For discussion
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Legislative Council
Panel on Commerce and Industry

The Chief Executive's 2021 Policy Address
Policy Initiatives of Innovation and Technology Bureau

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Purpose

      The Chief Executive ("CE") delivered the 2021 Policy Address ("PA") on 6 October 2021.   This paper aims to present the major initiatives related to innovation and technology ("I&T") in the PA and PA Supplement, as well as the progress / achievements of the current-term Government in promoting I&T.

Solidifying the foundation rooted in I&T

2.   I&T is a key policy area of the current-term Government.   I&T development fosters economic diversification, improves citizens' quality of life, and creates quality employment opportunities.   The CE set forth eight major areas[1] for developing I&T in the 2017 PA.   The current-term Government has unprecedentedly invested over $130 billion in developing infrastructure, promoting research and development ("R&D"), nurturing talent, and supporting the industry, etc., thereby striving to enhance the I&T ecosystem in Hong Kong.

3.   The satisfactory growth in many I&T-related figures in recent years reflects that various I&T initiatives are gradually taking effect, and that the I&T ecosystem in Hong Kong has become increasingly vibrant and the I&T atmosphere consistently enhanced.   For example:

> (i)   The number of start-ups rose from around 1 000 in 2014 to around 4 000 in 2021, and that of start-up employees increased from some 2 400 to some 14 000.   We have also witnessed the birth of 12 unicorns in the same period;

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[1]   Including increasing resources for R&D, pooling together technology talent, providing investment funding, providing technological research infrastructure, reviewing existing legislations and regulations, opening up government data, Government to lead changes to procurement arrangements, and strengthening popular science education.

(ii)   Venture capital investment in Hong Kong also substantially increased from around $1.2 billion in 2014 to over $40 billion in 2021; and

(iii)   Hong Kong is currently Asia's largest and the world's second largest fundraising hub for biotechnology companies.   As at end-January 2022, 48 pre-revenue / pre-profit biotechnology companies have listed in Hong Kong, with the relevant funds raised through initial public offering amounting to over $112 billion.

4.   Hong Kong's I&T development has been internationally acclaimed, winning numerous awards and accolades.   For example:

(i)   2021 World Digital Competitiveness Ranking: first in Asia and second worldwide, and first worldwide in terms of "Technology";

(ii)   2021 World Talent Ranking: first worldwide in terms of "Readiness";

(iii)   2020 Digital Intelligence Index [2] and 2019 World Competitiveness Report: third worldwide; and

(iv)   Over the past two years, the technologies developed by I&T quangos (e.g. five R&D Centres [3], Hong Kong Productivity Council, etc.) have won over 40 international awards, including Edison Awards, R&D 100 Awards, CES Innovation Awards, as well as the International Exhibition of Inventions of Geneva.

5.   Relevant progress / achievements of the policy initiatives under the Innovation and Technology Bureau ("ITB") during the current-term Government are set out at **Annex**.

Going from strength to strength in developing I&T at full steam

6.   Our country provides staunch support for Hong Kong's I&T development.   The 14th Five-Year Plan ("the Plan") promulgated in March last year set out in its prologue the grand vision to develop our country into an innovative one with solid technology.   The Plan put forward the development pattern of "dual circulation", which takes the domestic market as the mainstay

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[2]   Jointly published by Mastercard and the Fletcher School of the Tufts University in the United States.

[3]   Automotive Platforms and Application Systems R&D Centre; Hong Kong Applied Science and Technology Research Institute; Hong Kong Research Institute of Textiles and Apparel; Logistics and Supply Chain MultiTech R&D Centre; and Nano and Advanced Materials Institute.

while enabling domestic and foreign markets to interact positively with each other. In addition to expressing clear support for Hong Kong's development into an international I&T hub, the Plan, for the first time, included the Shenzhen-Hong Kong Loop as one of the four major platforms of co-operation in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area ("GBA"), which fully demonstrates the importance the Central Government attaches to Hong Kong's I&T. Meanwhile, the GBA development provides Hong Kong with the best platform to integrate into national development.

7.   The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region ("HKSAR") Government will give full play to Hong Kong's strengths and develop I&T with brand new mindset and at full steam. We will actively participate in the development of the GBA into an international I&T hub and, by integrating into the country's new development pattern of "external circulation" and "domestic circulation", leverage Hong Kong's strengths to serve the needs of the country. We will continue to enhance the I&T ecosystem, which comprehensively covers R&D, financing, production and marketisation. At the same time, we will complement the I&T development in Shenzhen and, more so, the GBA, such that I&T will become a new economic engine to drive economic restructuring and create more diversified job opportunities. Meanwhile, as for the development of the GBA into an international I&T hub, we will continue to explore measures to facilitate the cross-boundary flow of innovation elements such as talent, capital, information and technologies, strengthen international I&T cooperation, develop quality technological infrastructure and innovation platforms, etc. The HKSAR Government has formulated a number of policy initiatives which further drive I&T development based on the above direction, including providing land and infrastructure, further promoting R&D, as well as supporting I&T enterprises and enlarging the talent pool. These policy initiatives have been delivered in the CE's 2021 PA and PA Supplement. Details are set out in paragraphs 8 to 25 below.

New initiatives

Providing land and infrastructure

8.   Having regard to the substantial increase in Hong Kong's demand for land dedicated to scientific research and new industries, the Government has been proactively identifying land to provide the industry with the necessary space for its development in the short, medium and long term. A number of sites have been reserved for I&T development in the 2021 PA. The Government is committed to leveraging the clustering effect and synergistic development among relevant projects, as well as providing adequate ancillary facilities.

San Tin Technopole / Hong Kong-Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Park

9.　　　　The Hong Kong-Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Park Limited is pressing ahead with the construction works of the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Park ("HSITP") in the Lok Ma Chau Loop ("Loop"). The first batch of eight buildings will be completed in phases from end-2024 onwards. The Government is studying ways to expedite the development of HSITP. In the long run, under the Northern Metropolis Development Strategy ("Development Strategy"), HSITP and the areas around Lok Ma Chau / San Tin will be consolidated to form the San Tin Technopole, where land for I&T-related uses is estimated to amount to about 240 hectares ("ha."). The Technopole, together with the Shenzhen I&T Zone, will form the Shenzhen-Hong Kong I&T Co-operation Zone of approximately 540 ha., which will combine the strengths of both Hong Kong and Shenzhen to pool local and non-local talent, and become an essential propeller for the development of an international I&T hub in the GBA.

Ma Liu Shui reclamation project

10.　　　　The Government will revive the Ma Liu Shui reclamation project which, together with the land to be vacated by the relocation of the Sha Tin Sewage Treatment Works to caverns, will provide a total of 88 ha. of new land. The Government proposes that the newly provided land should be mainly for I&T development rather than the originally suggested residential use, so as to strengthen the development of the Eastern Corridor with I&T as a major economic function. The Government will also take this opportunity to improve the public transport service connection of Pak Shek Kok and the Science Park.

Building of landmark I&T facilities with a scale comparable to Cyberport in Lau Fau Shan

11.　　　　Cyberport is another landmark I&T community in Hong Kong. Cyberport has accommodated a number of technology enterprises and incubated five unicorns, covering the areas of Fintech, smart living and digital entertainment. Over the past three years, the start-ups in Cyberport have also attracted investment of over $12.9 billion. The Cyberport 5 Project, which will increase the gross floor area of Cyberport by more than 40% within four years, has commenced.

12.　　　　In the long run, the proposed upgrading of the Hung Shui Kiu / Ha Tsuen as the New Territories North Modern Services Centre under the Development Strategy will be expanded to include Lau Fau Shan. Consideration may be given to the building of landmark I&T facilities with a

scale comparable to Cyberport at a location facing Qianhai, Shenzhen on the other side of the Shenzhen Bay.

Universities' R&D facilities

13.　　The Government has accepted in principle the proposals of the University of Hong Kong ("HKU") and The Chinese University of Hong Kong ("CUHK"), including reserving a 4-ha. site currently zoned "Green Belt" at Pokfulam for HKU to construct facilities for deep technology research, as well as supporting CUHK to use a 2.5-ha. site in the vicinity of the CUHK Medical Centre mainly zoned "Government, Institution or Community" to build research facilities and expand the Medical Centre, and at the same time improving the existing public transport interchange and parking facilities at the University Station of the East Rail Line.　　The Government will also support The Hong Kong Polytechnic University in exploring the use of its Hung Hom Bay Campus, which is currently used for self-financing post-secondary education, for academic and research uses.

Science Park Expansion and the second Advanced Manufacturing Centre

14.　　The Science Park at Pak Shek Kok currently supports about 1 100 technology enterprises and start-ups in areas such as artificial intelligence ("AI"), life and health, environmental technology, and four unicorns have been incubated therein so far.　　Over the past three financial years, its tenants / incubatees have raised funds amounting to $33 billion.　　The Science Park will be expanded so that more space can be provided for technology enterprises and start-ups.　　The first batch of Stage 2 of the Science Park Expansion Programme (SPX2a), to be implemented in the third quarter of this year, is expected to provide a gross floor area of some 13 100 m^2 by 2024, mainly for wet laboratories.

15.　　The Advanced Manufacturing Centre ("AMC") at the Tseung Kwan O InnoPark and the Microelectronics Centre at the Yuen Long InnoPark will be completed in the middle of this year and 2023 respectively.　　The satisfactory industry response to these two facilities indicates that many enterprises share the view that high value-added and technology-intensive manufacturing processes and production lines can be set up in Hong Kong.　　HKSTPC has started to plan for the construction of the second AMC, and is currently identifying suitable land for specialised industries to use advanced manufacturing production lines so as to further promote the development of "re-industrialisation" in Hong Kong.

Further promoting R&D

16.　　　R&D is the foundation of I&T. Hong Kong possesses a strong technological foundation and research capability, with five universities at the world's top 100 and two medical schools at the world's top 50, numerous world-class scholars and distinguished researchers, and rich experience in global research collaboration. Our achievements have been nationally and internationally recognised. To date, we have 16 State Key Laboratories, six Hong Kong Branches of Chinese National Engineering Research Centres, and 22 Joint Laboratories with the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

InnoLife Healthtech Hub

17.　　　With the emphasis of the 14th Five-Year Plan on frontier fields such as life and health disciplines, we believe that Hong Kong should better leverage our strengths in life and health sciences to meet the country's needs. Hong Kong has a solid research foundation in this respect and a good number of world-renowned experts, whose achievements have been widely acclaimed. Our clinical trial centres are recognised by the National Medical Products Administration, and their data which meet relevant clinical trial standards are also widely recognised by relevant bodies in the United States and the European Union. To better leverage Hong Kong's strengths and act in concert with national development, the Government proposes to set up an *InnoLife Healthtech Hub* in HSITP in the Loop, with the 16 life and health-related laboratories in the *InnoHK* research clusters and the eight State Key Laboratories in life and health disciplines as the basis, to focus on R&D of biomedicine, chemistry, physics, engineering, and AI, etc., for application in fields of prevention, diagnosis, pathology tracking, medicine, surgical micro-robots, advanced treatment and rehabilitation, etc. Quite a number of start-ups or large enterprises in life and health disciplines have identified Hong Kong's strengths in this area and the market potential of the GBA are interested in gaining a foothold in Hong Kong. The San Tin Technopole will be able to provide land for the relevant research and advanced manufacturing industries.

Dedicated fund to finance participation in national R&D projects

18.　　　Over the years, local universities have established close collaborative relationships with research institutions in the Mainland through various research programmes of which many have borne fruit. In recent years, quite a number of national R&D projects and funding schemes have been opened up by the Central Government to researchers in Hong Kong. The Government will set up a dedicated fund to finance local universities or research institutes to participate in

national R&D projects, to encourage Hong Kong scientists to continue to take part in such extremely meaningful collaborations and contribute to our country.

Utilising clinical data for R&D

19.   Clinical data is indispensable to R&D on life and health disciplines. The Hospital Authority ("HA") has accumulated clinical data from over 40 hospitals and 100 specialist clinics over the past 20 years, and made impressive achievements in terms of quantity and quality.   A mechanism is already in place to open up such data for R&D use by universities.   As a next step, we will explore collaboration between HA and HKSTPC on the use of HA's clinical data for R&D purposes, so as to support the industry and R&D institutes.

Supporting start-ups / enlarging talent pool

20.   The Government has been supporting start-ups through funding schemes (e.g. Enterprise Support Scheme, Re-industrialisation Funding Scheme, and Technology Start-up Support Scheme for Universities, etc., under the Innovation and Technology Fund), investment funds, incubation programmes, etc., as well as adopting a two-pronged approach in enlarging the I&T talent pool by nurturing local talent and attracting research talent from the Mainland and overseas.   Progress of relevant initiatives is detailed at **Annex**.

21.   In order to nurture students' interest in I&T from a young age, the Government has been striving to promote STEM education in multiple dimensions.   Beyond the regular curriculum, the IT Innovation Lab in Secondary Schools and Knowing More About IT Programmes subsidise secondary and primary schools respectively to organise extra-curricular activities related to information technology.   The STEM Internship Scheme, the Innovation and Technology Scholarship and various schemes implemented by HKSTPC and Cyberport provide internship and training opportunities to encourage university students to explore the I&T sector.   The Government has also launched various schemes to assist the youth to pursue a career in I&T after graduation; for instance, the Research Talent Hub funds enterprises and research institutes to recruit university graduates to conduct R&D work, and the Re-industrialisation and Technology Training Programme funds local enterprises on a matching basis for their staff to receive training in advanced technologies.

Global STEM Professorship Scheme

22.   The Global STEM Professorship Scheme was launched in June 2021 to step up efforts to support universities in recruiting internationally renowned I&T scholars and their teams to conduct research and teaching activities in Hong Kong.   The scheme has supported over 60 outstanding scholars so far.   These scholars and their teams are gradually arriving in Hong Kong.   The Government will continue to implement the scheme in order to further pool research talent.

GBA InnoAcademy

23.   HKSTPC will set up the "GBA InnoAcademy" at its branch in Shenzhen to serve as a resource centre, training hub and exchange platform for talent.   It is expected to commence operation in the middle of this year.

GBA InnoExpress

24.   HKSTPC will also set up the "GBA InnoExpress" at its branch in Shenzhen to nurture start-ups and support I&T enterprises to attract foreign investments and go global.   It is expected to commence operation in the middle of this year.

Facilitating flow of talent within the GBA

25.   The Government will explore the extension of the Immigration Arrangement for Non-local Graduates to cover graduates of Hong Kong universities' GBA campuses.   HKSTPC will work with the relevant institutions to establish incubator networks in their GBA campuses to train up talent for and provide assistance to start-ups.

Way forward

26.   In order to delineate the ITB's regular policy functions and future focus of work more clearly, the current-term Government proposes to rename the ITB as the Innovation, Technology and Industry Bureau in the re-organisation of Government structure to demonstrate the mission to promote "re-industralisation" policies through the application of I&T and smart production and highlight the direction of promoting "re-industrialisation" through I&T in Hong Kong.

27.	Hong Kong presents endless opportunities in I&T. The Government will continue to foster the positive interaction with the industry, academia and research sectors, with a view to formulating strategies and developing Hong Kong into an international I&T hub with concerted efforts.

28.	The Government will continue to encourage individual bureaux/ departments to implement various initiatives under the *Smart City Blueprint for Hong Kong 2.0*, with a view to enabling the general public to perceive the convenience and benefits to their daily lives brought by smart city and the use of I&T.

Innovation and Technology Bureau
Innovation and Technology Commission
Office of the Government Chief Information Officer
Efficiency Office
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Progress / Achievements of Innovation and Technology ("I&T")-related Policy Initiatives of the Current-term Government

Policy Initiatives	Progress / Achievements of the Current-term Government
(1) Resources for Research and Development ("R&D")	
Enhanced tax deduction for research and development ("R&D") expenditure	Introduced the enhanced tax deduction for qualifying R&D expenditure incurred by enterprises on or after 1 April 2018. The total amount of relevant expenditure for claiming tax deduction in the year of assessment 2019/20 was about $3.21 billion, more than 100% increase as compared to 2017/18. For the year of assessment 2020/21, based on the tax returns as at 31 December 2021, the relevant amount of R&D expenditure for claiming tax deduction was about $2.49 billion.
Innovation and Technology Fund	Injected a total of $19.5 billion into the Fund from 2018 to 2022 and consolidated the balance of certain subheads to better utilise resources.
Additional provision of funding	Doubled the annual funding for each State Key Laboratory and Hong Kong branch of Chinese National Engineering Research Centre to $10 million, and that for both the Technology Start-up Support Scheme for Universities and the technology transfer offices of universities to $8 million per university since April 2019.
(2) Technological Research Infrastructure	
InnoHK research clusters	Established two world-class research clusters – *Health@InnoHK* focusing on healthcare technologies and *AIR@InnoHK* on artificial intelligence and robotics technologies. 28 research laboratories set up collaboratively by world-renowned local and non-local universities and research institutions have commenced operation progressively.
Hong Kong-Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Park ("HSITP")	Commenced construction of major infrastructure works at the Lok Ma Chau Loop in July 2021 and foundation works for the first three buildings in December 2021. First batch of eight buildings to be completed in phases from end-2024 to 2027.

Policy Initiatives	Progress / Achievements of the Current-term Government
Cyberport Smart-Space 8 co-working space	Commenced operation in July 2018, with an occupancy rate of around 90%.
Science Park expansion	Completed Stage 1 of the Science Park expansion programme in 2019 with the total gross floor area increased to around 400 000 square metres. It will be further expanded to provide more I&T space and facilities.
Further development of R&D facilities in Science Park	Injected $3 billion into Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation ("HKSTPC") in 2018 for developing R&D-related facilities, such as biobank and the Robotics Catalysing Centre, which have gradually been commissioned since 2020.
InnoCell	Completed with about 500 residential spaces in end-2020 to provide living and collaborative space.
Data Technology Hub	Commenced operation in 2020.
Cyberport 5	Commenced works; target completion in 2025.
(3) I&T Co-operation with Mainland	
One zone, two parks	Co-operated with the Shenzhen Municipal People's Government to jointly develop the Shenzhen-Hong Kong I&T Co-operation Zone ("Co-operation Zone") which comprises the Shenzhen I&T Zone and HSITP, with a view to establishing "one zone, two parks".
Joint policy package	Signed a co-operation arrangement with Shenzhen Municipal People's Government in September 2021 for jointly attracting more talent and enterprises to the Co-operation Zone.
Shenzhen branch of the Hong Kong Science Park	Signed a framework agreement by HKSTPC with the Shenzhen-Hong Kong Science and Technology Innovation Cooperation Zone Development Co Ltd in September 2021 regarding the establishment of the Shenzhen branch of the Hong Kong Science Park. HKSTPC has identified a building in Futian Free Trade Zone for the establishment of the Shenzhen branch of the Hong Kong Science Park.

Policy Initiatives	Progress / Achievements of the Current-term Government
Joint Funding Scheme	Supported R&D projects with Guangdong Province/Shenzhen Municipality and the Ministry of Science and Technology ("MOST") through Guangdong-Hong Kong Technology Cooperation Funding Scheme and Mainland-Hong Kong Joint Funding Scheme since 2007 and 2019 respectively. By end-December 2021, approved around HK$300 million for 149 projects and HK$73 million for 38 projects respectively.
Cross-boundary remittance of R&D funding from Mainland to Hong Kong	Since 2019, over RMB$440 million (around HK$540 million) of R&D funding has been approved by MOST and Mainland provinces and municipalities for Hong Kong's universities and R&D institutions for conducting R&D projects or setting up laboratory.
Relaxing the limitation on exporting Mainland human genetic resources to Hong Kong	The Central Government announced in November 2019 the policy measure in relaxing the limitation on exporting Mainland human genetic resources to Hong Kong. So far, four Mainland branches established by Hong Kong's universities have been confirmed by the MOST to be meeting the specified requirements as the pilot units for exporting human genetic resources to Hong Kong independently.
(4) Support for Technology Enterprises	
Innovation and Technology Venture Fund	Co-invested in local I&T start-ups with partner venture capital funds since 2019. By December 2021, invested in 23 start-ups with around $172 million, attracting around $1,570 million private investment.
Capital injection into the HKSTPC	Injected $7 billion into HKSTPC in 2018 for enhancing support for its tenants, including: − increasing the financial support under HKSTPC's Incubation Programmes to a maximum of $4 million, benefiting over 520 start-ups so far; and − launching a pre-incubation programme in 2019 to provide $100,000 seed funding for entrepreneurial technology talents, with over 370 applications approved so far.

Policy Initiatives	Progress / Achievements of the Current-term Government
Corporate Venture Fund	Injected funding by HKSTPC into this Fund in 2019 and 2021, with the current fund size reaching $600 million. Invested $238.3 million in 21 start-ups, attracting over $3.1 billion of private investment as at end-November 2021.
Capital injection into Cyberport	Injected $200 million into Cyberport in 2018 for enhancing support for its start-ups and tenants, including: − increasing the financial subsidy under the Cyberport Incubation Programme to a maximum of $500,000 benefiting 587 start-ups so far; − launching the Easy Landing Scheme; and − launching the Overseas/Mainland Market Development Support Scheme, with 74 applications approved so far.
Cyberport Macro Fund	Injected $200 million by Cyberport into this Fund in 2021, with the current fund size at $400 million. More than $162 million have been invested in 20 companies as of end-December 2021, attracting over $1.425 billion of private investment.
Electronic sports ("E-sports")	Injected $100 million into Cyberport in 2018 to promote the development of e-sports. Cyberport opened a new e-sports competition venue in July 2019 and introduced the E-sports Industry Facilitation Scheme and E-sports Internship Scheme in April 2019, with 144 projects and 80 intern positions approved so far.
Promotion of Hong Kong's technological research	Established the I&T Inventions Experience Sharing and Business Promotion Platform with the Hong Kong Trade Development Council and I&T sector to promote Hong Kong's research outcome and applications.
(5) Nurturing Technology Talent	
Knowing More About IT Programme	Launched in all publicly-funded primary schools starting from 2021/22 school year for three years with $225 million. Over 100 primary schools submitted funding applications since the launch of the Programme with over $13 million allocated.

Policy Initiatives	Progress / Achievements of the Current-term Government
IT Innovation Lab in Secondary Schools Programme	Launched in the 2020/21 school year for three years, with $500 million to support information technology-related extra-curricular activities. Over 310 schools submitted funding applications since the launch of the Programme with over $110 million allocated.
STEM Internship Scheme	Launched in June 2020 with over 4 700 interns trained.
Research Talent Hub	Launched in July 2020 under which the Post-doctoral Hub was merged with the Researcher Programme, with around 6 260 talents recruited since 2017.
Greater Bay Area ("GBA") Youth Employment Scheme	Launched in January 2021. Over 250 enterprises have provided I&T job vacancies, benefiting over 300 graduates.
Technology Talent Admission Scheme	Launched in 2018, with 614 quotas allotted, and the Immigration Department correspondingly approved 275 visa/ entry permits.
Global STEM Professorship Scheme	Launched in June 2021 to support universities in recruiting internationally-renowned STEM scholars. Supported over 60 scholars so far.
City I&T Grand Challenge	Launched the inaugural competition in December 2020. Received more than 740 submissions from over 1 250 contestants on an individual or team basis. Grand Pitch has been successfully held in mid-October 2021. Winning solutions of University/Tertiary Institutes and Open Groups are progressing to prototypes production phase. Trial runs at government departments or public organisations are expected to be gradually implemented during the second half of 2022.
(6) Re-industrialisation	
Re-industrialisation Funding Scheme	Launched the Scheme in July 2020 to subsidise manufacturers to set up new local smart production lines. Supported 21 applications with around $153 million.
Re-industrialisation and Technology Training Programme	Launched in August 2018 to support staff of local enterprises to attend advanced technology training courses. Supported over 8 000 trainees to attend over 10 000 training sessions with funding amount of about $75 million as at end-December 2021.

Policy Initiatives	Progress / Achievements of the Current-term Government
Advanced Manufacturing Centre and Microelectronics Centre	Commenced the development of the Advanced Manufacturing Centre and Microelectronics Centre by HKSTPC, with anticipated completion in the middle of this year and 2023 respectively.
(7) Smart City	
Steering Committee on Innovation and Technology	Established in December 2017 under the chairmanship of the Chief Executive to steer I&T and smart city development.
Smart City Blueprint for Hong Kong	Released the Smart City Blueprint for Hong Kong in December 2017 and the Smart City Blueprint for Hong Kong 2.0 in December 2020, with over 130 initiatives under six smart areas.
Smart village pilots	Explore the use of technology in addressing daily life issues in rural areas. Provided free Wi-Fi services at 24 village premises, and will extend the services progressively to some 100 village premises.
One-stop personalised digital services platform "iAM Smart"	Launched in December 2020 with over 1.1 million Hong Kong residents registered and over 10 million access through "iAM Smart" to online services. As at January 2022, the public can access more than 180 public and private online services. The Hong Kong Monetary Authority is currently working with the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer to develop the business version of the "iAM Smart" digital identity authentication platform.
Next Generation Government Cloud and Big Data Analytics Platform	Launched in September 2020 to expedite the implementation of e-Government services by bureaux and departments and support more projects adopting big data analytics. As at January 2022, the Next Generation Government Cloud has supported over 340 digital government services, and the Big Data Analytics Platform has supported the implementation of over 15 big data projects.

Policy Initiatives	Progress / Achievements of the Current-term Government
Smart lampposts pilot scheme	Installed 50 smart lampposts in Kwun Tong and Kai Tak Development Area, and is planning to install more smart lampposts in phases in other pilot districts. Launched the smart lampposts virtual exhibition in March 2021 to enhance public understanding of smart lampposts. Testing the use of Light Detection and Ranging technology as a substitute for cameras in detecting vehicle speed and identifying vehicle types.
Smart Government Innovation Lab	Set up in April 2019 to facilitate wider use of local information technology solutions to improve public services. So far, matched more than 60 business needs with solutions, and arranged more than 80 thematic workshops. Arranged proof-of-concept testing for more than 30 solutions and launched the "Leading Towards Robotics Technologies" campaign in 2020 to inspire government departments to apply robotics technologies.
Public Sector Trial Scheme	Expanded the funding scope to all technology companies conducting R&D activities in Hong Kong in March 2020. From July 2017 up to now, funded more than 220 projects with $479 million.
Technology Voucher Programme	Regularised the Programme in February 2019; raised the Government's funding ratio to 75% and increased the cumulative funding ceiling per applicant to $600,000 in April 2020. Approved around $1.1 billion for some 7 100 applications since launch up to December 2021.
TechConnect (block vote)	Started in mid-2017 to support Government departments to apply technologies with 99 projects approved so far as at mid-January 2022.
The GovHK chatbot (Bonny)	Launched in December 2019 to facilitate public search and access to around 3 700 government forms and related e-Government services.
1823 chatbot	Launched in December 2019 for citizens to obtain information and report cases for selected services more quickly, with over 35 000 requests handled.

Policy Initiatives	Progress / Achievements of the Current-term Government
Adoption of blockchain technology to promote service innovation	Supported the development of a common online platform by the Joint Universities Computer Centre for five tertiary education institutions on a pilot basis using blockchain technology to enable local tertiary students to provide global institutions or employers with proof of education qualifications in an efficient and secure manner. The platform is expected to be launched in early 2022.
(8) Opening Up Government Data	
Public Sector Information Portal	Promulgated the open data policy in October 2018. Provided over 4 840 datasets in machine-readable formats and around 1 800 application programming interfaces on the Public Sector Information Portal.
(9) Social Innovation	
Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Fund	Injected a total of $1 billion into the Fund with $500 million injected in 2021-22 and $500 million injected at its launch in 2013. As at December 2021, allocated over $490 million to fund 358 projects, benefiting over 292 000 persons.
Gerontechnology Platform	Engaged an intermediary consortium of 10 organisations in January 2021 to develop and operate a one-stop Gerontechnology Platform under the Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Fund to promote the use of gerontechnology in Hong Kong.

Policy Initiatives	Progress / Achievements of the Current-term Government
Digital inclusion	Regularised the ICT Outreach Programme for the Elderly in December 2018, with around 48 000 outreach services provided to more than 12 000 elderlies. Launched the Enriched ICT Training Programme for the Elderly in February 2019, with over 100 free advanced digital training courses offered to about 3 200 elderlies with basic knowledge of digital technology so far. Launched the Elderly IT Learning Portal in October 2019 with 30 learning modules published. The Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Fund has granted a total funding of $13 million in October 2021 to support four innovative projects to promote inter-generational digital inclusion by engaging young people to assist the elderly in learning and adopting digital technologies.
(10) Public Sector Reform	
Transfer of the Efficiency Unit to the Innovation and Technology Bureau	Transferred the Efficiency Unit previously under the Chief Secretary for Administration's Office to the Innovation and Technology Bureau on 1 April 2018 and renamed it as the Efficiency Office to build a stronger team to further promote innovation and technology development within the Government.
Be the Smart Regulator	Completed over 75% of the 398 business facilitation measures committed from 2018-19 to 2020-21, covering about 270 licences with a total annual transaction volume of 2.4 million. Implementing plans to enable e-licensing for all applications by mid-2022.
Streamlining of Government Services	To reform about 900 government services involving application and approval on a continuous basis. 39 bureaux and departments proposed 238 streamlining measures from 2019-20 to 2021-22, covering nearly 500 government services with a total annual transaction volume of about 40 million.
(11) Application of Technology to Combat COVID-19	
COVID-19 Interactive Map Dashboard	Launched in February 2020 to provide the latest information on local COVID-19 cases, attracting more than 60 million views as at January 2022.

Policy Initiatives	Progress / Achievements of the Current-term Government
Online booking services	The online booking services for community testing programme launched in November 2020 has processed more than 7.8 million bookings. The online booking services for the vaccination programme has processed more than 4.8 million bookings since it was launched in February 2021. The Return2hk Scheme launched in November 2020 has processed more than 480 000 online bookings up to now, while the Come2hk Scheme has processed more than 40 000 online bookings since it was launched in September 2021.
Electronic wristband and StayHomeSafe mobile app	Jointly developed with local research and development institutes, universities and start-ups in early 2020 to support compulsory quarantine monitoring, now used by over 620 000 persons. This is the largest scale of such application in the world.
LeaveHomeSafe mobile app	Launched in November 2020 for the public to record visit history. Upgraded to version 2.0 and 3.0 subsequently to enable the public to store and display the QR code of their vaccination record / COVID-19 Vaccination Medical Exemption Certificate to support the implementation of "vaccine pass" and connect to the Hong Kong Health Code System. The number of downloads has exceeded 7.5 million. Over 110 000 public and private venues and around 18 000 taxis have participated.
Hong Kong Health Code System	Launched in December 2021 for the public to register and use, in order to prepare for the orderly resumption of normal travel between the Mainland and Hong Kong. So far, received over 790 000 applications for the Health Code account, of which more than 640 000 accounts have been activated. Besides, the Health Code Conversion System has been facilitating the public to transmit valid negative nucleic acid results from the health code systems of Guangdong and Macao to the electronic health declaration system upon entry into Hong Kong under the Return2hk Scheme and the Come2hk Scheme.

Policy Initiatives	Progress / Achievements of the Current-term Government
COVID-19 Electronic Vaccination and Testing Record System	Launched the COVID-19 Electronic Vaccination and Testing Record System in December 2020 for the public to download the electronic vaccination record through the "iAM Smart" mobile app. The number of downloads has reached over 4.5 million.
Telehealth services	Modernised HA's service model, including piloting the use of "HA Go" mobile app to provide telehealth services for suitable patients. Installed network infrastructure at village offices to enable provision of telehealth services for elderly persons living in remote areas.
Public Sector Trial Scheme Special Call	Launched in 2020 to support product development and application of technologies for prevention and control of the epidemic. 63 projects were approved with total funding of over $102 million.
Distance Business Programme	Accepted applications from 18 May 2020 to 31 October 2020 to support private enterprises to continue business during COVID-19 through adoption of information technology solutions. Around 26 000 approved applications were / are being implemented with funding of around $1.7 billion.
CuMask+™	Distributed over 10.7 million masks which met ASTM performance level 1 standard and were reusable for 60 times to citizens free of charge in mid-2020.

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