony of the Art-Tune Encounter: A Gramophone Remembrance of Shanghai and Hong Kong jointly organised China Record (Shanghai) Company and the Hong Kong Public Libraries of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department in June this year.

Shandong Liaison Unit

14. Since its establishment in Jinan on 30 April 2015, the SDLU strived to strengthen connection with the local governments, trade organisations and cultural institutes 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. Further, the SDLU met with local Hong Kong people and enterprises regularly and maintained close contact with the Hong Kong students studying in Shandong in an effort to better understand their needs and provide assistance to them as appropriate.

15. During the report period, the SDLU extended visits to the Shandong Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference, Standing Committee of Jinan Municipal People’s Congress, the Foreign and Overseas Chinese Affairs Offices, Bureaux of Commerce, as well as Development and Reform Commissions of Jining, Taian, Laiwu, Weifang and Weihai, to establish mutual contacts and communication networks. At the same time, the SDLU maintained frequent communication and exchanged views on work objectives and arrangements with the Shandong Provincial People’s Government and the 17 municipal governments of the Province.

16. The SDLU worked closely with the local governments. During the report period, the SDLU assisted the Jinan Municipal People’s Government in inviting choirs from Hong Kong to participate in “The 4th Jinan International Choruses’ Festival” and Hong Kong students to join Shandong University’s study programme of “China Studies International Summer School 2017” in August 2017; coordinated a meeting between the Shandong Provincial Governor and the Chief Executive of HKSAR amid the “Hong Kong Shandong Week” in August 2017; led a delegation visit to Qufu for Hong Kong people residing in Shandong to participate in the “Confucius Master Grand Memorial Ceremony” in September 2017 and provided the “Jinan Sister City Exchange” launched by the Jinan Municipal People’s Government in September 2017.

17. On promotion and publicity of Hong Kong’s advantages, the SDLU organised a 5-day exhibition on the theme of “Same Root, Same Heart – For Mutual Success” in Jinan spanning December 2016 and January this year. In April 2017, the SDLU organised the “Seminar on Mass Entrepreneurship and Innovation, VAT Reform and Electronic Trading Policies in China” in Qingdao with an aim to help Hong Kong people in Shandong to better understand the current investment environment and related governing policies in the mainland. In June 2017, SDLU and the Investment Promotion Division of SHETO organised a seminar on Hong Kong’s latest investment environment.

18. The SDLU maintained 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 met with local Hong Kong people and enterprises in Jinan and Qingdao frequently to build up connection and gain better understanding of their business environment in order to render appropriate and timely assistance.

19. The SDLU also maintained close relation with the Hong Kong students studying in Shandong and provided them with appropriate assistance. In November 2016, in collaboration with Hong Kong Institute of Human Resource Management, the SDLU organised the “Recruitment Workshop for Hong Kong Students in Shandong”, in which experienced mentors from different fields of work in Jinan were invited to share and give advice on career planning and preparation. In December 2016, in collaboration with the Foreign Affairs Office of Shandong Provincial People’s Government, the SDLU held the “Forum for Hong Kong Students in Shandong” to understand more about the learning environment of Hong Kong students. The seminar also served as a platform for an interactive exchange of views with the representatives from the Shandong Provincial Education Department and the Shandong University. The SDLU also reached out to foster youth, cultural and other exchanges between Hong Kong and Shandong Province, as well as maintained contact with Hong Kong students on summer internship to Shandong so as to provide them with appropriate assistance.

20. To assist Hong Kong people who came to Shandong for work or study for the first time in adaptation, the SDLU produced and published an informative guidebook about Shandong and its municipal cities. The booklets were distributed to Hong Kong people residing in Shandong and uploaded to SHETO’s website in August 2017 for easy access by the public.

Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR

21. In celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Establishment of HKSAR with the general public of Shandong, the SDLU invited the Hong Kong Ballet to stage “Swan Lake” in Jinan in June 2017 and held a reception prior to the performance to maintain close connection with the local governments and Hong Kong people in Shandong. About 150 guests from the Shandong provincial and municipal governments as well as representatives from Hong Kong enterprises and Hong Kong people residing in Shandong attended the reception. The event was well-received and earned high appreciation from the participants. Other celebration events organised by SDLU included a celebration gala luncheon in August, a two-week long roving exhibition in September and a youth celebration activity in October. For publicity activities, the SDLU placed chopstick advertisements at various bus stops in Jinan to widely promote the message of “Same Root, Same Heart – Mutual Success” and posted advertisements on the ballet performance on prominent Shandong newspapers to demonstrate Hong Kong’s cultural advantages.

Zhejiang Liaison Unit

22. The Zhejiang Liaison Unit (ZJLU) commenced operation in Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province on 18 April this year and was officially opened on 5 June 2017. Since its establishment, it actively sought to strengthen connection with Zhejiang government departments at all levels and local trade organisations, to promote bilateral exchange and co-operation on the economic, trade, cultural fronts. During the reporting period, to

maintain close liaison and to actively exchange views with various government departments/organisations of Zhejiang Province and its municipalities, the ZJLU visited the Department of Education, the Department of Commerce, the Development and Reform Commission, the Department of Science and Technology, the Department of Hong Kong and Macao Affairs of Zhejiang and the Department of Finance; the Department of Hong Kong and Macao Affairs and the Commission of Commerce of Hangzhou; the Overseas Chinese Affairs Office of Ningbo; the Department of Hong Kong and Macao Affairs, Bureau of Commerce and Municipal Commission of the Chinese Communist Youth League of Jinhua; the Foreign and Overseas Chinese Affairs Office of Yiwu and etc. The ZJLU also assisted in arranging visits of senior officials of Zhejiang and Hong Kong and provided necessary logistic support.

23. The ZJLU maintained contacts with the Hong Kong people, enterprises and students in Zhejiang to understand their needs and to provide support. It maintained close liaison with the Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce in China – Zhejiang and supported their activities, to understand the local business environment and to strengthen connection with the enterprises. It also actively worked on promoting youth exchanges between Hong Kong and Zhejiang, including exploring ways to strengthen bilateral youth exchanges with relevant authorities, understanding the situation of Hong Kong students in Zhejiang, as well as supporting student exchange programmes in Zhejiang, such as the “Homestay in Jinhua Historical Village Project for Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan Students” organised by the Foreign and Overseas Chinese Affairs Office of Jinhua, the “Hong Kong and Hangzhou Young Artists Exchange Programme” organized by the Chinese Academy of Art, the University of Hong Kong, the Chinese University of Hong Kong, the Hong Kong Baptist University and the City University of Hong Kong.

24. The ZJLU closely monitored major policies and issues on doing business in Zhejiang which are of concern to Hong Kong enterprises, such as those related to the China (Zhejiang) Pilot Free Trade Zone, taxation and foreign investment policies. Such information was provided to Hong Kong enterprises through the regular newsletters of the SHETO. The ZJLU also actively rendered assistance and provided information to various bodies in Zhejiang to facilitate their organisation of events related to economic and trade front. Examples of such activities were “The First International Petroleum and Natural Gas Enterprises Conference” hosted by the Zhejiang Provincial Government in the context of the China (Zhejiang) Pilot Free Trade Zone (ZJFTZ) and the “Belt and Road” initiative, the “Ningbo-Hong Kong Economic Co-operation Forum” (甬港經濟合作論壇) organised by the Ningbo Municipal People’s Government.

25. On promotion and publicity, the ZJLU arranged for broadcast of a promotional video in celebration of the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR at prime time for seven consecutive days from June to July this year on the “Public • News Channel” of Zhejiang Television. The ZJLU also attended an interview on the radio programme of the “Voice of Zhejiang” station together with Executive Committee Members of the Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce in China – Zhejiang in June this year. It was also interviewed by the “Zhejiang Satellite Television Simulcast News” for a special report on the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR. These publicity activities effectively promoted the HKSAR and the work of the ZJLU to the general public in Zhejiang.

Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR

26. The ZJLU organised a gala dinner and a performance by the Hong Kong Ballet in

June this year in celebration of the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR. It participated in the celebration event of the Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce in China – Zhejiang as a supporting organisation. The ZJLU also organised an exhibition in celebration of the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR in Hangzhou in October this year.

Looking Ahead

27. 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 liaison with the Mainland authorities and support to Hong Kong people in the Mainland. In this regard, SHETO will –

- (a) provide better support for Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland through the Immigration Division;
- (b) through the SDLU and ZJLU, continue to promote the economic and trade relationship between Hong Kong and Shandong and Zhejiang provinces, and to further promote the positive image of Hong Kong there and enhance Shandong and Zhejiang people's understanding of Hong Kong. The SDLU and ZJLU will continue to enhance support to Hong Kong enterprises and Hong Kong people in Shandong and Zhejiang provinces. The SDLU and ZJLU will actively work on promoting Hong Kong's latest development, enhance understanding between Hong Kong and Shandong and Zhejiang provinces; and closely monitor policy, legislation and related measures on economic and trade developments in Shandong and Zhejiang provinces and provide timely information to relevant Hong Kong enterprises;
- (c) further enhance Government-to-Government work and liaison with Hong Kong enterprises as well as Hong Kong people, so as to provide better service and enhance communication 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) 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, ZJFTZ, the "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;
- (f) 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;

- (g) 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;
- (h) support and facilitate Hong Kong trade missions to visit the region and explore business opportunities; and
- (i) 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”.

Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Shanghai
November 2017

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) and Shaanxi Liaison Unit (SNLU)) of the Government 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, Shaanxi Province, Guizhou Province, Qinghai Province and Tibet Autonomous Region so as to provide support to Hong Kong enterprises as well as to attract Mainland enterprises to invest in Hong Kong and use 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 relevant information and assistance to Hong Kong enterprises and people doing business, 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. CDETO continued its efforts to support Hong Kong enterprises operating or intending to operate in the region. Key tasks included organising various exhibitions and exchange activities to promote Hong Kong’s service industries; organising seminars and visits to help Hong Kong enterprises learn more about Mainland’s economic policies and development plans with a view to assisting them to grasp business opportunities; collecting the latest information on the Mainland’s trade-related policies, laws and regulations and economic development, and disseminating such information to Hong Kong enterprises. CDETO also maintained close liaison and exchanges with the relevant Mainland government departments to promote economic and trade co-operation with Hong Kong. During the report period, major events included –

- (a) Setting up exhibition booths in various national trade fairs, including “2017 Western China International Fair Import and Export Expo” in Chengdu of Sichuan Province in September 2017 and “The 18th Qinghai China Investment and Trade Fair for Green Development” (QCITFGD) in Xining of Qinghai Province in June 2017, to promote Hong Kong’s advantages and contribution under the “Belt and Road” Initiative, services and functions of CDETO, free services provided by Invest Hong Kong (InvestHK) to help Mainland enterprises “go global”, various talent admission schemes, Hong Kong’s wine trade, activities in celebration of the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR, etc.;
- (b) Organising exchange activities to promote Hong Kong’s service industries, such as organising a seminar in Xi’an of Shaanxi Province in October 2016 to promote the town planning and construction services of Hong Kong. Four experts from Hong Kong Institute of Architects, Hong Kong Institute of Planners and Hong Kong Institute of Landscape Architects were invited to share Hong Kong’s experience in town planning and construction. The seminar promoted exchanges and co-operation in new town planning and construction between Shaanxi and Hong Kong. In addition, the “Shaanxi-Hong Kong Logistics Co-operation Seminar” was organised in Xi’an in March 2017 to promote Hong Kong’s logistics services and

technologies, and facilitate co-operation in logistics between Shaanxi and Hong Kong and active participation in the “Belt and Road” Initiative. The seminar facilitated exchanges and helped build up ties between the logistics industry of Shaanxi and Hong Kong so as to help them explore business opportunities together;

- (c) Organising seminars and visits to assist Hong Kong enterprises in exploring business opportunities, such as organising the “Seminar on Policies of China (Sichuan) Pilot Free Trade Zone” in Chengdu in July 2017 to introduce the policy measures and development plans of Sichuan Pilot Free Trade Zone (FTZ) with a view to assisting Hong Kong enterprises to grasp the opportunities arising from FTZ. A study visit to Deyang of Sichuan Province as well as a visit for Hong Kong enterprises to Luzhou and Zigong of Sichuan Province were arranged in March and June 2017 respectively to learn more about the economic development and business environment of these places, and to establish contact with local governments and enterprises for future co-operation. In addition, CDETO provided support for the “Mainland Expedition on Entrepreneurship & Technology 2017” co-organised by Our Hong Kong Foundation and Torch Center of the Ministry of Science and Technology in October 2017 to help Hong Kong young entrepreneurs gain a better understanding of the latest development and business environment of the Mainland;
- (d) Organising gatherings with Hong Kong businessmen and members of chambers of commerce so as to understand their business operations and provide them with relevant information and assistance in doing business in the Mainland; producing the online version of the “Directory of Hong Kong Service Enterprises in Sichuan” to introduce and promote the development of Hong Kong service industries in the Mainland; collecting the latest information on the Mainland’s trade-related policies, laws and regulations as well as economic development, and disseminating such information through the “CDETO Newsletters”;
- (e) Organising “Seminars on Taxation, Labour Law and Trademark Law” in Chengdu, Xi’an and Guiyang of Guizhou Province in December 2016, February 2017 and March 2017 respectively so as to enhance Hong Kong businessmen’s understanding of the taxation, labour and trademark law requirements in the Mainland and to analyse the opportunities and challenges brought about by the relevant policies;
- (f) Collaborating with trade and commerce authorities in the region to collect information about important policies, regulations, major developments and investment projects, in particular paying close attention to the development of Sichuan FTZ as well as the areas of development and policy measures relating to the “13th Five-Year Plan” and “Belt and Road” Initiative of the relevant provinces / municipality / autonomous region, reporting the latest development and analysis in a timely manner, and understanding the advantages of geographical locations and business environment of different places under the “Belt and Road” Initiative, with a view to promoting economic development of Hong Kong and the region; and

- (g) 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 provided logistical support for the then Secretary of Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (SCMA) to visit Xi'an and Chengdu in April and June 2017 respectively, and assisted in activities during the visits of Vice-Governor of Sichuan Province, Yang Xingping; Vice-Governor of Sichuan Province, Ye Zhuang; the then Director-General of the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of Sichuan Province, Mu Xinhai and Governor of Sichuan Province, Yin Li to Hong Kong in January, February, April and August 2017.

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 (IPD) of CDETO visited 156 Mainland enterprises, generated 15 live projects and successfully completed five investment projects. Major investment promotion initiatives included –

- (a) Co-organising with InvestHK a “Training Session on Listing and Debt Financing in Hong Kong for Sichuan Enterprises” in Chengdu in January 2017;
- (b) Co-organising with InvestHK roundtable meetings entitled “Belt and Road, Together We Grow” in Chengdu and Chongqing in February 2017;
- (c) Setting up an exhibition booth at “2017 Silk Road International Exposition and the 21st Investment and Trade Forum for Co-operation between East and West China” (SRIE) in Xi'an in June 2017 to introduce the services and functions of CDETO, Hong Kong's business advantages under the “Belt and Road” Initiative and the services provided by InvestHK, various talent admission schemes, Hong Kong's wine trade, “Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement” (CEPA) and details about “Free Trade Agreement Transshipment Facilitation Scheme (FTATFS)”; and
- (d) Participating in other investment promotion activities to enhance liaison with Mainland enterprises, including QCITFGD in Xining and “The 20th China Chongqing International Investment and Global Sourcing Fair” (CQIIGSF) in Chongqing in June 2017.

4. IPD of CDETO maintained close working relationship with government departments as well as trade and industry organisations in the region in order to strengthen its liaison network. It regularly participated in investment promotion and co-operation events held in the region, and assisted Mainland officials and enterprises in arranging visits to Hong Kong, enabling them to learn about Hong Kong's latest economic climate and investment environment.

Public Relations

5. CDETO continued to organise activities to promote Hong Kong's latest development, and enhance mutual understanding, liaison and co-operation between Hong

Kong and the region. During the report period, apart from organising economic and trade activities, CDETO organised exhibitions and performances to strengthen public understanding of Hong Kong, deepen exchanges and co-operation between Hong Kong and the region, and celebrate the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR. Events held included –

- (a) Organising “Together · Progress · Opportunity - Roving Exhibition in Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Return of Hong Kong to the Motherland” in Chengdu, Chongqing, Xi’an, Guiyang, Xining and Lhasa of Tibet Autonomous Region between July and September 2017 to showcase major achievements and developments of Hong Kong over the past 20 years and its future development;
 - (b) Arranging a small Hong Kong a cappella group, “Yat Po Singers” to stage a concert in Xi’an in April 2017, bringing a new and creative music genre from Hong Kong to the audience in Xi’an;
 - (c) Supporting the Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra to stage a concert in Chengdu in June 2017 to enhance the cultural and musical exchange between Chengdu and Hong Kong;
 - (d) Organising a Hong Kong arts and culture fortnight in late July to mid-August 2017. Activities included –
 - Arranging a small professional Chinese music troupe “Windpipe Chinese Music Ensemble” to join the “2017 Chengdu International Sister Cities Youth Music Festival” and present a dedicated concert in July 2017, showcasing the succession and development of traditional and modern Chinese stringed and woodwind chamber music in Hong Kong;
 - Holding a film festival presenting seven quality Hong Kong films and a “Film Salon” in Guiyang in August 2017, enabling a Hong Kong film maker to interact with the local people. The activities enhanced local people’s understanding of Hong Kong’s cultural and creative industries and promoted co-operation between Guizhou and Hong Kong in aspects relating to films;
 - Co-presenting a drama, “The Last Supper” with the Hong Kong Repertory Theatre and a sharing session / talk in Chengdu in August 2017 to enhance local people’s understanding of Hong Kong drama and promote cultural exchanges between Chengdu and Hong Kong; and
 - Organising cello recitals and master classes by internationally renowned Hong Kong-born cellist Trey Lee in Chongqing and Chengdu in August 2017 to enhance the cultural exchange between the two places and Hong Kong.
6. CDETO also organised an exhibition named “The Journey of Hong Kong” by Urban Sketchers Hong Kong in Chengdu in September and October 2017. The sketches displayed the beautiful sceneries, cuisines, facets of life and special buildings of Hong Kong, presenting a modern and diversified Hong Kong as a metropolis where East met West.
7. CDETO co-operated with the local media, Hong Kong Trade Development Council

(HKTDC) and the Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTB) to further promote Hong Kong in the Mainland. Projects included –

- (a) Co-operating with the Sichuan Radio and Television to launch a series of television episodes from January to March 2017 to showcase Hong Kong's positive images, Hong Kong's contribution under the "Belt and Road" Initiative, professional services, business advantages, services provided by InvestHK, various talent admission schemes, etc., and to introduce the tourist spots, culture, lifestyle and cuisines of Hong Kong;
- (b) Co-operating with HKTB to promote Hong Kong's winter events and popular tourist spots through various promotion channels in Chengdu and Chongqing from December 2016 to January 2017 so as to attract the Mainland visitors to Hong Kong; and
- (c) Arranging media placements on different promotion channels like newspapers, news webpages and WeChat public account to promote activities organised by CDETO, services provided by InvestHK, activities in celebration of the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR, Hong Kong as a world city, business advantages, etc.

8. CDETO continued to maintain a close working 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 and activities of CDETO through CDETO's website and WeChat public account, which had helped foster better understanding between CDETO and its counterparts in local governments, non-government organisations, the business sector, the media, Hong Kong people and local people.

Strengthen Liaison with the Mainland Authorities and Support to Hong Kong People in the Mainland

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 –

- (a) Organising 28 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 better understand their life and needs so as to provide them with the necessary services and information;
- (b) 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 disseminating useful and practical information on living in those places to the public / Hong Kong people through CDETO's website, WeChat public account, electronic mail and WeChat;
- (c) Establishing working 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 enabling timely communication on the overall situation of the requests for assistance made by Hong Kong people; and

- (d) 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 17 tertiary institutions in Sichuan Province, Shaanxi Province and Chongqing Municipality where there were Hong Kong students, with a view to understanding better their life and studies. CDETO also invited them to activities with a view to fostering understanding among themselves and their liaison with Hong Kong people in the region, and providing them with information on jobs vacancies in the HKSAR Government. In addition, CDETO organised visits to historical and cultural premises in Chengdu, Chongqing and Xi'an for Hong Kong students studying there to enhance CDETO's closer relationship with them as well as their understanding and knowledge of the local history and 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 16 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. About 50 internship vacancies were made available. CDETO also offered internship placements for Hong Kong students studying in the region and those studying in Hong Kong.

13. CDETO set up an exhibition booth in the "16th Western China International Fair" in Chengdu in November 2016 to promote Hong Kong, including Hong Kong's advantages under the "Belt and Road" Initiative, Hong Kong as a platform for the Mainland enterprises to "go global", various talent admission schemes, Hong Kong's wine trade, FTATFS, etc.

14. 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 Road Cycling Race 2017 for College Students" so as to promote sports exchanges between Hong Kong and Qinghai.

Chongqing Liaison Unit

15. CQLU had been in close contact with local government as well as trade and industry organisations to expand its network and to 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 –

- (a) Organising two activities, including a career talk and a visit to museums, for Hong Kong students studying in Chongqing in order to maintain a closer relationship with them and understand better their life and studies so as to provide them with the necessary services and information as well as enhance their understanding and knowledge of the local culture;
- (b) Organising “Seminar on Taxation, Economic and Labour Laws” in November 2016 to share the latest information on the business and investment environment in Chongqing, including major policies and the latest taxation regulations in the Mainland, so as to keep Hong Kong enterprises in Chongqing abreast of opportunities and challenges arising from such policies;
- (c) Supporting and assisting “Quality Tourism Services (QTS) Scheme – Chongqing” co-organised by HKTB and Quality Tourism Services Association in November 2016 to promote the QTS Scheme, special travel packages and Hong Kong brand products;
- (d) Organising “Chongqing-Hong Kong Symposium on Internet of Vehicles (IoV) Technologies and Business” together with Hong Kong Productivity Council and Hong Kong Wireless Technology Industry Association in March 2017 to promote Hong Kong’s IoV technologies and the potential for co-operation between Chongqing and Hong Kong enterprises;
- (e) Setting up a booth in CQIGSF in June 2017 to introduce the services and functions of CDETO and CQLU, services provided by the Immigration Department and various talent admission schemes, Hong Kong as a platform for Mainland enterprises to “go global”, the Basic Law and Hong Kong’s advantages (including being the international meetings, conventions and exhibitions capital, Hong Kong’s wine trade, 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;
- (f) Organising “Seminar on China (Chongqing) Pilot Free Trade Zone” in August 2017 to enhance the Hong Kong businessmen’s understanding of policies relating to Chongqing FTZ and to give an account of the opportunities brought about by the relevant policies;
- (g) Providing support to exchange activities between the HKSAR Government officials and their Mainland counterparts as well as industry players in Chongqing. For example, CQLU assisted the visit by a delegation of Permanent Secretaries and Heads of Departments to Chongqing in October 2016, and supported “Hong Kong Logistics Services Mission” led by Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing (Transport) to visit Chongqing in May 2017;
- (h) Supporting industry delegations from Hong Kong to visit Chongqing to deepen their understanding of business and investment environment. For example, CQLU assisted a delegation of the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce in its visit to Chongqing in October 2016;

- (i) Visiting Youyang County and Nanchuan District in April 2017 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;
- (j) Renewing the “Directory of Hong Kong Service Enterprises 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 of Chongqing and Hong Kong to explore co-operation opportunities;
- (k) Paying close attention to Chongqing’s areas of development and policy measures relating to its “13th Five-Year Plan”, “Belt and Road” Initiative and Chongqing FTZ, and reporting the latest development and analysis in a timely manner; and
- (l) Proactively supporting the “Chongqing-Hong Kong Vocational Student Exchange Programme” to help build a platform for study, practice and exchanges between students from Chongqing and Hong Kong to enhance their vocational skills and broaden their horizons. Exchange visits between the Hong Kong Vocational Training Council and Chongqing University of Education were held during the report period.

Shaanxi Liaison Unit

16. SNLU came into operation on 17 April 2017 to assist Hong Kong people and enterprises in better capitalising on the opportunities brought about by the development of the western region in the Mainland. Located in Xi’an, the capital city of Shaanxi Province, SNLU strived to strengthen relations between Hong Kong and Shaanxi Province as well as its municipalities by enhancing government-to-government co-operation, promoting exchange and co-operation between Hong Kong and Shaanxi Province on economic, trade and cultural fronts, and providing support to Hong Kong people and enterprises in the area. During the report period, major events included –

- (a) The opening ceremony of SNLU was held in Xi’an in April 2017. Officiated by the then SCMA, the event was attended by the provincial and municipal government leaders and departments, relevant organisations as well as Hong Kong people and businessmen in Shaanxi;
- (b) Calling on relevant authorities of Shaanxi Province to introduce the establishment and functions of SNLU and to exchange views on future work plans;
- (c) Providing support in the communication between Shaanxi Provincial Government and HKSAR Government. For example, SNLU assisted the delegation led by the Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene to visit Xi’an in May 2017, and assisted in arranging a delegation of the Xi’an Municipal Government to visit Hong Kong for study of underground space usage and exchanges with relevant government departments in August 2017;

- (d) Meeting with Hong Kong student delegations visiting Shaanxi Province to enhance their understanding of social and cultural environment of Shaanxi Province;
- (e) Participating in relevant activities of SRIE, and co-organising the “Belt and Road” China (Shaanxi) Pilot Free Trade Zone Promotion cum Shaanxi-Hong Kong Financial Co-operation Conference” and the “Hong Kong enterprises getting into the Free Trade Zone” visit in Xi’an to help Hong Kong enterprises understand the latest business environment and preferential policies in Shaanxi Province as well as seek new investment and co-operation opportunities;
- (f) Organising “Seminar on China (Shaanxi) Pilot Free Trade Zone” in October 2017 with a view to assisting Hong Kong enterprises to grasp the opportunities arising from FTZ; and
- (g) Paying close attention to Shaanxi Province’s areas of development and policy measures relating to its “13th Five-Year Plan”, “Belt and Road” Initiative and Shaanxi FTZ, and reporting the latest development and analysis in a timely manner.

17. During the report period, SNLU established close liaison with Hong Kong residents and enterprises in Shaanxi Province to understand their work and life in Shaanxi Province as well as their needs. SNLU was also interviewed by a number of local media to promote SNLU’s work and Hong Kong’s advantages.

Immigration-related Matters and Assistance Rendered

18. Immigration matters handled by CDETO include processing immigration-related enquiries, providing HKSAR passport replacement service, 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 85 requests for assistance from Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland. Of these, 19 cases involved the loss of travel documents or monies, 62 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 4 cases involved the detention of Hong Kong residents in the Mainland. In addition, CDETO handled 2 006 enquiries and 77 HKSAR passport replacement applications.

19. Moreover, CDETO received a total of 6 other assistance cases during the report period. CDETO made referrals to the relevant Mainland authorities for follow up and monitored the progress.

Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR

20. 2017 marked the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR. CDETO (including its CQLU and SNLU) organised 18 promotional activities in different municipalities in the region to celebrate with the local communities. During the report period, celebration activities, including three gala dinners, six roving exhibitions, seven cultural performances, one film festival, one competition and one campus activity were organised with over 75 800 visitors / participants. There were 283 media reports on the

activities.

21. The celebration activities strengthened the liaison between CDETO as well as its liaison units and the local authorities; co-operation units; economic and trade organisations; Hong Kong people, businessmen and students; local media and representative offices of Hong Kong organisations in the region. In addition, these activities enhanced the public understanding and recognition of Hong Kong, deepening the exchange and communication on all fronts between Hong Kong and the region. The roving exhibitions also highlighted how Hong Kong had deployed its advantages under the “One Country, Two Systems” arrangement and the principle of “what the country needs, what Hong Kong is good at”, and how Hong Kong was poised to seize the new opportunities arising from the “13th Five-Year Plan” and the “Belt and Road” Initiative, thereby contributing to the nation’s development.

Looking Ahead

22. Through participating in and organising various types of economic and trade activities, missions, studying the latest business environment and preferential policies, and searching for and disseminating updated information to Hong Kong enterprises, CDETO, together with CQLU and SNLU, will continue to maintain close ties with local government departments and business organisations, supporting Hong Kong enterprises to operate and 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 region in various aspects.

23. CDETO will continue to reach out to Hong Kong people, businessmen and students in the region, and provide useful information and assistance to them. In particular, CDETO will continue to explore the feasibility of organising more activities relating to “Belt and Road” professional services and development of FTZs in the region, and actively participate in “Belt and Road” and FTZ activities organised by the 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, the “13th Five-Year Plan” and FTZs, 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 region.

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, a series of activities to promote Hong Kong’s wine industry was organised at the “China Central International Alcoholic Drinks Expo 2016” held in Wuhan in December 2016 which included setting up a Hong Kong Wine Pavilion – “National Roadshow on Hong Kong Wine Brand–Wuhan”, as well as organising an exchange seminar on Hong Kong wine industry for the Mainland and an evening reception to facilitate exchanges between Hong Kong and Hubei ;
- (b) encouraging and promoting economic and trade exchanges between Hong Kong and the region through participation in trade promotion activities. For example, assisted the then Chief Executive (CE) to attend the Pan-Pearl River Delta Regional Co-operation Chief Executive Joint Conference in Nanchang, Jiangxi in October 2016; attended the “2nd China Ceramic E-commerce Summit 2016” in Jingdezhen, Jiangxi and the “4th World Green Development Investment and Trade Expo” in Nanchang, Jiangxi in October 2016; attended the “1st China Service Trade Innovation (Wuhan) Summit ” in Wuhan in November 2016; attended the 12th Pan-Pearl River Delta Regional Co-operation Capital Cities Mayors’ Joint Forum in Nanchang, Jiangxi in December 2016; attended the Wuahn Municipal Government’s 2017 Chinese New Year Meeting with Foreign Institutions in Wuhan in January 2017; and visited “the Third International E-Business cum Internet Commodities Expo 2017, Wuhan, China” in May 2017;
- (c) supporting provinces / municipalities in the region to visit Hong Kong to organise economic and trade promotion activities and co-ordinating meetings between visiting Mainland officials and senior officials of the HKSAR Government. For example, assisted in arranging delegations led by the Governor of Hunan Province Xu Dazhe and the Governor of Jiangxi Province Liu Qi to Hong Kong on trade promotion events with courtesy calls on the CE

in April 2017; and assisted in the activities in Hong Kong and meeting with the CE during the visits of the delegation led by Hubei Governor Wang Xiaodong in August 2017 respectively;

- (d) maintaining close liaison and co-organising activities with Hong Kong trade associations and organisations in the region, and actively supporting their activities. During the report period, WHETO met Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce in China – Wuhan as well as a number of Hong Kong enterprises investing in the provinces / municipalities in the region and attended their activities or co-organised activities with them. For example, attended the Chinese Manufacturers’ Association of Hong Kong’s ground breaking ceremony of Hong Kong Centre in Wuhan in December 2016; attended the “Hong Kong Creative Business Day” series of activities organised by the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC); and dined with a delegation of the Hong Kong brand and creative design industry in Wuhan in March 2017; attended the opening ceremony of “2017 Hong Kong Trendy Products Expo • Wuhan” in September 2017;
- (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 13 “Monthly Newsletters”, 31 “Topical Newsletters” and four quarterly “Mainland Economic and Trade Activities Newsletter” to provide relevant economic and trade information 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 2017 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 latest economic development and policy of Wuhan;
- (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, organised the “Seminar on the Opportunities to Hong Kong Businesses Brought by Mass Entrepreneurship and Innovation and E-Commerce” in Wuhan in November 2016; and
- (g) monitoring closely 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” initiative as well as the related measures and latest development of major development plans like China (Hubei) Pilot Free Trade Zone, Yangtze River Middle Reaches City Clusters of Hubei, Hunan and Jiangxi, and Ganjiang

New Area of Jiangxi, etc., through, *inter alia*, visits to agencies such as the Departments of Commerce, Development and Reform Commissions in the region to learn about the situation directly. 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. For example, WHETO organised the Seminar on China (Hubei) Pilot Free Trade Zone Policies in Wuhan in April 2017 to assist the Hong Kong enterprises to learn about relevant policies on the Free Trade Zone. WHETO also provides reports to the HKSAR Government on the relevant information from time to time.

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 207 times, generated 12 live projects and completed 8 investment projects.

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

- (a) co-organising with Invest Hong Kong (InvestHK) a CEO seminar entitled "Belt and Road, Together We Grow" in Wuhan in November 2016;
- (b) co-organising with InvestHK a Roundtable entitled "Belt and Road, Together We Grow" on innovation and technology sector in Changsha in March 2017;
- (c) co-organising with InvestHK an investment promotion seminar entitled "Belt and Road, Together We Grow" in Taiyuan in May 2017;
- (d) co-organising with InvestHK a Roundtable entitled "Belt and Road, Together We Grow" on tourism and hospitality sector in Wuhan in June 2017;
- (e) co-organising with InvestHK a Roundtable entitled "Belt and Road, Together We Grow" on business and professional services sector in Zhengzhou in June 2017;
- (f) co-organising with InvestHK an investment promotion seminar entitled "Belt and Road, Together We Grow" in Changsha in October 2017 ; and
- (g) participating in other investment promotion activities to enhance connection with more Mainland enterprises in the region. For example, the "11th China (Henan) International Investment and Trade Fair China" in March 2017 in Zhengzhou and the "Second Bio-Expo of the Optics Valley of China" in June 2017 in Wuhan, 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 various channels, official visits and taking part in various activities. The specific work included –

- (a) placing image advertisements and feature articles on “Taste of Hong Kong – Fusion of Global Cultures” in the October and December 2016 issues of “Business and Travel” high speed railway magazine to promote Hong Kong;
- (b) organising roving exhibitions “Taste of Hong Kong – Fusion of Global Cultures” in Yueyang, Zhengzhou, Luoyang, Yichang, Nanchang and Taiyuan from October to December 2016 and in February 2017 respectively with a view to enhancing the understanding of local residents on the food culture of Hong Kong and lifestyle of Hong Kong people;
- (c) collaborating with the Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTB) in January 2017 to promote tourism of Hong Kong through various channels including television, video broadcast on buses, outdoor LED panels, mobile platforms and newspapers and magazines in Wuhan, Changsha, Taiyuan and Zhengzhou;
- (d) arranging for video advertisements to be played on the high speed rail and trains originating from Wuhan from January to March 2017 to promote Hong Kong's tourism and culture;
- (e) placing advertisements at Changsha Huanghua International Airport, Changsha High-speed Railway Station and Changsha metro stations from January to March 2017 to promote Hong Kong to local residents;
- (f) placing an image advertisement at the domestic terminal of Wuhan Tianhe International Airport from January to June 2017 to promote Hong Kong.
- (g) collaborating with the Rural Channel of Hubei Television to produce and broadcast the radio programme “Next Station, Hong Kong” in the central region to promote Hong Kong;
- (h) collaborating with the Hunan Daily APP to release daily news relating to Hong Kong on a designated Hong Kong webpage on the app to let the residents of Hunan Province and other places of the central region have a more comprehensive understanding on Hong Kong's situation;
- (i) collaborating with the CN Hubei website to disseminate Hong Kong-related news and information through designated Hong Kong webpage and mobile application to let the residents of the central region have a more comprehensive understanding on Hong Kong's situations; and
- (j) disseminating information related to WHETO and Hong Kong through the official WeChat account. During the reporting period, a total of 218 messages of news and activities were disseminated.

Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR

6. To celebrate the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR, WHETO organised a series of 20th anniversary promotional activities. The promotional activities held during the report period include –

- (a) in May 2017, hosting the “Hong Kong Pianist Dr Vivian Cheng – Piano Recital cum Pre-performance Reception” in Changsha. 450 guests and students were invited to the performance;
- (b) in June 2017, hosting the “Romantic Classics • Cello Recital by Trey Lee”. Mr Trey Lee, a Hong Kong renowned cellist, was invited to perform in Zhengzhou, Wuhan and Changsha. Activities such as master class and public rehearsal were also organised. The three performances attracted an audience of around 3,000 in total;
- (c) in June 2017, hosting the “Symphony Concert by Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra” and pre-performance reception in Wuhan. The reception was attended by the Director General of Hubei Provincial Cultural Department, the Director of Wuhan Municipal Bureau of Culture, the Director of Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the Wuhan Municipal People’s Government, etc. The performance attracted an audience of around 1,300;
- (d) in June and July 2017, collaborating with Hunan Television to produce Hong Kong-featured TV episodes “Day Day Up” and “Happy Camp” respectively in celebration of the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR;
- (e) in August 2017, hosting the opening ceremony of “Together • Progress • Opportunity – Roving Exhibition in Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Return of Hong Kong to the Motherland” and the gala dinner for the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR in Wuhan as well as the plaque unveiling ceremonies of the Hunan Liaison Unit and Henan Liaison Unit cum celebration banquets for the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR in Changsha and Zhengzhou respectively. The Financial Secretary was invited as the officiating guest of these events; officials and Hong Kong people and enterprises in the respective provinces and municipalities attended; and
- (f) from August to October 2017, organising the "Together • Progress • Opportunity – Roving Exhibition in Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Return of Hong Kong to the Motherland" in Wuhan, Changsha, Zhengzhou, Taiyuan, Yichang and Luoyang to enhance the understanding of Mainland residents on Hong Kong, especially on the development of the HKSAR in the twenty years since its establishment.

7. In addition, WHETO promoted the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR and related activities through a variety of channels. The specific work during the report period include –

- (a) in June 2017, attending a special interview at the radio show “Bauhinia Blooms in Greater Wuhan” introducing the development of HKSAR in the

past twenty years since its establishment, as well as the series of celebration activities organised by WHETO to Mainland's audience;

- (b) from June to September 2017, placing advertisements at the metro station platforms of Line 2 and Line 6 of the Wuhan Metro which traversed two major rivers (Changjiang and Hanjiang) and three major districts (Hankou, Wuchang and Hanyang) of Wuhan to disseminate the message of celebrating the 20th anniversary of Hong Kong's return to the Motherland together;
- (c) on 1 July 2017, publishing advertisements and feature stories in ten top-selling and influential newspapers in the five provinces being served to introduce to readers the development of Hong Kong in the past twenty years since its return to the Motherland;
- (d) from July to September 2017, placing advertisements at Changsha Huanghua International Airport, Changsha High-speed Railway Station and Changsha metro stations to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the establishment of HKSAR with people in Hunan together;
- (e) in August 2017, collaborating with the "Business and Travel" high speed railway magazine to publish an image advertisement and a feature article on the celebration of the 20th anniversary of Hong Kong's return to the Motherland so as to promote Hong Kong;
- (f) from August to October 2017, placing advertisements in the new Terminal 3 of Wuhan Tianhe International Airport to disseminate the message of celebrating the 20th anniversary of Hong Kong's return to the Motherland together; and.
- (g) from August to October 2017, placing advertisements at Zhengzhou Xinzheng International Airport to disseminate the message of celebrating together the 20th anniversary of Hong Kong's return to the Motherland.

Strengthen Liaison with the Mainland Authorities and Support to Hong Kong People in the Mainland

8. 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 called on the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the Shanxi Province, the Department of Commerce of Shanxi Province, the Shanxi Provincial Development and Reform Commission and Shanxi Provincial Economic and Information Technology Commission to learn about the latest development in Shanxi and establish working contacts. During the visit, the delegation also met with representatives of Hong Kong-invested

enterprises operating in Shanxi to learn about their business situation in Shanxi. In addition, 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 March 2017, WHETO assisted in arranging a delegation led by Tan Hui, member of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of Hubei Province and the Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee on Ethnic and Religious Affairs, to meet with the Tourism Commission of the HKSAR Government for exchanging information on each other's work on the tourism sector and exploring areas for strengthening cooperation;

- (b) proactively liaising with Hong Kong enterprises and residents to understand their needs and provide assistance as appropriate. For example –
- organised a number of gatherings to understand their situation and needs in relation to their investment, business and livelihood in the central region. For example, in February 2017, a “Spring Reception for Hong Kong Residents in Hubei Province 2017” was organized in Wuhan. Arrangements for Hong Kong residents in the related region to meet with HKSAR Government principal officials during their visits to the central region were made, which included the visit of the Financial Secretary to Wuhan, Changsha and Zhengzhou in August 2017;
 - met with Hong Kong university students studying in Wuhan, Nanchang and Changsha as well as the offices for Hong Kong and Macao affairs in respective universities to understand students' lives and studies; and disseminated information of 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;
 - in May 2017, attended the “Inauguration Ceremony of the Executive Committee of the Hong Kong Tertiary Student Association of Wuhan” to show support for the establishment of the association;
 - encouraged Hong Kong-invested enterprises in Wuhan to provide internship opportunities for Hong Kong university students studying in Wuhan, Nanchang and Changsha, and disseminated relevant information to Hong Kong students; and
 - provided 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 and organisations to enhance youth exchange and internship schemes in the Mainland. For example, in June 2017, WHETO

attended the launching ceremony of the “2017 Hong Kong University Students Internship Programme in Hubei”. WHETO also received visiting Hong Kong young people, teachers and students and briefed 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 (HNLU)

9. The HNLU under WHETO came into operation on 25 May 2016 and moved into its long-term office on 31 July 2017. 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 and assisting Hong Kong people and companies in better capitalising the opportunities brought about by the development of the central region. The specific work included –

Commercial Relations

- (a) in February 2017, organising the “2017 Forum between the Hunan Provincial Government and Representatives of Hong Kong Enterprises” cum Spring Reception to foster direct communication between Hong Kong enterprises and local government departments. The Vice Governor of Hunan Province He Baoxiang attended the forum and delivered a speech;
- (b) in September 2017, supporting the Hong Kong Food Council in setting up a Hong Kong Pavilion and organising a Hong Kong Day at the “2017 China Food and Catering Expo” in Changsha to promote Hong Kong brands. During the period, HNLU facilitated a delegation of Hong Kong Food Council to visit Ningxiang National Economic & Technological Development Zone and local enterprises to promote exchanges and co-operation between the two places; and
- (c) keeping Hong Kong people and enterprises in the region informed of the latest business environment and beneficial policies through close contact with local government and trade and industry organisations, with a view to helping Hong Kong enterprises explore new investment and co-operation opportunities. During the reporting period, HNLU organised economic and trade related seminars in November 2016 and April 2017 respectively to help Hong Kong enterprises to have a better understanding on the policies on Mainland taxation and cross-border e-commerce.

Strengthen the Liaison with Mainland Authorities and the Support to Hong Kong People

- (a) since its establishment, the HNLU has called on relevant authorities of the Hunan Provincial, the Changsha Municipal, the Yiyang Municipal, the Chenzhou Municipal and the Yueyang Municipal governments to introduce the establishment and functions of HNLU and exchange views on its work plans and activities;

- (b) in January 2017, published the Practical Guide for Hong Kong People Living in the Mainland (Changsha);
- (c) in June 2017, attending the launching ceremony of the “2017 Hunan-Hong Kong University Students Entrepreneurship Exchange Week” to exchange views with 38 Hong Kong university students; in July 2017, attended the launching ceremony of a student tour exchange programme to exchange views with over 300 teachers and students from Hong Kong and Macao; and in October 2017, attended “Hunan-Hong Kong Young Entrepreneurship Exchange Forum” to exchange views with the young entrepreneurs from the two places;
- (d) in September 2017, a delegation led by the CE attended the “2017 PPRD Regional Co-operation Chief Executive Joint Conference” in Changsha. Members of the delegation included Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs and Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, etc. CE conducted high-level bilateral meetings with relevant provinces at the margins of the conference. WHETO and HNLU assisted in itinerary planning and logistical support; and
- (e) meeting and gathering with Hong Kong people and businessmen in Changsha regularly to foster mutual understanding and enhance liaison.

Henan Liaison Unit (HALU)

10. The HALU under WHETO came into operation on 28 September 2016. 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 and assisting Hong Kong people and companies in better capitalising the opportunities brought about by the development of the central region. The specific work included –

Commercial Relations

- (a) keeping close contact with local government and trade and industry organizations 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 was disseminated to Hong Kong businessmen. During the report period, the HALU organized seminars concerning economic and trade topics in November 2016 and April 2017 to help Hong Kong enterprises have a better understanding of the policies on Henan Pilot Free Trade Zone, taxation matters and foreign investment control system in the Mainland; and
- (b) organising regular gatherings and meetings with the Hong Kong people and enterprises in Henan Province to better understand their needs and provide assistance. For example, the HALU organised a spring reception in February 2017 to strengthen its connection with the Hong Kong people and businessmen in Henan Province.

Strengthen the Liaison with Mainland Authorities and the Support to Hong Kong People

- (a) since its establishment, the HALU has called on the relevant authorities of the Henan Provincial, the Zhengzhou Municipal, the Luoyang Municipal and the Kaifeng Municipal governments to introduce the establishment and functions of the HALU and exchange views on its work plans and specific activities.;
- (b) in July 2017, published the Practical Guide for Hong Kong People Living in the Mainland (Zhengzhou);
- (c) assisting liaison between provincial government organisations and HKSAR Government. For example, in January 2017, assisted a Zhengzhou Municipal Bureau of Commerce's delegation to meet with the Hong Kong Customs and Excise Department for exchanges; and
- (d) fostering actively cultural and other exchanges between Hong Kong and Henan Province. For example, the HALU assisted the Home Affairs Bureau to receive a group of Hong Kong young artists who visited Henan for cultural exchange in December 2016.

Assistance Rendered to Hong Kong Residents

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

Looking Ahead

12. 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 disseminating relevant information on the latest developments in the central region 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. In addition, WHETO will monitor closely relevant information on the latest facilitation measures concerning Hong Kong's people living in the Mainland (for example, work, business operation, study, travel, accommodation, etc.) which will be disseminated through various channels. WHETO will also monitor latest developments of major policies, legislations and measures in the region and report to bureaux and departments in a timely manner to assess the impact on Hong Kong.

13. WHETO is proactively working on the establishment of an Immigration Division which is expected to commence operation by end 2017 in order to provide more comprehensive assistance to Hong Kong residents encountering difficulties in the central region.

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. In 2016, Hong Kong was Taiwan's fourth largest trading partner and Taiwan was Hong Kong's third largest trading partner in merchandise trade, with total value of merchandise trade amounting to over HK\$366.5 billion (comprising total exports of over HK\$74.5 billion to Taiwan and imports of over HK\$292.0 billion from Taiwan). From 2012 to 2016, the average annual growth rate in the value of bilateral merchandise trade was 3%. For trade in services, Taiwan was Hong Kong's sixth largest trading partner in 2015, with the total value of trade in services amounting to about HK\$53 billion (comprising services exports of over HK\$28.7 billion to Taiwan and services imports of over HK\$24.2 billion from Taiwan).

3. 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 and in collaboration with the Taiwan Office of the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC) and the Hong Kong Business Association in Taiwan (HKBA)¹. 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. Besides, HKETCO continued to enhance its connection with Hong Kong businesses in Taiwan during the report period. Through 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; and shared and exchanged information relating to commerce and trade of Hong Kong and Taiwan. Furthermore, with the support of HKETCO, HKBA held a series of thematic talks for its members starting from 2017. Representatives of HKETCO attended the talks to foster closer ties and exchange information with its members.

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

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

Business Co-operation Committee² to Taiwan in October 2016 and September 2017.

5. On the other hand, HKETCO 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 places³. HKETCO disseminated these messages to Hong Kong businesses operating in Taiwan, industrial and commercial associations in Taiwan, and Taiwan enterprises interested in investing in Hong Kong, by publishing the 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 39 enquiries relating to Hong Kong-Taiwan economic and trade matters during the report period.

6. In order to strengthen the understanding of Hong Kong by Taiwan’s various sectors and foster closer economic co-operation and exchanges between the two places, HKETCO organised a “Hong Kong-Taiwan Economic Co-operation Forum” (the Forum) in New Taipei City in November 2016 and in Hsinchu County in September 2017 respectively. The Forum held in New Taipei City reviewed the future development trend of the innovation and technology industries. It also discussed how to create more business opportunities and facilitate industry upgrading in Hong Kong and Taiwan. The Forum held in Hsinchu County focused on the development of “Internet of Things” as well as the startup ecosystems and opportunities in Hong Kong and Taiwan, with a view to creating co-operation opportunities for the trade in the two places, and attracting outstanding young entrepreneurs in Taiwan to set up or expand their businesses in Hong Kong.

7. Apart from HKETCO, HKTDC has also organised a wide variety of trade promotion activities to facilitate business collaboration between enterprises of the two places. These activities have not only assisted Hong Kong companies in developing the Taiwan market, but also encouraged Taiwan brands to co-operate with Hong Kong companies and leverage on Hong Kong’s platform to jointly explore the Mainland and overseas markets. During the report period, HKTDC organised nine seminars in Taiwan to promote Hong Kong’s advantages as a regional trade hub to over 190 businessmen in Taiwan. Besides, in 2016-17, trade fairs organised by HKTDC in Hong Kong have attracted over 21 000 buyers and 2 400 exhibitors from Taiwan. A total of over 140 professionals from Taiwan also took part in the Asian Financial Forum, Asian Logistics and Maritime Conference, and Business of Intellectual Property Asia Forum which were jointly organised by the HKSAR Government and HKTDC. In future, HKTDC will continue to adopt a multi-pronged approach to enhance co-operation and exchanges between the business sectors and foster trade relations of the two places, including organising exchange missions, business matching activities and seminars, and arranging Taiwan companies to visit Hong Kong to take part in international fairs and forums.

Investment Promotion

8. Taiwan is a major source of inward direct investment for Hong Kong. According

² The Hong Kong – Taiwan Business Co-operation Committee was established in April 2010. With members coming from the local business sector, the Committee aims to promote closer co-operation between Hong Kong and Taiwan business sectors.

³ During the report period, amendments made by the Taiwan Authorities on regulations relevant to Hong Kong and Taiwan included those relating to anti-money laundering (e.g. control on carrying cash and items into and out of Taiwan), arrangements for Hong Kong residents to apply for entry and exit permits for travelling to Taiwan, and overtime and leave arrangements of workers.

to a survey covering some 8 200 companies in Hong Kong with parent companies located outside Hong Kong, in 2017, the number of Taiwan companies setting up regional headquarters or regional offices in Hong Kong was 128, and the number of local offices of Taiwan companies in Hong Kong was 253.

9. Through the Investment Promotion Division (IPD) of HKETCO, InvestHK 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 285 companies in various parts of Taiwan, generated 17 live projects and completed 12 investment projects. Since its establishment in 2000 till end-October 2017, InvestHK has assisted a total of 119 Taiwan companies to set up or expand their operations in Hong Kong. The majority of these companies are engaged in financial services, food and beverage, consumer products as well as innovation and technology sectors.

10. In addition to the aforementioned visits, IPD also introduced the business environment and advantages of Hong Kong to Taiwan enterprises through visiting industrial and commercial associations and organising promotion activities. For instance, in April 2017, IPD jointly organised the “Hong Kong – Taitung Economic Co-operation Seminar” in Taitung County with a local trade association, giving thematic talks on issues including the latest economic and trade relations between Hong Kong and Taiwan, and investment and business environment in Hong Kong, etc.

11. Besides, IPD published a booklet, titled “Taiwan Success Stories in Hong Kong”, in October 2016, introducing success stories of 14 Taiwan companies having established their footholds in Hong Kong with the assistance of IPD. IPD also published articles in magazines to illustrate, by way of case studies, how Taiwan enterprises can make use of Hong Kong as a springboard to open up markets.

12. In order to understand the latest developments and trends of Taiwan’s startups and major industries, IPD also participated in a number of events during the report period, such as the “2016 Meet Taipei” held in November 2016, the “2017 Smart City Summit and Expo” held in February 2017, and the “2017 Future Commerce Expo” held in April 2017, etc. At these events, IPD met with companies that were 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.

Tourism

13. Taiwan is Hong Kong’s second largest visitor source market. In 2016, there were around 2.01 million visitor arrivals from Taiwan, accounting for 3.6% of the total visitor arrivals in Hong Kong. From January to August 2017, there were around 1.35 million visitor arrivals from Taiwan.

14. Having regard to the convenient transport services connecting Hong Kong and Taiwan, HKETCO spared no efforts in enhancing people-to-people exchange between the two places by working with the Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTB) Taiwan Branch to attract people in Taiwan to visit Hong Kong. HKETCO supported the HKTB Taiwan Branch in launching a cultural tourism promotion programme entitled “Old Town Central” in

April 2017. Promotion work included publication of “Old Town Central – Self-guided Walks in the Heart of Hong Kong”, which highlighted historical buildings, art and culture, delicacies and small shops with a cultural and creative identity in Central and Sheung Wan. Recommendations of Taiwan residents in Hong Kong were also included. Moreover, an array of online video clips was produced in collaboration with famous key opinion leaders in Taiwan.

15. To tie in with the launch of direct flights between Hong Kong and Hualien County in the eastern part of Taiwan, HKETCO organised the “This is Hong Kong” exhibition in Hualien County in May 2017 to showcase Hong Kong’s rich and diverse culture, art, delicacies and city icons to visitors and public in the eastern part of Taiwan through interactive devices, videos, display panels and lanterns, etc. HKETCO also invited the HKTB Taiwan Branch to participate in the event to promote tourism in Hong Kong, and invited a Hong Kong resident in Taiwan to demonstrate the making of egg waffles and introduce Hong Kong’s street snacks.

16. HKETCO also supported the HKTB Taiwan Branch in launching an array of tourism promotion activities in October to November 2017, including publishing a booklet introducing places to go along the MTR route as recommended by Taiwan people in Hong Kong, and collaborating with media organisations in Taiwan to promote the “Hong Kong Wine & Dine Festival”, “Hong Kong Great November Feast” and hiking trails in Hong Kong.

17. In addition, HKTB collaborated with the relevant party in Taiwan to conduct joint promotions on “multi-destination” itineraries and products in visitor source markets such as the United States and Canada. As regards cruise tourism, HKTB will continue to work with other members of the “Asia Cruise Co-operation” (ACC) (including Hainan, Xiamen, Taiwan, etc.) to enhance the overall attractiveness of ports in Asia to cruise lines and to drive more deployment of cruise ships to ACC member ports through joint promotion and participation in large-scale cruise industry events.

Promotion of Cultural and Creative Industries

18. During the report period, HKETCO actively promoted exchanges of the cultural and creative industries between Hong Kong and Taiwan. In addition to the work mentioned in paragraphs 14 and 15 above, other major work includes –

- (a) supporting the Hong Kong-Taiwan Cultural Co-operation Committee⁴ in organising the “Hong Kong Week 2016” in Taipei City between November and December 2016, and providing assistance in the visits of the Committee. The “Hong Kong Week 2016” aimed to promote Hong Kong’s arts, culture and creative industries to the people in Taiwan. Amongst the activities involved were fashion exhibition and show, exhibition on Hong Kong’s historic buildings, as well as various performing arts programmes comprising Nanyin and Cantonese music, orchestra, dance, a cappella and Chinese opera. There were also a series of extension activities such as workshops and seminars;

⁴ The Hong Kong-Taiwan Cultural Co-operation Committee was established in August 2010. It aims to foster exchange, liaison and co-operation between Hong Kong and Taiwan in the development of arts and culture and the creative industries.

- (b) publishing the sixth issue of “Art & Culture@Hong Kong” in November 2016 to promote the lifestyle as well as art and culture of Hong Kong through twelve interviews with people from various sectors in Hong Kong. The seventh issue of “Art & Culture@Hong Kong” is under preparation, and is expected to be published in November 2017;
- (c) setting up a Hong Kong lantern area at the 2017 Nantou Lantern Festival in January and February 2017, presenting culture and customs, specialty food, as well as city icons of Hong Kong to the people in Taiwan. Lanterns featured in the 2016 Mid-Autumn Lantern Carnival at the Hong Kong Victoria Park were shipped to Taiwan, redesigned and displayed at the area;
- (d) supporting the Hong Kong Publishing Federation and the Hong Kong Printers Association to participate in the “Taipei International Book Exhibition” in February 2017, during which the “Soaring Creativity - Hong Kong Pavilion” was set up to showcase the diversity and development of Hong Kong’s publishing and printing industry. Publications introducing Hong Kong were also distributed to promote Hong Kong’s cultural characteristics;
- (e) inviting Yat Po Singers, an art group from Hong Kong, to give a performance and share their views on a capella at the 2017 Spring Reception (see paragraph 21(c) below) in February 2017; and
- (f) supporting the Asian Youth Orchestra, which is based in Hong Kong, to perform in Taipei City and Chiayi City in July 2017.

19. HKETCO also conducted exchanges with members and organisations of the cultural sector in Hong Kong who came to perform, organise or participate in exhibitions/activities in Taiwan; and actively met with members and organisations of various fields of the cultural sector in Taiwan.

Public Relations

20. 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 industrial and commercial associations, cultural organisations, universities and the academia, etc., as well as visiting infrastructural facilities, and art and cultural venues.

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

- (a) co-operating with two business magazines in Taiwan, namely “Business Weekly” and “Global Views Monthly”, to produce columns from August 2016 to August 2017, featuring interviews with people from Hong Kong and Taiwan. The columns helped promote the various advantages of Hong Kong in the fields of innovation and technology, startups, finance, trading, logistics,

social enterprises, environmental protection, design and art, etc. A similar column has also been produced in another business magazine in Taiwan, namely “CommonWealth Magazine”, starting from September 2017;

- (b) collaborating with HKBA in organising a roving exhibition on the theme of “Innovative and Diverse - An Amazing Hong Kong” from October to November 2016 in Taipei City, New Taipei City and Hsinchu County to showcase the advantages of the four pillar industries of Hong Kong and the development of emerging industries actively promoted in Hong Kong (including innovation and technology industries, creative industries, arbitration and mediation, and intellectual property trading). The winning entries of the Hong Kong Smart Gifts Design Awards 2016 were also on display at the exhibition in Taipei City and New Taipei City to present the original designs by Hong Kong;
- (c) co-organising the 2017 Spring Reception with the HKTDC Taiwan Branch and the HKTB Taiwan Branch in February 2017, 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;
- (d) organising a roving exhibition in Taipei City, New Taipei City and Hsinchu County between October and November 2017 to introduce facets of life in Hong Kong which are lesser known to the people in Taiwan, including green living, traditional custom as well as art and culture, thereby enhancing their understanding of Hong Kong; and
- (e) 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

22. 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 necessary advice and assistance to the extent possible.

23. Regarding Hong Kong students in Taiwan, the Director and key members of HKETCO visited a total of 17 universities in 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 total of four student gatherings in the northern, central and southern part of Taiwan. 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 June and September 2017 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 amongst students, and to promote Hong Kong.

24. HKETCO maintained close communications with associations of Hong Kong people in Taiwan, including organising a tea gathering for them in October 2016 and a football competition in April 2017, publishing an information booklet for Hong Kong people living in Taiwan, with a view to providing useful information to them, and receiving 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.

25. During the report period, HKETCO received 99 requests for assistance and relevant enquiries from Hong Kong people. These requests and enquiries were mainly related to accidents which occurred in Taiwan, immigration matters 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 relevant organisations or seek legal advice.

Looking Ahead

26. HKETCO has been in operation for nearly six 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 holding different forms of forums and talks; as well as promote exchanges of the cultural and creative industries between the two places through various means.

Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office (Taiwan)
November 2017

**Performance Indicators of
the Mainland and Taiwan Offices**

The performance indicators and the relevant figures in 2015 and 2016 in respect of enhancing trade opportunities, promotion of strengths of Hong Kong, investment promotion and immigration-related matters are as follows –

Enhancing Trade Opportunities

Indicators	2015	2016
Meetings on trade-related matters attended	566	578
Visits to Mainland/Taiwan authorities and trade organisations	800	856
Seminars, exhibitions and workshops		
- organised	140	153
- participated	323	401
Public speeches given	109	140
Media interviews/briefings given	125	124
No. of special trade-related messages issued	363	386

Promotion of Strengths of Hong Kong

Indicators	2015	2016
Call on senior officials/personnel/organisations	2 320	2 650
Public relations/cultural functions/events		
- organised	483	562
- participated	736	639
Newsletters/pamphlets/press releases issued	525	595
No. of visitors assisted	5 403	4 857
Public speeches given	167	213
Media interviews/briefings given	323	341
Enquiries handled (excluding those related to immigration matters)	13 890	11 758

Investment Promotion

Indicators	2015	2016
New projects generated ¹	165	164
Projects completed ²	89	100

¹ New projects with the potential of becoming completed projects in the coming 18 months. It reflects the investment promotion efforts in a particular year, discounting projects carried forward from previous years.

² Investment projects each resulting in a Mainland or Taiwan company setting up or expanding its business in Hong Kong

Immigration-related Matters

Indicators	2015	2016
Unreferred visas/entry permit cases ³		
- received	2 764	2 414
- processed	2 760	2 319
Referred visas/entry permit cases		
- received	1 871	2 300
- processed	1 829	2 261
HKSAR passport replacement		
- no. of application received	-	319
- no. of passport issued	-	174
Provision of practical assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland (no. of cases)	407	319
No. of enquiries handled by the Immigration Divisions	25 310	27 837

³ “Visa” is issued to foreign nationals for entry to the HKSAR, whereas “entry permit” is issued to Chinese residents of the Mainland, MSAR, and Taiwan for entry to the HKSAR. The Immigration Divisions of BJO and Shanghai ETO are authorised to process and approve or refuse only certain categories of visa and entry permit applications without referring to the Immigration Department in Hong Kong.