

**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 November 2017 and October 2018.

2. Capitalising on the opportunities arising from the Belt and Road Initiative and the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area is a focus of work mentioned in the 2018 Policy Address. Both 2018 and 2019 are the peak period for respective provinces and municipalities to roll out measures for implementation of the Belt and Road Initiative. Given the various roles that Hong Kong can play under the Belt and Road Initiative, measures to be introduced by the respective provinces and municipalities will provide more opportunities for Hong Kong people and enterprises. The development of the Greater Bay Area will bring Hong Kong new areas of economic growth and new opportunities for Hong Kong residents. With the commissioning of the Hong Kong Section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link, the HZMB and the new land boundary control point at Liantang/Heung Yuen Wai, a one-hour living circle encompassing Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao is basically formed. Since last year, the Central Government has introduced a series of measures to provide facilitation for Hong Kong people living, working and studying in the Mainland, including the measure introduced by the State Council in August this year for Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan residents to apply for residence permits, which has provided convenience for Hong Kong people to pursue career development in the Mainland.

3. 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 paragraphs and continue their efforts in promoting Hong Kong to their target audiences as set out in paragraphs 4 to 7 below.

Government and Non-Government Organisations

4. 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.

5. 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

6. 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

7. The Mainland and Taiwan Offices have been promoting Hong Kong's advantages and its positive image through various channels, 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 the 40th anniversary of the reform and opening-up of the country in the Mainland, to look back on how Hong Kong has actively taken part in the country's reform and opening-up over the past 40 years, and to look ahead on how Hong Kong and the Mainland may work together to expand the scope of co-operation and explore more opportunities under the country's further reform and opening-up. The Mainland and Taiwan 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

8. 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. Each Mainland Office has 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. Mainland Offices will continue to provide enhanced service and information to the Hong Kong people living, working or studying in the Mainland, 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 Mainland authorities. Moreover, to support the policy initiative of developing high value-added maritime services, Regional Desks of the Hong Kong Shipping Registry (HKSR) will be set up in some of the Mainland Offices and Liaison Units to render more direct and prompt support to shipowners at the ports concerned and to promote the HKSR. The HKETCO will also continue to promote economic, trade and cultural exchanges between Hong Kong and Taiwan.

Reports from the Mainland and Taiwan Offices

9. 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

10. The performance indicators and the relevant figures in 2016 and 2017 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. There are two liaison units (LUs) under the BJO, i.e. the Liaoning Liaison Unit (LNLU) and Tianjin Liaison Unit (TJLU).

Commercial Relations

2. BJO and its LUs participated proactively in promoting the Belt and Road Initiative and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, and continued to enhance the liaison with central ministries and departments, as well as the governments and local businesses in provinces / municipalities / autonomous regions under its coverage, promote Hong Kong's strengths, and assist Mainland enterprises to use Hong Kong as a platform to "go global". During the report period, the Chief Executive (CE) led a Hong Kong delegation to Beijing and participated in a seminar entitled "Strategies and Opportunities under the Belt and Road Initiative - Leveraging Hong Kong's Advantages, Meeting the Country's Needs" in February 2018 which was officiated by Mr Zhang Dejiang, the then Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress; CE also attended the meeting of the leading group for the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area held in Beijing in August 2018; and CE also led a government delegation to attend the 4th Plenary Session of the Hong Kong/Beijing Co-operation Conference and the 22nd Beijing-Hong Kong Economic Co-operation Symposium in October 2018. BJO provided support for these activities. BJO also participated in the Belt and Road Joint Conference held in Beijing in June 2018, which was attended by the Secretary for Justice, the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development and the Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs.

3. During the report period, BJO also attended the 2018 China (Tianjin) International Fair for Investment and Trade, the "Join Hands with a Western Province in the Development of Belt and Road – Hong Kong Entrepreneurs into Ningxia" activity, the China (Langfang) International Economic and Trade Fair 2018, the 29th Harbin International Economic and Trade Fair, the 24th China Lanzhou Investment and Trade Fair, the 6th China-Eurasia Expo, etc., with a view to sharing the latest developments of Hong Kong and fostering exchanges with the relevant provinces / municipalities / autonomous regions in economic, trade, cultural and other matters.

4. BJO was involved in the bilateral negotiations between the HKSAR and the Mainland or with other countries / territories, and witnessed the signing of agreements in Beijing, including the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement and the Arrangement between the National Development and Reform Commission and the

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

HKSAR Government for Advancing Hong Kong's Full Participation in and Contribution to the Belt and Road Initiative.

5. The Chief Executive's 2017 Policy Address sets out a number of key policy foci, including promotion of innovation and technology development, attraction of talents and promotion of professional services. To this end, BJO organised a seminar on FinTech innovation, an investor roadshow for Hong Kong start-ups, and a series of media activities for promoting the image of Hong Kong in entrepreneurship and innovation in Beijing in April 2018. The seminar was attended by over 200 practitioners, researchers and investors from FinTech and related fields. The Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council, the Torch High Technology Industry Development Centre of the Ministry of Science and Technology, the Administrative Committee of Zhongguancun Science Park, etc were also represented. In September 2018, TJLU supported the Financial Secretary (FS) and the Secretary for Innovation and Technology who participated in the World Economic Forum's "Annual Meeting of the New Champions" held in Tianjin. FS delivered a speech at one of the discussion sessions and led a delegation of startups set up by Hong Kongers in Hong Kong and Beijing to showcase our achievements in innovation as well as to promote Hong Kong's strengths in the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. To attract talents from the Mainland, the Immigration Division of BJO introduced different admission schemes to Mainland residents on various occasions such as investment promotion activities and career talks in universities. BJO was equally active in promoting the professional services of Hong Kong in, for example, China Arbitration Week 2018 organised by China International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission during the report period.

6. BJO closely monitored the latest economic development of the Mainland and provided timely reports to the relevant bureaux and departments, and pertinent news to Hong Kong entrepreneurs through organisations like the Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce in China. During the report period, the Proposal for the Reform of the Administration Systems for the Collection of State and Local Taxes was promulgated on 20 July 2018 by the Offices of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the State Council, which provided that the basic pension and the medical, unemployment, work injury and maternity insurance premiums would be collectively levied by the tax bureau with effect from 1 January 2019. On 18 September 2018, BJO organised a seminar, inviting expert speakers to analyse the impact of the new arrangement on social security levies, with a view to helping Hong Kong enterprises in the Mainland better understand the possible impact. The Decision Concerning the Amendment of the Individual Income Tax Law of the People's Republic of China, promulgated by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress on 31 August 2018, provided for a number of changes (including those with significant impact on tax resident status and tax obligations relating to the individual income tax of foreign (Hong Kong inclusive) nationals) with effect from 1 January 2019. BJO was monitoring the developments and would organise a seminar with experts speaking on the possible implications of the new tax policies for Hong Kong enterprises and Hong Kong people in the Mainland.

Public Relations

7. To showcase Hong Kong's soft power in culture, arts and creativity, BJO and its LUs organised a series of exhibitions and promotional activities in their service areas in the past year. The activities were complemented with publicity strategies like placement of newspaper advertorials and media partnerships to strengthen the image of Hong Kong as a cultural and arts metropolis.

Roving exhibitions and advertorials on “Arts & Culture in Hong Kong”

8. To highlight Hong Kong’s edge not just as an international financial centre but also an international cultural hub where the East and the West mesh, BJO held roving exhibitions with the theme of “Arts & Culture in Hong Kong” from April to August 2018 at seven trade fairs and expos held respectively in the six places of Tianjin, Langfang (Hebei), Harbin (Heilongjiang), Lanzhou (Gansu), Urumqi (Xinjiang) and Changchun (Jilin). The exhibitions introduced to the locals Hong Kong’s year-round cultural activities, diverse creative environment and rich cultural heritage, as well as the HKSAR Government’s policies and infrastructure in relation to culture and arts. The exhibitions attracted some 230 000 visitors in total.

9. Leveraging the promotional effect of the roving exhibitions, BJO placed advertorials in a number of influential local newspapers in the provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions where the exhibitions were held. The advertorials were themed around fostering closer bilateral trade co-operation and cultural exchange. Apart from promoting Hong Kong’s trade relations, the advertorials featured Hong Kong’s performing arts programmes, art exhibitions and cultural activities that had drawn worldwide audience, as well as Hong Kong’s world-leading art auction market, amplifying Hong Kong’s image as a cultural hub.

The Seventh Hong Kong Thematic Film Festival “Music in Hong Kong Cinema”

10. Hong Kong movies are very popular on the Mainland, serving as an important gateway for knowing the local culture. In July 2018, BJO and Broadway Cinematheque jointly kicked off the 7th Hong Kong Thematic Film Festival, entitled “Music in Hong Kong Cinema”. The film festival, themed around film scores, included a selection of impressive works covering genres such as wuxia, musicals and Chinese opera. It would travel to 15 cities across the Mainland until late December. To mark the 40th anniversary of China’s reform and opening-up this year, a seminar was specially held in Beijing with veteran Hong Kong and Mainland experts and academics invited to review the history and changes in the co-production of films between the two places, and to explore strategies and opportunities in film co-production in the future.

Partnerships with media organisations

11. BJO proactively promotes Hong Kong’s culture through the traditional media and online means. 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 weekly radio programmes. From October 2017 to October 2018, the two channels had aired 130 feature reports on Hong Kong’s major happenings and developments. Of these reports, as many as 53 (or 40 per cent) were on Hong Kong’s major cultural events, arts activities and creative industries, enhancing the Mainland audience’s understanding about Hong Kong’s soft power.

12. As for online publicity, BJO has collaborated with the People’s Daily Online (PDO) for years. In December 2017, the PDO visited Hong Kong for five days to conduct in-depth interviews under the theme “We Connect for Hope”, covering topics such as Hong Kong’s film industry, intangible cultural heritage, youth development, innovation and technology, and so on. PDO subsequently issued seven in-depth multimedia reports with photos and

videos. The reports were picked up and carried by many Mainland media, and achieved the desired publicity effect.

Cultural Exchange

13. Since the creation of the post of Head (Cultural Exchange) in 2016, BJO has fostered closer and more frequent contacts with the Ministry of Culture and Tourism (MoCT) (formerly Ministry of Culture). Liaison with MoCT has been made from time to time to explore more cultural exchange opportunities for 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 regions under BJO's purview, and has made timely reports to the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) and the Leisure and Cultural Services Department on opportunities of collaboration between Hong Kong artists and arts groups and the cultural venues in the Mainland.

14. During the report period, BJO supported and sponsored a variety of cultural exchange activities of major and small / medium Hong Kong arts groups. In the area of music, BJO supported the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra to perform at the Beijing International Music Festival, the Asian Youth Orchestra and the Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra to perform in Beijing, and the Gaudeamus Dunhuang to perform at the Dunhuang Expo. On exhibitions in Beijing, BJO supported the Hong Kong-Macao Visual Art Biennale organised by HAB and MoCT, the Art Exhibition of Prof. Jao Tsung-I by the University of Hong Kong, and the Ink New Media Exhibition by Hong Kong Art Network, as well as the Ink Global Exhibition by Young Artists Development Foundation which was staged at the Dunhuang Expo. On drama, BJO supported the Hong Kong Repertory Theatre, Théâtre de la Feuille, and Actors' Family; and on Cantonese Opera, the West Kowloon Xiqu Centre and the Sing Fai Cantonese Opera Promotion Association to perform in Beijing. As regards dance performances, BJO supported the City Contemporary Dance Company to stage performances at Beijing Dance Festival and conducted a series of Hong Kong dance exchange activities, and also the Hong Kong Dance Federation to perform in Beijing. In addition, BJO collaborated with Hong Kong Film Archive to present film shows and talks at Tsinghua University Art Museum, Beijing Normal University and Renmin University of China. BJO also organised a seminar of Hong Kong Movie Music jointly with Tianqiao Performing Arts Center. On the whole, the activities were warmly welcomed by the Mainland audience and have served to enhance their understanding of Hong Kong's arts and cultural development, and to strengthen the cultural exchange between the two places.

Youth Exchange

15. BJO and its LUs have been supporting internship and exchange programmes for Hong Kong students in the Mainland, so as to encourage exchange and co-operation between young people from the Mainland and Hong Kong. During the report period, BJO and its LUs supported visiting Hong Kong student groups in internship or exchange programmes in their service areas. BJO offered assistance in the three thematic youth internship programmes organised by HAB in the summer of 2018 including "Youth Internship Programme at Palace Museum", "Youth Internship Programme at Chinese Academy of Sciences" and "Youth Internship Programme at Dunhuang", and accompanied CE, FS and other principal officials of the Government of the HKSAR to attend the related activities.

16. Regarding youth exchanges in the three Northeastern provinces, the Hong Kong United Youth Association, supported by BJO and LNLU, has extended the internship

programme from Dalian of Liaoning Province to cover also Harbin of Heilongjiang Province since 2016 in order to encourage young people to take up exchange programmes and internships outside the few most popular cities of Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Shenzhen. In promoting exchanges among youths in Hong Kong and Tianjin, TJLU co-operated with a non-profit organisation in Hong Kong to provide internship programmes university students from Hong Kong at various Hong Kong enterprises and local cultural institutions in Tianjin in summer 2018.

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

17. BJO provided support to the HKSAR Government delegation led by CE who co-chaired the 4th Plenary Session of the Hong Kong/Beijing Co-operation Conference with the Mayor of the Beijing Municipality in Beijing in October 2018. BJO and TJLU also supported the visit by CE to the Xiongan New Area in Hebei Province. During the visit, CE learned about the master plan of the Xiongan New Area and the restoration of Baiyangdian. She also met with the leaders of the Hebei Province to exchange views on co-operation between Hong Kong and Hebei Province.

18. During the report period, BJO strived to enhance the Government-to-Government work and step up liaison and establish platforms for co-operation through visits to the central and local authorities and participation in their activities. BJO also liaised with the central and other Mainland authorities over relevant laws and regulations and policies, and provided regular reports to the relevant bureaux and departments of the HKSAR Government to facilitate their timely understanding of the policies and developments in the Mainland and assessment of possible implications on Hong Kong.

19. BJO has also enhanced 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 continues to keep close contact with the Hong Kong business associations in Beijing (including the Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce in China (HKCCC), the Hong Kong Professionals (Beijing) Association, the Hong Kong Association of China Business) and to meet the locally-based Hong Kong people and businessmen, so as to learn about their situation in doing business, working and living there and, when necessary, to refer their concerns to the relevant authorities.

20. 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, studies and job placement situation; supporting their promotion of Hong Kong on campus; and providing them with timely information on employment opportunities. BJO organises an orientation session and an employment career talk as the two major student activities every year.

21. During the report period, BJO maintained close liaison with the central and the relevant local authorities to better understand the details of the facilitation measures for Hong Kong people working, studying and living in the Mainland, followed up on their implementation and disseminated latest information to Hong Kong people and businessmen through different channels. BJO proactively maintained connections with groups of Hong Kong people and students. To help enhance their understanding of the various facilitation measures (including the Residence Permit for Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan Residents

which had been open for applications since 1 September 2018), BJO arranged a session in which the representatives of the Hong Kong people groups could directly express their views to the relevant Mainland authorities.

Investment Promotion

22. On attracting Mainland enterprises to invest and establish operations in Hong Kong, the North China Investment Promotion Unit (IPU) of InvestHK in BJO endeavours 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, IPU proactively reached out to different organisations 389 times, generated 50 live projects and completed 27 investment projects, enabling the relevant enterprises to invest in Hong Kong. Regarding investment promotion events, IPU organised or attended 35 industry-specific or investment promotion seminars and exhibitions. In particular, IPU organised roundtable meetings and seminars on topics including Hong Kong's aircraft leasing tax regime, legal and dispute resolution services, Fintech and Belt and Road Initiative respectively on November 2017, July 2018, August 2018 and October 2018 in Beijing and Urumqi, Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region. Besides, InvestHK organised a Hong Kong – Beijing business matching session during the seminar entitled “Strategies and Opportunities under the Belt and Road Initiative - Leveraging Hong Kong's Advantages, Meeting the Country's Needs” in conjunction with the Belt and Road General Chamber of Commerce held in February 2018. Hong Kong delegates from the finance and investment sectors met with the Executive Vice Mayor of the Beijing Municipal Government, Mr Zhang Gong, and representatives of the Beijing Municipal Commission of Development and Reform. A business matching session with over ten large-scale Beijing enterprises was carried out simultaneously. In addition, IPU also joined hands with BJO and its two liaison units to call on enterprises and government departments, supported the events and activities of different organisations in the service area from time to time, and promoted Hong Kong's competitive edge of capital markets, introduced the latest government policies and tax incentive schemes, as well as her business-friendly environment for innovation and entrepreneurship.

23. IPU maintains good working relationships 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, IPU 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.

Liaoning Liaison Unit

24. LNLU has been set up for nearly four years and has continued to enhance liaison between the HKSAR Government and different levels of the local governments in the three northeastern provinces, and provide support for Hong Kong people and enterprises in the area. LNLU's work includes calling on the government agencies of the three northeastern provinces (Heilongjiang Province, Jilin Province, Liaoning Province) to strengthen Government-to-Government liaison, provide support for the government agencies of the three northeastern provinces on their visits to Hong Kong, etc.

25. During the report period, LNLU attended various trade fairs, including the 29th Harbin International Economic and Trade Fair held in Harbin of Heilongjiang Province; and the 2018 Northeast Asia Cross-Border E-commerce Products Expo held in Changchun of Jilin Province, to promote the strengths of Hong Kong.

26. LNLU has all along maintained close liaison with HKCCC-Shenyang, Jilin Province Hong Kong Enterprises Association, and Hong Kong Trade Development Council Dalian Office and supported their activities. Besides, LNLU also meets with Hong Kong people working and studying in Shenyang, Dalian, Changchun, and Harbin, as well as representatives of Hong Kong enterprises to better understand their situation and needs relating to living, doing business and studying in the northeastern provinces, and provides assistance as appropriate. LNLU also took the initiative to brief them on the facilitation measures for Hong Kong people working, studying and living in the Mainland, and gathered their views on the measures.

27. LNLU has also actively promoted exchanges in the areas of youth, culture, etc. between Hong Kong and the three northeastern provinces, and has assisted in receiving Hong Kong organisations having exchange activities in the area. During the report period, LNLU received over 300 Hong Kong young people who joined the youth exchange delegations organised by seven different groups, including Our Hong Kong Foundation, Hok Yau Club, Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education, etc., in the three northeastern provinces. LNLU also actively supported the exchange activities organised by tertiary institutes in the three northeastern provinces, including the “Little Satellite Scholars Programme” by the Harbin Institute of Technology and the summer training programme by Dalian Maritime University for Hong Kong law students. LNLU supported the student summer internship programmes by Hong Kong United Youth Association in Dalian and Harbin, and organised some weekend activities for the participants in Shenyang. LNLU also provided two internship places, each lasting for two months, for university students of Hong Kong.

Tianjin Liaison Unit

28. Since its establishment in February 2017, TJLU has been in operation for over a year and is committed to strengthening ties with various government agencies of Tianjin Municipality and Hebei Province in order to foster economic and cultural exchange and co-operation between Hong Kong, Tianjin and Hebei. TJLU met with Hong Kong people, businesses and students in Tianjin and Hebei from time to time to understand their needs and provide assistance. At the same time, TJLU provided logistical support for visits by senior officials of Hong Kong, Tianjin and Hebei.

29. TJLU has a close working relationship with the local governments of Tianjin and Hebei. During the report period, TJLU called on the various government departments of Tianjin and Hebei. It also participated in many trade-related activities organised by Tianjin and Hebei governments, highlights of which included the 2018 China (Tianjin) International Fair for Investment and Trade & PECC Exposition in Tianjin, the Conference on Overseas Chinese Pioneering and Developing in Tianjin China 2018 cum World Project and Commodity of Global Entrepreneurs Expo in Tianjin, and the 2018 China (Langfang) International Economic & Trade Fair in Langfang, Hebei. TJLU also organised jointly with the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the Tianjin Municipal Government (“Tianjin HKMAO”), the Administration of China (Tianjin) Pilot Free Trade Zone and the HKCCC-Tianjin a briefing on the “Plan to Further Deepen the Reform and Opening Up of the China (Tianjin) Pilot Free Trade Zone” (the “Plan”) to introduce the details of the Plan to

Hong Kong people and businesses in Tianjin and Beijing. In addition, when the FS and the Secretary for Innovation and Technology attended Summer Davos in Tianjin, TJLU made arrangements for them to meet with the Tianjin Municipal Government. Assistance was also provided to the Hong Kong technology startups joining the delegation.

30. During the report period, TJLU joined hands with BJO in visiting the Xiongan New Area, Shijiazhuang, Baoding, Langfang and Zhangjiakou in Hebei Province to learn about their business environments and measures for attracting investment, as well as to study the latest development of major projects in the province, such as the Beijing New Airport and the 2022 Winter Olympics, in order to identify new investment and co-operation opportunities for Hong Kong businesses and relay the relevant information to the chambers of commerce and businesses concerned in Hong Kong.

31. On liaison with Hong Kong people and businesses in Tianjin and Hebei, TJLU maintained close contact with HKCCC-Tianjin and Hong Kong Hebei Chamber of Commerce and supported their activities. It also actively promoted exchanges in youth, culture and other areas between Hong Kong and Tianjin, as well as received groups visiting Tianjin for such exchanges. During the report period, TJLU received many Hong Kong student exchange groups visiting Tianjin, as well as organised student activities and participated in student gatherings to understand the study and living conditions of Hong Kong students studying in Tianjin. Moreover, through co-operation with the Tianjin Municipal Administration of Culture, Radio, Film and Television, Tianjin Museum and Tianjin Art Museum provided summer internship positions for Hong Kong students during the summer holiday of 2018. In respect of facilitation measures for Hong Kong people living in Tianjin, TJLU organised jointly with Tianjin HKMAO, Tianjin Housing Fund Management Centre and HKCCC-Tianjin a briefing on matters relating to contributions to and use of Housing Fund by Hong Kong people working in Tianjin, and assisted in coordinating Hong Kong people's attendance at a seminar on application for Residence Permits for residents of Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan in Tianjin organised by Tianjin HKMAO in order to brief Hong Kong people in Tianjin on the details of the two measures concerned.

Immigration-related Matters and Assistance Rendered

32. 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 talent admission schemes and providing practical assistance to Hong Kong residents who had lost their identity documents or encountered personal safety problems in the Mainland. From November 2017 to October 2018, BJO received a total of 85 requests for assistance from Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland. Of these, 52 cases involved the loss of travel documents or monies, 22 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 11 cases involved the detention of Hong Kong residents in the Mainland. BJO also processed 5 252 entry applications, 645 applications for HKSAR passport replacement and handled 22 896 enquiries.

Looking Ahead

33. 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 its service areas, 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 2018

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

The Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong (GDETO) of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) is responsible for handling economic and trade matters between the HKSAR and Fujian, Guangdong, Guangxi, Hainan and Yunnan (the five provinces/region), and for encouraging Mainland enterprises to invest in Hong Kong. Through its main office in Guangzhou and its Liaison Units in Shenzhen (SZLU), Fujian (FJLU) and Guangxi (GXLU), GDETO strengthens liaison with local governments, non-government organisations (including the representatives of Hong Kong organisations such as the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC), Hong Kong Tourism Board, Hong Kong Productivity Council (HKPC) and Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited (HKEX), etc., in the five provinces/region), Hong Kong people and businessmen, 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 business sectors 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 exhibitions and media coverage on Hong Kong's latest development in various aspects, targeting the business sector and the general public in the Mainland.

2. In the past year, GDETO arranged multiple visits by high-level officials of Hong Kong and the Mainland, and participated in many high-level forums and large-scale trade events held in the five provinces/region. These included the Chief Executive (CE)'s visit to Dongguan and her attendance at the "16th PRD Annual Gala Dinner" in December 2017, CE's visits to Shenzhen, Zhongshan, Zhuhai, Huizhou and Guangzhou in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Greater Bay Area) in March, May and July 2018, attendance by the CE at the "Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2018" and its sub-forum "The Guangdong-HK-Macao Greater Bay Area" in April 2018 in Hainan Province, CE boarding the Vibrant Express train bound for Guangzhounan Station together with other guests and making a brief stop at the Guangzhounan Station before returning to Hong Kong, after the launching and plaque unveiling ceremony for the Hong Kong Section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link held at the West Kowloon Station in September 2018, attendance by the CE at the "12th Pan-Pearl River Delta Regional Co-operation and Development Forum and Trade Fair" in Guangzhou in September 2018, and CE leading a delegation to attend the opening ceremony of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge held in Zhuhai in October 2018; visits by the Chief Secretary for Administration (CS) to Shenzhen in December 2017 and February 2018; attendance by the Financial Secretary at the "Qianhai Co-operation Forum" in Shenzhen in July 2018, and visits to Guangzhou, Foshan, Jiangmen, Shenzhen, Dongguan and Huizhou in the Bay Area between July and September 2018, and the Secretary for Justice's visit to Guangzhou in September 2018.

Commercial Relations

3. GDETO endeavoured to provide support to Hong Kong enterprises in developing business in the five provinces/region. GDETO's key services included collecting latest information on the Mainland's trade-related policies, laws and regulations as well as economic development, disseminating such information to the Hong Kong enterprises through the weekly GDETO Newsletter published by email, GDETO's website and official

WeChat platform. GDETO also organised seminars on issues of general concern to Hong Kong enterprises (for example, taxation, social insurance and labour law; housing fund; innovation and business startups, intellectual property rights, development of the service industry, regulations and policies of Free Trade Zones, etc.) to help them capitalise on business opportunities and convey their views on commercial and trade issues of concern to the relevant Mainland authorities. During the report period, a total of 15 seminars were held by GDETO in Guangzhou, Foshan, Shenzhen, Fuzhou and Nanning.

4. GDETO had been closely monitoring the economic and social development of the respective provinces and municipalities, including their respective plans on participating in the Belt and Road Initiative, the development of the Guangdong Pilot Free Trade Zone, the Fujian Pilot Free Trade Zone and the Greater Bay Area. By disseminating information, organising seminars and other activities, GDETO assisted Hong Kong enterprises to seize the business opportunities arising from these new initiatives. During the report period, important policy developments included the promulgation in May 2018 of the “Notice of the State Council on Issuing the Plan for Further Deepening the Reform and Opening up of China (Guangdong) Pilot Free Trade Zone” that called for further opening up of the Guangdong Pilot Free Trade Zone, and the “Notice of the State Council on Issuing the Plan for Further Deepening the Reform and Opening up of China (Fujian) Pilot Free Trade Zone” that sets 2020 as the target year for establishing a regime that is in line with international practice on investment and trade, through creating a law-based, internationalised and facilitative business environment, and calls for enhancing the linkage between the reforms in the Fujian Pilot Free Trade Zone and reforms in Fujian province.

5. GDETO also reflected the views of the Hong Kong business community on the business environment in the five provinces/region and convey their policy suggestions to the local governments. For example, GDETO coordinated a meeting in November 2017 between representatives of Hong Kong industry and trade organisations and the Guangdong Environmental Protection Department (GDEP) for reflecting the problems encountered by relevant enterprises in applying for additional quota for import of solid waste and their concerns about the environmental standards and policies applicable to plastics solid waste; GDETO assisted relevant Hong Kong industry and trade organisations (HKITOs) to reflect their views and concerns on the “Import Waste Management Directory” to GDEP in January 2018. GDETO organised in March 2018 the “Gathering with Heads of Hong Kong’s Trade and Industry Associations” to provide a platform of exchange between the representatives of HKITOs and local government officials, during which guest speakers from government departments of the Guangdong Province and Shenzhen Municipality briefed the participating representatives on the policies under the “Certain Policies and Measures of Guangdong Province on Further Expanding Opening-up and Actively Attracting Foreign Investment”, the policies with respect to the payment of social insurance contribution and the housing fund in Guangdong, and the policies under “Certain Measures related to Strengthening the Reform of Business Environment of Shenzhen Municipality”. GDETO arranged a meeting for officials from the Guangdong Port Administration, Guangdong Sub-Administration of Customs China, and Gongbei Customs, and representatives of relevant organisations of Hong Kong to reflect the problems encountered by the industry on the export of sand and aggregates for building and construction from Zhuhai to Hong Kong; and in September and October 2018 respectively, GDETO arranged a meeting between the GDEP and representatives of relevant organisations of Hong Kong to learn about the latest policy and development of the control for import of waste, and reflect the industry’s concern and appeal on the treatment of dangerous and solid waste.

6. GDETO also organised and attended various activities to promote the roles Hong Kong could play for the national Belt and Road Initiative and the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. For example, GDETO attended the “2017 Summit on Co-operation in the Bay Area Development” held in Guangzhou and the “Inauguration of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Entrepreneurs Alliance” held in Qianhai in December 2017; GDETO organised in March 2018 the “Seminar on International Co-operation Opportunities under the Belt and Road Initiative and Practical Issues of Tax Reform” in Fuzhou to introduce to the Hong Kong business community the opportunities arising from international co-operation under the Belt and Road Initiative and the successful cases of Hong Kong enterprises’ participation in the Belt and Road Initiative; GDETO co-organised in May 2018 with Invest Hong Kong (IHK) and relevant departments of Fujian Provincial Government a business roundtable under the theme of “Belt and Road, Together We Grow” for Quanzhou enterprises to introduce to them the investment environment as well as latest development of the capital market in Hong Kong, to encourage them to raise funds in Hong Kong, as well as to introduce Hong Kong’s roles in assisting Mainland enterprises in seizing the opportunities under the Belt and Road Initiative, etc.; GDETO organised in May 2018 the “Seminar on Hong Kong Legal and Arbitration Services under the Belt and Road Initiative” to introduce to Mainland enterprises on using Hong Kong’s legal and arbitration services in their “Go Global” ventures in Nanning; in May 2018, GDETO staged a Hong Kong Pavilion in the “14th China (Shenzhen) International Cultural Industries Fair” with the theme of “Taste. Life - Bay Area, Hong Kong, Nathan Road” to showcase Hong Kong’s creative industries and design services and how they could enhance the quality of life of residents of the Greater Bay Area; GDETO provided support to the 2018 Hong Kong Legal Services Forum held by the Department of Justice, HKSAR Government, in Guangzhou in September 2018 to promote Hong Kong legal services; and participated in the “Thematic Forum of 21st Century Maritime Silk Road International Expo” held in Guangzhou in October 2018 to promote Hong Kong’s roles under the Belt and Road Initiative, etc.

7. To support the continual development of Hong Kong services enterprises, and to enhance their co-operation with counterparts in Guangdong, GDETO has joined hands with HKTDC and the Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce in China – Guangdong (HKCCC-GD) since 2014 to publish the “Directory of Hong Kong Service Enterprises in Guangdong” (the Directory). The Directory provides information of Hong Kong service enterprises in the Pearl River Delta Region to facilitate users in Guangdong to establish contact with these enterprises. Apart from printed and on-line editions, a mobile version was created for the 2018 Directory to facilitate easy access to the information in the Directory. In addition, GDETO also served as a supporting organisation and member of the adjudication panel for the “Gold Pilot Awards 2018” organised by the HKCCC-GD and HKPC to recognise the achievement of Hong Kong service enterprises in Guangdong and promote the competitive edges of Hong Kong service industry.

Investment Promotion

8. To seize the opportunities arising from the Belt and Road Initiative and the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, GDETO endeavoured to encourage Mainland enterprises of the five provinces/region to take advantage of Hong Kong’s advantages in financial services, innovation and technology, professional services, maritime and logistics, etc. by investing, raising funds/listing in Hong Kong, and developing Belt and Road business in Hong Kong. During the report period, GDETO worked with IHK, Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA), HKEX, Hong Kong Science and Technology

Parks Corporation (HKSTP), Hong Kong Applied Science and Technology Research Institute (ASTRI), representatives of Hong Kong financial and service industries, commercial and financial authorities as well as the hi-tech zones of respective municipalities in 10 events to promote investment in Hong Kong, attracting participation of more than 550 companies and government representatives. Major promotion events included:

- (a) In Nanning - a seminar in January 2018 on “Capitalise the Business Opportunities of Belt and Road by Investing in Hong Kong for Its Advantages”, co-organised with the Department of Commerce of the Guangxi Autonomous Region and IHK;
- (b) In Xiamen - a seminar in January 2018 on “Financing and Listing of Xiamen Enterprises”, co-organised with the Financial Affairs Office of Xiamen Municipal Government, Xiamen Finance Bureau and Xiamen Development and Reform Commission; a seminar in August of the same year for information and communications technology enterprises on “Belt and Road, Together We Grow” co-organised with Xiamen Software Park and the Software Industry Co-operation Alliance of Xiamen; a break-out seminar on “Belt and Road, Together We Grow” with the Trade Office of the Economic Affairs Department of the Liaison Office of the Central People’s Government in the HKSAR, IHK, Xiamen Federation of Commerce (General Chamber of Commerce), as well as the Xiamen and Quanzhou Committees of the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade during “the 20th China International Fair for Investment and Trade” in September;
- (c) In Guangzhou - a business roundtable in March 2018 on “Seizing the Belt and Road Business Opportunities through the Hong Kong Innovation and Technology Platform”, co-organised with the Guangzhou Municipal Commission of Commerce, HKSTP, and IHK; a seminar in May of the same year on “Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area – New Opportunities Arising from Overseas Treasury Management” co-organised with HKMA and IHK; a business roundtable in September 2018 on “Belt and Road, Together We Grow” co-organised with Department of Commerce of the Guangdong Province and IHK; and
- (d) In Shenzhen - a “Seminar on Shenzhen I&T Enterprises Capitalising the Hong Kong Advantage to Develop Belt and Road Business” in March 2018 co-organised with the Economic, Trade and Information Commission of Shenzhen Municipality, the Shenzhen Outbound Alliance, HKSTP, ASTRI as well as IHK; a seminar for information and communications technology enterprises in August of the same year on “Belt and Road, Together We Grow”, co-organised with the Economic, Trade and Information Commission of Shenzhen Municipality as well as the Shenzhen Outbound Alliance.

9. At the same time, the Investment Promotion Division of GDETO also proactively identified and approached potential Mainland enterprises through relevant activities, speaking opportunities and company visits in the areas to offer free information services, comprehensive assistance and advice to enterprises with investment interest in Hong Kong, and generated positive results: around 400 company meetings conducted, 40 live investment projects generated and 29 investment projects in Hong Kong completed during the report period.

Public Relations

10. To promote the positive image of Hong Kong and enhance the Mainland general public's overall understanding of Hong Kong, during the report period GDETO staged large-scale exhibitions in the municipalities of Huizhou, Shenzhen, and Dongguan in Guangdong Province, municipalities of Fuzhou and Xiamen in Fujian Province, and the municipality of Kunming in Yunnan Province to introduce to the local public the latest situation on various aspects of Hong Kong, publicise Hong Kong's business environment and competitive edges, as well as Hong Kong's Admission Scheme for Mainland Talents and Professionals, etc. To support the promotion of the national Belt and Road Initiative, the said exhibitions showcased the strengths of Hong Kong in commerce and trade, financial and professional services, as well as our vast international business network and connections, and promoted Hong Kong's edges as an international city connecting the Mainland with countries along the Belt and Road, which could support Mainland enterprises' efforts to "go global" and invest and develop business overseas. Besides, GDETO organised in August 2018 the "Reception in Celebration of the 21th Anniversary of the Establishment of HKSAR" in Guangzhou, which was attended by some 450 guests comprising of representatives from respective government departments of Guangdong, Hainan and Yunnan, business associations, foreign consulates in Guangzhou, relevant Hong Kong organisations, academic institutions and youth groups. Exhibition panels were set up at the Reception to introduce the latest development of Hong Kong. To promote cultural exchanges with the Mainland, in August 2018, GDETO supported the concert performances of the Asian Youth Orchestra in Zhuhai, Zhongshan and Xiamen with a view to introducing Hong Kong's art and culture to more people in the Mainland.

11. To assist Hong Kong people and business community in the Mainland to access latest information and to enhance the Mainland public's understanding of Hong Kong, apart from disseminating information via e-mail, GDETO Newsletter and website, GDETO has also set up an official WeChat platform since 2014 to disseminate the latest news on policies, regulations and economic development of the five provinces/region, GDETO's major activities and latest information on Hong Kong. During the report period, GDETO disseminated a total of 291 messages on news and activities through the WeChat platform. Besides, GDETO also promoted the positive image of Hong Kong by co-producing featured articles with mass media including television station, radio station, newspaper agency, and social media agencies to introduce the social and cultural characteristics of Hong Kong, community participation of Hong Kong enterprises, organisations and people in the Mainland, economic development and cultural exchange, etc.

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

12. GDETO strived to broaden and deepen liaison network through various activities; stepped up information collection; and implemented various measures to better serve Hong Kong people living in the five provinces/region. Specific work included –

- (a) Strengthening liaison with the governments and relevant organisations of the five provinces/region, actively participating in and co-organising activities with a view to generating greater synergy in promoting Hong Kong and fostering mutual co-operation as well as facilitating the provision of assistance to Hong Kong people and businessmen when necessary. For example, GDETO attended the "China-Latin America and the Caribbean

International Exposition” held in Zhuhai in November 2017, the “Opening Reception of 123rd China Import and Export Fair” held in Guangzhou and the “Opening Ceremony of the 2018 China Processing Trade Product Fair” held in Dongguan in April 2018, the “2018 China (Guangzhou) Cross-border E-commerce Goods Selection Expo” held in Guangzhou in July 2018, the Opening Reception and the Opening Ceremony of Hong Kong Pavilion at the “2018 China International Small and Medium Enterprises Fair” and the “Opening Reception of 124th China Import and Export Fair” both held in Guangzhou in October 2018, etc.;

- (b) Enhancing liaison with Hong Kong people, businessmen and students in the five provinces/region through exchange and regular contact to better understand their needs while working and living there and provide appropriate services; stepping up the collection of information on major developments in the relevant provinces and municipalities, disseminating such information to Hong Kong people and businessmen working in the five provinces/region, and organising seminars and exchange activities on topics of concern to them; enhancing liaison with the Mainland offices of the HKTDC and Hong Kong Tourism Board to jointly promote Hong Kong and share information on business environment and development opportunities for Hong Kong enterprises in the five provinces/region. At the same time, strengthening liaison with Hong Kong people and providing them with a platform for exchange through inviting Hong Kong people and students to take part in the promotional activities (for example, exhibitions, concerts, film show, etc.) organised by GDETO in the areas; and
- (c) Providing practical information for Hong Kong people living, working and studying in the Mainland, and providing practical information on the free legal advisory service in the Mainland, through various channels (for example, the GDETO Newsletter, email, website, official WeChat platform, and “Practical Guide for Hong Kong Residents Living in the Mainland”).

13. GDETO strived to strengthen liaison with Hong Kong students in the Mainland to understand their living and study situation in the five provinces/region and provide the required information and assistance. During the report period, GDETO visited 5 tertiary institutions to meet with school officials and Hong Kong students there. GDETO also organised activities such as sharing sessions, career talks and company visits in Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Nanning, Fuzhou, Quanzhou and Xiamen, to enable Hong Kong students to understand the work environment, latest industry development and recruitment process in the Mainland, broadening their horizon and facilitating their career planning. Moreover, in December 2017, FJLU co-organised with various departments of the Fujian Provincial Government and Huaqiao University a job fair for Hong Kong and Macao graduates which provided over 170 employment opportunities from 38 Hong Kong-invested and Mainland enterprises in different sectors. During the report period, GDETO reached out to some 980 Hong Kong students in the five provinces/region. GDETO also provided support to relevant policy bureaux and respective provinces and municipalities in the promotion of youth exchange and internship schemes in the Mainland, including the “2018 Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Hong Kong Youth Internship Programme”. To assist Hong Kong students in the five provinces/region in seeking internship and job opportunities, GDETO encouraged Hong Kong-invested enterprises in the Mainland to provide internship and job openings, and disseminated relevant information to the Hong Kong students in the

Mainland through their universities.

14. GDETO also liaised actively with local government organisations, tertiary institutions and associations of Hong Kong students, to better understand the detailed arrangement and implementation progress of the measures that facilitate Hong Kong people studying, working and living in the Mainland, including the implementation of Regulations for Application of Residence Permits for Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan Residents starting from 1 September, and to collect Hong Kong people's views on the facilitation measures. At the same time, GDETO disseminated the latest information to Hong Kong people and businessmen through various channels (for example, email, website, official WeChat platform, GDETO Newsletter). SZLU also organised a seminar on "Mainland Facilitation Measures for Hong Kong People" in Shenzhen in September. Officials from the relevant Shenzhen Municipality Government departments were invited to brief participants on the implementation of the facilitation measures, such as the Hong Kong-Macao-Taiwan Residence Permit, social insurance policy, housing provident fund, etc. The seminar also provided a platform for Hong Kong people and representatives of Hong Kong-invested enterprises to exchange with officials present. GXLU coordinated Hong Kong students studying in Nanning for a group application for the Hong Kong-Macao-Taiwan Residence Permit in September.

Shenzhen Liaison Unit

15. SZLU is responsible for liaison with the Shenzhen Municipal Government, non-government organisations, trade associations, Hong Kong people, businessmen and students in Shenzhen in carrying out GDETO's various aspects of work. Apart from the examples mentioned in the paragraphs above, SZLU's major tasks during the report period included:

- (a) Closely monitoring the promulgation of policies, legislation and regulations in Shenzhen and disseminating such information to the Hong Kong enterprises in a timely manner. For example, the "Notice on the Requirement for Passengers of Private Cars to Alight for Inspection" announced by the Shenzhen Bay Exit and Entry Frontier Inspection Station in November 2017, the "Implementation Rules of Further Advancing Pilot Reform in Foreign Exchange Administration in the Shenzhen Qianhai and Shekou Area of the China (Guangdong) Pilot Free Trade Zone" issued by the Shenzhen Branch of the State Administration of Foreign Exchange in January 2018, the "Work Plan of Shenzhen Municipality in 2018 to Further Advance Special Rectification of Safety Production of Enterprises with Combustible Dust Hazards" issued by the General Office of the Shenzhen Municipal Safety Management Committee in January 2018, the "Provision on Subject Responsibility for Work Safety of Production and Operation Units in Shenzhen" promulgated by the Shenzhen Administration of Work Safety in April 2018, the "Sustainable Development Plan of Shenzhen (2017-2030)" promulgated by the Shenzhen Municipal Government in May 2018, and the "Prevention and Control of Noise Pollution in Shenzhen Special Economic Zone Ordinance" issued by the Standing Committee of People's Congress of Shenzhen Municipality in July 2018, etc.;

- (b) Arranging high-level official visits of the HKSAR Government and Shenzhen Municipal Government, and providing logistics support. Examples included –
- Call by the Mayor of Shenzhen Municipality on the CE in Hong Kong in November 2017;
 - Attendance by the Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (SCMA) at the “Forum on Opportunities and Challenges in Engineering in the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area” in November 2017;
 - Attendance by the Secretary for Home Affairs (SHA) at a forum on co-operation of Mainland, Hong Kong and Macao cultural industries and cultural co-operation in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area in May 2018;
 - Attendance by the SHA at the “2018 Shenzhen-Hong Kong-Macao Youth Entrepreneurship Summit and the First Roadshow of Projects on Technological Innovation”, and “National Development Strategy and Opportunities for Hong Kong” respectively in June 2018; and
 - Visit by the SCMA to several high-technology companies and an ophthalmic hospital established by Hong Kong people, as well as Qianhai, Shenzhen in August 2018;
- (c) Organising events on issues of common concern to Hong Kong people and businessmen, including the Spring Reception for Hong Kong and Macao Members of Shenzhen Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) in January 2018, visit to the Qianhai and Shekou Area of China (Guangdong) Pilot Free Trade Zone for the Hong Kong Logistics Association in April 2018, and visit to Qianhai and Shenzhen’s high-technology companies for the Trade and Industry Department in August 2018; and
- (d) Playing a bridging role between the Shenzhen Municipal Government and Hong Kong people / Hong Kong-invested enterprises. Maintaining good contact with various Hong Kong chambers of commerce established in Shenzhen, including the PRD Council of the Hong Kong Federation of Industries, Shenzhen Overseas Chinese International Association, Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce in Qianhai, and Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce in China – Guangdong. Collecting and referring common concerns of Hong Kong people and businessmen on business operation, working, starting business, studying and living in Shenzhen, and provide appropriate assistance.

Fujian Liaison Unit

16. FJLU is responsible for liaison with the Fujian provincial and municipal governments, non-government organisations, Hong Kong people, businessmen and students in Fujian in carrying out GDETO’s various aspects of work. In addition to examples

mentioned in the paragraphs above, FJLU's major tasks during the report period included:

- (a) Closely monitoring promulgation of policies, legislation and regulations in relation to the development of Fujian (including Fujian Pilot Free Trade Zone) and disseminating such information to Hong Kong enterprises in a timely manner. An example is the notice on the "Initiatives on Taking Co-ordinated Measures for Opening up and Developing China's Pilot Free Trade Zones" issued by the China (Fujian) Pilot Free Trade Zone in April 2018;
- (b) Arranging high-level official visits of the HKSAR Government and Fujian Provincial Government, and providing logistics support. Examples included:
 - Visit by NI Chao, the Standing Committee Member of the CPC Xiamen Municipal Committee and Director of the Xiamen Free Trade Zone Management Committee, to Hong Kong in December 2017 to meet with the Secretary for Transport and Housing, and Marine Department;
 - Visit by XU Xipeng, the President of Huaqiao University, to Hong Kong in January 2018 to meet with the CS and Under Secretary for Education;
 - Visit by LI Dejin, the Vice Governor of the Fujian Province, to Hong Kong in August 2018 to meet with the CS, and SCMA, and visit HKEX, Hong Kong Science Park and Cyberport;
 - Visit by the Under Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development and Director-General of Investment Promotion to Xiamen in September 2018 to attend the "20th China International Fair for Investment and Trade" and meet with the Vice Mayor of Xiamen Municipal Government, Deputy Director-General of Department of Commerce of Fujian Provincial Government and Deputy Director of Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of Fujian Provincial Government; and
 - Visit by a delegation led by YU Weiguo, the Secretary of the CPC Fujian Provincial Committee, to Hong Kong in October 2018 to meet with the CE, CS, SCMA, and Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development; co-organise with HKSAR Government the "Fujian-Hong Kong Co-operation Promotion Fair"; and visit Hong Kong Science Park together with the Secretary for Innovation and Technology. The delegation comprised major officials of Fujian Provincial Government and the Secretaries of the CPC / Mayors of the municipalities in Fujian;
- (c) Organising activities on issues of concern to Hong Kong people and business sector, including the "Fuzhou-Hong Kong Exchange" organised in Fuzhou in March 2018; and supporting the setting up of "Hong Kong Display Centre of International Wine and Spirits" by the Hong Kong Wine Chamber of Commerce to promote the Hong Kong wine industry; and

- (d) Promoting Hong Kong's image, culture and creative industry. FJLU organised four Hong Kong movies to participate in "The 4th Silk Road International Film Festival" held in Fuzhou from November to December 2017, and organised a Hong Kong film show in October 2018, to foster cultural exchange between Fujian and Hong Kong and promote Hong Kong's cultural and creative industry.

Guangxi Liaison Unit

17. GXLU is responsible for liaison with the provincial and municipal governments, non-government organisations, Hong Kong people, businessmen and students in the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region in carrying out GDETO's various aspects of work. Apart from actively calling on the governments and relevant departments of the Guangxi Region and its municipalities, as well as the examples mentioned in the paragraphs above, other major duties performed by GXLU during the report period included:

- (a) Closely monitoring promulgation of policies, legislation and regulations in relation to the development of the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, and disseminating such information to the Hong Kong business community in a timely manner. An example is the "Action Plan on High-quality Industrial Development in Guangxi" issued by the Guangxi provincial government in July 2018 with a view to boosting the development of Guangxi industries to a high-quality level;
- (b) Arranging high-level official visits of the HKSAR Government and Guangxi Government, and providing logistics support, including:
- The then-Vice Chairman of the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, Zhang Xiaoqin, led a delegation to visit Hong Kong in December 2017, during which they met with the Secretary for Transport and Housing and the Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs;
 - Visit led by HUANG Weijing, the then-Vice Chairman of the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, to Hong Kong in April 2018 to meet with the CE, the Transport and Housing Bureau and the Education Bureau to exchange views on how to strengthen co-operation between Guangxi and Hong Kong;
 - Visit led by XU Shaochuan, the standing member of the Provincial CPC Committee and Director of United Front Work Department, to Hong Kong in June 2018 to meet with the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau; and
 - Visit led by FAN Xiaoli, the standing member of the Provincial CPC Committee and Director of Publicity Department, to Hong Kong in July 2018 to meet with the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau;
- (c) Organising activities on issues of concern to Hong Kong people and business sector, including the spring reception for the Guangxi CPPCC Hong Kong members in January 2018 for enhancing co-operation between Guangxi and

Hong Kong and exchanging ideas in strengthening the development of the Belt and Road Initiative; and

(d) Promoting Hong Kong's image, including:

- Donating over 3 500 books on Hong Kong literature, economy, education, tourism and popular culture, etc., to Guangxi, and setting up 15 Hong Kong Book Corners in 14 municipal libraries, as well as organising a Hong Kong-Guangxi Co-operation Slogan Competition to boost co-operation between the two places; and
- Hosting an acapella performance by Hong Kong artists in Nanning in September 2018 to provide the audience with an opportunity to appreciate Hong Kong's unique culture.

Immigration-related Matters and Assistance Rendered

18. The Immigration Division of GDETO is responsible for handling immigration-related enquiries, promoting the respective talent admission schemes, providing practical assistance to Hong Kong residents who have lost their travel documents or encountered personal safety situations in GDETO's service areas, and handling HKSAR passport replacement service for eligible Hong Kong residents. During the report period, GDETO received a total of 154 requests for assistance from Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland. Of these, 26 cases involved the loss of travel documents or monies, 110 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 other 18 cases involved the detention of Hong Kong residents in the Mainland. The Immigration Division has provided HKSAR passport replacement service since 7 November 2016. During the report period, GDETO processed 761 passports replacement applications. GDETO also handled 7 250 enquiries.

19. Besides, during the report period, GDETO received a total of 107 other assistance cases and made referrals to the relevant Mainland authorities for follow-up.

Looking Ahead

20. The year of 2019 will continue to be the peak period for respective provinces and municipalities to roll out measures for implementation of the national Belt and Road Initiative. Given the various roles that Hong Kong can play under the Belt and Road Initiative, measures to be introduced by the respective provinces and municipalities will provide more opportunities for Hong Kong people and enterprises. As for the development of the Greater Bay Area, the commissioning of the Hong Kong Section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link this September, the opening of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge in October, and the opening of the Liantang/Heung Yuen Wai Control Point soon will bring great convenience to commuters within the Greater Bay Area, advancing complementary co-operation between Hong Kong and other Greater Bay Area cities, and providing new opportunities to Hong Kong. At the same time, the leading group for the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area convened the plenary meeting in August this year. GDETO will strengthen communications with the Guangdong Provincial Government to facilitate the HKSAR Government's work in taking forward the development of the Greater Bay Area. GDETO will continue to liaise closely

with the relevant policy bureaux, Mainland authorities and Hong Kong business sector, and reflect views of the business sector and stakeholders on a timely basis, with a view to enhancing the HKSAR Government's efforts to take forward the Belt and Road Initiative and the development of the Greater Bay Area.

21. GDETO will also continue to strengthen support for Hong Kong people and Hong Kong enterprises, keep track of the latest implementation progress of the facilitation measures in the five provinces/region and disseminate information through various channels, and enhance publicity work in promoting Hong Kong's strengths and fostering a positive understanding of Hong Kong by people in the Mainland.

Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong
November 2018

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 maintain contacts with stakeholders in Hong Kong and the region to help them explore business opportunities in the Mainland. The work of the Division included –

- (a) Supporting industry delegations from Hong Kong to visit the East China region to deepen their understanding of business and investment environments. For example, SHETO assisted the Hong Kong Maritime and Port Board in arranging their visit to Shanghai in December 2017, supported the promotion activities of the Toys Manufacturers’ Association of Hong Kong and the Hong Kong Toys Council in Nanjing in April this year; met with the Hong Kong Quality Assurance Agency in April; and supported the activities organised by the Hong Kong Medicine Dealers’ Guild in June and the Federation of Hong Kong Hotel Owners in October in Shanghai;
- (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 Shanghai International Think Tank Summit in November, the briefing conducted by the Shanghai Municipal Commission of Commerce in March this year, the Yangtze River Economic Belt Development Forum in Shanghai in April, the World Manufacturing Convention 2018/Investment and Trade Expo 2018 Anhui China in May in Hefei; the China Maritime Forum 2018 and the 2018 Pudong New Area Promotion Event in July and September respectively in Shanghai;
- (c) Supporting participation of the HKSAR Government in the First China International Import Expo held in Shanghai in November this year and encouraging overseas companies to leverage on the opening up of the Mainland market through Hong Kong as a suitable platform;
- (d) Providing updated information through conducting trade seminars to Hong Kong traders in the region. For example, SHETO organised seminars, in collaboration with the Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce in China – Shanghai (HKCCC) and Shanghai Hong Kong Association in March and May 2018 respectively about effective tax management and arbitration services;

- (e) 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 Justice to attend the 9th Lujiazui Law Forum in Shanghai in November 2017; the Financial Secretary and the Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury to attend seminars and exchange activities in Shanghai in June 2018 respectively;
- (f) Co-ordinating provinces and cities in the region in organising trade events in Hong Kong and meetings between senior government officials of the HKSAR and visiting Mainland officials. For example, SHETO assisted in co-ordinating the visits to Hong Kong by the Vice Mayor of Shanghai Municipality in end 2017, and the visits by the Director of the Shanghai Municipal Bureau of Justice, the inspector of Department of Commerce, Jiangsu Province, and the Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference Shanghai Committee in the first half of this year in Hong Kong respectively;
- (g) Maintaining close relations with the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC) and Hong Kong trade associations in the region. For example, SHETO attended the dinner organised by the HKCCC in end 2017; the spring receptions organised by the HKCCC and the Shanghai-Hong Kong Coalition of Professionals in early 2018 respectively, and the 2018 "Jiangsu and Hong Kong Joining Hands Together" Seminar co-organised by the Nanjing Municipal Jiangbei New Area Administrative Committee, HKTDC and Federation of HK Jiangsu Community Organisations in August;
- (h) Keeping relevant bureaux and departments in Hong Kong, Hong Kong businesses and trade organisations informed of the latest economic and trade policies, regulations and measures on the Mainland and the region. During the report period, SHETO issued 62 circulars and newsletters;
- (i) Monitoring closely the latest policies and legislation in the East China region that may have impact on Hong Kong enterprises, including the plans for different industries, the Belt and Road Initiative and developments relating to the Yangtze River Economic Belt and the Yangtze River Delta Integration, providing timely reports and answering enquiries from the trade;
- (j) Monitoring closely latest developments in the China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone (SHFTZ) (including special administrative measures for the access of foreign investment), disseminating timely information to the industry and answering related enquiries, maintaining contacts with the SHFTZ Administration. During the report period, SHETO issued 7 special newsletters on the SHFTZ; and
- (k) Collecting major economic and trade information of the region, and disseminating such information through SHETO's official website and WeChat platform.

Investment Promotion

3. The Investment Promotion Unit (IPU) of SHETO continued to actively promote Hong Kong's investment environment, proactively 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 37 investment promotion visits, met with 329 companies and generated 48 live projects. 20 projects were successfully completed.

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

- (a) In November and December 2017, investment promotion seminars were co-organised together with relevant government agencies of Zhejiang Provincial Government and Shanghai Municipality to promote the investment environment of Hong Kong. The two seminars attracted over 260 participants;
- (b) In March this year, arranged a delegation comprising enterprises from the Municipality of Shanghai and Zhejiang, Jiangsu and Shandong provinces 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 Spring Reception;
- (c) In May this year, visited Hangzhou of Zhejiang Province, and participated in “SmartHK” organised by Hong Kong Trade Development Council with an exhibition booth to promote the investment environment of Hong Kong;
- (d) In July this year, visited Nanjing of Jiangsu Province, during which an investment promotion roundtable was co-organised together with the Department of Commerce of Jiangsu Province. The roundtable attracted over 40 participants;
- (e) In July this year, visited Hefei of Anhui Province, during which an investment promotion seminar was co-organised together with the Trade Office of the Economic Affairs Department under the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region as well as the Department of Commerce of Anhui Province. The seminar attracted over 180 participants;
- (f) In September this year, visited Suzhou of Jiangsu Province, during which an investment promotion roundtable was co-organised together with Suzhou Bureau of Commerce. The roundtable attracted over 90 participants; and
- (g) Organised and participated in 32 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 and foster mutual understanding between Hong Kong and the region. During the report period, the activities organised by SHETO included –

- (a) Organising a roving exhibition in the region: In November 2017, SHETO held “Together · Progress · Opportunity - Exhibition in Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Return of Hong Kong to the Motherland” in Hefei of Anhui Province, attracting more than 100 000 visitors. Posts about the roving exhibition published in SHETO's public account and other public accounts on WeChat were warmly welcomed by netizens;
- (b) SHETO stepped up the promotion of Hong Kong's strengths in all aspects and its latest economic and social developments through promotional activities organised in collaboration with the Hong Kong Tourism Board. For example, from January to March this year, SHETO and the Hong Kong Tourism Board jointly launched three rounds of media promotional campaigns;
- (c) SHETO supported the Broadway Cinematheque to present Hong Kong Film Festivals in Shanghai in December 2017 and in September this year with a view to promoting co-operation and cultural exchange between film industries in Hong Kong and the Mainland. SHETO arranged 8 exchange sessions during the report period for movie actors and actresses as well as movie directors from Hong Kong to interact with teachers and students at local tertiary institutions;
- (d) SHETO proactively established and maintained relationship with Hong Kong media and local media in the region. SHETO also assisted the media in covering HKSAR Government officials' visits to the region, for example, the participation of the Chief Executive and a delegation of HKSAR Government representatives in the First China International Import Expo in Shanghai in November this year; and
- (e) Through its WeChat public account, SHETO provided the region with the latest information about the economy, trade, investment, culture and facilitation measures introduced to Hong Kong people in the Mainland 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 to provide stronger support to Hong Kong people in the region. Details of work included –

- (a) Enhancing Government-to-Government liaison work to strengthen communication and explore bilateral partnership and co-operation opportunities to provide assistance to Hong Kong enterprises and citizens when necessary. During the report period, SHETO visited various

government departments within the East China region to establish better communication channels and exchange views on the provision of proper assistance to Hong Kong enterprises and citizens. SHETO also paid visits to Yangpu, Baoshan and Qingpu districts in the Municipality of Shanghai to strengthen liaison and explore opportunities for future co-operation and exchange between the two places;

- (b) Supporting the preparation of the Fourth Plenary of the Hong Kong-Shanghai Co-operation Conference held in Hong Kong in August 2018, facilitating broader and more in-depth co-operation; and following up on the 16 co-operation areas and 54 co-operation initiatives agreed at the Conference. SHETO will continue to serve as a bridge to facilitate communication between relevant government bodies of the two places;
- (c) Liaising proactively with Hong Kong people in the region to learn about their needs and providing appropriate assistance (refer to paragraphs 7 to 10 for details); and
- (d) Actively collecting and disseminating information for the Hong Kong communities in the East China region through various channels including SHETO website, WeChat platform and email. SHETO will continue to disseminate information and updates on facilitation measures (including the Residence Permit for Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan Residents which had been open for applications since 1 September 2018) announced by the Central authorities, follow up on their implementation, and collect comments on the relevant measures from Hong Kong people.

7. To further enhance communication with Hong Kong people in the region, SHETO participated in various gatherings, seminars and visits during the report period. For example, Director of SHETO attended the Annual Meeting of Shanghai Hong Kong Association in January this year; the High Table Dinner of The University of Hong Kong (HKU) Shanghai Alumni Network in March; the 2018 Shanghai-Hong Kong-Macao Youth Economic Development Forum” organised by the Hong Kong United Youth Association together with Hong Kong-Shanghai Youth Association in August; and the Celebration Banquet organised by Shanghai Hong Kong Association in August.

8. SHETO made arrangements for Hong Kong residents in the region to meet with visiting principal officials of the HKSAR Government and public organisations. For example, in January this year, arrangements were made for the Secretary for Home Affairs to meet with representatives of the Hong Kong people group and Hong Kong students in Shanghai during his visit to exchange views. In April and June this year, assistance was rendered to the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority in organising cultural exchange gala dinners for members of the Authority to meet with representatives of the Hong Kong people groups and cultural sector in Shanghai.

9. SHETO has also been providing support to Hong Kong students studying in the Mainland through various means including organising various student events during the report period. For example, SHETO organised a student gathering in November 2017; a “Recruitment Workshop for Hong Kong Young People” in March this year; and a gathering for Hong Kong interns in Shanghai in July this year. Moreover, SHETO provided support to the diversified activities organised by the student associations, and provided internship

vacancies for Hong Kong students in the region through the student associations. SHETO also provided students with recruitment information on civil service posts in the HKSAR Government and latest information on living in the Mainland, as well as information and updates on facilitation measures.

10. SHETO encouraged organisations in the East China region to provide internship opportunities for Hong Kong students and also provided support to the exchange programmes in the region. SHETO would provide information, support and assistance to these students from Hong Kong. In addition, Director of SHETO attended a number of exchange and sharing sessions for various internship programmes in Shanghai between May and August this year to promote youth exchange between the two places.

Immigration-related Matters and Assistance Rendered

11. Immigration matters handled by the Immigration Division under SHETO included processing applications for entry to Hong Kong, providing HKSAR passport replacement service, handling enquiries on immigration matters, promoting the talent admission schemes and providing timely assistance to Hong Kong residents who have lost their personal documents or encountered personal safety problems on the Mainland. During the report period, SHETO received a total of 52 requests for assistance from Hong Kong residents in distress on the Mainland, processed 298 entry applications, 1 028 applications for HKSAR passport replacement and handled 5 752 enquiries.

12. In addition, SHETO received a total of 25 other assistance cases during the report period. SHETO made referrals to the relevant Mainland authorities for follow-up and monitored the progress.

Shandong Liaison Unit

13. 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.

14. During the report period, SDLU visited the Foreign Affairs Office of Shandong Provincial People's Government, Department of Commerce of Shandong Province, Shandong Provincial Department of Education, Standing Committee of Qingdao Municipal People's Congress, the municipal government leaders of Jinan, Linyi, Zaozhuang, Heze, Dezhou and Liaocheng, and maintained frequent communication with the Shandong Provincial People's Government and the 17 municipal government departments of the Province.

15. SDLU worked closely with the local governments. During the report period, SDLU assisted the Jinan Municipal People's Government in inviting Hong Kong enterprises to participate in the "2018 East Asia Expo"; provided assistance in the United Front Work Department of Communist Party of China Qingdao Committee's visit to the Hospital Authority in Hong Kong, the duty visit of Eastern District Council to Qingdao, and the meeting between Liu Jiayi, Secretary of Shandong Provincial Party Committee, and HKSAR government official amid the "Hong Kong Shandong Week" to be held in December this year.

16. SDLU also maintained close contacts with local Hong Kong people, enterprises and groups. In April this year, SDLU organised a workshop in Qingdao on labour laws and regulations with an aim to help Hong Kong people and enterprises in Shandong to better understand the latest policies in the Mainland, and met with the Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce in China – Qingdao, local Hong Kong people and enterprises in Shandong Province frequently to gain better understanding of the business environment in order to render appropriate and timely assistance.

17. SDLU visited the Shandong University, Ocean University of China, Shandong University of Traditional Chinese Medicine and Qingdao University during the report period to better understand the implementation of facilitation measures for Hong Kong people, maintained close relation with the Hong Kong students in Shandong, met them in November 2017 and April this year to understand more about their learning and living environment, and organised orientation programme for them in October this year. SDLU also actively promoted youth exchanges between Hong Kong and Shandong Province, such as receiving the Hong Kong Youth and Tertiary Students Association's delegation for the "Shandong Historical and Cultural Study Tour".

Zhejiang Liaison Unit

18. ZJLU has been actively seeking to strengthen connection with Zhejiang government departments at all levels and local trade organisations in order to promote bilateral exchange and co-operation on the economic, trade and cultural fronts, etc.

19. ZJLU co-organised events with the Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce in China (HKCCC) – Zhejiang. ZJLU also closely monitored major policies and issues about doing business in Zhejiang which are of concern to the Hong Kong business community, such as those related to the China (Zhejiang) Pilot Free Trade Zone, taxation and foreign investment policies. ZJLU kept the local Hong Kong community posted of the latest information through regular newsletters issued by SHETO. Furthermore, ZJLU promoted the strengths of Hong Kong through organising and attending various activities. For example, ZJLU co-organised the "Zhejiang and Hong Kong Co-operation: Seizing New Opportunities by Leveraging the Strengths of Hong Kong" seminar in November 2017 to introduce to Zhejiang enterprises the advantages of doing business in Hong Kong and the latest taxation policies relevant to investment, financing, listing, merger and acquisition. ZJLU attended the "2018 Belt and Road Financial Innovation Forum" in May this year. It also organised a labour law seminar in June to provide practical information on employment matters in Mainland China for Hong Kong enterprises, as well as co-organised the event "Heritage-Innovation 2018 Zhejiang and Hong Kong Young Entrepreneurs Forum" in September.

20. ZJLU maintained close liaison with Hong Kong people, the business community and organisations in Zhejiang and provided support on issues of concern by disseminating relevant information to them, seeking and reflecting their views to relevant Zhejiang government departments.

21. ZJLU also actively promoted exchanges between Hong Kong and Zhejiang youths as well as maintained close liaison with Hong Kong students in Zhejiang. During the report period, ZJLU supported the China Academy of Art in organising the Contemporary Art Exhibition in Hong Kong in late 2017. It also organised a gathering in collaboration with the HKCCC-Zhejiang for Hong Kong students in Zhejiang in March 2018 to offer them opportunities for summer internship. Furthermore, ZJLU supported various exchange and

internship programmes in June and July 2018 such as “Exchanges and Studies by Students of the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts in Hangzhou”, “Youths in High Spirit – 2018 Journey to Zhejiang by Hong Kong Youths”, and “Homestay in Jinhua Historical Village Project for Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan Students”, etc.

22. ZJLU promoted the strengths of Hong Kong and projected its positive image through various channels and activities so as to let the Zhejiang public have a better understanding of Hong Kong. For example, ZJLU was the supporting organisation for the “Hong Kong Thematic Film Exhibition – Hangzhou Leg” held in November 2017 and October 2018. Publicity advertisements on the strengths of Hong Kong were displayed at major Metro stations and on major local newspapers from February to March 2018. ZJLU also supported the Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra’s performance in Hangzhou in September 2018.

23. During the report period, ZJLU assisted in the arrangements and provided logistical support for a number of visits by senior officials from both Zhejiang and Hong Kong. Among those were visit to Hong Kong by the then Vice-Governor of Zhejiang in December 2017 and visit by the Financial Secretary to Hangzhou in May 2018. The Vice Party Secretary of Zhejiang Province cum Party Secretary of Ningbo also visited Hong Kong and officiated with the Chief Executive at the opening ceremony of “Meeting up in Hong Kong - 2018 Trade and Culture Week” in July 2018. In addition, ZJLU visited Ningbo, Jinhua, Yiwu, Shaoxing, Jiaying, Wenzhou and Quzhou, etc. to strengthen liaison with local government departments as well as to promote co-operation and exchanges in trade and other aspects between Hong Kong and the municipalities in Zhejiang.

Looking Ahead

24. SHETO will continue to promote the economic relations between Hong Kong and the region, promote Hong Kong to enhance positive understanding of Hong Kong amongst citizens of the Mainland. 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) 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;
- (c) Through SDLU and ZJLU, continue to promote the economic and trade relations 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. SDLU and ZJLU will continue to enhance support to Hong Kong enterprises and Hong Kong people in Shandong and Zhejiang provinces. 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;

- (d) Support the HKSAR Government in the participation of the China International Import Expo; encourage overseas enterprises to enter the vast Mainland market through Hong Kong; and 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”;
- (e) Maintain close liaison with relevant government departments and organisations in Shanghai and Hong Kong to assist in the implementation and enhancement of the initiatives agreed at the Fourth Plenary of the Hong Kong-Shanghai Co-operation Conference;
- (f) Support the HKSAR Government in the organisation of the first “Hong Kong Cultural Week” in Shanghai in the 4th quarter of 2019 to showcase the arts and cultural development of Hong Kong and enhance cultural exchanges between the two places;
- (g) Closely monitor the implementation of measures to facilitate Hong Kong people studying, working and living in the Mainland announced by the Central Government; maintain close liaison with the relevant government departments of the East China Region to better understand the details of these facilitation measures; and disseminate updated information to Hong Kong people groups in the East China region;
- (h) Step up promotion and advertise Hong Kong’s strengths, including staging a roving exhibition and launching publicity campaigns, with a view to enhancing mutual understanding between Hong Kong and the Mainland;
- (i) 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 SHFTZ, China (Zhejiang) Pilot Free Trade Zone, Belt and Road Initiative, Yangtze River Economic Belt, Yangtze River Delta Integration, and other issues of interest to Hong Kong enterprises; and
- (j) Support and facilitate Hong Kong trade missions to visit the region and explore business opportunities.

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) Promoting Hong Kong’s industries and assisting the trade in exploring Mainland market, such as publishing the “Directory of Hong Kong Service Enterprises in Sichuan” and producing a website for Directory of Hong Kong Service Enterprises in Sichuan and Chongqing with a view to promoting Hong Kong service enterprises in Sichuan and Chongqing as well as their services; assisting the Hong Kong Wine Chamber of Commerce in organising the Hong Kong Wine Brand Chengdu Press Conference cum Chengdu-Hong Kong Exchange Reception in March 2018 to promote Hong Kong’s wine industry; supporting Hong Kong Toys Council and the Toys Manufacturers’ Association of Hong Kong in organising a toy exhibition in Chengdu in September 2018 to promote Hong Kong’s toy industry;
- (b) Organising visits to assist Hong Kong enterprises in exploring business opportunities, such as co-organising a study mission to Guizhou in July 2018 with Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce to assist Hong Kong enterprises in understanding the latest development of big data industry and business environment of Guizhou, as well as establishing contact with local governments for future co-operation;
- (c) 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; 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"; and assisting Hong Kong enterprises in reflecting their concerns and suggestions to local authorities, such as co-organising a "Symposium for Hong Kong Enterprises in Sichuan" with Sichuan Development and Reform Commission in December 2017 to provide an opportunity for Hong Kong enterprises to reflect their difficulties in running businesses in Sichuan and to suggest ways to facilitate their development;

- (d) Providing support for Hong Kong enterprises to operate in the Mainland, such as organising seminars on Mainland's Economic Policy, Labour Law and Social Security Policy in Chengdu and Guiyang of Guizhou Province in January and March 2018 respectively so as to enhance Hong Kong businessmen's understanding of Mainland's policies in attracting foreign investment, the taxation, labour and social security requirements in the Mainland and to analyse the opportunities and challenges brought about by the relevant policies; and
- (e) 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 Free Trade Zone (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. CDETO commissioned the study report on "Establishment of the Third Batch of Pilot FTZs (Liaoning, Zhejiang, Henan, Hubei, Chongqing, Sichuan and Shaanxi): Opportunities for and Impact on Hong Kong" in June 2018. The report provides an in-depth analysis of policies of FTZs and explores the business opportunities for Hong Kong enterprises. CDETO released the report to over 100 trade and industrial associations in Hong Kong and organised a seminar in Chengdu in July 2018 to introduce the report findings, latest development of FTZs and relevant opportunities to Hong Kong enterprises in Sichuan, Chongqing and Shaanxi.

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 184 Mainland enterprises, generated 11 live projects and successfully completed eight investment projects. Major investment promotion initiatives included –

- (a) Co-organising with Invest Hong Kong (InvestHK) a seminar entitled "Belt and Road, Together We Grow" in Chengdu in November 2017;

- (b) Co-organising with InvestHK roundtable meetings entitled “Belt and Road, Together We Grow” in Chengdu and Chongqing in April 2018;
- (c) Co-organising with InvestHK a roundtable meeting entitled “Belt and Road, Together We Grow” in Chengdu in May 2018;
- (d) Co-organising with InvestHK the “Hong Kong-Sichuan Exchange Conference on Investment and Trade Co-operation” in Chengdu in May 2018;
- (e) Co-organising with InvestHK a roundtable meeting entitled “Belt and Road, Together We Grow” in Chongqing in August 2018; and
- (f) Participating in other investment promotion activities to enhance liaison with Mainland enterprises, including “The Third Silk Road International Exposition” (SRIE) in Xi’an and “The 21st Western China International Fair for Investment and Trade” (WCIFIT) in Chongqing in May 2018, and “The 19th Qinghai China Investment and Trade Fair for Green Development” (QCITFGD) in Xining in June 2018.

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 also organised exhibitions and performances to strengthen public understanding of Hong Kong and deepen exchanges and co-operation between Hong Kong and the region. Events held included –

- (a) Co-presenting a piano recital, the “Dessiner La Musique – Cheng Wai Recital China Tour (Chengdu)” in Chengdu in November 2017 to enhance the cultural exchange between the Chengdu and Hong Kong and celebrate the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR;
- (b) Inviting the Chinese Artists Association of Hong Kong to perform in “Yiju Shancheng Chongqing-Hong Kong Chinese Opera Star Show” and “Yiju Jinguancheng Chengdu-Hong Kong Chinese Opera Show” organised in Chongqing in June 2018 and in Chengdu in July 2018 respectively. The performance in Chongqing featured top Chinese opera artists from Chongqing and Hong Kong while the performance in Chengdu gathered the young artists from Sichuan and Hong Kong and was a dedicated performance for the “2018 Chengdu International Sister Cities Youth Music Festival”. The two performances showcased the similarities and differences of Sichuanese Opera and Cantonese Opera and fostered the exchanges of Chinese opera between Hong Kong and the two places;

- (c) Supporting the Asian Youth Orchestra to stage a concert in Xi'an in August 2018 to enhance the cultural and musical exchange between Shaanxi and Hong Kong;
 - (d) Arranging a small professional Chinese music troupe "Windpipe Chinese Music Ensemble" to present a dedicated concert with Guizhou Traditional Orchestra in "2018 Colourful Guizhou Culture & Art Festival" and exchange with School of Music of Guizhou Normal University in September 2018, showcasing the succession and development of traditional and modern Chinese stringed and woodwind chamber music in Hong Kong; and
 - (e) Setting up exhibition booths in various national trade fairs, including "The 17th Western China International Fair" in Chengdu of Sichuan Province in September 2018 and "The 18th Qinghai China Investment and Trade Fair for Green Development" in Xining of Qinghai Province in June 2018, to promote Hong Kong's advantages and contribution under the Belt and Road Initiative, services and functions of CDETO, free services provided by InvestHK to help Mainland enterprises "go global", various talent admission schemes, Hong Kong's wine trade, etc.
6. 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.
7. 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

8. During the report period, CDETO assisted in enhancing the co-operation between Hong Kong and Sichuan. In May 2018, the Chief Executive led a delegation with over 120 members to Sichuan to attend the High-level Meeting cum First Plenary of the Hong Kong-Sichuan Co-operation Conference in Chengdu. At the meeting, both sides agreed to establish the Hong Kong-Sichuan Co-operation Conference as a platform for the multifaceted co-operation between Hong Kong and Sichuan. Consensus was also reached on 11 co-operation areas, viz. the Belt and Road Initiative and economic and trade fronts; cultural and creative industries; innovation and technology; finance; youth development; building and construction; education; Chinese medicine and food safety; tourism; airport and railway construction and management; and facilitation measures for Hong Kong people studying, working and living in the Mainland.

9. CDETO supported provinces and municipalities in the region to visit Hong Kong to organise exchange activities, and coordinated meetings between Mainland officials and senior HKSAR government officials. For example, CDETO assisted in organising the activities for Mainland officials' visits to Hong Kong, including that of the Chairman of Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) of Guizhou Provincial Committee, Wang Fuyu; Head of the Organisation Department of Sichuan Committee, Huang Jiangfa; the Vice Governor of Sichuan Province, Yang Xingping; the Vice Mayor of Chengdu Municipality, Liu Xiaoliu; the Permanent Committee and Head of the United Front Work Department, Li Jing; the Vice Governor of Guizhou Province, Lu Yongzheng; the Vice Governor of Sichuan Province, Wang Yihong; the Mayor of Chongqing Municipality, Tang Liangzhi; and the Secretary of the CPC Sichuan Provincial Committee, Peng Qinghua. CDETO also provided logistical support to HKSAR Government officials during their visits to the Mainland, such as the delegation led by the Chief Executive to Sichuan in May 2018, the Financial Secretary's to visit to Guizhou in May 2018 and the Secretary for Development's visit to Guizhou in July 2018.

10. 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 26 gatherings / sharing sessions for Hong Kong people living and studying in the region as well as representatives of Hong Kong enterprises, etc. during the report period 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) Updating 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.

11. CDETO kept close working contact with relevant authorities in the region to follow up the implementation of the policies and measures to facilitate Hong Kong people studying, working and living in the Mainland as announced by the relevant Central Government departments since August 2017, including inviting Hong Kong people in Sichuan to attend a seminar (for which CDETO was a supporting unit) on the contribution to and use of the Housing Provident Funds organised by Chengdu Housing Provident Fund Management Centre in April 2018. CDETO also disseminated the latest information to Hong Kong people studying, working and living in the region and gauged and reflected their views.

12. CDETO followed up closely the implementation of Residence Permit with effect from September 2018, disseminate the latest information to relevant Hong Kong people in the region and gauge and reflect their views.

13. CDETO had maintained close relationship with 23 tertiary institutions in Sichuan Province, Shaanxi Province and Chongqing Municipality where there were Hong Kong students, with a view to better understanding 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 job vacancies in the HKSAR Government. In addition, CDETO organised visits to historical and cultural premises in Sichuan, Chongqing and Shaanxi 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.

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

15. 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 48 internship vacancies were made available. CDETO also offered internship placements for Hong Kong students studying in the region and those studying in Hong Kong.

16. In July and August 2018, "2018 Youth Internship Programme at Wolong National Nature Reserve, Sichuan" was organised by the Home Affairs Bureau of HKSAR Government and co-organised by Hong Kong Ocean Park, Wolong National Nature Reserve Management Bureau, China Panda Protection Research Centre and Guangdong Provincial Youth Association. 16 youths from Hong Kong and Guangdong apiece participated. CDETO provided ground support for the programme, including arranging visits to main Hong Kong enterprises in Chengdu to enhance their understanding about Sichuan. Besides,

CDETO also actively supported and participated in exchanges and internship by Hong Kong youths in the region.

17. 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 2018 for College Students” so as to promote sports exchanges between Hong Kong and Qinghai.

18. To enhance cultural exchanges between Sichuan, Chongqing and Hong Kong and to enhance the understanding of the people in Sichuan and Chongqing about Hong Kong, CDETO organised Hong Kong Film Festival in Chengdu and Chongqing in October 2018.

Chongqing Liaison Unit

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

- (a) Organising a seminar on taxation, economic and labour laws 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;
- (b) Setting up a booth in the “21st Western China International Investment and Trade Fair” to introduce the services and functions of CDETO and CQLU, services provided by the Immigration Department and various admission schemes for talents and professionals, Hong Kong as the platform for Mainland enterprises to “go global”, the Basic Law, CEPA, China’s Global Financial Centre and Hong Kong’s advantages (including being the international meetings, conventions and exhibitions capital, and Hong Kong wine trade, etc.). A thematic exhibition on Belt and Road Initiative was also set up to promote Hong Kong’s various advantages under the Belt and Road Initiative;
- (c) As the supporting unit, CQLU assisted Hong Kong Wine Chamber of Commerce (HKWCC) to organise “Hong Kong Wine Brand Chongqing Conference cum Cocktail Reception” in Chongqing and assisted in promoting “The China Roadshow on Hong Kong Wine Brand in Chongqing” held by HKWCC during the “97th China Food & Drinks Fair”;
- (d) Providing supports to exchange activities between the HKSAR Government officials and their Mainland counterparts as well as industry players in

Chongqing. For example, CQLU assisted a delegation of Directors of Economic and Trade Offices to visit Chongqing in November 2017;

- (e) Supporting industry delegations from Hong Kong to visit Chongqing to deepen their understanding of business and investment environments. For example, CQLU assisted delegations of Hong Kong Chongqing Commercial Association Ltd. and HKWCC in November 2017, and a delegation of Our Hong Kong Foundation, comprised principals and representatives of secondary schools in Hong Kong, in April 2018 for a better acknowledgment of Chongqing and to have exchanges with Hong Kong people and representatives of Hong Kong enterprises in Chongqing;
- (f) Visiting Jiangbei District and Yubei District to understand their latest measures to attract foreign investment / preferential policies and study the local business environment with a view to helping Hong Kong enterprises explore new investment / co-operation opportunities for opening up new market niches in the Mainland;
- (g) Organising two seminars to explain the facilitation measures for Hong Kong people introduced by the Central Government and sought the views of the participating Hong Kong people and enterprises;
- (h) Launching the online version of the “Directory of Hong Kong Service Enterprises / Providers in Sichuan and Chongqing” to promote the co-operation in service industries between Sichuan, Chongqing and Hong Kong as well as the services provided by Hong Kong enterprises and people in Sichuan and Chongqing, enabling the service industries in the Mainland and Hong Kong to explore co-operation opportunities;
- (i) Paying close attention to Chongqing’s strategic planning and policy measures relating to its “13th Five-Year Plan” and Belt and Road Initiative, China (Chongqing) Pilot FTZ and reporting the latest development and analysis in a timely manner;
- (j) Organising two gatherings / sharing sessions, including career talk, visit to museums for Hong Kong students studying in Chongqing to maintain a closer relationship with them and better understand their life and studies so as to provide them with necessary services and information as well as enhance their understanding and knowledge of the local culture;
- (k) Organising cultural exchanges events to provide opportunities for people in Chongqing to have a more comprehensive understanding of Hong Kong and deepen the exchanges between Chongqing and Hong Kong in various aspects. For example, CQLU held “Chongqing-Hong Kong Chinese Opera Star Show” in June 2018, top Chinese opera artists from the Chinese Artists Association of Hong Kong and Chongqing Chuan Theatre were invited. CQLU held children and youth paintings exhibition in September 2018 to display the artworks from children and youth of Chongqing and Hong Kong;

- (l) Supporting youth of Hong Kong to have internship in Chongqing to deepen their understanding of Chongqing. For example, CQLU assisted Hong Kong students of “Tongxin Tongyuan–Summer Internship Programme for Tertiary Students from Chongqing and Hong Kong 2018” in June 2018 and “Chongqing Internship Programme for Chongqing–Hong Kong Tertiary Students 2018” in August 2018 for a better acknowledgment of Chongqing and to have exchanges with Hong Kong people and representatives of Hong Kong enterprises in Chongqing; and
- (m) The “Chongqing-Hong Kong Vocational Student Exchange Programme” made good progress through proactive support by CQLU. Exchange visits between the Hong Kong Vocational Training Council and Chongqing University of Education were held during the report period. The Programme helped build a platform for study, practice and exchanges between students from Chongqing and Hong Kong to enhance their vocational skills and broaden their horizons.

Shaanxi Liaison Unit

20. SNLU had been in close contact with local government as well as trade and industry organisations to expand its network and promote economic and trade exchanges between Hong Kong and Shaanxi. In addition, SNLU conducted study visits to Hanzhong and individual zones of Shaanxi FTZ such as Yangling Agricultural Hi-tech Industries Demonstration Zone to learn about the latest business environment and preferential policies, and information gathered would be disseminated to Hong Kong businessmen. SNLU also held regular meetings with Hong Kong people and enterprises in Shaanxi to better understand their investment, business and life, as well as their needs. During the report period, major events included –

- (a) Calling on the provincial and municipal government leaders and departments, as well as relevant organisations in Shaanxi to introduce the functions of SNLU and to exchange views on work plans;
- (b) Providing support in the communication between Shaanxi Provincial Government and HKSAR Government. For example, SNLU assisted to arrange meetings and exchange with HKSAR Government senior officials for the Shaanxi delegation during their annual visit to Hong Kong organising the “Shaanxi, Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao Economic Co-operation Activities Week”;
- (c) Meeting with Hong Kong student delegations visiting Shaanxi Province to enhance their understanding of social and cultural environment of Shaanxi Province;
- (d) For the priority areas of innovation and technology and financial services, by assisting to organise forum in Xi’an, introduce Hong Kong’s advantages and establish contacts to facilitate co-operation. For example, in May 2018, in support of Shaanxi HKMAO, invited speakers from Hong Kong to join the “Shaanxi, Hong Kong and Macao Science and Technology Innovation and Development Forum” during the Silk Road Expo; and in June 2018

co-organised with Shaanxi Department of Commerce the “Second Shaanxi-Hong Kong Financial Co-operation Forum”;

- (e) Assisting Hong Kong enterprises in Shaanxi to grasp the latest information on business and investment environment, such as new policies and development of taxation and labour laws; and to help Hong Kong enterprises reflect business problems. For example, the “Seminar on Economic Policy and Labour Law” and “Seminar for Hong Kong Enterprises in Shaanxi” were organised in January and March 2018 respectively, with specialists and government departments attending to respond and explain policy measures;
- (f) Supporting industry delegations from Hong Kong to visit Shaanxi to deepen their understanding of local business and investment environment. For example, sharing observations on Shaanxi’s logistics sector with the HKTDC logistics delegation visiting Xi’an in August 2018; 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. In April 2018, SNLU had a meeting with Shaanxi Development and Reform Commission to learn about the specific plans and arrangements for strengthening technology co-operation and financial innovation as proposed in Shaanxi’s Action Plan for the Belt and Road Construction (2018). The two sides explored ways to make use of Hong Kong as a platform for co-operation in international production capacity, transportation and logistics and technology innovation.

Immigration-related Matters and Assistance Rendered

21. 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 52 requests for assistance from Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland. 28 Of these, cases involved the loss of travel documents or monies, and 24 cases were from persons who were in danger, involved in traffic accidents, injured, sick or whose relatives had passed away in the Mainland, etc.. In addition, CDETO handled 1 982 enquiries and 74 HKSAR passport replacement applications.

22. Moreover, CDETO received a total of 9 other assistance cases during the report period. CDETO has made referrals to the relevant Mainland authorities for follow-up and monitored the progress.

Celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the Reform and Opening Up of the Country

23. 2018 marked the 40th anniversary of the reform and opening up of the country. CDETO is planning to organise a series of celebration activities tentatively in December 2018, including roving exhibitions in Chengdu, Chongqing and Xi’an and gala lunch reception in Chengdu. The roving exhibitions will highlight how Hong Kong contributed to and seized the opportunities from the reform and opening up of the country over the past 40 years, and look forward to our contributions to the nation’s development in future. The

celebration activities will strengthen 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.

Looking Ahead

24. 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.

25. CDETO will continue to reach out to Hong Kong people, businessmen and students in the region, and provide useful information and assistance to them, including keeping on following up on the implementation of the policies and measures to facilitate Hong Kong people studying, working and living in the Mainland in the region. 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 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, WHETO supported and sponsored the "20...43 Business of Hong Kong Design" exhibition organised by the Hong Kong Federation of Design Association in Wuhan in November 2017 with an aim to promote further exchanges and co-operation in the area of culture, creativity and design between Hong Kong and the region. WHETO also supported Hong Kong Food Council and assisted in their participation in the 9th Wuhan Food and Drinks Fair which included setting up of the "Hong Kong Pavilion" in the Fair in June 2018. In the same month, WHETO organised two seminars titled "Hong Kong Enterprises' New Opportunity in the Food and Beverage Industry of Wuhan" and "Hong Kong and Hubei's Co-operation in Food and Beverage Industry" and visits to production base and logistics center of local enterprises in the food and beverage industry for the delegation of Hong Kong Food Council with a view to strengthening Hong Kong enterprises' understanding of the business environment of Wuhan. In August 2018, WHETO received the delegation from the Hong Kong Federation of Design Association and arranged representatives of the design and creative industry in Wuhan to exchange and discuss future co-operation with the delegation;
- (b) Encouraging and promoting economic and trade exchanges between Hong Kong and the region through participation in trade promotion activities. For example, attended "Acknowledgement Banquet for Foreign Funded Enterprises in East Lake High-Tech Development Zone" and "Co-operating Conference cum Entrepreneurs' Annual Meeting of 'Hubei Best Agricultural Products'" in December 2017; attended the 11th China Bio-Industry Conference cum the 3rd China Optic Valley International Life and Health Industry Expo, and the 4th Wuhan International E-Business cum "Internet+" Industry Expo in May 2018; attended the 2nd China (Central Region) International Alcoholic Drinks Expo and the 9th Wuhan Food and Wine Fair

in Wuhan in June 2018; attended 2018 Yabuli China Entrepreneurs Forum Summer Summit in Nanchang, Jiangxi in August 2018; attended the Dialogue between Hubei and the Fortune Global 500 in Wuhan and Taiyuan Energy and Low Carbon Development Forum in Shanxi in September 2018; attended the Forum on Global Production Capacity and Business Co-operation in Central China and 2018 Optics Valley Sino-International Entrepreneurs Summit in Wuhan in October 2018;

- (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, WHETO assisted in arranging delegations to Hong Kong led by Liu Qi, the Party Secretary of Jiangxi in May 2018 and Wang Xiaodong, the Governor of Hubei in September 2018 on trade promotion events, and arranged the latter to meet CE;
- (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, supported the Annual Dinner in Celebration of the 7th Anniversary of the Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce in China – Wuhan cum the 20th Anniversary of Hong Kong’s Return to the Motherland in December 2017; attended the Annual Dinner in Celebration of the Centenary of the Bank of East Asia cum the 10th Anniversary of its Wuhan Branch in February 2018; attended the Opening Ceremony of Hong Kong Pavilion and the Acknowledgement Dinner by the Delegation of Hong Kong Food Council in Wuhan in June 2018; attended the 2018 D+M Wuhan and Hong Kong Design Think Tank Summit;
- (e) Keeping Hong Kong’s major industrial and trade organisations as well as Hong Kong residents and enterprises in the region informed of the latest economic and trade policies, legislations and measures in the region through newsletters and sharing sessions; monitoring closely those latest policy developments and regulations that may have an impact on Hong Kong enterprises and reporting to the relevant bureaux and departments of the HKSAR Government in a timely manner; and collecting the views of Hong Kong enterprises on these developments / legislations and reflecting their views to relevant Mainland authorities for consideration where appropriate. During the report period, WHETO issued 12 “Monthly Newsletters”, 26 “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.). In addition, WHETO organised a seminar in July 2018 to provide an opportunity for Hong Kong enterprises to communicate directly with and reflect questions on business operation to various local government authorities in Wuhan. Relevant Wuhan officials were invited to introduce the latest economic development and policy of Wuhan, and answer questions from Hong Kong enterprises;

- (f) Organising seminars with experts invited to talk about issues of common concern, such as taxation, labour laws and human resources management of the Mainland, to Hong Kong enterprises operating business in the Mainland. For example, organised the “Seminar on Labour Law and Human Resources” and “Seminar on Taxation” in November 2017 and April 2018 respectively; and
- (g) Monitoring closely the region’s latest strategies relating to the Belt and Road Initiative as well as the latest development China (Hubei) Pilot Free Trade Zone, Yangtze River Middle Reaches City Clusters of Hubei, Hunan and Jiangxi, Ganjiang New Area of Jiangxi, Changjiang New Town in Wuhan 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.

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 208 times, generated 17 live projects and completed 7 investment projects.

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

- (a) Attending and delivering a presentation at “2018 China (Zhengzhou) International Food Business Co-operation Forum” in Zhengzhou in April 2018;
- (b) Co-organising with Invest Hong Kong (InvestHK) a roundtable entitled “Belt and Road, Together We Grow” on business and professional services sector in Wuhan in April 2018;
- (c) Attending and delivering a presentation at the “Seminar on the Practice of the Hong Kong Securities Market” organised by the Finance Office of the Government of Jiangxi Province and the Jiangxi Regulatory Bureau of China Securities Regulatory Commission in Nanchang in May 2018;
- (d) Co-organising a “Seminar on Co-operation and Exchange between the Food and Catering Industries of Hubei and Hong Kong” with WHETO, InvestHK, Wuhan Federation of Industry and Commerce and Hong Kong Food Council in Wuhan in June 2018; and

- (e) Participating in other investment promotion activities to enhance connection with more Mainland enterprises in the region. For example, the “Third Chushang Conference” in Wuhan in November 2017 and the “12th China (Henan) International Investment and Trade Fair China” in Zhengzhou in April 2018, “Taiyuan Energy and Low Carbon Development Forum” in Taiyuan in September 2018, as well as “Forum on Global Production Capacity and Business Co-operation” and “Optics Valley Sino-International Entrepreneurs Summit” in Wuhan in October 2018.

Public Relations

5. As a bridge between Hong Kong and the central 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) In October 2017, placed 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;
- (b) In October 2017, placed advertisements at Zhengzhou Xinzheng International Airport to disseminate the message of celebrating the 20th anniversary of Hong Kong’s return to the Motherland;
- (c) Organised the "Together • Progress • Opportunity – Roving Exhibition in Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Return of Hong Kong to the Motherland" in Nanchang in November 2017 to enhance the understanding of Mainland residents on Hong Kong, especially on the development of the HKSAR since its establishment;
- (d) Organised the "Together • Progress • Opportunity – Roving Exhibition in Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Return of Hong Kong to the Motherland" in Yueyang in November 2017 to enhance the understanding of Mainland residents on Hong Kong, especially on the development of the HKSAR since its establishment;
- (e) Represented the HKSAR Government to attend the "13th Pan Pearl River Delta Provincial Capital Cities Forum" in November 2017;
- (f) Organising the Hong Kong Film Festival in Wuhan in December 2017 to foster co-operation between film industries in Hong Kong and the Mainland;
- (g) In December 2017 and January 2018, organised the “Hong Kong Photo Exhibition” in Zhengzhou to promote Hong Kong to local residents;
- (h) Collaborating with the Information Channel of Hubei Television to produce and broadcast the radio programme “Next Station, Hong Kong” in the region to promote Hong Kong;

- (i) Collaborating with the New 360 Channel of Hubei Television to produce a TV series to foster the mutual understanding of residents in the Mainland and Hong Kong;
- (j) Collaborating with the CN Hubei to disseminate Hong Kong-related news and information through a designated mobile APP to let the residents in the region have a more comprehensive understanding on Hong Kong's development;
- (k) 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 in the region have a more comprehensive understanding on Hong Kong's development;
- (l) Since April 2018, collaborating with a Henan media, Dahe Daily, to set up a designated Hong Kong column on their news APP and release daily news relating to Hong Kong in the column to let the residents of Henan Province and other places of the region have a more comprehensive understanding on Hong Kong's development, and attended an interview;
- (m) Disseminating information related to WHETO and Hong Kong through our official WeChat account. During the report period, a total of 334 messages of news and activities were disseminated;
- (n) From August to September 2018, placed advertisements at the metro station platforms of Line 4 of the Wuhan Metro which traversed Changjiang and two major districts (Wuchang and Hanyang) of Wuhan to promote Hong Kong;
- (o) From September to November 2018, organised the "Hong Kong Photo Exhibition" in Changsha featuring photos of Hong Kong's scenery and festive events to showcase Hong Kong as a city of charm to local residents in Changsha;
- (p) From October to December 2018, organised the "Hong Kong Photo Exhibition" in Kaifeng featuring photos of Hong Kong's scenery, festive events and infrastructures to showcase Hong Kong as a city of charm to local residents; and
- (q) From September to December 2018, placed advertisements at Zhengzhou Xinzheng International Airport and High-speed Railway Zhengzhou East Station to promote Hong Kong.

6. In order to strengthen the cultural exchanges between Hong Kong and the region, as well as to promote Hong Kong's "soft power", WHETO organised "Spotlight Hong Kong 2018" in October 2018. Various cultural and creative activities were held in Wuhan, Changsha and Zhengzhou respectively, including music, dance, drama and movies. In addition, WHETO arranged the Secretary for Home Affairs' visit to Hubei and meeting with the senior provincial officials responsible for culture and creative industries in July 2018. WHETO also assisted the Ministry of Culture and Tourism in organising the visit of a Hong Kong delegation to Hubei in September 2018.

7. In late June 2018, WHETO publicised the anniversary of Hong Kong's Reunification to the Motherland and our developments in the past 21 years through newspaper advertisements and a reception for major stakeholders.

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. Specific tasks 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 relevant institutions in Jiangxi and Shanxi to learn about the latest development in both provinces 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 situation. 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 December 2017, WHETO assisted in arranging a delegation led by Xi Dan, the Deputy Secretary General of Wuhan Municipality, to meet with the Environmental Protection Department of the HKSAR Government for exchanging information on each other's work on the environmental protection and exploring areas for strengthening co-operation, and assisted in arranging the United Front Work Department of the CPC of Hunan to meet with the Education Bureau of the HKSAR Government in early 2018 for exchanging information on each other's work in the education sector;
- (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 March 2018, a "Spring Reception for Hong Kong Residents in Hubei Province 2018" was organised in Wuhan. Arrangements for Hong Kong residents in the related region to meet with the HKSAR Government principal officials during their visits to the central region were made, which included arranging a meeting during the visit of the Secretary for Home Affairs to Wuhan in July 2018;
 - Met with Hong Kong university students studying in Wuhan and Changsha as well as the offices for Hong Kong and Macao affairs in respective universities to understand students' lives and studies; and 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 April 2018, organised a career talk in Wuhan on job search and business start-up for Hong Kong students in the Mainland to provide information to Hong Kong students studying in Wuhan universities on employment and life planning, in order to help them to plan ahead on their future development and get prepared for their career;
 - Provided internship opportunities for Hong Kong university students studying in Wuhan and Changsha, and disseminated relevant information to Hong Kong students; and
 - Provided information (for example, on civil service recruitment of the HKSAR Government) to Hong Kong residents in the region through its website and WeChat official account;
- (c) Maintained close liaison with the relevant government departments of the region to better understand the details of the facilitation measures (including the Residence Permit for Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan Residents which had been open for applications since 1 September 2018) and their implementation, disseminated the latest information through various channels to the Hong Kong people and enterprises of the region, and collected comments on the relevant measures from Hong Kong people;
- (d) Maintaining close liaison with the relevant Mainland offices of the Hong Kong Trade Development Council and the Hong Kong Tourism Board to collaborate on various initiatives including those promoting Hong Kong;
- (e) Supporting relevant bureaux and organisations to enhance youth exchange and internship schemes in the Mainland. For example, in January 2018, WHETO received a delegation on a youth cultural exchange tour to Hubei organised by Unleash Foundation to know about what the delegation members saw and heard on the trip and also the views of Hong Kong youth about the Mainland. In June 2018, WHETO received a delegation of the Committee of Youth Activities in Hong Kong and encouraged members of the committee to promote further youth exchanges, internship programmes and volunteer services in the central region. In the same month, WHETO also received a delegation of Hong Kong youth who took part in a summer exchange programme organised by the VQ Foundation and briefed them on WHETO's work and functions as well as introducing the latest developments of Hong Kong's co-operation with the region;
- (f) To strengthen exchanges, in May 2018, WHETO assisted in arranging the Secretary for Home Affairs to attend the Inception Ceremony of Hong Kong Federation of Jiangxi Associations cum the Inauguration Ceremony of its first Executive Committee; and
- (g) To promote cultural exchanges, WHETO organised in October 2018 a master class in Wuhan hosted by Leung Kin-fung, Performing Arts Director of

Diocesan Girls' School of Hong Kong, to showcase the local students performing techniques on stage. In the same month, WHETO also organised in Wuhan a sharing session by Willy Tsao, Artistic Director of BeijingDance/LDTX, to introduce to the local residents concepts and knowledge relating to contemporary dance.

Hunan Liaison Unit (HNLU)

9. Since its establishment in Changsha in May 2016, HNLU under WHETO strived 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, Hunan and its 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 March 2018, organised the “2018 Forum between the Hunan Provincial Government and Representatives of Hong Kong Enterprises” to provide an opportunity for Hong Kong enterprises to communicate directly with local government departments. Mr. Chen Fei, Vice Governor of Hunan Province, attended the forum and delivered a speech;
- (b) in July 2018, provided support to the “Hong Kong Creativity in Business, Hunan” series of activities organised by the Hong Kong Trade Development Council; and hosted dinner with a delegation of the Hong Kong brand and creative design industry in Changsha;
- (c) in September 2018, invited relevant Hong Kong trade associations and enterprises to participate at the “2018 China International Food and Catering Expo”, including setting up a Hong Kong Pavilion and hosting the “Seminar on Imported Food Safety in Hong Kong and Brand Building” to promote Hong Kong’s food and wine industries. During the period, HNLU organised a Hong Kong delegation to visit various food industrial parks and local enterprises in Changsha to promote exchanges and co-operation between the two places; and
- (d) kept 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 the “2018 Mainland Taxation” Seminar and “2018 Hot Topics in Taxation” Seminar in April and August 2018 respectively.

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

- (a) during the reporting period, HNLU called on relevant authorities of the Hunan Provincial, the Changsha Municipal, the Yueyang Municipal, the Huaihua Municipal, the Changde Municipal, the Yongzhou Municipal, Hengyang

Municipal, the Zhuzhou Municipal, the Xiangtan Municipal, the Loudi Municipal and the Shaoyang Municipal governments to establish ties and exchange views on its work plans and activities;

- (b) supported the Hunan Province, the Changsha Municipality and relevant associations 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;
- (c) supported Hong Kong students studying in the Mainland. This includes, inter alia, regular meetings with Hong Kong university students studying in Changsha regularly to learn more about their daily lives and studies; providing them with timely information on employment opportunities;
- (d) actively promoted youth exchange, cultural exchange and other exchanges between Hong Kong and the Hunan Province, and provided assistance through receiving groups from Hong Kong conducting exchanges in Hunan. This includes, inter alia, attending the award ceremony of “Bauhinia in Blossom” – a global Chinese novel competition in celebration of the 20th Anniversary of HKSAR in December 2017 to foster cultural exchange between Hong Kong and the Mainland; facilitating exchanges with 35 Hong Kong students joining the 2017 nursing winter camp organised by the Central South University in December 2017; provided internship opportunities to Hong Kong students participating at the “2018 Hunan Summer Internship Scheme for Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan Students” in July 2018; liaised with relevant Hong Kong organisations to participate in the “U11 Changsha International Friendship Youth Football Competition” and the “2018 Chinese Cultural Immersion Summer Camp (Hunan) for Overseas Chinese Youth” in July 2018; organised exchanges with 20 outstanding Hong Kong students from the “31st HKSAR Outstanding Students Selection – Changsha, Hunan Tour” in August 2018; accompanied the choir of Diocesan Girls’ School visiting the Yuelu Academy in October 2018;
- (e) organised meetings and gatherings with Hong Kong people and businessmen in Hunan regularly to foster mutual understanding and enhance liaison. For example, HNLU organised the “2018 Spring Reception for Hong Kong Residents in Hunan Province” in March 2018 to strengthen connection with the Hong Kong people and businessmen there. Over 300 guests from Hong Kong and the Mainland attended the event; and
- (f) actively liaising with the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the Hunan Province and relevant authorities on implementation of facilitation measures for Hong Kong people living in Hunan.

Henan Liaison Unit (HALU)

10. HALU, located in Zhengzhou, the capital city of Henan Province, was established more than two years ago in September 2016. It 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 region. The specific work included –

Commercial Relations

- (a) In December 2017, held “Exchange Meeting for Wine Merchants in Hong Kong and Henan” in Zhengzhou to help the wine merchants in Henan Province better understand the competitive edge of the wine industry in Hong Kong and to facilitate the development of wine trading between the two places;
- (b) Keeping close contact with local government and trade and industry organisations 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, HALU organised a seminar concerning economic and trade topics in July 2018 to help Hong Kong enterprises have a better understanding of the business environment of Henan Province; and
- (c) Organised regular meetings and gatherings with the Hong Kong people and enterprises in Henan Province to better understand their needs and provide assistance. For example, HALU organised a spring reception in March 2018 to strengthen its connection with the Hong Kong people and businessmen in the Province.

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

- (a) During the report period, HALU has called on the relevant authorities of the Henan Provincial, the Xinxiang Municipal, the Xuchang Municipal, the Jiaozuo Municipal, the Anyang Municipal, and the Shangqiu Municipal governments to introduce the establishment and functions of HALU and exchange views on its work plans and specific activities;
- (b) Assisted in the liaison between provincial government bodies and the HKSAR Government. For example, in February 2018, HALU assisted the Henan Provincial government to invite the Under Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development to attend the “12th China (Henan) International Investment and Trade Fair Promotion Meeting cum Spring Reception of Henan Entrepreneurs in Hong Kong 2018” held in Hong Kong;
- (c) Fostering actively cultural and other exchanges between Hong Kong and Henan Province. For example, HALU assisted the Foreign and Overseas Chinese Affairs Office of Zhengzhou Municipal government to liaise with the Leisure and Cultural Services Department for the preparation of the “11th China (Zhengzhou) International Garden Expo” held in Zhengzhou from September 2017 to May 2018; and assisted Henan Municipal Administration of Cultural Heritage to invite representatives of the Leisure and Cultural

Services Department to attend the “International Ancient Capitals Forum” held in Luoyang in April 2018; and

- (d) In July 2018, attended the activities of the “Second Cultural Heritage Summer Course for Secondary School Students of the Mainland, Hong Kong and Macau SARs” to exchange views with the secondary school students coming from Hong Kong, Macau and the Mainland; in August 2018, attended the activities of the “Explore the Central Plains – Henan Cultural Exchange Tour of the Arts Ambassadors-in-School 2018” organised by the Hong Kong Arts Development Council to exchange views with the secondary school and university students from Hong Kong.

Immigration-related Matters and Assistance Rendered

11. The Immigration Division of WHETO commenced operation on 27 November 2017 to handle immigration matters including 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 WHETO. During the report period, WHETO received a total of 29 requests for assistance from Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland, processed 42 passport renewal applications and handled 1 068 enquiries.

12. Meanwhile, WHETO received a total of 8 other requests for assistance during the report period. WHETO has made referrals to the relevant Mainland authorities for follow-up and monitored the progress.

Looking Ahead

13. WHETO will continue to promote the economic and trade relations between Hong Kong and the region, and will organise diversified activities and step up the promotion of Hong Kong in the region to enhance residents in the region’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 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 region. In addition, WHETO will follow up on the implementation progress of the facilitation measures for Hong Kong’s people studying, working and living in the Mainland in the central region, and disseminate the information through various channels. WHETO will also monitor the 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.

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 organisations and the media 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 2017, Hong Kong was Taiwan's fourth largest trading partner and Taiwan was Hong Kong's third largest trading partner in merchandise trade. During the reporting period¹, HKETCO continued to promote economic and trade, investment, financial services, 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)². HKETCO continued its liaison with various stakeholders in the industrial and commercial sector, including major Taiwan industry and commerce associations as well as local industry and commerce organisations in various cities and counties, so as to keep them abreast of the latest economic and trade developments in Hong Kong. Besides, HKETCO continued to enhance its connection with Hong Kong businesses in Taiwan during the reporting period. Through meeting with Hong Kong people working in various industries and visiting Hong Kong companies, HKETCO learnt about their operations and needs as well as the development of relevant industries in Taiwan; and shared and exchanged information relating to commerce and trade in Hong Kong and Taiwan. Furthermore, with the support of HKETCO, HKBA held a series of activities, visits and thematic talks for its members. Representatives of HKETCO attended the activities to foster closer ties and exchange information with its members.

3. 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 visit of the Hong Kong-Taiwan Business Co-operation Committee³ to Taiwan in September 2018.

4. On the other hand, HKETCO kept a close watch on important information in Hong Kong and Taiwan relating to economic and trade matters as well as business operations, such

¹ 1 November 2017 to 31 October 2018.

² 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.

³ 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.

as changes of relevant regulations in the two places⁴. HKETCO disseminated economic and trade messages to Hong Kong businesses operating in Taiwan, industry and commerce associations in Taiwan, and Taiwan enterprises interested in investing in Hong Kong, through the monthly “Hong Kong-Taiwan Economic and Trade Newsletter” as well as ad-hoc emails. Members of the public can also download the Newsletter from HKETCO’s website (www.hketco.hk). HKETCO also handled 26 enquiries relating to Hong Kong-Taiwan economic and trade matters during the reporting period.

5. In order to strengthen the understanding of Hong Kong by Taiwan’s business community 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 Taipei City in September 2018. With biotechnology as the theme, the Forum invited guest speakers from Hong Kong and Taiwan to analyse major trends of this high value-added emerging industry, introduce the latest developments of biotechnology in Hong Kong and Taiwan, and as the world has entered the ageing era, explore how Hong Kong and Taiwan should collaborate to plan and seize new opportunities with a view of generating new business prospects for the two places in the future.

Investment Promotion

6. HKETCO actively promoted the business environment of Hong Kong to attract Taiwan enterprises to establish or expand their operations in Hong Kong. The Investment Promotion Division (IPD) of HKETCO took initiatives in identifying and reaching out to Taiwan enterprises, and encouraging them to take advantage of various professional services and extensive operational experiences 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 reporting period, IPD visited 264 companies in Taiwan, generated 26 live projects and completed 16 investment projects. The majority of these companies are engaged in innovation and technology, tourism and hospitality, as well as transport and industrial sectors.

7. During the reporting period, the major promotional activities conducted by IPD included –

- (a) Jointly organising an economic co-operation seminar in Hsinchu County with a local trade association in April 2018 to brief innovation and technology-related enterprises on the latest policies for promoting innovation and technology in Hong Kong;
- (b) Jointly organising a seminar with relevant trade associations in New Taipei City in May 2018 to introduce the advantages and opportunities of developing financial technology in Hong Kong;
- (c) Jointly organising an economic co-operation seminar in Hualien County with a local trade association to give a thematic talk in July 2018 on, amongst other things, the latest economic and trade relations between Hong Kong and Taiwan as well as the investment and business environment in Hong Kong;

⁴ During the reporting period, amendments to the regulations in Hong Kong and Taiwan included overtime work and leave arrangements; immigration documents used by Hong Kong residents to visit Taiwan; and Taiwan’s integrated income tax standard deductions and profit-seeking enterprise income tax rates etc.

- (d) Participating in a number of expositions of major industries in Taiwan to identify and establish contacts with Taiwan enterprises interested in investing in Hong Kong, such as the “2017 Meet Taipei Startup Festival” held in November 2017, the “2018 Smart City Summit and Expo” held in March 2018, and the “2018 BioTaiwan” held in July 2018, etc.; and
- (e) Publishing articles in magazines to illustrate, by way of case studies, how four Taiwan enterprises made use of Hong Kong as a springboard to expand markets.

Promotion of Cultural and Creative Industries

8. During the reporting period, HKETCO actively promoted exchanges of cultural and creative industries between Hong Kong and Taiwan. The major work included –

- (a) Supporting the Hong Kong-Taiwan Cultural Co-operation Committee⁵ in organising the “Hong Kong Week 2017” in Taipei City between November and December 2017, and providing assistance for arranging the visits of the Committee. The “Hong Kong Week 2017” aimed to promote the latest features of cultural diversity in Hong Kong to the Taiwan public. Apart from an exhibition on Hong Kong video games and game music as well as six performances, there was also a series of extension activities such as mini-concerts, fringe events, workshops, seminars, etc.;
- (b) Publishing the seventh issue of “Art & Culture@Hong Kong” in November 2017. Through twelve articles on the theme of “Daily Life in Hong Kong in 24 Hours”, readers were invited to understand Hong Kong from cultural and artistic perspectives. The eighth issue of “Art & Culture@Hong Kong” is under preparation and expected to be published by the end of 2018;
- (c) Setting up a Hong Kong lantern area at the 2018 Nantou Lantern Festival in February and March 2018 to appeal to the Taiwan public to visit Hong Kong, explore its cityscape and experience the local ambience through a vast array of lanterns and videos featuring travel, arts and culture, and traditional customs of Hong Kong;
- (d) Supporting the Hong Kong Publishing Federation and the Hong Kong Printers Association to participate in the “Taipei International Book Exhibition” in February 2018, during which the “Soaring Creativity - Hong Kong Pavilion” was set up to showcase the diversity of Hong Kong’s printed matters and publications as well as the development of the publishing and printing industry in Hong Kong. It also provided opportunities for Hong Kong publishers to have direct exchanges with readers in Taiwan. Publications introducing Hong Kong were also distributed at the venue to promote Hong Kong’s cultural characteristics; and
- (e) Supporting the Asian Youth Orchestra, which is based in Hong Kong, to perform in Taipei City and Chiayi City in August 2018.

⁵ 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.

9. HKETCO also had exchanges with individuals and organisations from the cultural and creative industries in Hong Kong who visited Taiwan to perform, organise or participate in exhibitions and activities; and actively met with individuals and organisations of various fields of the cultural and creative industries in Taiwan.

Public Relations

10. During the reporting period, HKETCO continued to establish contacts with stakeholders from various sectors in Taiwan, briefing them on HKETCO's work and promoting the strengths of Hong Kong. The Director and key members of HKETCO visited a number of cities and counties in Taiwan and carried out different activities such as meeting with local industry and commerce associations, cultural organisations, universities and the academia, etc. as well as visiting infrastructural facilities and arts and cultural venues.

11. HKETCO also completed a series of publicity work during the reporting period. The major work included

- (a) Co-operating with the Commonwealth Magazine of Taiwan to publish magazine columns from September 2017 to July 2018 which featured interviews with individuals from Hong Kong and Taiwan. The columns helped promote various advantages of Hong Kong in the fields of innovation and technology, smart city development, financial technology, biotechnology, arts and culture, etc. A similar column has been published in another business magazine in Taiwan, namely "Global Views", starting from September 2018. Separately, HKETCO has been co-operating with "Commercial Times" newspaper of Taiwan since April 2018 to publish a series of feature stories to introduce the latest developments and advantages of Hong Kong's diversified economy;
- (b) Organising a roving exhibition between October and November 2017 in Taipei City, New Taipei City and Hsinchu County to showcase different facets of life in Hong Kong, including green living, traditional customs, and arts and culture. This was intended to raise the profile and enhance the understanding of Hong Kong amongst the Taiwan public. Thematic exhibitions were also staged at the same venues between August and September 2018. Through videos, photographs and interactive multimedia activities, the exhibition introduced the developments in Hong Kong's four areas of strength, namely biotechnology, artificial intelligence, smart city and financial technology;
- (c) Co-organising the Spring Reception with the HKTDC Taiwan Branch and the Hong Kong Tourism Board Taiwan Branch in March 2018, with a view to strengthening ties with various sectors in Taiwan, as well as Hong Kong people and businessmen in Taiwan. Videos were shown and decorations were displayed at the reception to present the latest developments and opportunities as well as the rich and diversified cityscape and appearance of Hong Kong, enabling the guests to experience the glamour of the Asia's world city;
- (d) Organising a cultural exhibition in the square outside the Eslite Taitung Story Museum in Taitung County in May 2018. Through the diversified thematic

decorations and lanterns featuring Hong Kong imagery and streetscape, the exhibition appealed to the Taiwan public and visitors to visit Hong Kong and experience local culture and ambience; and

- (e) Providing information about Hong Kong to various sectors and the general public in Taiwan 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

12. 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, strengthening the dissemination of information, and offering them necessary advice and assistance to the extent possible.

13. Regarding Hong Kong students in Taiwan, the Director and key members of HKETCO visited a total of 15 universities in various cities and counties during the reporting period to have exchanges with Hong Kong students there as well as understand their learning and daily lives. HKETCO also organised a total of four student gatherings in the northern, central and southern parts of Taiwan. In addition, HKETCO maintained close contact with Hong Kong student associations in Taiwan, and made use of their channels to disseminate useful information. 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 September and October 2018 to provide job-seeking information to Hong Kong students in Taiwan, and offered opportunities for them to gain work experience through an internship programme. HKETCO also supported student groups to organise activities to strengthen mutual support and relationships amongst students, and to promote Hong Kong.

14. HKETCO maintained close communications with associations of Hong Kong people in Taiwan, including organising a football competition in April 2018 and a tea gathering in July 2018 for Hong Kong people in Taiwan, and participating in several activities organised by associations of Hong Kong people in Taiwan. Moreover, HKETCO received a number of non-governmental study missions and delegations from Hong Kong, briefing them on the work of HKETCO and exchanging views with them on Hong Kong-Taiwan co-operation.

15. During the reporting period, HKETCO received 103 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 Immigration Department and offered all possible assistance according to the circumstances, including providing advice on such matters as local administrative procedures, and how to liaise with relevant organisations or seek legal advice.

Looking Ahead

16. HKETCO will continue to step up efforts in establishing links with various sectors in Taiwan and to promote the strengths of Hong Kong in Taiwan; actively encourage Taiwan enterprises to invest in Hong Kong; foster closer economic relationship between Hong Kong

and Taiwan, and support Hong Kong businesses in Taiwan, including organising different forms of forums and talks; and promote exchanges between the cultural and creative industries of the two places through various means.

Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office (Taiwan)
November 2018

Performance Indicators of the Mainland and Taiwan Offices

The performance indicators and the relevant figures in 2016 and 2017 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	2016	2017
Meetings on trade-related matters attended	578	731
Visits to Mainland/Taiwan authorities and trade organisations	856	1 026
Seminars, exhibitions and workshops		
- organised	153	177
- participated	401	479
Public speeches given	140	193
Media interviews/briefings given	124	174
No. of special trade-related messages issued	386	402

Promotion of Strengths of Hong Kong

Indicators	2016	2017
Call on senior officials/personnel/organisations	2 650	3 194
Public relations/cultural functions/events		
- organised	562	613
- participated	639	913
Newsletters/pamphlets/press releases issued	595	775
No. of visitors assisted	4 857	8 855
Public speeches given	213	283
Media interviews/briefings given	341	424
Enquiries handled (excluding those related to immigration matters)	11 758	10 247

Investment Promotion

Indicators	2016	2017
New projects generated ¹	164	166
Projects completed ²	100	97

Immigration-related Matters

Indicators	2016	2017
Unreferred visas/entry permit cases ³		
- received	2 414	5 018
- processed	2 319	4 978

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

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.

Indicators	2016	2017
Referred visas/entry permit cases		
- received	2 300	2 525
- processed	2 261	2 529
HKSAR passport replacement		
- no. of application received	319	3 300
- no. of passport issued	174	3 121
Provision of practical assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland (no. of cases)	319	415
No. of enquiries handled by the Immigration Divisions	27 837	39 827