



**Legislative Council of the
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region**

**Delegation of the Panel on Food Safety and
Environmental Hygiene**

Report on the duty visit to Nanjing and Yangzhou

21 to 24 August 2024



食物安全
FOOD SAFETY



市容
CITYSCAPE



環境衛生
ENVIRONMENTAL
HYGIENE



漁農業發展
DEVELOPMENT OF
AGRICULTURE &
FISHERIES INDUSTRIES



Table of Contents

Chapter	Page
1 INTRODUCTION	
Background and objectives of the visit	1
Membership list of the delegation of the Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene	3
Visit arrangements	4
2 VISITS AND EXCHANGES	
Meeting and dinner with leaders of Nanjing Municipal People's Government	5
Dinner and exchanges with leaders of Yangzhou Municipal People's Government	11
Exchange session with Jiangsu Provincial Department of Housing and Urban-Rural Development	16
Exchange session with Jiangsu Provincial Department of Agriculture and Rural Affairs	20
Courtesy call on leaders of Nanjing Customs District	23
Visit to Nanjing City Interface's management centre	25
Visit to Hongmiao area in Xuanwu District of Nanjing	27
Visit to leading enterprises	
♦ Jiangdu Modern Agricultural Industrial Demonstration Park in Yangzhou	29
♦ Yangzhou Aojite Biotechnology Corp., Ltd	32
♦ Nanjing Li Ming company	34
♦ Nanjing Tongwei company	37
3 OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	
Enhancement of cityscape management and environmental hygiene	39
Further safeguarding food safety	46
Promoting development of the agriculture and fisheries industries	50
Conclusion	55
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	56
Appendix 1: Membership list of the delegation of the Environment and Ecology Bureau	57
Appendix 2: Duty visit programme	58

1.1 The delegation of the Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene (“Panel”) of the Legislative Council (“LegCo”) (“the Delegation”), together with a delegation of the Environment and Ecology Bureau, embarked on a four-day duty visit to Nanjing and Yangzhou, Jiangsu Province from 21 to 24 August 2024. This report presents the highlights of the visit as well as the observations and recommendations of the Delegation.

Background and objectives of the visit

1.2 The Panel has all along attached great importance to issues relating to environmental hygiene and cityscape management. Members hope that the Administration would enhance the characteristics of various districts through cityscape beautification and increase the coverage of green spaces throughout the territory, with a view to creating a liveable living environment for the public and upgrading Hong Kong’s city image. Regarding food safety, members are of the view that the Administration should enhance communication with the Mainland and countries/regions from which food products are imported to enhance its understanding of the regulatory standards adopted for safeguarding food safety and the latest situations in different places, so as to ensure that the relevant measures in Hong Kong can keep abreast of the times. Meanwhile, the Panel pays close attention to the development of the local agriculture and fisheries industries. Members call on the Administration to draw reference from the successful experience of the Mainland in fostering the development of the agriculture and fisheries industries, and to deepen the exchanges and cooperation between the two places, so as to open up more development opportunities for Hong Kong’s agriculture and fisheries industries.



1.3 At its meeting on 11 June 2024, the Panel agreed to conduct a duty visit to Nanjing, Jiangsu Province and its adjacent cities from 21 to 24 August 2024, with a view to understanding the policy initiatives implemented and the latest development in respect of the above-mentioned aspects in those places. The Panel also agreed to invite other LegCo Members and officials from the Government bureau and/or departments concerned to join the visit. The major objectives of the duty visit are as follows:



to understand the work of relevant Mainland authorities on the formulation and implementation of policy initiatives on **urban and cityscape management** in the province, including the operation of urban management systems



to learn about the relevant Mainland authorities' work on **food safety regulation, publicity and education, and supervision and management of import and export of food products**, as well as the experience of relevant enterprises in enhancing **food safety**



to gain insights into the **policies and latest development of the agriculture and fisheries industries** (including the experience in **promoting the modernization of the agriculture and fisheries industries**) in the province and municipalities concerned, as well as the development and production technologies of relevant enterprises

1.4 At the meeting of the LegCo House Committee on 5 July 2024, the Panel's proposed duty visit to Nanjing and Yangzhou, Jiangsu Province, was endorsed.

Membership list of the delegation of the Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene

Delegation Leader

Hon YANG Wing-kit (Chairman of the Panel)

Panel members

Hon LEUNG Man-kwong, MH (Deputy Chairman of the Panel)

Hon Doreen KONG Yuk-foon

Other participating Members

Hon Paul TSE Wai-chun, JP

Hon Tony TSE Wai-chuen, BBS, JP














Ir Hon Gary ZHANG Xinyu



1.5 At the invitation of the Panel, a delegation of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (“HKSAR Government”) led by the Secretary for Environment and Ecology, Mr TSE Chin-wan (see **Appendix 1** for the list), joined the duty visit.

Visit arrangements

1.6 The visit activities and major topics of discussion of the Delegation include:

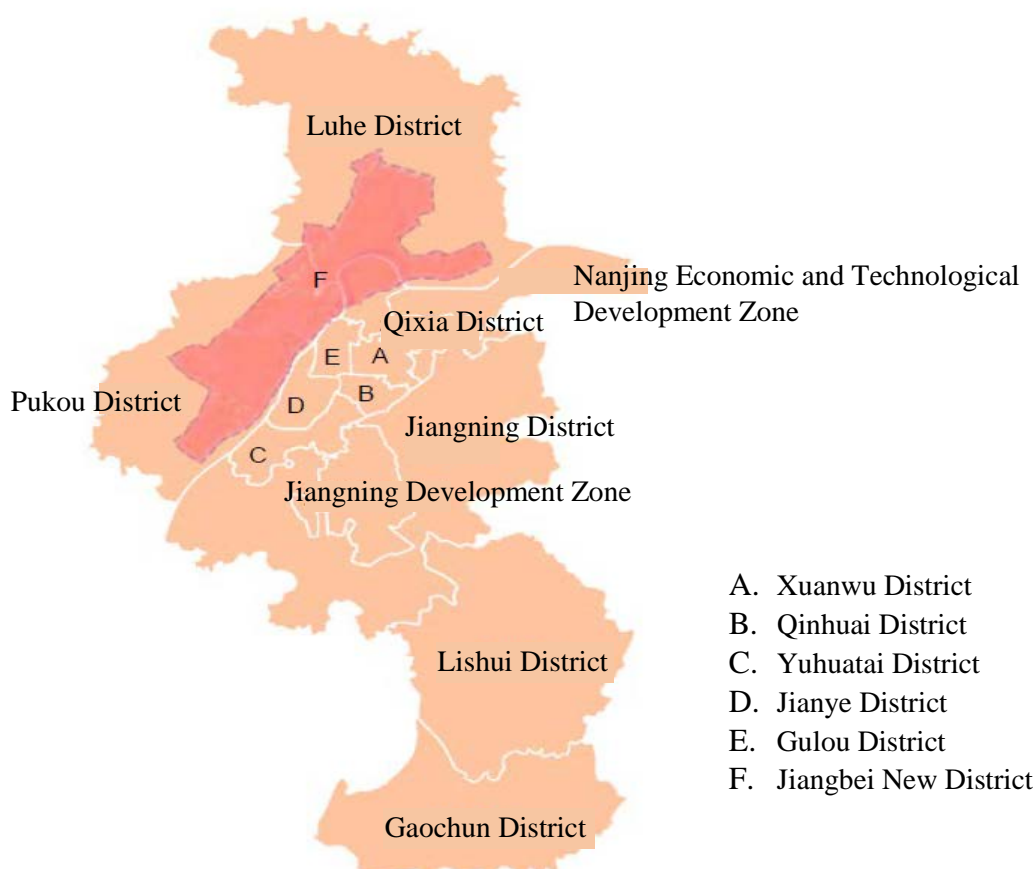
Visit activities	Major topics of discussion		
	Urban and cityscape management	Food safety	Development of the agriculture and fisheries industries
Meetings and exchange sessions with provincial and municipal authorities			
Meeting and dinner with leaders of Nanjing Municipal People's Government			
Dinner and exchanges with leaders of Yangzhou Municipal People's Government			
Exchange session with Jiangsu Provincial Department of Housing and Urban-Rural Development			
Exchange session with Jiangsu Provincial Department of Agriculture and Rural Affairs			
Courtesy call on leaders of Nanjing Customs District			
Studying the implementation and effectiveness of policy initiatives			
Visit to Nanjing City Interface's management centre			
Visit to Hongmiao area in Xuanwu District of Nanjing			
Visit to leading enterprises , including: (a) Jiangdu Modern Agricultural Industrial Demonstration Park in Yangzhou (b) Yangzhou Aojite Biotechnology Corp., Ltd (c) Nanjing Li Ming company (d) Nanjing Tongwei company			

1.7 The visit programme of the Delegation is set out in **Appendix 2**. Members' observations and insights gained from various visit activities are recorded in Chapter 2 "Visits and exchanges".

Meeting and dinner with leaders of Nanjing Municipal People's Government

Overview of Nanjing

2.1 Nanjing, abbreviated as “Ning”, is located in the southwestern part of Jiangsu Province. It is the provincial capital of Jiangsu Province and an important central city in the eastern part of the Mainland. With a total area of 6 587 km², the city comprises 11 municipal districts along with a state-level new area (Jiangbei New Area). As at end-2023, Nanjing had a residential population of 9.55 million, accounting for 11.2% of the residential population in Jiangsu Province.



Source: Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Shanghai (2024) and Jiangsu Provincial People's Government (2021)

2.2 **Nanjing stands a megacity in the Yangtze River Delta**, second only to Shanghai, a megacity behemoth. In the Nanjing Implementation Plan under the Outline Plan for Integrated Regional Development of the Yangtze River Delta released in 2020, Nanjing **is positioned as a strategic pivot for driving integrated development of the Yangtze River Delta**, and is tasked with not only fostering a new pattern of integration with other cities in the delta steered by Shanghai, but also spearheading the development of sub-regions and shouldering the responsibility and mission of propelling the overall development of the Ning-Zhen-Yang region, the Nanjing metropolitan, the Ninghang Ecological Economic Belt and the Yangzi River City Cluster.¹

Meeting with Nanjing Municipal People's Government



2.3 To understand Nanjing's efforts in **improving the cityscape and environment, enhancing food safety and promoting high quality development of the agriculture and fisheries industries**, the Delegation met and dined with Mr Ji Tiejun, Deputy Mayor of Nanjing and other leaders of the Nanjing Municipal People's Government.

¹ For more information on an overview of Nanjing, please refer to the fact sheet prepared by the Research Office of the Legislative Council Secretariat ([FSC34/2024](#)). (Chinese version only)

Urban and cityscape management in Nanjing

2.4 The Delegation notes that Nanjing has been committed **to promote street and alley renovation work** in recent years, focusing on refined modifications under the principle of “street level scenic feature” with a view to continuously upgrading the urban environment. Given the numerous backstreets and alleys in Nanjing, the city has classified them as either specialty streets or streets requiring routine management in respect of renewal and renovation projects and management enhancement, so that refined modification and upgrading work may be flexibly carried out depending on the actual conditions of the streets and alleys, thereby maximizing the scale effect and exemplary effect of specialty streets. As at end-2023, Nanjing has **successfully created 26 specialty streets² and 5 beautiful neighborhoods.³**



The Delegation and the delegation of the Environment and Ecology Bureau pose for a group photo with Mr Ji Tiejun, Deputy Mayor of Nanjing Municipal People's Government (eighth right)

² These include Xianglin Temple Road in Xuanwu District, Lanqi Street in Qinhuai District, Fengqi Road in Jianye District, Jinyin Street in Gulou District, Qixia Old Street in Qixia District, and Minzhi Road (Lele Street) in Yuhuatai District.

³ These include Niuniu street-Xinwei Square Street Area in Jiangbei New Area, Shuimu Qinhuai Street Area in Gulou District, Lele Street Area in Yuhuatai District, “Silicon Alley” Street Area in Jiangning District, and Tongjijie Street Area in Lishui District.

2.5 In addition, to realize the vision of building a beautiful Nanjing, the Nanjing Municipal Bureau for Urban Management formulated the “2024 Implementation Opinions of Urban Management in Nanjing” in February 2024, which, by focusing on **promoting the construction of urban management modernization** as the main theme and forming a new paradigm in urban management, strives to **create a clean, tidy and pleasant environment in urban and rural areas that resonates with the public**. In this regard, a number of specific tasks have been put forward as outlined below.



Food safety in Nanjing

2.6 The Delegation notes that Nanjing was dubbed the “**National Food Safety Demonstration City**” by the Food Safety Commission of the State Council in 2022, marking it as the first city in Jiangsu Province to receive the honour. Nanjing has also continued to step up its food safety-related efforts through a multi-pronged approach, such as further **improving the food safety responsibility system, reinforcing food safety nets, optimizing the development environment of the food industry, and fostering the collaborative governance in food safety**. According to the annual tracking evaluation of national food safety demonstration cities conducted by the Food Safety Commission of Jiangsu Province in 2023, Nanjing’s performance in food safety was rated as consistently stable with a positive trend and met the standard as a National Food Safety Demonstration City.

Development of the agriculture and fisheries industries in Nanjing

2.7 At present, the agriculture and fisheries industries in Nanjing are progressing towards efficiency, sustainability and distinctiveness, with the focus on **comprehensively enhancing the creativity in agricultural science and technology and promoting the development of modern agriculture and fisheries industries in urban settings**. The Delegation learns that Nanjing has made good use of its abundant water resources and advanced fisheries technology to actively promote quality development of the fisheries industry. Taking Pukou District as an example, the development of the fisheries industry there is geared towards industrial transformation, with active renovation of the ecology of ponds, construction of smart fisheries parks and modernization of the industrial chain. Regarding agriculture, as set out in the 14th Five-Year Plan for the Nanjing's Agricultural Industry and the Outline of Vision 2035, Nanjing is committed to **focusing on cultivating quality rice varieties, green vegetables, economically viable fruits, and leisure farming**. Nanjing is also actively **enriching the structure of its agricultural industry from various perspectives**, such as promoting the development of industries related to festive fruits, tea leaves, and specialty flowers and seedlings.



The Delegation engages in exchange with representatives of the Nanjing Municipal People's Government on issues of mutual concern

2.8 The Delegation is of the view that the remarkable achievements of Nanjing in recent years in various areas such as the urban and cityscape management, food safety and agriculture and fisheries industries are attributable to the fact that the relevant units **have strengthened the top-level design in formulating and implementing the relevant policies and measures, and have explicitly defined the functions and roles of the executive authorities with clear delineation of powers and responsibilities, thus notably enhancing the efficiency of policy implementation.** Members are of the view that they have gained valuable insights into the successful experience of Nanjing through the meeting, paving the road for future exchanges and cooperation between Hong Kong and Nanjing in those areas.

Dinner and exchanges with leaders of Yangzhou Municipal People's Government

Overview of Yangzhou

2.9 Yangzhou is located in the central part of Jiangsu Province, where the Yangtze River intersecting the Beijing-Hangzhou Grand Canal. Covering a total area of 6 591 km², the city consists of three municipal districts, two county-level cities as well as Baoying County. As at end-2023, Yangzhou had a residential population of 4.59 million, representing 5.4% of the residential population in Jiangsu Province.



Source: Sohu (2023)

2.10 **Yangzhou is a major city in the Yangtze River Delta.** As laid out in the Territorial Spatial Master Plan for Yangzhou (2021-2035), the city plans to strengthen its connectivity with major cities in the Yangtze River Delta, build a highland for industrial innovation and technology and establish a base for advanced manufacturing in the Delta region. Its aim is to **become** an internationally renowned cultural tourism destination and **an influential city boasting its eco-friendliness and liveability.**

2.11 In addition to integration for unified construction in the Yangtze River Delta region, Yangzhou gives full play to its strategic location at the confluence of the Yangtze River and the Grand Canal for full implementation of key national strategies such as the Yangtze River Economic Belt and the Grand Canal Cultural Belt, and for collaboration in advancing the construction of the Nanjing Metropolitan Area, the Yangtze River Green Development Belt and the Grand Canal Cultural Charm Belt to facilitate cross-zone spatial coordination.⁴

Meeting with Yangzhou Municipal People's Government

2.12 The Delegation had discussions and dinner with Mr LUO Xueming, Party Group Member of the Yangzhou Municipal People's Government, and key leaders of the Yangzhou Municipal Ecology and Environment Bureau, the Bureau of Urban Management, the Bureau of Agricultural and Rural Affairs and the Administration for Market Regulation, and learnt about the latest development in Yangzhou. This provided also an opportunity for both parties to exchange views on issues of mutual concern.

Urban and cityscape management in Yangzhou

2.13 The Delegation learns that Yangzhou City has achieved remarkable progress in urban and cityscape management in recent years and is **moving towards the goal of becoming a “Demonstration City of Urban Management in Jiangsu Province”**. In this regard, the Yangzhou Municipal Bureau for Urban Management, which is in charge of such tasks, has been pursuing, among others, promotion of refined urban

⁴ For more information on an overview of Yangzhou, please refer to the fact sheet prepared by the Research Office of the Legislative Council Secretariat ([FSC34/2024](#)). (Chinese version only)

management, waste separation and treatment, law enforcement standardization. In addition, Yangzhou is actively exploring and implementing digitalized urban management. The “**Smart Urban Management**” platform built under the leadership of the Yangzhou Municipal Bureau for Urban Management has been put into operation. Leveraging advanced information technologies such as the Internet of Things, cloud computing, big data, mobile internet and smart sensing, the efficiency of work has been greatly enhanced, which has helped improve the effectiveness of urban management and enhance the quality of cityscape.

Food Safety in Yangzhou

2.14 Since 2022, Yangzhou has been **actively building itself into a National Food Safety Demonstration City** with a steady progress. The Delegation learns that, to holistically lay out a new framework for food safety, the relevant units in Yangzhou have taken a series of actions under the “Implementation Measures for the Creation of a Demonstration City for National Food Safety in Yangzhou”, covering agricultural products quality and safety, food quality and safety, food production and processing safety, food circulation safety, catering quality and safety, imported food safety and combating food safety offences. Specific initiatives include **encompassing all food production information into a traceability platform; stepping up routine testing and the construction of a traceability monitoring system for food such as meat and vegetables; and introducing a food safety responsibility system for online food ordering platforms**. It is learnt that no food safety incident of general level or above was recorded in Yangzhou in 2023.



The label of the Creation of a Demonstration City for National Food Safety

Source: cqj.com.cn (2023)

Development of the agriculture and fisheries industries in Yangzhou

2.15 Yangzhou is endowed with rich water resources, such as Shaobo Lake and Gaoyou Lake, which offer favourable natural conditions for the fisheries industry and nurture abundant fish and other aquatic resources. The Delegation notes that in recent years, the fisheries industry in Yangzhou has been progressing towards high-quality development through strategies such as expanding the scale of aquaculture of unique aquatic products, standardizing the eco-friendly operation of aquaculture ponds and digitalizing the fisheries industry (e.g. setting up smart fisheries parks and digital fish farms). Yangzhou also **actively promotes the upgrading and transformation of the fisheries industry and builds up its rural tourism brand**. An example is the development of rural tourism on fisheries culture along lakeside villages. **Some fishermen have moved ashore** to expand the sales channels of fisheries products through innovative modes such as forming rural tourism cooperatives, developing **fisheries tourism** and making greater use of **online sales** to increase income.

2.16 The Delegation learns that, in terms of agricultural industry, Yangzhou has set a **target to promote city development through the agricultural industry** in recent years, thoroughly adhering to the national strategy of “increasing farmland productivity through sustainable farmland use and agricultural technology innovation”.⁵ In 2023, the Yangzhou Municipal People’s Government released the “Implementation Opinions on Further Strengthening Innovation in Agricultural Technology to Promote High-Quality Development of the Agricultural Industry”, which expressly advocates the full adoption of technology to drive the agricultural and rural economy. Through various strategies, such as exerting the new dynamics of agricultural technology, upgrading new equipment in agricultural technology, advancing the construction of new platforms for agricultural technology and boosting the countryside and the team of “new farmers”, Yangzhou aims to **achieve objectives such as significant enhancement of technological applications, optimization of the agricultural industry structure, substantial increase in brand competitiveness and further improvement in the quality of agricultural products**, so as to consolidate high-calibre development of the agricultural industry.

⁵ This is the basic strategy of the country to ensure comprehensive food production capacity. It not only implies a guarantee on farming area, but also an improvement in farmland quality. Under this strategy, the country constantly increases input and enhances innovative efficiency to fully exploit the potential capacity of land, seeds and fertilizers.

2.17 The Delegation recognizes Yangzhou's strategy of leveraging technology to facilitate high-quality development in areas such as the urban and cityscape management, food safety and agriculture and fisheries industries. The HKSAR Government may draw on Yangzhou's successful experience in promoting innovative development of the agriculture and fisheries industries, and **explore how to make the best use of Hong Kong's natural resources and optimize its industrial bases, with a view** to injecting new impetus into the development of Hong Kong's agriculture and fisheries industries.



Exchange session with Jiangsu Provincial Department of Housing and Urban-Rural Development

2.18 During its visit to the Jiangsu Provincial Department of Housing and Urban-Rural Development (“Development Department”), the Delegation engaged in an exchange session with Mr CHEN Haodong, Deputy Director-General of the Development Department, Mr CHEN Xi, Director-General of Urban Management and Law Enforcement Bureau of the Development Department (“Urban Management Bureau”) and other principal officials to exchange views on various issues such as cityscape management and environmental hygiene.



The Delegation engages in an exchange session with representatives of the Jiangsu Provincial Department of Housing and Urban-Rural Development

2.19 The Development Department, in charge of urban and cityscape management in Jiangsu Province, operates as a component department of the provincial government. Its functions include formulating policies and measures pertaining to urban management, and exercising business guidance, coordination, supervision, inspection and evaluation. Within the purview of the Development Department, the Urban Management Bureau operates as a subordinate entity and is entrusted with management functions such as directing road cleansing efforts and the construction, maintenance and operation of environmental hygiene infrastructures.

2.20 The Delegation notes that the amended **Regulations of Jiangsu Province on the Administration of City Appearance and Environmental Sanitation** (“the Regulations”), which came into operation on 1 May 2023, has laid a solid foundation on the improvement in urban management in a scientific, refined and intelligent manner, thereby driving innovation in urban governance and facilitating high-quality urban development. At present, in accordance with the requirements stipulated in the Regulations, the Urban Management Bureau **has been orderly implementing a zone system for cityscape and environmental hygiene responsibility**, with a view to clearly identifying responsibilities and application scopes for cityscape and environmental hygiene among various units and individuals.⁶ It has also sought to **promote cooperation between the Government, businesses and the public** to jointly manage cityscape and environmental hygiene through stepping up guidance and calling on responsible parties to properly fulfil their duties and obligations in cityscape and environmental hygiene.



The Delegation exchanges views with representatives of the Jiangsu Provincial Department of Housing and Urban-Rural Development on issues such as minimizing enforcement-induced conflicts and expeditious handling of minor issues in urban infrastructures

⁶ A cityscape and environmental hygiene responsibility zone refers to an area of land use rights on which buildings (structures) or other facilities or premises owned, managed or used by the relevant units and individuals are situated, as well as the area under their management.

2.21 The Delegation is also interested in how Jiangsu Province **has effectively implemented waste treatment, separation and recycling**. As advised by the officials, Jiangsu Province currently has 64 incineration plants for domestic waste with a daily treatment capacity of 88 900 tonnes, ranking second in the country. There are also 63 food waste treatment facilities with a daily treatment capacity of 13 000 tonnes, essentially covering all cities at the county level or above. Jiangsu Province has basically put in place a waste treatment system with reasonable spare capacity. The units concerned **have continuously strengthened supervision of waste treatment facilities** to ensure compliance of incineration plants with emission standards and proper treatment of landfill leachate.



The Delegation and the delegation of the Environment and Ecology Bureau pose for a group photo with Mr CHEN Haodong (fifth left), Deputy Director-General of the Jiangsu Provincial Department of Housing and Urban-Rural Development

2.22 Members were also told that Jiangsu Province has vigorously optimized communal waste separation facilities to facilitate waste separation by residents in recent years. At present, the province's waste separation coverage rate exceeds 95%, and notably cities such as Nanjing, Suzhou and its municipalities, Wuxi and Xuzhou have largely achieved full coverage of waste separation and recycling within residential communities. It is expected that by **end-2024, the province will largely realize full coverage of domestic waste separation and recycling in small residential communities**. Various places in Jiangsu Province will

continue to enhance the methods, standards and requirements for waste separation and recycling, and **enhance public participation in waste separation and recycling through community-engaged publicity to disseminate messages on legal requirements and related knowledge.**

2.23 The Delegation also exchanged views with representatives of the Development Department on issues such as **minimizing enforcement-induced conflicts and expeditious handling of minor issues in urban infrastructures.** The Delegation highly appreciates the Jiangsu Provincial People's Government's **policy direction to integrate cityscape management and waste separation and recycling into grass-roots governance,** and considers that active public engagement in waste separation and recycling **through community mobilization** can effectively enhance the outcome of cityscape management.

Exchange session with Jiangsu Provincial Department of Agriculture and Rural Affairs

2.24 The Delegation engaged in an exchange session with Mr WANG Yuhua, the Deputy Director-General of Jiangsu Provincial Department of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (“Rural Affairs Department”), alongside with other principal officials, to exchange views on policies and the latest development of the agriculture and fisheries industries.



The Delegation engages in an exchange session with representatives of the Jiangsu Provincial Department of Agriculture and Rural Affairs

2.25 The Rural Affairs Department is a component department of the provincial government in charge of the development of the agriculture and fisheries industries in Jiangsu Province. Its main functions include coordinating the implementation of development strategies, medium- and long-term planning and major policies concerning the work on “Sannong” (i.e. the agricultural industry, rural areas and farmers); guiding the development of unique rural industries, agricultural product processing and leisure farming; and promoting the agricultural technological system reform. The Rural Affairs Department has 31 internal organizations and 54 affiliated units to deal with agricultural issues in various aspects.

2.26 Representatives of the Rural Affairs Department briefed the Delegation on the overview of the agriculture and fisheries industries in Jiangsu Province, highlighting the province’s efforts in recent years to **foster smart farming development**, including the completion of 45 smart agricultural parks and 97 digital agricultural and fish farms in 2023, as well as the launch of the “**Jiangsu Provincial Agricultural and Rural Big Data Cloud Platform**” to break down data barriers between various

industrial systems of the Rural Affairs Department, so that the platform could serve as a “smart brain” for agricultural and rural affairs and a “command centre” for management and decision making. The Delegation then had further exchanges with officials of the Rural Affairs Department on issues such as **promoting the application of agricultural and fisheries technologies, building local agricultural brands and attracting talents to join the agriculture and fisheries industries.**



Members of the Delegation share their views enthusiastically during the exchange session with representatives of the Jiangsu Provincial Department of Agriculture and Rural Affairs

2.27 The Delegation notes that Jiangsu Province is proactive in building high-quality agricultural innovation platforms and setting up biological breeding laboratories, with a view to promoting the application of agricultural and fisheries technologies. In addition, the provincial government is supportive of qualified enterprises to take part in major national and provincial agricultural technology projects, and **promotes cooperation between leading agricultural enterprises and agricultural research institutes.** At the same time, Jiangsu Province capitalizes on market mechanisms to expedite the **transformation of agricultural technological innovations into real productivity gain.** The Delegation recognizes Jiangsu Province’s practical experience in the development and application of agricultural and fisheries technologies as valuable reference for Hong Kong’s further implementation of the [Blueprint for the Sustainable Development of Agriculture and Fisheries](#), thereby upgrading and transforming the agriculture and fisheries industries towards modernization and sustainable development.

2.28 The Delegation also notes that according to the “Opinions on High-Quality Promotion of the Building of Regional Public Brands for Agricultural Products” issued by the Rural Affairs Department in 2024, Jiangsu Province **attaches great importance to the building of agricultural brands**. It has successfully established multiple brands listed in the National Selected Agricultural Brand Cultivation Plan following such principles as creating regional public brands for agricultural products, utilizing the characteristics of local resources, strengthening operation and management, as well as blending with precision marketing strategies. The Delegation highly recognizes the efforts made by Jiangsu Province in guiding **the nurturing of agricultural and rural talents (including talents of agricultural technology)**, agricultural education and development of vocational skills in the agricultural industry, etc., and considers such practical experiences are valuable reference for Hong Kong.

Courtesy call on leaders of Nanjing Customs District



The Delegation and the delegation of the Environment and Ecology Bureau take a group photo with Mr XIN Jianmin, Commissioner of Nanjing Customs District (sixth right)

2.29 The Delegation paid a courtesy call on Mr XIN Jianmin, Commissioner of Nanjing Customs District and Mr JIANG Yuan, Deputy Commissioner and other principal officials. Directly subordinates to the General Administration of Customs, the **Nanjing Customs District** is a full-ministerial-level government agency **responsible for the safety and testing of imported and exported food products, as well as related publicity and education in Jiangsu Province**. The Institutional Import and Export Food Safety Division within the Nanjing Customs District is tasked with the formulation of import and export food safety systems and related supervision and management plans. The Animal, Plant and Food Testing Centre directly under the Nanjing Customs District is responsible for laboratory inspection and testing of imported and exported food products, and provides technical support for customs administration and enforcement.

2.30 During the visit, representatives of the Nanjing Customs District briefed the Delegation on the latest situation of the food safety and testing of imported and exported food in Jiangsu Province, outlining the principles of food safety work under **the Food Safety Law**, which include **focus on prevention, risk management, whole-process control and social co-management**. The Delegation was also briefed on the main policies and tasks relating to import and export food safety implemented in adherence to the “Four Strictest” requirements (i.e. the most stringent standards, the most rigorous supervision, the most severe penalties and the most serious accountability) put forward by President XI Jinping in relation to the key work on food safety, including the promotion of **intelligent customs**,

grading and categorization for supervision of import and export food safety and enhanced crackdowns on smuggling. The Delegation hopes that Hong Kong can learn from the experience of Jiangsu Province to further upgrade food safety standard and strengthen protection of public health.



The Delegation exchanges views with representatives of Nanjing Customs District on ways to enhance food safety



The Delegation and the delegation of the Environment and Ecology Bureau pose for a group photo with representatives of Nanjing Customs District

Visit to Nanjing City Interface's management centre

2.31 The Delegation visited the Nanjing City Interface's management centre ("city management centre") to gain first-hand knowledge of how the **"One Network Administration" platform**, by means of **technologies such as big data and cloud computing**, integrates data from various departments to **enhance the effectiveness of interdepartmental collaborative work and the standard of urban governance**.



The Delegation receives a briefing on the operation of the "One Network Administration" platform from a representative of the Nanjing City Interface's management centre

2.32 To synchronize the development of Nanjing's urban digital governance, digital economy and city operation industry, Nanjing released the "Three-Year Action Plan for the 'One Network Administration' of Nanjing City Operations" and established the city management centre in 2022. Nanjing enhances its capacity and standards for modernized urban governance through "One Network Administration", and was **selected as one of the "Typical Cases of Comprehensive Deepening of Local Reform in China Reform 2023"**, and the technical platform was also shortlisted as one of the **"Top 10 Cases of the Construction of Digital Jiangsu 2023"**.

2.33 The Delegation notes that under "One Network Administration", Nanjing has set up a **citywide sensing system** (commonly known as the

“City Eye”) comprising nearly 200 000 video circuits and numerous sensors. All data is processed and analyzed through technologies such as **artificial intelligence (“AI”), complemented with analysis and judgment, to assist in decision-making on city operation**. Moreover, the big command screen of the city management centre is connected to 21 specific application systems of key departments, including the integrated port and shipping service platform of the Maritime Safety Administration, flight monitoring system of the Lukou International Airport, the operational command system of the fire brigade and the integrated city safety platform of the Emergency Management Bureau, to facilitate **access to real-time information on city operation**.

2.34 The Delegation also learns that Nanjing **citizens** may promptly **report to relevant units** issues of urban management and cityscape by capturing and sending photos **via the “Instant Shot” application**. Supported by “One Network Administration”, images and videos uploaded will be analyzed with **AI technology** to identify potential problems and issues in city operation, and instructions will then be issued automatically by algorithms for on-site staff to take follow-up actions. The Delegation acknowledges that “One Network Administration” has **significantly enhanced efficiency** in addressing issues of urban management and cityscape, **strengthened inter-departmental collaboration** and **introduced** innovative ideas such as **public engagement in grass-roots urban governance**. The Delegation suggests that Hong Kong draw reference from such technologies and practical experience to optimize cityscape management and daily operation at the district level.



The Delegation and the delegation of the Environment and Ecology Bureau pose for a group photo at the Nanjing City Interface’s management centre

Visit to Hongmiao area in Xuanwu District of Nanjing

2.35 The Delegation visited Hongmiao area in Xuanwu District of Nanjing to gain first-hand insights into the **unified management model** implemented by the local urban management unit in collaboration with property management companies and environmental hygiene companies to keep the famous food street orderly and hygienic.



The Delegation is briefed by representatives of the urban management unit on the implementation of the unified management model

2.36 Spanning approximately 200 metres, Hongmiao area is a busy and vibrant commercial cluster hosting an array of shops (including snack shops, fruit vendors, tobacco and wine outlets, convenience stores and guesthouses), neighbored by a dense concentration of residential communities. The Delegation notes that, while attracting high foot traffic, Hongmiao area also brings pressure on street management. To this end, Xuanwu District **has engaged third-party property management companies and environmental hygiene companies to jointly manage Hongmiao area** in recent years. The division of work and operation of the units concerned are summarized below:

Property management companies

- ♦ arrange **staff to conduct inspections** and **maintain order**
- ♦ **report** non-cooperative traders to urban management and law enforcement teams

Environmental hygiene companies

- ♦ **collect shop waste and supervise** waste separation
- ♦ **give advice** to traders with order problems, such as street obstruction, or hygiene problems
- ♦ **report** non-cooperative traders to urban management and law enforcement teams

Urban management and law enforcement teams

- ♦ **promptly take actions** in relation to problems reported against the traders concerned

2.37 The Delegation considers that Hong Kong may draw on Nanjing's practice to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness in tackling long-standing environmental hygiene and street management problems.

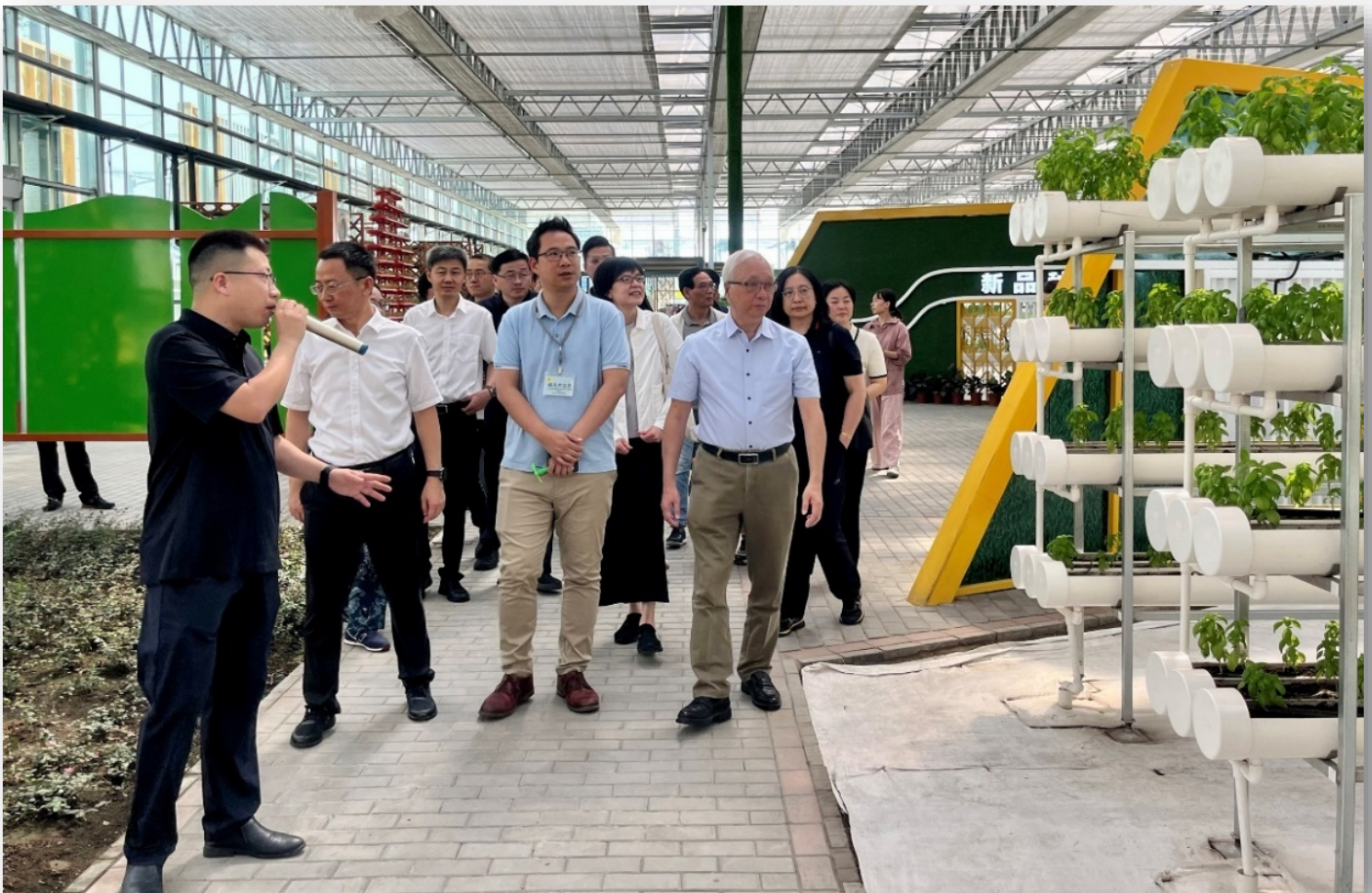


The Delegation exchanges views with representatives of the urban management unit and the property management company on how to enhance cityscape management

Visit to leading enterprises

(a) Jiangdu Modern Agricultural Industrial Demonstration Park in Yangzhou

2.38 The Delegation first toured the Jiangdu Modern Agricultural Industrial Demonstration Park in Yangzhou (“Jiangdu Agricultural Park”). Members learnt that, since the launch of the 14th Five-Year Plan, cities and counties in Yangzhou have invested RMB300 million in agricultural projects to achieve a full coverage of food production, including meat, eggs, milk, seafood, vegetables, fruit and mushroom. The Jiangdu Agricultural Park, located in Wuqiao Town of Jiangdu, is an agricultural demonstration park in Jiangsu Province, serving as an agricultural base for the province and the municipalities. The Jiangdu Agricultural Park was established in 2006 with an area of over 12 000 acres. At present, the Park produces more than 15 000 tonnes of vegetables and fruits annually for sale in supermarkets and vegetable outlets in the province and beyond.



The Delegation visits the Jiangdu Modern Agricultural Industrial Demonstration Park in Yangzhou



2.39 Members are impressed by the **new double-layered, wide-bodied steel tubular frame** installed in greenhouses of the Jiangdu Agricultural Park. The Delegation notes that the new tubular frame can effectively enhance heat preservation of the facility and expand the use of agricultural machinery. Facilities such as “insect and bird netting, irrigation system”, water-fertilizer integrated sprayer and drip-line irrigation inside the greenhouses, and the frame-type automatic shading system outside, **have all boosted the overall production capacity of the greenhouses.**



The Delegation and the delegation of the Environment and Ecology Bureau pose for a group photo at the Jiangdu Modern Agricultural Industrial Demonstration Park in Yangzhou

2.40 Furthermore, the Jiangdu Agricultural Park **has vigorously developed its vegetable and fruit production** in recent years, and **has set up a demonstration platform for technological trial** to promote the transformation of scientific research outcomes. One example is the **introduction of high value-added varieties and smart farming to drive local farmers' income**. The Delegation also exchanged views with representatives of the Park on the operation mode of leisure farming.



The Delegation learns about the agricultural products of the Jiangdu Modern Agricultural Industrial Demonstration Park and tastes some freshly picked products on site

(b) Yangzhou Aojite Biotechnology Corp., Ltd

2.41 The Delegation paid a visit to Yangzhou Aojite Biotechnology Corp., Ltd (“Yangzhou Aojite”). Founded in 2013 and located in Jiangdu District of Yangzhou, the company stands out as a prominent provincial enterprise specializing in agricultural industrialization, with core businesses focusing on the cultivation, processing and sales of portabella. Yangzhou Aojite spans an area of 135 acres, accommodating 92 **modernized intelligent mushroom houses**.



2.42 Members learn that Yangzhou Aojite adopts a three-dimensional **cultivation model** with **intelligent, electrified and standardized** “temperature, humidity, oxygen control” in its **mushroom houses** equipped with aluminium alloy mushroom beds, where temperature and humidity are regulated by an intelligent bionic system in an optimal growth environment without manual input.



The Delegation visits the modernized intelligent mushroom houses of Yangzhou Aojite Biotechnology Corp., Ltd

2.43 Members also note that Yangzhou Aojite employs a **factory cultivation model** to facilitate monitoring and management of growing conditions to protect the edible fungi from bacteria, pest and environmental contamination at source, **thereby substantially enhancing food safety**.



The Delegation receives a briefing from representatives of Yangzhou Aojite Biotechnology Corp., Ltd on how to enhance food safety through factory cultivation and technology

2.44 The Delegation calls on the **HKSAR Government and agricultural enterprises in Hong Kong to have more exchanges with agricultural enterprises in the Mainland** on advanced cultivation technologies and agricultural development trends, which are considered pivotal in **helping** the agricultural industry in Hong Kong to **address challenges such as farmland and manpower shortages, as well as competition from imported products**.



(c) Nanjing Li Ming company

2.45 The Delegation's next stop is Nanjing Li Ming company ("Nanjing Li Ming") founded in 2008. The company is primarily engaged in freshwater shrimp aquaculture, vegetable cultivation, as well as processing, distribution and sales of aquatic and agricultural products, along with research focusing on the sustainable development of the eco-agricultural industry. Notably, the company was recognized as one of the municipal leading enterprises in agricultural industrialization in Nanjing in 2014. One of the core businesses of Nanjing Li Ming is Yongning freshwater shrimp cultivation situated in Pukou, Nanjing (Yongning freshwater shrimp is a renowned specialty of Pukou), with its core area spanning more than 1 800 acres.



2.46 The Delegation notes that Nanjing Li Ming's cultivation base showcases the application of **cutting-edge technologies**, featuring advanced facilities such as meteorological monitoring equipment and a drone feeding system. These innovative technologies have greatly **enhanced cultivation efficiency** and achieved **intelligent management**, making the freshwater shrimp cultivation process more scientific and precise, while significantly improving production efficiency. Through these intelligent solutions, the base has successfully transformed this traditional aquaculture into a modern and efficient production model.



The Delegation receives a briefing from representatives of Nanjing Li Ming company on the latest development and facilities of freshwater shrimp cultivation

2.47 In addition, Nanjing Li Ming takes proactive steps to **establish a comprehensive industrial chain covering “cultivation, processing, storage, transportation and sale”** to ensure **high efficiency** at each stage, from cultivation to processing and sales, which significantly **increases output value** and **strengthens competitive edge in the market**.



The Delegation tours Nanjing Li Ming company's cold-chain logistics warehouse and distribution centre for agricultural and fisheries products

2.48 The Delegation is much impressed that alongside its pursuit of economic benefits, Nanjing Li Ming places significant emphasis on ecological protection. Through rational use of resources and optimization of production, the company has not only advanced its own **sustainable development**, but also made **significant contributions to the revitalization of the local rural economy**. Members consider that this **development model, which balances both economic efficiency and ecological conservation**, may serve as a valuable reference for the future development of the agriculture and fisheries industries in Hong Kong.

(d) Nanjing Tongwei company

2.49 The Delegation also visited Nanjing Tongwei company (“Nanjing Tongwei”). Established in 2013, the company mainly engages in aquaculture, commercial fish sales, research and development of aquaculture technology, consultation and promotion services, etc. Operating within a cultivation area of 3 748 acres in Jiangsu Province, Nanjing Tongwei has an annual output of 9.3 million catties of quality aquatic products, and is one of the mega aquaponic farms in the country. It has also been recognized as a demonstration farm for healthy aquaculture of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs and a demonstration unit for intelligent agriculture in Nanjing.



The Delegation tours the ecological cultivation area in Nanjing Tongwei Smart Fisheries Park

2.50 The Delegation notes that the ecological cultivation area in Nanjing Tongwei Smart Fisheries Park was equipped with **precise feeding towers**, **online water quality monitoring system**, etc., complemented with **real time drone inspections to make contingency responses** so as to realize the industrialization of aquaculture. Emphasizing on ecological cultivation, Nanjing Tongwei also adopts **factory cultivation with recycled water**, fulfilling **zero discharge of drainage**. This underscores the company’s commitment to environmental protection while creates employment opportunities for local farmers. In addition, Nanjing Tongwei has successfully established a **complete industrial chain** spanning from cultivation of high-quality fish fry to sale of end-products, enabling the

company to better **control product quality and enhance market competitiveness**. In the light of the successful experience of Nanjing Tongwei, the Delegation **suggests that the HKSAR Government should formulate a long-term plan to encourage the local fisheries industry to develop a sustainable eco-fisheries industry**.



The Delegation receives a briefing from representatives of Nanjing Tongwei company on the facilities in the Smart Fisheries Park

3.1 This chapter summarizes the Delegation's observations from the duty visit to Nanjing and Yangzhou in Jiangsu Province, emphasizing three key areas: **cityscape management and environmental hygiene, food safety, and development of the agriculture and fisheries industries**. It also outlines specific actions and measures recommended by Members in light of Hong Kong's current circumstances. They will serve as useful references for the HKSAR Government and facilitate the Panel in following up the relevant issues and formulating recommendations for deliberations within the Council in the future.



Enhancement of cityscape management and environmental hygiene

3.2 To better understand the practices and experiences of the province and municipalities in enhancing the cityscape and environmental hygiene spanning from policy formulation to implementation of specific measures, the Delegation met and exchanged views with the leaders of the Jiangsu Provincial Department of Housing and Urban-Rural Development, and then visited the Nanjing City Interface's management centre and the Hongmiao area in Xuanwu District of Nanjing to gain a first-hand understanding of how the relevant measures are being implemented. Members note that the following measures adopted by the province and municipalities have achieved significant results:

Observations

- ✿ **Coordinating, directing and supervising the work of urban and cityscape management at a high level** — The Jiangsu Provincial People's Government has established a province-wide joint meeting system and set annual targets for the relevant work to help monitor the progress and effectiveness of the work of relevant units.
- ✿ **Taking forward legislative and law enforcement work** — The Jiangsu Provincial People's Government has clearly delineated the scope of application of the legislation relating to urban management and designated the responsible authorities; explored new modes of enforcement (e.g. off-site law enforcement methods such as evidence collection using video cameras and demanding the halt of unlawful acts directly using loudspeakers); and strengthened the training of law enforcement officers to enhance enforcement efficiency.

- ✿ **Encouraging public participation** — Urban management service kiosks and workstations have been set up, together with the development of mobile applications to gauge public opinions (including report of irregularities), to put into practice the new concept of “urban management by the people” both online and offline.
- ✿ **Implementing a new unified management model under the approach of “coordinated actions comprising urban management, environmental hygiene and law enforcement”** — Issues of street management and environmental hygiene are handled jointly by government units responsible for urban management, property management companies and environmental hygiene companies to tackle the root causes of irregularities such as businesses obstructing public access, haphazard piling of objects and disposal of rubbish and sewage, and improper parking of non-motorized vehicles.
- ✿ **Building a digital service platform** — Different government departments coordinate and communicate among themselves on urban management-related work on an ongoing basis, gradually achieving “One Network Administration”, by which various information is to be integrated under a unified system to enhance the capability of modern urban management.
- ✿ **Continuously introducing mechanized environmental hygiene infrastructure** — Machines now take up 94% of the street cleansing work, which has effectively enhanced the efficiency of the street cleansing work and improved the occupational health and safety of environmental hygiene workers.
- ✿ **Promoting cooperation among the Government, businesses and the public through legislation** — A “cityscape and environmental hygiene responsibility zone” system has been put in place to stipulate in law the duties and obligations of those responsible for the cityscape and environmental hygiene, thereby promoting the consciousness in units and individuals to maintain the cityscape and environmental hygiene of places under their management or use.



The Delegation observes the waste recycling facilities at Hongmiao area in Xuanwu District of Nanjing



The Delegation visits the integrated administrative inspection and law enforcement workstation located at Hongmiao area in Xuanwu District of

3.3 **In Hong Kong, Members recognize the efforts made by the HKSAR Government** in enhancing environmental hygiene and street management. In particular, they appreciate the incumbent Chief Executive's appointment of, immediately after he took office in July 2022, the Deputy Chief Secretary for Administration to lead the District Matters Co-ordination Task Force, which has made every effort to direct, coordinate and steer the implementation of policy measures and follow-up work on district issues by various departments. That includes the phased implementation of the Government Programme on Tackling Hygiene Black Spots, beautification of the cityscape, and review of legislation relating to environmental hygiene. In addition, the Chief Executive has **set** in his Policy Addresses since 2022 **key performance indicators** for specified tasks including environmental hygiene and cityscape to cultivate a result-oriented culture within the Government, which fully reflects the HKSAR Government's determination to create a liveable city for the general public.⁷

3.4 The Delegation is of the view that by coordinating the concerted efforts of various government departments at the senior level to carry out district work and setting key performance indicators, the HKSAR Government's approach coincides precisely with that of Jiangsu Province which has established a province-wide joint meeting system for urban management and set annual targets. The effectiveness of the work carried out by the HKSAR Government is also evident to all.⁸ However, Hong Kong **still has to face squarely and make improvements to certain long-standing problems concerning environmental hygiene and street management**. The Delegation hopes that Hong Kong can learn from the successful experience of Mainland provinces and municipalities to **enhance its efficiency and effectiveness** in dealing with these problems, and continue to **beautify the cityscape to enhance people's sense of well-being**. In this connection, Members **put forward the following seven recommendations** to the HKSAR Government:

⁷ Regarding the key performance indicators set by the HKSAR Government for enhancing environmental hygiene and the cityscape, please refer to paragraphs 2 and 3 of [Annex to the 2022 Policy Address: Indicators for Specified Tasks](#) (p. 63); and paragraph 67 of [Annex to the 2023 Policy Address: On-going and valid indicators for specified tasks introduced in the 2022 Policy Address](#) (p. 101 and 102).

⁸ For the specific measures taken by the HKSAR Government in recent years to enhance environmental hygiene and cityscape and their effectiveness, please refer to the section under the subheading "Strengthening co-ordination in tackling environmental hygiene issues" (p. 62) of [2022 Policy Address—Policy Measures](#); and the section under the subheading "Enhancing district environment" (p. 69 to 71) and Indicators Nos. 2 and 3 in Annex (Progress of Indicators for Specified Tasks) of [2023 Policy Address—Policy Measures](#) (p. 84 and 85).

Recommended Actions/Measures

1. Expediting legislative amendment work

- ⇒ **Amend the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap. 132) as soon as possible** to more effectively address issues related to environmental hygiene, public health nuisances and street management, such as shopfront extension, water seepage in buildings, water dripping from air-conditioners and “garbage apartments”, and conduct **timely review** on the implementation and **effectiveness** of the relevant legislation. **Consider increasing the penalties** as necessary (e.g. introduction of “progressive fixed penalty” targeting repeated offenders of shopfront extension) to continuously enhance the efficiency, effectiveness and deterrence of the HKSAR Government in tackling knotty environmental hygiene problems.

2. Striking balance between law enforcement and economic development

- ⇒ **Provide timely training and adequate equipment** for the relevant law enforcement officers of the HKSAR Government to **strengthen the enforcement** of the Fixed Penalty (Public Cleanliness and Obstruction) Ordinance (Cap. 570) and other **environmental hygiene-related legislation** to improve the environmental hygiene of districts, and at the same time, provide **a favourable business environment** (e.g. to allow parking on the side of the roadway during off-peak hours to an appropriate extent) for local businesses, thereby achieving a **balance between maintaining environmental hygiene and keeping the districts vibrant** in Hong Kong.

3. Stepping up public education and publicity

- ⇒ **Enhance the public’s awareness of environmental hygiene and knowledge about the relevant legislation** to prevent offences committed out of lack of knowledge, thereby reducing the conflicts between law enforcement officers and members of the public and fostering social harmony.

4. Encouraging public engagement

⇒ **Make use of mobile applications and communications software**, which may work jointly with the thematic website of the Government Programme on Tackling Hygiene Black Spots, the Government hotline 1823 and the website of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department to provide more channels for the public to voice their views (e.g. reporting defects of public toilet facilities and making specific suggestions on how to beautify the cityscape), so as to **encourage public engagement** in the management of environmental hygiene and cityscape in various districts, as well as to **expedite the dissemination of information** to the government departments concerned for prompt follow-up actions and responses.



5. Reaping benefits of technology and AI

- ⇒ Apply technology and AI to the **monitoring of irregularities** relating to environmental hygiene, as an aid for **evidence collection** to enhance enforcement efficacy, for enhancing the effectiveness of **rodent and pest control work** in districts, and in **refuse collection facilities to monitor their usage** and share useful information with various government departments and the public, so as to minimize problems such as haphazard disposal of domestic waste by the public due to overflowing refuse collection bins and the resultant rodent and pest infestations.

6. Enhancing refuse collection facilities and services

- ⇒ Conduct appropriate trials of **light-weight electric refuse collection vehicles for waste collection**, which, as compared to the current mode of waste collection on the streets by workers using trolleys and brooms, can further **enhance the standards of environmental hygiene on the streets and occupational safety and health protection** for frontline cleansing workers by reducing their physical labour.

7. Improving public toilet services

- ⇒ **Expediting the Enhanced Public Toilet Refurbishment Programme and works of the Smart Public Toilet System**, so as to improve the overall hygiene and facility conditions of public toilets; **incorporate district-specific characteristics** into the architectural design of public toilets, so as to enhance users' perception and approval of public toilet services.



Further safeguarding food safety

3.5 As over 90% of Hong Kong's food is imported and the close food trade relationship between Hong Kong and the Mainland, the Delegation paid a courtesy call on the Nanjing Customs District and took the opportunity to learn about the advanced experience of food safety and testing of imported and exported food products in Jiangsu Province, and to promote cooperation between the two places in the domains of food safety and trade. During the meetings with the leaders of the Nanjing Municipal People's Government and the Yangzhou Municipal People's Government, Members have learnt that the food safety supervision and management system in Jiangsu Province consists of three tiers encompassing provincial, municipal and county-level authorities,⁹ forming a comprehensive regulatory network. In addition, Members visited a number of enterprises to observe how food safety could be enhanced through industrialized, intelligent and scientific farming and cultivation technologies. Members are particularly impressed by the following measures and practices:

Observations

- ✿ **Enhancing food traceability continuously** — Over the years, the electronic food safety traceability system in Jiangsu Province has documented each step throughout the entire food supply chain and established a database of traceable data, so that the government units concerned can carry out effective control and recall based on the traceable data once problematic food are detected, thereby protecting consumers at source. On the other hand, consumers may access traceable data (including details about the food, enterprises, inspection, and telephone numbers for enquiries and complaints) through various means such as websites, mobile phone software, Weixin official accounts and mobile phone scanner applications, thus greatly increasing transparency of information.

⁹ Provincial-level authorities, mainly the Jiangsu Provincial Administration for Market Regulation, are responsible for formulating policies, regulations and food safety standards; municipal-level authorities (including the Nanjing Administration for Market Regulation and the Yangzhou Administration for Market Regulation) are responsible for specific enforcement and inspection work, as well as collecting and analyzing food safety data, and identifying and handling problems in a timely manner; and county-level authorities are mainly responsible for the day-to-day supervision at primary level.

- ☯ **Adopting a new model of governance by entire society —** The government units in Nanjing have recruited food safety volunteers (including food experts, academics, community volunteers and caring citizens) from the community to assist them in detecting hidden food safety hazards and combating food safety-related offences.
- ☯ **Accelerating customs clearance for priority agricultural products —** In recent years, the Nanjing Customs District has actively promoted the quarantine access of quality agricultural and food products, ensured a safe supply of agricultural and food products to Hong Kong and Macao, and set up additional green lanes for the import and export of live, fresh and perishable agricultural and food products, which have benefited the industries and the public in the three places.



The delegation visits Nanjing Li Ming company and learns how the company successfully develops a diverse range of high-quality food products through advanced farming and cultivation as well as processing technologies

3.6 The Panel has been closely monitoring the implementation and effectiveness of the HKSAR Government's food safety measures. The Delegation **recognizes that Hong Kong** has successfully maintained a very high level of food safety with its stringent **food safety laws and regulations**, well-established **testing and accreditation mechanisms**, and efficient **import and export control system**. The Delegation is of the view that in the face of the rapidly developing food industry worldwide, the HKSAR Government must ensure that food sold in Hong Kong is safe and fit for consumption to **further enhance public confidence**, and at the same time strike a better **balance between safeguarding food safety and facilitating food trade**. Drawing inspiration from the practices in Jiangsu Province and taking into account the strengths of Hong Kong, the Delegation **puts forth the following five recommendations**:

Recommended Actions/Measures

1. Enhancing food traceability

- ⇒ Establish a **food coding and QR-code based traceability system** to enable consumers to search for information relating to food products and trace problematic food by scanning a traceable QR-code on food packages or displayed at food counters, so as to **enhance the capability and efficiency** of the HKSAR Government **in dealing with problematic food**, and **boost public confidence** in food safety.

2. Improving management of food processing chain

- ⇒ **Strengthen funding support**, through the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund and the Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund, to eligible organizations for implementing projects which are conducive to enhancing the food safety of local agricultural and fisheries products, so as to **enhance** the local industries' **management of agricultural and fisheries products** at various stages including **production, processing, distribution and storage**, thereby offering the public more opportunities to enjoy high-quality local agricultural and fisheries products.

3. Strengthening food safety cooperation between the two places

- ⇒ **Promote** to the Mainland the advantages of Hong Kong in **food surveillance mechanism** and strengthen cooperation between the two places to enhance food testing speed and effectiveness in both places, with a view to **achieving mutual recognition of the food safety mechanisms in the long run**, so as to further streamline the customs declaration and clearance formalities, and promote the trade and flow of food products between the two places.

4. Maintaining balance between food safety and supply

- ⇒ **Draw pragmatic reference from the relevant standards of the Mainland and/or the General Standard promulgated by the Codex Alimentarius Commission¹⁰** when setting or updating food safety standards, so as to ensure the food safety and stable supply of food in Hong Kong.

5. Stepping up public education and engagement

- ⇒ **Step up education and publicity** relating to food safety, further enhance the awareness of hygiene and food safety among food manufacturers and the general public, and **establish a sound reporting mechanism** for suspected problematic food, so as to encourage public engagement in food safety surveillance and to enhance food safety standards through tripartite cooperation amongst the Government, the food trade and consumers.

¹⁰ The Codex Alimentarius Commission, established by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Health Organization in 1960s, is regarded as the most important international source of reference for consumers, food producers, processors, food control agencies and the international trade in developing food associated standards. It is recognized by the World Trade Organization as the standard-setting body for food safety.



Promoting development of the agriculture and fisheries industries

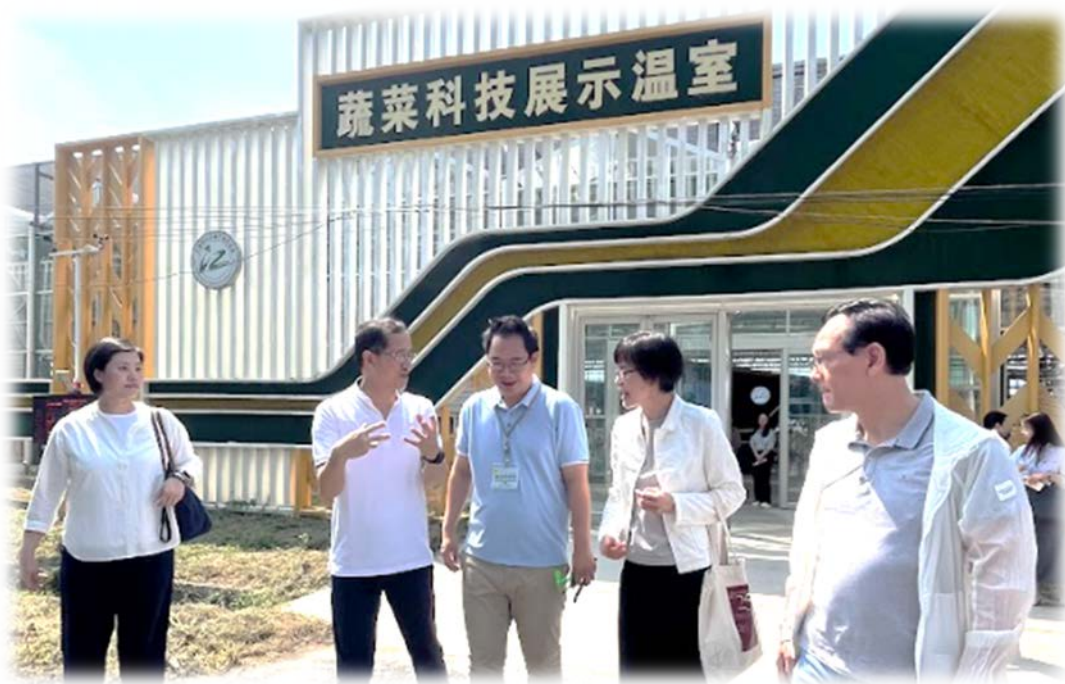
3.7 As a major agricultural province in China, Jiangsu Province possesses bountiful experience in taking forward the industrialization, specialization and scale-up of the agricultural industry and the modernization of the fisheries industry. In order to gain a better understanding of how the province and its municipalities have effectively facilitated the development of the agriculture and fisheries industries, the Delegation had in-depth exchanges with the leaders of Jiangsu Provincial Department of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, the Nanjing Municipal People's Government and the Yangzhou Municipal People's Government. Afterwards, the Delegation visits Jiangdu Agricultural Park, Yangzhou Aojite, Nanjing Li Ming and Nanjing Tongwei to find out how those leading enterprises have practically benefited from the Government's policy initiatives and the development of science and technology. Members' major observations are summarized below:

Observations

- ✿ **Government guidance and support are crucial** — The Jiangsu Provincial Department of Agriculture and Rural Affairs under the Jiangsu Provincial People's Government provides a favourable policy environment and atmosphere for the development of the agriculture and fisheries industries by various means, such as formulating development plans, implementing support policies and increasing financial support.
- ✿ **Innovations in science and technology generate new quality productive forces in the agriculture and fisheries industries** — New technologies such as Internet of Things, big data, AI are utilized to support advanced and fully mechanized farming and cultivation technologies, so as to effectively enhance production efficiency and management standards.
- ✿ **Integration of industries enhances added value and sustainability of the agricultural industry** — The Jiangsu Provincial People's Government has formulated a series of policies to support the development of leisure farming, providing technical guidance, granting focused support to relevant entrepreneurial and innovative clients to foster in-depth integration of the agricultural industry with tourism and

culture, and promote high-quality development of leisure farming.

- ✿ **Emphasis on brand building in the agriculture and fisheries industries** — Quality brands in the agriculture and fisheries industries have been built to increase economic benefits, promote the upgrading of the industries, enhance the competitiveness of the industries, and generate more income for farmers and fishermen.
- ✿ **Whole-industry-chain development mode offers obvious advantages** — Leading enterprises mostly adopt the whole-industry-chain development mode to comprehensively control the entire process from farming and cultivation to processing and sale. Such practice not only improves economic benefits, but also further ensures the quality and food safety of products.



The Delegation visits the vegetable technology exhibition greenhouse in the Jiangdu Modern Agricultural Industrial Demonstration Park in Yangzhou

3.8 The development of the agriculture and fisheries industries in Hong Kong has made significant strides in recent years. One of the **major initiatives** is the HKSAR Government's clear outline of **the future development direction and objectives** of the local agriculture and fisheries industries in the [Blueprint for Sustainable Development of Agriculture and Fisheries](#) published in December 2023. The Blueprint

proposes to promote the development of the agriculture and fisheries industries from the perspective of industrialization, and to assist the industries in upgrading, transforming towards modernization, intensification and sustainable development as well as integrating with the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area planning layout through the measures to be implemented in eight major areas of development, including “Application of Technology”, “Operating Environment”, “Diversification of Industries”, “Creation of Opportunities”, etc.

3.9 The Delegation **supports the HKSAR Government’s formulation of a long-term development plan for the agriculture and fisheries industries**, and looks forward to the gradual realization of the visions outlined in the Blueprint. Members consider that the HKSAR Government should draw reference from the experience of the Mainland and **actively explore** how Hong Kong can **leverage the new quality productive forces**¹¹ **to expedite the development of the local agriculture and fisheries industries**. The Delegation puts forward the following six recommendations:

Recommended Actions/Measures

1. Accelerating introduction of modern technologies to enhance competitiveness of industry chain

⇒ Step up efforts to **promote the application of smart agricultural technologies**, such as utilizing Internet of Things, big data, AI and other new and advanced technologies to achieve real-time monitoring and precise regulation of the growing environment of crops, as well as using **automated equipment** for irrigation, fertilization and pest control so as to enhance production efficiency and product quality. Regarding the fisheries industry, the HKSAR Government should **strengthen support for high-tech cultivation at financial, technical and sales aspects**, so as to transform the individual operation of the traditional fisheries industry into a collective one and establish an industry chain from production to consumption.

¹¹ The HKSAR Government interprets “new quality productive forces” as advanced productivity led by technological innovation that breaks away from the traditional mode of economic growth and development pathway. Adding technological content to productivity, it has the characteristics of high-end technology, high efficiency as well as high quality and quantity.

2. Establishing testing and accreditation system

- ⇒ Leverage the high standard and edges of Hong Kong's food surveillance mechanisms to **establish an accreditation and labelling system**, so as to assist accredited agricultural and fisheries products in **tapping into the Mainland and overseas markets** and to encourage local farmers and fishermen to continuously improve the quality and competitiveness of their products.

3. Nurturing new types of professional farmers and fishermen

- ⇒ **Formulate a long-term plan for nurturing talents** for the agriculture and fisheries industries; **strengthen collaborations among the industry, academic and research sectors**; offer diversified training programmes; encourage knowledge transfer to speed up the application and promotion of new technologies; and **provide subsidies and guidance for business start-up** to attract young people to join the agriculture and fisheries industries. Meanwhile, the HKSAR Government may attract Mainland talents with expertise in agriculture and fisheries technologies to join the agriculture and fisheries industries in Hong Kong **through the Top Talent Pass Scheme**, so as to foster exchanges and cooperation between the two places.

4. Building high-end brands to open up markets

- ⇒ **Establish local brands of high-quality and high-end agricultural and fisheries products** by capitalizing on Hong Kong's strengths in brand building and international marketing, complemented with multi-channel and multi-format **publicity and sales strategies** (e.g. live streaming sales), to expand into the Mainland and overseas markets.

5. Promoting export of Hong Kong food products to the Mainland

- ⇒ **Review** the effectiveness of the **customs clearance facilitation measures** for the export of Hong Kong food products to the Mainland, extend the coverage of the measures to more food categories (including agricultural and fisheries products) in a timely manner, and to organize in the Mainland more online and offline **promotional activities for Hong Kong food products**, so as to further enhance the popularity and attractiveness of Hong Kong food products in the Mainland.

6. Collaborative development of the agriculture and fisheries industries and tourism industry

⇒ Combine the agriculture and fisheries industries with local unique ecological environment and cultural characteristics to **develop leisure agricultural and fisheries tourism products** that embody such elements as farm dining, leisure fishing, farming experience, ecotourism, culture and arts, so as to achieve synergies, promote the diversified development of the industries, and create greater socio-economic benefits for farmers and fishermen.

Conclusion

3.10 The Delegation considers the duty visit to Nanjing and Yangzhou in Jiangsu Province highly rewarding. Through on-site visits to learn about the urban and cityscape management, food safety regulatory mechanisms and modern agriculture and fisheries development projects in the province and the municipalities, as well as meetings and exchanges with representatives of the local Governments and practitioners of the industries, Members have not only deepened their understanding of the advanced management experiences and technologies in the Mainland, but also gained valuable insights that serve as reference for shaping the policies of Hong Kong. The Delegation looks forward to translating the insights gained from the visit into concrete policy recommendations and action plans in the future, with a view to contributing to the enhancement of Hong Kong's urban competitiveness and the quality of life of its residents.



Acknowledgements

The successful conclusion of the duty visit is attributable to the full support of the Jiangsu Provincial People's Government, the Nanjing Municipal People's Government, the Yangzhou Municipal People's Government and the departments concerned, in particular the assistance offered by the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of Jiangsu Provincial People's Government. The Delegation highly appreciates the warm hospitality of the receiving units and their detailed presentations on the policies and latest situation relating to the cityscape, food safety and development of the agriculture and fisheries industries, which enable Members to gain valuable insights. The Delegation would like to extend its sincere gratitude to the Mainland government departments concerned and the receiving units.

The Delegation would also like to express its profound gratitude to the Environment and Ecology Bureau and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Shanghai for their assistance in liaising with the Mainland government departments concerned and receiving units, and for their efforts in planning the visit programme. The Delegation is particularly grateful to the delegation of the Environment and Ecology Bureau led by the Secretary for Environment and Ecology for joining the duty visit, which has facilitated in-depth exchanges between Members and government officials, and laid a good foundation for the formulation of relevant policies in the future.

Appendix 1: Membership list of the delegation of the Environment and Ecology Bureau

Mr TSE Chin-wan, BBS, JP
Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Miss Vivian LAU Lee-kwan, JP
Permanent Secretary for Environment and Ecology (Food)

Ms Irene YOUNG Bick-kwan, JP
Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Dr Christine WONG Wang
Controller
Centre for Food Safety, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Mr Patrick LAI Chuen-chi
Deputy Director
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Ms Anna CHOR Kin-lan
Principal Assistant Secretary for Environment and Ecology (Food)³

Ms Fanny HUI Hiu-bun
Press Secretary to Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Mr Dragon LI Sai-lung
Political Assistant to Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Miss Natalie YING Yan-chung
Assistant Secretary for Environment and Ecology (Food)⁴

Mr Derek CHAN Kin-tak
Senior Executive Officer (Food)¹, Environment and Ecology Bureau

Mrs Laura ARON, JP
Director, Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Shanghai

Miss Stella CHAN Suk-kan
Liaison Coordination Officer, Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Shanghai

Appendix 2: Duty visit programme

Wednesday, 21 August 2024	
Morning	Travel to Nanjing
Afternoon	Meeting and dinner with leaders of Nanjing Municipal People's Government
Thursday, 22 August 2024	
Morning	Exchange session with Jiangsu Provincial Department of Housing and Urban-Rural Development ✧ to understand the policy measures regarding urban and cityscape management
	Visit Nanjing City Interface's management centre ✧ to gain insights into enhancement of modern urban management capability through technology applications
Afternoon	Exchange session with Jiangsu Provincial Department of Agriculture and Rural Affairs ✧ to understand the policies and the latest development of the agriculture and fisheries industries
	Courtesy call on leaders of Nanjing Customs District ✧ to learn about the work on food safety and testing of imported and exported food products
	Travel to Yangzhou
Evening	Dinner and exchanges with leaders of Yangzhou Municipal People's Government
Friday, 23 August 2024	
Morning	Visit Jiangdu Modern Agricultural Industrial Demonstration Park in Yangzhou ✧ to learn about smart farming development
	Visit Yangzhou Aojite Biotechnology Corp., Ltd ✧ to learn about the latest development in edible fungi cultivation and food safety enhancement
Afternoon	Travel to Nanjing
	Visit Nanjing Li Ming company ✧ to understand the development of digitalizing aquatic product supply chain
	Visit Nanjing Tongwei company ✧ to understand farming facilities and systems of the modern agriculture and fisheries industries
Saturday, 24 August 2024	
Morning	Visit Hongmiao area in Xuanwu District of Nanjing ✧ to learn about enhancement of cityscape and environmental hygiene
Afternoon	Return to Hong Kong