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## Abbreviations

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## Chapter I

# Foreword

To give a full account of the Government's work, it has been our practice to publish a document to supplement the Policy Address listing out those ongoing and new initiatives. Last year, we introduced a new format using more infographics to make the document more readable and expanded it to cover on a cumulative basis the progress made since the beginning of the current-term Government. This comprehensive account has generally been welcomed by the media and the community at large.

The year 2020 is an exceptional year for Hong Kong, with the COVID-19 pandemic bringing unprecedented challenges to the economy and disruptions to school learning, businesses and social life and reinforcing the need for public health vigilance and the wider application of technology. As a result of unjustified response towards the enactment of The Law of the People's Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (the National Security Law), Hong Kong has been put at the forefront of China-US tension and has been subject to unfair commentaries internationally and various sanctions by the US Government. That said, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government remains steadfast in fully and effectively implementing the National Security Law in discharging the HKSAR's constitutional responsibilities to safeguard national sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity. Taking account of these exceptional happenings in the past year, we have included two new chapters in this Supplement to report on the Government's work in upholding the

fundamental policy of “One Country, Two Systems” as well as actions relating to combating the pandemic.

There are eight chapters in this Supplement. From Chapter IV onwards, each chapter is compiled around a theme and describes My Belief, Progress Made since 1 July 2017 and New Initiatives. The 2017, 2018 and 2019 Policy Addresses and related documents contained about 700 new initiatives, of which 95% have been completed or are being taken forward as scheduled. About 200 new initiatives are included in this Supplement and the 2020 Policy Address delivered by the Chief Executive today.



國家安全法  
National Security Law

保一國兩制 還香港穩定  
Preserve One Country, Two Systems  
Restore Stability



## Chapter II

# Upholding and Improving the “One Country, Two Systems” Practice

## My Belief

**“... In view of the increasingly pronounced national security risks faced by the HKSAR, the enactment of a national security law at the state level is both necessary and urgent in order to plug the loophole in national security in Hong Kong... I am confident that after the implementation of the national security law, the social unrest which has troubled Hong Kong people for nearly a year will be eased and stability will be restored, thereby enabling Hong Kong to start anew, focus on economic development and improve people’s livelihood.”**

The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), being an inalienable part of the People’s Republic of China, is directly under the Central People’s Government and exercises a high degree of autonomy. The Chief Executive is accountable to both the HKSAR and the Central People’s Government. Under this “dual responsibility”, the Chief Executive is required to comprehensively, accurately and firmly implement the “One Country, Two Systems” principle, uphold the Basic Law, defend the rule of law and promote the relationship between the Central Government and the HKSAR.

The “One Country, Two Systems” is the best institutional arrangement to ensure Hong Kong’s long-term prosperity and stability after our return to the Motherland. It is a workable solution and an achievable goal welcomed by the people. Thus, everybody with a passion for Hong Kong has the responsibility to ensure that, here in Hong Kong, “One Country, Two Systems” advances in the right direction, the obligation to say “no” to any attempt to threaten our country’s sovereignty, security and development interests, as well as the duty to nurture our next generation into citizens with a sense of national identity, an affection for Hong Kong and a sense of social responsibility.

The National Security Law is the turning point for Hong Kong to find a way out of the impasse and restore order from chaos. The HKSAR Government has the primary responsibility in the implementation of the National Security Law, and will spare no effort in fulfilling it. By establishing and improving the legal system and enforcement mechanisms to safeguard national security, Hong Kong will be able to stay clear of riots and return to stability.

Judicial independence is the linchpin in upholding the rule of law. The Basic Law clearly stipulates that the HKSAR enjoys independent judicial power, including that of final adjudication, and that our courts shall exercise judicial power independently, free from any interference. We will continue to steadfastly safeguard judicial independence.

# Statistics related to the social unrest since the second half of 2019



Arrest:  
**over  
10 000**



Prosecution:  
**over  
2 200**



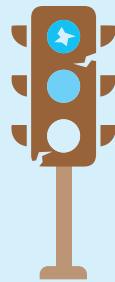
With legal  
consequence:  
**about  
530**



Rioters hurled  
**over 5 000  
petrol bombs**  
during the violent  
incidents

with over 10 000 petrol bombs seized by the Police: 3 900 of them were seized in one single incident.

**740**  
traffic lights



**were damaged**

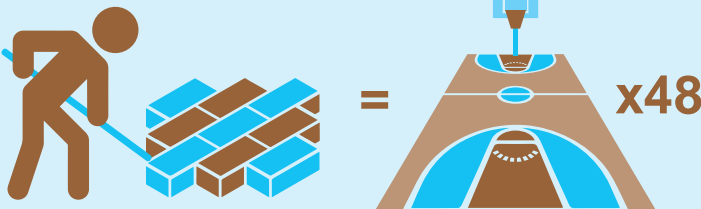
**1 521**  
traffic bollards



**87**  
traffic signs

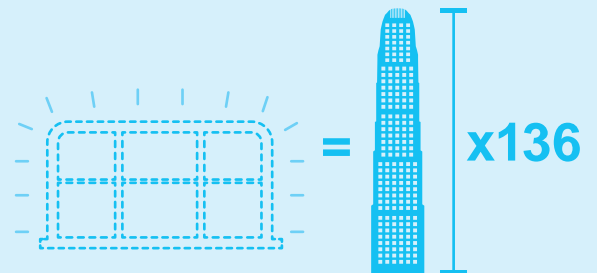


**22 000 square metres**  
of paving blocks of footpaths  
were removed



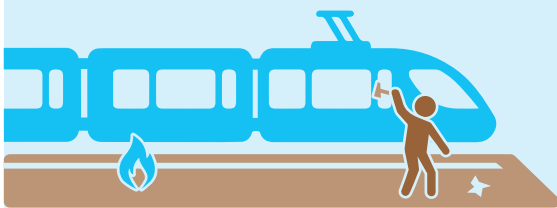
enough to fill 48 basketball courts.

**60 kilometres**  
of railings were removed

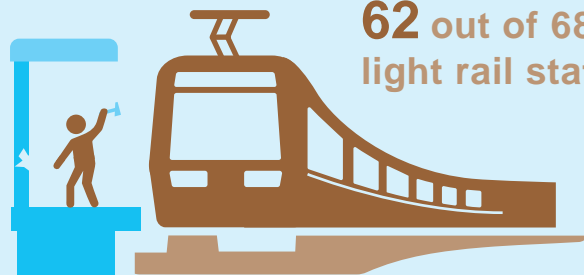


= 136 times the height of Two IFC.

**85 out of 93**  
heavy rail stations



**62 out of 68**  
light rail stations



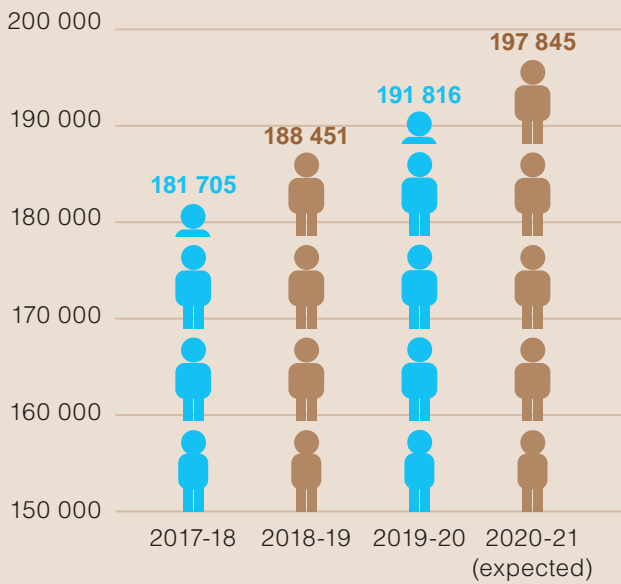
were vandalised, with numerous facilities repeatedly damaged.





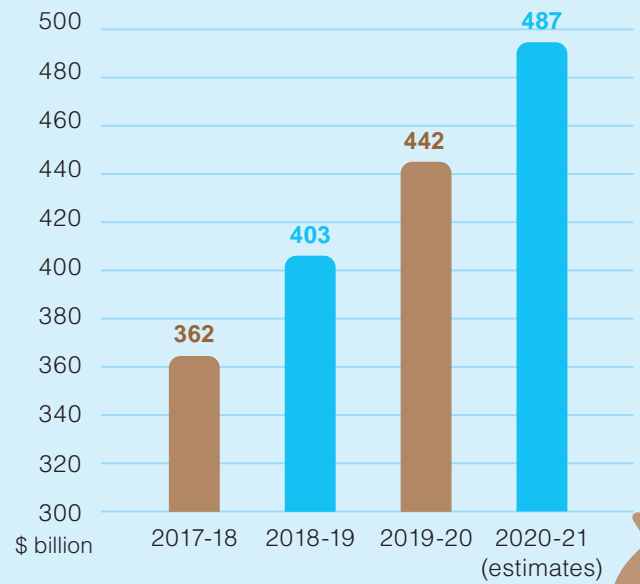
### Civil Service Establishment (2017-18 to 2020-21)

from  
2017-18  
to  
2020-21  
**+11%**

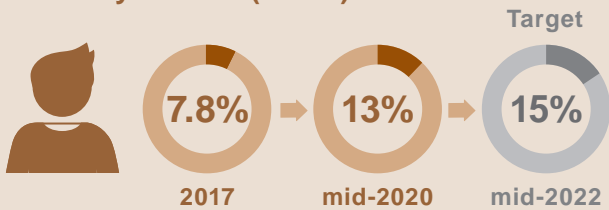


### Government Recurrent Expenditure (2017-18 to 2020-21)

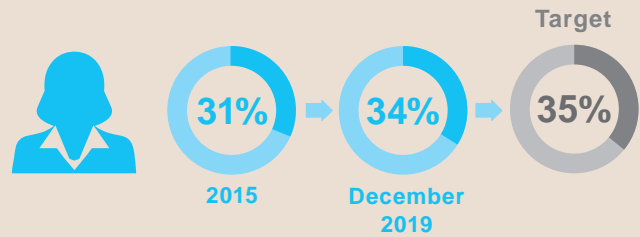
from  
2017-18  
to  
2020-21  
**+35%**



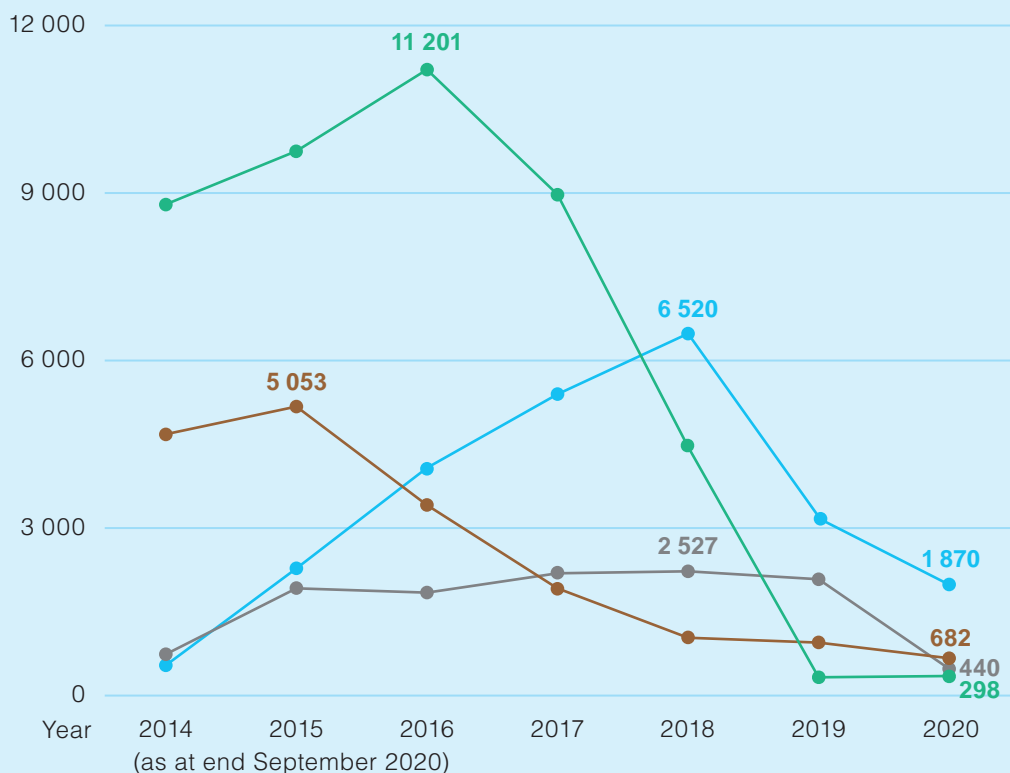
### Youth members in advisory and statutory bodies (ASBs)



### Women members in ASBs



### Non-refoulement Claims



- New claims received
- Claims pending screening by Immigration Department
- Appeal cases pending handling by Torture Claims Appeal Board
- Number of claimants repatriated

As at end September 2020, there are still some 13 000 claimants / claimants whose claims had been rejected, pending either screening of their claims, determination of their appeals, repatriation, or being stranded in Hong Kong for various reasons (e.g. imprisoned or pending judicial review).

## Progress Made

A total of 54 new initiatives were announced since July 2017 under “Good Governance”, of which 49 have been completed or are progressing on schedule.

Key initiatives completed or major progress made are as follows:

### National Security

- On 30 June 2020, The Law of the People’s Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (NSL) was promulgated for implementation by the HKSAR Government. The Committee for Safeguarding National Security of the HKSAR chaired by the Chief Executive held its first meeting on 6 July 2020 and enacted the Implementation Rules, which came into effect on 7 July 2020, to enhance enforcement capability. (SB)
- Set up dedicated offices in the Hong Kong Police Force (Police Force) and Department of Justice to implement the NSL, which provides the legal basis to prevent, suppress and punish four types of offences endangering national security; as well as established co-ordination mechanisms, strengthened intelligence collection and analysis, and stepped up the work on preventing terrorist activities. (SB, DoJ)
- Set up in April 2018 an inter-departmental Counter-terrorism Unit led by the Police Force to strengthen capacity in combating terrorist activities. (SB)
- Invoked in September 2018 relevant provisions in the Societies Ordinance (Cap. 151) to prohibit the operation of the Hong Kong National Party which was advocating independence of Hong Kong. (SB)

### National Anthem Ordinance

- Enacted the National Anthem Ordinance on 12 June 2020, signifying the HKSAR Government’s fulfilment of its constitutional responsibility to implement the National Anthem Law locally in accordance with Article 18 of the Basic Law. (CMAB)

### The Central Military Dock

- Handed over the Central Military Dock to the Hong Kong Garrison on 29 September 2020, marking the completion of the responsibilities according to the arrangements for the use of military sites in Hong Kong. (SB)

### Promotion of the Constitution and the Basic Law

- Organised in 2020 special publicity and education programmes in celebration of the 30th anniversary of the promulgation of the Basic Law, in addition to year-round activities to promote understanding of the Constitution, the Basic Law and “One Country, Two Systems”, under the auspices of the Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee. (CMAB)
- Arranged since 2017 seminars, exhibitions and publicity on the Constitution Day and the National Security Education Day which fall on 4 December and 15 April respectively. (CMAB, SB)

### Strengthening National and Chinese History Education

- Strengthened school curriculum and life-wide learning activities to help students understand the history, culture and developments of our country and the constitutional order established under the Constitution and the Basic Law. (EDB)

- Included Chinese History as an independent compulsory subject for the junior secondary level since the 2018/19 school year. (EDB)

## Boosting Implementation Capabilities of the Civil Service

- Increased the civil service establishment by about 19 600 posts (11%) between 2017–18 and 2020–21 to implement new initiatives and ensure steady development of the civil service. The projected establishment by end-March 2021 will be 197 845 posts. (CSB)
- Invited in July 2018 all serving civil servants joining the service between 1 June 2000 and 31 May 2015 to choose to retire at 65 (for civilian grades) or 60 (for disciplined services grades). At the end of the option period, some 47 000 civil servants, representing about 83% of those eligible have opted to retire later. (CSB)
- Set up the new Civil Service College in a composite development on a site in Kwun Tong. Construction is expected to commence in 2022. Meanwhile, a civil service training advisory board has been set up. (CSB)
- Increased the number of short-term internship placements from 2 890 to 3 600 in 2020 to expose more post-secondary students to the work of the Government and public organisations. (CSB)
- Tightened the scrutiny of probationary civil servants to instil a stronger sense of discipline and integrity among civil servants, especially in light of a number of civil servants being arrested during the social unrest. (CSB)
- Completed four projects in recent years to provide staff quarters for eligible disciplinary staff. Another four projects are under construction. Provision of car parking spaces has been increased in these quarters to meet operational needs. The rank and file quarters for the Fire Services Department at Pak Shing Kok is the first government building project constructed using Modular Integrated Construction technology. (SB)
- Continued to enhance Government licensing services to facilitate businesses. Of the 277 measures committed in 2018–19 and 2019–20 under the “Be the Smart Regulator” Programme, 76% have been implemented. (EffO/ITB)
- Launched the “Streamlining of Government Services” Programme in 2019. In the year, 36 bureaux and departments proposed 74 streamlining measures covering about 110 government services, with an estimated total annual transaction volume of 27 million. (EffO/ITB)
- Set up the Policy Innovation and Co-ordination Office in April 2018 to assist in co-ordinating major government initiatives and provide “first-stop” and “one-stop” consultation services for non-governmental organisations. (PICO/CSO)
- Upgraded the Project Cost Management Office (PCMO) in April 2019 to the Project Strategy and Governance Office (PSGO) to implement various measures to optimise the performance of infrastructure projects. In the past four years, the PCMO/PSGO scrutinised more than 280 public works projects of a total estimated cost of \$520 billion and achieved cost savings of \$70 billion through optimising project designs. (DEVB)

## The Judiciary

- Continued to appoint eminent judges from other common law jurisdictions as non-Permanent Judges (CLNPs) of the Court of Final Appeal (CFA) in accordance with the Basic Law. Since July 2017, three CLNPs have been appointed by the Chief Executive, including the first two lady judges to sit on the CFA. (CSO)
- Maintained oversight of the implementation of the new High Court and District Court projects by the central steering committee established under the Judiciary. The statutory rezoning procedures for the latter's development site is expected to be completed within 2020. (CSO, DEVB)
- Enacted the relevant legislative amendments to extend the retirement ages of Judges at the High Court and above as well as Magistrates generally by five years. (CSO)

## Public Participation

- The Chief Executive has chaired six summits on different policy areas since 2017, including new directions of taxation, poverty alleviation, disability inclusion and quality education, to exchange views with stakeholders directly on the relevant strategies, policies and measures. (Relevant bureaux)
- Increased the overall ratio of appointed youth members in advisory and statutory bodies (ASBs) from 7.8% in 2017 to 13% as at mid-2020, with a view to reaching the 15% target by end-June 2022. (HAB)
- Increased the proportion of female non-official members in ASBs from 31% in 2015 to about 34% as at December 2019, very close to the target of 35%. (LWB)

- Encouraged bureaux and departments to identify more suitable ethnic minority talents for appointment to ASBs and provided more opportunities for ethnic minorities to seek employment in the Government. (CSO, CSB)

## District Administration

- Completed in end-September 2019 the pilot of district visits by Secretaries of Department and Directors of Bureau, with a total of 276 visits conducted (i.e. one visit every two working days on average). (HAB)
- Implemented 27 projects under the Signature Project Scheme spearheaded by the respective District Councils (DCs) with 24 of them in operation. (HAB)
- Regularised the additional dedicated allocation of \$20.8 million for the promotion of arts and cultural activities under the community involvement programme and provided additional resources to enhance the manpower support for DCs. (HAB)
- Increased the annual recurrent provision for District-led Actions Scheme from \$63 million to \$80 million from 2020–21 onwards to further address long-standing problems and capitalise on opportunities in the districts. (HAB)

## Integrity

- Launched an e-learning platform in 2020 to enhance the integrity training for government officers on common corruption pitfalls. (ICAC)
- Launched in 2019 the “Youth-for-Youth” Co-creation Project to engage young people as partners in creative multi-media production to reinforce the core value of integrity in the younger generation. (ICAC)

- Organised a series of commemorative events for the 45th anniversary of the Independent Commission Against Corruption in 2019, including a television drama series. (ICAC)
- Launched in 2019 an Ethics Promotion Campaign for the Insurance Industry and offered other tailor-made anti-corruption services to individual insurance companies to enhance an integrity culture in the industry. (ICAC)
- Launched in 2018 a youth promotional programme to disseminate anti-corruption messages via multi-media platforms. (ICAC)
- Strengthened international efforts since 2017 to promote Hong Kong's robust anti-corruption regime and probity environment and provided advice and assistance to other jurisdictions. Established connections with anti-corruption institutions of over 50 countries and conducted training courses for over 400 graft fighters from all over the world. (ICAC)
- Held the first tripartite meeting involving the anti-corruption agencies in the Guangdong Province, Hong Kong and Macao in May 2019 and worked with the Shenzhen Qianhai Anti-Corruption Bureau to jointly launch pilot training programmes in Qianhai for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA). (ICAC)
- Completed a review of works supervision system of the Development Bureau and works departments and recommended a series of corruption prevention measures for reducing the possible risk of corruption in the system. (ICAC)
- Developed an Integrity Management System (IMS) covering elements on integrity policy and requirements, integrity capacity building and integrity risk management to enhance public works contractors' awareness of and capabilities in integrity management and corruption prevention. (ICAC)
- Completed the second round consultation with the industry on the extent of adopting IMS as a listing requirement of Government's approved public works contractors by 30 September 2020. (DEVB, ICAC)

## Non-refoulement Claims

- Largely completed the screening of pending non-refoulement claims (which once accumulated to over 11 000 in early 2019) and substantially reduced the number of appeal cases pending the handling of the Torture Claims Appeal Board (TCAB) (from the peak of 6 500 to about 2 000 in end-August 2020). It is expected that TCAB could complete the handling of these cases by mid-2021 the earliest. In 2019, the number of new claims dropped significantly by around 80% from the peak. (SB)

## Crimes Ordinance

- Commenced the preparation of legislation to amend the Crimes Ordinance (Cap. 200) to introduce new criminal offences on voyeurism, non-consensual photography of intimate parts and distribution of intimate images, etc. (SB)

## Public Elections

- Worked with the Electoral Affairs Commission (EAC) to conduct the 2019 DC Ordinary Election in a fair, open and honest manner in accordance with the law amid very difficult circumstances caused by the social unrest. (CMAB)
- Reviewed the subsidy rate of financial assistance and the election expenses limits for the seventh-term Legislative Council (LegCo) General Election and introduced subsidiary legislation to effect the required legislative amendments. (CMAB)
- Put forward two sets of subsidiary legislation that aim to revise the requirement on disclosure of personal data in the LegCo and DC elections. (CMAB)
- Secured in November 2019 the passage of necessary technical legislative amendments for public elections. (CMAB)
- Worked with EAC to follow up on the postponement of the 2020 LegCo General Election as a result of the Coronavirus Disease-2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. (CMAB)

## Public Finance

- Increased recurrent government expenditure from \$361.8 billion to \$486.6 billion between 2017–18 and 2020–21, representing an average annual growth of 10.4%. As at end-March 2020, the fiscal reserves stood at \$1,160.3 billion. (FSTB)
- Continued to invest in infrastructure to meet Hong Kong’s needs and create jobs. From 2017–18 to 2020–21, the average capital works expenditure per year amounted to \$75.5 billion. (FSTB, DEVB)

- Rolled out three rounds of measures under the Anti-epidemic Fund and measures in the 2020–21 Budget totalling over \$300 billion to provide relief to businesses and individuals hard hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. (FSTB)

## Legal Aid

- Increased the financial eligibility limits for legal aid applicants by 36.9% with effect from 26 June 2020. The limit for Ordinary Legal Aid Scheme increased from \$307,130 to \$420,400 while the limit for Supplementary Legal Aid Scheme increased from \$1,535,650 to \$2,102,000. (CSO)

## Records Keeping and Archives

- The Law Reform Commission (LRC) completed in March 2019 a public consultation on archives law. The Government will examine in detail the recommendations after receiving the report from LRC. (CSO)
- Provided records management training for over 3 000 government officers from January to September 2020. The target number of persons trained will increase to 10 000 per annum by 2021. (CSO)
- Making preparations for rolling out the electronic record-keeping system to all government bureaux and departments by end-2025 to enhance efficiency in preserving and managing government records. (CSO)

## Access to Information

- The LRC completed in March 2019 a public consultation on access to information. The Government will examine in detail the recommendations and consider how to further improve the access to information regime after receiving the report from LRC. (CMAB)

## New Initiatives

### National Flag and National Emblem Ordinance

- Introduce amendments to the National Flag and National Emblem Ordinance upon the enactment of the amendments to the Law of the People's Republic of China on the National Flag and the Law of the People's Republic of China on the National Emblem by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress. (CMAB)

### Rule of Law

#### Vision 2030 for Rule of Law

- Launch the 10-year initiative "Vision 2030 for Rule of Law" during the Hong Kong Legal Week 2020 to enhance the community's understanding and practice of the rule of law. (DoJ)

#### The Legal Hub

- Open the Hong Kong Legal Hub in November 2020. The project, which comprises the former Central Government Offices and the former French Mission Building, aims to attract reputable international legal services and dispute resolution institutions to provide services or set up offices in Hong Kong. Around 20 selected local, regional and international law-related organisations are gradually moving in and commencing operations. (DoJ)

### Oath-taking by Public Officers

- Put in place the oath-taking requirement for public officers in accordance with Article 6 of the NSL. (Relevant bureaux)

- Revise and improve the relevant local legislation to better implement the Interpretation of Article 104 of the Basic Law by the National People's Congress Standing Committee in November 2016. (CMAB)
- Require civil servants to take an oath or sign a declaration that they will uphold the Basic Law, bear allegiance to the HKSAR, and be responsible to the HKSAR Government to genuinely manifest the established responsibilities of civil servants under the Basic Law and the Civil Service Code. (CSB)

### Enhancing National Studies Training for Civil Servants

- Enhance national studies training for civil servants by further increasing the number of training places in the national studies programmes jointly organised with nine institutions in the Mainland, and extend the Civil Service Staff Exchange Programme between Hong Kong and the Mainland to cover the Mainland municipalities in the GBA, and continue to enhance the contents of the thematic visits to the Mainland municipalities in the GBA. (CSB)

### Better Use of Government Funds

- Optimise the use of funding schemes/funds set up by the Government by cutting red tape, streamlining application and vetting procedures, strengthening promotion and focusing on how to help the target beneficiaries utilise the existing funding schemes. (Relevant bureaux)



## Public Sector Reform

- Adopt innovation and technology and streamline business processes to meet the rising expectations and changing needs of businesses and the public under the “new normal”. Measures include:
  - implement e-licensing for all licensing applications by mid-2022 under the “Be the Smart Regulator” programme. Past examples include licensing services for 31 licences/certifications in respect of lift, electricity and gas safety, and third party certification mechanism on the building safety requirements for educational premises and child care centres; (Relevant bureaux)
  - reform some 900 government services under the “Streamlining of Government Services” programme to reduce documentation requirements, share application information among different bureaux/departments and schemes, and adopt people-centric design and end-to-end process re-engineering; and (Relevant bureaux)
  - introduce smart elements in prisons; apply artificial intelligence, big data analytics, etc., to further enhance the effectiveness of passenger, vehicle and cargo clearance; explore the introduction of innovative immigration clearance mode; and make better use of technology for monitoring stock level of dangerous drugs as well as formulating better firefighting and rescue strategies. (SB)

## Integrity

- Publish by end-2020 a corruption prevention guide for reference by non-disciplined service departments and public bodies with regulatory or enforcement functions, containing recommendations on corruption prevention measures. (ICAC)

- Issue in end-2020 a Corruption Prevention Guide on Works Supervision to non-works departments and public bodies for use in the administration of their works projects. (ICAC)
- Produce in 2020 a series of picture books under the “Reading for Integrity” Project to instil moral values into young children. (ICAC)

## Electoral Arrangements

- Explore the use of electronic poll registers in Hong Kong public elections to verify the identity of electors and distribute ballot papers (i.e. electronic mode of ballot paper distribution) with a view to implementing the relevant measure in the 2021 LegCo General Election. (CMAB)
- Explore the setting up of polling-cum-counting stations in the Mainland to facilitate registered electors to vote in the 2021 LegCo General Election. (CMAB)

## The Hong Kong Chronicles Project

- Support the Hong Kong Chronicles Project undertaken by the Hong Kong Chronicles Institute to record the development of Hong Kong to promote the inheritance of history, culture and convention of the city. The compilation work is expected to take about eight years and its first volume, Overview & Chronology, is scheduled for release in December 2020. (HAB)





## Chapter III

# Together, We Fight the Virus

## My Belief

Any fight against a pandemic will only succeed if actions are guided by science and evidence and is supported by solidarity at the national, regional and territory levels. Politicisation must be strongly resisted.

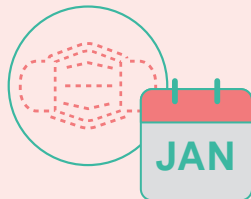
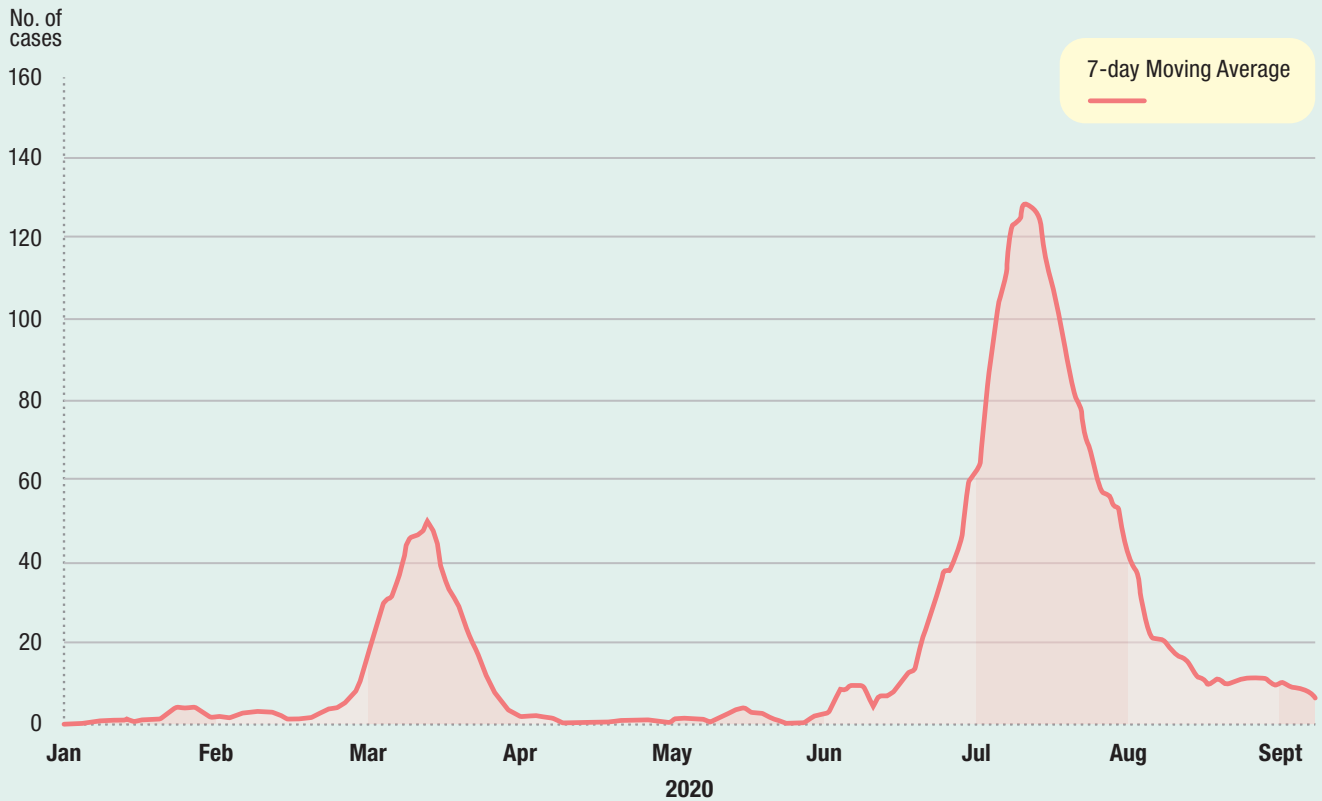
Hong Kong has been extensively affected by the Coronavirus Disease-2019 (COVID-19), a pandemic sweeping across the world. In the past eight months, Hong Kong people have shown their determination and perseverance in overcoming the difficulties and disruptions caused by the social distancing measures and border control restrictions.

Hong Kong has a robust system for fighting epidemics and has gone through the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) outbreak. Much has been improved in the hardware and technology to tackle the current public health crisis but we are consolidating our experiences and are sparing no effort in making improvements.

The local economy has been hard hit by the epidemic and is facing unprecedented challenges. The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government is standing shoulder to shoulder with the community in this battle. We have announced in the 2020–21 Budget and implemented through three rounds of Anti-epidemic Fund (AEF) a full array of measures to support enterprises, preserve jobs and relieve people's burden. We have gone through three waves of the epidemic and are enhancing Hong Kong's capacity to confront the next wave. There is no room for complacency.

During this difficult period, the Central Government has shown great care for Hong Kong in all aspects, ranging from assistance in substantially ramping up our virus testing capability, providing supplies of hospital beds and equipment to the Hospital Authority (HA), to facilitating the completion of the community treatment facility (CTF) at AsiaWorld-Expo (AWE) within a few weeks. The Central Government will further support the HKSAR Government to expand the CTF in AWE and build a temporary hospital nearby to cope with future outbreak.

# Confirmed COVID-19 cases in Hong Kong



There was hardly any local production of masks in Hong Kong in **January** 2020.

## 20 production lines

subsidised under the Local Mask Production Subsidy Scheme have committed to a monthly supply of



**34 million masks**

to the Government



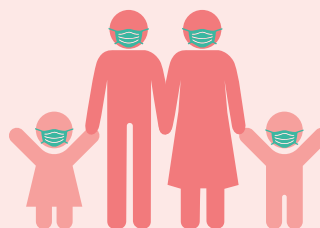
**7.6 million masks**

to the local market

Through the Hong Kong Productivity Council, the Government provided technical advice to facilitate the **establishment of**

**another 35 production**

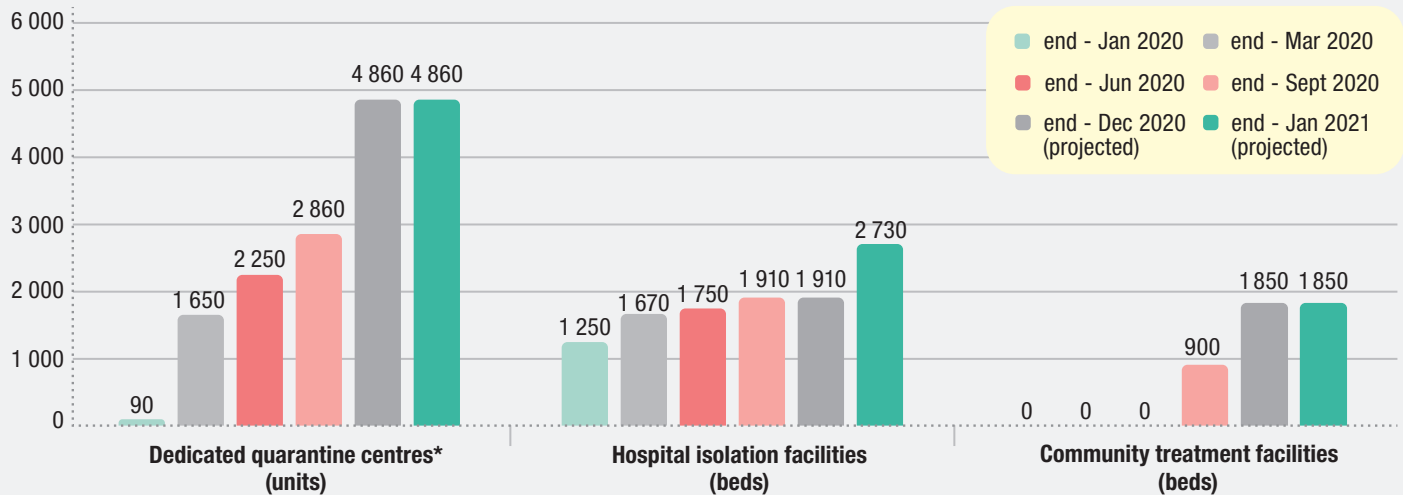
**lines** in Hong Kong.



There is now an abundant supply of masks in the local market, with an estimated production capacity of over

**100 million masks per month.**

## Capacity of Quarantine, Isolation and Treatment Facilities



\* Including from end-Sep 2020 onwards 640 beds at the dedicated quarantine facility at the AsiaWorld-Expo for residents of residential care homes for the elderly/persons with disabilities.



### Testing capacity

The testing capacity of the public sector progressively increases from about **3 600 tests per day** in late June to over **7 000 tests per day**.

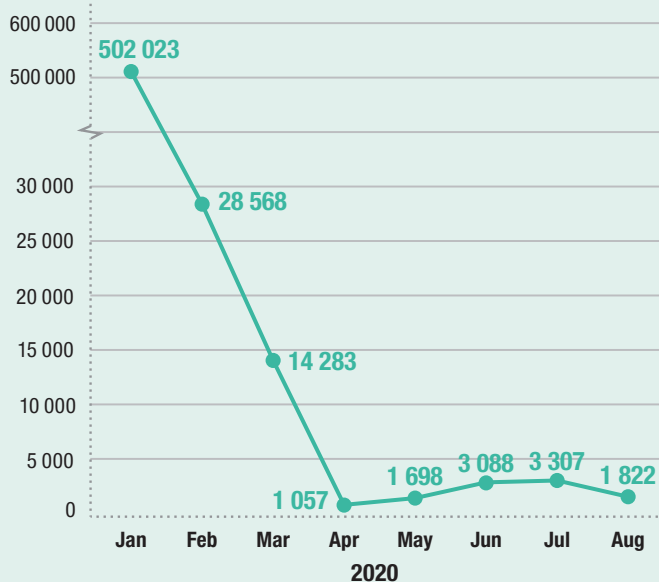


### Number of regulations made under Cap. 599

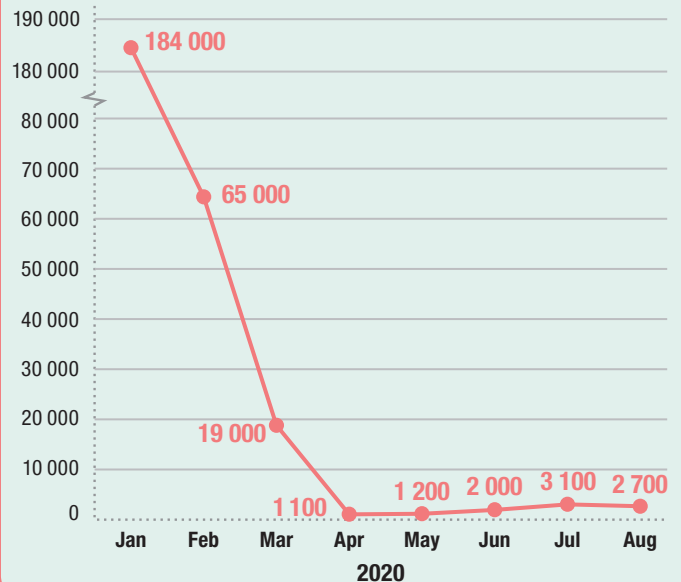
**7 regulations:** Cap. 599C to Cap. 599I are made in response to COVID-19.



### Daily average number of passengers at land boundary control points<sup>^</sup>



### Daily average number of passengers at Hong Kong International Airport<sup>#</sup>



<sup>^</sup> In response to the development of the COVID-19 epidemic, the passenger clearance services at the following land boundary control points were suspended by phases starting from the end of January 2020:

- West Kowloon Station of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link, Hung Hom, Man Kam To and Sha Tau Kok (with effect from 30 January 2020); and
- Lo Wu, Lok Ma Chau Spur Line and Lok Ma Chau (with effect from 4 February 2020).

Only the passenger clearance facilities at Shenzhen Bay and Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Hong Kong Port remain open.

<sup>#</sup> Traffic of July to August 2020 is provisional.

## Measures Taken

Hong Kong's prevention and control work against COVID-19 started immediately upon notification of Department of Health (DH) by National Health Commission (NHC) about the situation in Wuhan on 31 December 2019. The Government has since taken measures to fight the pandemic under the three principles of speedy response in light of the situation, moving ahead of the times to prepare for the worse and operating in an open and transparent manner.

The key measures taken include:

### Leadership

- Included the disease as a scheduled disease under the Prevention and Control of Disease Ordinance (Cap. 599) on 8 January 2020 upon notification from NHC, and raised the COVID-19 response level to the highest-level "Emergency" on 25 January 2020 upon confirming the first infection case, with the Chief Executive chairing the inter-departmental Steering Committee-cum-Command Centre to formulate strategies and measures in light of the development of the disease. Twenty-two meetings of the Steering Committee have been held up to end-September 2020 in addition to many more core group and subject group meetings. (FHB)
- The Chief Executive appointed four experts: Professor Gabriel Leung, Professor Keiji Fukuda, Professor Yuen Kwok-yung and Professor David Hui on 25 January 2020 to advise the Government on various aspects of the anti-epidemic work. Up till end-September 2020, 17 meetings of the Expert Advisory Panel have been held in addition to many individual consultations. (FHB)
- Maintained close liaison with the NHC as well as health authorities in the Guangdong Province and Macao SAR Government. (FHB)
- Made regular reports to the Executive Council whose endorsement is required for the making of regulations under (Cap. 599). (FHB)
- Adopted the "Suppress and Lift" strategy by implementing and constantly adjusting various social distancing and border control measures to reduce the risk of importation and transmission of the virus in the community, having regard to three considerations, namely: (i) public health protection; (ii) economic impact on Hong Kong; and (iii) social acceptance. (FHB)

### Transparency

- Conveyed updated and accurate messages to the public speedily and effectively via senior officials' press conferences, Centre for Health Protection and HA daily press briefings; a dedicated government webpage (coronavirus.gov.hk) to provide integrated and one-stop information; and simple and easy-to-understand text and data via social media. In the past nine months, about 400 press conferences/briefings have been held, about 2 000 press releases issued and over 4 000 posts released via social media on COVID-19. (FHB)
- The Chief Executive released monthly reports on the Government's work in fighting the virus. A total of eight such reports have been issued so far. (CEO)
- Launched the Local Situation Dashboard in collaboration with the Smart City Consortium to provide the public with the latest information on local COVID-19 cases. The Dashboard has more than 37 million views. (ITB)



## Testing, Quarantine, Treatment Facilities and Contact Tracing

- Adopted a three-pronged approach in testing to achieve “early identification, early isolation and early treatment” and prevent community transmission of the virus by asymptomatic patients: (i) ongoing testing for epidemiological surveillance conducted by DH and HA; (ii) targeted group testing progressively implemented by the Government since mid-July 2020; and (iii) the Universal Community Testing Programme (UCTP). To meet the testing requirement, testing capacity in public and private sectors has been significantly ramped up. (FHB)
- Offered to all citizens a free virus testing service from 1 to 14 September 2020 with the support of the Central Government. A total of about 1 783 000 specimens had been collected under the UCTP for COVID-19 nucleic acid test. (FHB, CSB)
- Offered to targeted groups that are of higher-risk, high-exposure and from important infrastructure services free virus testing services on a voluntary basis since mid-July 2020. A total of over 517 000 samples had been tested under the Targeted Group Testing Scheme. (Relevant bureaux)
- Enhanced surveillance and arranged COVID-19 testing by HA for all inpatients newly admitted to public hospitals, and extended the arrangement of distribution of specimen collection packs to 46 general outpatient clinics since end-September 2020 to facilitate individuals to undergo testing. (FHB)
- Implemented measures to enhance service capacity and ensure proper care of COVID-19 patients in HA, including deploying around 1 250 Tier-1 isolation beds and retrofitting certain general wards into standard negative pressure wards to provide around 660 Tier-2 isolation beds to address the increase in service demand. (FHB)
- Set up the CTF with 900 beds in AWE to provide triage and isolation for confirmed patients with mild symptoms and in stable condition. (FHB)
- Set up designated quarantine facilities at the Hong Kong Jockey Club PHAB Camp in Pok Fu Lam, the Helping Hand Cheung Muk Tau Holiday Centre for the Elderly in Sai Kung, and the AWE to look after residents of Residential Care Homes for the Elderly or Persons with Disabilities (RCHE/RCHD) who are close contacts of confirmed cases. (FHB)
- Launched the Special Chinese Medicine Out-patient Programme in the Chinese Medicine Clinics cum Training and Research Centres in April 2020 to provide free Chinese medicine out-patient rehabilitation services to discharged persons who have received COVID-19 treatment. (FHB)
- Gazetted the legislative amendments in August 2020 to extend the power currently given to health officer under Prevention and Control of Disease (Disclosure of Information) Regulation (Cap. 599D) to other authorised officers taking part in contact tracing. Suitable public officers will be seconded to the contact tracing team to enhance manpower support as needed. (FHB)

## Application of Technology

- Jointly developed the electronic wristband and “StayHomeSafe” mobile application with local research and development institutes, universities and start-ups to help ascertain that persons under home quarantine are staying at the designated place. They have so far been used on over 280 000 people, representing the largest scale of such application in the world. (ITB)
- Completed 118 additional quarantine units at Chai Wan Lei Yue Mun Park and Holiday Village in less than one month using the Modular Integrated Construction (MiC) method. Subsequently, another 1 950 quarantine units were provided at Lei Yue Mun Park and Holiday Village, Sai Kung Outdoor Recreation Centre, Pat Heung Junior Police Call Permanent Activity Centre and a site at Penny’s Bay also using MiC method. (DEVB)
- Funded 49 COVID-19 related research projects undertaken by universities at a total cost of \$170 million under the Health and Medical Research Fund. (FHB)

## Distance Business Programme

- Launched a time-limited programme to support private enterprises with business continuation through adoption of information technology (IT) solutions in areas like cyber security, digital payment, virtual meeting, remote document management, etc., under the second round of AEF. (ITB)

## Anti-epidemic Measures to Relieve Hardship

- Launched different measures totalling over \$300 billion to help businesses stay afloat, keep workers in employment, relieve the financial burden of individuals and businesses and assist the economy to recover once the epidemic is contained. Measures include:
  - three rounds of measures under the AEF, and other epidemic related measures amounting to about \$191 billion; and
  - a relief package of over \$120 billion in the 2020–21 Budget. (Relevant bureaux)
- Launched the Local Mask Production Subsidy Scheme to stabilise market supply of surgical masks. The 20 subsidised production lines have committed a monthly supply of some 34 million masks to the Government and some 7.6 million masks to the local market. (CEDB)
- Distributed two rounds of reusable CuMask+™ and another 34 million surgical masks to citizens free of charge, some 30 million surgical masks to elderly homes, frontline workers in government contracts and other vulnerable groups; and around 6 million donated masks to the needy through non-governmental organisations. (ITB, CEDB, HAB, LWB, FHB)

# New Initiatives

## Surveillance, Testing and Contact Tracing

### Strengthening Testing Capacity to Prepare for Another Surge

- Encourage and assist private laboratories in Hong Kong to enhance COVID-19 testing capacity to meet the future travelling needs of inbound and outbound passengers, increase accessibility and improve affordability. The current private sector testing capacity has already reached several tens of thousands a day. (FHB)
- Enhance testing capacity in the public sector. DH's satellite laboratory at the Hong Kong Children's Hospital and the new laboratories at the Chinese University of Hong Kong and the University of Hong Kong have been set up. They together with other measures will progressively increase the testing capacity of the public sector from about 3 600 tests per day in late-June to over 7 000 tests per day. DH will also procure testing services from local private laboratories if necessary. (FHB)

### Exploiting Information Technology to Enhance Contact Tracing

- Improve the efficiency of contact tracing operations and ensure timely release of information on confirmed cases to the public through appropriate platforms using IT. An internal information portal specifically designed for contact tracing will be developed to link up various relevant departments, agencies and existing information systems for centrally and electronically collecting information needed for contact tracing. (FHB, ITB)

- Develop a voluntary exposure notification system for targeted trades and premises. (ITB)

### Border Control Measures

- Relax entry control and quarantine arrangements for travellers between Hong Kong and Guangdong Province, as well as between the Hong Kong and Macao SARs with a view to gradually resuming normal cross-boundary activities without compromising public health, through mutual recognition of COVID-19 tests via a health code. (FHB, CMAB)
- Review and streamline the boundary crossing workflow including quarantine, immigration and customs clearance processes at boundary control points, with a view to integrating necessary epidemic prevention and control measures and ensuring safe and smooth cross-boundary flows when travelling gradually resumes. (FHB)
- Enter into discussions with overseas places to facilitate the establishment of travel bubbles. (CEDB, FHB)

## Quarantine, Isolation and Treatment Facilities

- Complete the construction of Penny's Bay Quarantine Centre Phases III and IV in December 2020 for provision of another 2 000 quarantine units. By then, Hong Kong will have a total of over 4 000 units for dedicated quarantine purpose. In case there is another surge before the additional quarantine units are put into operation, the Government has engaged hotels providing up to 1 000 guestrooms to cater for the needs of close contacts as quarantine hotels. (FHB, DEVB)

- Assist HA to establish more community treatment and isolation facilities. With the support of the Central Government, further expand CTF in AWE to provide an extra 1 000 additional beds to a total of around 1 900 beds, some of which are equipped with negative pressure facilities. (FHB, DEVB)
- With the Central Government's assistance, construct a temporary hospital on a three-hectare piece of land near AWE to provide negative pressure wards that can accommodate over 800 beds. (FHB, DEVB)

## Preventive Measures

- Procure vaccines meeting the requirements of safety, efficacy and quality for the Hong Kong population for safeguarding the health of our citizens. (FHB)
- Fund and support all subvented, contract, self-financing and private RCHEs and RCHDs to apply anti-virus coating on their premises under the AEF. (LWB)
- Enhance anti-epidemic work in public markets, including stepping up cleaning and disinfection, installing body temperature checking system, improving air ventilation and market toilets, and adopting anti-microbial coating technology to improve hygiene of various public markets. (FHB)
- Provide a one-off subsidy to tenants of public markets under the AEF to promote contactless payment in public market stalls to safeguard public health. (FHB, THB)
- Use robots for terminal patrol, cleansing and environmental monitoring at the airport. (THB)
- Encourage wider application of anti-microbial technology in public transport. (THB)
- Carry out inspection of communal/external drainage pipes for buildings in estates/courts under the Hong Kong Housing Authority's rental housing and various subsidised sale flats schemes and step up various anti-epidemic measures in public rental housing estates and shopping centres/markets. (THB)

## Adjustment to Hospital Services Provision in light of COVID-19

### Telemedicine

- Continue to change HA's service model where practicable and provide services for patients using video conferencing technologies. (FHB)
- Provide telehealth services for elderly persons living in remote areas through the installation of relevant facilities at village offices and the use of e-payment. (ITB, FHB)

### Support for Chronic Disease Patients in the Mainland

- Implement a support scheme for the chronic disease patients who are unable to return to Hong Kong to receive their scheduled medical consultation in HA due to immigration restriction under COVID-19. Eligible patients would receive regular general or specialist consultation sessions at The University of Hong Kong – Shenzhen Hospital up to July 2021 or until the lapse of the quarantine arrangement of both sides, whichever is earlier. (FHB)

## Hospital Development

- Review the design of hospital projects under the two 10-year Hospital Development Plans taking into account the experience in combating COVID-19 and incorporate required provisions for general wards in individual hospitals to be readily converted into Tier-2 isolation wards for use in epidemic situation. (FHB)
- Promote the wider use of new technologies in public hospitals, including piloting the use of location-based services and navigation technology in selected public hospitals, the Bed Booking System for Convalescent/Rehabilitation Beds and the Blood Taking Scheduling System in selected Specialist Out-patient Clinics starting from March 2021. (FHB, ITB)

## e-Learning

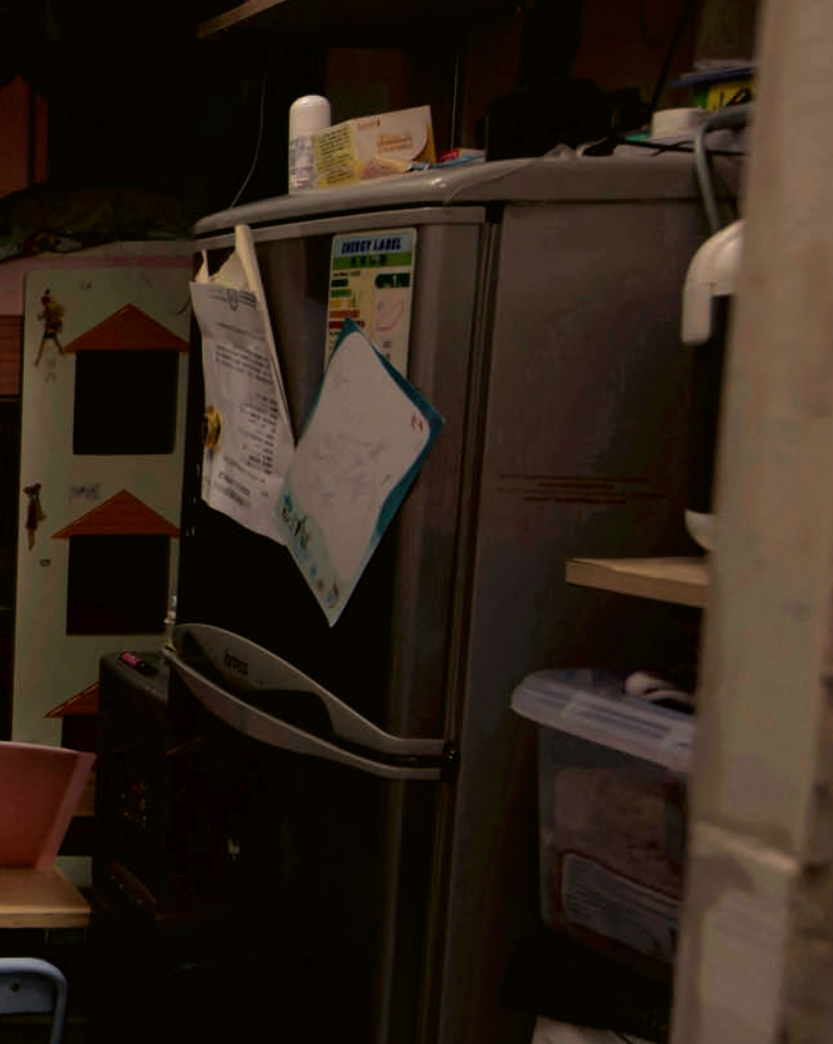
- Continue to use the Community Care Fund to support needy students in primary and secondary schools to purchase mobile computer devices for e-learning through schools. It is expected that about 100 000 students in 800 schools will benefit from the programme in the 2020/21 school year, representing a three-time increase in the total number of beneficiary students of the 2018/19 and 2019/20 school years. (EDB)
- Reserve \$10 million for application by schools to purchase portable WiFi routers and mobile data cards for needy students who are unable to acquire appropriate Internet services, so as to implement e-learning under the “new normal”. (EDB)

- Encourage schools to actively apply for funding under the Priority Themes and the Dedicated Funding Programme for Publicly-funded Schools of the Quality Education Fund (QEF) to support e-learning and the blended mode of teaching under the “new normal”, as well as to enhance support for schools and teachers. (EDB)
- Reserve \$2 billion in the QEF to launch a three-year programme to assist schools to continue to implement the blended mode of learning and teaching, to ensure that students with limited economic means would have equal access to quality education under the “new normal”. (EDB)
- Work with the Hong Kong Education City in the 2020/21 school year to explore and build a more comprehensive and user-friendly teaching resources sharing platform to facilitate gainful use of the learning and teaching resources in the Education Bureau’s website and in the Hong Kong Education City, as well as to encourage teachers to share quality learning resources. (EDB)

## Anti-epidemic Measures to Relieve Hardship

- Continue to implement those outstanding AEF measures to provide support to businesses and individuals. (Relevant bureaux)





## Chapter IV

# Housing and Land Supply

## My Belief

**“Our people will call Hong Kong their home only when there is adequate housing for all to enjoy living in this city, and it is the Government’s responsibility to provide suitable housing for families in different income brackets.”**

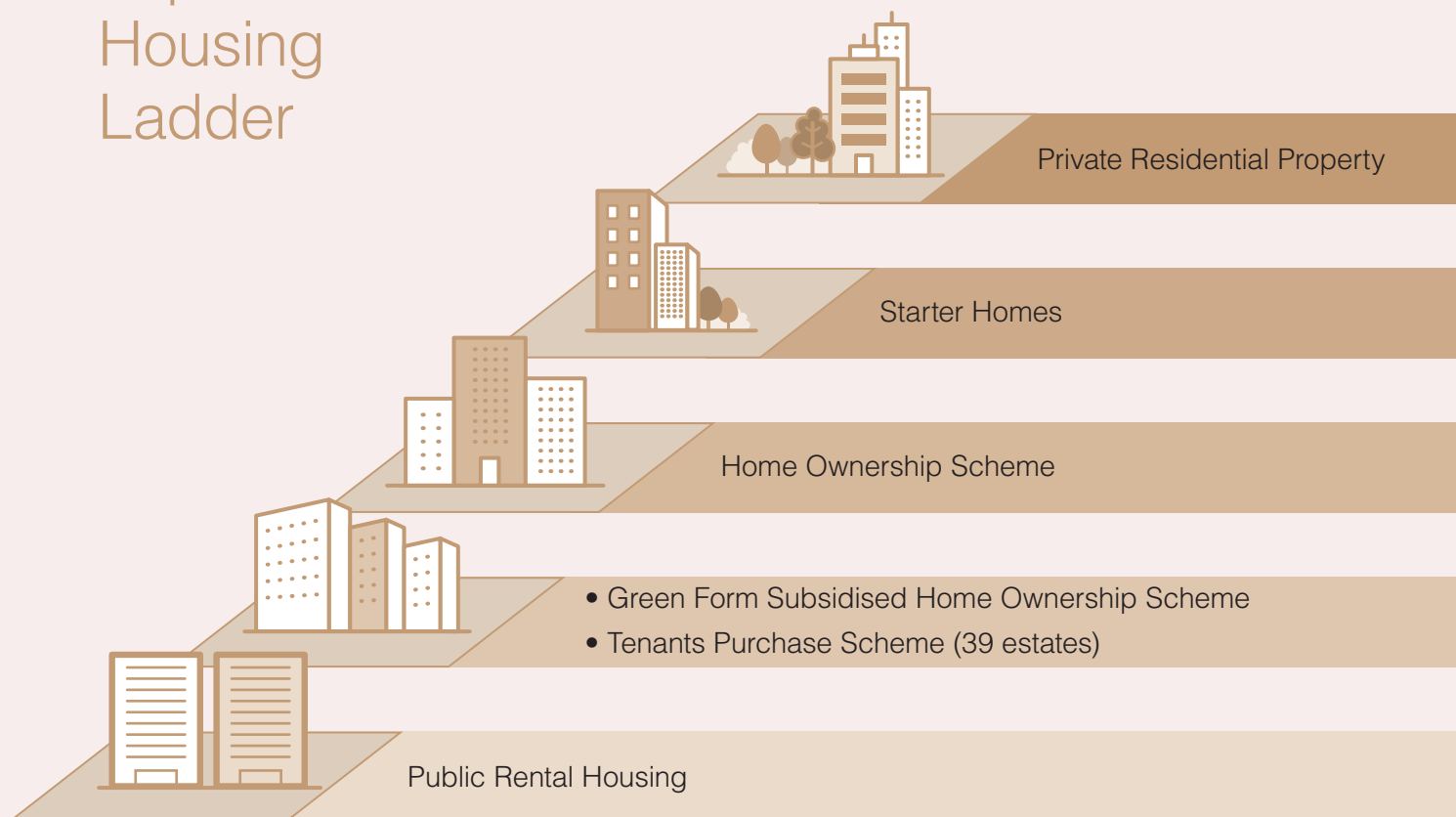
The housing policy of the current-term Government comprises four elements:

- (1) housing is not a simple commodity; while maintaining respect for a free market economy, the Government has an indispensable role to play in this area;
- (2) we will focus on home-ownership and strive to build a housing ladder to rekindle the hope of families in different income brackets to become home-owners;
- (3) we will focus on supply and, based on the Long Term Housing Strategy, increase the supply of housing units; and
- (4) when new supply is not yet available, we will optimise the existing housing resources to help families that have long been waiting for public rental housing (PRH) and residents in poor living conditions.

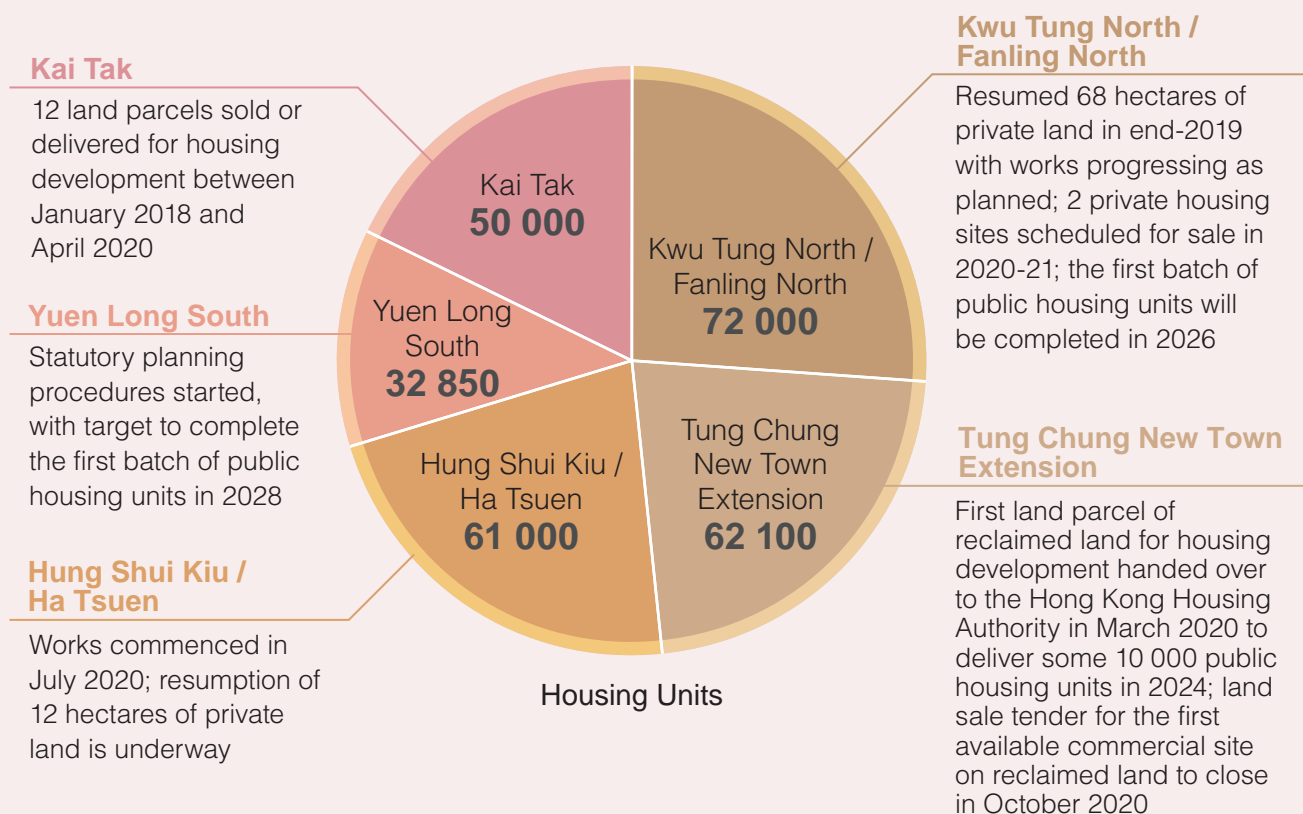
To implement the aforesaid housing policies and meet the demand for land and housing in the course of our economic development, it is imperative for us to increase land supply and develop land resources in a resolute and persistent manner. To prevent the acute problem of land shortage from emerging again, the determination of the Government to identify and produce land and build a land reserve should never waver in face of short-term changes in economic environment or fluctuations in property prices.



# Improved Housing Ladder

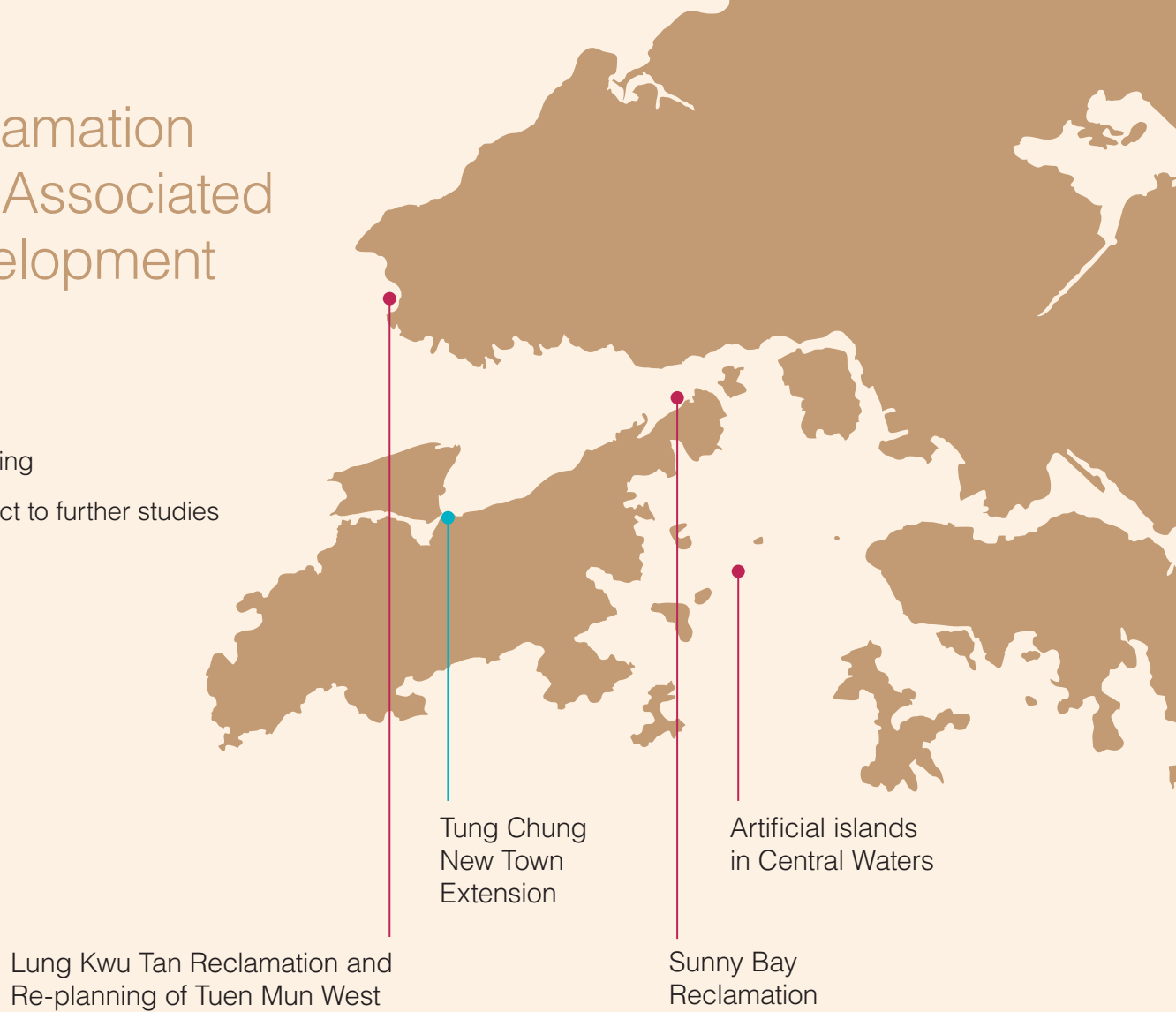


## Major Development Projects

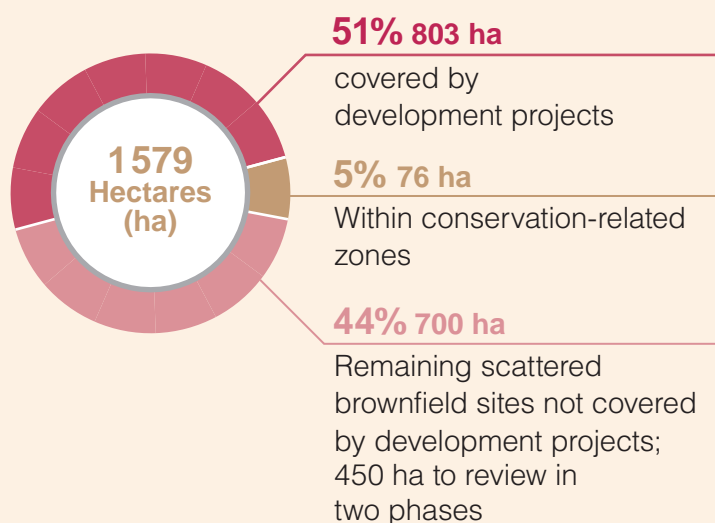


# Reclamation and Associated Development

- Ongoing
- Subject to further studies



# Brownfield Development



	Possible Development Potential	Review Progress
<b>160 ha</b>	High	Completed
<b>290 ha</b>	Medium	Complete within this year

## Progress

### 8 brownfield clusters

(Over 20 000 public housing units)

- Most engineering feasibility studies commenced
- Transform into "spade-ready" sites within 6 years
- Include Ping Shan North, Ping Shan South, Shap Pat Heung, Tai Kei Leng, Sha Po, Nai Wai, Lam Tei North and Tai Hang

## Progress Made

A total of 63 new initiatives were announced since July 2017 in respect of the policy areas of housing and land supply, of which 55 have been completed or are progressing on schedule.

Key initiatives completed or major progress made are as follows:

### Housing Supply

#### Policy and Long Term Housing Strategy

- Revised the public/private split of new housing supply from 60:40 to 70:30 in 2018. According to this ratio, the housing supply targets for public and private housing for the 10-year period from 2020–21 to 2029–30 are 301 000 units and 129 000 units respectively. (THB)
- Established a housing ladder with five rungs meeting the needs of families of different means, supplemented by transitional housing to provide early relief to families living in poor conditions. (THB)

#### Subsidised Sale Flats Supply

- Regularised Green Form Subsidised Home Ownership Scheme (GSH) and White Form Secondary Market Scheme (WSM); and introduced Starter Homes (SH) pilot projects. Since January 2018, about 6 200 GSH flats have been sold/are being sold and about 4 700 GSH flats will be available for sale in the coming months. WSM quotas were increased from 2 500 in 2018 to 4 500 in 2020. (THB)

- Sped up the sales of Tenants Purchase Scheme (TPS) flats. The Hong Kong Housing Authority (HKHA) approved the sales arrangements of recovered TPS flats in July 2020, with a view to putting up these flats for sale to Green Formers on a trial basis from the next GSH exercise. (THB)
- Revised the pricing mechanism of Home Ownership Scheme (HOS) in 2018 such that prices are delinked from market prices and kept at an affordable level. Since then, a total of about 9 300 flats have been sold and 7 000 flats are being sold under HOS 2020. To maintain relativity among different rungs of the housing ladder, the discount rate for GSH units is 10% more than that for the preceding HOS sale exercise, and for SH pilot projects, about 10–20% less than HOS. (THB)
- Entrusted the Urban Renewal Authority (URA) with a new mission to actively provide more SH or other types of subsidised sale flats (SSFs) in its redevelopment projects. The URA sold 450 units at its first SH pilot project eResidence at Ma Tau Wai Road in mid-2019, and plans to sell the remaining 43 units by early 2021. The URA has also decided to assign the redevelopment project adjacent to eResidence as another SH project, which is expected to provide about 260 units for sale in 2024. (DEVB, THB)
- Successfully tendered the second SH pilot project at Anderson Road in May 2020. (THB)

## Public Housing Supply

- Allowed a further increase of domestic plot ratio for public housing sites in selected Density Zones of the Main Urban Areas and New Towns by 10% (i.e. up to maximum 30% increase in total) where technically feasible. (THB)
- Re-allocated nine private housing sites in Kai Tak Development and Anderson Road Quarry for public housing in 2018 to provide some 11 000 units. (THB)
- Revised the land premium arrangement for Hong Kong Housing Society's (HKHS) subsidised housing projects, which will enable HKHS to continue to provide rental units and SSFs and implement the re-development programme of aged rental estates on a financially sustainable basis. (THB)
- HKHA is exploring the feasibility of redeveloping individual factory estates under suitable conditions and arrangements for public housing use. The study includes technical assessments on air quality, noise, traffic, infrastructure, air ventilation, etc., to ascertain the feasibility of residential development at the factory estate sites. (THB)

## Effective Use of Public Housing Resources

- HKHA joined the HKHS' enhanced "Letting Scheme for Subsidised Sale Developments with Premium Unpaid" on a trial basis in July 2019. As at end-September 2020, about 330 and 260 applications from owners and tenants had been approved respectively with more than 40 tenancy agreements signed. (THB)
- Facilitated HKHS' launch of "Flat for Flat Pilot Scheme for Elderly Owners", allowing eligible elderly owners of HKHS' SSFs with premium unpaid to sell their original flats and then buy a smaller one in either HKHA's or HKHS' Secondary Market. (THB)
- HKHA launched a trial scheme in December 2019 for granting lifetime full rent exemption to under-occupation households whose family members are all aged 70 or above upon their transfer to suitably-sized flats. As at end-September 2020, about 270 applications have been approved with 35 households successfully transferred to suitably-sized flats. (THB)

## Maintaining a Healthy Private Residential Market

- Amended the Lands Department (LandsD) Consent Scheme, requiring developers to offer for sale no less than 20% of the total number of residential units that are subject to the relevant pre-sale consent at each turn of sale, regardless of the sales method. (THB)
- Raised the cap on the value of properties eligible for a mortgage loan of maximum cover of 90% loan-to-value (LTV) ratio from \$4 million to \$8 million for first-time home buyers, and that of maximum cover of 80% LTV ratio from \$6 million to \$10 million. From October 2019 to August 2020, around 25 200 applications were approved, with over 90% being first-time home buyers. (FSTB)
- URA commenced two pilot Civil Servants' Co-operative Building Society Scheme redevelopment projects in Kowloon City in May 2020 to provide about 3 000 flats, of which one-third (around 1 000 flats) will be subsidised housing. (DEVB)

## Facilitating Initiatives on Transitional Housing

- Established a Task Force on Transitional Housing to assist and facilitate the implementation of projects by non-governmental organisations (NGOs). (THB)
- Raised the three-year (2020–21 to 2022–23) transitional housing target from 10 000 to 15 000 units with dedicated funding of \$5 billion. As at October 2020, 1 165 units have been completed, about 8 600 units are in projects announced and about 2 900 units are in projects under study. (THB)
- Provided professional advice and consultancy services by the URA, Hong Kong Construction Association and other organisations so as to assist NGO's participation in transitional housing projects. (THB)

## Land Supply

### Task Force on Land Supply

- Accepted in full the multi-pronged land supply strategy and eight land supply options worthy of priority study and implementation as recommended by the Task Force on Land Supply (TFLS) following an extensive public engagement. (DEVB)
- Taking forward the eight land supply options<sup>1</sup> recommended by the TFLS, including:

- undertaking studies for eight brownfield clusters to provide over 20 000 public housing units;
- launched in May 2020 the three-year Land Sharing Pilot Scheme;
- commenced in September 2019 the study for developing 32 hectares of land of Fanling Golf Course into public housing;
- pressed ahead with the New Development Area (NDA) and other major development projects including Kai Tak Development (12 land parcels sold/delivered for housing development between January 2018 and April 2020); Tung Chung East (reclamation commenced in December 2017, and handed over the first parcel of reclaimed land to the HKHA in March 2020); Kwu Tung North/Fanling North (commenced works in September 2019 and resumed 68 hectares of private land in December 2019); Hung Shui Kiu/Ha Tsuen (commenced works in July 2020 and 12 hectares of private lots to be resumed in October 2020); and Yuen Long South (commenced statutory planning procedures);
- strive for early commencement of the studies related to the artificial islands in the Central Waters, reclamation projects at Lung Kwu Tan and Siu Ho Wan, and re-planning of Tuen Mun West area; and
- commenced works to relocate the Sha Tin Sewage Treatment Works to cavern in February 2019. (DEVB)

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<sup>1</sup> The eight options are: (i) expediting brownfield development; (ii) drawing up details of the Land Sharing Pilot Scheme to unleash development potential of private agricultural land; (iii) developing 32 hectares of land east of Fan Kam Road of the Fanling Golf Course for housing development and commencing relevant detailed technical study; (iv) expediting studies on the some 1 000-hectare Kau Yi Chau artificial islands; (v) expediting studies on near-shore reclamation projects including Lung Kwu Tan, Sunny Bay and Siu Ho Wan; (vi) continuing cavern and underground space development and studies; (vii) pressing ahead with New Development Area projects; and (viii) commencing studies on the River Trade Terminal site and the coastal areas of Tuen Mun.

## Short to Medium-term Measures

- Relunched the Re-vitalisation Scheme for Industrial Buildings. As at end-August 2020, 31 planning applications for increasing the redevelopment plot ratio were approved, providing a total gross floor area of about 575 000 square metres upon completion of redevelopment. (DEVB)
- Launched a \$1 billion funding scheme to support the use of vacant government sites by NGOs. As at September 2020, 13 applications were approved. (DEVB)
- Pursued more vigorously the “single site, multiple use” model in multi-storey development to facilitate “Government, Institution or Community” projects with cross-department facilities and earmarked \$22 billion for the first batch of projects. (DEVB, FSTB)
- Promulgated seven streamlining measures relating to development control of the Buildings Department, LandsD and Planning Department in three batches by the Steering Group on Streamlining Development Control. (DEVB)
- Set up a dedicated Land Supply Section in the LandsD in 2019 to expedite land sale and processing of high yield lease modification and land exchange cases. (DEVB)
- Taking forward the studies on three urban squatter areas (Cha Kwo Ling Village, Ngau Chi Wan Village and Chuk Yuen United Village) with a view to completion in 2021, to be followed by rezoning, funding application, land resumption and clearance etc., with a view to commencing works in around 2025. (DEVB)

- Reviewing the suitability of private land zoned for high-density housing development but without any specific development plan for public housing development. The Development Bureau plans to complete the review by end-2020. (DEVB)
- Rezoned 38 sites since July 2017. Rezoning of another 8 sites is in progress and some 25 sites will commence rezoning process. (DEVB)
- Implemented the enhanced compensation and re-housing arrangements for government development clearance exercises which significantly improve the rehousing prospect of squatter residents and cash allowances for residents and business operators. (DEVB)

## Medium and Long-term Measures

- Established the Sustainable Lantau Office in December 2017 to take forward the co-ordination, planning and implementation of development projects and initiatives in conservation, local improvement and leisure and recreation in Lantau. (DEVB)
- Set up the Lantau Conservation Fund (LCF) to promote and implement conservation of rural Lantau and to pursue minor local improvement works in remote villages and communities. The LCF Advisory Committee was established on 1 October 2020 to vet and monitor projects to be funded by the LCF. Application is planned to commence in December 2020. (DEVB)
- Earmarked funding for environmental education and community action projects on nature conservation in South Lantau under the Environment and Conservation Fund. Eleven projects were approved. (ENB, DEVB)

- Commenced investigation and design study with associated site investigation works for the re-location of Diamond Hill Fresh Water and Salt Water Service Reservoirs to caverns in December 2018. Continue the planning and engineering feasibility study on development of selected strategic cavern areas at Lantau, Tsing Yi and other suitable locations, as well as the construction of stage one works for the re-location of Sha Tin Sewage Treatment Works to caverns. Having established the feasibility of relocating the Public Works Central Laboratory in Kowloon Bay to caverns in March 2020, we will kick off the next stage of investigation and design by mid-2021. (DEVB)

# New Initiatives

## Housing

### Transitional Housing

- Seek funding from the Community Care Fund for launching a pilot programme to support NGOs renting hotels and guesthouses with substantial vacancies with a view to increasing the provision of transitional housing to those waiting for public housing for some time and living in inadequate housing. (THB)
- Develop transitional housing, including projects at Nam Cheong Street, Lok Sin Tong Primary School and Trackside Villas in Tai Po, for which intake has commenced in 2020, as well as the project in Kong Ha Wai providing around 2 000 units which has been approved by Town Planning Board. The Task Force on Transitional Housing has identified land for providing a total of 12 700 units from 2020–21 to 2022–23. Over \$1.2 billion has been approved to date to subsidise NGOs to pursue eligible transitional housing projects. (THB)

### Redevelopment of Tai Hang Sai Estate

- Facilitate collaboration between URA and the Hong Kong Settlers Housing Corporation Limited to take forward the redevelopment of Tai Hang Sai (THS) Estate, with a view to making the best use of the development potential of the site and implementing the project as soon as possible. According to preliminary estimate, redevelopment of THS Estate may double the existing provision of about 1 600 flats. (THB)

### Shek Lei Interim Housing

- Complete the clearance of the Shek Lei Interim Housing by end-2022 and redevelop the site for public housing development with target completion in 2028–29. Subject to the Town Planning Board's approval to relax the planning restrictions of the site to optimise its development potential, it is estimated about 1 600 units could be produced. (THB)

### Cash Allowance Trial Scheme

- Devise a trial scheme to provide cash allowance for low-income households who have been waiting for PRH allocation over a prolonged period of time. To complement the said measure, the Working Family Allowance Scheme will introduce a set of higher income limits for other eligible non-PRH households. (THB, LWB)

### Study on Tenancy Control of Subdivided Units

- Strive to complete the Study on Tenancy Control of Subdivided Units by the first half of 2021 and submit the report for Government's consideration. (THB)



## Land Supply

### Expediting Development by Rationalising and Streamlining Approval Processes

- Expand the remit of the Steering Group on Streamlining Development Control to streamline approval processes and rationalise requirements not only in respect of those under the planning, lands and buildings regimes but also those involving departments outside of DEVB (e.g. Transport Department and Environmental Protection Department), with the overriding policy objective of increasing and expediting the housing and land supply. The expanded mandate will cover both public and private sector development projects. (DEVB)

### Development Projects Facilitation Office

- Establish a Development Projects Facilitation Office in DEVB to facilitate the processing of development approval applications for large-scale private residential development projects leading up to commencement of works, by co-ordinating with the bureaux and departments involved to expedite the approval process and help resolve issues including escalation to higher level set up such as the Committee on Planning and Land Development chaired by the Secretary for Development for steer if necessary. (DEVB)

### Investing in Capital Works

- Invest substantially in new infrastructure development projects, including the Tung Chung New Town Extension. (DEVB)

## Pressing Ahead with Planning of New Development Areas

- Collect stakeholders' views on the preliminary outline development plan of the San Tin/Lok Ma Chau Development Node from December 2020 to January 2021 and complete by early 2021 the first-stage study of phase one development of New Territories North. (DEVB)

### Conserving the Environment

- Consult the relevant panel of the Legislative Council in the coming year on practicable proposal to amend the Town Planning Ordinance (Cap. 131) to better protect areas of high ecological values in the rural parts of the New Territories that are subject to development pressure. (DEVB)

### Choi Hung Road Playground and Sports Centre Site

- Commence studying the overall planning and long-term development of the Choi Hung Road Playground and Sports Centre (including Choi Hung Road Market) site to improve recreational and sports facilities and integrate other uses under the principle of "single site, multiple use" to make better use of land resources and meeting societal needs at the same time. (DEVB)





## Chapter V

# Unlimited Business Opportunities



## My Belief

**“To maintain a city’s competitiveness is like sailing a boat against the current and it must forge ahead in order not to be driven back. Hence, Hong Kong must keep consolidating its existing strengths, exploring new advantages, expanding economic and trade ties with the world, and fostering closer exchange and co-operation with the Mainland.”**

**“The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government is determined to boost the development of new and emerging industries in addition to our traditional industries, and considers that both innovation and technology and the creative industries have a competitive edge and much potential. They will not only promote a diversified economy, but also create more quality employment opportunities for our young people.”**

Hong Kong has been acclaimed as the world’s most open, freest and most competitive city by many international organisations. Leveraging our unique strengths under “One Country, Two Systems”, we will continue to provide a business-friendly environment, uphold operation of the market and promote free trade. We will also strive to develop new areas of economic growth.



# International Financial Centre

## Stock Market (Main Board) Daily Average Turnover Value

September 2020  
**\$122 billion**

**↑ 60.5%**

September 2019  
**\$76 billion**

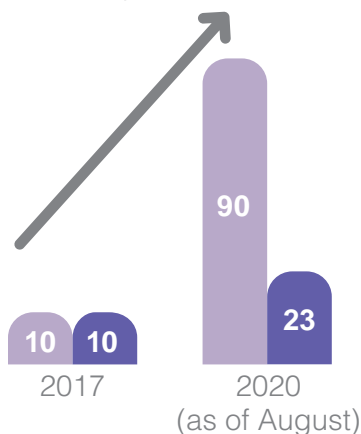
## Hang Seng Index Movement



As of 30 Sep 2020

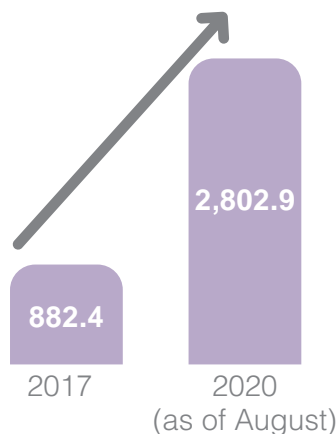
### Stock Connect

Stock Connect average daily trade value



### Bond Connect

Foreign holding of Mainland onshore bonds (RMB billion)



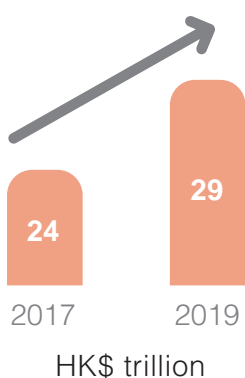
**12 Times**

The average daily turnover of Bond Connect increases by 12 times from RMB 1.5 billion in July 2017 to RMB 19 billion in September 2020.

- Northbound Stock Connect (RMB billion)
- Southbound Stock Connect (HK\$ billion)

## Asset and wealth management centre

### Size of asset and wealth management business

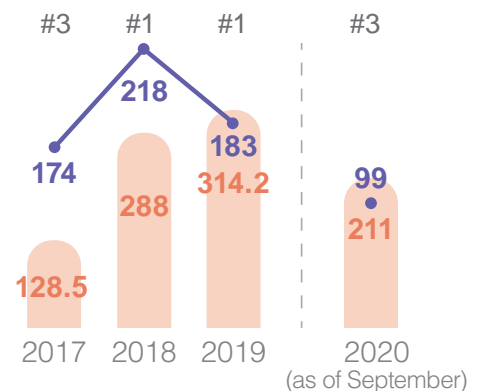


64% of assets sourced from non-Hong Kong investors

Private equity business: Hong Kong ranks 2nd in Asia by asset under management (US\$163 billion in June 2020)

## Initial Public Offering (IPO)

Hong Kong's global fundraising ranking

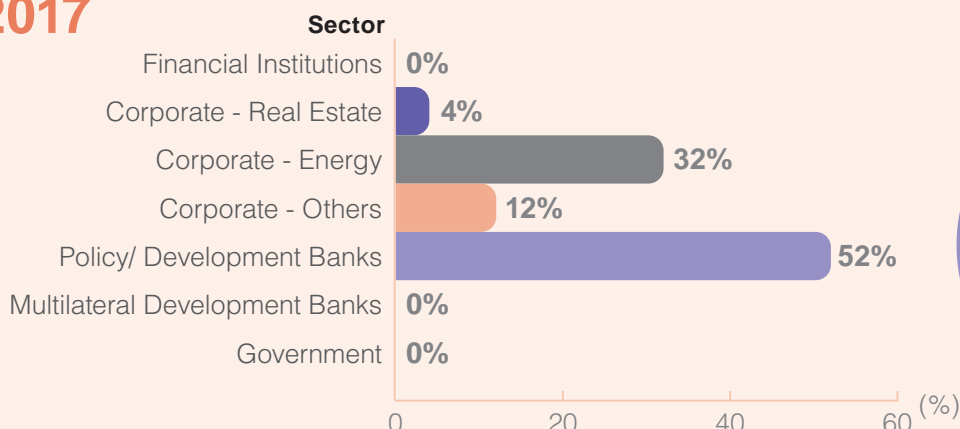


- No of IPOs
- Total IPO funds raised (HK\$ billion)

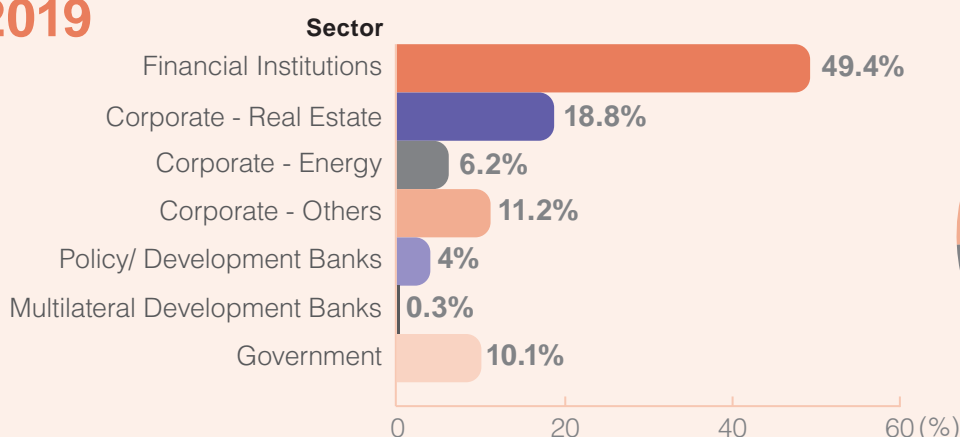
# Green Finance

## Growing size and diversity of green bonds arranged and issued in Hong Kong

### 2017



### 2019



Sources: Climate Bonds Initiative and the Hong Kong Monetary Authority

# FinTech Development

## Figures at a glance



No. of FinTech companies in Hong Kong (2020):

**Over 600**



Accumulated investment in Hong Kong-based FinTech companies (2014 - 2019):

**US\$1.47 billion<sup>1</sup>**



Fintech adoption rate by consumers in Hong Kong (from 2017 to 2019):

**From 32% to 67%<sup>2</sup>**



Percentage of banks adopted or plan to adopt Fintech solutions<sup>3</sup>:




**86%**





1: Accenture data

2: Ernst & Young Global Fintech Adoption Index 2019

3: Survey on Fintech Adoption and Innovation in the Hong Kong Banking Industry

# Support for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)

(From July 2017 to end September 2020)	 <b>SME Financing Guarantee Scheme (SFGS)</b>	 <b>Dedicated Fund on Branding, Upgrading and Domestic Sales (BUD Fund)</b>	 <b>SME Export Marketing Fund (EMF)</b>
Grants/loans approved	<b>\$63 billion</b>	<b>\$1.1 billion</b>	<b>\$740 million</b>
Number of enterprises benefited	<b>22 000</b>	<b>over 1 600</b>	<b>12 000</b>
Number of employees benefited	<b>over 300 000</b>	<b>19 000</b>	<b>82 000</b>

(From July 2017 to end September 2020)	 <b>Distance Business Programme</b> (Introduced in May 2020)	 <b>Technology Voucher Programme</b>
Grants approved 	<b>\$864 million</b>	<b>\$460 million</b>
Applications approved 	<b>15 548</b> (95% cases for SMEs)	<b>2 900</b>

(From June to end September 2020)	<b>Hong Kong Export Credit Insurance Corporation 100% Credit Limit Top-Up Scheme</b>	(From April to end August 2020)	<b>Hong Kong Monetary Authority Pre-approved Principal Payment Holiday Scheme</b>
Additional coverage approved	<b>\$6.6 billion</b>	Aggregate amount of loan	<b>\$580 billion</b>
Applications approved	<b>6 424</b>	Applications approved	<b>48 000</b>

Total number of government funding schemes for enterprises:

**40**



## One-stop services for SMEs



**“Four-in-one” SME Centres:**  
one-stop consultation and referral services

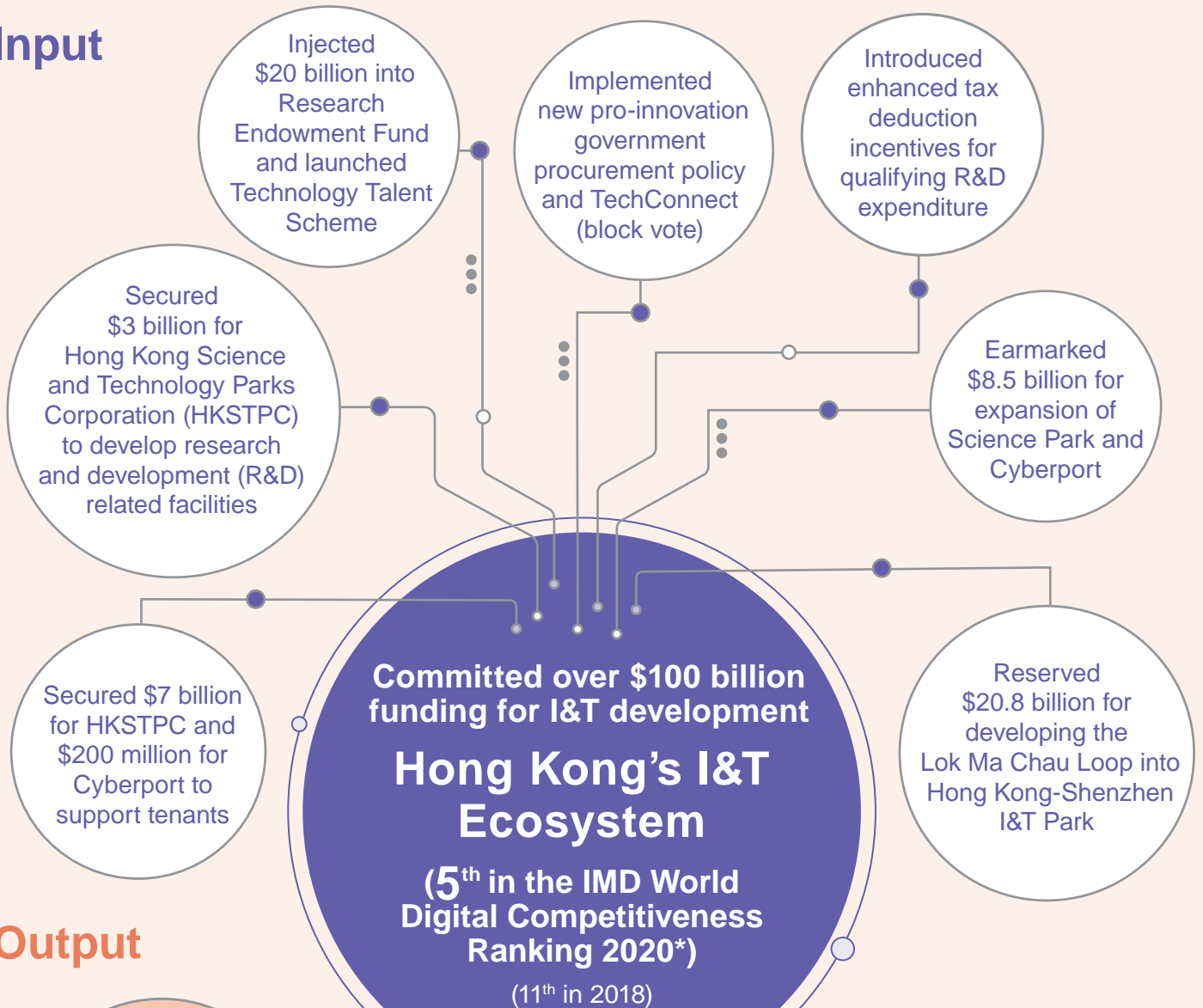


**SME ReachOut Service Team:**  
promote and help identify suitable funding schemes and loan guarantee schemes

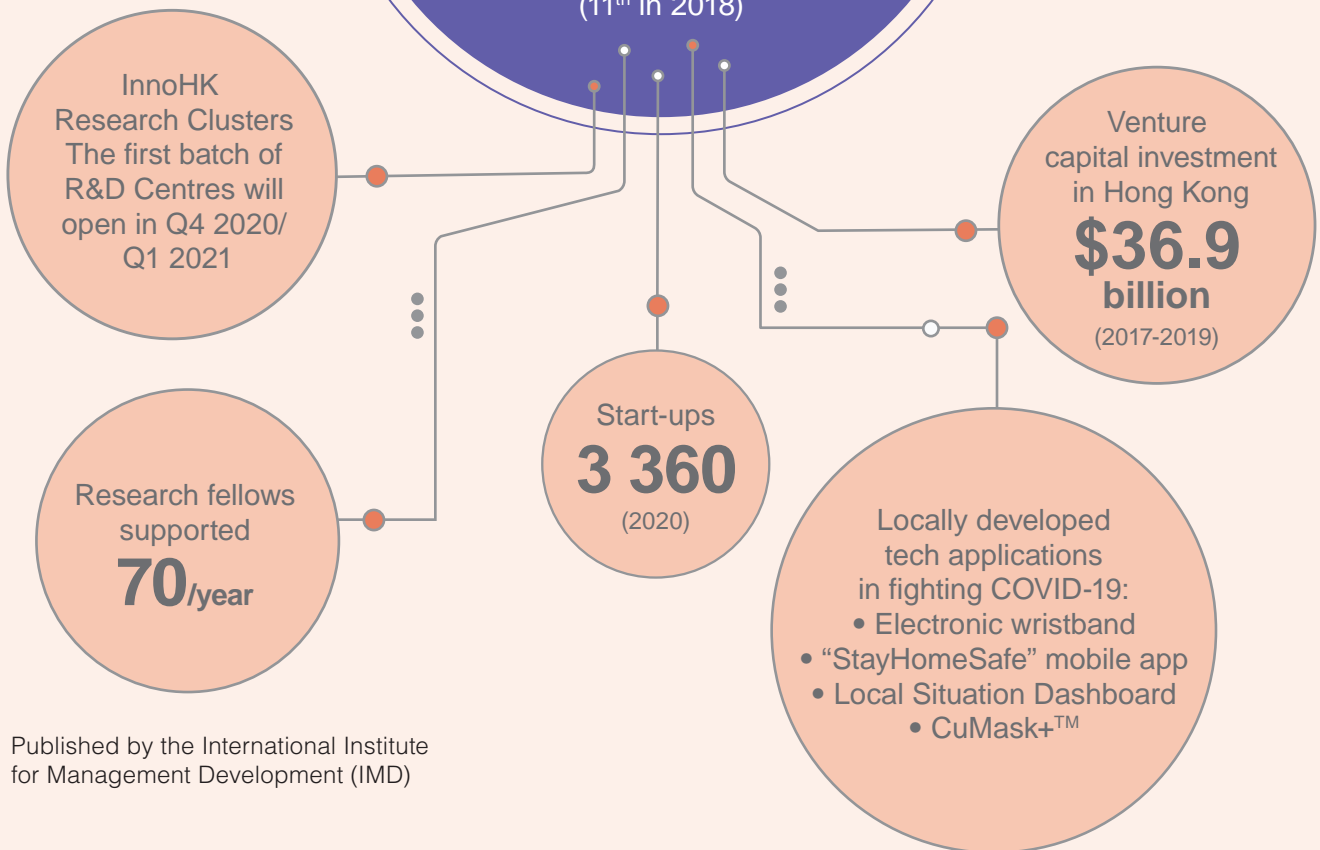


# Innovation and Technology (I&T)

## Input



## Output



\* Published by the International Institute for Management Development (IMD)

## Progress Made

A total of 194 new initiatives were announced since July 2017 relating to diversifying Hong Kong's economy, of which 185 have been completed or are progressing on schedule.

Key initiatives completed or major progress made are as follows:

### Talent Hub

- Established the Human Resources Planning Commission in April 2018 chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration and launched a one-stop online manpower information portal in December 2019 to provide comprehensive information to facilitate the local labour force to make informed choices in respect of career, training and development pathways. (CSO)
- Promulgated the first Talent List of Hong Kong in August 2018 covering 11 professions. (LWB)
- Increased the annual quota under the Quality Migrant Admission Scheme to 2 000 with effect from September 2020, with a view to enlarging Hong Kong's talent pool and reinforcing our role as Asia's World City. In the first half of 2020, 735 quota were allotted. (SB)

### Government-to-Government Business

- Signed four new free trade agreements (FTAs) with 13 economies, thereby doubling the number of FTAs signed by the HKSAR Government to eight; and signed four investment agreements (IAs) with 13 economies. They include:

- FTA and IA forged between Hong Kong and the ten member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), which have come into effect gradually since June 2019;
- FTA and IA signed with Australia that came into effect in January 2020;
- FTA signed with Georgia that came into effect in February 2019;
- the HKSAR and Macao SAR Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA) that came into effect in January 2018;
- IA signed with the United Arab Emirates that came into effect in March 2020; and
- IA signed with Mexico in January 2020. (CEDB)

- Concluded comprehensive avoidance of double taxation agreements (CDTAs) with 45 tax jurisdictions. The target is to further expand our treaty network, bringing the total number of CDTAs to 50 by end-2022. (FSTB)
- Expanded the overseas Economic and Trade Office (ETO) network, with the Bangkok ETO commencing operation in February 2019. (CEDB)

### Enhanced Co-operation with the Mainland

- Signed the Agreement on Trade in Goods with the Mainland on 14 December 2018 under the framework of the Mainland and Hong Kong CEPA. The Agreement fully implements zero tariff on goods of Hong Kong origin imported into the Mainland through the introduction of a general rule of origin. (CEDB)

- Signed an amendment agreement to the CEPA Agreement on Trade in Services in November 2019 which came into effect in June 2020. The new liberalisation measures cover legal services, construction and related engineering services, financial services, testing and certification, television and motion pictures. (CEDB)
- Extended the Single E-lock Scheme to 52 clearance points in Guangdong Province, of which 43 cover the nine Mainland municipalities in the GBA. (CEDB)
- Established a high-level co-operation mechanism with Sichuan to deepen co-operation with various provinces and municipalities in areas such as trade, finance, I&T, creative industries and youth exchanges. (CMAB)
- Set up a high-level Steering Committee for the Development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area chaired by the Chief Executive, with membership comprising all Secretaries of Departments and Directors of Bureaux, to more efficiently steer, co-ordinate and take forward the development of the GBA. (CMAB)

### Greater Bay Area Development

- As a member of the Leading Group for the Development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area set up by the Central Government in 2018, the Chief Executive has attended three plenary meetings and secured 24 policy initiatives that are beneficial to Hong Kong's participation in the GBA development. Of these, 19 have been fully or partially implemented. Notable ones are the assessment of 183 days for personal tax purpose, support for Hong Kong youth to start business in the Mainland cities of the GBA and according Hong Kong permanent residents the same status as local residents when purchasing residential properties in the Mainland cities in the GBA. (CMAB)
- Signed the “Arrangement between the National Development and Reform Commission and the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region for Advancing Hong Kong’s Full Participation in and Contribution to the Belt and Road Initiative” (the Arrangement) in December 2017. The Joint Conference mechanism set up between Hong Kong and the relevant Mainland authorities on the implementation of the Arrangement held its third meeting in August 2020. Launched the Belt and Road Joint Conference Policy Exchange and Capacity Building Programme in December 2019 to forge collaboration on capacity building with relevant Mainland authorities for enhanced professionalism. (CEDB)
- Established the Mainland and Hong Kong Belt and Road Task Group to co-ordinate related matters in the trade and economic co-operation areas by the HKSAR Government and the Ministry of Commerce. The second high-level meeting was held in November 2019. (CEDB)
- Explore facilitation policy measures and assist local institutions in coming up with more flexible and innovative operation models to foster closer higher education co-operation in the GBA. (EDB)

- Formulated a five-pronged Belt and Road key strategy (viz. enhancing policy co-ordination; fully leveraging Hong Kong's unique advantages; making the best use of Hong Kong's position as a professional services hub; promoting project participation; and establishing partnership and collaboration to guide the HKSAR Government's participation in and contribution to the Belt and Road Initiative). (CEDB)
- Co-organised the fourth annual Belt and Road Summit with the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC) on 11 and 12 September 2019, which attracted around 5 000 government officials, entrepreneurs and professionals from nearly 70 countries and regions. More than 700 one-on-one business matching meetings for over 240 projects were staged. The fifth Summit in dual track (online and offline) will be held on 30 November to 1 December 2020. (CEDB)
- Established exchange and collaboration platforms for promoting Belt and Road participation of Hong Kong enterprises and professional services sector, including the seminar on "Strategies and Opportunities under the Belt and Road Initiative – Leveraging Hong Kong's Advantages, Meeting the Country's Needs" in Beijing in February 2018, and sharing sessions under the theme "Belt and Road: Hong Kong-IN", etc. (CEDB)
- Supported HKTDC's enhancement of its Belt and Road Portal for a more comprehensive and up-to-date one-stop Belt and Road platform in July 2019 and its introduction of SME Transformation Sandbox in April 2020 to support enterprises in capitalising on new business opportunities, including at the Mainland's overseas Economic and Trade Co-operation Zones (ETCZs). (CEDB)
- Carried out a number of business and professional missions to Southeast Asia, Middle East and Europe, etc., to showcase Hong Kong's professional strengths and seek out new business prospects. (CEDB)
- Secured the support of the Ministry of Commerce to promote interested Hong Kong enterprises to establish presence in the Mainland's overseas ETCZs. (CEDB)
- Relaxed the visa requirements for nationals of Belarus, Vietnam, Panama and Armenia visiting Hong Kong after reviewing the visa requirements of these Belt and Road countries. Extended the mutual visa-free access period for Belarus. (SB)

## **New Directions for Taxation**

- Implemented the two-tiered profits tax rates regime which reduces the tax burden on enterprises, especially small and medium enterprises (SMEs). About 89 000 profits tax payers in the year of assessment 2018/19 benefited with total tax savings amounted to \$6 billion. (FSTB)

## Council of Advisers on Innovation and Strategic Development

- Established the Chief Executive's Council of Advisers on Innovation and Strategic Development in March 2018 to give advice on Hong Kong's strategic positioning in the global and regional contexts and directions of economic development. (PICO/CSO)

## Innovation and Technology

### Policy Steer and Co-ordination

- Established the Steering Committee on I&T chaired by the Chief Executive in December 2017 to steer Hong Kong's I&T and smart city development. (ITB)
- Committed a total of \$100 billion to give technology development in Hong Kong a big boost. (ITB)
- Implemented the new pro-innovation government procurement policy since April 2019. (FSTB)

### Increased Resources for Research and Development

- Introduced the enhanced tax deduction for qualifying research and development (R&D) expenditure incurred by enterprises from 1 April 2018. The total amount of relevant R&D expenditure for claiming tax deduction in the year of assessment 2018/19 was about \$1.82 billion, representing an increase of 26% as compared with \$1.44 billion in 2017/18. (ITB)

- Doubled the ceilings of the annual funding provided by the I&T Fund to each State Key Laboratory and Hong Kong branch of Chinese National Engineering Research Centre from \$5 million to \$10 million, and to the technology transfer office of each designated university and each of the six universities under the Technology Start-up Support Scheme for Universities from \$4 million to \$8 million from 1 April 2019 to promote technology transfer as well as realisation of R&D outcomes. (ITB)

### Supporting Technology Enterprises

- Started co-investing in local I&T start-ups with partner venture capital funds through the Innovation and Technology Venture Fund (ITVF) in 2019. By September 2020, the ITVF has closed 19 deals with a total investment of around \$90 million. (ITB)
- Secured an injection of \$7 billion into the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation (HKSTPC) for enhancing support for its tenants. (ITB)
- Injected \$200 million into the Corporate Venture Fund in April 2019, which has invested in 15 start-ups with a total investment of \$87 million. (ITB)
- Injected \$200 million into Cyberport in 2018 for enhancing support for its start-ups and tenants, including the increase in financial subsidy under the Cyberport Incubation Programme from \$330,000 to a maximum of \$500,000, and the launch of the Easy Landing Scheme and the Overseas/Mainland Market Development Support Scheme. (ITB)

- Injected \$100 million into Cyberport in 2018 to promote the development of the e-sports industry. Opened the new dedicated e-sports competition venue in the Cyberport Arcade in July 2019. Introduced the E-sports Industry Facilitation Scheme and the E-sports Internship Scheme in April 2019, with 71 projects and 36 intern positions approved by end-August 2020. (ITB)
- Took forward the experience-sharing and business-promotion platform established in conjunction with the HKTDC and I&T sector in June 2020, to share with overseas governments and markets Hong Kong's research outcome and experience in applying technology to fight the epidemic and address livelihood needs, especially the Belt and Road countries, and at the same time open up more business opportunities for Hong Kong's I&T sector. (CEDB, ITB)

### **Promoting Technology Application and Re-industrialisation**

- Launched the \$2 billion Re-industrialisation Funding Scheme in July 2020 to subsidise manufacturers to set up new smart production lines in Hong Kong. (ITB)
- Regularised the Technology Voucher Programme in February 2019 and introduced several rounds of enhancement measures, including raising the Government's funding ratio to 75% and increasing the cumulative funding ceiling per applicant to \$600,000 in April 2020. (ITB)
- Developing the Advanced Manufacturing Centre and Microelectronics Centre by HKSTPC, with a view to promoting re-industrialisation. (ITB)

### **Providing Technological Research Infrastructure**

- Commenced land decontamination and advance engineering works at the Lok Ma Chau Loop in June 2018, with a view to providing the first batch of land parcels in 2021 for development of the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Park (HSITP). We will seek funding approval for Main Works Package 1 and the development of the first batch of buildings in the HSITP soon. (ITB)
- Commenced operation of the Cyberport Smart-Space 8 co-working space in Tsuen Wan in July 2018, with its occupancy rate at 100% as at end-August 2020. (ITB)
- Secured an injection of \$3 billion into the HKSTPC in 2018 for developing R&D-related facilities, such as the Biobank and the Robotics Catalysing Centre, which have been progressively commissioned. (ITB)
- Completed the construction of the Data Technology Hub by HKSTPC, which is expected to commence operation in the fourth quarter of 2020. (ITB)
- Earmarked \$5.5 billion for Cyberport 5 expansion and \$3 billion for Science Park Expansion Programme Phase 2. (ITB)

### **Opening Up Government Data**

- Promulgated the open data policy in October 2018 to promote opening up data owned by government, public and private organisations. Over 880 new datasets in machine-readable formats had been opened up by government departments since 2019. As at end-September 2020, 4 187 datasets and around 1 400 application programming interfaces (APIs) are provided in the Public Sector Information Portal. (ITB)

## Popular Science Education

- Allocated \$500 million for organising the annual City I&T Grand Challenge. The first Grand Challenge is expected to be launched in end-2020. (ITB)
- Commence the pre-construction works of the expansion of Hong Kong Science Museum in the fourth quarter of 2020, and continue to revamp its permanent exhibitions. (HAB)
- Established the Science Promotion Unit in the Leisure and Cultural Services Department in April 2020. A series of programmes to promote and popularise science to the general public are under planning and will be launched by phases in 2021. (HAB)

## Smart City

- Published the first Smart City Blueprint for Hong Kong in December 2017, with over 70 initiatives in six smart areas. Major developments include the launch of Faster Payment System (FPS), adoption of smart solutions at the Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA), launching the Next Generation Government Cloud Platform and Big Data Analytics Platform and commissioning of the “iAM Smart” platform in December 2020. (ITB)
- Set up a Smart Government Innovation Lab in April 2019 to facilitate government departments to make wider use of the solutions offered by the local information technology sector to improve public services. So far, 38 business needs of departments have been matched, and 44 thematic workshops have been arranged. (ITB)

- Provided funding to support 74 technology projects proposed by 28 departments through the TechConnect (block vote) to promote the use of technology for enhancing operational efficiency and improving public services. (ITB)
- Launched the all-in-one “HKeMobility” mobile application in July 2018, which allows the public to acquire real-time traffic and transport information anytime and anywhere. As at mid-2020, the number of downloads of “HKeMobility” has exceeded 2.2 million. (THB)
- Set up the Technical Advisory Committee on the Application of Autonomous Vehicle (AV) Technologies in Hong Kong in the Transport Department in November 2019, which is actively studying the necessary legislative amendments to create favourable conditions for the development and application of AVs. (THB)
- Commenced preparatory work for the \$1 billion Smart Traffic Fund, which will accept applications from the first quarter of 2021 onwards. (THB)
- Disseminated real-time parking vacancy information of about 73% of the hourly parking spaces in Kowloon East to the public, covering about 6 300 parking spaces. (DEVB)
- Launched a chatbot (“Bonny”) on the GovHK portal in December 2019 to facilitate the public to search and access over 3 300 government forms and related e-Government services. (ITB)
- Launched the “Leading Towards Robotics Technologies” campaign in 2020 to inspire government departments to apply robotics technologies to enhance public services and city management. (ITB)

- Introduced smart elements in prison management (Correctional Services Department); launched the enhanced “Post-dispatch Advice Computer System” to provide emergency service callers with comprehensive and appropriate first-aid advice (Fire Services Department); rolled out the “e-Ticketing Pilot Scheme” for issuing fixed penalty tickets against illegal parking (Hong Kong Police Force); and commenced procurement of advanced equipment such as CT scanners and auto-detection devices to enhance cross-boundary clearance efficiency and step up enforcement against smuggling and other offences (Customs and Excise Department). (SB)
- Launched the Big Data Analytics Platform in December 2019 by the Hospital Authority (HA) for local academics to explore its clinical dataset for developing research ideas and carrying out collaborative research projects with the HA. (FHB)
- Applied smart safety devices in public works contracts by phases to enhance construction safety. (DEVB)

## Social Innovation

- Since the establishment of the Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Fund (SIE Fund) in 2013, over \$400 million has been allocated and 230 projects funded under three priority areas of work, namely, capacity building, innovative programmes and research, benefiting around 250 000 persons. An injection of \$500 million to the SIE Fund will be made in 2021–22. (ITB)

## Transportation and Logistics

- Established the Air Accident Investigation Authority under the Transport and Housing Bureau on 10 September 2018. (THB)
- Injected \$200 million into the Maritime and Aviation Training Fund in May 2019. (THB)
- Enhanced Hong Kong’s status as an international aviation hub by actively expanding our aviation network and intermodal connectivity, and enhanced high-value air cargo handling capacity. In 2019, around 120 airlines operated more than 1 100 flights daily between HKIA and around 220 destinations worldwide. In the past three years, the HKIA has attained three International Air Transport Association accreditations related to handling of high-value air cargo. (THB)
- Assisted the Airport Authority Hong Kong (AAHK) in taking forward the Three-Runway System Project. AAHK awarded 30 major contracts with a total sum of about \$75.2 billion. (THB)
- Enhanced Hong Kong’s position as a global maritime hub: including (i) establishment of the first-ever overseas branch of The International Chamber of Shipping in Hong Kong in 2019; (ii) designating Hong Kong by the Baltic and International Maritime Council as the fourth arbitration venue, alongside London, New York and Singapore; (iii) setting up regional offices of the Hong Kong Shipping Registry in three cities (London, Shanghai and Singapore) in 2020; and (iv) enacting the Inland Revenue (Amendment) (Ship Leasing Tax Concessions) Ordinance 2020 to provide tax concessions to qualifying ship leasing business. (THB)



- Set up a dedicated task force comprising industry members to study tax measures to encourage more commercial principals of the maritime industry to choose Hong Kong as their base of operation. (THB)
- Launched a \$345 million pilot subsidy scheme to provide financial incentive to qualified third-party logistics service providers for adopting technology to enhance productivity. (THB)
- Concluded the feasibility studies for two port back-up sites in Tsing Yi and Kwai Chung with a view to releasing the sites by phases through public tender for developing multi-storey port back-up and modern logistics facilities starting 2021. (THB)
- Launched northbound trading of Bond Connect in July 2017. As at August 2020, the amount of foreign holdings of bonds through Bond Connect has reached Renminbi 2,800 billion. Hong Kong ranked second in Asia (after Mainland China) in 2019 in terms of asset under management by private equity funds (reaching US\$163 billion). (FSTB)

### Fostering Development of the Financial Services Industry

## Finance

- Incorporated the Financial Services Development Council as a company limited by guarantee with effect from September 2018, which is being supported by Government subvention to strengthen its capacity to conduct strategic studies, provide advice, foster market development and nurture talent. (FSTB)
- Launched a new listing regime in Hong Kong since April 2018 for three types of issuers, including pre-revenue/pre-profit biotech issuers; issuers from emerging and innovative sectors with weighted voting rights structures; and qualifying issuers seeking secondary listing through a new concessionary route. Since the implementation of the listing reform, some 30 new economy companies have listed under the new regime, raising over \$300 billion of funds through initial public offerings. (FSTB)

## International Asset Management Centre

- Established the Financial Leaders Forum, chaired by the Financial Secretary, in August 2017 to provide policy steer on strategic and forward-looking proposals to strengthen Hong Kong's position as an international financial centre. (FSTB)
- Commenced operation of the open-ended fund company regime since 30 July 2018. (FSTB)
- Commenced operation of the limited partnership fund regime since 31 August 2020. (FSTB)
- Offered profits tax exemption under the Inland Revenue Ordinance (Cap. 112) to different types of onshore and offshore privately offered funds with effect from 1 April 2019. (FSTB)
- Leveraged the opportunities presented by the GBA development to promote the sustainable development of the financial services industry with various measures, including preparation for launching the cross-boundary wealth management connect pilot scheme. (FSTB)
- Entered into mutual recognition of funds arrangements with the Mainland, Switzerland, France, the United Kingdom, Luxembourg and the Netherlands. (FSTB)

- Strengthened Hong Kong's position as an international insurance centre through enactment of three pieces of primary legislation in July 2020 to introduce new measures, including offering half-rate profits tax concessions for marine insurance and specialty insurance, enabling the setting up of special purpose vehicles in Hong Kong for issuance of insurance-linked securities, expanding the scope of insurable risks by captive insurers set up in Hong Kong as well as enhancing the legal framework for the regulation of insurance groups. (FSTB)
- Granted licences to eight virtual banks by the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) as at August 2020, of which five already commenced operations. (FSTB)
- Under the Open API Framework, 20 retail banks have launched over 500 and 300 APIs respectively under the first two phases, covering information of deposits, loans, insurance, investments and other banking products and services. The HKMA is conducting a study on the implementation of Phases III and IV Open APIs, which covers the pace, scope, and standards for implementation. (FSTB)

### Financial Innovation

- Issued the inaugural green bond under the Government Green Bond Programme in May 2019. (FSTB)
- Elevated Hong Kong's position as a regional green and sustainable finance hub to promote more entities to make use of Hong Kong's financial platform for green and sustainable investment and financing. Launched a Green Bond Grant Scheme in June 2018 to subsidise eligible green bond issuers in obtaining certification under the Green Finance Certification Scheme. A total of US\$10 billion of green bonds were arranged and issued in Hong Kong in 2019, which was over three-fold of that in 2017. (FSTB)
- Launched the FPS in September 2018. As at end-August 2020, the FPS has recorded 6 million registrations. In August 2020, the FPS processed 11.7 million transactions (worth HK\$120 billion and Renminbi 2 billion). Starting from November 2019, taxes, rates and Government rent, and water charges can be paid by using the FPS, and counters and self-help kiosks of four Government departments will soon accept FPS payments. (FSTB)
- Conducting a Proof-of-Concept (PoC) trial by eTradeConnect on connecting the People's Bank of China Trade Finance Platform. (FSTB)
- Authorised four virtual insurers under the Fast Track as at August 2020, of which two carry on life insurance business and two carry on non-life insurance business. (FSTB)
- Published a new licensing framework for virtual asset trading platforms in November 2019 by the Securities and Futures Commission. (FSTB)
- Took forward the development of the eMPF Platform to standardise, streamline and automate the Mandatory Provident Fund (MPF) scheme administration processes to create room for fee reduction. The eMPF Platform is expected to be fully functional in 2025 at the earliest. (FSTB)

## Financial Safety

- Implemented the new auditor regulatory regime on 1 October 2019 to enhance the independence of the local regulatory regime for listed entity auditors and to align with international standards and practices, which in turn strengthens investor protection and confidence in Hong Kong capital markets. (FSTB)
- Commenced operation of the new regulatory regime for insurance intermediaries on 23 September 2019, which replaced the previous self-regulatory regime. (FSTB)
- Commenced operation of the Banking (Amendment) Ordinance 2018, which empowers the HKMA to prescribe rules on recovery planning and financial exposure limits for authorised institutions, and a series of subsidiary legislation to align Hong Kong's regulatory requirements on banks' exposure limits, capital, disclosure and liquidity with international standards. (FSTB)
- Enacted the Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorist Financing (Financial Institutions) (Amendment) Ordinance 2018 and the Companies (Amendment) Ordinance 2018 on 24 January 2018. Commenced operation of both amended ordinances on 1 March 2018, ensuring that the regulatory framework of Hong Kong is in line with the international standards set by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). (FSTB)

- Became the first jurisdiction in the Asia-Pacific region to achieve an overall compliant result in the fourth round of mutual evaluation by the FATF. In the Mutual Evaluation Report published in September 2019, the FATF commended Hong Kong for having established a strong legal foundation and effective system for combating money laundering and terrorist financing. (FSTB)

## Tourism

- The Financial Secretary convened the high-level tourism co-ordinating meetings, directing bureaux and departments to drive the implementation of various tourism-related measures in the areas of tourist support and management, planning of tourism facilities and transport support, and tourism diversification through enhanced co-operation and co-ordination. (CEDB)
- Established the Travel Industry Authority in end-2019. (CEDB)

## Protection of Consumer Interests

- Provided a dedicated funding of \$238 million since 2018–19 to support the Competition Commission's litigation work. (CEDB)

## Trade and Investment

- Through the HKTDC, identified platforms in the Mainland for organising promotional activities to assist Hong Kong enterprises in developing the Mainland market; explored new trade platforms in developed markets outside the US to open up more channels for Hong Kong enterprises to get in touch with overseas buyers; and strengthened promotion activities in emerging markets. (CEDB)

- Through InvestHK, attracted more overseas and Mainland companies to set up offices in Hong Kong, with the total number increased from about 8 200 in 2017 to over 9 000 in 2020. (CEDB)

## Support to Small and Medium Enterprises

- Launched the new 90% and Special 100% Guarantee Products under the SME Financing Guarantee Scheme (SFGS) in December 2019 and April 2020 respectively to help SMEs in obtaining commercial loans to ease their cash flow problem. Introduced additional support measures including raising the maximum loan amount, extending the loan repayment period, providing interest subsidy and principal moratorium to help alleviate the financial burden of enterprises. Increased total government commitment under the SFGS to \$183 billion. Since July 2017, loans amounting to \$63 billion have been approved under the SFGS, benefiting 22 000 enterprises involving over 300 000 employees. (CEDB)
- Injected \$3.5 billion and \$2 billion respectively into the Dedicated Fund on Branding, Upgrading and Domestic Sales (BUD Fund) and SME Export Marketing Fund (EMF), and introduced a series of enhancements, including expansion of funding scope and increase in funding limits for each enterprise. Since July 2017, \$1.1 billion grant has been approved under BUD Fund, benefiting over 1 600 enterprises and 19 000 employees; and \$740 million has been approved under EMF, benefiting 12 000 enterprises and 82 000 employees. (CEDB)
- Consolidated the services of four SME centres and introduced “four-in-one” integrated services to provide “one-stop” consultation and referral services, and set up the SME ReachOut service team to help SMEs identify funding schemes that suit their needs and answer questions relating to their applications. About 70 000 enquiries have been handled. (CEDB)
- Introduced a range of business support measures by the Hong Kong Export Credit Insurance Corporation (ECIC), including free pre-shipment cover, premium discount, additional free buyer credit checks and expedited claims settlement etc. Introduced the “100% Credit Limit Top-Up Scheme” in June 2020 by ECIC to run for a period of six months, under which it would automatically double the credit limits of policyholders or uplift the limits to the amount applied for, whichever is smaller, subject to a cap of \$100 million. As at end-September 2020, 6 424 credit limits were uplifted under the Scheme, involving a total of around \$15 billion of credit limits, of which \$6.61 billion (44%) represented the top-up portions. (CEDB)

## Convention and Exhibition

- Took forward plans to increase the supply of convention and exhibition facilities to maintain and enhance Hong Kong’s role as a premier international convention, exhibition and sourcing centre. (CEDB)

## Legal Services

- Established the Mediation Mechanism for Investment Disputes in accordance with the IA signed under the CEPA framework. Announced the lists of designated mediation institutions and mediators on 14 December 2018. Published mediation rules drafted by the Department of Justice (DoJ) and adopted by designated mediation institutions and mediators in Hong Kong. (DoJ)
- Signed with the Mainland the Arrangement on Recognition and Enforcement of Judgments in Civil and Commercial Matters and the Arrangements Concerning Mutual Assistance in Court-ordered Interim Measures in Aid of Arbitral Proceedings (Interim Measures Arrangement). As of 27 August 2020, Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre has processed 25 interim measures applications to preserve evidence or assets worth Renminbi 9.4 billion in total and court orders in respect of Renminbi 8.7 billion worth of assets have been issued. (DoJ)
- Launched the inaugural Hong Kong Legal Week in November 2019, which is held annually in the first week of November to promote legal and dispute resolution services of Hong Kong. (DoJ)
- Held the first meeting of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area Legal Departments Joint Conference on 12 September 2019 to discuss suggestions to promote legal developments in the GBA, including further promotion of mediation in the GBA. Signed a Framework Arrangement on Exchange and Mutual Learning in Legal Aspects with the Guangdong High People's Court of Guangdong in September 2019. Carried out various activities pursuant to the Arrangement, including seminars about common law in Shenzhen in September 2019 and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Judicial Case Seminar in January 2020 in Guangzhou. Held the Inaugural Seminar on the Legal Challenges and Strategies under the Belt and Road Initiative in Beijing on 26 November 2019. (DoJ)
- Sought liberalisation measures in Guangdong Province to remove the minimum capital injection ratio for partnership with Mainland law firms and allow direct employment of the Mainland and Hong Kong lawyers in the partnership associations' own name. (DoJ)
- The decision of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress on special examination for legal practitioners in the GBA allows Hong Kong eligible legal practitioners to practise specific areas of Mainland law after passing the relevant examination. The passing of the related laws and regulations for the Qianhai Shenzhen-Hong Kong Modern Service Industry Co-operation Zone allows wholly owned Hong Kong enterprises to choose Hong Kong law as the governing law in a contract in civil and commercial matters. (DoJ)

## Telecommunications and Broadcasting

- Released a total of 4 500 MHz of 5G spectrum to the market in 2019 and facilitated the timely launch of 5G commercial services in the second quarter of 2020. (CEDB)
- Opened up over 1 000 suitable government premises and adopted a “demand-led” model to include more government and public facilities (e.g. sheltered bus stops and payphone kiosks) for mobile service operators to install base stations. (CEDB)
- Awarded six tenders for the subsidy scheme to extend fibre-based networks to villages in remote areas. Extend the new broadband networks in phases starting from 2021, benefiting some 110 000 villagers. (CEDB)
- Launched the “Community Care Fund Digital TV Assistance Programme” in January 2020 to provide digital TV sets or set-top boxes to needy households so that they can continue to access free TV services upon the implementation of Full Digital TV Broadcast on 1 December 2020. (CEDB)
- Completed the public consultation on the review of telecommunications regulatory framework in early 2019. We will work on the relevant legislative amendments. (CEDB)

## Creative Industries

- Injected \$1 billion into the CreateSmart Initiative in May 2018 to promote further development of the design sector and other non-film creative industries. Made financial commitment of \$600 million as at end-June 2020. (CEDB)

- Set aside \$300 million for the Hong Kong Design Centre (HKDC) to implement various initiatives to reinforce Hong Kong’s status as a city of design excellence in Asia. (CEDB)
- Promoted design thinking within the Government actively, including provision of training to about 7 000 civil servants in the past three years, and promulgation of guidelines in April 2019 to encourage departments to apply design thinking in the procurement process. (CEDB)
- Supported government departments and non-profit making organisations, through the CreateSmart Initiative, to apply design thinking to enhance the quality of public services and facilities. Pilot projects included enhancing support and services for SMEs. (CEDB)
- Provided funding support for the HKDC to set up an event space at No. 7 Mallery Street in Wan Chai to promote design and design thinking to the public. (CEDB)
- Implemented the Design and Fashion Project in Sham Shui Po to nurture young designers and support start-ups, promote fashion design, as well as boost district economy and tourism. Commenced construction works of the project in early 2019, which is expected to complete in 2023–24. (CEDB)
- Completed the review on the operation of the Film Development Fund, and injected \$1 billion into the Fund in May 2019 to promote further development of the local film industry through nurturing talent, enhancing local production, expanding markets and building audience. Made financial commitment of \$300 million as at end-June 2020. (CEDB)

- Secured support from relevant Central authorities in April 2019 to implement five measures to facilitate the entry of Hong Kong’s film industry into the Mainland market, thereby expanding the market space for local films and film practitioners in the Mainland. (CEDB)

## Construction Industry

- Took forward the strategic initiatives to implement “Construction 2.0” progressively and led the industry to make changes by advocating “Innovation”, “Professionalisation” and “Revitalisation”. Actively promoted the application of I&T, including digital works supervision systems, building information modelling (BIM) and established the Construction Innovation and Technology Fund (CITF). (DEVB)
- Established the Centre of Excellence for Major Project Leaders by the Project Strategy and Governance Office (PSGO) to provide high-level training programmes for major project leaders. PSGO has been collaborating and exchanging experience with counterparts in the Mainland, Australia, Singapore and the United Kingdom (UK) and entered into Memorandum of Understandings with the Ministry of Finance in Singapore and the Infrastructure and Projects Authority in UK. (DEVB)
- Required capital works contracts with pre-tender estimate exceeding \$300 million to adopt digital works supervision system from April 2020 onwards to strengthen site supervision. (DEVB)
- Opened the Modular Integrated Construction (MiC) Display Centre in November 2018 with the joint efforts of the Development Bureau and the Construction Industry Council (CIC). (DEVB)
- Promoted the use of MiC proactively. Designated government buildings such as schools, dormitories and office buildings, etc., in capital works projects are required to adopt MiC from April 2020 onwards. MiC played an instrumental role in providing quarantine facilities and a temporary hospital in a timely manner for tackling the Coronavirus Disease-2019 (COVID-19) outbreak. (DEVB)
- Topped out the first batch of MiC pilot projects, including InnoCell at HKSTPC and Disciplined Services Quarters for the Fire Services Department at Pak Shing Kok in Tseung Kwan O in May 2020 and August 2020 respectively. (DEVB)
- Set up a pre-acceptance mechanism for MiC systems and granted a 6% concession of the floor area constructed by MiC for new buildings. (DEVB)
- Required public works projects to adopt BIM technology from January 2018 onwards. As at end-August 2020, the estimated total contract value of public works projects which have adopted such technology has exceeded \$147 billion. (DEVB)
- Supplying prefabricated reinforcing bar (rebar) products by the four steel rebar prefabrication yards included in the Civil Engineering and Development Department’s List of Approved Steel Reinforcing Bar Prefabrication Yards for local construction projects in 2020. The total production is on the increasing trend. (DEVB)

- Set up the \$1 billion CITF in October 2018 to encourage wider adoption of innovative technologies and stimulate the provision of cutting-edge solutions by local I&T enterprises for industry enhancement. So far, the Fund has approved more than 1 200 applications and subsidised over 700 enterprises for adoption of innovation construction technologies in local building projects such as MiC and BIM, with a total approved funding of more than \$270 million. (DEVB)
- Offering quality training to trainees of the Hong Kong Institute of Construction, which was established in 2018. In particular, its Diploma in Construction Programmes have been accredited under the Qualification Framework by the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications. About 70 000 participants have completed its programmes every year, covering both full-time and part-time training courses. (DEVB)
- Allocated a funding of \$200 million in May 2020 to strengthen construction manpower training in trades of keen demand with a view to upskilling the workers and attracting more young people to join the construction industry. (DEVB)
- Established a new registration system in collaboration with the Mainland Authorities that enables architectural and engineering related consultant firms on the HKSAR Government's approved lists and related registered professionals to provide professional services for development projects in the GBA. (DEVB)
- Invited the CIC to extend its waiver of registration and renewal fees for registered workers for a further 12 months to support the construction industry, involving about \$9 million in total. (DEVB)

## Agriculture and Fisheries Industry

- Commenced environmental impact assessment for designating new fish culture zones in end-2019, and resumed issuance of new marine fish culture licences starting from early 2020. (FHB)
- Introduced measures to remove barriers in making applications for the Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund and Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund for promoting sustainable development of agriculture and fisheries industry, with a view to making good use of the funds to improve the operating environment for the trade. (FHB)
- Put into effect the relevant legislative amendment to facilitate relocation of chicken farms in July 2020, which helps chicken farms improve their bio-security measures, with a view to further enhancing the prevention and control of avian influenza. (FHB)
- Obtained approval from the Legislative Council (LegCo) in July 2020 to increase the approved commitment of the fishing moratorium loan scheme by \$210 million. (FHB)



# New Initiatives

## Financial Services

### Strategic Investments Using Future Fund

- Prepare for the launch of Hong Kong Growth Portfolio to make strategic investments in projects with a Hong Kong nexus, with a view to enhancing returns while reinforcing Hong Kong's status as a financial, commercial and innovation centre, and raising Hong Kong's productivity and competitiveness in the long run. (FSTB)

### Consolidating Hong Kong's Position as Asia's Premier Fund Hub for Private Equity

- Provide tax concession for carried interest issued by private equity funds operating in Hong Kong subject to the fulfilment of certain conditions with a view to consolidating Hong Kong's position as Asia's premier fund hub for private equity. We have consulted the industry and are formulating the legislative proposal with the target to introduce an amendment bill into the LegCo shortly. (FSTB)

### Fintech Proof-of-Concept Subsidy Scheme

- Launch the Fintech Proof-of-Concept Subsidy Scheme to provide financial incentives for financial institutions to partner up with Fintech companies to conduct PoC projects, with a view to encouraging innovation and accelerating technology transformation. (FSTB)

## Supervising Virtual Asset Services

- Establish a robust regulatory framework to supervise virtual asset trading platforms through a licensing system and attract high quality virtual asset service providers to domicile in Hong Kong. This would allow us to capitalise on financial innovation whilst managing money laundering and market manipulation risks, thereby promoting the orderly development of the market. (FSTB)

## Reconnect with Markets and Explore New Opportunities

- Pursue the expansion of the overseas ETO network to foster closer economic and trade relations with our trading partners, thereby bringing about more business opportunities for Hong Kong. The Dubai ETO, our first ETO in the Middle East region and the 14<sup>th</sup> ETO, is expected to commence operation in early 2021. (CEDB)
- Devote extra efforts and resources to strengthen in phases external promotion work taking into account the latest epidemic situation, with a view to restoring confidence in Hong Kong. Detailed measures include:
  - Explore with overseas economies with stabilised epidemic situation the gradual resumption of cross-border travel. Such arrangement would be guided by science and based on the advice of our health professionals according to the "Suppress and Lift" strategy;

- Adopt different engagement strategies by the overseas ETOs, taking into account the epidemic situation and the specific concerns on Hong Kong in their host countries. The ETOs will promote Hong Kong's role as a major international business and financial centre, as well as Hong Kong's institutional advantages, core competitiveness, our level playing field and business friendly environment;
  - Dynamically adjust InvestHK's promotion strategies by leveraging the digital platforms;
  - Review by the Hong Kong Tourism Board of the positioning of tourism in Hong Kong in light of the "new normal" due to the sustained epidemic situation and will, in association with the travel and related trades, launch promotions and offers in source markets with readiness for travelling to Hong Kong;
  - Actively develop its digital platform by HKTDC to connect buyers and suppliers worldwide and help Hong Kong enterprises explore business opportunities and develop overseas markets; and
  - Explore with foreign chambers of commerce to offer internship and work opportunities in recommended companies of relevant industries (such as creative industries) to young graduates for 12 months. (CEDB)
- Encourage the Hong Kong professional services sectors in stepping up promotion of Hong Kong's competitive edges and their services to the GBA Mainland cities and overseas markets after the pandemic situation has stabilised. Set aside a dedicated funding of \$50 million under the Professional Services Advancement Support Scheme to sponsor major professional bodies' participation in relevant exchanges, promotion and professional standard enhancement activities organised by the Government, HKTDC and overseas ETOs. (CEDB)
  - Support interested Hong Kong enterprises and the professional services sector to explore opportunities in the Mainland's overseas ETCZs by promoting pilot matching of selected ETCZs in ASEAN with such enterprises with a view to enhancing business collaboration. (CEDB)
  - Launch a Mainland Enterprises Partnership Exchange and Interface Programme to serve as a "one-stop" platform for fostering exchanges and business matching with Hong Kong professional services sector. Stage the second edition of the Belt and Road Joint Conference Policy Exchange and Capacity Building Programme in conjunction with relevant Mainland authorities with a view to jointly enhancing professional capacity for pursuing the Belt and Road Initiative. (CEDB)
  - Launch publicity programmes in the Mainland to rebuild the confidence in Hong Kong to pave way for the resumption of economic activities and people flow between the two places in an orderly manner after the epidemic. (CMAB)

- Strive to establish after-sales service centres of Hong Kong insurers in the Mainland cities of the GBA, with a view to providing comprehensive support, including claims and renewal and surrender of policies, to holders of Hong Kong policies by phases. (FSTB)
- Strive to implement the “unilateral recognition” policy for Hong Kong motor vehicles entering Guangdong (GD) through the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (HZMB) control point. The policy extends the coverage of third-party insurance policies issued by Hong Kong insurers to cover third-party liability in the Mainland, thereby deeming such policies as equivalent to the mandatory traffic accident liability insurance in the Mainland. (FSTB)
- Support the Hong Kong Vocational Training Council and the Shenzhen Polytechnic in exploring the joint development of vocational training and coaching programmes, and attracting students from Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao to take part in vocational coaching and internships. (EDB)
- Discuss with the relevant Mainland authorities the possibility of permitting the use of Hong Kong-registered drugs and common medical devices in designated Hong Kong-owned healthcare institutions in the GBA by implementing the measure at the University of Hong Kong-Shenzhen Hospital on a pilot basis. (FHB)

## Cross-border Transportation

- Implement the “Quota-free scheme for Hong Kong private cars travelling to Guangdong via the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge” (the Scheme) after the commissioning of Tuen Mun-Chek Lap Kok Tunnel, allowing eligible Hong Kong private cars to travel between Hong Kong and GD via HZMB without the need to obtain a regular quota. (THB)
- Commission an automated parking system at the Hong Kong Boundary Crossing Facilities Island for private vehicles from the Mainland and Macao. (THB)

## Innovation and Technology Development

### The Loop

- Take forward the development of the HSITP located in the Lok Ma Chau Loop in full swing. We will explore with Shenzhen regarding the use of the existing facilities in the Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Zone, before the completion of the HSITP’s first batch of buildings for the institutes that are interested in joining it to kick-start the research, so as to better leverage the complementary strengths and to create synergy between Hong Kong and Shenzhen. (ITB)

### Smart City Blueprint 2.0

- Release Smart City Blueprint for Hong Kong 2.0 in November 2020, which will set out more than 130 smart city initiatives, including new proposals as well as enhancements and expansions to existing initiatives. In the coming year, two of the more livelihood measures are:

- use Internet of Things technology, launch the smart toilet pilot programme to improve hygienic conditions and services at public toilets; and (FHB)
- explore smart village pilot projects using technology to solve daily issues faced by residents living in rural or remote areas, such as attending healthcare consultations by elders and traffic management. (ITB)

### **iAM Smart Platform**

- Launch the “iAM Smart” service platform in December 2020 to provide a one-stop platform for the public to access government services. In the first phase, some 20 frequently used public services will be made available, including online application for vehicle licence renewal and electronic submission of tax returns. Other online public services will be included in the platform incrementally. (ITB)

### **Licensing of Employment Agencies**

- Without affecting the regulatory and enforcement work, streamline the licence renewal process for employment agencies (EAs) and reduce the information required for licence renewal applications as far as possible, including rolling out a new e-service system by early 2022 to allow EAs to submit licence applications and check their application status easily and conveniently. (LWB)

### **Higher Education Employment Information e-Platform**

- Integrate the Higher Education Employment Information e-Platform of the Labour Department into its Interactive Employment Service website to achieve synergy in serving job seekers with higher education both within and outside Hong Kong. (LWB)

## **Creative Industries Development**

- Provide another \$1 billion injection into the CreateSmart Initiative to continue with the Government’s commitment in promoting creative industries as Hong Kong’s new economic drivers. (CEDB)

## **Construction Industry**

- Implement the integrated capital works platform in phases from 2021 onwards to enable data integration and analysis of works information for continuous monitoring and review of project performance with a view to enhancing the management of the Capital Works Programme. (DEVB)
- Co-ordinate efforts of works departments for taking forward research and development studies and piloting innovative construction methods, new materials and digital technology, etc., for enhancing the cost-effectiveness, delivery capacity and performance of capital works projects. (DEVB)
- Commence trial operation of an automated system for concrete cube testing in January 2021. (DEVB)
- Explore further the use of remote monitoring, wireless sensors networks, internet of things and other innovative technologies to push forward digitisation of works supervision system, reduce interpersonal contact and improve occupational safety and health on site. (DEVB)

## Agriculture and Fisheries Industry

- Strive to promote high value-added and sustainable development of the agriculture industry. Commence works of the Agricultural Park Phase 1 with phased completion from 2021 to 2023. (FHB)
- Support Hong Kong fishermen to participate in the development of deep sea mariculture in the GBA, including providing assistance under the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund, establishing a modern demonstration farm, and providing training to facilitate the mariculture sector to switch to deep water mariculture. (FHB)

## Job Creation

- Provide an 18-month subsidy under the Green Employment Scheme to private companies and suitable organisations to employ about 550 university graduates of the 2019 and 2020 cohorts to work in environment-related fields, and offer them training in various environmental subjects. (ENB)
- Create around 30 000 time-limited jobs in both the public and private sectors in the coming two years for people of different skills sets and academic qualifications under the second round of the Anti-epidemic Fund (AEF). Around 26 000 jobs have already been created. Proposals for creating the remaining 4 000 jobs are in the pipeline. (CSB)

- Provide subsidies under the AEF to prospective employers of engineering graduates with a view to sustaining the provision of vocational training opportunities. A total of 1 000 trainees concerned have commenced training by phase from July 2020, and their eligible employers will start receiving a monthly subsidy of \$5,610 per trainee for up to 18 months in October 2020 the earliest. (LWB)

## Job Advancement

### LawTech

- Enhance the capability of the profession to harness modern technology in the provision of legal and dispute resolution services. Further to the establishment of the LawTech Fund and COVID-19 Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) Scheme under the second round of AEF, the DoJ will actively explore the development of “Hong Kong Legal Cloud”, a state-of-the-art online facility equipped with advanced information security technology, to provide the local legal and dispute resolution profession a secured, reliable and affordable way for storing their information, thereby facilitating the overall development of legal and dispute resolution services in Hong Kong in the long run. (DoJ)

### COVID-19 Online Dispute Resolution Scheme

- Establish a COVID-19 ODR Scheme, engaging eBRAM Centre to provide ODR services for COVID-19 related disputes, with post-dispute dispute resolution agreement by the private parties. (DoJ)

## Encourage the Early Deployment and Adoption of 5G

- Encourage the early deployment and adoption of 5G by the public and private sectors with a view to enhancing Hong Kong's competitiveness. The Government has launched the Subsidy Scheme for Encouraging Early Deployment of 5G under the second round of AEF. Depending on the final response, we will consider extending the Scheme to further promote the use of 5G. (CEDB)

## Supporting Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises

- Support business enterprises affected by the pandemic to carry out promotional activities targeting the local market by making full use of both virtual and physical exhibitions, and maintain Hong Kong's leading position as the hub for large-scale commodity shows by expanding the scope of the SME EMF for two years. (CEDB)
- Update the online procurement plans of Government departments more frequently in order to keep enterprises (especially SMEs and start-ups) abreast of Government's latest procurement plans and encourage them to participate in tendering. (FSTB)

## Investing in Capital Works

- Continue to invest substantially in infrastructure development and various new projects. These projects cover land and housing supply, healthcare facilities, education, culture and recreation, water supply, drainage and sewerage aspects, etc., including the Tung Chung new town extension, new acute hospital at Kai Tak, special school with boarding facilities, pier improvement programme, redevelopment of Yuen Long Stadium, the Boardwalk underneath the Island Eastern Corridor, Tin Shui Wai New Public Market, and other projects that are closely related to people's livelihood. We expect the annual capital works expenditure will continue to grow from 2021–22 onwards and exceed \$100 billion in coming years. (DEVB)
- Speed up the contract award of capital works projects which have secured funding. (DEVB)
- Adopt parallel tendering and shorten tender evaluation to expedite tendering process of works project, where appropriate, so as to speed up infrastructure development. Of the 86 major public works projects (at a total of \$144 billion) approved by the Finance Committee of the LegCo in 2019–20 session, works contracts for 47 projects have been awarded, and contracts for the other 39 projects are in the process of tendering. (DEVB)
- Collaborate with works departments to explore the possibility of fast tracking the project schedule and shortening the time for completion of specific tasks for early delivery of housing, transportation, hospital and social infrastructure projects. (DEVB)

## Business Support Measures

- Launch the Convention and Exhibition Industry Subsidy Scheme under the first round of AEF. The part of the Scheme relating to exhibitions and international conventions held at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre and AsiaWorld-Expo will last for the one year period starting from 3 October 2020 to 2 October 2021, while the other part relating to events organised by HKTDC will also last for a one year period from a date to be announced later when it resumes holding events. (CEDB)
- Support businesses and relieve individuals' financial burden through time-limited measures including rental and fee concessions for eligible tenants of government premises, and short-term tenancies and waivers administered by the Lands Department; waivers/concessions of 35 groups of government fees and charges; and fee review moratorium. These measures benefit a wide range of sectors and will involve a total revenue forgone of about \$3.5 billion on the part of the Government. (FSTB)







## Chapter VI

# Liveable City

## My Belief

**“A liveable environment makes Hong Kong people happy, hopeful, confident about the future and have a sense of belonging to Hong Kong.”**

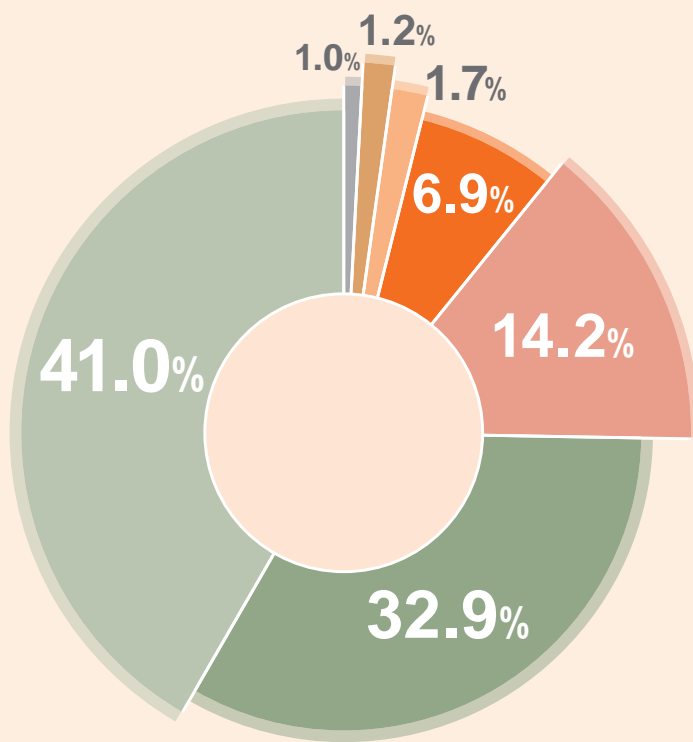
**“Public expectations for a ‘liveable city’ are rising. In addition to ample land and housing supply, green countryside, a beautiful harbour, a sustainable environment and heritage conservation are indispensable for a quality city.”**








**“Hong Kong has a long history as the meeting point of East and West and a melting pot of the two cultures. We should honour the invaluable legacy of the ‘Pearl of the Orient’ and create a cosmopolitan city that embraces culture, arts and sports. This will give our citizens a home where they can enjoy physical health and cultural richness.”**

I set out the policy direction of “according priority to transport infrastructure” in my 2018 Policy Address. Through creating capacity, our transport infrastructure will not only be able to cope with foreseeable demand, but also provide reasonable buffer capacity to support possible long-term developments in the future.

# Public Transport

## Distribution of Average Daily Public Transport Patronage in 2019

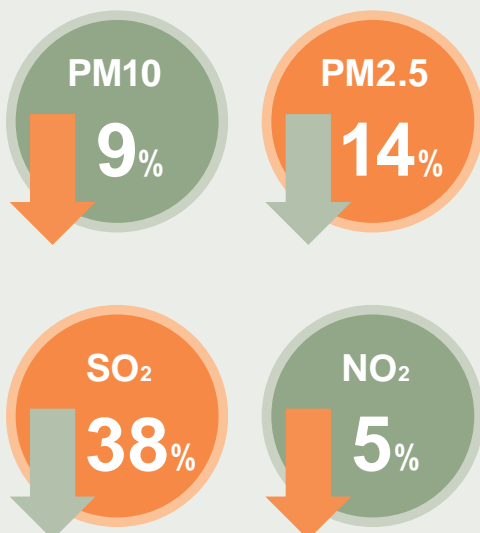


-  **Railway**  
5.10 million
-  **Franchised Buses**  
4.09 million
-  **Public Light Buses**  
1.77 million
-  **Taxis**  
0.85 million
-  **Residents' Services**  
0.21 million
-  **Tramways**  
0.15 million
-  **Ferries**  
0.12 million

# Environment

## Improved Air Quality

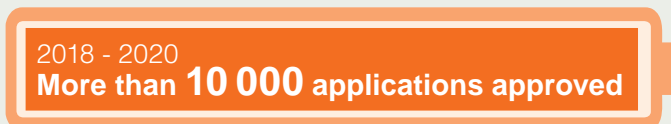
2017 - 2019



## Renewable Energy

### Feed-in Tariff (FiT) Scheme

Citizens can sell renewable energy to two power companies



Electricity generation capacity

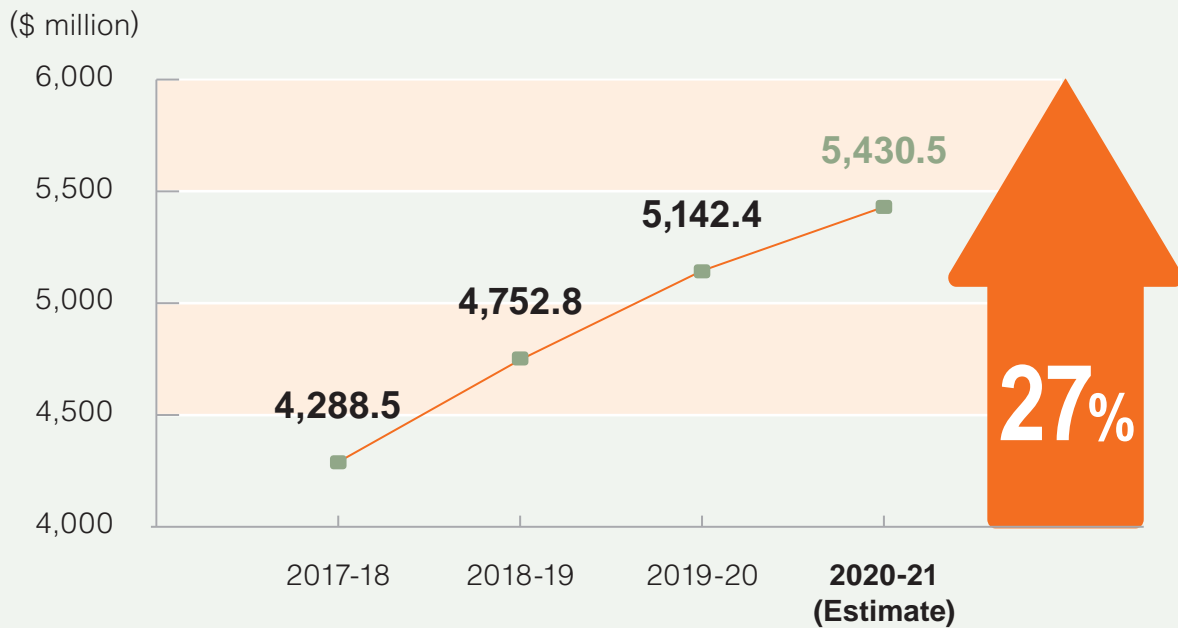


= **136 times** of electricity generation capacity of Government's largest solar farm



# Arts & Culture

## Increased recurrent funding to support arts & cultural development



# Sports and Recreation

## Enhanced support for sports development



Committed  
**\$60 billion**  
 Since 2017-18



**\$31.9 billion**  
 Kai Tak Sports Park



Reserved  
**\$20 billion**  
 Five-year Plan for development of sports and recreational facilities



Injected  
**\$6 billion** into  
 Elite Athletes  
 Development Fund



Injected  
**\$1 billion** into  
 Arts and Sport  
 Development Fund  
 (Sports Portion)



Injected  
**\$500 million** into  
 Major Sports Events  
 Matching Grant Scheme



Injected  
**\$250 million**  
 into Hong Kong  
 Athletes Fund



Set up  
**\$130 million**  
 Team Sports  
 Development Programme



Reserved  
**\$100 million**  
 to support  
 disability sports

# Promoting Building Safety

## Operation Building Bright 2.0



**\$6 billion**  
to support repair and  
maintenance of old buildings

**5 000 private  
buildings**  
benefited

## Building Maintenance Grant Scheme for Needy Owners



**\$2 billion**

**25 000 needy  
owners**  
benefited

## Lift Modernisation Subsidy Scheme



**\$4.5 billion**

**8 000 lifts**  
benefited

## Fire Safety Improvement Works Subsidy Scheme



**\$5.5 billion**

**6 000 to 6 500 old  
composite (commercial and  
domestic) buildings**  
benefited

# New Public Markets

## Six new public market projects

- Tin Shui Wai market
- Tung Chung Town Centre market
- Tseung Kwan O market
- Kwu Tung North New Development Area (NDA) market
- Tung Chung New Town Extension market
- Hung Shui Kiu NDA market



## Progress Made

A total of 177 new initiatives were announced since July 2017, of which 165 have been completed or are progressing on schedule.

Key initiatives completed or major progress made are as follows:

### Transport

#### Developing Transport Infrastructure

- Commissioned the Hong Kong Section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link in September 2018, with daily average patronage of 47 000 as of end-2019. (THB)
- Commissioned the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (HZMB) in October 2018, with more than 80 000 cross-boundary vehicles of the Mainland, Hong Kong and Macao being eligible to travel on HZMB. (THB)
- Commissioned the Central-Wan Chai Bypass and Island Eastern Corridor Link in February 2019, reducing the journey time between Central and Island Eastern Corridor in North Point to around five minutes only. (THB)
- Commissioned the Heung Yuen Wai Highway in May 2019 improving traffic in the North District and providing the access road to the new Liantang/Heung Yuen Wai Boundary Control Point with cargo clearance services opened in August 2020. (DEVB)
- Invited MTR Corporation Limited to proceed with the detailed planning and design for the Tung Chung Line Extension and Tuen Mun South Extension in the first half of 2020. (THB)

- Commissioned Tuen Ma Line Phase 1 in February 2020 connecting Wu Kai Sha and Kai Tak, shortening the journey time between Tai Wai and Diamond Hill stations from 17 to 9 minutes. (THB)

#### Improving Public Transport Services

- Three franchised bus companies, viz. Citybus Limited, New Lantao Bus Company (1973) Limited and New World First Bus Services Limited, opened up their real-time arrival information in machine-readable formats on the Public Sector Information Portal (DATA.GOV.HK) in August 2019 for free use by the public and the industry. (THB)
- Improved in-harbour and outlying island ferry services: completed tender exercise for the “Central – Hung Hom” and “water taxi” ferry services, with the “Central – Hung Hom” route commencing operation in June 2020 and the operator actively gearing up for the “water taxi” service. (THB)
- Extended the Special Helping Measures to more outlying island ferry routes to maintain affordable fare level from April 2020. (THB)
- Committed to subsidising the replacement of existing vessels of outlying island routes with greener vessels in phases starting from 2021. (THB)
- Completed the legislative work in the first half of 2020 to relax the vehicle length and maximum gross weight restriction of light buses, and preparing legislative amendments concerning the design of emergency exits, etc., so as to allow more choices for the trade while accommodating the development needs of the industry. (THB)

## **Pedestrian-friendly Environment**

- Carried out detailed design for a new footbridge across Kwun Tong Road near MTR Kowloon Bay Station Exit A (in progress) and another footbridge across Wai Yip Street near Siu Yip Street (largely completed). (DEVB)
- Endorsed nine premium waiver applications from landowners for the construction of footbridges and subways at their own cost under the policy of Facilitating Provision of Pedestrian Links by the Private Sector. (DEVB)
- Enhanced the connectivity, improved the environment and released development potential to expedite the transformation of Kowloon East into the second core business district. More than 70 traffic and pedestrian environment improvement works items have been completed. 16 hectares of open spaces and public spaces have been provided or enhanced. (DEVB)
- Press ahead with the Universal Accessibility Programme to proactively retrofit barrier-free access facilities (e.g. lifts) at walkways and extended its coverage to walkways in estates under the Tenants Purchase Scheme, Buy or Rent Option Scheme and public rental housing (PRH) estates with non-residential properties divested under the Hong Kong Housing Authority (HKHA). As of September 2020, 163 items were completed. (THB)

- Promoted “Walk in HK” to foster a pedestrian-friendly environment: completed the first batch of works to enhance pedestrian connectivity between Wan Chai and Sheung Wan in June 2020 while other improvement measures will be implemented by phase; finalise the overall walkability strategy for Hong Kong and extend the coverage of walking route search function under “HKeMobility” to 18 districts by end-2020; consult respective District Councils (DCs) on the projects for provision of cover for walkways connecting to public hospitals from the fourth quarter of 2020; and invite 18 DCs to nominate the second round projects for provision of cover for walkways starting from the fourth quarter of 2020. With regard to the provision of cover for walkway projects nominated by the DCs in the first round, the first project was completed in February 2020 while nine projects have commenced construction progressively. The remaining eight projects are under planning and design. (THB)

## **Relieving the Burden of Public Transport Expenses**

- Launched the non-means tested Public Transport Fare Subsidy Scheme in January 2019 to relieve the fare burden of commuters, benefiting an average of 1.9 million passengers per month. The Scheme was further enhanced with effect from 1 January 2020 by raising the subsidy rate from one-fourth to one-third of the monthly public transport expenses exceeding \$400, as well as lifting the subsidy cap from \$300 to \$400 per month. (THB)

- Completed the review of the Fare Adjustment Arrangement for Franchised Buses. Among others, the Weighted Average Cost of Capital of the franchised bus industry was adjusted. Profits achieved by a franchised bus operator exceeding the rate of return on average net fixed assets of 8.7% shall be shared on a 50:50 basis between the franchised bus operator and passengers through fare concessions. The new arrangement took effect in January 2019. (THB)
- Exempted franchised bus operators from paying tolls of seven government tunnels and two government roads with effect from 17 February 2019. Each franchised bus operator has set up its own dedicated fund account for keeping the toll savings for relieving fare increase pressure. (THB)
- Waive the tolls of the new Tuen Mun – Chek Lap Kok Tunnel and the Lantau Link upon commissioning of the former scheduled for the end of 2020 at the earliest; and waive the tolls of the new Tseung Kwan O – Lam Tin Tunnel and the Tseung Kwan O Tunnel upon commissioning of the former scheduled for the end of 2021 at the earliest. (THB)
- Established an International Expert Panel in January 2020 for gauging advice on the development of the Electronic Road Pricing Pilot Scheme in Central (Pilot Scheme), following stakeholder consultation on the concept and preliminary ideas of the Pilot Scheme in mid-2019. (THB)

## Increasing the Provision of Parking Spaces

- Drawn up short-term and medium-to long-term measures to increase the number of car parking spaces in Hong Kong. These include designating suitable on-street locations as night-time parking spaces, providing public parking spaces at suitable “Government, Institution or Community” facilities and public open space projects in line with the “single site, multiple uses” principle, taking forward pilot projects of automated parking systems and reviewing the standards on provision of parking spaces and loading/unloading bays in housing developments stipulated in the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines. (THB)

## Environment and Nature Conservation

### Enhancing Waste Management

- Enhanced support for waste reduction and recycling through new collection services and infrastructures, including launching new collection service on waste paper and pilot scheme on waste plastics collection, as well as “Reduce and Recycle 2.0” Campaign. (ENB)
- Commenced the operation of the O·PARK1 and WEEE·PARK in 2018. So far, treated a total of around 70 000 tonnes of food waste and 50 000 tonnes of regulated waste electrical and electronic equipment respectively. (ENB)



- Launched a pilot collection scheme to collect food waste from some commercial and industrial premises and transport it to the O-PARK1 for recycling from July 2018; actively preparing to launch a larger scale second phase of the pilot scheme in 2021, which will not only cover food waste from commercial and industrial sector, but also progressively include domestic sector. (ENB)
- Introduced the Bill on municipal solid waste charging into the Legislative Council (LegCo) in November 2018. (ENB)
- Launched a two-year pilot project on collection and recycling of plastic recyclable materials in three different districts (namely Eastern District, Kwun Tong and Sha Tin) to provide free collection of non-industrial and non-commercial waste plastics progressively from January 2020; and further processing them into recycled raw materials or products to ensure that they are properly handled. (ENB)
- Recruiting about 80 schools for a two-year pilot programme under which smart water dispensers with exteriors designed by students will be provided to participating schools, and supporting schools to carry out relevant education and experiential activities, such as signing a charter on ceased sale of bottled water. (ENB)
- Ceased to provide plastic straws and polyfoam food containers in premises serving mainly government employees in January 2019 to promote “plastic-free” culture in the community. Government departments, when inviting tenders for new contracts and renewing existing contracts for restaurants at government venues, will also require caterers to avoid using disposable plastic tableware. (ENB)
- Implement the “Plastic-free” School Lunch Pilot Scheme after the resumption of school lunch to encourage primary and secondary schools to use reusable lunch boxes in serving school lunch, and students to bring along their own reusable lunch boxes. (ENB)
- Commenced a study on the production of biochar from yard waste in March 2020; a yard waste processing centre is expected to commence operation in early 2021 to turn waste into resources. (ENB)
- Launched a pilot waste reduction and recycling outreaching service to provide on-site technical support for the implementation of source separation and clean recycling of waste at community level. (ENB)

### Improving Air Quality

- Reduced general concentrations of four major air pollutants by 5% to 38% in the past three years through various measures. (ENB)
- Enhanced regional collaboration on the establishment of a domestic marine emission control area in Mainland waters by requiring vessels to use low sulphur fuel with sulphur content not exceeding 0.5% within Hong Kong waters since 1 January 2019. (ENB)
- Reviewed the emission allowances of power plants and issued the Eighth Technical Memorandum for allocation of emission allowances in 2019 to tighten the emission caps of power plants from 2024 and onwards. (ENB)
- Established a policy to consider adopting green technologies to enhance environmental performance such as reducing the emission of air pollutants in the design and procurement of new government vessels. (ENB)

- Completed the preparations for launching a new scheme in October 2020 to progressively phase out about 40 000 Euro IV diesel commercial vehicles (DCVs) by end-2027 at a total cost of another \$7.1 billion following phasing out 80 000 pre-Euro IV DCVs under the \$11.4 billion incentive-cum-regulatory scheme. (ENB)
- Completed the preparations for launching a pilot subsidy scheme in October 2020 to promote installation of electric vehicle charging-enabling infrastructure in car parks of existing private residential buildings with earmarked funding of \$2 billion. (ENB)
- Completed the review on the scope of the Pilot Green Transport Fund and injected an additional \$800 million into the Fund to support the wider use of new energy transport technologies. The Fund has also been renamed as the New Energy Transport Fund. (ENB)
- Issued technical guidelines for electric public light buses (fast charging type) and the associated charging facilities and prepared for a pilot scheme to subsidise the purchase of about 40 electric public light buses and installation of the associated charging facilities for a trial. (ENB)
- Tightened the emission requirements for franchised buses in low emission zones to Euro V standards by end of 2019. (ENB)
- Earmarked \$350 million to carry out a pilot trial of four electric ferries in in-harbour routes and appointed a consultant to prepare the design and specifications for the procurement of the electric ferries and the associated charging facilities. The trial of the electric ferries is expected to commence in 2022–23. (ENB)
- Completed the consultation with the trade for tightening the content limits of volatile organic compounds of regulated architectural paints. (ENB)
- Extended the Cleaner Production Partnership Programme to March 2025 with a funding of \$311 million to encourage Hong Kong-owned factories to adopt cleaner production technologies, thereby continually improving regional environmental quality. (ENB)

### **Nature and Countryside Conservation**

- Established a Clean Shorelines Liaison Platform to co-ordinate and promote shorelines cleanup actions through different media and channels. (ENB)
- Established the Countryside Conservation Office in July 2018 and Countryside Conservation Funding Scheme, and provide over \$60 million of funding support to 10 conservation projects. (ENB)
- Designated/planning three new marine parks (on top of the original five and one marine reserve) to increase the total sea area of marine park/reserve by 150% from 3 400 to 8 500 hectares. (ENB)
- Expand the Sham Wan Restricted Area on Lamma Island and extend the restricted period to better conserve breeding ground for green turtles. (ENB)
- Completed the consultancy study on enhancement of the recreation and education potential of country parks and special areas and the related enhancement proposals in 2019, and opened three new viewing platforms for public use in the same year. (ENB)

## Climate Change and Energy

- The Council for Sustainable Development has completed a public engagement exercise and will submit a report to the Government shortly, to facilitate the formulation of Hong Kong's long-term decarbonisation strategy. (ENB)
- Achieved in 2019 (one year earlier than scheduled) the original five-year target of reducing the electricity consumption of government buildings by 5%. (ENB)
- Moving steadily towards the target of reducing carbon intensity by 65% to 70% by 2030, as set out in the Hong Kong's Climate Action Plan 2030+ by implementing various mitigation measures. Hong Kong's carbon intensity in 2018 was about 36% lower than that in the baseline year of 2005. (ENB)
- Public sector took the lead in developing renewable energy (RE) and implementing RE projects, including pilot projects of floating photovoltaic (PV) systems at Shek Pik Reservoir and Plover Cove Reservoir, as well as a pilot PV project at the South East New Territories Landfill. (ENB)
- Supported the private sector in developing RE, including introducing the Feed-in Tariff (FiT) Scheme with about 150 million kWh of electricity to be generated each year by systems already approved, suitably relaxing the restrictions on installation of PV systems on the rooftops of New Territories Exempted Houses (i.e. "village houses"), introducing Solar Harvest to install PV systems for eligible schools and welfare non-governmental organisations (NGOs) for free, introducing legislative amendments so that individuals who have installed RE systems on their residential premises need not apply for business registration or file profits tax returns for the FiT payments they receive, etc. Together with other measures, the total RE generated can meet the electricity demand of some 45 000 households, roughly equivalent to all households in Aberdeen, Ap Lei Chau and Wong Chuk Hang. (ENB)
- Implemented various energy saving measures, such as raising statutory building energy efficiency standards and developing district cooling systems. Provided further tax incentive for energy-efficient and RE installations in buildings from 2018–19 onwards, and established the E&M InnoPortal in June 2018 to promote the use of innovation and technology in enhancing energy efficiency and developing RE. (ENB)
- Working with the power companies under the post-2018 Scheme of Control Agreements to further promote the development of RE as well as energy efficiency and conservation through, among others, introducing FiT and RE Certificates schemes. (ENB)

- Rolled out measures under “Energy Saving Plan for Hong Kong’s Built Environment 2015~2025+” to enhance energy efficiency of government buildings, including retro-commissioning, encouraging departments to seek green building certification for buildings under their management, and implementing energy saving projects. (ENB)

### Treasuring Our Water

- Implemented a number of water saving measures, including launching the first stage of Mandatory Water Efficiency Labelling Scheme which requires the use of water efficient products in designated parts of new plumbing works, implementing Automatic Meter Reading in new buildings to provide timely information on water consumption, and publishing sample contract clauses to facilitate engagement of contractors by property owners and management agents to carry out leak investigation and repair works for private water mains. The Hong Kong Institute of Construction has launched a certificate course in leakage detection in underground water pipes to help nurture professionals. (DEVB)
- Completed reviewing the Total Water Management Strategy and updated the strategy in the third quarter of 2019. The updated strategy adopts a two-pronged approach of containing fresh water demand growth and building resilience in water supply with diversified water resources. (DEVB)

### Regional Co-operation

- Continue to press ahead with the ecological civilisation construction in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA), in accordance with the strategic policy of the Outline Development Plan for the GBA. (ENB)

### External Lighting

- Appointed a Working Group on External Lighting to review the effectiveness of the Charter on External Lighting and measures to better manage external lighting. We will map out the way forward having regard to the recommendations of the Working Group. (ENB)

### Sewage Treatment

- Rolled out 22 sewerage projects worth \$33.5 billion from 2018 to 2020, including the construction and upgrading of seven sewage treatment works, rehabilitation of about 18 kilometres of aged sewers over the territory, installation of dry weather flow interceptors and extension of sewerage system to 48 remote villages which collectively serve a population of over one million, and commenced planning of the installation of compact and high-efficiency dry weather flow interceptors at five districts in Victoria Harbour (Hung Hom, Causeway Bay Typhoon Shelter, Wan Chai East, Shau Kei Wan Typhoon Shelter and Tsuen Way Bay). (ENB)

### Urban Forestry

- Established the dedicated Tree Risk Inspection Squad to strengthen tree audits and site patrol in 18 districts; provided additional venues for arboricultural field training; and hosted the International Urban Forestry Conference in January 2020. (DEVB)

- Reported the progress of implementation on the Registration Scheme for Tree Management Personnel to the Panel on Development of the LegCo in July 2020 and roll out the Registration Scheme by December 2020. (DEVB)
- Launched the Urban Forestry Support Fund under which the Study Sponsorship Scheme and the Trainee Programme were rolled out in July and August 2020 respectively, and the “People•Trees•Harmony” promotion campaign is in progress. (DEVB)

## Heritage Conservation

- Together with the Hong Kong Jockey Club, completed revitalisation of the Central Police Station Compound to become Tai Kwun – Centre for Heritage and Arts. Tai Kwun received the Award of Excellence in the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation. This is the Awards’ highest honour and Tai Kwun is the second Hong Kong project winning this laurel in 2019, following the Blue House Cluster honoured in 2017. (DEVB)
- Launched Batch VI of the Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme in end-2019. As of September 2020, a total of 12 projects have been completed under the Scheme receiving in total five UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation. (DEVB)
- Pressing ahead with the Conserving Central initiative announced in 2009 with the restoration of the Former French Mission Building due to be completed in end-2020 and the first phase opening of the revitalised Central Market Building in the third quarter of 2021. (DEVB)

## City Management

### Management of Public Works

- Established the Centre of Excellence for Major Project Leaders (CoE) in July 2019 and delivered the first Major Projects Leadership Programme in August 2019. (DEVB)
- Invited leaders of the construction industry in Hong Kong to participate in the CoE programmes for exchanging expertise and sharing experience with government major project leaders. (DEVB)
- Entered into Memorandum of Understandings with the Infrastructure and Projects Authority of the United Kingdom Government and the Ministry of Finance of the Singapore Government in March 2018 and July 2019 respectively to foster partnership for enhancing cost effectiveness and productivity of the construction industry and uplifting project governance and performance. (DEVB)

### Building Safety

- Launched “Operation Building Bright 2.0” in 2018 with two funding injections totalling \$6 billion to assist owner-occupiers of 5 000 eligible old buildings to conduct inspection and repair works over seven years. As of June 2020, around 920 buildings are participating. (DEVB)
- Launched “Fire Safety Improvement Works Subsidy Scheme” in 2018 and injected an additional \$3.5 billion into the Scheme to subsidise more eligible owners of old composite buildings to implement fire safety enhancement measures as required by the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance (Cap. 572). A new round of applications has opened from 2 July to 30 October 2020. (SB)

- Launched the \$2 billion Building Maintenance Grant Scheme for Needy Owners in July 2020 to subsidise around 25 000 owners for maintaining their properties. (DEVB)
- Launched the \$2.5 billion Lift Modernisation Subsidy Scheme in 2019 to subsidise the modernisation of about 5 000 lifts and expanded the Scheme with additional funding of \$2 billion to cover about 8 000 lifts. (DEVB)
- launched the \$440 million WSP Subsidy Scheme in July 2020 to subsidise around 5 000 private buildings for implementing WSP for Buildings. (DEVB)
- Reviewed the Waterworks Ordinance (Cap. 102). Legislative amendment will be carried out in order to further safeguard drinking water safety. (DEVB)

### Drinking Water Safety

- Implemented the Action Plan for Enhancing Drinking Water Safety in Hong Kong in September 2017 with the following measures:
  - launched the Enhanced Water Quality Monitoring Programme in December 2017, following the establishment of the Hong Kong Drinking Water Standards, to monitor consumers' drinking water quality;
  - strengthened the regulation on plumbing materials and commissioning requirements for new plumbing works;
  - launched Quality Water Supply Scheme for Buildings – Fresh Water (Management System) in November 2017 to encourage property owners and management agents to implement Water Safety Plan (WSP) for their buildings;
  - set up the Drinking Water Safety Advisory Committee which comprises academics and experts of the related fields in January 2018;
  - started to implement WSP by the HKHA in PRH estates in the fourth quarter of 2018 in phases; and

### Building Management

- Promulgated New Codes of Practice and launched new support measures, including Building Management Dispute Resolution Service, Central Platform on Building Management, Pilot Scheme on Free Outreach Legal Advice Service on Building Management and the regularised Owners' Corporations Advisory Services Scheme, to assist owners in discharging their building management responsibilities. (HAB)

### Property Management

- Commenced the licensing regime under the Property Management Services Ordinance (Cap. 626) in August 2020 which will help raise the professional standards of the property management services and benefit the residents and users of more than 40 000 private buildings in Hong Kong. The licensing regime will be fully in force after a three-year transitional period. (HAB)

### Enhancing the Living Environment

- Commenced improvement works at Hoi Bun Road Park and its adjacent area in December 2018, with the soccer pitch completed in June 2020. The improvement works at Lam Wah Street Playground and its adjacent area commenced in July 2020. (DEVB)

- Prequalification of tenders and formulation of detailed tender requirements for the District Open Space, Sports Centre cum Public Vehicle Park project at Sze Mei Street, San Po Kong are in progress. (DEVB)
- Completed detailed design of the distinctive play facilities at Kai Tak Runway Park in August 2020. (DEVB)
- Commenced the Revitalisation of Tsui Ping River project in July 2020. (DEVB)
- Reviewed, evaluated and identified suitable nullahs for revitalization. (DEVB)
- Enhanced the design of the improvement works for the Yuen Long Town Centre Nullah to promote the quality and ecological value of the local environment. (DEVB)
- Allocated a total of \$6.5 billion to connect the harbourfront promenade and optimise the open space. In the past three years, five kilometres of promenade has been opened for public use. The goal is to extend the promenade from the current 23 km to 34 km by 2028 and provide open space amounting to about 35 hectares on both sides of Victoria Harbour. (DEVB)
- Fostered a “bicycle-friendly” environment in new towns and New Development Areas (NDAs) and completed the first phase of improvement to cycle tracks and parking facilities at about 100 sites in new towns in mid-2018. (DEVB, THB)
- Completed and fully opened the 60 km long cycle track network in the New Territories from Tuen Mun to Ma On Shan for public use in September 2020. (DEVB)

## Open Space

- Launched the five-year plan to transform more than 170 public play spaces in 2019. Implementation of 17 transformation projects in 2020–21 is in progress, of which funding for seven transformation projects has been approved. (HAB)

## Arts and Culture

- Set aside \$20 billion to improve and develop cultural facilities to consolidate Hong Kong’s position as an international cultural metropolis. (HAB)
- Commissioned the Xiqu Centre and Freespace in West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD). Re-opened the renovated Hong Kong Museum of Arts with an increase in total exhibition area by about 40% and increased the total number of galleries from 7 to 12. (HAB)
- Pressed ahead with the M+ and Hong Kong Palace Museum in the WKCD with scheduled commissioning in 2021 and 2022 respectively. The East Kowloon Cultural Centre is expected to commission in 2023. (HAB)
- Increased funding for arts and culture by 27% from about \$4.28 billion in 2017–18 to about \$5.43 billion in 2020–21. (HAB)
- Supported artists and arts groups from Hong Kong to perform and organise exhibitions on the Mainland (especially the GBA) and overseas, as well as organised many international cultural activities, such as the Festival Hong Kong 2019 – A Cultural Extravaganza@Shanghai, the 11th Asia Cultural Co-operation Forum, the 2nd Museum Summit, etc. (HAB)

## Sports Development

- Commenced the pre-construction activities on the expansion of the Hong Kong Sports Institute to equip local athletes with world-class training and support facilities and strengthen support services to athletes on physical fitness, sports science, sports medicine, etc. (HAB)
- Commenced the contract for design, construction and operation of Kai Tak Sports Park in February 2019. The Sports Park is scheduled for completion in 2023. (HAB)
- Increased progressively annual subvention for 60 national sports associations (NSAs) from about \$300 million in 2019–20 to more than \$500 million over a four-year period under an enhanced Sports Subvention Scheme. The additional subvention is used to enhance the promotion and development of sports in the community, youth training programmes, public participation, squad training at all levels, overseas exchange programmes and competitions; and enhance the corporate governance of NSAs. NSAs can also make use of the additional resources to improve their manpower and staff remuneration. (HAB)
- Launched the Five-Year Plan for Sports and Recreation Facilities in 2017. Sixteen projects have been approved, including heated swimming pools, football pitches, tennis courts, basketball courts, etc., for community use. (HAB)
- Earmarked \$130 million for a five-year development programme to enable the relevant NSAs to formulate and implement training programmes for Hong Kong representative teams for team ball games in the Asian Games. (HAB)

- Launched the \$500 million “Major Sports Events Matching Grant Scheme” in 2019 to encourage the business and private sector to provide sponsorships to NSAs in hosting more new and high level sports events. A total of 15 major sports events were recognised as “M” Mark events in 2019, including three new “M” Mark events. (HAB)

## Municipal Services

- Resumed the supply of public niches by allocating the newly built niches in phases. (FHB)
- Completed district consultation for the site selection of a Joint-user Complex (including a new public market) in Tseung Kwan O and the detailed design for overhauling the Aberdeen Market. (FHB)
- Introduced newly designed gravidtraps to formulate quantitative indices for the surveillance of mosquito infestation with a view to strengthening mosquito prevention and control work. (FHB)
- Implemented in 2019 a guideline on incorporating rodent proofing design in new private buildings and carrying out rodent control work in construction and demolition sites, as well as a similar design guide on government works and buildings. (FHB)
- Continue to implement the Enhanced Public Toilet Refurbishment Programme, expedite refurbishment and facelifting works, and conduct trial uses of technologies to improve hygiene and management of public toilets. (FHB)



## Animal Welfare

- Completed the first election of the Veterinary Surgeons Board of Hong Kong in September 2020 in accordance with the law, and the newly constituted Board has come into operation in October 2020. (FHB)
- Provided public funding through the University Grants Committee since the 2019/20 academic year to the Jockey Club College of Veterinary Medicine and Life Sciences at City University of Hong Kong for the city's first ever publicly funded undergraduate programme in veterinary medicine. (EDB)

# New Initiatives

## Transport

### Smart Mobility

- Improve the quality of taxi service by leveraging on technology (e.g. exploring the feasibility of installing electronic taxi meters for e-payment system and electronic driver identification plate) and organising commendation schemes. Preparing legislative amendments on increasing the penalties for illegal carriage of passengers for hire or reward, and for various malpractices in relation to taxi services. (THB)
- Take forward various smart mobility initiatives: release machine-readable traffic datasets via the Public Sector Information Portal to share with the public; disseminate real-time traffic information collected from traffic detectors starting from early 2021; actively studying relevant legislative amendments to promote the application of I&T on vehicles, including the trial and use of autonomous vehicles in Hong Kong and the review on restrictions on the use of in-vehicle visual display units. (THB)
- Substantially completed the detailed feasibility study (the Study) for the Environmentally Friendly Linkage System (EFLS) for Kowloon East (KE). The Study suggested implementing a “multi-modal” EFLS, which comprises a package of green initiatives that serve complementarily to enhance connectivity in KE. We plan to announce the results of the Study for the EFLS for KE in the fourth quarter of 2020, and gather the views of public. (DEVB)
- Complete the installation of about 1 200 traffic detectors along major roads and all strategic routes by end-2020 to provide additional real-time traffic information starting from early 2021. (THB)
- Commission a pilot real-time adaptive traffic signal systems with sensors for pedestrians and vehicles at five road junctions starting from the fourth quarter of 2020 to help optimise the green times allocated to vehicles and pedestrians. (THB)
- Facilitate public transport operators’ plans to introduce new electronic payment systems for public transport fare collection, including MTRCL to introduce QR code as an additional means for fare payment in MTR domestic network in the fourth quarter of 2020. (THB)
- Install relevant devices for provision of real-time arrival information for Green Minibuses in phases starting from the fourth quarter of 2020. (THB)
- Complete the Proof-of-concept trials on the use of video analytics to detect illegal parking and improper use of loading and unloading bays by December 2020. (DEVB)
- Put in place a Traffic Data Analytics System for collating and analysing traffic data by end-2021 to enhance traffic management and efficiency. (ITB, THB)
- Release real-time information of franchised buses through information display panels at 1 300 covered bus stops, including government Public Transport Interchanges by 2021. (THB)

- Install new on-street parking meters by phases starting from the fourth quarter of 2020 to support payment of parking fees through multiple payment means (including Faster Payment System and remote payment through a new mobile app “HKeMeter”) and provide real-time parking vacancy information. (THB)
- Commission automated parking system pilot projects in batches starting from 2021, to pave the way for wider application in short-term tenancy public car parks and public car parks in government premises and to encourage adoption in public car parks in private developments. (THB)

### **Pedestrian-friendly Environment**

- Promote walkability between Admiralty and Wan Chai through improvement of the existing pedestrian walkway systems under the policy of Facilitating Provision of Pedestrian Links by the Private Sector, public works and redevelopment projects, so as to facilitate people to walk from the hinterland to the harbourfront and through the promenade to different places. (DEVB)
- Expand walking route search function on Transport Department’s all-in-one mobile app “HKeMobility” to 18 districts by end-2020. (THB)
- Establish “bicycle-friendly” new towns and NDAs, including the completion of feasibility study on fostering a pedestrian and bicycle friendly environment in Hung Shui Kiu/Ha Tsuen NDA and Yuen Long South Development in March 2021. (THB, DEVB)
- Implement pedestrian enhancement measures in 2020 for two pilot areas, namely Central and Sham Shui Po, including traffic calming measures and decluttering of non-essential traffic signs. (THB)

## **Urban Redevelopment**

### **Revitalisation of Yau Ma Tei Fruit Market**

- Take forward the revitalisation of the Yau Ma Tei Fruit Market for boosting local retail business and economy as well as developing it into a new attraction for tourists taking into account Urban Renewal Authority’s ongoing Yau Mong District Study proposing master planning concept for the wider area. (HAB, DEVB)

### **Harbourfront and Open Space**

- Commence works on the Boardwalk underneath the Island Eastern Corridor to connect Causeway Bay and Quarry Bay, and infuse creative elements into the harbourfront park at Eastern Street North in Sai Ying Pun that will feature a large-scale play facility, a sizable water-fun area and an all-weather observation deck overlooking the sea. Both projects are scheduled to commence in 2021 with a view to phased completion in 2024. (DEVB)
- Assist the Harbourfront Commission to continue its active community engagement, including curating artworks in collaboration with local creative talent, holding design competitions on public furniture and inviting professional input to turn the design concepts for the two harbourfront projects at Golden Bauhinia Square and Wan Chai Ferry Pier respectively into concrete proposals. (DEVB)
- Under the administration of NGOs, the open community garden at Belcher Bay promenade in Sai Wan will commence operation in October 2020, while the community living room at Quarry Bay harbourfront will be open in late-2021. (DEVB)

- Speed up the five-year modification programme covering more than 170 public play spaces managed by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) across the territory to bring early fun to children while creating more jobs for the construction sector. (HAB)
- Regularise LCSD’s trial scheme of Inclusive Parks for Pets (IPPs), which was first launched in six parks, and to provide over 30 additional IPPs in 18 districts from December 2020. These parks will be equipped with basic ancillary facilities for pets and more than 10 of them will be provided at waterfront promenades or nearby parks. (HAB)
- Tighten the statutory energy efficiency standards for buildings every three years; expand the scope of the Mandatory Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme; and support the development and use of innovative energy saving technologies through the “E&M InnoPortal”. (ENB)
- Improve the energy performance of government buildings and infrastructure by a further 6% in the coming five years, through energy audits, retro-commissioning, use of innovative technologies, and renewable energy, etc. The annual saving in energy cost would then be about \$200 million. (ENB)

## Environment and Sustainable Development

### Carbon Emission Reduction and Energy Saving

- Draw up, with reference to the views collected last year by the Council for Sustainable Development through public engagement and the Council’s recommendations, Hong Kong’s long-term decarbonisation strategy and climate action roadmap up to 2050, and join the global efforts in combating climate change. (ENB)
- Decarbonise through substantially reducing the share of coal (from about half in 2015 to about a quarter in 2020) in Hong Kong’s fuel mix for electricity generation. We will also step up our efforts in promoting energy efficiency and conservation. (ENB)
- The power companies will progressively install smart meters for about three million customers across the territory before the end of 2025. So far, more than 500 000 have been installed. (ENB)
- Retrofit under the “Green Schools 2.0” programme energy-efficient lighting and air-conditioners, and install real-time energy monitoring systems for schools, motivating teachers and students to practise low-carbon living. Some 110 schools have applied to join the programme. (ENB)
- Invite applications for the \$200 million Green Tech Fund before the end of the year. This will give new impetus to deep decarbonisation and the development of green technologies. Since the 2017–18 financial year, the Environment and Conservation Fund has earmarked \$25 million to encourage community organisations to carry out projects with climate change as the theme. (ENB)

## Air Quality

- Formulate Hong Kong's first roadmap on the popularisation of electric vehicles in the first quarter of 2021 to set forth long-term policy objectives and plans to promote the use of electric vehicles and their associated supporting facilities, and prepare a target for banning the sales of conventional fuel propelled private cars, with a view to leading Hong Kong into zero vehicle emission in future. (ENB)
- Update the Clean Air Plan by the first half of 2021 to examine long term targets and measures to further improve air quality, with a view to continuing reducing emissions of air pollutants from various sources. (ENB)
- Review the Eighth Technical Memorandum with a view to further tightening the air pollutant emission caps for power companies from 2026 onwards. (ENB)
- Prepare a proposal to tighten the content limit of volatile organic compounds in architectural paints. (ENB)

## Waste Management

- Tender for the development of a modern pulping facility in EcoPark by 2024 to transform waste into resources and diversify outlets for local waste paper. (ENB)
- Formulate a long-term strategy blueprint on waste management to set forth long-term policy objectives and plans to promote waste reduction and recycling, with a view to achieving transformation of waste into resources and supporting circular economy. (ENB)
- Explore the installation of food waste grinders in NDAs and housing projects to complement measures to reduce food waste disposal. (ENB)

- Optimise the use of food waste and sewage sludge anaerobic co-digestion technology to expedite the enhancement of the overall food waste treatment capability in Hong Kong. (ENB)

## Eco-Tourism

- Support eco-tourism, better serve visitors and help revitalise desolate villages, the Countryside Conservation Office will work with relevant bureaux/departments to jointly develop a set of licensing requirements and procedural guidelines designed especially for guesthouses and catering businesses in countryside areas, making reference to the special nature and restrictions of rural settings. (ENB, HAB, FHB)

## Environment and Related Funds

- Set aside an extra of about \$200 million under relevant environment related funds, which is approximately equivalent to one year allocation under the Environment and Conservation Fund, to launch more green projects. In addition to creating more employment opportunities, the projects will also help step up the promotion of community participation in low-carbon living and environmental protection covering sustainable development areas such as energy, air quality, waste reduction, conservation, water quality, and cleaning up of the shoreline. (ENB)

## Arts, Culture, Leisure and Sports

- Launch a 101 Academy series on LCSD's new Edutainment Channel, which provides a systematic introduction to basic knowledge in culture, arts, science, recreation and sports as well as horticulture to members of the public in order to arouse their interest in these disciplines. (HAB)
- Feature an online interactive programmes series, which provides interactive courses and programmes as well as virtual tours, etc., to bring new experiences to the public by application of different technologies. The series will include virtual museum tours, a trial scheme of Online Interactive Sports Training Programmes and virtual guided tours to places with blossoming flowers and inclusive parks for pets. (HAB)
- Ride on the global advancement of technology in the cultural ecosystem, we will develop the East Kowloon Cultural Centre as an advanced arts and cultural hardware, providing the latest stage technology and equipment to support novel applications for stage productions and also explore the setting up of designated facilities as Testbed Studio equipped with Extended Reality technology and immersive audio visual systems to facilitate arts practitioners to work, explore and learn together. (HAB)
- Open a two-kilometre cycle track from Tsing Tsuen Bridge to Bayview Garden in Tsuen Wan in early 2021, and to continue planning and design of the remaining track of about 20 kilometres of the Tsuen Wan to Tuen Mun Section. (DEVB)

- Design and construct a GreenWay of 13 kilometres in total length for shared use by pedestrians and cyclists in the Kai Tak Development Area in two phases. The first phase of 7.5 kilometres is scheduled for completion by 2023, and the remaining phase of 5.5 kilometres will be completed after 2025. (DEVB)
- Incorporate the design of cycle tracks in the harbourfront projects funded by the \$6.5 billion dedicated funding to enable cycling along the harbourfront areas in the longer-term. (DEVB)

## City Management

- Complete Phase 2 of the QR Code labelling for about 200 000 trees by early 2022 and commence a three-year study to collect and analyse data from tilt sensors to test their effectiveness in identifying trees at risk of collapse. (DEVB)
- Apply smart water supply initiatives, including the launch of automatic water supply suspension notification system in December 2020 to enhance customer services. (DEVB)
- Adopt new technologies for signboard control with a view to protecting public safety, including uploading the first batch of legal signboards' information to Geoinfo Map for public's viewing in September 2021 and commencing the trial run of the Defective Signboard Diagnostic System by end-2021. (DEVB)
- Provide free public WiFi services, and adopt relevant technologies to detect illegal dumping, wild animals and flooding, and strengthen security in rural villages. (ITB, ENB, DEVB)
- Explore using robotics and artificial intelligence to assist in early detection of hill fire in country parks. (ITB, ENB)

- Collaborate with the Hong Kong Green Building Council to explore the development of a sustainability evaluation system to enhance the performance and sustainability of infrastructure projects to reinforce the international status of Hong Kong's infrastructure development. (DEVB)

## Municipal Services

### Environmental Hygiene

- Conduct trial of thermal imaging cameras with artificial intelligence function to monitor and analyse rodent activities with a view to quantifying rodent infestation, and strengthening targeted anti-rodent work. (FHB)

### Public Markets

- Commission the Tin Shui Wai temporary market shortly and introduce a new operation mode for strengthening the management role of the service contractor with the aim of enhancing business vibrancy in the market while meeting the needs of the public. (FHB)
- Commence preliminary planning for the construction of a public market in Tseung Kwan O and complete the site selection for the new public market in Kwu Tung NDA shortly. (FHB)
- Commence the overhaul works of the Aberdeen Market and include the overhaul of Yeung Uk Road Market, Ngau Tau Kok Market and Kowloon City Market as well as the minor refurbishment or improvement works in selected markets under the Market Modernisation Programme for early implementation. (FHB)

### Public Toilets

- Conduct trial of antibacterial coating for sanitary wares in public toilets to improve their hygiene. (FHB)
- Develop a Smart Toilet System for improving the planning and delivery of public toilet services. (FHB)

## Animal Welfare

- Formulate legislative proposals and draft the amendment bill to enhance animal welfare after reporting the public consultation results to LegCo in April 2020. (FHB)

## Food Safety

- Complete public consultation on proposals to strengthen the regulatory regime of harmful substances in food, including industrially-produced trans fat and mycotoxins and introduce relevant legislative amendments into the LegCo after collating the views received. (FHB)
- Cease radiation testing against every consignment of imported Japanese food and subsume the testing under the routine annual food surveillance programme of the Centre for Food Safety based on risk assessment for better trade facilitation, while ensuring food safety. (FHB)







## Chapter VII

# Nurturing Talent

## My Belief

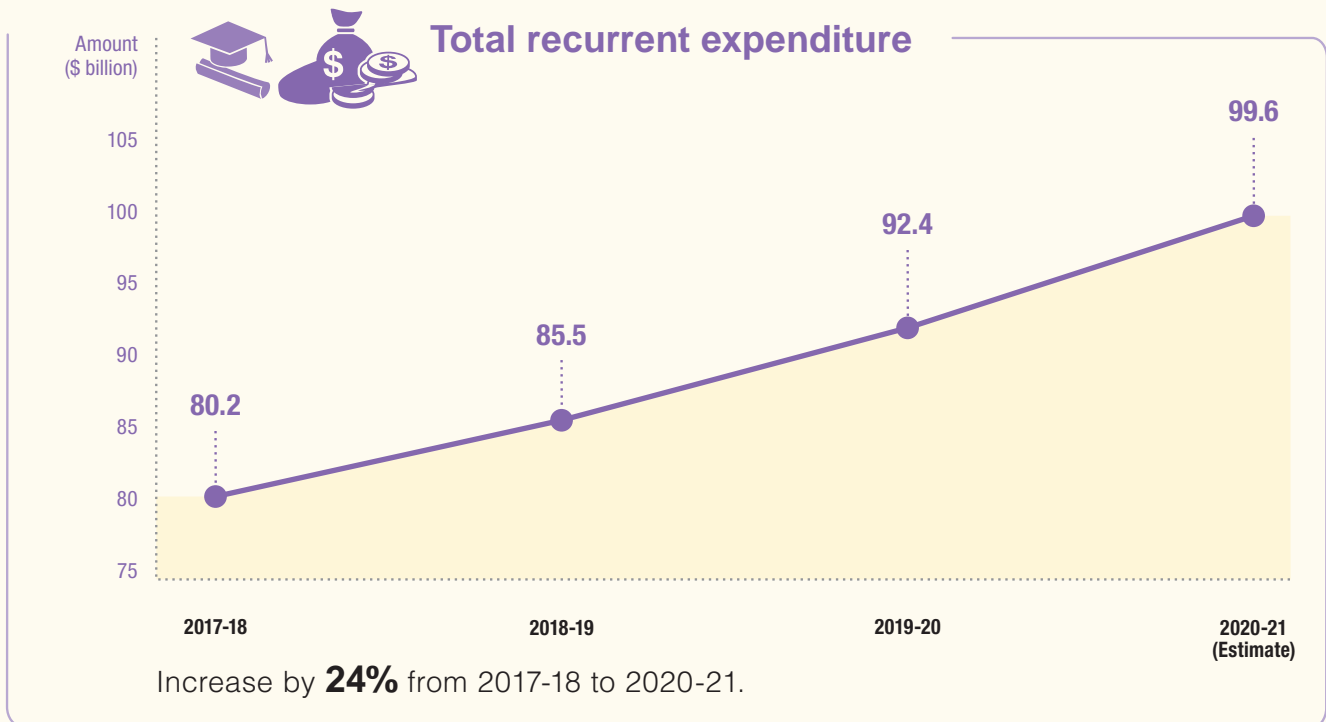
“My vision for education is to ensure that our children in Hong Kong will grow up to be persons with a sense of national identity and a love for our nation, and to become honest and sincere persons with a good character and a sense of responsibility towards society. On the Government level, I firmly believe that talent is the most important element in the future development of Hong Kong and that education is the key to nurturing talent. With this in mind, I would like to say that expenditure on education is the most meaningful investment of the Government for the future.”

“When I ran for the post of Chief Executive, I pledged to allocate \$5 billion for education. Over the past three years, the allocation has been increased repeatedly so as to introduce more education improvement measures. Currently, new resources invested into education amount to over \$13 billion in recurrent expenditure and much of the funding is provided in response to the long-standing aspirations of the education sector. To create a stable, caring, inspiring and satisfying teaching and learning environment for students, teachers, parents and school principals, we must start with ‘treating our teachers better’. I wish to have a sincere conversation with our education practitioners and establish a partnership with the sector. Together, we will strive for the enhancement of education quality in Hong Kong so that education will re-emerge as education and our school campus

will no longer be embroiled in political disputes or radical social acts.”

“The role of the Government in education is not only confined to the provision of resources. From the academic structure to the curriculum, and from teacher training to student assessment, the Government has a vital and indispensable role to play.”

# Growth in Expenditure on Education



## Diversified Avenues for Higher Education (undergraduate places)

(number of places/recipients in 2019/20 academic year)



Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination candidates

- 1 University Grants Committee (UGC)-funded First-year-first-degree places **(15 000)**
- 2 Non-means-tested Subsidy Scheme for Self-financing Undergraduate Studies in Hong Kong<sup>^</sup> **(16 032)**
- 3 Study Subsidy Scheme for Designated Professions / Sectors **(3 176<sup>\*</sup>)**
  - Admission to over 120 Mainland universities via Scheme for Admission of Hong Kong Students to Mainland Higher Education Institutions **(617)**
  - Mainland University Study Subsidy Scheme **(3 218)**
- 5 UGC-funded Senior Year Intake places<sup>#</sup> **(5 000)**
- 6 Hong Kong Scholarship for Excellence Scheme places **(100)**



<sup>^</sup> Including top-up degrees for eligible sub-degree holders

<sup>\*</sup> The number of subsidised undergraduate places under the Scheme

<sup>#</sup> For eligible sub-degree holders

# Manpower Resources

The first Talent List of Hong Kong has come into effect since August 2018.

## 11 Professions in Talent List



**Waste Treatment Specialists**



**Asset Management Professionals**



**Marine Insurance Professionals**



**Creative Industries Professionals**



**Fintech Professionals**



**Actuaries**



**Innovation and Technology Experts**



**Data Scientists & Cyber Security Specialists**



**Marine Engineers & Superintendents of Ships**



**Naval Architects**



**Dispute Resolution Professionals & Transactional Lawyers**

## Nurturing Innovation and Technology Talent



### Primary School and Secondary School

- One-off STEM education grant
- IT Innovation Lab in Secondary Schools initiative

### University and postgraduate programmes

- Research funding schemes under the Research Grants Council (RGC)
- Hong Kong PhD Fellowship Scheme
- Tuition Waiver for Local Research Postgraduate Students
- STEM Internship Scheme
- Technology Start-up Support Scheme for Universities

### Researchers

- Fellowship Schemes under the RGC
- Postdoctoral Hub
- Researcher Programme
- Reindustrialisation and Technology Training Programme

**In the past three years, the Government has invested over \$6.8 billion in training programmes for I&T talent.**



## Progress Made

A total of 39 new initiatives were announced since July 2017 and all have been completed or are progressing on schedule.

Key initiatives completed or major progress made are as follows:

### Investment for the Future

- Allocated a total of over \$13 billion recurrent expenditure for implementing various measures to promote quality education. (EDB)

### Latest Development in Education

- Provided a Promotion of Reading Grant to all public sector primary and secondary schools starting from the 2018/19 school year, and regularised the Pilot Scheme on the Promotion of Reading Grant for Kindergartens starting from the 2019/20 school year. (EDB)
- Provided a recurrent Life-wide Learning Grant to public sector schools and schools under the Direct Subsidy Scheme (DSS) to support primary and secondary schools in taking forward life-wide learning with enhanced efforts starting from the 2019/20 school year. (EDB)
- Set up in 2019 a \$2.5 billion Student Activities Support Fund to support students with financial needs in public sector schools and DSS schools to participate in out-of-classroom learning activities organised or recognised by schools. (EDB)
- Set aside \$3 billion from the Quality Education Fund (QEF) for the implementation of a four-year Dedicated Funding Programme for Publicly-funded Schools starting from the 2018/19 school year for launching school-based curriculum and/or student support measures, as well as relevant school improvement works and/or procurement of supplies. As at September 2020, the QEF has approved more than 930 applications with a funding amount of over \$700 million. (EDB)
- Made Chinese History an independent compulsory subject to be taught at the junior secondary level starting from the 2018/19 school year. The revised curriculum framework has been implemented progressively in all schools from Secondary One with effect from the 2020/21 school year. (EDB)
- Allowed aided secondary schools with surplus teachers arising from the reduction of Secondary One classes from the 2013/14 to 2017/18 school years to apply for extension of the retention period of the surplus teachers concerned to the 2021/22 school year to stabilise the teaching force. (EDB)

- Allowed aided primary schools to apply for retaining the redundant teachers arising from class reduction due to the decline in Primary One student population up to a maximum of three school years starting from the 2019/20 school year. Besides, starting from Primary One in the 2019/20 school year, for schools with class reduction after the annual student headcount, the basis for calculating the number of approved classes will be adjusted downward from 25 to 23 students per class. The adjusted basis will be applied to that cohort of students progressively until they have reached Primary Six. (EDB)
- Starting from the 2017/18 school year, the teacher-to-class ratio is improved, providing around 2 200 additional regular teaching posts. (EDB)
- Completed the review carried out by eight task forces set up to conduct in-depth studies in various aspects of quality education in accordance with the spirit of professional leadership and active engagement of stakeholders. (EDB)

## Professional Development of Teachers

- Implemented in one go the all-graduate teaching force policy in public sector primary and secondary schools starting from the 2019/20 school year. (EDB)

## School-based Management

- Provided at least one full-time school-stationed school executive officer in each public sector and DSS school starting from the 2019/20 school year to strengthen the administrative support for schools. In addition, a new recurrent School-based Management Top-up Grant is offered to these schools for enhancing the operation of their management committees/ incorporated management committees/ school management committees (SMCs) and strengthening the training of school managers/SMC members. (EDB)

## Parent Education and Home-School Co-operation

- Provided Parent-Teacher Associations (PTAs) of schools and Federations of PTAs with additional resources for enhancing home-school co-operation and promoting parent education starting from the 2019/20 school year. (EDB)

## Enhancing Teaching Facilities in Primary and Secondary Schools

- Provided a subsidy for all public sector and DSS schools to cover operational expenses of the school's air-conditioning facilities starting from the 2018/19 school year. New air conditioning systems have been installed for teaching facilities without such provision. (EDB)
- Commenced a time-limited minor works programme for carrying out simple minor internal conversion works at some 600 aided school premises constructed according to past building standards to facilitate more flexible use of existing space by schools, thereby enhancing the teaching and learning environment and efficacy. (EDB)

## Healthy Development of Post-secondary Education

- Approved in one go \$10.3 billion for 15 hostel projects to provide around 13 000 hostel places in University Grants Committee-funded universities. (EDB)
- Earmarked \$16 billion for enhancing or refurbishing university campus facilities. (EDB)
- Allocated \$1.26 billion for the Enhancement and Start-up Grant Scheme for Self-financing Post-secondary Education. (EDB)
- Implemented the eighth Matching Grant Scheme costing \$2.5 billion. (EDB)
- Regularised the Hong Kong Scholarship for Excellence Scheme starting from the 2019/20 academic year, with the maximum amount of scholarship set at \$300,000 per awardee per annum. (EDB)
- Increased the number of scholarships offered under the Belt and Road Scholarship Scheme from the initial 10 to 100 now per year, covering all countries along the Belt and Road (B&R). (EDB)
- Increased the number of subsidised places in undergraduate programmes under the Study Subsidy Scheme for Designated Professions/Sectors to about 3 000 per cohort starting from the 2018/19 academic year. The Scheme has been expanded to cover sub-degree programmes with about 2 000 subsidised places per cohort starting from the 2019/20 academic year. In the 2019/20 academic year, about 7 900 undergraduate programme students and 2 500 sub-degree programme students benefited under the Scheme. (EDB)

- Launched the Non-means-tested Subsidy Scheme for Self-financing Undergraduate Studies in Hong Kong, up to \$32,100 per student per year (for the 2020/21 academic year), benefiting about 16 000 undergraduates in the 2019/20 academic year. (EDB)
- Revamped the Committee on Self-financing Post-secondary Education with effect from November 2019 with a strengthened role and functions to offer strategic and policy advice on the development of the self-financing post-secondary education sector. (EDB)
- Launched the Targeted Taught Postgraduate Programmes Fellowships Scheme in the 2020/21 academic year on a pilot basis for five cohorts. The Scheme will benefit 4 500 meritorious students in total. (EDB)

## Nurturing Technology Talent

- Injected \$20 billion into the Research Endowment Fund; set up a \$3 billion Research Matching Grant Scheme; increased by \$190 million recurrent funding for three new Fellowship Schemes to enhance research capability of the higher education sector. (EDB)
- Injected \$3 billion into the Research Endowment Fund to provide non-means-tested tuition waiver for local research postgraduate students. In 2019/20, about 1 700 students benefited from the scheme. (EDB)



- Launched in August 2018 the Technology Talent Scheme (comprising the Postdoctoral Hub and the Re-industrialisation and Technology Training Programme) and in June 2020 the STEM Internship Scheme, as well as streamlined and merged in July 2020 the Researcher Programme and Postdoctoral Hub to become the Research Talent Hub to nurture and bring together more technology talent. Since July 2017, over 8 000 technology talents in total have benefited under these schemes. (ITB)
- Launched the Technology Talent Admission Scheme in June 2018 and expanded the coverage and applicable technology areas in January 2020 to fast-track the admission of technology talent. (ITB)
- Established the InnoHK research clusters to promote developing Hong Kong as the hub for global research collaboration. The first batch of research and development centres are expected to commence operation in the fourth quarter of 2020/ the first quarter of 2021. (ITB)
- Launched the IT Innovation Lab in Secondary Schools Programme for three years starting from 2020/21 school year, with a total funding of \$500 million to provide more resources for secondary schools to conduct information technology (IT)-related extra-curricular activities to enable students to better master and apply IT. (ITB)

## Vocational and Professional Education and Training

- Regularised the Pilot Training and Support Scheme of the Vocational Training Council (VTC) starting from the 2019/20 academic year. The Scheme offers 1 200 training places per year under the “Earn and Learn” model to enable trainees to join industries which require specialised skills. (EDB)
- Followed up on the recommendations made by the Task Force on Promotion of Vocational and Professional Education and Training (VPET), including the establishment of the Steering Committee on Promotion of VPET and Qualifications Framework in September 2020 to strengthen co-ordination of the overall strategy to promote VPET, foster closer industry partnership, and further promote VPET in an innovative and co-ordinated manner. (EDB)
- Provided subsidies for trainees under the Training and Support Scheme of VTC for three years starting from the 2020/21 academic year to take part in study and exchange programmes outside Hong Kong, attend short-term skills and practical courses and visit institutions/ enterprises in those places, with a view to facilitating skills exchange and broadening their exposure. If the Scheme proves to be effective, we will consider extending it to cover students of suitable VPET programmes in the VTC and other institutions. (EDB)
- Promulgated the report of Manpower Projection to 2027 in December 2019 to support the planning and development of VPET. (LWB)

## Supporting Students with Different Needs

- Restructured the various funding programmes for integrated education and extended the Learning Support Grant to all public sector ordinary schools with an increase in grant rate for tier-3 support. (EDB)
- Provided a special educational needs co-ordinator (SENCO) to every public sector ordinary school. For schools with a comparatively large number of students with special educational needs, the SENCO post has been upgraded to a promotion rank. (EDB)
- Extended the School-based Educational Psychology Service to all public sector ordinary schools. Starting from the 2019/20 school year, school-based speech therapist posts are created in public sector ordinary schools in phases. (EDB)
- Enhanced the support for students with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) by assisting public sector ordinary primary and secondary schools to deploy a 3-tier intervention model with proven effectiveness in phases from the 2020/21 school year, which is expected to benefit about 10 000 students with ASD. The support will also include the provision of tier-2 support by non-governmental organisations on school-based small group training on social adaptive skills. (EDB)
- Enhanced the staff establishment of the boarding sections of aided special schools starting from the 2020/21 school year to provide better services to boarders. Measures include upgrading the ranks of warden and assistant warden of boarding sections with a capacity of 40 or above, and increasing the number of assistant wardens and houseparents-in-charge; improving the Saturday and Sunday manning ratios; and providing an additional grant to the boarding sections of schools for children with physical disability, moderate intellectual disability (ID), severe ID and visual impairment cum ID to employ personal care workers or hire related services. (EDB)
- Provided sufficient resources to each public sector primary school for employing at least one graduate social worker and enhancing the provision of school social workers in special schools to better cater for the needs of the students. (EDB)
- Injected \$800 million into the Gifted Education Fund in 2019 for generating investment income to support the service enhancement of the Hong Kong Academy for Gifted Education, implement measures recommended by the Advisory Committee on Gifted Education, and to encourage gifted education providers to provide quality advanced learning programmes for gifted students. (EDB)
- Implemented various measures to strengthen support for non-Chinese speaking students (please refer to Chapter VIII for details). (EDB)

## Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority

- Made a new commitment of about \$360 million in early 2019 to provide funding support to enable the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority (HKEAA) to administer the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination for four cohorts from 2019 to 2022. A study on possible options to resolve the long-term financial problem of the HKEAA is being conducted. (EDB)

## Kindergarten Education

- Adjusted the salary-related portion of the subsidies for teaching staff according to the annual civil service pay adjustment starting from the 2018/19 school year. The two-year tide-over grant (2017/18 to 2018/19 school years) has also been extended by three years to the 2021/22 school year. (EDB)
- Implemented measures to strengthen the professional development of principals and teachers in kindergartens. Starting from the 2018/19 school year, each principal and teacher of kindergartens joining the kindergarten education scheme should participate in 60 hours of continuous professional development activities for every three-year cycle. (EDB)
- Conducted consultation on a review of the new kindergarten education policy, including exploring the feasibility of putting in place a salary scale for kindergarten teachers. (EDB)

## Qualifications Framework

- Injected \$1.2 billion into the Qualifications Framework Fund in 2018 for the continued implementation of various initiatives of the Qualifications Framework. Over 2 500 practitioners and 400 education and training providers benefited in 2019–20. (EDB)

## Continuing Education

- Injected an additional \$10 billion into Continuing Education Fund (CEF) in 2018 and implemented a series of enhancement measures in 2019. Over 9 800 registered CEF courses are available as compared with 7 800 registered courses before enhancement. (LWB)

## Facilitation Measures for Non-local Talents

- Continue to make arrangements to facilitate non-local talents and professionals to undertake certain short-term activities in designated sectors in Hong Kong, including the pilot scheme launched in June 2020 to facilitate eligible overseas persons to take up short-term assignments in arbitration proceedings in Hong Kong. In addition, professionals and skilled persons coming to Hong Kong for employment are welcome to come with their family members under the dependant visa regime. (SB, DoJ)

## Training Initiatives

- Implemented new facilitation measures to empower training institutions in the public sector<sup>1</sup> to contribute to developing Hong Kong as a Regional Training Hub. Over 5 600 non-local trainees from B&R countries, Greater Bay Area cities and other overseas countries attended training courses/academic programmes provided by these institutions in 2018 and 2019. (ICAC, CSB, SB, THB)

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<sup>1</sup> The training institutions are: the Independent Commission Against Corruption; Civil Service Training and Development Institute; Fire and Ambulance Services Academy; Hong Kong Police College; Hong Kong International Aviation Academy; and MTR Academy.

# New Initiatives

## Striving for Quality Education

- Strengthen the Government's role in policy making, implementation and monitoring, with reviews and enhancements in such areas as education policy, teachers' quality and curriculum design. In the coming year, the major tasks include:
  - review the implementation of the existing education policies to ensure effective monitoring and accountability in school management, administration, finance and implementation of rules and regulations. By enhancing communication with school sponsoring bodies and training for school managers, the Education Bureau (EDB) will specify the powers, responsibilities and requirements of all parties concerned to strengthen school management and administration, as well as enhance the management and quality of the teaching force;
  - enhance the quality of teachers by measures covering the entry to the profession, training and management. EDB will enhance liaison with teacher education institutions putting heavier emphasis on teachers' professional conduct in pre-service training for prospective teachers; and step up training requirements for newly appointed and serving teachers and teachers to be promoted, covering professional roles, values and conduct of teachers; education development at the local, national and international levels; national education; national security education, etc.;
  - continue to handle cases involving teachers' misconduct or illegal behavior according to the Education Ordinance (Cap. 279) and established practices. Appropriate penalty will be imposed on substantiated cases in a fair and reasonable manner. EDB will also continue to support schools on stringent selection and enhanced management of staff to guard against appointment of improper persons to serve as teachers; and
  - continue to optimise the school curriculum, taking into account the six directional recommendations put forward by the Task Force on Review of School Curriculum. (EDB)
- Promote national security education in schools to cultivate among students a correct understanding of the concepts of national security through relevant subjects and learning activities inside and outside classroom; provide guidelines as well as teacher training and resource materials to schools on school administration and education to facilitate school personnel and students to understand and comply with the National Security Law; and work with post-secondary institutions to promote national security education at the post-secondary level. (EDB)
- Launch public consultation in late-2020 on the proposed legislative amendments to the Post Secondary Colleges Ordinance (Cap. 320), following the recommendation of the Task Force on Review of Self-financing Post-secondary Education. (EDB)

## Attracting Talent

- Task the Chief Secretary for Administration, through the Human Resources Planning Commission under his chairmanship, to co-ordinate with relevant policy bureaux in reviewing and enhancing Hong Kong's talent attraction regime in a holistic manner, taking into account views from the business sector and stakeholders. (CSO)
- Review the coverage of the Talent List and the weight of the score awarded to the qualified talents of the relevant professions in the overall scores of the Quality Migrant Admission Scheme to better reflect the latest trends in the employment market, without prejudice to the training and employment opportunities of local talents. (LWB)
- Work in partnership with relevant agencies, including the Hong Kong Science and Technology Park, Cyberport, the Hong Kong Productivity Council, universities, the five research institutes, the West Kowloon Cultural District, the Financial Services Development Council and the financial services regulators, etc., to adopt a strategic approach to promote actively around the world the opportunities in Hong Kong for high quality talents, focusing on attracting those in demand. Promotion will also be undertaken in Hong Kong to raise the awareness of local talents of the same opportunities where applicable, and help students and young professionals prepare themselves for the future. (CEDB, Relevant bureaux)

## Provision of New Teaching Facilities

- Support the provision of new teaching facilities and student hostel for the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts on Hong Kong Island to enrich teaching and learning infrastructure and experience and foster the long-term development of tertiary education in performing arts. (HAB)
- Continue to improve the teaching and learning environment of public sector schools by building new school premises or providing for in-situ expansion. At present, a total of 10 public sector school projects are at the construction stage, whereas another 23 projects are under planning (including two special schools in Kowloon Tong, of which one has boarding facilities). (EDB)

## Vocational and Professional Education and Training

- Work closely with the Steering Committee on Promotion of VPET and Qualifications Framework established in September 2020 to further promote VPET in an innovative and co-ordinated manner, taking account of recommendations of the Task Force on Promotion of VPET. (EDB)
- Launch a pilot scheme in the 2020/21 academic year, under which an external consultant will be engaged to provide one-stop professional service on VPET for teachers of selected secondary schools, in order to enhance the promotion of VPET in secondary education. The Government will also encourage PTAs and Federations of PTAs to organise more VPET promotion activities to strengthen parent education and facilitate parents' acceptance of their children's decisions to pursue VPET pathways. (EDB)

- Commence a review on sub-degree education and launch a pilot project on applied degrees in late-2020. (EDB)

## **Embracing Blockchain Technology**

- Launch the pilot implementation by the Joint Universities Computer Centre of a common online platform to facilitate verification of higher education qualification using blockchain technology starting from mid-2021. (ITB)

## **Promotion of Applied Learning**

- Further promote Applied Learning as a valued senior secondary elective subject, and provide students with the subsidy and more diversified courses to broaden their studies and learning experience, so as to facilitate their diversified development. (EDB)







## Chapter VIII

# Caring Society

## **My Belief**

**“Care for children, family support, patient care, poverty alleviation and elderly care are essential for building a compassionate and inclusive society.”**

**“Senior citizens in Hong Kong have contributed immensely to the prosperity of our city. The Government should continue to allocate resources and utilise innovation and technology so that our senior citizens can enjoy the golden period in their twilight years.”**

**“Our society has great respect for self-reliance and values Government efforts to provide education, training and retraining to help people adapt to new economy and trades. For those unable to support themselves, the Government has to put in place a sustainable welfare system to provide appropriate assistance.”**

**“We appreciate that young people have great hopes and aspirations for the future of Hong Kong and also understand that they have their own ideas and views on social issues. We should understand the feelings and needs of our young people as they learn to become independent and prepare themselves to contribute to society.”**

To make better use of the resources, we should promote cross-sector and cross-profession collaboration as well as public-private partnership in adherence to the following principles:

- (1) pro-child;
- (2) pro-family;
- (3) pro-work;
- (4) pro-user; and
- (5) pro-health.

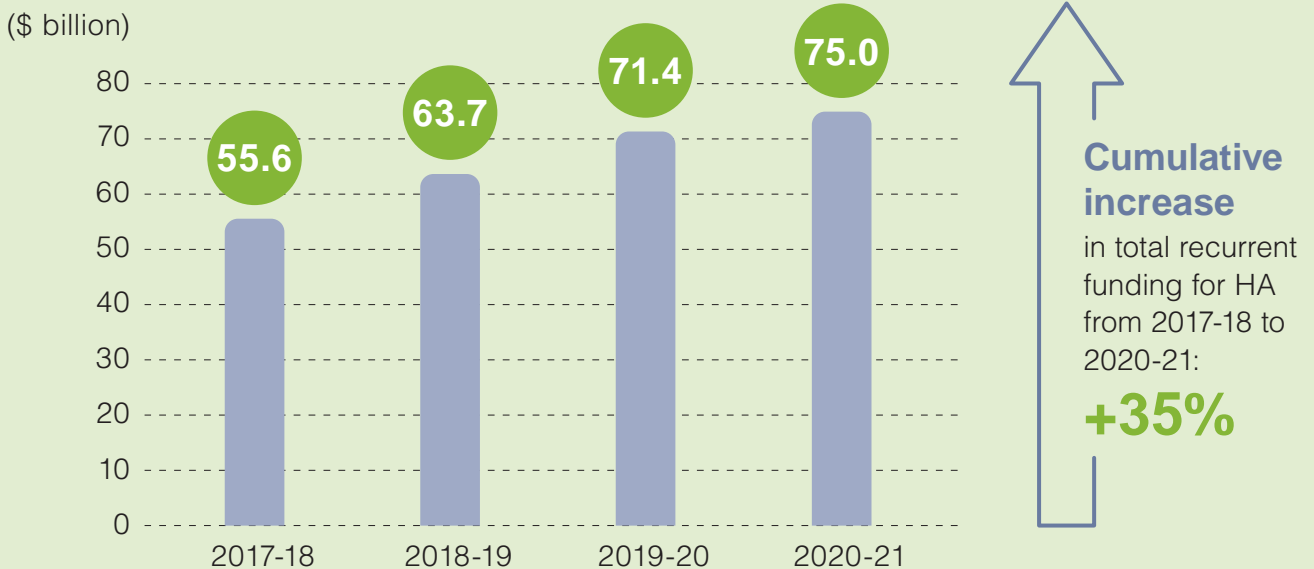
# Primary Healthcare

The first District Health Centre (DHC) at Kwai Tsing recorded **over 29 000** service attendances and conducted **5 800** health risk assessments.



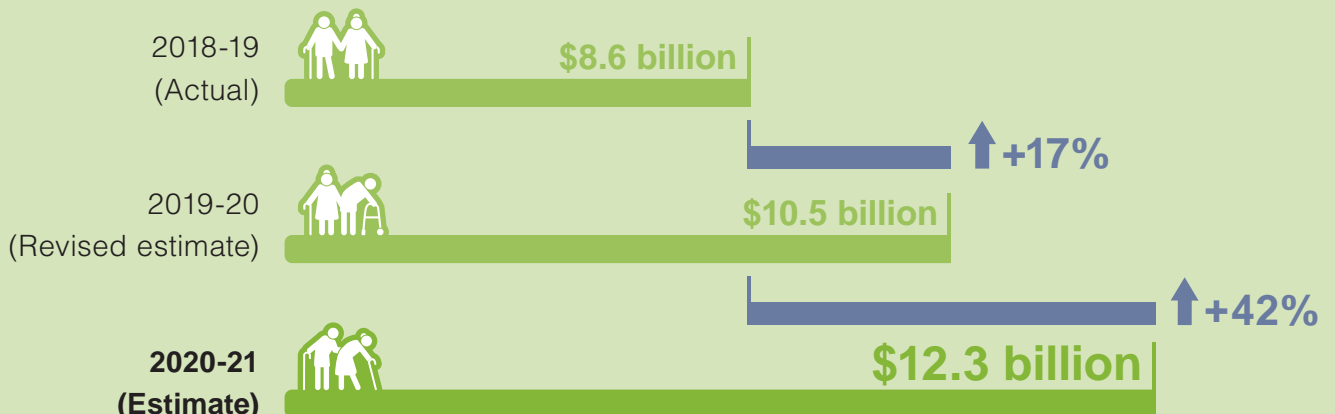
- DHC established
- DHCs to be established by 2022

## Total Recurrent Funding to Hospital Authority (HA)



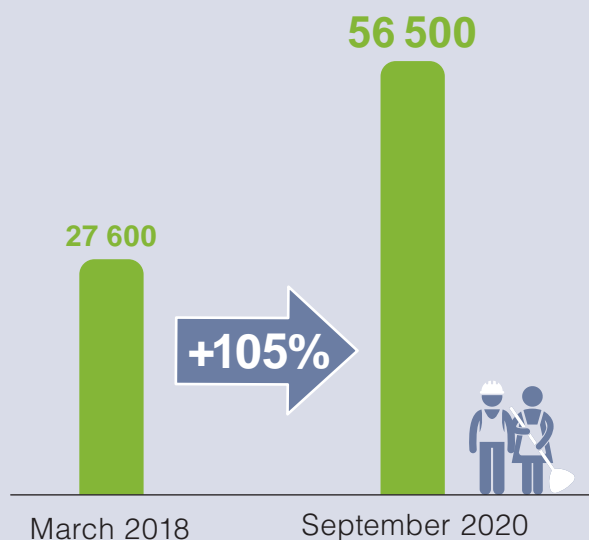
## Elderly Services

Estimated recurrent expenditure in 2020-21 is **42% higher** than that in 2018-19

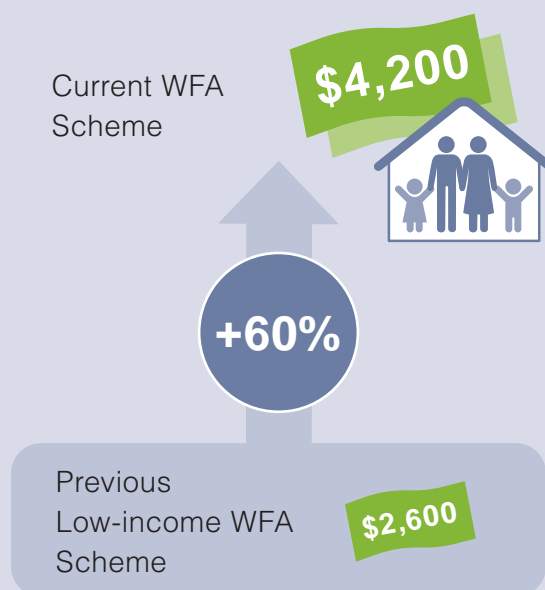


# Pro-family

## Number of households benefited from the Working Family Allowance (WFA) Scheme

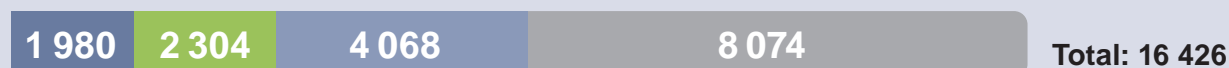


## Maximum amount of allowance received by a 4-member household

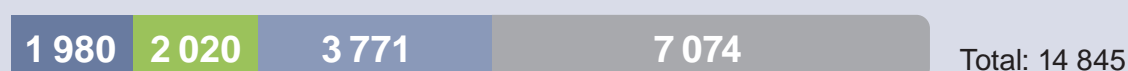


## Number of places for Pre-school Rehabilitation Services

### 2020-21 (Estimate)



### 2019-20



### 2018-19



### 2017-18



- Integrated Programme in Kindergarten-cum-Child Care Centre
- Special Child Care Centre
- Early Education & Training Centre
- On-site Pre-school Rehabilitation Services (increase to 10 000 by 2022/23 school year)

# Progress Made

A total of 240 new initiatives were announced since July 2017 under “Improving People’s Livelihood” and “Connecting with Young People”, of which 235 have been completed or are progressing on schedule.

Key initiatives completed or major progress made are as follows:

## Healthcare Services

### Primary Healthcare

- Set up the Steering Committee on Primary Healthcare Development and the Primary Healthcare Office in November 2017 and March 2019 respectively to steer the development of primary healthcare services. (FHB)
- Commenced operation of the first District Health Centre (DHC) in Kwai Tsing District since September 2019, with satellite centres being set up in five sub-districts progressively. Operation service contracts for two more DHCs (Sham Shui Po and Wong Tai Sin) have been awarded. (FHB)
- Earmarked suitable sites for setting up DHCs in all other districts and secured the support of the relevant District Councils on the locations of nine DHCs. (FHB)

### Prevention and Control of Diseases

- Launched “Towards 2025: Strategy and Action Plan to Prevent and Control Non-communicable Diseases in Hong Kong” in May 2018 to safeguard people’s health. (FHB)

- Expanded the eligible groups under the Vaccination Subsidy Scheme since the 2018/19 season to cover people aged between 50 and 64, and provided outreach vaccination services for primary school students, resulting in an increase in the overall seasonal influenza vaccination uptake rate by 46% when compared with that of the 2017/18 season. Regularised the School Outreach Vaccination Pilot Programme to cover primary schools, and kindergartens and child care centres (CCCs) starting from the 2019/20 and 2020/21 season respectively. Besides, starting from the 2019/20 school year, provided human papillomavirus vaccination to Primary Five female students. Provided pertussis vaccinations for pregnant women since July 2020. (FHB)
- Launched the Hong Kong Cancer Strategy in July 2019, covering directions, strategies and expected outcomes in areas ranging from cancer prevention, screening, diagnosis, treatment, technology and support, research and surveillance activities. Launched an online resource hub in July 2020 to provide health information related to cancer. (FHB)
- Launched in October 2020 the “Hong Kong Viral Hepatitis Action Plan 2020–2024” with a view to reducing the number of people suffering from viral hepatitis. (FHB)
- Regularised the Dementia Community Support Scheme and expanded to cover all 41 district elderly community centres in Hong Kong since May 2019. (FHB)
- Extended the multi-disciplinary service model of the common mental disorder clinic to five hospital clusters. (FHB)

- Launched in 2019 three territory-wide mental health prevalence surveys covering children, adolescents and elderly persons. (FHB)
- Introduced the Smoking (Public Health) (Amendment) Bill 2019 into the Legislative Council (LegCo) in February 2019 to prohibit the import, manufacture, sale, distribution and advertisement of alternative smoking products, including e-cigarettes, heat-not-burn products and herbal cigarettes. (FHB)
- Designated 11 bus interchange facilities located at tunnel portal areas or leading to expressways or tunnels as no smoking areas. (FHB)

### Development and Positioning of Chinese Medicine

- Allocated more resources to continue to develop Chinese medicine, including the construction of the Chinese Medicine Hospital and the Government Chinese Medicines Testing Institute. Commenced the tendering procedure for the operation of the Chinese Medicine Hospital in September 2019. (FHB)
- Provided an annual quota of around 620 000 for Government-subsidised Chinese medicine general consultation, tui-na and acupuncture services in 18 Chinese Medicine Clinics cum Training and Research Centres, with effect from March 2020. The fee for each consultation/treatment per visit is at \$120. (FHB)
- Rolled out various funding schemes under the \$500-million Chinese Medicine Development Fund, which benefited different levels of the Chinese medicine industry, non-profit-making organisations and academic institutions promoting the development of Chinese medicine in Hong Kong. (FHB)

### Enhancing Healthcare Services

- Introduced since 2018–19 a triennium funding arrangement for the Hospital Authority (HA) to increase HA's recurrent funding progressively, having regard to population growth and demographic changes. Overall, a total recurrent funding of \$75 billion is provided to the HA in 2020–21, representing an increase of 35% over the provision in 2017–18. (FHB)
- Commenced inpatient services at Tin Shui Wai Hospital since November 2018, with 24-hour Accident and Emergency services. (FHB)
- Commenced services at the Hong Kong Children's Hospital by phases since December 2018 to treat complex, serious and uncommon paediatric cases requiring multi-disciplinary management. (FHB)
- The Steering Committee on Genomic Medicine has completed its work and published a report. The Hong Kong Genome Institute was set up in May 2020. (FHB)

- Enhanced cancer diagnosis and treatment services. Specific measures included recruiting 14 additional Cancer Case Managers (CCM) and expanding the CCM programme from currently covering colorectal cancer and breast cancer patients to gynaecological cancer and haematological cancer patients, serving additional 1 270 patients; providing additional 4 000 attendances for radiography services; increasing around 1 700 quotas for Specialist Outpatient Clinic and Nurse Clinic attendances in oncology; and recruiting additional Medical Social Workers to offer psychosocial support to around 5 600 additional attendances, etc., in 2020–21. (FHB)
- Relaxed the means test mechanism under the Samaritan Fund and Community Care Fund Medical Assistance Programmes since early 2019. The enhancement measures include modifying the calculation of annual disposable financial resources for drug subsidy application by counting only 50% of the patients' household net assets and refining the definition of "household" adopted in financial assessment. (FHB)
- Provided assistance for patients with uncommon diseases, including extending the scope of the assistance programme and providing patients with subsidies for specific drug treatments. (FHB)
- Formulated recommendations by the Special Task Group formed under the HA Board to enhance the HA's administrative efficiency, including simplifying the resource bidding process; streamlining meetings of Co-ordinating Committees, Central Committees and other management meetings at cluster and hospital levels; and streamlining the decision making processes of the HA Board and its committees. (FHB)
- Launched a three-year programme Healthy Teeth Collaboration in July 2018 to provide free oral checkups, dental treatments and oral health education for adults aged 18 or above with intellectual disabilities. (FHB)
- Implemented an outreach dental programme in Special Child Care Centres (SCCCs) under the Social Welfare Department (SWD) to provide children under age six with intellectual disabilities with free on-site dental check-up and oral health education. If necessary, children can be referred to the Special Oral Care Service at Hong Kong Children's Hospital for follow up treatment. (FHB)
- Under the Outreach Dental Care Programme for the Elderly, a total of 23 outreach dental teams have been set up in ten non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to provide free outreach dental services for elders in residential care homes, day care centres and similar facilities in the territory. The target group of the Elderly Dental Assistance Programme was expanded to cover elderly persons aged 65 or above receiving the Old Age Living Allowance (OALA), and the service scope of the programme was refined in February 2019. The programme has been extended for three years up to February 2022. (FHB)



## Sustainable Development of Healthcare System

- The HA will employ all qualified local medical graduates and provide them with relevant specialist training. (FHB)
- Implemented the Voluntary Health Insurance Scheme (VHIS) in April 2019. As at end-March 2020, the number of VHIS policies reached 522 000. As at end-July 2020, 67 Certified Plans had been certified and were available in the market, offering 257 products for consumers. (FHB)
- Amended legislation to allow paired and pooled organ donations in Hong Kong. The HA launched a pilot Paired Kidney Donation Programme in the fourth quarter of 2018. (FHB)

## Enhancing Public Health Regulation

- Passed the Private Healthcare Facilities Bill in November 2018 to implement a new regulatory regime for private hospitals, day procedure centres, clinics and health services establishments to ensure public safety and enhance consumer rights. (FHB)
- Passed the Pharmacy and Poisons (Amendment) Bill 2019 in July 2020 to provide a clear and dedicated regulatory framework on the use of advanced therapy products to safeguard public health and facilitate the relevant scientific development. (FHB)

## Employees' Benefits and Support

### Labour Protection

- Launched the HKMC Annuity Plan in July 2018. Lowered the minimum eligible age for the Plan from 65 to 60 since February 2020. About 8 900 policies have been sold, with a total premium of over \$5.6 billion, since the launch of the Plan. (FSTB)
- Strengthened the protection of the rights and benefits of employees injured at work, including enhancing Claims Support Services; establishing a platform with relevant stakeholders for implementing a pilot scheme on enhancing the follow-up procedures for sick leave relating to work injury; and strengthening the enforcement of the Employees' Compensation Ordinance (Cap. 282). (LWB)
- Actively preparing for the launch of a three-year Pilot Rehabilitation Programme for Employees Injured at Work targeting injured employees from the construction industry, and preparing an Amendment Bill for introduction into the LegCo in the 2020–2021 legislative session to empower the Occupational Safety and Health Council to administer the Programme. (LWB)
- Strengthened the referral mechanism for relatively risk-prone renovation and maintenance works, and launched the Construction Safety Ambassador Pilot Scheme. (LWB)
- Drafting the enabling legislation for implementing the abolition of the arrangement of using employers' mandatory contributions under the Mandatory Provident Fund (MPF) System to offset severance payment/long service payment. (LWB)

- Implemented new measures for enhancing the protection of non-skilled employees engaged by government service contractors since April 2019, which includes increasing the weighting of wage levels in tender assessments. As a result, such wages in contracts awarded since have increased by more than 24%. (LWB)

### Employees Retraining

- Injected \$2.5 billion into the Employees Retraining Fund in 2020 for the Employees Retraining Board (ERB) to strengthen support to employees affected by economic downturn. (LWB)

### Enhanced Employment Support

- Launched in September 2020 a pilot scheme on retention allowance to encourage the elderly, young people and persons with disabilities to undergo and complete on-the-job training. (LWB)
- Enhanced the Work Orientation and Placement Scheme in both 2018 and 2020 to encourage employers to hire and train job seekers with disabilities, including increasing the allowance payable to employers and extending the maximum period of allowance. (LWB)
- Extended the follow-up period for post-placement support for “On the Job Training Programme for People with Disabilities”, “Sunnyway – On the Job Training Programme for Young People with Disabilities” and supported employment service from 6 to 12 months from December 2018. (LWB)

- Published since 2018 the success rates of persons with disabilities as well as those for other candidates to enhance the transparency of civil service recruitment, and doubled the places under the Internship Scheme for Students with Disabilities from an average of 50 to 100. (CSB)

### Employees' Welfare

- Implemented five-day statutory paternity leave with effect from 18 January 2019. (LWB)
- Set up the sixth families clinics and enhanced the clinical psychological services and specialised dental services for civil service eligible persons. (CSB)
- Implemented in March 2020 a Pilot Scheme on Civil Service Chinese Medicine Clinics, providing Chinese medicine services for civil service eligible persons as part of their medical benefits. (CSB)

### Social Welfare Planning and Administration

- Launched a new phase of the Special Scheme on Privately Owned Sites for Welfare Uses in April 2019 for NGOs to apply for the development or redevelopment of the sites they own, thereby increasing the provision of much-needed welfare facilities. (LWB)
- Implemented new arrangement for the land premium policy for religious bodies to encourage the religious community to provide different categories of social services and to optimise the use of land resources. (HAB)
- Earmarked \$20 billion with the target to purchase 120 premises for the provision of about 160 welfare facilities. (LWB)

- Set up a Task Force in November 2017 to conduct a comprehensive review on how to optimise the Lump Sum Grant Subvention System. It is expected that the review will be completed by the first quarter of 2021 the earliest. (LWB)
- Included CCC as one of the types of social welfare services required by the Government under the new phase of the Special Scheme on Privately Owned Sites for Welfare Uses launched in April 2019. (LWB)

## Pro-child

- Injected \$300 million into the Child Development Fund in 2018–19 for launching more projects which aim to boost the self-motivation and confidence of children from low-income families and help them plan for their future. So far, the Fund has supported 234 projects, and over 20 000 children have been benefited. (LWB)
- Established the Commission on Children in June 2018 to address the diversified issues related to children. Launched the Funding Scheme for Children’s Well-being and Development in April 2019 to undertake promotional and public educational projects with the participation of children and stakeholders. (LWB)
- Formulated an appropriate planning ratio for subsidized CCC places on the basis of population and included in the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines in March 2020 with a view to reserving suitable premises in housing development projects for CCC operations and meeting service demands in the new community. (LWB)
- Set up five specialised co-parenting support centres across the territory in October 2019 to strengthen support for the divorced/separated parents with parenting needs, enhance their children’s ability in coping with family changes as well as to co-ordinate and arrange children contact. (LWB)
- Strengthened child care centre services, including improving its long-term planning and manning ratio as well as subsidy level. In addition, the Neighbourhood Support Child Care Project was enhanced to strengthen the child care services provided by community nannies. The above measures are able to encourage women with small children to pursue or to continue their employment. (LWB)

## Pre-school Rehabilitation Services

- Regularised the On-site Pre-school Rehabilitation Services (OPRS) in October 2018 with the number of service places increased from about 3 000 under the pilot scheme to over 8 000 in the 2020/21 school year in phases. The plan is to further increase the number of service places to 10 000 by the 2022/23 school year. (LWB)
- Waived the means test for children on the waiting list of SCCCs (including residential SCCCs) applying for training subsidy and provided additional training subsidy places since October 2017. (LWB)
- Commenced implementation of a 20-month pilot project in the 2020/21 school year at kindergartens/ kindergarten-cum-child care centres participating in the OPRS to provide early intervention services for children with signs of special needs, awaiting assessment by Child Assessment Centres (CACs) or assessed by CACs to have borderline developmental problems. (LWB)

## Pro-family

- Set up the Special Needs Trust in March 2019 to provide affordable trust services for parents of children with special needs. (LWB)
- Increased the number of Parents/Relatives Resource Centres for persons with disabilities progressively from 6 to 19 since March 2019. (LWB)
- Regularised the Pilot Project on Strengthening Support for Persons with Autism and their Parents/Carers and set up three Support Centres for Persons with Autism. In 2019–20, the number of these centres has been increased from three to five. (LWB)
- Streamlined the application and project management procedures of the Community Investment and Inclusion Fund since November 2017 to encourage more organisations, in particular those of a smaller scale, to apply for grants to implement diversified social capital development projects. (LWB)
- Regularised the community support programme for residents of new public rental housing (PRH) estates through the Community Investment and Inclusion Fund in April 2019 to help new residents and families integrate into the community as soon as possible. (LWB)
- Injected an additional \$500 million into the Community Investment and Inclusion Fund in 2020 to support social capital development projects (including community support projects for residents of new PRH estates) and build mutual help networks in the community through cross-sector collaboration. The funding injection should enable the continual operation of the Fund until 2024, for supporting about 140 projects benefiting more than 140 000 people. (LWB)

- Regularised the “Pilot Scheme on Relaxing the Household Income Limit of the Fee-waiving Subsidy Scheme under the After School Care Programme for Low-income Families and Increasing Fee-waiving Subsidy Places” under the Community Care Fund in October 2020 by inserting a one-third reduction of fees and strengthening after school care service with a host of enhancement measures. More than 5 700 students and their families are expected to benefit from these measures. (LWB)
- Regularised the provision of a student grant from the 2020/21 school year, with each secondary day school, primary school and kindergarten student receiving an annual grant of \$2,500, benefiting about 900 000 students in Hong Kong. (EDB)

## Women Affairs

- Secured the passage of legislation to increase statutory maternity leave from 10 weeks to 14 weeks in July 2020, and advanced implementation to December 2020, a year ahead of the original schedule. The additional maternity leave pay paid by employers will be fully reimbursed by the Government, subject to a cap of \$80,000. About 27 000 female employees will benefit each year. (LWB)
- Extended the maternity leave for all female employees of the Government to 14 weeks from 10 October 2018 onwards. As at 30 September 2020, more than 3 200 government employees benefited from this initiative. (CSB)

- Completed the Consultancy Study on the Long-term Development of Child Care Services in November 2018, and put forward a series of short-term and long-term measures to improve the quality and quantity of child care services in Hong Kong. Completed a feasibility study in April 2020 on the provision of after-school care service for children aged three to six in suitable welfare facilities, and re-engineered the Mutual Help Child Care Centres in phases from 2020–21 onwards to provide after-school care service for pre-primary children through additional provision of social workers and supporting staff. (LWB)
- Enhanced the manning ratios for qualified child care workers serving in aided CCC to 1:6 (for children aged 0 to under 2) and 1:11 (for children aged 2 to under 3) in September 2019. By making reference to the enhanced manning ratios of day CCC, those of residential CCC were also adjusted accordingly in September 2019. (LWB)
- Imposed since 2018–19 the requirement for provision of babycare rooms and lactation rooms in the conditions of sale of all commercial land sale sites. (DEVB)
- The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong published in 2018 a “Guidance for Boards and Directors” to give practical advice to boards and directors on their roles to promote, among others, board diversity. With effect from 1 January 2019, listed companies are required to disclose the board’s policy on board diversity, including gender diversity. (FSTB)
- Completed district consultation for the establishment of a designated cremation facility and provided more spaces for keeping abortuses with a view to improving the handling of abortuses in a holistic manner. (FHB)

## Poverty Alleviation and Social Security

- Launched in 2018, the Higher OALA (currently at \$3,715 per month) is benefiting some 530 000 recipients. (LWB)
- Introduced OALA under the Guangdong Scheme and Fujian Scheme in January 2020. Over 12 000 portable OALA recipients are now living in the Mainland. (LWB)
- Conducted the first major review of the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme since 1999 and started implementing a series of improvements, involving additional recurrent expenditure of about \$1 billion. (LWB)
- Increased the rates of allowance and significantly relaxed the eligibility criteria of the Low-income Working Family Allowance Scheme in April 2018, and renamed it as the Working Family Allowance (WFA) Scheme. As at end-September 2020, there were about 56 000 active beneficiary households under the WFA Scheme, doubling the number before the improvements. A further increase in the allowance rates took effect from the claim month of July 2020. (LWB)
- Allocated to the Short-term Food Assistance Service Projects a total of \$659 million since 2018. (LWB)
- Provided a one-off special allowance under the Anti-epidemic Fund to eligible beneficiary household under the WFA Scheme and means-tested Student Financial Assistance for pre-primary, primary and secondary students. The disbursement of the special allowance commenced in batches in June 2020, benefiting about 200 000 households, involving about \$900 million. (LWB)

## Elderly Services

- Increased the number of service quotas of subsidised home care services by 3 500 (from 8 365 in July 2017 to 11 865 in October 2020), and will further increase by 1 500 in 2021; and increased the vouchers under the Pilot Scheme on Community Care Service Voucher for the Elderly from 3 000 in July 2017 to 8 000 in October 2020. (LWB)
- Commenced the purchase of an additional 5 000 EA1 places under the Enhanced Bought Place Scheme in 2019–20 to increase the supply of subsidised residential care places for the elderly and enhance the overall service quality of private residential care homes for the elderly. (LWB)
- Launched the \$1 billion Innovation and Technology Fund for Application in Elderly and Rehabilitation Care in December 2018. A total grant of about \$190 million have been approved, subsidising over 900 elderly and rehabilitation service units to procure or rent over 4 000 technology products. (LWB)

## Providing Support for Persons in Recovery

- Created new clinical psychologist posts at Integrated Community Centres for Mental Wellness from October 2018 to enhance professional support for persons in recovery and persons with suspected mental health problems. (LWB)

## Supporting the Disadvantaged

- Injected \$400 million into the Partnership Fund for the Disadvantaged in 2018–19 to continue to promote cross-sector collaboration in helping the disadvantaged. The injected fund was evenly allocated to the regular portion of the fund and the dedicated portion for after-school learning and support programmes, which will benefit some 130 000 grassroots students. (LWB)
- Provided subvention to NGOs for setting up five Cyber Youth Support Teams to reach out to at-risk and hidden youths to provide early intervention and support. The service commenced operation on 1 December 2018. (LWB)
- Raised the ceiling of cash assistance under the District Support Scheme for Children and Youth Development since 2018–19 to \$2,000 per person per year, and increased the annual quota to 10 000 to better cater for the development needs of deprived children and youths at the district level. (LWB)
- Injected \$50 million into the Trust Fund for Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) in 2018 to continue to provide support for SARS patients and their families. (LWB)
- Provided in 2020–21 two rounds of grants of the one-off living subsidy for low-income households not living in PRH and not receiving CSSA (first round already launched in July 2020). (HAB)

## Enhancing Support for Persons with Disabilities

- Launched the Arts Development Fund for Persons with Disabilities and earmarked \$250 million in March 2019 to provide funding support for arts programmes or activities for persons with disabilities with a view to enhancing their arts knowledge, fostering their interests in arts and developing their potentials. (LWB)
- Increased the number of places of pre-school rehabilitation services, day and residential rehabilitation services, and those provided under the Bought Place Scheme for Private Residential Care Homes for Persons with Disabilities (RCHDs) from 37 945 to 42 619 from 2017 to 2020. (LWB)
- Provide in 2021 an additional 40 designated residential respite places through the Bought Place Scheme for Private RCHDs. (LWB)

## Youth Development

- Established the Youth Development Commission (YDC) chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration in April 2018 to oversee the formulation and co-ordination of youth policies and steer bureaux and departments concerned to take forward the relevant initiatives. In March 2020, the Government announced the re-appointments of the Vice-chairman and 31 non-official members, as well as the appointments of eight new members. To further enhance youth participation and facilitate the YDC to listen to young people's views, the Government has appointed more young people to the YDC for the new term. The average age of the eight new members is 26. (HAB)

- Continue to arrange policy thematic meetings to invite relevant policy bureaux, with a view to further enhancing the operation of the YDC and communicate with young people in a more open, direct and interactive manner. During these meetings, YDC members and young people engage in focused discussion on specific policy issues, particularly those that are related to education, career pursuit and home ownership as well as young people's participation in politics, public policy discussion and debate. (HAB)
- Launched the YDC Youth Ambassadors (YA) Scheme in 2018 and recruited around 100 YAs. A series of training sessions and activities, including thematic seminars and exchanges and training outside Hong Kong have been organised for the YAs. Arrangements have also been made for them to serve as volunteers in large-scale and international events organised by the Government. (HAB)
- Pioneered the Space Sharing Scheme for Youth in 2017, which has met with enthusiastic response from property owners and NGO operators. So far, 12 projects have been rolled out to provide floor space to youth entrepreneurs at concessionary rental and relevant ancillary support to young entrepreneurs and artists. (HAB)

- Rolled out a pilot scheme on youth entrepreneurship in Shenzhen in 2018 and launched two brand-new funding schemes under the Youth Development Fund in 2019 to support youth start-ups who intend to start their businesses in Hong Kong and Mainland cities of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA). Through the new funding schemes, more than \$100 million will be granted to support 16 NGOs in implementing youth entrepreneurship projects, under which subsidies will be provided for around 200 youth start-ups, while incubation services will be rendered to about 4 000 young people. (HAB)
- Continue to enhance the breadth and depth of youth exchange and internship programmes, benefiting over 70 000 participants each year. In particular,
  - Thematic Youth Internship Programmes to the Mainland were expanded from two programmes in 2017 to a total of seven in 2019, with five more in the pipeline;
  - United Nations Volunteers-Hong Kong Universities Volunteer Internship Programme was further expanded to sponsor 30 Hong Kong university students per cycle to take up short-term work assignments in United Nations agencies in more overseas destinations;
  - Scheme on Corporate Summer Internship on the Mainland and Overseas launched in 2018 provides quality internship opportunities outside Hong Kong to more than 200 students every year; and
  - on-going enhancement measures were introduced to our funding schemes for internship and exchange in order to better meet young people's needs. (HAB)
- Increased the number of offers for the Multi-faceted Excellence Scholarship to 40 to promote the culture of multi-faceted excellence. (HAB)
- Increased the recurrent subvention for 13 subvented bodies, including 11 uniformed groups and 2 NGOs involved in youth development, by a total of \$10 million from 2019–20, in order to enhance our support for their youth development work. (HAB)
- Regularised the Member Self-recommendation Scheme for Youth (MSSY), under which young people aged between 18 and 35 with a commitment to serve the community are recruited regularly to participate in government advisory committees. So far, 35 committees have joined the Scheme covering a total of 71 seats and 50 members have been appointed. Given the positive feedback, starting from MSSY Phase IV, the number of participating committees in each phase will be increased from 10 to 15. At present, around 340 posts are held by young people who have been appointed to advisory and statutory bodies (ASBs) directly or indirectly through MSSY. The overall ratio of appointed youth members in ASBs has increased from 7.8% in 2017 to 13% as at mid-2020 and is gradually moving towards the target of 15% set by the current-term Government. (HAB)
- Recruited policy and project co-ordination officers to work in the Policy Innovation and Co-ordination Office to involve young people in policy research and project co-ordination. (PICO/CSO)



- Made considerable progress under the Youth Hostel Scheme (YHS) to relieve the short-term accommodation needs of working youth, including relaxing the requirement to allow YHS tenants to apply for PRH, commencing the operation of the first youth hostel in Tai Po, starting the construction of the largest youth hostel in Yuen Long, and launching a new project in Wan Chai. We will continue to take forward all youth hostel projects in collaboration with the NGOs concerned to provide a total of around 1 760 places within the next two years, as well as another 1 600 places through five other projects currently in progress. (HAB)
- Adjusted the additional funding models for schools admitting NCS students starting from the 2020/21 school year and stepped up monitoring and support. Provided all schools admitting a relatively small number of NCS students (i.e. ordinary schools admitting less than 10 NCS students and special schools admitting less than six NCS students) with a new two-tiered subsidy with additional funding. The amount of additional funding provided to schools admitting NCS students will be adjusted based on the annual change of the Composite Consumer Price Index and/or the annual Civil Service Pay Adjustment. (EDB)

## Strengthening Support for Ethnic Minorities

- Set up in mid-2018 the Steering Committee on Ethnic Minority Affairs, chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration. Under the supervision of the steering committee, around 30 new measures to enhance support for ethnic minorities (EMs) have been rolled out, covering areas such as education, employment, social welfare and social integration. (CSO)
- Provided tiered subsidy for kindergartens under the kindergarten education scheme admitting non-Chinese speaking (NCS) students, as well as public sector ordinary schools and Direct Subsidy Scheme (DSS) schools admitting NCS students with special educational needs. (EDB)
- Continue to provide NCS students with the support for Chinese language learning, including the provision of teacher professional development programmes, school-based professional support services and learning and teaching resources, with a view to facilitating the implementation of the Chinese Language Curriculum Second Language Learning Framework; and providing different language learning opportunities for NCS students to boost their confidence in learning Chinese. We will also explore how to gauge their progress in learning Chinese language through longitudinal studies, and provide feedbacks to schools to further enhance support services. (EDB)

- Strengthened education for NCS parents and helped them understand the importance of enrolling their children as early as possible in kindergartens using Chinese as the medium of instruction, enhance their communication with schools, and make suitable arrangements to cater for their children’s daily learning. Provide a series of parent education programmes for parents of NCS students starting from the 2020/21 school year to help them support their children’s learning, encourage their children to master Chinese language, and gain better understanding of the multiple pathways available to their children. (EDB)
- Completed a comprehensive review of the Chinese language proficiency requirements for all civil service grades, with a view to providing more opportunities for EMs to seek employment in the Government. We also launched an internship programme in 2019 for EM university students on a pilot basis. (CSB)
- Enhanced the training on cultural sensitivity/equal opportunities for civil service new recruits and frontline staff. (CSB)
- Enhanced the training support for EMs by the ERB starting from 2019–20, including expanding the dedicated language and industry-specific training courses, and allowing more flexibility in the education attainment criteria for course enrolment. (LWB)
- Engaged an NGO in 2019–20 to raise EMs’ awareness of domestic violence and sexual violence through community education programmes, and encourage victims to seek help. (LWB)
- Arranged translation and production of more publicity and educational materials to enable EMs to make better use of the services offered by the Department of Health (DH) and enhance the effectiveness of health education on communicable diseases, non-communicable diseases and mental health, etc. (FHB)
- Enhanced the translation services for EMs provided by the Centre for Harmony and Enhancement of Ethnic Minority Residents (CHEER Centre), including introduction of translation services in Vietnamese; enhanced the services of support service centres for EMs, particularly for EM new arrivals and youths; and implemented the District-based Programmes for Racial Harmony to encourage interaction and exchange between the EM and local communities. (HAB)

## Eliminating Discrimination

- Formulated legislative proposal to amend the Sex Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 480) to provide protection from harassment for breastfeeding women. (CMAB)
- Enhanced protection from discrimination and harassment under the Sex Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 480), Disability Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 487), Family Status Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 527), and Race Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 602), with legislative work completed following passage in June 2020 of the Discrimination Legislation (Miscellaneous Amendments) Ordinance 2020. (CMAB)

- Improved the Administrative Guidelines on Promotion of Racial Equality to provide guidance to all government bureaux and departments as well as related organisations so that Hong Kong residents, regardless of their race, can enjoy equal access to public services. (CMAB)

# New Initiatives

## Support for Low-skilled Workers and Low-income and Unemployed Families

### Increase the Number of Statutory Holidays

- Increase progressively the number of statutory holidays under the Employment Ordinance (Cap. 57) from the existing 12 days to 17 days, so that it will be on a par with that of the general holidays, in consultation with the Labour Advisory Board. (LWB)

### Pay MPF Contributions for the Low-income Group

- Put in place the measure of the Government paying the 5% contributions for low-income persons whose monthly income is less than the Minimum Relevant Income, upon full implementation of the eMPF Platform in around 2025. (FSTB)

### Further Improve Government Service Contracts

- Complete the review on the effect of the measures implemented to improve the wages of low-skilled workers in Government contracts to identify room for further improvement. (LWB)

### Employees Retraining

- Strengthen support to employees affected by economic downturn through the ERB's new tranche of the "Love Upgrading Special Scheme" to be implemented from January 2021 for six months until mid-2021. The new tranche will provide training and allowance for 20 000 trainees, doubling the number of the current tranche. (LWB)

- Step up the efforts in encouraging employers of sectors facing persistent manpower shortage (including the caring sector) to participate in ERB's "First-Hire-Then-Train" Scheme by exploring adjustment to the training and working hour arrangements under the Scheme to attract employees to enroll in frontline care posts in Residential Care Homes for the Elderly and arranging employers to join the "Employment Programme for the Elderly and Middle-aged" to apply for on-the-job training allowance. (LWB)

### Improve Access to CSSA for Unemployed

- Provide a time-limited unemployment support special scheme through the CSSA system. The CSSA asset limits for able-bodied persons have been temporarily relaxed by 100% from 1 June 2020. The relevant arrangement has been extended to 31 May 2021, providing a 12-month special scheme in total. We will closely monitor the situation to provide appropriate assistance. (LWB)

### Regularising Short-term Food Assistance Service Projects

- Regularise the Short-term Food Assistance Service Projects from August 2021 upon the completion of the existing service contracts. The Government will earmark \$415 million a year in recurrent expenditure for the service under the Lump Sum Grant Subvention System. (LWB)

## Support for People with Disabilities

- Explore the provision of residential respite service in special schools with a boarding section (where vacant boarding places are available) for graduates who have such need during long holidays. (EDB)
- Examine the feasibility of arranging for residents of hostels for severely mentally handicapped persons who are in need of pairing Day Activity Centre services to receive the services at their hostels where physical space permits. (LWB)

## Support for Senior Citizens

### Combining the Normal and Higher Old Age Living Allowance

- In light of the financial implications of the merger of Normal and Higher OALA with higher payment rate adopted and with asset limits significantly relaxed, the timing of implementing this measure will be reassessed. (LWB)

### Extending the Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities (the \$2 Scheme)

- In light of the financial implications of the \$2 Scheme amid the aging population and further lowering the eligible age from 65 to 60, the timing of implementing this measure and other possible enhancement measures will be reassessed. (LWB)

## Social Welfare Planning and Administration

- Incorporate the planning ratios of rehabilitation services concerned (including long-term residential care services, day rehabilitation services, pre-school rehabilitation services and community support services) into the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines in 2021–22 to ensure the sustainable development of the services. (LWB)

## Healthcare Services

### Gerontechnology Platform

- Design, develop and operate an inclusive “Gerontechnology Platform” under the Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Fund to link up different stakeholders on the supply and demand sides and enhance synergy by way of engagement, cross-sector partnership and collaboration. The goal is to foster the development and application of gerontechnology as a means to enhancing the well-being, quality of life, independence and self-reliance of the elderly as well as providing support to their families, caregivers, healthcare staff and institutions, particularly under the “new normal”. (ITB)

## Mental Health

- Provide targeted and relief support for persons with the most pressing mental health needs, subsequent to the launch of the “Shall We Talk” initiative in July 2020 to promote and educate the public on mental health. A sum of \$300 million will be earmarked under the Beat Drugs Fund to provide financial support for the initiative. The Advisory Committee on Mental Health will be responsible for co-ordinating the initiative (with an estimated annual funding of about \$100 million), and will work with the service providers and NGOs in the sector to identify needs and set priorities, with a view to facilitating or promoting projects as appropriate. (FHB, SB)
- Further strengthen child and adolescent psychiatric service, it is proposed that the Student Mental Health Support Scheme<sup>1</sup> will be gradually extended to cover all primary and secondary schools in the public sector and schools under the DSS across the territory in phases starting from the 2021/22 school year. (FHB)

## Prevention and Control of Diseases

- Regularise the seasonal influenza vaccination school outreach service for kindergartens, kindergarten-cum-child care centres and CCCs. (FHB)

## Women Affairs

- Based on the latest recommendations of the Cancer Expert Working Group on Cancer Prevention and Screening of the Cancer Co-ordinating Committee on breast cancer screening, the Government will adopt a risk-based approach for breast cancer screening. DH will provide breast cancer screening for eligible women having regard to their risk of developing breast cancer. (FHB)

## Youth Development

### Subsidising and Promoting Youth Outdoor Adventure Training Activities

- Invite the YDC to introduce a new funding scheme under the Youth Development Fund to sponsor eligible NGOs in providing local outdoor adventure training activities for young people. (HAB)

### Youth Entrepreneurship

- Invite the YDC to raise the funding of the current-round Funding Scheme for Youth Entrepreneurship in the GBA, with a view to supporting more youth start-ups to strengthen their corporate governance, adaptability and digital competence. Afterwards, the Government will establish the Alliance of Hong Kong Youth Innovative and Entrepreneurial Bases in the GBA to serve as a one-stop information, publicity and exchange platform to further support innovation and entrepreneurship by Hong Kong youth in the GBA. (HAB)

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<sup>1</sup> The Food and Health Bureau has, in collaboration with the Education Bureau, the HA and the SWD, launched the Student Mental Health Support Scheme based on the medical-educational-social collaboration model since the 2016/17 school year. Interdisciplinary teams comprising psychiatric nurses from the HA, designated teachers and school social workers are formed in schools to provide support services for students with mental health needs.

# Abbreviations

AAHK	Airport Authority Hong Kong
AEF	Anti-epidemic Fund
API	application programming interface
ASB	advisory and statutory body
ASD	autism spectrum disorders
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
AV	Autonomous Vehicle
AWE	AsiaWorld-Expo
B&R	Belt and Road
BIM	building information modelling
BUD Fund	Dedicated Fund on Branding, Upgrading and Domestic Sales
CAC	Child Assessment Centre
CCC	Child Care Centre
CCM	cancer case manager
CDTA	comprehensive avoidance of double taxation agreement
CEDB	Commerce and Economic Development Bureau
CEF	Continuing Education Fund
CEPA	Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement
CFA	Court of Final Appeal
CIC	Construction Industry Council
CITF	Construction Innovation and Technology Fund
CLNPJ	non-permanent judge from another common law jurisdiction
CMAB	Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
CoE	Centre of Excellence for Major Project Leaders
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease-2019
CSB	Civil Service Bureau
CSO	Chief Secretary for Administration's Office

CSSA	Comprehensive Social Security Assistance
CTF	community treatment facility
DC	District Council
DCV	diesel commercial vehicle
DEVB	Development Bureau
DH	Department of Health
DHC	District Health Centre
DoJ	Department of Justice
DSS	Direct Subsidy Scheme
EA	employment agency
EAC	Electoral Affairs Commission
ECIC	Hong Kong Export Credit Insurance Corporation
EDB	Education Bureau
EffO	Efficiency Office
EFLS	Environmentally Friendly Linkage System
EM	ethnic minority
EMF	SME Export Marketing Fund
ENB	Environment Bureau
ERB	Employees Retraining Board
ETCZ	Economic and Trade Co-operation Zone
ETO	Economic and Trade Office
FATF	Financial Action Task Force
FHB	Food and Health Bureau
FiT	Feed-in Tariff
FPS	Faster Payment System
FSTB	Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau
FTA	free trade agreement
GBA	Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area



GD	Guangdong
GSH	Green Form Subsidised Home Ownership Scheme
HA	Hospital Authority
HAB	Home Affairs Bureau
HKDC	Hong Kong Design Centre
HKEAA	Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority
HKHA	Hong Kong Housing Authority
HKHS	Hong Kong Housing Society
HKIA	Hong Kong International Airport
HKMA	Hong Kong Monetary Authority
HKSAR	Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
HKSTPC	Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation
HKTDC	Hong Kong Trade Development Council
HOS	Home Ownership Scheme
HSITP	Hong Kong-Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Park
HZMB	Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge
I&T	innovation and technology
IA	investment agreement
ICAC	Independent Commission Against Corruption
ID	intellectual disability
IMS	Integrity Management System
IPP	Inclusive Parks for Pet
IT	information technology
ITB	Innovation and Technology Bureau
ITVF	Innovation and Technology Venture Fund
KE	Kowloon East
LandsD	Lands Department
LCF	Lantau Conservation Fund

LCSD	Leisure and Cultural Services Department
LegCo	Legislative Council
LRC	Law Reform Commission
LTV	loan-to-value
LWB	Labour and Welfare Bureau
MiC	Modular Integrated Construction
MPF	Mandatory Provident Fund
MSSY	Member Self-recommendation Scheme for Youth
NCS	Non-Chinese Speaking
NDA	New Development Area
NGO	non-governmental organisation
NHC	National Health Commission
NSA	national sports association
NSL	The Law of the People's Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
OALA	Old Age Living Allowance
ODR	Online Dispute Resolution
OPRS	On-site Pre-school Rehabilitation Services
PCMO	Project Cost Management Office
PICO	Policy Innovation and Co-ordination Office
PoC	Proof-of-Concept
Police Force	Hong Kong Police Force
PRH	public rental housing
PSGO	Project Strategy and Governance Office
PTA	Parent-Teacher Association
PV	photovoltaic
QEF	Quality Education Fund
R&D	research and development

RCHD	Residential Care Home for Persons with Disabilities
RCHE	Residential Care Home for the Elderly
RE	renewable energy
rebar	reinforcing bar
SARS	Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome
SB	Security Bureau
SCCC	Special Child Care Centre
SESCO	special educational needs co-ordinator
SFGS	SME Financing Guarantee Scheme
SH	Starter Homes
SIE Fund	Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Fund
SMC	school management committee
SME	small and medium enterprise
SSF	subsidised sale flat
SWD	Social Welfare Department
TCAB	Torture Claims Appeal Board
TFLS	Task Force on Land Supply
THB	Transport and Housing Bureau
\$2 Scheme	Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities
THS	Tai Hang Sai
TPS	Tenants Purchase Scheme
UCTP	Universal Community Testing Programme
UK	the United Kingdom
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
URA	Urban Renewal Authority
US	the United States
VHIS	Voluntary Health Insurance Scheme

VPET	Vocational and Professional Education and Training
VTC	Vocational Training Council
WFA	Working Family Allowance
WKCD	West Kowloon Cultural District
WSM	White Form Secondary Market Scheme
WSP	Water Safety Plan
YA	Youth Ambassador
YDC	Youth Development Commission
YHS	Youth Hostel Scheme