

**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 and 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 2018 and October 2019.

**Overview**

2. As mentioned in the 2019 Policy Address, the Government has been capitalizing on the opportunities brought by the Belt & Road Initiative and the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (the Greater Bay Area), with a view to generating new impetus of economic growth and opening up more markets for Hong Kong's enterprises and professional services. The Mainland Offices have proactively organized and participated in large-scale forums, visits and exhibitions etc. during the reporting period to promote the roles of Hong Kong in the pursuit of the Belt & Road Initiative and the Greater Bay Area development. Through deepening co-operations with various provinces and municipalities in areas ranging from trade, finance, to innovation and technology, creative industries and youth exchanges, we can identify more business and development opportunities for Hong Kong people and enterprises. Following the promulgation of the Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area in February 2019, as well as the 24 policy measures promulgated by the Central Government after the Leading Group meeting for the development of the Greater Bay Area held on 1 March and 6 November 2019, Hong Kong residents should find it more convenient to reside, study and work in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area, and the convenient flow of people and goods within the Greater Bay Area have also been greatly enhanced.

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, 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 further strengthened their connection and communication 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 the development of the Greater Bay Area) and report to the Government in a timely manner to assess their impact on Hong Kong. These Offices have 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 after joining high-level forums and various activities.

5. The Mainland and Taiwan Offices have continued to foster liaison and co-operation with non-governmental 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 organised and participated in exhibitions and numerous trade activities to promote Hong Kong's investment environment and to encourage and enhance Hong Kong's trade and commercial relations with the Mainland provinces and municipalities. During the reporting period, 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. 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 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 positive image through various channels, including 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 local communities. During the reporting period, the Mainland Offices organised a wide range of activities to celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the reform and opening-up of the country in the Mainland, to reflect 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. To explore more cultural exchange opportunities and collaboration between young people from the Mainland and Hong Kong, the Mainland Offices have been actively supporting internship and exchange programmes for Hong Kong students in the Mainland, as well as providing comprehensive information, assistance and advice to the students who participated in the programmes. The Mainland and Taiwan Offices welcome collaboration with Hong Kong art groups to stage cultural performances and exchanges in the Mainland and Taiwan to promote the unique culture of Hong Kong.

## **Looking Ahead**

8. We have upgraded the network and functions of 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 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 with respect to 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 Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area promulgated in February 2019, the Mainland Offices and their liaison units will proactively promote the Greater Bay Area, thereby expanding the scope of development and generating new impetus for growth. The HKETCO will also continue to promote

economic, trade, cultural exchanges and creative industries 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 for 2017 and 2018 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 coverage<sup>1</sup>; (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 (GBA), 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 reporting period, the Chief Executive (CE) visited Beijing and delivered a speech at the "The Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area: A Rising Star in the Global Economy" session at the China Development Forum 2019 in March 2019; and led a Hong Kong delegation to Beijing to attend the second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, which was officiated by President Xi Jinping in April 2019. BJO provided support for these activities. BJO also participated in the second Joint Conference on Advancing Hong Kong's Full Participation in and Contribution to the Belt and Road Initiative held in Beijing in July 2019, which was attended by representatives of the HKSAR Government and the relevant central ministries.

3. During the reporting period, BJO also attended the 2019 China (Tianjin) International Fair for Investment and Trade, the 6<sup>th</sup> China-Russia Expo cum 30<sup>th</sup> Harbin International Economic and Trade Fair, the 25<sup>th</sup> China Lanzhou Investment and Trade Fair, the 4<sup>th</sup> International Cultural Exposition of the Silk Road (Dunhuang) and the 9<sup>th</sup> Dunhuang Tour-Silk Road International Tourism Festival, the 12<sup>th</sup> China Northeast Asia Expo, the 4<sup>th</sup> China-Arab States Expo, the 3<sup>rd</sup> China-Mongolia 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.

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<sup>1</sup> Beijing, Tianjin, Hebei, Liaoning, Jilin, Heilongjiang, Inner Mongolia, Xinjiang, Gansu and Ningxia.

4. BJO was involved in the bilateral discussions between the HKSAR and the Mainland and/or with other countries / territories, and witnessed the signing of agreements in Beijing, including the signing of the Fifth Protocol to the Arrangement between the Mainland of China and the HKSAR for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income with the State Taxation Administration by the Financial Secretary as representative of the HKSAR Government in Beijing in July 2019.

5. BJO participated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> “Beijing-Hong Kong Youth Innovation and Entrepreneurship Cup” held in Beijing in June 2019 to support cooperation and exchange between young entrepreneurs in Beijing and Hong Kong.

6. BJO closely monitored the latest economic development in 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 reporting period, the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress promulgated on 31 August 2018 the Decision to Amend the “Law on Individual Income Tax Law of the People’s Republic of China” which took effect from 1 January 2019. The new law has significant impact on tax resident status and tax obligations of Hong Kong people. On 11 December 2018, BJO organised a seminar and invited experts to speak on the new law with a view to helping Hong Kong enterprises and people better understand the potential impact. In May 2019, BJO organised another seminar updating Hong Kong people on the Mainland’s new tax and employment-related policies. In addition, LNLU also organised a seminar on the “New Law on Personal Income Tax and New Policies on Social Security” in collaboration with the Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce in China - Shenyang (HKCCC-Shenyang) in Shenyang on 8 December 2018.

7. On 15 March 2019, the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress promulgated the “Foreign Investment Law”, which will take effect from 1 January 2020. This Law serves to further open up, encourage foreign investment, protect the rights of foreign investment and standardise foreign investment administration. BJO is monitoring the promulgation of the implementation details of the Law, and will organise a seminar inviting experts to share their views on the possible impact of the new policy on Hong Kong people and enterprises in the Mainland.

## **Public Relations**

8. To showcase Hong Kong’s latest development in Innovation and Technology (I&T) and creative industry, 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, online publicity and cooperation with media partners to strengthen the image of Hong Kong as an Asia’s world city with innovation and creativity.

### Roving exhibitions and advertisements on “Innovation and Creativity in Hong Kong”

9. To highlight Hong Kong as Asia’s world city with solid foundation for developing I&T, BJO held roving exhibitions with the theme of “Innovation and Creativity in Hong Kong” from April to September 2019 at seven trade fairs and expos held respectively in Tianjin, Langfang (Hebei), Harbin (Heilongjiang), Changchun (Jilin), Lanzhou (Gansu), Yinchuan (Ningxia) and Ulanqab (Inner Mongolia). The exhibitions introduced to the locals Hong Kong’s measures to promote I&T and its flourishing creative industries, favourable business environment, and rich metropolitan culture. The exhibitions attracted 335,000 visitors in total.

10. Leveraging the promotional effect of the roving exhibitions, BJO placed advertisements with the theme on “Innovation and Creativity” in Hong Kong in a number of influential local newspapers in the provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions where the exhibitions were held. At the same time, messages related to the theme were put across through the social media platforms of these newspapers to combine traditional and new media to promote Hong Kong's edges in I&T development and creative industry, and its rich metropolitan culture.

### The eighth Hong Kong Thematic Film Festival “Masters and Apprentices: Succession and Continuity in Hong Kong Cinema”

11. With their popularity in the Mainland, Hong Kong movies serve as an important gateway for promoting Hong Kong’s culture. In July 2019, BJO and Broadway Cinematheque jointly kicked off the 8th Hong Kong Thematic Film Festival, entitled “Masters and Apprentices: Succession and Continuity in Hong Kong Cinema”. The film festival highlighted the master-apprentice relationship in the Hong Kong film industry, a characteristic which has nurtured many talents for the sector. The festival featured a selection of impressive works from various times produced by master directors, scriptwriters, cinematographers, musicians and their apprentices. It was shown in a number of cities in the Mainland. Sharing sessions were also held for Hong Kong film producers to exchange views on filmmaking with the audience after the screenings.

### Partnership with media organisations

12. BJO proactively promotes Hong Kong’s culture through 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 2018 to September 2019, the two channels had aired some 180 feature reports on Hong Kong’s major happenings and developments. Of these reports, 47 were on art and sports, 33 on economy and I&T, and 29 on conventions, exhibitions and mega events, enhancing the Mainland audience’s understanding about Hong Kong’s development in various aspects.

13. As for online publicity, BJO has collaborated with the People's Daily Online (PDO) for years. In November 2018, the PDO visited Hong Kong for five days to conduct in-depth interviews under the theme "Grasping opportunities, striving ahead", to tie in with the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of reform and opening up of the country. The interviews covered topics such as the GBA development, the Belt and Road Initiative, financial services, I&T, arts and culture, etc. PDO subsequently issued six 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

14. BJO has fostered contacts with the Ministry of Culture and Tourism (MoCT) from time to time to explore more cultural exchange opportunities for Hong Kong arts groups. Cultural exchange activities have been strengthened since the founding of the Cultural Exchange Division in BJO. In the past year, cultural exchanges between Hong Kong and the Mainland have become more vibrant and diverse. Interactions among professional and academic fields were more effective and in depth. The Cultural Exchange Division has been instrumental in building connections and strengthening relationships with arts and cultural counterparts in regions under BJO's purview, and has made timely reports to the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) and the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) on collaboration opportunities between Hong Kong and the Mainland.

15. During the reporting period, BJO has supported and sponsored a variety of cultural exchange activities by major and small/medium Hong Kong arts groups. On music, BJO supported the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra to perform in Beijing, collaborating respectively with the China NCPA Orchestra and the Shanghai Quartet; and also the Asian Youth Orchestra to perform in Tianjin and Beijing. On exhibitions, BJO supported the staging of "The Oral Legacies: Intangible Cultural Heritage of the HKSAR" exhibition, co-presented by the LCSD and the Prince Kung's Mansion Museum, together with a series of seminars, performances and related exchange activities. BJO rendered support to the West Kowloon Xiqu Centre to perform in Xiqu Opera Black Box Festival in the Star Theatre, Beijing; and the City Contemporary Dance Company to stage performances at the Beijing Dance Festival, and to conduct a range of exchange activities including an international dance camp, seminars and talks. In addition, BJO has collaborated with the Hong Kong Film Archive to present film shows and talks jointly with the Beijing Normal University, the Peking University and the Hebei University. On the whole, the activities were warmly welcomed by the Mainland audience, arts practitioners as well as the media, serving to enhance their understanding and appreciation of Hong Kong's arts and cultural development, hence strengthening the cultural exchange between the two places.

#### Youth Exchange

16. BJO and its LUs have been proactively supporting internship and exchange



programmes for Hong Kong students in the Mainland, so as to encourage exchanges and co-operation between young people from the Mainland and Hong Kong. During the reporting 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 summer of 2019 in three thematic youth internship programmes organised by the HAB, including “Youth Internship Programme at Palace Museum”, “Youth Internship Programme at Chinese Academy of Sciences” and “Youth Internship Programme at Dunhuang”, and accompanied senior officials of the HKSAR Government to attend the related activities.

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

17. During the reporting 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.

18. BJO has also enhanced liaison efforts to broaden and deepen its 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 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 situations and to refer their concerns to the relevant authorities when necessary.

19. 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 every year. During the reporting period, BJO organized a mentorship programme for Hong Kong students studying in Beijing, matching them to senior mentors in the finance industry. The programme encouraged Hong Kong students to achieve life-wide learning and acquired first-hand information regarding the job market in the Mainland.

20. During the reporting period, BJO maintained close liaison with central and 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 the latest information to Hong Kong people

and businessmen through different channels. BJO proactively maintained connections with groups of Hong Kong people and students. To enhance their understanding of the various facilitation measures (including the amendments to the Individual Income Tax and the facilitation of the use of entry and exit permits since mid-2019), BJO arranged a briefing for Hong Kong people in which experts familiar with the policies gave a readout.

### **Investment Promotion**

21. 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 edges of Hong Kong as a platform for Mainland enterprises to develop overseas businesses. Those interested in setting up businesses in Hong Kong are offered comprehensive assistance and consultation services. During the reporting period, IPU proactively reached out to different organisations 304 times, generated 53 live projects and completed 34 investment projects, enabling the relevant enterprises to invest in Hong Kong. Regarding investment promotion events, IPU organised or attended 21 industry-specific or investment promotion seminars and exhibitions. In particular, IPU organised three investment promotion roundtable meetings in June and July 2019 for local enterprises in Ulanqab (Inner Mongolia), Harbin (Heilongjiang) and Beijing. In May 2019, LNLU, InvestHK and the HKMAO of Shenyang jointly organised a seminar entitled “Exploring Hong Kong – Presentation of Business Facilitation Policies for Enterprises’ Access to the GBA”. Besides, two investment promotion seminars in the theme of Belt and Road Initiative were organised in July and August 2019 in Changchun (Jilin) and Hohhot (Inner Mongolia) respectively. In addition, IPU also joined hands with BJO and its two LUs to call on enterprises and government departments, supported the events and activities of different organisations in the service areas from time to time, and promoted the competitive edges of Hong Kong’s capital market, introduced the latest government policies and tax incentive schemes, as well as her business-friendly environment for innovation and entrepreneurship.

22. 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**

23. LNLU has continued to enhance liaison between the HKSAR Government and different levels of the local governments in the three northeastern provinces (Liaoning, Jilin and Heilongjiang), to promote economic, trade, cultural and youth exchanges and co-operation between Hong Kong and 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 provinces to strengthen government-to-government liaison, co-ordinating communication and mutual visits between the local governments in the provinces and the HKSAR Government; conducting study visits to appropriate districts in the area to learn about the latest business and investment environment as well as development plans so as to explore new investment and co-operation opportunities for Hong Kong businessmen; organising exhibitions and attending activities to promote exchanges between Hong Kong and the provinces in various aspects; and holding regular meetings with Hong Kong people and representatives of Hong Kong enterprises in the area to understand their needs.

24. During the reporting period, LNLU attended different trade fair and expositions, including the 6<sup>th</sup> China-Russia Expo cum 30<sup>th</sup> Harbin International Economic and Trade Fair held in Harbin (Heilongjiang); and the 12<sup>th</sup> China-Northeast Asia Expo held in Changchun (Jilin), to showcase the latest achievements of Hong Kong in innovation and technology as well as creative industries.

25. LNLU has all along maintained close liaison with HKCCC-Shenyang, Jilin Hong Kong Enterprises Association as well as Hong Kong Trade Development Council Dalian Office, and supported their activities. LNLU also met with Hong Kong people, representatives of Hong Kong enterprises and Hong Kong students in Shenyang, Dalian, Tieling, Changchun, Jilin, Harbin, etc. to better understand their situation and needs relating to living, doing business and studying in the northeastern provinces, and provided 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, such as organising the "Seminar on the New Law on Personal Income Tax and New Policies on Social Security" and gathered their views on the measures.

26. LNLU has actively promoted exchanges in youth, culture and other aspects between Hong Kong and the three northeastern provinces, and has assisted in receiving organisations conducting exchange activities in the area. During the reporting period, LNLU received over 1 000 Hong Kong young people who joined youth exchange delegations arranged by eleven different groups and institutions. Organisations from Hong Kong included Our Hong Kong Foundation, Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups, Hong Kong Ta Kung Wen Wei Media Group, Association for the Promotion of Hong Kong Heilongjiang Economy Limited, the Hong Kong Seamen's Union, etc.; while the organisations in the three northeastern provinces included Harbin Institute of Technology, Dalian Maritime University, etc. Regarding internship programmes, LNLU supported the ongoing student summer internship programme in Dalian and Harbin co-ordinated by the Hong Kong United Youth Association, and organised some weekend activities in Shenyang for the participants. LNLU also provided internship places, each lasting for about six weeks, to four Hong Kong university students.

## **Tianjin Liaison Unit**

27. TJLU has continued to strengthen 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.

28. TJLU has a close working relationship with the local governments of Tianjin and Hebei. During the reporting period, TJLU called on 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 2019 China (Tianjin) International Fair for Investment and Trade & PECC Exposition, the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Intelligence Congress in Tianjin, and the 2019 China (Langfang) International Economic & Trade Fair in Langfang, Hebei. TJLU also attended the 10<sup>th</sup> National Games for Persons with Disabilities and 7<sup>th</sup> National Special Olympic Games, and met with the Hong Kong delegation.

29. 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. TJLU and HKCCC-Tianjin also co-organised a seminar on the tax reform in the Mainland to explain to participating Hong Kong businesses the policy contents and its implications.

30. On youth affairs and cultural promotion, during the reporting 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 Bureau of Culture and Tourism, TJLU lined up internship positions at Tianjin Museum and Tianjin Art Museum for Hong Kong students during the summer holiday of 2019. With the support of the Chengde Municipal Government of Hebei, TJLU facilitated the organization of the first student summer exchange programme to Hebei in 2019 to enable Hong Kong students to learn more about the motherland through studying the historical heritage and environmental conservation in Chengde.

## **Immigration-related Matters and Assistance Rendered**

31. 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 2018 to October 2019, BJO received a total of 120 requests for assistance from Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland. Of these, 37 cases involved the loss of travel documents or monies, 45 cases were from persons who were involved in traffic accidents, injured, sick or whose relatives had passed away in the Mainland, etc., and the remaining 38 cases involved the detention of Hong Kong residents in the Mainland. BJO also processed 5 210 entry applications, 662 applications for HKSAR passport replacement and handled 20 021 enquiries.

### **Looking Ahead**

32. 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 with respect to 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 2019

**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 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 has been strengthening liaison with local governments, representatives of local and Hong Kong non-governmental organisations (including the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC), Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTB), and Hong Kong Productivity Council (HKPC), etc.) in the five provinces/region, Hong Kong people and businessmen, as well as relevant groups and trade associations. On one hand, GDETO disseminates information on local business environment, development opportunities and policy. On the other hand, it helps reflect views of the Hong Kong business sector to the relevant authorities. The GDETO 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 many visits by senior officials of Hong Kong and the Mainland, and participated in high-level forums and large-scale trade events held in the five provinces/region. Examples of visits conducted by HKSAR officials include:

- (a) The Chief Executive (CE) led a Hong Kong delegation of more than 100 people to visit Shenzhen in November 2018 to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the reform and opening up of the country;
- (b) The CE attended the “17th Exchange Forum on Business Co-operation in Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area 2018” held in Zhuhai in December 2018;
- (c) In January 2019, the CE visited Guangzhou to meet with the Secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Guangdong Provincial Committee, Li Xi, and Governor of Guangdong Province, Ma Xingrui, to discuss collaboration between Hong Kong and Guangdong in the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area;
- (d) In March 2019, the CE visited the Conghua District of Guangzhou to attend the opening ceremony of the first Exhibition Raceday co-organised by the Hong Kong Jockey Club and local government;

- (e) The CE attended the “Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2019” and the “ASEAN-China Governors/Mayors’ Dialogue” sub-forum in Hainan in March 2019;
- (f) In May 2019, the CE and the Governor of Guangdong Province, Ma Xingrui, leading the delegations of the HKSAR and Guangdong Province respectively, co-chaired the “21st Plenary of the Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation Joint Conference” in Guangzhou. The CE then visited Foshan, Zhaoqing, Jiangmen and Guangzhou, as well as attended the opening ceremony of the first “Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Media Summit”;
- (g) The CE led a delegation to participate in the “2019 Pan-Pearl River Delta Regional Co-operation Chief Executive Joint Conference” held in Nanning in September 2019, and had bilateral meetings with the Secretary of the CPC Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region Committee, Lu Xinshe, and the Chairman of the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, Chen Wu; the Governor of Jiangxi Province, Yi Lianhong, and the Governor of Sichuan Province, Yin Li, respectively; and visited the Guangxi-Hong Kong (STC) Inspection, Test and Certification Centre and attended an opening ceremony of the Guangxi-Hong Kong STC Company Limited;
- (h) In September 2019, the CE visited the Nansha District of Guangzhou to attend the “Groundbreaking Ceremony for the Major Projects Construction of Guangzhou Nansha Demonstration Zone for Comprehensive Cooperation between Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao”;
- (i) The Chief Secretary for Administration (CS) led a delegation to visit Fujian Province in November 2018, and co-chaired the Third Hong Kong-Fujian Co-operation Conference in Fuzhou with the Vice Governor of Fujian Province, Guo Ningning;
- (j) The CS led a delegation to visit Shenzhen in April 2019 to meet the Mayor of Shenzhen, Chen Rugui, and co-chair the Hong Kong/Shenzhen Co-operation Meeting;
- (k) The Financial Secretary visited Shenzhen in August 2019 to attend the “2019 Qianhai Cooperation Forum”;
- (l) The Secretary for Justice (SJ) visited Shenzhen in November 2018 to attend the “Third Qianhai Legal Intelligence Forum”;
- (m) In September 2019, the SJ signed with the President of the High People’s Court of Guangdong Province, Gong Jiali, “A Framework Arrangement between the High People’s Court of Guangdong Province and Department of Justice of HKSAR on Exchange and Mutual Learning in Legal Aspects of the Greater Bay Area” in Shenzhen, and attended a seminar co-organised by

the Department of Justice, the High People's Court of Guangdong Province and the Shenzhen Intermediate People's Court, etc.

Besides, other Principal Officials such as the Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (SCMA), Secretary for Home Affairs (SHA), Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (SFST), Secretary for Transport and Housing (STH), Secretary for Food and Health (SFH), etc., also made trips to GDETO's service areas to attend various functions.

## **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, labour law, innovation and business startups, intellectual property rights, development of the service industry, human resources, brand management, etc.) to help them capitalise on business opportunities. During the reporting period, a total of 10 seminars were held by GDETO in Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Zhuhai, Foshan and Huizhou.

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 five Pilot Free Trade Zones in Guangdong, Fujian, Hainan, Yunnan and Guangxi provinces/region, and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao 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 reporting period, important policy developments included the promulgation of the "Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area" by the CPC Central Committee and State Council in February 2019, "Opinions on Implementing the Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area" issued by the Guangdong Provincial Government and "Three-year Action Plan (2018-2020) for Guangdong Province to Promote the Construction of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area" issued by the Guangdong Provincial Leading Group for Promoting the Construction of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area in July 2019, and the promulgation of the "Notice of the State Council on Issuing the Overall Plan for Six New Pilot Free Trade Zones" in August 2019, etc.

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 assisted representatives of trade association in reflecting their concerns on the issue of employment security fund for disabled persons to the Guangdong Finance Department, Guangdong



Federation of Disabilities in November 2018; GDETO arranged a meeting in December 2018 with the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office and relevant departments of the Guangdong Provincial Government with representatives from 14 major Industry and Trade Organisations (ITOs) in Hong Kong and Guangdong to exchange views on the business environment of Guangdong Province; GDETO assisted in arranging the Federation of Hong Kong Industries (FHKI) to call on the Shenzhen Customs in December 2018 to discuss matters on customs clearance and inspection of chemical agents imported by Hong Kong-invested enterprises; GDETO assisted the Guangdong and Hong Kong Feeder Association in arranging a visit to the Huangpu Customs to learn more about the latest policies on shipping service in January 2019; GDETO organised in March 2019 the “Gathering with Heads of Hong Kong’s Trade and Industry Associations” to provide a platform for exchange between the representatives of Hong Kong ITOs and local government officials, during which guest speakers from government departments of the Guangdong Province briefed the participating representatives on the policies under the “Individual Income Tax Law”, “Notice of Guangdong Provincial People’s Government on Issuing Certain Policies and Measures for Further Promoting Technology and Innovation”, “Certain Policies and Measures of Guangdong Province for Further Expanding the Scope of Liberalisation and Utilisation of Foreign Investment (Revised Version)”, “Measures of Guangdong Province for Optimising the Business Environment of Ports and Enhancing Cross-border Trade Facilitation”, etc.; GDETO coordinated meetings in April and October 2019 between representatives of Hong Kong ITO and Guangdong Department of Commerce to discuss on quotas for transport vehicles from Hong Kong and Macao travelling between Hong Kong and Mainland; GDETO supported the setting up of Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce in China – Guangxi, Nanning as well as the Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce in China – Xiamen (HKCCC in Xiamen) in July 2019, etc.

6. GDETO also organised and attended various activities to promote the roles Hong Kong could play in relation to the Belt and Road Initiative and the development of Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. Major activities included:

- (a) In November 2018, GDETO attended the “First Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Overseas Chinese Business Co-operation Summit cum the Seventh Inauguration Ceremony of the Shenzhen Overseas Chinese International Association (SOCIA)” organised by the SOCIA;
- (b) In November 2018, GDETO attended the “Dual-brand Promotion Programme (Shenzhen Stop)” in Shenzhen organised by the Design Council of Hong Kong under the FHKI to foster collaboration between Hong Kong’s design sector and the Mainland’s manufacturing sector, and to promote the brands of Hong Kong in the Greater Bay Area;
- (c) In November 2018 and March, May, July and September 2019 respectively, GDETO participated in the study missions organised by the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce on “Zhuhai in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area” , “Urban Renewal to Longgang, Shenzhen

in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area”, “Guangzhou and Shenzhen in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area”, “Zhaoqing Green and Greater Health Industry in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area”, “Jiangmen and Zhongshan Advanced Manufacturing in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area”;

- (d) In December 2018, GDETO attended the inauguration ceremony of the Cultural Creative Industries Promotion Association of Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area of Guangdong Province (the Association) cum the Seminar organised by the Association, and the “2018 Guangdong Green Development and Cleaner Production Forum cum Inauguration Ceremony of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Green Development Alliance” in Guangzhou, as well as the “2018 Talents and Entrepreneurship Forum of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area” in Dongguan;
- (e) In January 2019, GDETO attended in Guangzhou the “1st Anniversary of the Establishment of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Entrepreneurs Union cum Headquarters Economic Forum for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area 2019” and the “Collaboration Promotion Forum on Belt and Road and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area”;
- (f) In March 2019, GDETO attended the “First Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Entrepreneurs Summit cum 2019 Spring Gala for the Industrial and Commercial Sector of Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area” held in Shenzhen;
- (g) In April 2019, GDETO attended a policy promotion forum cum launching ceremony of the “International Tax Remittance Connect” in Guangzhou;
- (h) In May 2019, GDETO staged a Hong Kong Pavilion at the “15th China (Shenzhen) International Cultural Industries Fair” with the theme “Hong Kong’s Creative Designs Accompany Your Whole Life” to highlight the internationalisation of Hong Kong, and close cooperation between Hong Kong and municipalities in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area;
- (i) In May 2019, GDETO organised “The Best of Hong Kong” Exhibition at the “Second 21st Century Maritime Silk Road Expo and the 21st Cross-Straits Fair for Economy and Trade” in Fuzhou to introduce the latest position of Hong Kong’s economy and business environment, the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, the Belt and Road, etc.;
- (j) In August 2019, GDETO staged an exhibition at the “Guangdong 21st Century Maritime Silk Road International Expo (MSRE)” and 27th Guangzhou Fair, and attended the theme forum at the MSRE, etc.

7. To support the continual development of Hong Kong service enterprises, and to enhance their co-operation with counterparts in Guangdong, GDETO has joined hands with the HKTDC and 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 edition, online and mobile versions have been launched to facilitate easy access to the information in the Directory. Together with the launch of the Directory, GDETO jointly organised the “Seminar on Services Trade in Guangdong and Hong Kong” cum launching ceremony of the “2019 Directory of Hong Kong Service Enterprises in Guangdong” with the HKTDC and HKCCC-GD. 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’s 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 leverage Hong Kong’s advantages in financial services, innovation and technology, professional services, maritime and logistics and other areas to invest, raise funds, list, and develop Belt and Road business in Hong Kong. During the reporting period, GDETO worked with the Invest Hong Kong (IHK), representatives of Hong Kong financial and service industries, as well as relevant Mainland organisations in 12 events to promote investment in Hong Kong, attracting participation of more than 570 companies and government representatives. Major promotion events include:

- (a) in Haikou - a seminar on “Belt and Road • Together We Grow – Hainan Enterprises to Develop Overseas Financing Markets through Hong Kong” co-organised with the Hainan Provincial Development and Reform Commission and IHK in November 2018;
- (b) in Fuzhou - a seminar on “Belt and Road • Together We Grow – Investment Promotion Seminar” co-organised with the Department of Commerce of Fujian Province and IHK in November 2018;
- (c) in Shenzhen - a roundtable meeting for financial services enterprises co-organised with the IHK in May 2019; a seminar on “Development and Opportunities of the Fintech Sector in Hong Kong” organised by the IHK with GDETO’s support in August of the same year; a seminar on “Shenzhen I&T Enterprises’ Making Investments in Hong Kong – Seizing the New Opportunities in Greater Bay Area” co-organised with IHK in September of the same year;

- (d) in Nanning - two roundtable meetings co-organised with the IHK in May 2019 to encourage Guangxi enterprises and law firms to take advantage of Hong Kong for developing Belt and Road business;
- (e) in Zhuhai - a roundtable meeting co-organised with the IHK for Zhuhai enterprises in June 2019;
- (f) in Kunming - a seminar on “Capitalising Hong Kong's Business Advantages to Seize the Belt and Road Opportunities - Hong Kong as a Financing and Overseas Expansion Platform for Yunnan Enterprises” co-organised with the IHK and Yunnan Development and Reform Commission in July 2019;
- (g) in Foshan - a roundtable meeting for transport and industrial enterprises co-organised with the IHK and Foshan Bureau of Commerce in August 2019; and
- (h) in Xiamen - a break-out seminar on “Belt and Road Together We Grow – Investment Promotion Seminar” co-organised with the IHK, Trade Office of the Economic Affairs Department of the Liaison Office of the Central People’s Government in the HKSAR, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of Xiamen Municipality, Xiamen Federation of Industry and Commerce (General Chamber of Commerce), as well as Xiamen and Quanzhou Committees of the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade during the “2019 China International Fair for Investment and Trade” in September 2019.

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, comprehensive assistance and advice to enterprises with investment interest in Hong Kong, and generated positive results: around 400 company meetings conducted, 35 live investment projects generated and 26 investment projects in Hong Kong completed during the reporting period.

## **Public Relations**

10. To promote the positive image of Hong Kong and enhance the Mainland public’s overall understanding of Hong Kong, GDETO staged large-scale exhibitions during the reporting period in Shenzhen, Fuzhou and Guangzhou to introduce to the local public the latest situation of various aspects of Hong Kong. To showcase Hong Kong’s crucial role in the country’s reform and opening up, GDETO held two “HKSAR Government’s Celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the Reform and Opening Up of the Country: ‘Joint Development Shared Prosperity’” exhibitions in Guangzhou and Xiamen respectively in March 2019. Besides, at “SmartHK Guangzhou 2019” organised by the HKTDC in August 2019, GDETO set up an exhibit booth to demonstrate Hong Kong’s key roles and competitive advantages in

the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area.

11. In July 2019, GDETO organised a reception in Guangzhou to celebrate the 22nd Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR. The reception was attended by some 470 guests comprising representatives from government departments, business associations, Consulates-General in Guangzhou, relevant organisations, academic institutions, etc. Exhibition panels were set up to showcase Hong Kong's key roles in the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. GDETO also invited Hong Kong students from the Xinghai Conservatory of Music to perform at the reception.

12. To promote cultural exchanges with the Mainland, in the reporting period, GDETO supported the following arts and cultural groups from Hong Kong to perform in the Mainland:

- (a) In December 2018, the Chung Ying Theatre staged two large-scale plays, "Confucius: 63 Revisited", in Foshan. GDETO invited local media to attend the performances;
- (b) In December 2018, the Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra staged two concerts in Kunming and Mile respectively. GDETO organised a pre-concert reception on the day of the Kunming performance. About 60 guests, including government officials from Yunnan and Kunming, representatives of Hong Kong-invested enterprises and local media, attended the reception and the concert;
- (c) In December 2018, the Hong Kong Repertory Theatre performed two musicals, "Our Home, Our Hong Kong", in Guangzhou. GDETO attended the opening of the musicals and invited local media to attend the performance; and
- (d) In January 2019, the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HK Phil) held a concert in Zhuhai and GDETO invited representatives of the departments of the Zhuhai Municipal Government, chambers of commerce in Hong Kong, enterprises, schools and local media to attend the concert. In another concert held by the HK Phil in Guangzhou in March 2019, GDETO hosted a pre-concert reception. About 100 guests, including representatives from relevant government departments in Guangdong and Guangzhou, Consulates-General in Guangzhou, chambers of commerce in Hong Kong, enterprises and schools, Xinghai Concert Hall and local media attended the reception and the concert. In two other HK Phil concerts in October 2019 in Zhuhai and Foshan respectively, GDETO teamed up with a radio channel of the China Media Group to promote the performances and gave away concert tickets to listeners.

13. To assist Hong Kong people and business community in the Mainland to access the latest information and enhance the Mainland public's understanding of

Hong Kong, apart from disseminating information via emails, GDETO newsletters and website, GDETO has set up an official WeChat platform since 2014 to disseminate the latest news on policies, regulations and economic development of the five provinces/region which GDETO serves, GDETO's major activities and the latest information on Hong Kong. During the reporting period, GDETO disseminated a total of 666 messages on news and activities through the WeChat platform. In August 2019, GDETO launched a new media platform on the "Nanfang Hao", and a total of 95 pieces of news and information were posted as at 31 October 2019. Besides, GDETO promoted the positive image of Hong Kong by co-producing featured articles with the mass media, including radio station, newspaper and new media to introduce the cultural characteristics of Hong Kong, activities of Hong Kong enterprises and organisations in the Mainland, economic development, cultural exchanges, etc.

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

14. GDETO strived to broaden and deepen liaison network through various activities; stepped up information collection; and implemented various measures to better 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 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 opening ceremony of "2018 Hong Kong Film Festival in Guangdong" and the opening ceremony of the Hong Kong Pavilion at the "14th Dongguan International Electro-Plating, Surface Finishing & Coating Exhibition in 2018" in Guangzhou and Dongguan respectively in November 2018, the opening ceremony of the Hong Kong Pavilion at the "80th Pharmchina" in Guangzhou in December 2018, the opening receptions of 125th and 126th "China Import and Export Fair" held in Guangzhou in April and October 2019 respectively, the opening ceremony of Hong Kong Pavilion at the "2019 China International Small and Medium Enterprises Fair" in Guangzhou in June 2019, the opening ceremony of "Soaring Creativity – Hong Kong Pavilion 2019" at the 2019 South China Book Festival and "Smart HK 2019" both held in Guangzhou in August 2019, and the launching ceremony of the 2019 Guangzhou International Shopping Festival held in Guangzhou in October 2019, 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 HKTB 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, 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 free legal advisory service in the Mainland, through various channels (for example, GDETO Newsletter, email, website, official WeChat platform, and “Practical Guide for Hong Kong Residents Living in the Mainland”).

15. 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 relevant information and assistance. During the reporting 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. FJLU also attended the Joint School Graduation Dinner cum New Term Inauguration Ceremony of the Committee of “Hong Kong Students’ Association of Fujian” (HKSAF) organised by the HKSAF in May 2019, and the orientation programme of a Fujian university for freshmen from Hong Kong in September 2019, with a view to strengthening our connection with Hong Kong students studying there. During the reporting period, GDETO reached out to a total of 1 012 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 “Scheme on Corporate Summer Internship on the Mainland and Overseas”, “Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Hong Kong Youth Internship Programme”, “Youth Internship Programme on Biodiversity Conservation in Wuyishan” and “Tour on the History, Culture and Maritime Silk Road of Fujian Province”. 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.

16. GDETO also liaised actively with local government organisations, trade associations, tertiary institutions and associations of Hong Kong students, to better understand the detailed arrangement and implementation progress of the measures that would facilitate Hong Kong people in the Mainland, including the “Work Plan to

Facilitate the Use of Entry and Exit Permits” announced by the National Immigration Administration in May 2019, to promote the new measures as well as to collect Hong Kong people’s views on the 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).

### **Shenzhen Liaison Unit**

17. SZLU targets at the Shenzhen Municipal Government, local and Hong Kong non-governmental organisations, trade associations, Hong Kong people, businessmen and students in Shenzhen to implement GDETO’s various aspects of work. Apart from the examples mentioned in the paragraphs above, SZLU’s major work during the reporting period included:

- (a) Closely monitoring the promulgation of new policies, legislation and regulations in Shenzhen and disseminate such information to Hong Kong enterprises in a timely manner, for example, the “Implementation Plan for Further Accelerating the Development of Strategic Emerging Industries” and the “Dedicated Funds to Support the Development of Strategic Emerging Industries” published by the Shenzhen Municipal Government in November 2018; the “Certain Measures of Stronger Force to Support the Development of Private Economic Sector” and the “Implementation Measures for Strengthening Fundamental Scientific Research” published by the Shenzhen Municipal Government in December 2018; the “Certain Measures of Shenzhen Municipality for Further Promoting Employment” issued by the Shenzhen Municipal Government in January 2019; the “Certain Measures for Supporting the Development of Youth of Hong Kong and Macao in Qianhai” announced by the Qianhai Management Authority in February 2019; the “Regulations of the Shenzhen Special Economic Zone on Environmental Protection” promulgated by the Standing Committee of Shenzhen Municipal People’s Congress in April 2019; the “Action Plan of Shenzhen Municipality on the Development of Next Generation Artificial Intelligence” and the “Action Plan of the Shenzhen Municipality on Further Promoting the Development of Integrated Circuit Industry” issued by the Shenzhen Municipal Government in May 2019; the “Regulations of the Shenzhen Special Economic Zone on the Promotion of Financial Development” promulgated by the Standing Committee of Shenzhen Municipal People’s Congress in June 2019; the “Notice of issuance of the Work Plan on Strengthening the Development of Hong Kong and Macao Youth Innovation and Entrepreneurship Bases” issued by the Shenzhen Municipal Government in July 2019; the “Opinions on Supporting Shenzhen to Develop into a Pioneer Demonstration Zone with Chinese Socialism Characteristics” jointly published by the CPC Central Committee and State Council in August 2019; the “Notice of the General Office of the Shenzhen Municipal People’s Government on the



Expansion of the Scope of Preferential Treatment for the Elderly in Shenzhen” issued by the Shenzhen Municipal Government in August 2019; the “Rules of Assessing Land Premium in Shenzhen” issued by the Shenzhen Municipal Government in October 2019, etc.;

(b) Arranging high-level mutual official visits of the HKSAR Government and Shenzhen Municipal Government, and to provide logistics support. Examples included:

- The SFST’s attendance at the first cross-border Fintech event “2018 Hong Kong Fintech Week Shenzhen Day” in Shenzhen in November 2018;
- Visit to youth innovation and entrepreneurship bases of the Greater Bay Area in Shenzhen by the SHA in November 2018;
- The SFH’s attendance at the “Conference on inheritance and innovative development of Chinese medicine in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area” in Shenzhen in December 2018;
- Visit to Shenzhen by the SCMA to meet the Vice-Mayor of Shenzhen Ai Xuefeng in January 2019;
- The SFH’s attendance at the “2nd Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Hygiene and Health Co-operation Conference” in Shenzhen in February 2019;
- Visit to Shenzhen by the STH to exchange with relevant government departments of Shenzhen on cooperation in maritime matters in June 2019;
- Visit to Shenzhen in July 2019 by the SCMA together with secondary school students who joined the “Be a Government Official for a Day” programmes of 2018 and 2019 and summer interns;
- The SHA’s attendance at the “Symposium for Hong Kong Youth Studying, Working and Starting Business in Shenzhen” in August 2019, etc.

(c) Organising events on issues of common concern to Hong Kong people and businessmen, including meeting with the Office of the Leading Group of the CPC Shenzhen Municipal Committee for Promoting the Development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area cum Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of Shenzhen Municipal Government in February 2019, banquet for more than 100 guests in

celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the Reform and Opening Up of the Country in March 2019, study tour for Hong Kong students studying in the Shenzhen University in March 2019, study tour to Qianhai of Shenzhen for the Trade Officer Grade of HKSAR Government in August 2019, study tour for students from universities of Hong Kong taking up internship in Shenzhen under the “Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Hong Kong Youth Internship Scheme” in August 2019, and meeting with Hong Kong students studying in the Shenzhen University in September 2019; and

- (d) Playing a bridging role between the Shenzhen Municipal Government and Hong Kong people / Hong Kong businessmen, including the Pearl River Delta Council of the Hong Kong Federation of Industries; Shenzhen Overseas Chinese International Association; Shenzhen Association of Enterprises with Foreign Investment; Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce in Qianhai; HKCCC-GD. To collect views from Hong Kong people and businessmen on business operation, working, starting business, studying and living in Shenzhen, and reflect their common concerns to the authorities and provide appropriate assistance.

### **Fujian Liaison Unit**

18. FJLU is responsible for liaison with the Fujian Provincial and Municipal governments, local and Hong Kong non-governmental organisations, Hong Kong people, businessmen and students in Fujian in implementing GDETO’s various aspects of work. Apart from the examples mentioned in the paragraphs above, FJLU’s major work during the reporting period included:

- (a) Closely monitoring promulgation of new policies, legislation and regulations in relation to the development of Fujian Province (including the Fujian Pilot Free Trade Zone) and disseminating such information to Hong Kong enterprises in a timely manner. Examples included the “Notice on 35 Measures to Further Promote Reforms and Innovations in the China (Fujian) Pilot Free Trade Zone” issued by the Fujian Provincial Government in November 2018, and the “Notice on the Implementation Details of Reform Pilot for Deepening Promotion on Foreign Exchange Management in the China (Fujian) Pilot Free Trade Zone” issued by the State Administration of Foreign Exchange (Fujian Branch) in July 2019, etc.;
- (b) Arranging high-level official visits of the HKSAR Government and Fujian Provincial Government, and providing logistics support, including:
- Visit by Wang Ling, Director of Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of Fujian Province, to Hong Kong in February 2019

to meet with the CS and SCMA;

- Visit by Guo Ningning, Vice Governor of Fujian Province, to Hong Kong in April 2019 to meet with the CS and SCMA, and visit the Hong Kong Monetary Authority and Hong Kong Exchange and Clearing Limited;
  - Visit by Hu Changsheng, Secretary of the CPC Xiamen Municipal Committee, to Hong Kong in May 2019 to meet with the Commissioner for Tourism and visit the Kai Tak Cruise Terminal; and
  - Visit by the Under Secretary for the Environment to Wuyishan in July 2019 to attend the graduation ceremony of the “Youth Internship Programme on Biodiversity Conservation in Wuyishan” and the exchange activities.
- (c) Organising activities on issues of concern to Hong Kong businessmen, including the “Exchange Session for the Hong Kong Members of the Xiamen Municipal Committee of CPPCC 2019”, the “Seminar on Mainland Taxation Policy 2019” and the “Exchange Session for Hong Kong People and Enterprises in Xiamen 2019” in Xiamen in January 2019; supporting the setting up of HKCCC in Xiamen to enhance the cohesion of Hong Kong enterprises, attending its inauguration ceremony in Xiamen in July 2019, and attending the “2019 China International Fair for Investment and Trade” and the exchange luncheon organised by the Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of Xiamen Municipality with the representatives of HKCCC in Xiamen in September 2019; and
- (d) Promoting Hong Kong’s image, culture and creative industry, such as attending the seminar on “Present Development of the Hong Kong Film Industry” jointly organised by the Hong Kong Committee for Film Critics China, Asia & Chinese Language Cinema Research Centre of Beijing Normal University and College of Humanities of Xiamen University in June 2019, where Hong Kong and Mainland experts discussed the characteristics of and the challenges faced by Hong Kong films; and organising a Hong Kong film show during the “6th Silk Road International Film Festival” held in Fuzhou in October 2019.

### **Guangxi Liaison Unit**

19. GXLU is responsible for liaison with the provincial and municipal governments, local and Hong Kong non-governmental organisations, and Hong Kong people, businessmen and students in the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region in carrying out GDETO’s various aspects of work. Apart from actively liaising with the governments and relevant departments of the Guangxi Autonomous Region and its

municipalities, as well as the examples mentioned in the paragraphs above, other major duties performed by GXLU during the reporting 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 promulgation of the “Notice on Issuing the Implementation Plan of Guangxi for Working in Full Alignment with the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (2019-2021)” by Guangxi in June 2019, which aims to expedite Guangxi’s work in full alignment with the development of the Greater Bay Area;
- (b) Arranging high-level official visits of the HKSAR Government and Guangxi Government, and providing logistics support, including:
  - The Vice Chairman of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, Yang Jinbo, led a delegation to visit Hong Kong to participate in the 3rd “Hong Kong Maritime Week” and to hold the “Forum on the Co-operation of Guangxi-Hong Kong Ports and Logistics” in November 2018, during which they called on the SCMA to exchange views on how to strengthen co-operation between Guangxi and Hong Kong;
  - The STH led a delegation of the logistics and maritime sectors from Hong Kong to visit Guangxi in January 2019, during which they called on the Chairman of the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, Chen Wu; visited port and logistics facilities in Guangxi; and exchanged views on the development of the “New Western Land-sea Corridor” with Qinzhou Municipal Government as well as the logistics and port sectors in Qinzhou. The delegation also attended the “Seminar on Hong Kong-Guangxi Logistics and Maritime” to introduce the strengths of the Hong Kong logistics and maritime sectors;
  - The Party Secretary of the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, Lu Xinshe, led a delegation to visit Hong Kong in May 2019 to hold the “Presentation on Guangxi Integrating the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area-Hong Kong 2019”, during which they called on the CE and exchanged views on how to expedite Guangxi’s work in full alignment with the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area and to deepen pragmatic co-operation in various aspects between Guangxi and Hong Kong; and
  - The SCMA visited Nanning, Guangxi in July 2019, during which he called on the Vice Chairman of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous

Region, Yang Jinbai, to exchange views on how to strengthen bilateral co-operation. The SCMA also officiated at the founding ceremony of the Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce in China - Guangxi, Nanning, and was briefed on the progress of co-operation between the two places in the areas of health and education, as well as the development of the New Western Land-sea Corridor;

- (c) Organising activities on issues of concern to Hong Kong businessmen, including hosting a banquet themed “Joint Development · Shared Prosperity” in celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the Reform and Opening Up of the Country with the Hong Kong members of the CPPCC Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region Committee, where participants exchanged views on the development of China and further co-operation between Hong Kong and Guangxi; and
- (d) Promoting Hong Kong’s image, including:
- Donating a cumulative of over 5 000 books on Hong Kong literature, economy, education, tourism and popular culture, etc., to enrich the collection of books in the 15 “Hong Kong Book Corners” in Guangxi;
  - Organising in Nanning a concert by a Hong Kong-based Chinese ensemble to showcase Hong Kong’s traditional music culture; and
  - Organising a photo competition to boost co-operation between Guangxi and Hong Kong.

### **Immigration-related Matters and Assistance Rendered**

20. 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 reporting period, GDETO received a total of 214 requests for assistance from Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland. Of these, 10 cases involved the loss of travel documents or monies, 159 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 45 cases involved the detention of Hong Kong residents in the Mainland. The Immigration Division has provided the HKSAR passport replacement service since 7 November 2016. During the reporting period, GDETO processed 598 passports replacement applications. GDETO also handled 5 804 enquiries.

21. Besides, during the reporting period, GDETO received a total of 110 other assistance cases and made referrals to relevant Mainland authorities for follow-up.

### **Looking Ahead**

22. In February this year, the Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area was promulgated. Through further deepening co-operation amongst Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao, its objectives are to promote co-ordinated economic development in the Greater Bay Area, leverage the complementary advantages of the three places, develop an international first-class bay area for living, working and travelling. The HKSAR Government's future work focuses include: (i) consolidating and enhancing Hong Kong's status as international financial, transportation and trade centres as well as an international aviation hub; (ii) developing an international innovation and technology hub; (iii) expanding the scope of development for sectors in which Hong Kong's strengths lie, (iv) strengthening infrastructural connectivity, (v) fostering youth innovation and entrepreneurship; and (vi) fully utilising Hong Kong's international connections and networks to promote the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area overseas and attract capital and talents to the Greater Bay Area. On the other hand, the year of 2020 will also 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. 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.

23. GDETO will also continue to strengthen support for Hong Kong people and 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.

**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 the visit of industry delegations from Hong Kong to the East China region to deepen their understanding of the business and investment environment in the region. For example, SHETO supported the “81st PharmChina cum 2019 International Natural Health & Nutrition (Spring) Expo” organised by the Hong Kong Medicine Dealers’ Guild in Shanghai in May; and the forum on 5G Technology and Latest Business Application organised by the Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce in China – Shanghai (HKCCC) in Shanghai in July;
- (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 briefing conducted by the Shanghai Municipal Commission of Commerce in March, the Investment Promotion Conference in Nantong organised by Shanghai Pudong Foreign Investment Enterprise Association in Shanghai in May, the Promotion Event in Changning District organised by the Foreign Affairs Office of the Shanghai Municipal Government in May, and the 2019 Lujiazui Forum in Shanghai;
- (c) Supporting participation of the HKSAR Government in the Second China International Import Expo (CIIE) held in Shanghai in November this year and encouraging overseas companies to leverage on the opening up of the Mainland market through using Hong Kong as a platform;
- (d) Providing updated information through conducting trade seminars to Hong Kong traders in the region. For example, SHETO organised

seminars on taxation and facilitation measures for Hong Kong people and the latest Labour Law cases in collaboration with the HKCCC and Shanghai Hong Kong Association in May and June 2019 respectively;

- (e) Providing assistance in exchange activities between the HKSAR Government officials and their Mainland counterparts as well as industry players. For example, SHETO assisted in arranging the Joint-Panel duty visit of the Legislative Council (LegCo) to Shanghai and Hangzhou, and organised a seminar on “the latest development of regional integration of the Yangtze River Delta” in April this year; assisted the Secretary for Justice in her visit to Shanghai in August this year, including meeting with the Vice Mayor of the Shanghai Municipal Government, Mr Xu Kunlin, visiting the Shanghai Municipal Bureau of Justice, the Shanghai Maritime Court, the Court of Arbitration for Sport Shanghai Alternative Hearing Centre, and meeting with representatives from China Shipowners’ Association and China Classification Society Shanghai Branch;
- (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 Ms Lan Shaomin, the then Mayor of Nanjing Municipality in November 2018 and Ms Li Hua, the Secretary General of the Nanjing Arbitration Commission in December 2018 respectively; co-ordinating the visit of Mr Zhang Xiaosong, Director of the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of Shanghai, Mr Fei Shaoyun, Director of the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of Jiangsu Province, and Ms Yin Yizhen, Director of the Shanghai Municipal People's Congress Standing Committee to Hong Kong in January, March and April 2019 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 organized by the HKCCC in December 2018; the spring receptions organised by the HKCCC and the Shanghai-Hong Kong Minhang Salon in March 2019; and the Mid-Autumn Festival Gala organized by HKCCC in September 2019;
- (h) Keeping relevant bureaux and departments in Hong Kong, as well as the Hong Kong businesses and trade organizations informed of the latest economic and trade policies, regulations and measures on the Mainland and the region. During the reporting period, SHETO issued 60 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 developments relating to the Yangtze River Delta Integration, the set-up



and operation of the Shanghai Stock Exchange Sci-Tech Innovation Board Market, the opening of Shanghai – London Stock Connect, and providing timely reports and answering enquiries from the trade. During the reporting period, SHETO also released the first issue of special newsletter on the Jiangsu and Shandong Free Trade Zone in early September after announcement of the sixth expansion of the China Free Trade Zone by the State Council in August this year;

- (j) Monitoring closely latest developments in the China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone (SHFTZ) (including special administrative measures to allow access of foreign investment and the establishment of the New Lingang Area), disseminating timely information to the industry and answering related enquiries, maintaining contacts with the SHFTZ Administration. During the reporting period, SHETO issued 6 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 reporting period, the IPU conducted 24 investment promotion visits, met with 284 companies and generated 51 live projects. 30 projects were successfully completed.

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

- (a) During the period of the First CIIE in November 2018, the IPU arranged a visit of the Director-General of InvestHK to Shanghai and co-organized an investment promotion roundtable together with the Shanghai Municipal Commission of Economy and Informatization and the Shanghai Software Industry Association. The roundtable attracted over 40 participants;
- (b) In November 2018, the IPU visited Hangzhou of Zhejiang Province, and participated in “Money 20/20 China 2018” co-organised by The People's Government of Zhejiang, The People's Government of Hangzhou, Fintech Association of Zhejiang etc.;
- (c) In March this year, the IPU arranged a delegation 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;

- (d) In April this year, the IPU co-organised a roundtable entitled “Leveraging Hong Kong's international financing platform for Zhejiang enterprises to go global”, together with the Commercial Office of the Economic Affairs Department of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government (LOCPG) in the HKSAR, the Zhejiang Provincial Development and Reform Commission (ZDRC) and the Department of Commerce of Zhejiang Province (ZDoC) etc. The roundtable attracted over 120 participants;
- (e) In May this year, the IPU visited Nanjing of Jiangsu Province, during which an investment roundtable was organised together with Nanjing Municipal Bureau of Commerce. The roundtable attracted over 80 participants;
- (f) In August this year, the IPU visited Jinan of Shandong Province, during which an investment roundtable was organised together with The Department of Commerce of Shandong Province. The roundtable attracted over 80 participants; and
- (g) The IPU organized 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 reporting period, the activities organised by SHETO included –

- (a) Organising a roving exhibition in the region: between December 2018 and January 2019, SHETO held “HKSARG’s Celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the Reform and Opening up of the Country: ‘Joint Development · Shared Prosperity’ Exhibition” in Shanghai, Nanjing of Jiangsu Province and Hefei of Anhui Province, attracting more than 400,000 visitors. Posts about the roving exhibition published in SHETO’s public account and other public accounts on WeChat were welcomed by netizens;
- (b) In August 2019, SHETO supported the Asian Youth Orchestra’s two concert performances in Shanghai and Nanjing and arranged an exchange session between the orchestra’s conductor and students of higher education institutions in Shanghai with a view to promoting to

audience in the eastern part of Mainland the cultural scene of Hong Kong and fostering cultural exchange between the Mainland and Hong Kong;

- (c) 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 CIIE in Shanghai in November last year, LegCo Joint-Panel duty visit to Shanghai and Hangzhou in April 2019 and the "Mediate First Pledge" Event co-organised by the Department of Justice, the Shanghai Law Society and the Shanghai Commercial Mediation Centre in August 2019; and
- (d) 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 to promote 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 reporting 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 explore opportunities for future co-operation and exchange between the two places;
- (b) Continue following up on the 16 areas and 54 initiatives in cooperation between Shanghai and Hong Kong agreed at the Fourth Plenary of the Hong Kong-Shanghai Co-operation Conference, as well as serving as the contact point for relevant government departments and bodies for enhancing diversified cooperation between 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 information for dissemination to the Hong Kong communities in the East China region and keep close contact with them through various channels including SHETO website, WeChat platform and email. SHETO will continue to disseminate information and updates on facilitation measures (including the organisation of a seminar on the Residence Permit for Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan Residents in Shanghai in January 2019), as well as following up on their implementation and collecting 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 reporting period. For example, SHETO hosted a Gala Dinner in celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the Reform and Opening up of the Country and Director of SHETO attended the Annual Dinner of the Shanghai Jingan District Chinese Overseas Friendship Association in December 2018. Director of SHETO also joined the Lantern Festival Dinner organised by Shanghai Huangpu District Chinese Overseas Friendship Association Hong Kong Association in February this year, accompanied the Secretary of Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (SCMA) in attending the High Table Dinner of the University of Hong Kong Shanghai Alumni Network in March, and attended the Annual Dinner of the Shanghai Hong Kong Association in September.

8. SHETO provided logistical support to Principal Officials during their visits to the region, such as the delegation led by the Chief Executive (CE) to Shanghai in November 2018, SCMA's visit to Shanghai in March 2019, the LegCo Joint-Panel duty visit to Shanghai and Hangzhou in April 2019, as well as the delegation led by CE to Shanghai and Nanjing from 31 October to 5 November 2019. SHETO also arranged exchange sessions between visiting officials and Hong Kong people groups in the region. For example, arrangements were made for representatives of Hong Kong people groups and Hong Kong students in Shanghai to meet with the CE in last November and LegCo Members joining the LegCo Joint-Panel visit in April this year. SHETO also actively supported provinces and municipalities in the region to visit Hong Kong and organise exchange activities, and coordinated meetings between Mainland officials and senior government officials of the HKSAR.

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 reporting period. For example, SHETO organised 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. SHETO has 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 also provided information, support and assistance to these students from Hong Kong. In addition, Director of SHETO attended a number of 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 practical assistance to Hong Kong residents who have lost their personal documents or encountered personal safety problems on the Mainland. During the reporting period, SHETO received a total of 50 requests for assistance from Hong Kong residents in distress on the Mainland, processed 284 entry applications, 1225 applications for HKSAR passport replacement and handled 6627 enquiries.

12. In addition, SHETO received a total of 21 other assistance cases during the reporting 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 reporting period, SDLU visited the Office of Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macao Affairs of Shandong Provincial People's Government, Shandong Provincial Department of Culture and Tourism, Department of Commerce of Shandong Province, Shandong Provincial Department of Education, Shandong Provincial Public Security Department, China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT) Jinan Sub-council, United Front Work Department of Communist Party of China (CPC) Qingdao Municipal Committee, Qingdao Youth Federation, the municipal government leaders of Jinan, Qingdao, Weifang, Tai'an and Jining, and maintained frequent communication with the Shandong Provincial People's Government and the 16 municipal government departments of the Province.

15. SDLU worked closely with the local governments. During the reporting period, SDLU co-organised the "Leveraging Hong Kong's platform for Shandong enterprises to 'go global'" seminar with Invest Hong Kong, the IPU of SHETO, and the Department of Commerce of Shandong Province; provided assistance for the Secretary of the CPC Shandong Provincial Committee, Mr Liu Jiayi, to meet with the

Chief Executive during the annual Hong Kong Shandong Week in Hong Kong, and for the Secretary for Food and Health and her delegation to attend the Global Health Forum of Boao Forum for Asia in Qingdao. SDLU also attended the 2019 China Rose Products Expo cum International Rose Industry Cooperation Fair, the 8th Shandong International Cultural Industries Fair, Shandong (Jining) Investment & Co-operation Fair, Key Projects Release of New Growth Drivers for Shandong Province & Matchmaking for International Partners, and the Working Seminar of Overseas Talent Institutions & Shandong Intellect Introduction Alliance Inaugural Meeting.

16. SDLU also maintained close contacts with local Hong Kong people, enterprises and groups. In May this year, SDLU co-organised with CCPIT Jinan Sub-council a workshop in Jinan sharing information on labour laws cases 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 and Shandong University of Traditional Chinese Medicine during the reporting period to discuss with the universities issues concerning jointly organising Hong Kong student activities; maintained close liaison with the Hong Kong students in Shandong, met them in December 2018, as well as March, May and October this year to understand more about their learning and living environment, and to promote the facilitation measures for Hong Kong people living in the Mainland. SDLU also actively promoted youth exchanges between Hong Kong and Shandong Province, such as attending the Sister School Signing Ceremony between Qingdao Laoshan Second Experimental Primary School and Hong Kong Bui O Public School, providing assistance in organising an exchange session of the Qingdao leg of the “Mainland Expedition on Entrepreneurship and Technology 2019”, and co-operating with the Shandong Provincial People's Government to organise a 3-week “Youth Internship Programme at Shandong on Marine Science” in Pilot National Laboratory for Marine Science and Technology (Qingdao) for 16 Hong Kong university students to engage in marine science related work.

18. In December 2018, SDLU also organised an exhibition in celebration of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the reform and opening up of the country to reminisce Hong Kong's contribution to and opportunities arising from the reform and opening up of the country in the past four decades, and to look forward to its contribution to the country's development in future.

### **Zhejiang Liaison Unit**

19. 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.

20. During the reporting period, ZJLU continued to enhance government-to-government cooperation and to keep in close liaison with various government departments of Zhejiang Province and its municipalities. ZJLU visited Wuzhen, Ningbo, Huzhou, Zhoushan and Taizhou to strengthen connection with local government departments. In addition, 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 the Financial Secretary's visit to Wuzhen attending the World Internet Conference and a visit to Hangzhou by the Permanent Secretaries and Heads of Departments led by the Secretary of Civil Servants in November 2018, a duty visit to Hangzhou by the Joint LegCo Panels in April 2019, and visits to Hong Kong by the Vice-Governor of Zhejiang in March 2018, the Minister of the United Front Work Department of the CPC Hangzhou Committee in April 2019, the Mayor of Shaoxing Municipal Government in May 2019 and the Deputy Secretary of the CPC Hangzhou Municipal Committee in June 2019.

21. ZJLU maintained close liaison with Hong Kong people groups and the Hong Kong business community in Zhejiang and provided support to them on issues of concern. Such assistance included dissemination of information, seeking and reflecting their views to the relevant Zhejiang government departments. ZJLU kept the local Hong Kong community posted of the latest information through regular newsletters issued by SHETO on topics such as the China (Zhejiang) Pilot Free Trade Zone, the development of Zhejiang bay area, taxation, foreign investment policies, etc. ZJLU also disseminated timely information on the Central People's Government and Zhejiang Government's policies and measures that facilitate Hong Kong people studying, working and living in the Mainland and invited relevant Zhejiang officials to brief the Hong Kong people groups and students on the facilitation policies. In addition, ZJLU co-organised events with the Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce in China (HKCCC) – Zhejiang, for example, thematic workshop on taxation and labour laws in June in order to help members of HKCCC - Zhejiang better understand the latest tax and labour policies in the Mainland.

22. ZJLU actively maintained liaison with Hong Kong students studying in Zhejiang and promoted exchanges between young people of Hong Kong and Zhejiang. During the reporting period, ZJLU visited the China Academy of Art, the Zhejiang Sci-Tech University, the Zhejiang Chinese Medical University, the Zhejiang University of Finance and Economics, the Zhejiang Conservatory of Music, the Ningbo University and the University of Nottingham Ningbo China to learn about the studying and living condition of Hong Kong students in Zhejiang. ZJLU organised a gathering for all Hong Kong students in Zhejiang in March 2019. ZJLU also supported exchanges and internship programmes organised by government departments of the Zhejiang Province and its municipalities from June to August 2019, such as "Performing Arts Summer Camp" co-organised by the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts and the Zhejiang Conservatory of Music etc.

23. ZJLU promoted the positive image of Hong Kong through various channels and activities so as to let the Zhejiang public have a better understanding of Hong

Kong. These activities included organisation of a roving exhibition entitled “HKSARG’s Celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the Reform and Opening Up of the Country: Joint Development - Shared Prosperity” in Hangzhou in December 2018, as the supporting organisation for the Hong Kong Dance Company’s performance in Hangzhou in September 2019, organisation of a Photo Exhibition on Hong Kong in October 2019, and as the supporting organisation for the “Hong Kong Thematic Film Exhibition – Hangzhou Leg” in October 2019.

### **Looking Ahead**

24. SHETO will continue to promote the economic relations between Hong Kong and the region, promote the positive image of Hong Kong and enhance 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 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 also 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 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 “Festival Hong Kong 2019. A Cultural Extravaganza@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 promulgation of measures announced by the Central Government to facilitate Hong Kong people studying, working and living in the Mainland ; maintain close liaison with the relevant government departments of the East China Region to better understand the implementation details of these facilitation measures; and disseminate updated information to Hong Kong people groups in the East China region;
- (h) Step up promotion of Hong Kong's strengths, including staging a roving exhibition and launching publicity campaigns in the year 2019/2020 to enhance 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 and the Pilot Free Trade Zones in Zhejiang, Jiangsu and Shandong; the Belt and Road Initiative, Yangtze River Economic Belt, regional integration of the Yangtze River Delta 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.

2. During the reporting period, CDETO assisted in enhancing the co-operation between Hong Kong and Sichuan Province. In November 2018, the Secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Sichuan Provincial Committee, Peng Qinghua, led a delegation of over 400 members to Hong Kong to organise the Second “Sichuan Hong Kong Macao Co-operation Week”. It was the first large-scale event to deepen Sichuan-Hong Kong co-operation on various fronts since the “First Plenary of the Hong Kong-Sichuan Cooperation Conference” was held in May 2018.

3. CDETO supported provinces and municipalities in the region to organise exchange activities in Hong Kong, and coordinated meetings between Mainland officials and senior HKSAR government officials. For example, CDETO provided assistance for the visits to Hong Kong by the Secretary of the CPC Sichuan Provincial Committee, Peng Qinghua; the Vice Governor of Shaanxi Province, Wei Zengjun; and the Deputy Director of Chongqing Municipal People’s Congress, Chen Wenhua. CDETO also provided logistical support to HKSAR Government officials’ visits to the Mainland, such as the Secretary for the Environment’s visit to Sichuan in August 2019.

4. 2018 marked the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the reform and opening up of the country. CDETO organised a series of celebration activities from December 2018 to January 2019, including a roving exhibition entitled “‘Joint Development • Shared Prosperity’ Exhibition in Celebration of the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reform and Opening up of the Country” in Chengdu, Chongqing and Xi’an and a gala lunch reception in Chengdu. The roving exhibitions attracted over 160 000 visits in total. The roving exhibitions highlighted how Hong Kong contributed to and seized the opportunities from the reform and opening up of the country over the past 40 years, and looked forward to Hong Kong’s contributions to the nation’s development in future. The celebration activities strengthened the connection between CDETO (including the two 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.

### **Commercial Relations**

5. CDETO continued its efforts to support Hong Kong enterprises operating or intending to operate in the region with a view to promoting economic and trade co-operation between Hong Kong and the western region in the Mainland. 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 the 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 between Hong Kong and the western region. During the reporting period, major events included –

- (a) Promoting Hong Kong's services and assisting the trade in exploring the Mainland market, such as updating the "Directory of Hong Kong Service Enterprises" in Sichuan, Chongqing and Shaanxi to promote Hong Kong service enterprises and their services; supporting and attending the opening ceremony of "Dual-branding Pavilion" organised by the Design Council of Hong Kong under the Federation of Hong Kong Industries during the "5<sup>th</sup> Chengdu Creativity and Design Week" in Chengdu of Sichuan Province in November 2018 to promote Hong Kong's creative industry; visiting and inviting Sichuan media to cover the booth by the Hong Kong Wine Chamber of Commerce at the 100<sup>th</sup> China Food & Drinks Fair held in March 2019 to promote the wine industry and various supporting services for wine trading in Hong Kong;
- (b) Organising visits to assist Hong Kong enterprises in deepening their understanding of local business and investment environment, such as co-organising study missions with the "Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce in China-Sichuan" in January, July, September and October 2019 to the TianFu New Area in Chengdu, Liangshan Yi Autonomous Prefecture and Panzhihua of Sichuan Province, Guiyang National High-Tech Industrial Development Zone and local leading enterprises of Guizhou Province, and Chengdu Qingbaijiang International Railway Port Area of Sichuan Province;
- (c) Learning about the operation of Hong Kong enterprises in the Mainland and providing them with relevant information and assistance in doing business in the Mainland, such as organising seminars on topics relating to the Mainland's individual income tax, labour law, facilitation measures for Hong Kong people, and human resources management in

Chengdu of Sichuan Province and Guiyang of Guizhou Province in January and March 2019 respectively so as to enhance Hong Kong businessmen's understanding of the opportunities and challenges brought about by the relevant policies; and organising the "Symposium for Hong Kong Enterprises in Guizhou" in Guiyang of Guizhou Province in April 2019 for the Hong Kong business community to reflect their views and convey their suggestions to the local government;

- (d) Maintaining close liaison 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 as well as the areas of development and policy measures relating to the "13<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan" and Belt and Road Initiative of the relevant provinces / municipality / autonomous region, such as attending the seminar on "China (Sichuan) Pilot Free Trade Zone Bill" and "The 2<sup>nd</sup> China Pilot Free Trade Zone Co-Opening-Up and Co-Development Forum" in April and June 2019 respectively, and disseminating information on trade-related policies, laws and regulations as well as economic development through the "CDETO Newsletters" in a timely manner; and
- (e) Participating in trade promotion activities, major expos and international fairs for investment and trade in the western region to promote economic and trade exchanges between Hong Kong and the relevant area, such as attending the opening ceremony and related activities of the "China International Big Data Industry Expo 2019" in Guiyang of Guizhou Province in May 2019 to learn about the latest development of and the way forward for the big data industry in the Mainland and Guizhou.

### **Investment Promotion**

6. 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 reporting period, the Investment Promotion Division (IPD) of CDETO visited 175 Mainland enterprises, generated 15 live projects and successfully completed nine investment projects. Major investment promotion initiatives included –

- (a) Co-organising with Invest Hong Kong (InvestHK) seminars entitled "Belt and Road, Together We Grow" for the catering industry in Chengdu and Chongqing in November 2018;

- (b) Co-organising with InvestHK a thematic sharing session entitled “Belt and Road, Together We Grow” in Chengdu and Chongqing in February 2019;
- (c) Co-organising with InvestHK a roundtable meeting entitled “Belt and Road, Together We Grow: Leveraging Hong Kong’s Gifted Advantages to Integrate into the Global Market” in Chengdu in March 2019;
- (d) Co-organising with InvestHK a seminar entitled “Belt and Road, Together We Grow” in Chengdu and a roundtable meeting in Guiyang in May 2019;
- (e) Participating in other investment promotion activities to enhance liaison with Mainland enterprises, including “The Fourth Silk Road International Exposition” in Xi’an, “The 2<sup>nd</sup> Western China International Fair for Investment and Trade” in Chongqing and “Big Data Expo 2019” in Guiyang in May 2019, and “The 20<sup>th</sup> Qinghai China Investment and Trade Fair for Green Development” in Xining in June 2019; and
- (f) Co-organising with InvestHK a roundtable meeting entitled “Belt and Road, Together We Grow” in Chongqing October 2019.

7. The 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**

8. 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 reporting period, apart from organising economic and trade activities, CDETO also organised exhibitions and performances to strengthen understanding of Hong Kong among the public in the region and deepen exchanges and co-operation between Hong Kong and the region. Events held included –

- (a) Inviting students from St. Paul's Co-educational College (SPCC) joining the Programme for the Musically Gifted to participate in the Sichuan Youth Cultural and Artistic Exhibition in Chengdu of Sichuan Province in January 2019. Students from SPCC also collaborated with Chengdu No. 7 High School to stage a flash mob performance playing musical instruments at the Chengdu Shuangliu International Airport; the

pre-recorded Cultural and Artistic Exhibition and flash mob performance at the airport attracted around 1 500 audience; with over 260 000 viewers for the webcast of the flash mob performance;

- (b) Jointly organising with the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office (HKMAO) of Chengdu Municipal People’s Government a programme entitled “A Taste of Authentic Hong Kong” in Chengdu of Sichuan Province in May 2019, to tie in with the "Chengdu Panda Asian Food Festival" organised by the Chengdu Municipal People's Government. Traditional food of Hong Kong was introduced to around 180 participants invited by CDETO and members of the public. Brewing of Hong Kong-style milk tea was also demonstrated by the winner of the International Kam Cha (milk tea) Competition;
- (c) Sponsoring a Sichuan-Hong Kong tribal dance drama “Red Poppies” jointly staged by Hong Kong Dance Company and Sichuan Province Song and Dance Theater in Chengdu of Sichuan Province in July 2019, showcasing to around 1 300 audience the features of art and culture of Sichuan and Hong Kong;
- (d) Hosting “Hong Kong art and culture fortnight” in Chengdu of Sichuan Province from late July to early August 2019, featuring spotlight events including a concert and a miniature exhibition to display Hong Kong’s art and culture in static and dynamic ways:
- Organising a miniature exhibition entitled “Hong Kong in Miniature” to promote the image of Hong Kong and foster arts and cultural exchange between Sichuan and Hong Kong through the display of 40 miniature exhibits. The exhibition attracted over 1.37 million visitors; and
  - Co-organising with the Chengdu HKMAO a dedicated concert in “2019 Chengdu International Sister Cities Youth Music Festival”, featuring a crossover of harmonica and erhu played by Hong Kong young music talents, Mr Cy Leo and Ms Chan Pik-Sum, together with a live band comprising yangqin, keyboard, bass guitar and jazz drum, to showcase a fusion of newly arranged Chinese and Western music to around 400 audience;
- (e) Inviting the troupe “Actors’ Family” from Hong Kong to participate in the “2019 Colourful Guizhou Culture & Art Festival” and stage the musical “The Love Story of Sam and Sally” to about 480 audience in Guiyang of Guizhou Province, with a view to deepening the understanding of the people in Guiyang on drama and pop music in Hong Kong; and

- (f) Setting up exhibition booths in various national trade fairs, including “The 20<sup>th</sup> Qinghai China Investment and Trade Fair for Green Development” in Xining of Qinghai Province in June 2019 and “The 3<sup>rd</sup> Western China International Fair Import and Export Expo & Western China (Sichuan) International Investment Conference” in Chengdu of Sichuan Province in September 2019, to promote Hong Kong’s advantages and contribution under the Belt and Road Initiative and the development of The Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, 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.

9. CDETO co-operated with the local media, Hong Kong Trade Development Council and the Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTB) to further promote Hong Kong in the Mainland. Initiatives included –

- (a) Co-operating with HKTB and “Voice of Chongqing” radio station to promote Hong Kong’s tourism in the programme “Touring around Chongqing” in a session of around 5 minutes every week (for a total of 25 episodes);
- (b) Displaying exhibition panels to introduce Hong Kong’s tourism, art and culture at the cultural events organised by CDETO; and
- (c) Arranging media placements on different promotion channels like newspapers, news webpages and WeChat public account to promote activities organised by CDETO, business advantages in Hong Kong, Sichuan-Hong Kong co-operation, etc.

10. 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**

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

- (a) Organising 42 gatherings / sharing sessions for Hong Kong people living and studying in the region as well as representatives of Hong Kong enterprises, etc. during the reporting 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 reporting 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.

12. CDETO kept close working contact with relevant authorities in the region to follow up the implementation status 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 the "Residence Permit for Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan Residents" launched in September 2019 and the "Work Plan to Facilitate the Use of Entry and Exit Permits" promulgated in May. CDETO also disseminated the latest information to Hong Kong people studying, working and living in the region, as well as gauged and reflected their views.

13. CDETO maintained close relationship with 22 tertiary institutions in Sichuan Province, Shaanxi Province, Chongqing Municipality and Guizhou Province 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 spots in Sichuan, Chongqing and Shaanxi for Hong Kong students studying there to enhance CDETO's connection with them as well as their understanding and knowledge of the local history and culture.



14. During the reporting period, CDETO encouraged enterprises and organisations in Chengdu, Chongqing and Xi'an to provide summer internship placements. More than 30 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 50 internship vacancies were made available. CDETO also offered internship placements for Hong Kong students studying in the region and those studying in Hong Kong.

16. In July and August 2019, "2019 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. A total of 36 youths from Hong Kong and Guangdong participated in the Programme. CDETO provided support for the programme, including arranging visits to major Hong Kong enterprises in Chengdu to enhance their understanding about Sichuan. Besides, CDETO also actively supported and participated in exchange and internship programmes for Hong Kong youths in the region.

17. CDETO liaised with the Sports Bureaux of Qinghai Province and Chengdu Municipality 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 2019 for College Students" and the "Tianfu Greenway International Cycling Fans Fitness Festival" in August 2019 and October 2019 respectively, so as to promote sports exchanges between Hong Kong and the two places.

### **Chongqing Liaison Unit**

18. 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 was disseminated to related chambers of commerce in Hong Kong and Hong Kong businessmen. Regular meetings with Hong Kong people and enterprises in Chongqing were held to better understand their needs. During the reporting period, major events included –

- (a) Organising a seminar on taxation and economic policies in December 2018 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. About 220 participants took part in the seminar;

- (b) Setting up a booth in the “2<sup>nd</sup> Western China International Investment and Trade Fair” in May 2019 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 for the development of the Belt and Road Initiative and Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area was also set up to briefly explain the roles and overall advantages of Hong Kong under the Belt and Road Initiative and in the Greater Bay Area. The booth set up by CQLU attracted around 22 000 visitors;
- (c) Supporting industry delegations from Hong Kong to visit Chongqing to deepen their understanding of the business and investment environment. For example, CQLU assisted delegations of Hong Kong-Chongqing Youth Exchange Promotion Association in August 2019 to have a better understanding of Chongqing and to have exchanges with Hong Kong people and representatives of Hong Kong enterprises in Chongqing;
- (d) Paying close attention to Chongqing’s strategic planning and policy measures relating to its “13<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan” and “Belt and Road” Initiative, China (Chongqing) Pilot Free Trade Zone and reporting the latest development and analysis in a timely manner;
- (e) Organising two gatherings / sharing sessions, including career talk and visit to World Heritage Site 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;
- (f) 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 fields. For example, with the support of CQLU, “The Golden Cangue” was staged and performed in Peking opera version by the Peking Opera Troupe of Chongqing and in Hong Kong drama version by Perry Chiu Experimental Theatre of Hong Kong respectively in May 2019. A sharing session attended by actors and actresses of these two

performing art groups was held afterwards. CQLU also organized a traditional Chinese music performance by Chongqing Symphony Orchestra, Chongqing Quyi Group and Windpipe Chinese Music Ensemble of Hong Kong in August 2019 to foster cultural exchanges between Chongqing and Hong Kong, and to showcase the traditional Chinese music from Hong Kong to the local audience. The attendance rate of the music performance was over 80%; and

- (g) Supporting Hong Kong youths to take up internship and exchanges in Chongqing to deepen their understanding of Chongqing. For example, CQLU assisted “Tai Po Youth Network Delegation to Chongqing” in December 2018 and “Chongqing Internship Programme for Chongqing–Hong Kong Tertiary Students 2019” in July 2019 to have a better understanding of Chongqing.

### **Shaanxi Liaison Unit**

19. 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 Yan’an, Yulin, Baoji, Tongchuan and Xianyang to learn about the latest business environment and preferential policies there, and information gathered was 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 reporting 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 in arranging meetings and exchange with HKSAR Government senior officials for the Shaanxi delegation during their annual visit to Hong Kong for the “Shaanxi, Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao Economic Cooperation Activities Week”;
- (c) Meeting with Hong Kong student and youth group delegations visiting Shaanxi Province (such as an exchange group of Hong Kong scouts and a delegation of secondary school principals led by Our Hong Kong Foundation, etc.) to enhance their understanding of Shaanxi Province;
- (d) For the priority areas of innovation and technology and financial services, introducing Hong Kong’s advantages and establishing contacts to facilitate cooperation through assisting to organise forum in Xi’an.

Examples included serving as the supporting organisation of Hong Kong Quality Assurance Agency's "Silk Road Forum on Green Finance 2019" held in Xi'an in July 2019 (about 300 participants); and the co-organiser of "The Third Shaanxi-Hong Kong Finance and Innovation Conference" with Shaanxi Department of Commerce in September 2019 (about 350 participants);

- (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 Taxation and Labour Law" was organised in March 2019 which attracted about 160 participants;
- (f) Supporting industry delegations from Hong Kong to visit Shaanxi to deepen their understanding of local business and investment environment. For example, with assistance by Shaanxi Department of Commerce, SNLU arranged for the representatives of Hong Kong enterprises to visit two exhibition centres for imported commodities at the International Trade and Logistics Park and Airport New City. Exchange sessions were held for participants to learn more about the Shaanxi Provincial Government's plan to encourage more imports of commodities by cross-border e-commerce;
- (g) Setting up a booth in the "Fourth Silk Road International Exposition" in May 2019 to introduce the services and functions of CDETO and SNLU, admission schemes for talents and professionals, Hong Kong as the platform for Mainland enterprises to "go global", the Basic Law, CEPA, and to promote Hong Kong's various advantages under the Belt and Road Initiative. SNLU also participated in the biennial Euro-Asia Economic Forum in September 2019 to exchange with government officials and entrepreneurs from the Mainland and overseas so as to better understand the country's macro-economic development;
- (h) Paying close attention to Shaanxi Province's areas of development and policy measures relating to its "13<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan", "Belt and Road" Initiative and Shaanxi Free Trade Zone, and reporting the latest development and analysis in a timely manner; and
- (i) Organising exhibitions and cultural performances to enhance Shaanxi public's understanding of Hong Kong. Events included the Hong Kong Miniature Exhibition "Hong Kong – Small City · Big Fun" held in Xi'an Joy City in June 2019, which attracted over 0.5 million visitors. HKTB also displayed promotion video of Hong Kong at the venue. In September 2019, the troupe "Actors' Family" was invited to Xi'an for performance of the musical "The Love Story of Sam and Sally" at

Shaanxi's "Sixth Silk Road International Arts Festival", with free admission for an audience of about 700 people.

### **Immigration-related Matters and Assistance Rendered**

20. Immigration matters handled by CDETO include processing immigration-related enquiries, providing HKSAR passport replacement service, promoting 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 reporting period, CDETO received a total of 56 requests for assistance from Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland. Of these, 15 cases involved the loss of travel documents or monies, and 39 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 2 cases involved the detention of Hong Kong residents in the Mainland. In addition, CDETO handled 2 088 enquiries and 89 HKSAR passport replacement applications.

21. Moreover, CDETO received a total of 4 other assistance cases during the reporting period. CDETO has made referrals to the relevant Mainland authorities for follow-up and monitored the progress.

### **Looking Ahead**

22. Through participating in and organising various types of economic and trade activities and missions, learning about the latest business environment and preferential policies, and gathering and disseminating updated information to Hong Kong enterprises, CDETO, together with CQLU and SNLU, will continue to maintain close ties with local government departments and business organisations, supporting Hong Kong enterprises to operate and extend their business in the region. Meanwhile, CDETO will continue to enhance liaison with the government departments and other organisations in the region covered, to promote Hong Kong as the best investment destination for Mainland enterprises, and to enhance exchanges and co-operation between the HKSAR and the region in various aspects.

23. CDETO will continue to reach out to Hong Kong people, businessmen and students in the region, and provide useful information and assistance to them, including continuing to follow 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 professional services for Belt and Road and development of Free Trade Zones in the region, and actively participate in the Belt and Road, the Greater Bay Area Development and Free Trade Zone activities organised by the authorities in the region so as to further promote Hong Kong's unique advantages under the Belt and Road Initiative and the Greater Bay Area Development. 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 Greater Bay Area Development, the “13<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan” and Free Trade Zones, 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.

Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Chengdu  
November 2019

**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 (WHETO) of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) are to (a) enhance liaison and communication between the HKSAR Government 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. 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 region to facilitate economic and trade co-operation. For example, WHETO supported and attended the Hong Kong Pavilion set up by the Hong Kong Trade and Development Council at the "27th China Food Exposition and China (Wuhan) International Food Fair" in December 2018, and introduced the role of WHETO, exchanged and established contact with the participating enterprises from Hong Kong. WHETO also attended the "2019 Roundtable Meeting with Wuhan Municipal People's Government and Foreign Institutions in Wuhan" and "2019 Roundtable Meeting between Hubei Provincial People's Government and Foreign Institutions in Hubei" in Wuhan, Hubei Province in January 2019, and promoted industries that Hong Kong enjoys clear advantages to local governments. In October 2019, WHETO attended the monthly conference on "Further Opening-up for Enhancing High-Quality Development of Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan Enterprises in Hubei Province" organised by the Hubei Provincial Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference;
- (b) encouraging and promoting economic and trade exchanges between Hong Kong and the region through participation in trade promotion activities. For example, WHETO attended the "5th World Green Development Investment and Trade Expo" in Nanchang, Jiangxi Province in November 2018; the "New Year Reception For Foreign-funded Enterprises of Wuhan East Lake High-tech Development Zone" and the "Wuhan Changjiang New Town Global

Investment Promotion and Talent Recruitment Conference cum Expert Consultation on High-Quality Development” in Wuhan, Hubei Province in December 2018; the “World Health Expo” and “Meeting between the Management Committee of the Changjiang New Town and Foreign Institutions” in Wuhan, Hubei Province in April 2019; the “3rd China Central International Alcoholic Drinks Expo 2019”, the “5th Wuhan International E-Business and Internet Plus Industry Exposition”, and the “Wuhan International Conference on Economic & Trade Exchange and Cooperation” in Wuhan, Hubei Province, and “the Expo Central China 2019” in Nanchang, Jiangxi in May 2019; the “First Forum on China Pilot Free Trade Zone Development” in Wuhan, Hubei Province in June 2019; the “Yichang International Economic and Trade Senior Management Meeting” in Yichang, Hubei Province in September 2019; and the “Taiyuan Energy Low Carbon Development Forum 2019” in Taiyuan, Shanxi Province in October 2019;

- (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 led by Luo Huining, the Party Secretary of Shanxi, and Wu Zhongqiong, the Vice Governor of Jiangxi, to Hong Kong to attend trade promotion events in December 2018, and arranging Luo to meet CE in December 2018; WHETO assisted in arranging a delegation led by Du Jiahao, the Party Secretary of Hunan, to Hong Kong to attend trade promotion events with courtesy call on the CE in April 2019;
- (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 reporting 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, WHETO supported and attended the “Gala Dinner in Celebration of the 40th Anniversary of Reform and Opening-up cum the 8th Anniversary of the Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce in China – Wuhan” in December 2018; and attended the “Reunion Dinner of Chinese of Hong Kong and Macao in Hubei Province in Celebration of the 70th Anniversary of the Founding of the People’s Republic of China” in September 2019;
- (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 reporting period, WHETO issued 12 “Monthly Newsletters”, 17 “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.);

- (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 in the Mainland. For example, WHETO organised the “Seminar on Facilitation Measures for Hong Kong People in the Mainland and Individual Income Tax Law Reform” and the “Seminar on Human Resources and Labour Law” in Wuhan, Hubei Province in December 2018 and June 2019 respectively; organised the “Seminar on China-US Trade Conflicts and International Business Risk Management” in Taiyuan, Shanxi Province in January 2019; and organised the “Seminar on Personal Income Tax Reform and China-US Trade Conflicts” in Nanchang, Jiangxi Province in March 2019; and
- (g) monitoring closely the region’s latest strategies relating to the “Belt and Road Initiative” as well as the latest development of 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 was paid to the business opportunities brought by these policies in the Mainland market for Hong Kong service enterprises and professional service providers.

### **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 reporting period, the IPD proactively reached out and met different enterprises and organisations 150 times, generated 12 live projects and completed 8 investment projects.

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

- (a) co-organising with Invest Hong Kong (InvestHK) a roundtable entitled “Belt and Road, Together We Grow” in Wuhan in November 2018;
- (b) co-organising with InvestHK a roundtable entitled “Belt and Road, Together We Grow” on Transportation and Industrial sector in Zhengzhou in March 2019;
- (c) attending and conducting a presentation at “The 13th China Henan International Investment and Trade Fair: Internationalized Environment Zhengzhou Forum” in Zhengzhou in April 2018;
- (d) attending and conducting a presentation at a seminar for Henan enterprises intending to “go global” organized by the CCPIT Henan Sub-council in Zhengzhou in April 2018;
- (e) co-organising with InvestHK a roundtable entitled “Belt and Road, Together We Grow” in Changsha in May 2018;
- (f) co-organising with InvestHK a roundtable entitled “Belt and Road, Together We Grow” on Transportation and Industrial sectors in Changsha in August 2019; and
- (g) co-organising with InvestHK a roundtable entitled “Belt and Road, Together We Grow” on Innovation and Technology sectors in Wuhan in October 2019; and
- (h) participating in other investment promotion activities to enhance connection with more Mainland enterprises in the region. For example, the “15<sup>th</sup> China Optics Valley of International Optoelectronic Exposition and Forum” in Wuhan in November 2018, the “World Health Expo: the Healthcare Industry Entrepreneurs Forum” and the “BELT&ROAD Medical Industry Summit Forum in Wuhan” in April 2019; and the “Expo Central China 2019” in Nanchang in May 2019; and the “2019 Taiyuan Energy Low Carbon Development Forum” in Taiyuan in October 2019.

### **Public Relations/Major Activities**

5 As a bridge between Hong Kong and the region, WHETO promoted Hong Kong’s advantages and its positive image in the region through various channels, official visits and hosting/participating in various exchange activities. Specific work included –

- (a) from October to November 2018, WHETO organised the “Spotlight Hong Kong 2018” in Wuhan, Changsha and Zhengzhou respectively to strengthen the cultural exchanges between Hong Kong and the region and to promote Hong Kong’s “soft power” through a series of cultural and creative activities including music, dance, drama and movies;
- (b) from September to December 2018, WHETO placed advertisements at Zhengzhou Xinzheng International Airport and High-speed Railway Zhengzhou East Station to promote Hong Kong;
- (c) from October to November 2018, WHETO organised the “Hong Kong Roving 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;
- (d) from November to December 2018, a TV series co-produced by WHETO and the New 360 Channel of Hubei Television was broadcast to foster mutual understanding among residents in the Mainland and Hong Kong;
- (e) from October 2018 to January 2019, WHETO 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;
- (f) from November 2018 to March 2019, WHETO organised the “Hong Kong Photo Exhibition” in Anyang featuring photos of Hong Kong’s scenery, festive events and infrastructures to showcase Hong Kong as a city of charm to local residents;
- (g) in December 2018, WHETO organised the Hong Kong Film Festival in Wuhan to foster co-operation between film industries in Hong Kong and the Mainland;
- (h) in January 2019, WHETO organised the HKSAR’s “Joint Development • Shared Prosperity” Exhibition on the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of China’s Reform and Opening-up cum Exhibition on Hong Kong Photos in Taiyuan and Wuhan to celebrate with the local community the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of reform and opening up of the country and deepen their understanding of Hong Kong;
- (i) from January to March 2019, WHETO organised the “Hong Kong Photo Exhibition” in Xuchang featuring photos of Hong Kong’s scenery, festive events and infrastructures to showcase Hong Kong as a city of charm to local residents;
- (j) in February 2019, WHETO organised the HKSAR’s “Joint Development • Shared Prosperity” Exhibition on the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

of China's Reform and Opening-up cum Exhibition on Hong Kong Photos in Changsha to celebrate with the local community the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of reform and opening up of the country and deepen their understanding of Hong Kong;

- (k) in March 2019, WHETO organised the HKSAR's "Joint Development • Shared Prosperity" Exhibition on the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of China's Reform and Opening-up cum Exhibition on Hong Kong Photos in Nanchang and Zhengzhou to celebrate with the local community the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of reform and opening up of the country and deepen their understanding of Hong Kong;
- (l) from April to June 2019, WHETO 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;
- (m) in May 2019, WHETO supported the concert entitled "From Mendelssohn to Mozart — Hong Kong String Orchestra Concert" presented by Changsha Concert Hall to promote Hong Kong's music culture ;
- (n) in June 2019, WHETO supported the concert entitled "East Meets West—Hong Kong String Orchestra Concert" presented by the Wuhan Qintai Concert Hall and organised a cocktail reception before the concert to promote to the local residents the musical arts of Hong Kong;
- (o) from June to July 2019, WHETO organised the "Hong Kong Photo Exhibition" in Yiyang featuring photos of Hong Kong's scenery, festive events and infrastructures to showcase Hong Kong as a city of charm to local residents;
- (p) in July 2019, WHETO organized the "Hong Kong Photo Exhibition on Wushu and Sports Activities" in Zhengzhou featuring photos of Hong Kong's wushu and sports activities to deepen local community's understanding of Hong Kong's wushu and sports culture;
- (q) in August 2019, WHETO organised the "Hong Kong Photo Exhibition" in Loudi featuring photos of Hong Kong's scenery, festive events and infrastructures to showcase Hong Kong as a city of charm to local residents;
- (r) from August to October 2019, WHETO organised the "Hong Kong Photo Exhibition" in Shangqiu featuring photos of Hong Kong's scenery, festive events and infrastructures to showcase Hong Kong as a city of charm to local residents;

- (s) 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;
- (t) 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 of Hong Kong’s development;
- (u) 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 of Hong Kong’s development;
- (v) 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 of Hong Kong’s development; and
- (w) disseminating information related to WHETO and Hong Kong through our official WeChat account. During the reporting period, a total of 391 messages of news and activities were disseminated.

6. In late June 2019, WHETO publicised the anniversary of Hong Kong’s Reunification to the Motherland and our developments in the past 22 years through newspaper advertisements and a large-scale reception for major stakeholders.

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

7. 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 liaison and co-operation with government authorities in the region through visits and participating in activities organised by or co-organised with them. WHETO also liaised with the relevant authorities to obtain details on planning and policies, etc. of the region and reported to the HKSAR Government. During the reporting period, the Director of WHETO called on the relevant institutions in the region to learn about the latest development in the provinces concerned and establish working contacts. WHETO also met with representatives of Hong Kong-invested enterprises 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 developments;

- (b) proactively liaising with Hong Kong enterprises and residents to understand their needs and provide assistance as appropriate. For example –
- WHETO organised a number of gatherings to understand their situation and needs in relation to their investment, business and livelihood in the region. For instance, in February 2019, the “Celebration of the 40th Anniversary of China's Reform and Opening Up cum Spring Reception for Hong Kong Residents in Hubei Province 2019” was organised in Wuhan. Arrangements were made for Hong Kong residents in the region to meet with senior officials of HKSAR Government during their visits to the region, which included arranging the Commissioner for Sports of Home Affairs Bureau to meet the Hong Kong volunteers providing support for the 2nd National Youth Games and the Hong Kong students taking up internships locally during his visit to Taiyuan for the Games in August 2019;
  - WHETO met with Hong Kong university students studying in Wuhan, Changsha and Zhengzhou 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 Hong Kong and Macao affairs offices in respective universities and Hong Kong student unions;
  - in March 2019, WHETO 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 plan their future development and get prepared for their career;
  - WHETO provided internship opportunities for Hong Kong university students studying in Wuhan and Changsha, and disseminated relevant information to Hong Kong students; and
  - WHETO 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 for Hong Kong people in the Mainland and their implementation, and

disseminated the latest information through various channels to Hong Kong people and enterprises in the region. For example, the work plan on the facilitation of the use of entry and exit permits announced on 16 May 2019 was promptly sent out. Comments on the relevant measures from Hong Kong people were collected;

- (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 2019, WHETO dined with the members of “Wuhan-Jingzhou-Yichang Exchange Tour” organised by the Hong Kong United Youth Association Student Exchange Network to brief them on WHETO’s work and functions as well as introduce the latest developments of Hong Kong’s co-operation with the region. In April 2019, WHETO received the “Exploring the Past and Learning the Present – Hubei High Speed Railway Delegation” of the Scout Association of Hong Kong – Ho Man Tin District and learnt about how the delegation members felt during their visits to Wuhan and Jingzhou. WHETO also liaised with Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce in China – Wuhan and Hong Kong-funded enterprises in Wuhan to provide places for the 2019 Hong Kong Youth Mainland Summer Internship Programme-Wuhan organised in June and July 2019; and
- (f) assisting Hong Kong civil servants’ exchange programmes to Wuhan. WHETO assisted in receiving the participants of CSTDI’s National Studies Course at Wuhan University in May, June, September and October 2019 to brief them on the functions and work of the WHETO and to learn about their experience in studying and living in Wuhan.

### **Hunan Liaison Unit (HNLU)**

8. 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 capitalising on the opportunities brought about by the development of the region. Specific work included –

### Commercial Relations

- (a) in February 2019, HNLU organised the “2019 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.
- (b) in July 2019, WHETO and HNLU attended the “Summit on Integration and Development of Industries for Promoting the Collaboration between the Demonstration Zone for Relocation of Industries to Southern Hunan and Western Hunan with the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area” and side programmes organised by the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) of Hunan Province, met with leaders of the National Committee of the CPPCC and Hunan Province, Hong Kong members of the CPPCC of Hunan Province and Changsha Municipality and representatives of Hong Kong enterprises to understand the latest developments and co-operation opportunities of Hunan Province in the areas of economy, trade, investment and tourism;
- (c) in September 2019, HNLU invited relevant Hong Kong trade associations and enterprises to participate at the “2019 China International Food and Catering Expo”, including setting up a Hong Kong Pavilion to promote Hong Kong’s food and wine industries. During the period, HNLU organised a Hong Kong delegation to visit various local enterprises in Changde to promote exchanges and co-operation between the two places; and
- (d) HNLU 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 report period, HNLU organised the “2019 Hot Topics in Taxation” Seminar in June 2019.

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

- (a) During the report period, HNLU called on relevant authorities of the Hunan Province, the Changsha Municipality, the Zhangjiajie Municipality, the Xiangtan Municipality, the Changde Municipality, the Zhuzhou Municipality, the Yiyang Municipality, the Loudi Municipality, the Shaoyang Municipality and the Hengyang Municipality to establish ties and exchange views on its work plans and activities;
- (b) HNLU 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) HNLU supported Hong Kong students studying in the Mainland, including having regular meetings with Hong Kong university students studying in Changsha to learn more about their daily lives and studies and providing them with timely information on employment opportunities;
- (d) HNLU actively promoted youth, cultural and other exchanges between Hong Kong and the Hunan Province, and received groups from Hong Kong conducting exchanges in Hunan. This included attending the launching and closing ceremonies of the “First Internship Scheme for Hong Kong Students Major in Mass Communication 2018” in December 2018 and January 2019 respectively; visiting the Hunan Broadcasting System with WHETO and meeting with Hong Kong students working there to learn more about their working environment and details of the internship programme; attending the launching ceremony of the “2019 Hunan Summer Internship Scheme for Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan Students” in July 2019 to exchange views with participating guests and Hong Kong students; attending the opening and closing ceremonies of the “2019 Mainland Summer Internship Scheme organised by the Hong Kong Federation of Education Workers – Hunan Enterprises” in July and August 2019 respectively to exchange views with participating guests and Hong Kong students; organising exchanges with 20 outstanding Hong Kong students from the “32<sup>nd</sup> HKSAR Government Outstanding Students Science, Technology and Cultural Exchange Delegation” in July 2019;
- (e) HNLU 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 “Celebration of the 40th Anniversary of China’s Reform and Opening Up cum Hunan-Hong Kong Spring Reception 2019” in February 2019 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) HNLU actively liaised 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)**

9. HALU, located in Zhengzhou, the capital city of Henan Province, was established 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 exchanges 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 capitalising on the opportunities brought about by the development of the region. Specific work included –

### Commercial Relations

- (a) 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 reporting period, HALU organised seminars concerning economic, trade and taxation topics in November 2018 and July 2019 to help Hong Kong enterprises gain a better understanding of the business environment of Henan Province; and
- (b) organising 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 2019 and a mid-autumn festival gathering in September 2019 to strengthen its connection with the Hong Kong people and businessmen in the Province.

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

- (a) During the reporting period, HALU called on the relevant authorities of the Henan Province, the Kaifeng Municipality, the Anyang Municipality, the Xuchang Municipality, the Luoyang Municipality, the Sanmenxia Municipality, the Nanyang Municipality, the Xinyang Municipality, the Zhoukou Municipality, the Shangqiu Municipality, the Jiaozuo Municipality, the Pingdingshan Municipality and the Xinxiang Municipality to introduce the functions of HALU and exchange views on its work plans and specific activities;
- (b) HALU assisted in the liaison between provincial government bodies and the HKSAR Government. For example, in February 2019, HALU assisted the Henan Provincial Government to invite the Under Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development to attend the “13th China (Henan) International Investment and Trade Fair Promotion Meeting cum Spring Reception of Henan Entrepreneurs in Hong Kong 2019” held in Hong Kong;
- (c) HALU actively fostered youth, cultural, sports and other exchanges between Hong Kong and Henan Province and received groups from Hong Kong conducting exchanges in Henan. This included forming a team with Hong Kong people and representatives of Hong Kong-funded

enterprises to participate in the Zhengzhou International Marathon in November 2018; acting as guest speaker of the Henan Cultural Industry Ceremony to share the development of culture and arts of Hong Kong in December 2018; meeting with Hong Kong and mainland students participating in the “2019 Fan Changjiang Operation – China Tour of Hong Kong Media Students” in Henan to exchange views and attending the Henan Province Folk Handicrafts and Arts Exhibition to facilitate cultural exchanges between Hong Kong and the Mainland in June 2019; and meeting with members of the Hong Kong Observers’ Group attending the 11<sup>th</sup> National Traditional Games of Ethnic Minorities of the People’s Republic of China in September 2019; and

- (d) HALU actively liaised with the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the Henan Province and relevant authorities on implementation of facilitation measures for Hong Kong people living in Henan.

### **Immigration-related Matters and Assistance Rendered**

10. Immigration matters handled by the Immigration Division under WHETO included 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 reporting period, WHETO received a total of 22 requests for assistance from Hong Kong residents in distress on the Mainland, processed 55 applications for HKSAR passport replacement and handled 1260 enquiries.

11. WHETO also received a total of 7 other requests for assistance during the reporting period. WHETO has made referrals to the relevant Mainland authorities for follow-up and monitored the progress.

### **Looking Ahead**

12. WHETO will continue to promote the economic and trade relations between Hong Kong and the region, 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 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 people studying, working and living in the Mainland in the region, and disseminate the information through various channels. WHETO will also monitor the latest

developments in major policies, legislations and measures in the region and report to bureaux and departments in a timely manner to facilitate the assessment of their impact on Hong Kong.

Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Wuhan  
November 2019

## **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 2018, 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 period<sup>1</sup>, HKETCO continued to promote commerce 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)<sup>2</sup>. 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 developments 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, including logistics, e-commerce and other service industries. HKETCO exchanged views with them on the latest developments in economic and trade relations between Hong Kong and Taiwan, and provided them

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<sup>1</sup> 1 November 2017 to 31 October 2018.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

with advice and assistance as appropriate. HKETCO also provided support to the visit of the Hong Kong-Taiwan Business Co-operation Committee<sup>3</sup> to Taiwan in September 2019.

4. On the other hand, HKETCO kept a close watch on important information relating to economic and trade matters as well as business operations in Hong Kong and Taiwan, such as changes of relevant regulations in the two places<sup>4</sup>. HKETCO disseminated economic and trade information 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 emails. Members of the public can also download the Newsletter from HKETCO’s website ([www.hketco.hk](http://www.hketco.hk)). In addition, HKETCO has co-operated with *Global Views* magazine of Taiwan since July 2019 to publish magazine columns, which featured interviews with individuals from Hong Kong and Taiwan and promoted the economy, latest commercial trends, image and advantages of Hong Kong. HKETCO also handled 16 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 the Taiwan business community and foster closer economic co-operation and exchanges between the two places, HKETCO organised “Hong Kong-Taiwan Economic Co-operation Forum” (the Forum) in Taipei City in September 2019. With artificial intelligence (AI) as the theme, the Forum invited guest speakers from Hong Kong and Taiwan to analyse the value added by AI to various industry sectors in the knowledge-based economy and introduce the latest developments of AI in Hong Kong and Taiwan. Experts from the two places also shared their own experiences and discussed how Hong Kong and Taiwan could collaborate to leverage strengths of the two places with a view to generating new business opportunities in the future. HKETCO also actively established connections with industry associations of the innovation and technology sector in Taiwan and initiated exchanges between the two places in biotechnology, smart city and other aspects.

6. HKETCO continued to closely monitor the latest situation of the economy and external trade of Taiwan, and kept contacts with industry and business groups as well as Hong Kong businessmen in cities and counties of Taiwan to understand their views on market developments and corresponding measures implemented by enterprises. We also timely reported the latest developments and analysis of the business environment and the trend of economic development in both places to relevant bureaux and departments.

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<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> 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.

## **Investment Promotion**

7. 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 markets outside Taiwan. It also provided assistance to enterprises interested in investing in Hong Kong. During the reporting period, IPD visited 219 companies in Taiwan, generated 23 live projects and completed 17 investment projects. The majority of these companies come from innovation and technology, tourism and hospitality, as well as consumer product sectors.

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

- (a) jointly organising an economic co-operation seminar in Miaoli County with a local trade association in May 2019 to brief them on the latest measures adopted by Hong Kong to encourage the development of innovation and technology industries and the overall profile of the catering and restaurant market in Hong Kong;
- (b) jointly organising an economic co-operation seminar with a local trade association in Taichung City in July 2019 to brief them on the latest measures adopted by of Hong Kong to promote the innovation and technology, transport and logistics as well as creative industries in Hong Kong;
- (c) jointly organising an economic co-operation seminar in Kaohsiung City with a local trade association in September 2019 to give a thematic talk on the ecosystem of start-ups in Hong Kong;
- (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, including the “2019 Computex Taipei” in May, “2019 Bio Asia-Taiwan” in July, “Taiwan Automation Intelligence and Robot Show” in August and “2019 SEMICON Taiwan” in September; and
- (e) publishing articles in business magazines to illustrate, by way of case studies, how six Taiwan enterprises made use of Hong Kong as a springboard to expand markets outside Taiwan.

## **Promotion of Cultural and Creative Industries**

9. 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 Committee<sup>5</sup> in organising the “Hong Kong Week 2018” and “Hong Kong Week 2019” in Taipei City in November 2018 and September 2019 respectively, and providing assistance in arranging the visits of the Committee. The “Hong Kong Week” aimed to promote the latest features of cultural diversity in Hong Kong to the Taiwan public. “Hong Kong Week 2018” adopted the theme of “Dance Shimmers” and brought four impressive dance performances to demonstrate the excellent skills of Hong Kong dancers. In addition to performances, the programme included a multimedia exhibition exploring interactions of light and shade through advertisements, animation and installations. “Hong Kong 2019” adopted the theme of “From Text to Stage”, and the five artistic performances presented a diversified adaptation through dance, music, drama and opera. Mr Fedric MAO Chun-fai, a master in Hong Kong drama, also shared with the audience his experiences and knowledge from many years of drama practice along with a few artists he worked with on the stage. At the same time, the programme included an exhibition featuring Hong Kong original illustrations and design brands to let the Taiwan public feel the unlimited creativity of Hong Kong arts;
- (b) publishing the eighth issue of “Art & Culture@Hong Kong” in December 2018. Through using graffiti map as the main theme, the booklet featured artistic places and cultural characteristics of different districts of Hong Kong. Readers were invited to understand Hong Kong from cultural and artistic perspectives. The ninth issue of “Art & Culture@Hong Kong” is under preparation and expected to be published by the end of 2019;
- (c) setting up a Hong Kong lantern area at the 2019 Nantou Lantern Festival in February 2019 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 commerce and trade, tourism, and arts and culture 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 2019, 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

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<sup>5</sup> 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.



the publishing and printing industry in Hong Kong. It also provided an opportunity 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) continuing to support the Asian Youth Orchestra, which is based in Hong Kong, to perform in Taipei City and Chiayi City in August 2019.

10. 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**

11. 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. 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.

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

- (a) co-operating with *Global Views* magazine of Taiwan from September 2018 to June 2019 to publish magazine columns, which featured interviews with individuals from Hong Kong and Taiwan. The columns promoted various advantages of Hong Kong in the fields of commerce and trade, innovation and technology, creative and design industries, revitalisation of historic buildings, natural habitat, arts and culture, etc. A similar column has been published in another business magazine in Taiwan, namely *CommonWealth*, starting from September 2019 to introduce major arts groups and showcase the characteristic of Hong Kong's performing arts which integrate cultures of the east and the west;
- (b) co-organising the Spring Reception with the HKTDC Taiwan Branch and the Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTB) Taiwan Branch in March 2019, 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 Hong Kong's latest developments, strengths and role of connecting the world and promote Hong Kong's distinctive characteristics in culture and tourism;

- (c) collaborating with HKTB Taiwan Branch between April and May 2019 in launching the “Travelling in Hong Kong the Way You Like It” campaign to promote Hong Kong as a short-haul travel destination, and distributing child-friendly tourism booklets to the Taiwan public in September 2019;
- (d) organising an exhibition with the theme of “Take a Stroll” in Taichung City in May 2019. Through featuring graffiti streetscapes, the exhibition showcased cultural characteristics of the Central and Western as well as Sham Shui Po districts. It also featured the diversified culture and new attractions in the urban areas of Hong Kong; 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**

13. 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.

14. HKETCO visited a total of 14 universities in various cities and counties during the reporting period to have exchanges with Hong Kong students there. HKETCO also organised student gatherings in the northern, central and southern parts of Taiwan to brief them on practical information relating to job seeking and academic accreditation. 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 supported student groups to organise activities to strengthen mutual support and relationship amongst students.

15. HKETCO maintained close communications with Hong Kong people in Taiwan, including organising a football match in April 2019, inviting amateur football teams from Hong Kong to play friendlies with local teams and conducting tutoring sessions for primary school students in Taiwan. Moreover, HKETCO participated in the activities organised by Hong Kong resident groups in Taiwan and received a number of youth delegations from Hong Kong to brief them on the work of HKETCO.

16. During the reporting period, HKETCO received 67 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 requests for 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**

17. HKETCO will continue to step up efforts in establishing links with various sectors in Taiwan; 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; promote exchanges between the cultural and creative industries of the two places through various means; and assist Hong Kong residents in Taiwan.

Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office (Taiwan)  
November 2019

### Performance Indicators of the Mainland and Taiwan Offices

The performance indicators and the relevant figures in 2017 and 2018 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	2017	2018
Meetings on trade-related matters attended	731	699
Visits to Mainland/Taiwan authorities and trade organisations	1 026	999
Seminars, exhibitions and workshops		
- organised	177	180
- participated	479	534
Public speeches given	193	186
Media interviews/briefings given	174	184
No. of special trade-related messages issued	402	457

#### Promotion of Strengths of Hong Kong

Indicators	2017	2018
Call on senior officials/personnel/organisations	3 194	3 247
Public relations/cultural functions/events		
- organised	613	582
- participated	913	876
Newsletters/pamphlets/press releases issued	775	925
No. of visitors assisted	8 855	9 179
Public speeches given	283	256
Media interviews/briefings given	424	414
Enquiries handled (excluding those related to immigration matters)	10 247	12 072

#### Investment Promotion

Indicators	2017	2018
New projects generated <sup>1</sup>	166	193
Projects completed <sup>2</sup>	97	115

<sup>1</sup> 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.

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

**Immigration-related Matters**

<b>Indicators</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
Unreferred visas/entry permit cases <sup>3</sup>		
- received	5 018	3 153
- processed	4 978	3 271
Referred visas/entry permit cases		
- received	2 525	2 549
- processed	2 529	2 559
HKSAR passport replacement		
- no. of application received	3 300	2 667
- no. of passport issued	3 121	2 654
Provision of practical assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland (no. of cases)	415	375
No. of enquiries handled by the Immigration Divisions	39 827	39 092

<sup>3</sup> “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.