

**Information Paper for
LegCo Panel on Commerce, Industry, Innovation and Technology**

**Report on the Work of
The HKSAR Government's Offices in the Mainland**

This paper informs Members of the work undertaken by the Beijing Office, the four Economic and Trade Offices (referred altogether as “the five Mainland Offices”) and the 11 Liaison Units of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government (HKSARG) in the Mainland, covering the period between November 2023 and October 2024.

Overview

2. The HKSARG has set up five Mainland Offices, viz. the Beijing Office, the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (ETO) in Guangdong, the Shanghai ETO, the Chengdu ETO and the Wuhan ETO, and a total of 11 liaison units under the Mainland Offices to cover 31 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions in the Mainland. During the reporting period, the Mainland Offices have continued to promote Hong Kong as a “super connector” and also a “super value-adder” for the Mainland to leverage Hong Kong’s advantages as a platform of attracting foreign enterprises and assisting mainland enterprises in going global. Moreover, the Mainland Offices have provided assistance to the HKSAR in the work on integrating into the overall national development, including actively dovetail with national strategies such as the National 14th Five-Year Plan, development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area and high quality development of the Belt and Road Initiative, and all-round co-operation with different provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions, with a view to fostering the high quality development of the nation and the HKSAR.

3. The five Mainland Offices are responsible for strengthening communication and liaison with the Central People’s Government, the provincial and municipal governments and other local authorities, promoting Hong Kong’s trade and commercial advantages in the Mainland to encourage and attract talents and investments into Hong Kong, fostering cultural exchange between young people, providing information and support to Hong Kong residents and enterprises in the Mainland, etc. During the reporting period, the Mainland Offices have actively organised and participated in large-scale events, such as forums, study tours and exhibitions etc., and explored more opportunities for business and development for Hong Kong people and enterprises through continuously deepening the co-operation with various provinces and municipalities in the sectors of commercial and trade, finance,

innovation and technology, creative industries, youth exchange, etc. Besides, the Immigration Divisions set up in the Mainland Offices provide practical assistance to Hong Kong people in distress, and also HKSAR passport application and collection service to Hong Kong people residing in the Mainland. Details of the work undertaken by the Mainland Offices are set out in paragraphs 4 to 8 below.

Liaison and Communication with the Central People's Government, the provincial and municipal governments

4. Through the communication and liaison with the Mainland authorities at central, provincial and municipal levels, the Mainland Offices keep abreast of the latest developments of the local policies, laws and regulations relating to economic and trade matters, and report to the relevant bureaux/ departments in a timely manner so that they could assess the impact on Hong Kong. The Offices also proactively provide the latest outlook of Hong Kong and explain to the Central People's Government, provincial and municipal authorities the major policies of the HKSARG. The Offices invite Mainland officials to attend the high-level forums and various promotional activities so as to enable them to have a comprehensive understanding of Hong Kong's latest situation and future development plan from different perspectives. Last but not least, the Mainland Offices offer assistance and facilitate the visits by the Mainland officials to Hong Kong.

Telling good stories of Hong Kong in the Mainland

5. The Mainland Offices share the good stories of Hong Kong on multiple fronts by collaborating and liaising with authorities in provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions, and make good use of different social media platforms, e.g. WeChat public account, Douyin, Bilibili, Xiaohongshu, Weibo, etc. By organising various promotion events to showcase Hong Kong's economy and trade, culture, arts, sports, tourism etc., the Offices encourage Mainland talents and enterprises to explore more opportunities in Hong Kong, and leverage Hong Kong's unique advantage of being closely connected to the world under the "One Country, Two Systems", as well as our international reputation, marketisation, law-based governance and professionalism.

Liaison and Communication with Business Sector

6. During the reporting period, the Dedicated Teams for Attracting Businesses and Talents set up in the Mainland Offices continued to promote Hong Kong as the best platform for enterprises to "go global". They also supported the work of the Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises and the

Hong Kong Talent Engage and coordinated relevant policies and work targets. The Teams proactively reached out to target talents and enterprises by organising or attending seminars, exhibitions, visits, etc., with a view to assisting them to set up or expand their business in Hong Kong.. Efforts have also been made to enhance the dissemination of information on local business environment, development opportunities and talent admission policies relevant to Hong Kong enterprises in the Mainland. To this end, regular newsletters on local economic and trade policies and regulations, business promotion, investment and economic and trade activities have been published. On the other hand, the Mainland Offices have helped Hong Kong businessmen to reflect views to the relevant authorities. Meetings between provincial/municipal government departments and the Hong Kong business community were lined up as and when necessary, with certain Offices having established mechanism with relevant Mainland authorities for holding regular meetings/seminars with Hong Kong enterprises to exchange views.

Youth and Cultural Exchange

7. The Mainland Offices have been supporting the exchanges and co-operation between young people from the Mainland and Hong Kong, and actively encouraging Hong Kong students to join the internship and exchange programmes in the Mainland. During the reporting period, the Mainland Offices not only have provided summer internship openings for Hong Kong students, but also participated in numerous internship or exchange events for Hong Kong students in different provinces and municipalities. Examples include “Youth Internship Programme at Chinese Academy of Sciences”, “Networking Dinner for Youths in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area”, “Youth Internship Programme at the Wolong National Nature Reserve in Sichuan”, etc. The Mainland Offices also provide information, assistance and advice to the students who participated in the internship or exchange programmes. Furthermore, the Mainland Offices organise sessions of talks and activities for recruitment by the Civil Service Bureau and other government departments.

8. On cultural front, the Mainland Offices have been working closely with the Mainland to foster more exchange opportunities for Hong Kong arts groups. In the past year, with the support of the Mainland Offices, different Hong Kong arts groups have staged performances in the Mainland. Together with the promotion on various media and social media platforms, it has helped Hong Kong showcase our distinctive cultural and tourism features.

Reports from the Mainland Offices

9. The detailed work reports of individual Mainland Offices are set out in the following Annexes -

	<u>Annex</u>
Beijing Office	1
Guangdong ETO	2
Shanghai ETO	3
Chengdu ETO	4
Wuhan ETO	5

Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
November 2024

**Report on the Work of
The Office of the Government of the
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region in Beijing**

The main functions of the Office of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region in Beijing (BJO) (including its Liaoning Liaison Unit and Tianjin Liaison Unit) are to (a) enhance liaison and communication between the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), the Central People's Government and Mainland authorities in the ten provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions under its coverage¹; (b) promote Hong Kong in general and particularly its economic and trade relations and cultural exchange with the ten provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions; (c) handle immigration-related matters; and (d) provide assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress. There are two liaison units (LUs) under BJO, namely Liaoning Liaison Unit (LNLU) and Tianjin Liaison Unit (TJLU). Over the past year, BJO has organised and participated in various activities in the provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions under its purview to take forward the development of business and trade, culture, youth exchange etc., with a view to promoting Hong Kong. Apart from calling on central and local ministries, commissions and organisations to enhance liaison and update them on the latest development of Hong Kong, BJO also assisted in arranging and supporting the visits of principal officials and other government officials. Details of the major work of BJO and its LUs in the past year are set out below.

Commercial Relations

2. BJO and its LUs proactively enhanced the liaison with central ministries and departments, as well as the governments and business sectors in the relevant provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions; promoted Hong Kong's strengths and opportunities under major national development strategies, such as the Belt and Road Initiative, and the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA); and promoted Hong Kong as a platform for Mainland enterprises to "go global". During the reporting period, the Chief Executive (CE) co-chaired the Fifth Plenary Session of the Hong Kong/Beijing Co-operation Conference with the Mayor of Beijing in November 2023, and led a delegation to attend the 27th Beijing Hong Kong Economic Co-operation Symposium and the Hong Kong Investment Promotion Conference held in September 2024 in Beijing. The Chief Secretary for Administration attended the press conference of the "Overall Development Plan for the Qianhai Shenzhen-Hong Kong Modern Service Industry Co-operation Zone" held in Beijing in December 2023 and the 2024 China Industrial Transfer and Development Matchmaking Activities (Heilongjiang) held in Harbin of

¹ Beijing Municipality, Tianjin Municipality, Hebei Province, Liaoning Province, Jilin Province, Heilongjiang Province, Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, Gansu Province and Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region.

Heilongjiang Province in September 2024. In July 2024, the Secretary for Justice participated in the Seventh Joint Conference on Advancing Hong Kong's Full Participation in and Contribution to the Belt and Road Initiative held in Beijing. The Deputy Secretary for Justice attended in Urumqi of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region the First China-Uzbekistan Local Cooperation Forum, the Eighth China Eurasia Expo and the Eighth International Mediation Summit in January, June and August 2024 respectively. BJO provided support for the above-mentioned visits.

3. During the reporting period, BJO attended a number of large-scale events² to introduce the latest situation of Hong Kong and to promote exchanges with the relevant provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions in economic, trade, cultural and other areas.

4. BJO has been closely monitoring the latest economic development in the Mainland and provided timely reports to the relevant bureaux and departments of the HKSAR Government, and pertinent news to Hong Kong entrepreneurs through organisations like the Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce in China (HKCCC). During the reporting period, policies, laws and regulations that were worth noting included the “Action Plan for Solidly Promoting High-level Opening Up and Making Greater Efforts to Attract and Utilise Foreign Investment”³ promulgated by the General Office of the State Council in March 2024, which seeks to better co-ordinate the overall domestic and international situations, strengthen the confidence of foreign-invested enterprises in investing and pursuing development in China, and create a first-class business environment characterised by marketisation, rule of law, and internationalisation. Meanwhile, BJO organised business seminars in Beijing in January and June 2024, with experts invited to explain the Central Economic Work Conference and the government work report of 2024 respectively, as well as to analyse the opportunities and challenges for Hong Kong-invested enterprises in integrated development in the Mainland brought about by the macroeconomic policies and the development of the new quality productive

² The large-scale events included the Annual Conference of Financial Street Forum 2023, the Opening Ceremony of the 26th Beijing Hong Kong Economic Co-operation Symposium, the inaugural China International Supply Chain Expo, the 2024 Annual Meeting of China Development Forum, the 2024 China International Fair for Trade in Services, the inaugural China (Heilongjiang) International Green Food and National Soybean Industry Expo, the 2024 Chinese New Year Reception for Foreign Friends in Dalian, the 4th “Invest in Liaoning” Conference, the 6th Annual Meeting of Overseas Business Associations in Liaoning, the 2024 Jilin Province Tourism Development Conference, the 2024 China Industrial Transfer & Development Matchmaking Activities (Heilongjiang), the 2024 China Liaoning International Fair of Investment and Trade, the 30th China Lanzhou Investment and Trade Fair, the 8th China-Eurasia Expo, the 4th China (Ningxia) International Wine Culture and Tourism Expo, the Opening Ceremony of the 27th Beijing Hong Kong Economic Cooperation Symposium and the Hong Kong Investment Promotion Conference, the 6th China Xinjiang International Dance Festival, the World Intelligence Expo, the 11th Tianjin International Children's Art Festival and the China (Tianjin) International Fair for Investment and Trade & PECC Expo held in Tianjin Municipality, the China Langfang International Economic and Trade Fair held in Langfang of Hebei Province and the Aranya Theatre Festival held in Qinhuangdao, etc.

³ In March 2024, the General Office of the State Council issued the “Action Plan for Solidly Promoting High-level Opening Up and Making Greater Efforts to Attract and Utilise Foreign Investment”, which specified five measures, namely expanding market entry and improving the liberalisation of foreign investment, stepping up policy support and enhancing the attractiveness to foreign investment, improving the environment for fair competition and optimising services for foreign-invested enterprises, facilitating the flow of innovative elements and promoting co-operation between domestic and foreign-invested enterprises, as well as improving domestic regulations and better aligning with international high-standard economic and trade rules.

forces. BJO also hosted in collaboration with the HKCCC the Ningxia Wine Tasting Dinner in Beijing in January 2024 to leverage Hong Kong's unique advantages of "enjoying strong support of the Motherland and being closely connected to the world" and promote Hong Kong as an important platform for Ningxia's wine industry to "go global".

5. In addition, the Third Plenary Session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC Central Committee) adopted the "Resolution on Further Deepening Reform Comprehensively to Advance Chinese Modernisation"⁴ in July 2024, which specifies that the reform tasks⁵ set out in the Resolution will be accomplished by 2029. The Resolution also explicitly mentions the strategic positioning of Hong Kong, which includes harnessing the institutional strengths of the "One Country, Two Systems" policy, and consolidating and enhancing Hong Kong's status as "three centres and a hub", i.e. international financial, shipping and trade centres, and an international hub for high-calibre talent. In late October, BJO organised a seminar on spirit of the Third Plenary Session of 20th CPC Central Committee and 2024 Policy Address and invited experts to explain the Resolution and introduce the content of the 2024 Policy Address to Hong Kong people and enterprises under BJO's service areas.

Public Relations

6. To enhance the promotion of Hong Kong's unique advantages under "One Country, Two Systems" and the opportunities arising from the National 14th Five-Year Plan (the "14th Five-Year Plan"), which proposes to develop Hong Kong into "eight centres", BJO and its LUs organised a series of thematic exhibitions and promotional activities focused on Hong Kong's arts and culture over the past year. We also collaborated with media organisations and utilised social media platforms to tell the good stories of Hong Kong.

⁴ In July 2024, the CPC Central Committee promulgated the "Resolution on Further Deepening Reform Comprehensively to Advance Chinese Modernisation", which sets out seven specific development goals, namely building a high-standard socialist market economy, developing whole-process people's democracy, turning China into a country with a strong socialist culture, improving people's quality of life, taking forward the Beautiful China Initiative, advancing the Peaceful China Initiative to a higher level and enhancing the Communist Party's leadership and long-term governing ability.

⁵ The Resolution covers reform tasks related to economic development under "seven critical systems" and "five important systems". The "seven critical systems" involve building a high-standard socialist market economy system, optimising the system and mechanism for promoting high-quality economic development, building a system and mechanism for all-round innovation, enhancing the system and mechanism for integrated development of urban and rural areas, enhancing the system and mechanism for high-standard opening up, deepening the reform of the cultural management system and mechanism, and deepening the reform of the ecological conservation systems. The "five important systems" involve optimising the system of macroeconomic governance, optimising the system for whole-process people's democracy, improving the system of socialist rule of law with Chinese characteristics, optimising the system for ensuring and improving people's wellbeing, as well as modernising the system and capacity of national security and continuously deepening the reform of national defence and military forces, so as to enhance the party's leadership in further deepening the reform and promoting Chinese-style modernisation.

Holding Thematic Exhibitions

7. Between June and September 2024, BJO and its LUs, in collaboration with the Hong Kong Tourism Board, held a roving exhibition titled “Hong Kong: A Dazzling World City” in Langfang (Hebei), Urumqi (Xinjiang), Shenyang (Liaoning), Lanzhou (Gansu), Harbin (Heilongjiang), Hohhot (Inner Mongolia), Changchun (Jilin) and Tianjin. It highlighted Hong Kong’s unique advantages, superior business environment, abundant development opportunities, a range of new policies for attracting businesses and talents, and diverse travel experiences to showcase the charms of Hong Kong as a global metropolis and enhance the Mainland public’s understanding of the city. The eight-stop exhibition attracted over 840 000 attendees. To further support the exhibition, BJO ran themed advertisements on WeChat Moments in regions hosting the event, sharing exhibition information and promoting Hong Kong’s vibrant city life. Relevant advertisements were displayed for more than 44.8 million times in total and the publicity effect was remarkable.

Film Promotion Events

8. To mark the 20th anniversary of the signing of the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA), BJO and the Broadway Cinematheque jointly hosted a forum and screening event in Beijing in January 2024. Three classic co-productions were showcased, and representatives and academics from the Hong Kong and Mainland film industries participated in a thematic forum to jointly explore development opportunities and collaborative outcomes in the film sector since CEPA was signed 20 years ago, as well as Hong Kong’s role in promoting Chinese film brands.

Partnership with Media Agencies

9. BJO proactively shares the good stories of Hong Kong through traditional media and online platforms. In addition to continuing our collaboration with China Media Group’s “Radio The Greater Bay” channel to co-produce radio programmes⁶, we partnered with People’s Daily Online to create dedicated websites featuring Hong Kong. In November 2023, BJO arranged for journalists from People’s Daily Online to conduct a series of interviews in Hong Kong under the theme “Consolidating Strengths and Creating Impetus”. A total of six in-depth reports were produced, covering Hong Kong’s latest work and policy measures on economy and trade, innovation

⁶ Two radio programmes, namely “Beijing-Hong Kong Through Train” and “Tuning In for Hong Kong”, have been co-produced with China Media Group’s “Radio The Greater Bay” channel to introduce to the Mainland community Hong Kong’s latest development and strengths under “One Country, Two Systems”. During the reporting period, the two programmes aired a total of 120 feature segments covering major developments in Hong Kong’s economy, finance, innovation and technology, arts and culture, tourism, as well as important conventions, exhibitions and other major events in the city.

and technology, sports development, talent attraction, and patriotic education, etc. A video was also released to convey Hong Kong's aspiration for future development. In September 2024, People's Daily Online launched the annual series "Exploring Hong Kong" to showcase the city's strengths in arts and culture, education, business environment, innovation and technology, talent attraction, city life and tourism through character-based mini-documentaries. The five-video series was well received, garnering over 700 000 views across various platforms.

10. Between September and December 2024, BJO collaborated with Tencent in launching an online promotional campaign, "In Love with Hong Kong", to encourage Mainland visitors to share their positive impressions of Hong Kong and the reasons they love the city, allowing them to tell their Hong Kong stories from first-hand experience. Through the campaign, we solicited Hong Kong-related videos from various online platforms (e.g. news.qq.com, WeChat, Xiaohongshu, Douyin, and Bilibili) and conducted a survey to gather insights on why people appreciate Hong Kong. After analysing and consolidating the data, a white paper on Mainland residents' fondness for Hong Kong will be produced and the results are expected to be released in December this year.

Promotions on Social Platforms

11. BJO has actively enhanced its publicity efforts on Mainland social media. In January 2024, BJO launched an official account on Xiaohongshu to regularly share the latest developments of BJO and various updates about Hong Kong. During the reporting period, BJO published over 700 posts across its Xiaohongshu official account, WeChat public account, WeChat Channels and Douyin official account, aiming to promote Hong Kong on multiple fronts.

Cultural Exchange

12. BJO has continued to develop and strengthen its ties with the Ministry of Culture and Tourism as well as the cultural organisations of the relevant provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions, and to explore more opportunities for cultural exchanges for Hong Kong's arts organisations. In the past year, BJO supported various cultural activities and actively arranged visits by Hong Kong's arts groups to the Mainland, with a view to promoting cultural exchanges between Hong Kong and the Mainland, and showcasing Hong Kong's role as an East-meets-West centre for international cultural exchange. These activities covered areas of music, dance, drama, film, visual arts, etc.

13. BJO launched the "Happy Spring" concert series to showcase three different styles of music development in Hong Kong through events including the "Soundscape of the Southern: Lingnan Traditional Chamber Orchestra and

Windpipe Chinese Music Ensemble”, “Spring–Yao Jue Violin Recital of Hit Songs” and “Passion for Hong Kong – Exchange Concert by National Music Virtuosi in Hong Kong”, with a total of six performances staged in Beijing and Tianjin. Afterwards, the Hong Kong Gaudeamus Dunhuang Ensemble had its premiere in Beijing and Tianjin as part of the “8th Bridge • Chinese Spring Arts Festival 2024”, while the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra visited Beijing Municipality, Harbin of Heilongjiang Province, Shenyang of Liaoning Province respectively to hold performances, treating audiences in all three cities to a musical feast. The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra also collaborated with the Harbin Conservatory of Music, the Shenyang Conservatory of Music and the Central Conservatory of Music to organise master classes and interact with teachers and students. BJO also supported a number of events including the performances of the Hong Kong Repertory Theatre in Beijing and the performances of the City Contemporary Dance Company from Hong Kong in Beijing and at the Aranya Theatre Festival in Qinhuangdao of Hebei Province; and co-hosted a seminar with the Beijing Performing Arts Academy. Besides, the Asian Youth Orchestra paid visits to Beijing and Tianjin respectively.

14. Moreover, in November 2023, tenor Warren Mok, in collaboration with Opera Hong Kong, led a group of young singers to perform in the concert tour in Hohhot of Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, Yinchuan of Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region and Dalian of Liaoning Province. The performances were well received by the audience. In August 2024, the concerts were held again in Changchun of Jilin Province, and then in Beitun (10th Division) of the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps (XPCC) and Ili Kazakh Autonomous Prefecture of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, in celebration of the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the XPCC and the Ili Kazakh Autonomous Region. In September, the performing group visited Tianjin Municipality to kick off the “Tianjin-Hong Kong Co-operation Week cum Tianjin-Hong Kong Week” and then moved on to Dunhuang of Gansu Province to perform at the Dunhuang International Cultural Expo.

Youth Exchange

15. On the promotion of youth exchange, BJO and its LUs have been proactively supporting Hong Kong students to join the internship and exchange programmes in the Mainland, so as to encourage exchanges and co-operation between young people from the Mainland and Hong Kong. During the reporting period, BJO and its LUs attended various internship or exchange programmes for Hong Kong students held in the relevant provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions and provided appropriate assistance, including a number of youth internship and exchange programmes organised by the Home and Youth Affairs Bureau, such as the “Hong Kong-Macao Youth Internship Programme at Palace Museum” and the “Youth Internship Programme at Chinese Academy of Sciences”.

16. Furthermore, during the visits by senior officials, BJO proactively arranged the local Hong Kong youths to meet with the officials for sharing their study, work and lives in the Mainland, and to take the opportunity to learn about the latest policy initiatives and social development in Hong Kong. During the reporting period, CE attended a seminar organised by the Hong Kong Alumni Association of Beijing Universities for Hong Kong students studying in Beijing in March 2024; the Chief Secretary for Administration had exchanges with the Hong Kong students in Beijing interning at BJO in August.

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

17. On regional co-operation, BJO assisted in arranging a delegation led by the Mayor of Beijing to visit Hong Kong in November 2023. During the visit, the Mayor and CE co-chaired the Fifth Plenary Session of the Hong Kong/Beijing Co-operation Conference and both sides signed the Co-operation Memorandum of the Fifth Plenary Session Hong Kong/Beijing Co-operation Conference to pursue co-operation in 11 areas. In addition, the government departments of the two places signed four co-operation agreements, covering the areas of financial services, education, youth development and food safety.

18. During the reporting period, BJO continued its efforts in Government-to-Government co-operation, and strengthened liaison and co-operation through visits to the central and relevant local government bodies and participation in their activities. BJO also provided regular reports to the relevant bureaux and departments of the HKSAR Government to enable the HKSAR Government to keep abreast of the policies and developments in the Mainland and assess their possible implications on Hong Kong.

19. BJO has also strived to strengthen efforts to broaden and deepen its liaison network with Hong Kong enterprises and people through various activities, with a view to better supporting Hong Kong people working, doing business, studying and living in the Mainland. BJO and its LUs continued to maintain close contact with Hong Kong people and business associations and meet the locally-based Hong Kong people and businessmen, so as to learn about the situation of their business, work and life and to refer their concerns to the relevant authorities when necessary.

20. BJO has been providing support to Hong Kong students studying in the Mainland through various means, including maintaining close contact with the student associations concerned to learn more about their daily lives, studies and employment situation; supporting their promotion of Hong Kong on campus; providing them with timely information on employment opportunities; and providing internship positions at BJO for Hong Kong students studying at higher

education institutions in Beijing. Furthermore, BJO organises annually a gathering of orientation and life planning and a briefing on civil service recruitment to provide a cross-year/cross-school exchange platform for Hong Kong students studying at higher education institutions in Beijing. During the reporting period, BJO also helped the Civil Service Bureau to organise two sessions of recruitment talks at Renmin University of China and China University of Political Science and Law in September 2024 for the Administrative Officer and Executive Officer grades.

Liaoning Liaison Unit (LNLU)

21. In February 2024, the functions regarding Hong Kong and Macao affairs in Liaoning Province were transferred to the CPC Liaoning Provincial Committee. LNLU established ties and co-operation with the Hong Kong and Macao Work Offices (HKMAOs), and enhanced liaison between the HKSAR Government and different levels of the local governments in the three northeast provinces through visits and activities to promote economic, trade, cultural and youth exchanges and co-operation between Hong Kong and the three northeast provinces, and provide support to Hong Kong people and enterprises in the area.

22. During the reporting period, LNLU actively promoted business exchanges between Hong Kong and the three northeast provinces, and upon invitation visited Dalian High-Tech Industries Development Zone and Dandong of Liaoning Province, Changbai Mountain Protection and Development Zone in Yanbian of Jilin Province, and Qiqihar of Heilongjiang Province. LNLU also attended trade fairs and expos in different provinces.

23. LNLU has all along maintained close liaison with the Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce in Liaoning (HKCCLN), Hong Kong Enterprises Association of Jilin Province and Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC) Dalian Office, and supported their activities. During the reporting period, LNLU and the HKCCLN co-organised the “Hong Kong Business Environment and Talent Admission Measures” seminar in Dalian. LNLU also met with the Hong Kong people, representatives of Hong Kong enterprises and Hong Kong students in the three northeast provinces to learn about the situation of their living, business and study and their needs in the provinces, and provide appropriate assistance if necessary.

24. LNLU actively promoted youth, cultural and other exchanges between Hong Kong and the three northeast provinces. During the reporting period, apart from supporting the cultural activities held in the three northeast provinces as mentioned in paragraphs 13 and 14 above, LNLU also organised a seminar at Harbin Institute of Technology to introduce the scheme for Mainland Chinese residents’ entry to Hong Kong and the local circumstances in Hong Kong, and attended the opening ceremony of the “Hong Kong-Macao Summer Class” held

by Dalian Maritime University as well as the closing ceremony of “Chasing Dreams in the Deep Blue”-2024 Internship Programme for Hong Kong Young Students on board the Yukun Vessel. On internship, LNLU ran a summer internship programme for university students from Hong Kong and offered placements to four students from two Hong Kong universities. LNLU also helped a Hong Kong secondary school to organise a historical study and exchange tour for its teachers and students in two cities of the province through the liaison by the Liaoning Provincial HKMAO.

Tianjin Liaison Unit (TJLU)

25. TJLU has maintained a close working relationship with various government agencies in Tianjin and Hebei, and actively participated in various activities organised by the governments of Tianjin Municipality and Hebei Province as mentioned in paragraph 2 above. In September 2024, TJLU, together with the Tianjin Municipal HKMAO and other local authorities, jointly organised the “Tianjin-Hong Kong Co-operation Week cum Tianjin-Hong Kong Week” to showcase the advantages of Hong Kong and foster cultural, economic and trade exchanges and co-operation between Tianjin and Hong Kong through a series of promotional activities on economy, trade, culture and tourism.

26. TJLU has continued to promote economic and trade exchanges with Tianjin and Hebei. During the reporting period, TJLU visited various cities and districts in Tianjin and Hebei, including Wuqing District of Tianjin Municipality, as well as Baoding, Shijiazhuang, Langfang and Qinhuangdao of Hebei Province, to learn more about the local business environment and general situation of local industries, strengthen ties with local governments, and explore business opportunities for Hong Kong enterprises. In respect of liaison with Hong Kong business sector, TJLU actively invited the Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce in Tianjin (HKCCTJ) to its activities, visited Hong Kong enterprises in Tianjin and participate in various activities organised by HKCCTJ. TJLU also met with representatives of HKCCTJ from time to time to learn more about their business situation and provide them with timely support. In addition, TJLU joined hands with a delegation from Hong Kong’s innovation & technology sector to inspect the I&T projects and visit the innovation park in Tianjin and, together with the Tianjin Municipal HKMAO, invited the Chinese Manufacturers’ Association of Hong Kong and Hong Kong enterprises to visit Tianjin and take part in various activities of the “Tianjin-Hong Kong Co-operation week cum Tianjin-Hong Kong Week”.

27. TJLU has been actively promoting cultural and youth exchanges between Hong Kong, Tianjin and Hebei. During the reporting period, TJLU supported and attended a number of cultural activities organised by Hong Kong art and cultural groups (see paragraphs 13 & 14 above). On youth exchanges, TJLU organised cultural activities and life planning talks for Hong Kong

students in Tianjin to enable them to better understand the country's history and culture, to cultivate an affection for home and country in them, and to help them set and develop steps to achieve their personal goals. In addition to providing internship for Hong Kong students in Tianjin, TJLU also organised activities for the Hong Kong student groups coming to Tianjin for internship and exchange, so as to enrich their experience in Tianjin and guide them in understanding the country's history and culture.

Business and Talent Attraction / Investment Promotion

28. The Dedicated Team for Attracting Businesses and Talents/Investment Promotion Unit (DTABT/IPU) under BJO endeavours to liaise with and visit potential enterprises, as well as relevant commercial and industrial organisations, and to introduce to them the competitive edges of Hong Kong as a platform for Mainland enterprises to “go global”. Those interested in setting up businesses in Hong Kong are offered comprehensive assistance and consultation services. DTABT/IPU also co-operated with the Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises (OASES) and the Hong Kong Talent Engage by actively reaching out to target enterprises and talents, providing information and services, and proactively assisting them to pursue development in Hong Kong.

29. During the reporting period, DTABT/IPU actively reached out to a total of 203 high-quality enterprises in the Mainland and completed 69 investment projects, catalysing enterprises to invest in Hong Kong. DTABT/IPU joined OASES and the Immigration Division of BJO to organise or attend 49 industry-based or investment promotion seminars and exhibitions, as well as events in various scales and forms to proactively attract quality enterprises and talents to pursue development in Hong Kong. In particular, DTABT/IPU organised four investment promotion roundtable meetings in Hohhot and Baotou of Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region and Beijing Municipality respectively in November and December 2023 and in May and August 2024. In January and April 2024, DTABT/IPU organised the “Unparalleled Opportunities to Expand Your Global Business – Beijing-Hong Kong Innovation and Technology Industry Investment Promotion Seminar” and the “Seminar on HKSAR Business Environment and Talent Admission Schemes” in Beijing Municipality. DTABT/IPU also hosted the “Seminar on Co-operation between Heilongjiang and Hong Kong ‘Heilongjiang-Hong Kong Co-operation – Utilising Hong Kong to Expand Overseas Business Opportunities’” in Harbin of Heilongjiang Province in July and the “Seminar on Co-operation between Tianjin and Hong Kong ‘Tianjin-Hong Kong Co-operation – Utilising Hong Kong to Expand Overseas Business Opportunities’” in Tianjin Municipality in September. These events were organised to promote Hong Kong's opportunities and strengths.

30. DTABT/IPU also joined hands with the two LUs under BJO to call on enterprises and government departments in the service areas from time to time, and promote the competitive edges of Hong Kong, the latest government policies and the business-friendly environment for innovation and entrepreneurship. Moreover, DTABT/IPU assisted in making arrangement for Mainland officials and enterprises to visit Hong Kong, enabling them to learn about Hong Kong's latest economic climate and investment environment, and facilitated enterprises to set up businesses in Hong Kong.

Immigration-related Matters and Assistance Rendered

31. Immigration matters handled by BJO included processing applications for entry to Hong Kong, providing services regarding first applications for and replacement of HKSAR travel documents, liaising and maintaining contacts with its Mainland counterparts in the relevant departments on immigration-related issues and matters relating to applications for Chinese nationality in Hong Kong, conducting negotiations on visa-free access with foreign diplomatic missions in Beijing, handling enquiries on immigration matters, publicising and promoting talent admission schemes, and providing practical assistance to Hong Kong residents who had lost their identity documents or encountered personal safety problems in the Mainland.

32. During the reporting period, BJO received a total of 80 requests for assistance from Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland. Of these, 35 cases involved the loss of travel documents or monies, 34 cases were from persons who were involved in traffic accidents, injured, sick or whose relatives had passed away in the Mainland, etc., and the remaining 11 cases involved the detention of Hong Kong residents in the Mainland. BJO also processed 6 056 entry applications, 2 492 applications for HKSAR passport, 57 applications for HKSAR Document of Identity for Visa Purposes, 25 applications for HKSAR Re-entry Permit and handled 21 358 enquiries. Regarding the publicity and promotion of the talent admission schemes, BJO's Immigration Division collaborated with relevant sections and the two LUs to promote Hong Kong's talent admission schemes for a total of 29 times to groups and units in different regions, including Beijing Municipality, Tianjin Municipality, Liaoning Province, Heilongjiang Province and Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region.

33. In addition, the Immigration Division of BJO co-operated with the Hong Kong youths in Beijing taking part in the Immigration Department Youth Ambassador Programme by leveraging on the Youth Ambassadors' personal social networks to further disseminate and convey the latest service information and updates about the Immigration Department and render assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland more effectively.

Looking Ahead

34. BJO will continue to promote Hong Kong in the provinces/ municipalities/ autonomous regions under its coverage and to enhance liaison with the governments of these provinces/ municipalities/ autonomous regions with a view to enhancing exchanges and communication in respect of trade, investment, culture and youth matters between Hong Kong and the Mainland, and telling the good stories of Hong Kong. BJO will continue to monitor the latest developments in major policies, laws and regulations and initiatives in the Mainland and to make timely reports to the relevant bureaux and departments to facilitate assessment of their implications on Hong Kong. BJO will also continue to enhance its support to Hong Kong people living, working or studying in its service areas by providing them with services and information, including the specific facilitation measures to be put in place by the relevant authorities of the CPG for Hong Kong people studying, working and living in the Mainland.

The Office of the Government of the HKSAR in Beijing
November 2024

**Report on the Work of
the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong of
the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region**

The main functions of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong (GDETO) of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) (including its Shenzhen Liaison Unit (SZLU), Fujian Liaison Unit (FJLU) and Guangxi Liaison Unit (GXLU)) are to (a) further developing and promoting the economic and trade relations between HKSAR and Fujian, Guangdong, Guangxi and Hainan (the service provinces/region) through enhanced communication and co-operation with the provincial governments and local authorities; (b) acting as a channel of information between the HKSAR Government and the authorities of the service provinces/region on economic and trade developments; (c) strengthening communication with and providing better support for Hong Kong businessmen operating in the service provinces/region, and assisting the Hong Kong youths to start up business and seek employment in the service provinces/region; (d) supporting the Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises (OASES) and Hong Kong Talent Engage (HKTE) of the HKSAR Government and proactively attracting target enterprises as well as talents to HKSAR; (e) providing assistance for Hong Kong residents in distress in the service provinces/region; (f) projecting a positive image of Hong Kong as a good business partner through organising promotional activities in the service provinces/region; and (g) stepping up the publicity and promotion efforts in deepening co-operation between HKSAR and Mainland cities of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA) and providing enhanced support for Hong Kong residents and enterprises in GBA.

2. In the past year, in order to foster the development of GBA and the Belt and Road Initiative (B&RI) as well as to strengthen exchanges and co-operation between Hong Kong and the four service provinces/region, GDETO vigorously supported official visits between Hong Kong and the Mainland, and participated in high-level conferences and large-scale events in the service provinces/region so as to strengthen ties between the two places.

3. The Chief Executive (CE) attended the “2024 GBA iForum cum Dinner” and met with the Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Guangdong Provincial People’s Congress and the Secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Dongguan Municipal Committee in Dongguan in January 2024; met with the Director of the Hong Kong and Macao Work Office of CPC Central Committee and the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council in Shenzhen in March; attended the inaugural meeting of the Organising Committee of the 15th National Games, the Organising Committee of the 12th National Games for Persons with Disabilities and the 9th National Special Olympic Games in Guangzhou in April; and led the delegation of HKSAR to

meet with the Secretary of the CPC Guangdong Provincial Committee and co-chaired the 24th Plenary of the Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation Joint Conference with the Governor of Guangdong Province in Guangzhou in July.

4. In addition, the Chief Secretary for Administration (CS) visited Guangzhou, Huizhou and Shenzhen in January 2024 to meet with leaders of the respective municipalities, visit a number of enterprises and organisations and meet with Hong Kong people and enterprises there; attended the Guangdong Provincial High-quality Development Conference in Shenzhen in February; attended the Boao Forum for Asia (BFA) Annual Conference 2024 held in Hainan in March, during which he met with the Governor of Hainan Province, delivered speeches at the “Global Free Trade Ports Development Forum” and the “Hainan-Hong Kong Entrepreneurs’ Luncheon” and had exchanges with representatives of Hong Kong youth volunteers serving at the BFA. In January, the Financial Secretary attended the inauguration of BEA Tower in Qianhai, Shenzhen. In July, the Secretary for Justice (SJ) led a delegation of the Department of Justice (DoJ) to Guangzhou to meet with Guangzhou Municipal Justice Bureau and attend the opening ceremony of the Practical Legal Training for Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Lawyers at the Guangdong Judges College. In August, SJ led a delegation to Shenzhen and Foshan and attended the “Resolve2Win – Legal Services of Hong Kong, Opportunities for All” conference co-organised by DoJ and the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC) in Shenzhen. SJ also attended the opening ceremony of the 4th Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Enterprise Legal Services Forum in Zhuhai. Other principal officials also made visits to GDETO’s service provinces/region to strengthen ties and co-operation in different areas.

5. With the support of GDETO, officials at different levels of Hong Kong and the Mainland conducted visits and attended various activities during the reporting period. Among them, 109 visits were made by HKSAR Government officials to GDETO’s service provinces/region and 50 visits were by Mainland officials to Hong Kong.

Commercial Relations

6. GDETO is committed to providing support for Hong Kong enterprises. Its key services included collecting the latest information on Mainland trade-related policies and regulations, economic development, as well as economic and trade activities, and disseminating such information to the industry through the release of the weekly GDETO Newsletter via email, GDETO website and WeChat platform; organising seminars on matters of common concern of Hong Kong people and businessmen (such as taxation, labour laws and funding schemes benefitting the development of Hong Kong-invested enterprises, etc.) so as to help them better understand the policies

and seize opportunities; and providing support for Hong Kong businessmen to expand their business network and explore Mainland domestic sales market through various activities. Examples included co-organising with relevant organisations the “Talk on the New Trend in Guangdong’s Business Environment: Insights on Taxation and Finance and Analysis of the Labour Law and Social Insurance Policies” to help Hong Kong businessmen understand the laws and regulations of the Mainland government; the “2024 Spring Exchange Session for Hong Kong Businessmen in Guangdong” to build a platform for promoting exchanges among Hong Kong businessmen; as well as the “Dongguan-Hong Kong Sharing Session on New Industrialisation Technologies and Policies” and the “2024 Guangdong/Hong Kong Seminar on Intellectual Property and Development of Small and Medium Enterprises” in Zhongshan, etc. to allow Hong Kong people and businessmen to have discussions and exchanges on the latest technologies and development. Furthermore, GDETO supported the organisation of the “2023 First Dongguan-Hong Kong Quality Product Carnival” to assist Hong Kong businessmen to explore Mainland domestic market; the “2024 GBA iForum cum Dinner” in Dongguan to help Hong Kong businessmen have a grasp of the latest market information and share experiences; and the “Gold Pilot Award” to showcase the outstanding performance and achievements of Hong Kong enterprises in the service industry and relevant management fields in GBA, as well as to enhance recognition to the service industry of Hong Kong.

7. GDETO has been closely monitoring the economic and social development of the respective provinces and municipalities, including their participation in the B&RI, as well as the development of GBA and the Pilot Free Trade Zones in Guangdong, Fujian, Hainan and Guangxi. By disseminating information, and organising seminars and other activities, GDETO assisted Hong Kong enterprises to seize the business opportunities arising from these initiatives. Important policy developments during the reporting period included the “Overall Development Plan for the Qianhai Shenzhen-Hong Kong Modern Service Industry Co-operation Zone”, the “Three-Year Action Plan for the Development of International Business Environment in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area” and other major planning documents relating to the development of GBA promulgated by the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) in December 2023; the “Regulations on Promoting the High-quality Development of Manufacturing Industries in Guangdong Province”, the “Regulations of Nansha on Deepening Globally Oriented Comprehensive Co-operation amongst Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao” and the “Action Plan for Upgrading the Strategy of China (Guangdong) Pilot Free Trade Zone” promulgated by Guangdong Province in January 2024; the “Action Plan for Promoting the High-quality Development of Low-altitude Economy in Guangdong Province (2024-2026)” promulgated by Guangdong Province in May 2024; and the “Several Measures for Providing

Greater Support for Large-scale Equipment Renewals and Consumer Goods Trade-ins” promulgated by NDRC and the Ministry of Finance in May.

8. GDETO also attended various activities to promote the roles Hong Kong could play regarding the implementation of B&RI as well as the development of GBA, and the ways that Hong Kong could better integrate into the overall development of the country. These activities included the “2023 Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Fair for Trade in Services” in Zhuhai; the opening receptions of the 135th and 136th “China Import and Export Fair”, the “Conference on High-quality Development of Low-altitude Economy in Guangdong Province”, the “2024 South China Book Festival”, and the Series Event “Hong Kong • IN • Brand Greater Bay” (Guangzhou) in Guangzhou; the “Belt and Road Global Chambers of Commerce and Associations Conference 2023” in Fuzhou; the “2023 Executive Committee Meeting of the Fuzhou Chamber of Commerce of the China Chamber of International Commerce” in Fuzhou; the “2024 Joint Conference of Overseas Economic and Trade Organisations” in Xiamen; the “7th Digital China Summit” in Fuzhou; the “24th China International Fair for Investment and Trade” in Xiamen; and “The 21st China-ASEAN Expo and the Opening Ceremony of the China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit” in Nanning, etc.

Public Relations

9. During the reporting period, GDETO produced a total of eight promotional videos showcasing various aspects of Hong Kong, which included Hong Kong’s pop culture, the East Coast Park Precinct, the “Oi!” art space, the Cha Kwo Ling Promenade, the Sam Tung Uk Museum, as well as the interview with the Hong Kong youths participating in the Greater Bay Area Youth Employment Scheme and the introduction of the roles of GDETO. GDETO also published five episodes of short videos entitled “Telling the Good Stories of the Greater Bay Area” to publicise and promote to the Mainland the immense opportunities brought about by GBA development, as well as Hong Kong’s important role as a core city and core engine for regional development in GBA, attracting overseas talents, enterprises and capital to Hong Kong for tapping the huge GBA and Mainland markets via Hong Kong. In addition, GDETO produced an informative video on points to note about “Northbound Travel for Hong Kong Vehicles”. GDETO also collaborated with Xinghai Conservatory of Music to produce a video titled “Best Wishes from Hong Kong and Guangdong Students to the Motherland” to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China. GDETO published the above videos on multiple media platforms, including WeChat, WeChat Channels, NanfangPlus, Weibo, Douyin, Bilibili, Xiaohongshu, and Kuaishou, etc., to enhance publicity and promotion of Hong Kong. There were a total of over 2 720 000 views for a total of 15 videos.

10. On promoting Hong Kong, in December 2023, GDETO organised the “Hong Kong Talents and Arts – Hong Kong Intangible Cultural Heritage Exhibition” in Guangzhou, in which items of Hong Kong’s intangible cultural heritage (including Hong Kong-style milk tea, steamer making technique, paper crafting technique, etc.) were showcased and 30 workshops were organised. The 10-day exhibition attracted over 360 000 visitors in total. In April to May 2024, GDETO set up the “Vibrant Hong Kong Tram” special event with Guangzhou Tram, during which four tram compartments were decorated with the themes of “Major Events”, “Dynamism”, “Arts and Culture” and “Tradition” respectively to showcase to residents and tourists in Guangzhou the appeal of Hong Kong as an East-meets-West centre for international cultural exchange. During the 14-day operation, the tram carried approximately 360 000 passengers, with an estimated pedestrian view of about 520 000 per day. GDETO also supported the Information Services Department in organising the “Immersive Hong Kong @Guangzhou” exhibition in Guangzhou in August. Themed “Hong Kong – Where the World Looks Ahead”, the 10-day exhibition featured five thematic zones, namely “Financial Bridgehead”, “I&T Brain Bank”, “Blossoming Creativity”, “Diversity and Greenery” and “Buzzing Sports Action”, showcasing Hong Kong’s unique cosmopolitan attractions, advantages and opportunities through interactive art technology. The event attracted over 160 000 visitors in total.

11. In September 2024, GDETO organised the “Celebration Reception for the 27th Anniversary of the Establishment of HKSAR” in Guangzhou which was attended by over 600 guests, including representatives of government departments, chambers of commerce, foreign consulate generals in Guangzhou, partner organisations and academic institutions, as well as Hong Kong youths starting up businesses, working and studying in the Mainland. GDETO also arranged for students from Hong Kong to perform songs in praise of the motherland at the event, and special installations featuring the achievements of GBA development and Hong Kong’s cosmopolitan attractions, strengths and opportunities were displayed on site.

12. To help Hong Kong residents and businessmen in the Mainland to access information and to enhance Mainland people’s understanding of Hong Kong, GDETO, in addition to providing information through email, GDETO Newsletters and its website, also made use of WeChat and “Nanfang Plus” platforms¹ to disseminate a total of 871 and 734 news and event updates respectively. During the reporting period, GDETO published a total of 408 promotional videos and tweets on the accounts of six social media platforms, namely Weixin Channels, Weibo, Douyin, Bilibili, Xiaohongshu and Kuaishou, to promote the positive image of Hong Kong. To facilitate the promotion of the improved district governance system and the arrangements for the 2023 District Council Election, and to encourage Hong Kong residents in the

¹ GDETO launched its WeChat and “Nanfang Plus” platforms in 2014 and 2019 respectively.

Mainland to return to Hong Kong to vote, GDETO also organised a number of events and produced various publicity materials for display and distribution during the events.

Cultural Exchange

13. To further promote cultural exchanges with the Mainland, GDETO supported various cultural and performing arts groups from Hong Kong to perform in the Mainland during the reporting period. These included the five performances of the Cantonese play “The Isle” presented by the Hong Kong Repertory Theatre in Guangzhou; the three performances of “Home Sweet Home” staged by the City Contemporary Dance Company in Shenzhen and Zhuhai respectively; the two performances of the multi-media musical “Read Sing Eileen Chang” presented by Zuni Icosahedron in Shenzhen; the two concerts “Jaap Van Zweden & HK Phil: Mahler Symphony No. 1” and “Lio Kuokman & HK Phil: From Gershwin to Williams” presented by the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HKPO) in Guangzhou, and the “Lio Kuokman and Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra Concert” of HKPO in Shenzhen. Apart from the above activities, GDETO also supported cultural and performing arts groups from Hong Kong to stage performances in different service provinces/region by assisting in promoting through various media platforms and coordinating local media coverage, including assisting in publicising and promoting Hong Kong arts projects funded by the China National Arts Fund, with examples such as the play “Ziqi and Boya” performed by the Yeung Ming Cantonese Opera Troupe in Guangzhou and the original Cantonese opera “The Painted Skin” performed by the Hong Kong Xiqu Troupe in Guangzhou, Dongguan, Shenzhen, etc.

14. To strengthen cultural exchanges and co-operation between Hong Kong and the Mainland, GDETO assisted in promoting and supporting the “Guangzhou Hong Kong Macao Youth Cultural Exchange Festival 2024” organised by the Guangzhou Municipal Culture, Radio, Television and Tourism Bureau, as well as the “Cultural Exchange Luncheon” held under the “Bay of Arts and Culture – Cultural Exchange Tour to the GBA” organised in Guangzhou by the Hong Kong Arts Administrators Association to provide an exchange platform with arts and cultural organisations in the Mainland cities of GBA for the purpose of opening up cultural co-operation opportunities.

Youth Exchange

15. To enhance exchanges of Hong Kong youths to the Mainland, broaden their horizons and opportunities, and deepen their understanding of the Mainland, GDETO is committed to supporting Hong Kong youths to join exchange and internship programmes in the Mainland. During June to August 2024, GDETO provided a total of 14 internship positions for Hong Kong

students who were studying in Hong Kong tertiary institutions and Mainland higher education institutions. This was the highest number of interns intake by GDETO. In addition, FJLU supported the Home and Youth Affairs Bureau (HYAB) in launching the “Youth Internship Programme at Wuyishan on Biodiversity Conservation” from June to July 2024. The internship programme recruited 16 students from Hong Kong tertiary institutions to intern at Wuyi University in Wuyishan, Fujian in five different positions. During the reporting period, GDETO also organised and participated in various youth exchange and internship activities, including the exchange activities of the “2024 Guangdong Hong Kong Internship Programme: Stepping into the Greater Bay Area, Consolidating Cohesion” in Guangzhou, the “YIC Fly High in the Greater Bay Area Programme 2024”, summer exchanges organised in Zhuhai for university students of Hong Kong, exchanges/visits for Hong Kong student interns in Shenzhen, the “Networking Dinner for Youths in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area” held in Dongguan, exchange and sharing sessions for Hong Kong student interns of enterprises and Hong Kong-Macao youth innovation entrepreneurship centres in Guangzhou, as well as the “Seeing the Motherland through the Eyes of Hong Kong Youths” held in Nanning, etc.

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

16. GDETO, through various activities, strived to broaden and deepen its liaison network, and implemented various measures to better serve Hong Kong people living in the service provinces/region. GDETO disseminated practical information to Hong Kong people, covering areas such as living, working and studying in the Mainland, and free legal advisory service through different channels, such as GDETO Newsletter, email, its website and official WeChat account, as well as the “Practical Guide for Hong Kong Residents Living in the Mainland”. GDETO also strengthened liaison with governments and relevant organisations of the services provinces/region, and actively participated in and co-organised activities with a view to generating greater synergy in promoting Hong Kong, fostering co-operation for mutual benefits, as well as assisting Hong Kong people and businessmen when necessary.

17. In addition to the aforementioned economic and trade events and public relation activities, GDETO proactively strengthened ties with Hong Kong youths starting up business and working in the Mainland cities of GBA. They were provided with relevant information, and invited to participate in various events organised by GDETO or the local chambers of commerce. These enabled them to reach out to local enterprises and organisations of different sectors, broaden their network and gain more learning experience. In addition, GDETO organised sharing and exchange sessions in the Mainland cities of GBA with different organisations. For example, in March 2024, GDETO and the

Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Promotion Centre organised the “Sharing Session on GBA Youth Innovation and Entrepreneurship” with HKTDC and the Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce in Guangdong (HKCCGD) in Guangzhou to introduce the innovation and entrepreneurship policies in GBA to Hong Kong youths pursuing entrepreneurship in Guangdong and people from various sectors, and promote the opportunities brought about by GBA development. About 50 members of the “Youth Link” participating in exchange activities in Guangzhou organised by HYAB also attended the session to exchange and share views with participants from various sectors. Meanwhile, GDETO arranged for Hong Kong youth working in GBA to participate in exchange events held in Shenzhen and Dongguan to help them understand the latest economic and cultural developments in the Mainland cities of GBA, broaden their horizons, enrich their experience and boost their confidence in integrating into GBA.

18. In July to August 2024, GDETO and HKCCGD jointly invited Hong Kong youths to attend the “Greater Bay Area Youth Orchestra Concert Tour 2024” sponsored by a Hong Kong-invested enterprise. They also co-launched the “Summer Collaboration Programme for Hong Kong Working Youths and Interns”, which aimed at deepening Hong Kong youths’ understanding of the operation and development of different industries in GBA, and expanding their social and commercial network through a series of activities such as visits to local Hong Kong enterprises and gatherings cum exchanges. In August 2024, GDETO supported the kick-off ceremony of the “2024 Hong Kong and Macao Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship Tour to the Bay Area” and the “Mainland Exchange Programme for the Youths” co-organised by the Human Resources and Social Security Department of Guangdong, the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of Guangdong Province, and HYAB. GDETO also arranged for Hong Kong young entrepreneurs and working youths to attend the event, and to visit entrepreneurship bases and enterprises in the semiconductor and integrated circuit industry to learn more about the development opportunities in GBA. From August to September 2024, GDETO and the Hong Kong Information Technology Joint Council co-organised the “Training Camp on Empowering Hong Kong Youths in GBA with AI” to help Hong Kong youths to have a grasp of AI technologies through online and offline practical lessons, so as to enhance their employment competitiveness and explore career development opportunities. GDETO also encouraged entrepreneurs to provide more employment and internship opportunities for Hong Kong youths through the GDETO Newsletter, its official WeChat account, participating in activities of chambers of commerce and meetings with enterprises.

19. Meanwhile, GDETO strived to strengthen ties with Hong Kong students in the Mainland to learn about their life and study in the service provinces/region, and provide them with relevant information and proper assistance. GDETO also organised activities such as sharing sessions and

career talks in Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Nanning, Fuzhou, Quanzhou and Xiamen for Hong Kong students to deepen their understanding of the study life, work environment and latest development of various industries in the Mainland, broaden their horizons and help them plan ahead for their career. Examples of these activities included the “Sharing Session on Career Development in Hong Kong Public Utility Institutions” organised by GDETO in November 2023, during which Hong Kong public utility organisations operating various businesses in the Mainland were invited to share their business scopes and manpower needs. The purpose of the event was to deepen students’ understanding of the specific work environment and career development opportunities of Hong Kong’s utility organisations, helping them plan ahead for their career. In March 2024, GDETO and the Guangdong Provincial Department of Education co-organised the “Seminar on Pathways of Further Study in Higher Education Institutions Jointly Established by the Mainland, Hong Kong and Macao for Hong Kong Students” in Guangzhou. During the event, representative higher education institutions jointly established in GBA by Mainland, Hong Kong and Macao higher education sectors were invited to introduce in detail the further study pathways provided for Hong Kong students who had attained undergraduate degree or above. Representatives of Hong Kong postgraduate students studying in these education institutions were also invited to share their experiences and tips in application for postgraduate study. The event not only introduced the diverse study pathways for Hong Kong students in Guangdong, but also promoted the quality post-secondary education in Hong Kong. Other major student activities organised during the reporting period included: the “Career Talks for Hong Kong Students of Higher Education Institutions in Fujian” organised in Xiamen and Quanzhou; and the “2023 Orientation and Exchange Session for Hong Kong students in Guangxi” and the “2024 Career Talk for Students of Guangxi and Hong Kong” organised in Nanning, etc.

Business and Talent Attraction / Investment Promotion

20. In coordination with OASES and HKTE of the HKSAR Government, the Dedicated Team for Attracting Businesses and Talents (the Dedicated Team) of GDETO proactively promoted to enterprises in the service provinces/region to make use of Hong Kong’s business advantages to expand businesses overseas, and took the initiative to reach out to enterprises and top talents to explore development in Hong Kong. During the reporting period, the Dedicated Team co-organised 63 business and talent attraction activities with Invest Hong Kong, OASES and relevant Mainland government departments or trade organisations, attracting participation of over 1 000 enterprise representatives or investors. Meanwhile, the Dedicated Team proactively identified and approached potential Mainland enterprises through relevant activities, speaking opportunities and company visits to offer free information, comprehensive assistance and advisory services to enterprises with an

investment interest in Hong Kong. During the reporting period, the Dedicated Team conducted over 400 company meetings, initiated 61 live projects and completed 59 investment projects in Hong Kong.

21. Major activities during the reporting period included: “Leverage Hong Kong’s Advantages, Unleash Overseas Markets: Special Session on New Energy Enterprises Going Global” in Guangzhou; “Guangdong Food and Beverage Enterprises Investing in Hong Kong: Roundtable Seminar for Senior Management” in Guangzhou; “Exchange Seminar on Investing in Hong Kong for Foshan Food and Beverage Enterprises” in Foshan; “Strategic Industries Investing Hong Kong Roundtable Seminar for Decision Makers (Special Session for the AI and Data Science Sector)” in Shenzhen; “Finance EMBA programme of Tsinghua People’s Bank of China School of Finance: Closed-door Seminar on Family Office Policy in Hong Kong” in Shenzhen; “Leverage Hong Kong’s Advantages, Unleash Overseas Markets: Exchange Session for the Life and Health Technology Sector Investing in Hong Kong” in Zhuhai; “Guangxi Women Entrepreneurs Roundtable” in Nanning; “Exchange Session on Hong Kong’s Business Advantages and Investment Opportunities” in Nanning; “Leverage Hong Kong’s Advantages, Unleash Overseas Markets: Special Session for Fujian Enterprises on Listing and Seeking Development in Hong Kong” in Fuzhou; “Leverage Hong Kong’s Advantages, Unleash Overseas Markets: Salon for Xiamen Enterprises on Listing and Seeking Development in Hong Kong” in Xiamen; “Exchange Seminar on Investing in Hong Kong for Hainan Enterprises” in Haikou; and “Exchange Seminar on Investing in Hong Kong for Sanya Enterprises” in Sanya, etc.

Shenzhen Liaison Unit (SZLU)

22. SZLU is responsible for liaison with the Shenzhen Municipal Government, local and Hong Kong non-governmental organisations and chambers of commerce, as well as Hong Kong people, businessmen and students in Shenzhen to implement GDETO’s various aspects of work. Apart from the examples mentioned in the paragraphs above, SZLU’s major work during the reporting period included:

- (a) Closely monitoring the promulgation of policies, as well as laws and regulations of Shenzhen and disseminating such information to Hong Kong enterprises in a timely manner. Examples included the “Regulations on the Investors Protection in the Qianhai Shenzhen-Hong Kong Modern Service Industry Co-operation Zone of Shenzhen Special Economic Zone” promulgated by the Standing Committee of Shenzhen Municipal People’s Congress in November 2023; the “Regulations on the Promotion of Low-altitude Economy Industries in the Shenzhen Special Economic Zone” promulgated by the Standing Committee of Shenzhen Municipal People’s Congress in January 2024; the “Measures

of the Authority of Qianhai Shenzhen-Hong Kong Modern Service Industry Co-operation Zone of Shenzhen on Foreign Investment Incentives” issued by the Authority of Qianhai Shenzhen-Hong Kong Modern Service Industry Co-operation Zone of Shenzhen in March; the “Implementation Measures for the Preferential Individual Income Tax Policies for the Shenzhen Park of Hetao Shenzhen-Hong Kong Science and Technology Innovation Co-operation Zone” jointly issued by the Finance Bureau of Shenzhen Municipality and the Shenzhen Tax Service of State Taxation Administration in March; and the “Work Plan for Optimising and Marketising the Business Environment in Shenzhen Municipality 2024”, which included a total of 44 measures promulgated by the Shenzhen Municipal Development and Reform Commission in June.

- (b) Strengthening liaison with relevant Mainland organisations and supporting Hong Kong residents in the Mainland by organising or co-organising various events with relevant organisations as well as promoting and providing information on relevant policies. These included a delegation to Shenzhen co-organised with the Trade and Industry Department, and the Small and Medium Enterprises Committee to help small and medium enterprises and members of the industrial and commercial sectors in Hong Kong learn about the latest development in GBA; two sessions of the “Thematic Seminar for Hong Kong Enterprises in Shenzhen” at which representatives of government departments and experts of the sectors were invited to explain to Hong Kong people and businessmen the policies benefitting Hong Kong residents and enterprises, the latest policies and development of the Shenzhen Park of Hetao Shenzhen-Hong Kong Science and Technology Innovation Co-operation Zone, and details of enhancements made to various talent admission schemes; three sessions of the “Exchange Session for Representatives of Hong Kong People and Enterprises in Shenzhen” and “Exchange Session for Hong Kong Youths in Shenzhen”; the “Employment Counselling cum Networking Dinner for University Students of Hong Kong” to brief Hong Kong and Mainland students on the application requirements and procedures for civil service posts in Hong Kong, as well as the working environments in Hong Kong and the Mainland; a seminar on professional service industry to explore opportunities in GBA with a view to facilitating our country’s full efforts on the development of new quality productive forces; and
- (c) Promoting Hong Kong by organising and co-organising with relevant organisations events such as the cultural tourism promotional event entitled “In-depth Tour of Hong Kong” during which Shenzhen residents were invited to visit Hong Kong in depth to experience the charisma of the blend of Chinese and Western cultures in the city; and providing

support for the 2024 “Art Narratives” Bay Area Performance Season with a view to promoting arts and cultural activities of Hong Kong.

Fujian Liaison Unit (FJLU)

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

- (a) Closely monitoring the promulgation of policies, as well as laws and regulations of Fujian and disseminating such information to Hong Kong enterprises in a timely manner. Examples included the “Notice on Accelerating the Development of Technological Innovation” promulgated by the Fujian Provincial People’s Government in November 2023; the “Measures of Fujian Province for Securing the Collection and Administration of Taxes and Fees and Related Services” and the “Notice on Issuing the ‘Several Measures of Fujian Province to Further Improve the Business Environment for Foreign Investors and Strengthen the Efforts in Attracting Foreign Investment’” promulgated by the Fujian Provincial People’s Government in January 2024; the “Notice on Issuing the Implementation Plan for Promoting the Innovative Development of Artificial Intelligence Industry in Fuzhou (2024-2026)” promulgated by the General Office of Fuzhou Municipal People’s Government in March 2024; the “Notice on Issuing the Work Plan for Special Initiatives on Promoting the Facilitation of Cross-border Trade 2024” promulgated by the General Office of Xiamen Municipal People’s Government in May 2024; and the “Notice on Issuing the ‘Recent Measures for Optimising the Business Environment in Fujian Province’” promulgated by the Fujian Provincial People’s Government in June 2024;
- (b) Strengthening liaison with relevant Mainland organisations and supporting Hong Kong residents in the Mainland by organising or co-organising various events with relevant organisations as well as promoting and providing information on relevant policies. Examples included the “2023 Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce in Fujian (HKCCFJ) Anniversary Activities – ‘Facilitating the Development of Fujian and Hong Kong with Belt and Road Co-operation’ Exchange Dinner”; the “2024 HKCCFJ Spring Luncheon cum Exchange Seminar for Fujian-based Hong Kong Businessmen – Promoting Development with Science and Technology Innovation •Fujian and Hong Kong Joining Hands to Build the Future”; the “Smart Future: Transformation of

Enterprises in the AI Era” which discussed how artificial intelligence could promote the future transformation of enterprises in Fujian and Hong Kong; and the “Celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the Founding of the People’s Republic of China – A Journey to Explore the Red Cultural Heritage”. The above events aimed at gathering with Hong Kong people doing business, living and studying in Fujian, fostering ties between the two places at government, business and community levels, strengthening connection, interaction and communication with relevant chambers of commerce and organisations of Hong Kong people and Hong Kong enterprises; and

- (c) Promoting Hong Kong by organising and co-organising with relevant organisations events such as the “Dialogue of Music of Intangible Cultural Heritage – When Canton Music Meets Fujian Nanyin” to introduce to the audiences Cantonese music culture with Hong Kong characteristics and showcase the local intangible cultural heritage music of Fujian Nanyin; the “Glittering Hong Kong and Xiamen: Exploring the Twin Cities of Hosting International Events” to promote the co-operation in cultural tourism between Hong Kong and Xiamen; the “International Hub for Post-secondary Education – Education Seminar on Planning for Studying in Hong Kong” to promote the advantages of furthering studies in Hong Kong; and the Hong Kong Pavilion themed “Smart Hong Kong, Digital Inclusion” which was set up in “The 7th Digital China Summit & Exhibition” to demonstrate the efforts of Hong Kong in promoting the development of the smart city.

Guangxi Liaison Unit (GXLU)

24. GXLU is responsible for liaison with the Government of the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, local and Hong Kong non-governmental organisations, as well as Hong Kong people, businessmen and students in Guangxi to implement GDETO’s various aspects of work. Apart from the examples mentioned in the paragraphs above, GXLU’s major work during the reporting period included:

- (a) GXLU assisted in arranging a delegation led by the Secretary of the CPC Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region Committee to visit Hong Kong in May 2024. During the visit, the Secretary of the CPC Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region Committee and CE witnessed the signing of Letter of Intent on Co-operation at the 2024 Hong Kong Promotion Conference on Building Guangxi into Important Strategic Hinterland of Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area and Major Projects Signing Ceremony. In addition, the relevant government departments of the two places signed four co-operation agreements, covering the areas of transportation and logistics, tourism, construction industry and

financial services;

- (b) Closely monitoring the promulgation of policies, as well as laws and regulations of the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, and disseminating such information to Hong Kong enterprises in a timely manner. Examples included the “Notice on Several Measures of Guangxi for Enhancing the Efforts in Attracting Foreign Investment” promulgated by the People’s Government of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region in January 2024; the “Several Measures for Promoting the High-quality Development of Private Economy in Guangxi” promulgated by the CPC Committee and the People’s Government of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region in January 2024; the “Several Measures to Support Guangxi in Accelerating the Building of a Convenient Place for Domestic and International Dual-circulation Market Operations” promulgated by the Central Regional Coordination Development Leading Group Office in February 2024; and the “Several Measures for Accelerating the Co-ordinated Development of Domestic and Foreign Trade in Guangxi” promulgated by the General Office of the People’s Government of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region in June 2024, etc.;
- (c) Strengthening liaison with relevant Mainland organisations and supporting Hong Kong residents in the Mainland by organising or co-organising various events with relevant organisations as well as promoting and providing information on relevant policies. These included the “To Set Sail Again at the 10th Anniversary of the ‘Belt and Road Initiative’ – 2023 Guangxi-Hong Kong Business Co-operation Exchange Seminar on Connecting with the World to Promote Co-operation and Development” and “2024 Career Talk for Youths of Guangxi and Hong Kong”. The seminars aimed at fostering the exchanges between enterprises and youths of Guangxi and Hong Kong and explaining the latest relevant policies of the two places; and
- (d) Promoting Hong Kong by organising or co-organising with relevant organisations events such as a tourism and culture exhibition entitled “Explore the Cultural Charm of Hong Kong and Wander around the Natural Landscape of Guangxi”, a Guangxi-Hong Kong youth exchange event entitled “Explore the Cultural Charisma of Guangxi and Hong Kong”, as well as the “Guangxi-Hong Kong Linked Together – Musical Performance to Celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the Founding of the People’s Republic of China”, etc.

Immigration-related Matters and Assistance Rendered

25. The Immigration Division of GDETO is responsible for handling immigration related enquiries, promoting the respective talent admission schemes, providing practical assistance to Hong Kong residents who have lost their travel documents or encountered personal safety situations in GDETO's service areas, and handling HKSAR travel document application and replacement services for eligible Hong Kong residents. During the reporting period, GDETO received a total of 150 requests for assistance from Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland. Of these, 6 cases involved the loss of travel documents or monies, 125 cases were from persons who encountered danger, involved in traffic accidents, injured, sick or whose relatives had passed away in the Mainland, etc., and the other 19 cases involved the detention of Hong Kong residents in the Mainland. The Immigration Division has started providing the HKSAR passport replacement service since 7 November 2016, and it has also provided first application service for the HKSAR passport and replacement service for the HKSAR Document of Identity for Visa Purposes and Reentry Permit with effect from 29 November 2021. During the reporting period, GDETO processed 1 463 applications for the HKSAR passport, 254 applications for replacement of the HKSAR Document of Identity for Visa Purposes and 573 applications for replacement of the HKSAR Re-entry Permit, and issued 5 954 HKSAR passports and 412 Documents of Identity for Visa Purposes. GDETO also handled 39 260 enquiries.

Looking Ahead

26. With the Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area entering its fifth anniversary, the connectivity between Hong Kong and Mainland cities of GBA has covered and gone deep into various areas. GDETO will continue to liaise closely with the governments of the service provinces/region, the relevant policy bureaux of the HKSAR Government and Hong Kong enterprises, and timely reflect views of the enterprises and relevant stakeholders. GDETO will also work with OASES and HKTE to encourage more Mainland enterprises and talents of the service provinces/region to invest and pursue development in Hong Kong with a view to promoting deeper and higher-level exchanges and co-operation between Hong Kong and the Mainland in more areas, enhancing the HKSAR Government's efforts in taking forward the B&RI and the development of GBA, so as to make greater contribution to the high-quality development of our country and GBA.

27. GDETO will also continue to strengthen support for Hong Kong residents and enterprises in the Mainland, collect information about the policy measures implemented by the service provinces/region to facilitate Hong Kong people to pursue development in the Mainland and disseminate such information through various channels, and enhance publicity work in promoting Hong

Kong's strengths and telling the good stories of Hong Kong.

Hong Kog Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong
The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
November 2024

**Report on the Work of
the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Shanghai of
the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region**

The main functions of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Shanghai (SHETO) of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) (including its Shandong Liaison Unit (SDLU) and Zhejiang Liaison Unit (ZJLU)) are to (a) promote co-operation between the HKSAR and the Municipality of Shanghai and the four provinces of Jiangsu, Zhejiang, Anhui and Shandong (“the East China region”) in economic and trade as well as other areas, and enhance liaison and communication between the HKSAR Government and the Mainland authorities in the region; (b) promote Hong Kong and enhance co-operation between Hong Kong and the region; and (c) provide appropriate information and assistance to Hong Kong enterprises and residents operating, working and living in the region. Established under SHETO, the SDLU and ZJLU are based in Jinan and Hangzhou respectively.

Commercial Relations

2. The Commercial Relations Division of SHETO continued to maintain contact with stakeholders in Hong Kong and the East China region, and help Hong Kong’s commercial sector explore business opportunities. Key tasks of the Division included:

- (a) Facilitating the visits of delegations from the Hong Kong SAR Government to the East China region to learn about its developments, particularly in terms of business and investment environment. For example, SHETO accompanied the Financial Secretary (FS) to attend the parallel session on “Revitalizing Real Economy with Financial Resources” under the Hongqiao International Economic Forum of the sixth China International Import Expo (CIIE) and visit Mainland enterprises, as well as accompanied the Commissioner for Transport to attend the 3rd Intelligent Transportation Shanghai Forum and participate in other related visits in November 2023; assisted in arranging for and accompanied the Commissioner for Belt and Road to visit Shanghai in February 2024; accompanied the Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (SFST) to attend the 2024 Lujiazui Forum and assisted in organising other related visits, as well as accompanied the Under Secretary for Transport and Logistics (USTL) to participate in the welcome ceremony for the inaugural sleeper train of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link from Hong Kong to Shanghai and other related

visits in June 2024; and accompanied FS to attend SmartHK held in Nanjing of Jiangsu Province in August, etc.;

- (b) Encouraging and promoting economic exchanges between Hong Kong and the East China region through participation in and support for various trade promotional activities. For example, SHETO attended the 2023 Shanghai-Hong Kong Co-operation and Development Forum co-organised by the Sub-Committee for Hong Kong, Macao, Taiwan and Overseas Chinese of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) Shanghai Municipal Committee, the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences and The Better Hong Kong Foundation in November 2023; the 2024 APEC Urban Sustainable Development Conference for Science and Technology Innovation cum APEC (INPUT2) Competition Workshops in January 2024; the global promotional event "Gathering in Shanghai" organised by the Shanghai Chinese Overseas Friendship Association in February; the Conference on the High-Level Opening-up of China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone Lin-gang Special Area organised by the Lin-gang Special Area Administration in June; and the Pujiang Innovation Forum 2024 in Shanghai, as well as the 2024 World Manufacturing Convention and other related activities co-organised in Hefei by the National Manufacturing Strategy Advisory Committee, Anhui Provincial Government and other organisations in September;
- (c) Participating in major economic and trade exhibitions and fairs in the Mainland. For example, SHETO attended the sixth CIIE in November 2023 and visited over 300 participating Hong Kong enterprises onsite to learn about their participation in the exhibition and business development in recent years; and participated in the 2024 World Artificial Intelligence Conference (WAIC) and other events held in Shanghai in July 2024, etc.;
- (d) Maintaining close relations with the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC) and Hong Kong trade associations in the East China region. For example, SHETO attended a Hong Kong/Shanghai innovation co-operation forum "Co-operation on Innovation for a Win-win Future" jointly organised by the Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce in Shanghai (HKCCSH), HKTDC, Hong Kong people and organisations operating in Shanghai, and relevant economic and administration departments such as the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office (HKMAO) in Shanghai and Shanghai Municipal Commission of Economy and Informatization, as well as the HKCCSH's annual dinner in January 2024; the 2024 spring reception held by the

HKCCSH, the forum “SHE IMPACT - Opening Up a New Era” organised by the Women Executives Network of the HKCCSH, and the Science and Technology Innovation Salon for Hong Kong-invested Enterprises hosted by the Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce in Jiangsu in March; the press conference for the assessment scheme for innovative projects run by Hong Kong businesses entitled “Co-operation on Innovation for a Win-win Future” jointly organised by the HKCCSH and HKTDC under the auspices of SHETO in May; an exchange session organised by HKTDC for Hong Kong exhibitors at the WAIC in July; and the Thematic Seminar for Hong Kong-invested Small and Medium-sized Enterprises organised by the Shanghai Municipal Commission of Commerce and the HKCCSH in August, etc.;

- (e) Organising business seminars to analyse the latest Mainland policies and development opportunities. For example, in June 2024, SHETO organised in Shanghai a business seminar covering topics including sharing of observations on the Chinese economy, building of an institutional open demonstration zone in the country: practical experience of the China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone in seeking to fully align with international high-standard economic and trade rules and promote high-level institutional opening-up, ways on how corporate human resource management can cope with enterprise transformation in the age of artificial intelligence, and Hong Kong’s admission schemes. In September 2024, a business seminar covering topics including policies on raising the retirement age and sharing of implementation experience, the new round of amendments to the Trademark Law and the latest update on trademark protection with case sharing, Hong Kong’s admission schemes, and interactive sharing of successful management experience among talents from Jiangsu and Hong Kong in the field of science and technology was organised in Nanjing of Jiangsu Province;
- (f) Expanding links with prefecture-level cities in SHETO’s service areas to learn about their latest industrial policies and innovation and technology (I&T) development, and promote Hong Kong’s business environment to the local high-quality enterprises. For example, in 2024, SHETO visited Suzhou of Jiangsu Province in March; Chuzhou of Anhui Province in July; and Hefei of Anhui Province in September, etc.;
- (g) Monitoring closely the latest policy developments in the East China region that may have impact on Hong Kong enterprises, particularly policies relating to I&T, integrated development of the

Yangtze River Delta, headquarters economy, taxation and free trade zone construction, and providing reports and answering enquiries from the trade in a timely manner. During the reporting period, SHETO issued 12 SHETO Newsletters, 6 SHETO Newsletters (Special Edition on Free Trade Zones), 16 thematic newsletters and 25 pieces of economic and trade information to Hong Kong people, businessmen and business organisations in its service areas, providing updates respectively on business attraction and investment promotion, policies and legislation, and economic and trade activities in the Mainland as well as relevant provinces and municipalities; and

- (h) Collecting major economic and trade information of the relevant provinces and municipalities, and disseminating such information to Hong Kong businessmen and relevant departments of the HKSAR Government.

Business and Talent Attraction / Investment Promotion

3. The Dedicated Team for Attracting Businesses and Talent / Investment Promotion Division (DT/IPD) of SHETO supports the Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises (OASES), Invest Hong Kong and the Hong Kong Talent Engage (HKTE) of the HKSAR Government in proactively promoting Hong Kong's investment environment and talent attraction schemes, reaching out to target enterprises and target talents, assisting enterprises in investing or setting up operations in Hong Kong, and answering enquiries on arrival arrangements. During the reporting period, DT/IPD conducted 35 investment promotion visits, met with 413 companies and generated 112 live projects. 58 projects were successfully completed.

4. During the reporting period, DT/IPD carried out a number of major initiatives on enterprise and talent attraction as well as investment promotion in the region:

- (a) DT/IPD organised the Seminar on Hong Kong-Jiangsu Co-operation: Leveraging Hong Kong for Overseas Business Opportunities in Nantong of Jiangsu Province in November 2023; three investment promotion activities in Shanghai in January and March 2024 to share the respective development opportunities in Hong Kong for the family office sector, the I&T industry and industries in general; two seminars entitled "Hong Kong: The Preferred Platform for Mainland Innovation and Technology Enterprises to 'Go Global'" in Suzhou of Jiangsu Province and Hefei of Anhui Province in March and June 2024 respectively; and five investment promotion activities on the theme "Hong

Kong Serving as a Multinational Supply Chain Management Centre for Mainland Enterprises” in Hangzhou of Zhejiang Province, Nanjing of Jiangsu Province, Shanghai Municipality, and Qingdao of Shandong Province in April, August and September 2024;

- (b) DT/IPD, together with OASES, organised or participated in four promotion activities in the East China region in February, April, May and October 2024 to introduce the strengths of Hong Kong, the latest situation of its strategic industries and the opportunities available, as well as services provided by OASES;
- (c) DT/IPD co-organised with the Immigration Division 46 online and onsite events on Hong Kong’s talent attraction policy initiatives for eligible universities under the Top Talent Pass Scheme, as well as other key universities/bodies in the East China region, covering the excellent business and living environment of Hong Kong and the services provided by HKTE; and
- (d) DT/IPD organised and participated in 63 seminars/forums/exhibitions/trade fairs/events with themes other than talent attraction in the region to promote Hong Kong’s investment environment and policy initiatives for attracting enterprises and talents.

Public Relations

5. SHETO continued to organise activities to promote Hong Kong’s latest developments and foster mutual understanding between Hong Kong and the East China region. During the reporting period, the activities organised by SHETO included:

- (a) Supporting the performances staged by Hong Kong violinist Yao Jue and the Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra (HKCO) in the East China region in November 2023 with a view to promoting Hong Kong’s arts and outstanding art groups to audience in the region and fostering cultural exchange between the Mainland and Hong Kong;
- (b) Hosting for the first time in Wuxi of Jiangsu Province the “Film Festival of the Legend” commemorating Bruce Lee from 26 to 28 January 2024. Featuring Bruce Lee, the film event showed five classic works of the Kung Fu superstar to promote cultural exchange between Wuxi and Hong Kong;

- (c) Co-organising with the Shanghai Film Museum, the Hong Kong Film Archive and the Shanghai Film Archive the “Revisiting the Glory Days – The Legacy of Leslie and Anita” from 23 March to 1 April 2024. Also being one of the programmes of “One Tale, Two Cinemas” and the First Hong Kong Pop Culture Festival, the screening programme offered eight classic films with a total of 16 screenings to promote film and cultural exchange between Shanghai and Hong Kong;
- (d) Organising a series of diversified activities in Shanghai between 29 June and 7 July 2024 in celebration of the 27th anniversary of Hong Kong’s return to the Motherland, including a reception and a thematic exhibition titled “Fun in Hong Kong”, the latter of which promoted Hong Kong’s diversity and provided latest information through interesting interactive games;
- (e) Supporting the concerts and other exchange activities held by various art groups, such as the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra, the Asian Youth Orchestra and the Hong Kong Gaudeamus Dunhuang Ensemble, in the East China region in 2024, thus underscoring the important role of Hong Kong as Asia’s centre for international cultural exchange;
- (f) Establishing and maintaining relationship with Hong Kong media and local media in the East China region, assisting the Information Services Department in making arrangements for the representatives of mainstream media agencies in the region to visit Hong Kong for covering large-scale events and conferences, and assisting Hong Kong and Mainland media in interviewing principal officials of the HKSAR Government; and
- (g) Providing the provinces and municipalities in its service areas with the latest information about the economy, trade, investment, culture and facilitation measures introduced to Hong Kong people in the Mainland through SHETO’s WeChat public account, Weixin Channel and Weibo account. During the reporting period, over 1 600 pieces of information were published.

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

6. SHETO strived to broaden and deepen liaison network through various activities to provide stronger support to Hong Kong people in the East China region. Major work included:

- (a) Further enhancing liaison between the HKSAR Government and relevant Mainland departments and exploring greater co-operation between the two places to provide assistance to Hong Kong people and businessmen when necessary. During the reporting period, SHETO visited various government departments in the East China region to establish communication channels for the provision of proper assistance to Hong Kong people and businessmen and explore opportunities for co-operation between the two places;
- (b) Collaborating with the HKMAO of the Shanghai Municipal People's Government to organise the Exhibition on achievements under Hong Kong/Shanghai co-operation in November 2023 in commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Hong Kong/Shanghai Co-operation Conference mechanism;
- (c) Assisting in arranging for the delegation led by the Mayor of Shanghai to visit Hong Kong in April 2024. During the visit, the Mayor and the Chief Executive (CE) co-chaired the Sixth Plenary Session of the Hong Kong/Shanghai Co-operation Conference, and signed the Co-operation Memorandum of the Sixth Plenary Session Hong Kong/Shanghai Co-operation Conference to pursue co-operation in 15 areas. In addition, 20 co-operation agreements were signed by government departments, statutory bodies and relevant organisations of the two places, covering the areas of legal exchanges and co-operation, finance services, healthcare, urban development, culture and art, I&T, and economy and trade;
- (d) Liaising proactively with Hong Kong people in the region to understand their needs so as to provide them with more appropriate assistance (refer to paragraphs 7 to 10 for details); and
- (e) Actively collecting information for dissemination to Hong Kong communities in the East China region; keeping contact with them and disseminating latest information on facilitation measures to them through various channels including SHETO website, WeChat platform and email, etc.; following up the implementation of facilitation measures and collecting views of Hong Kong people on these measures.

7. To enhance communication with Hong Kong people in the Mainland, SHETO organised and took part in a number of gatherings and activities during the reporting period. For instance, Director of SHETO attended a gathering of the Hong Kong-Shanghai Student Association, and a spring reception organised by the Hong Kong communities in Shanghai in December 2023 and February

2024 respectively. In February and July 2024, SHETO organised the Chinese New Year Gathering for Hong Kong People and Enterprises in Shanghai 2024 and a reception to celebrate with Hong Kong people and enterprises in Shanghai the Chinese New Year and the 27th anniversary of Hong Kong's return to the Motherland in Shanghai. In September 2024, SHETO organised a student gathering to celebrate the National Day with Hong Kong students and young people in the East China Region.

8. SHETO provided logistical support for the visits of senior officials of the HKSAR Government to the region, including the visit of the Director of CE's Office to Nanjing, and the Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry's visit to Hangzhou in November 2023; the Secretary for Development's visit to Shanghai, and the separate visits of the Secretary for Transport and Logistics (STL) and the Commissioner of Customs and Excise to Shanghai and Hangzhou respectively in December 2023; the separate visits of the Secretary for Labour and Welfare (SLW), the Secretary for Culture, Sports and Tourism (SCST) and the Under Secretary for Education (US(Ed)) to Shanghai in January 2024; SCST's visit to Qingdao in March 2024; FS's visits to Hangzhou and Suzhou, and the Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs (SHYA)'s visit to Zhejiang Province in April 2024; the Secretary for Housing (S for Housing)'s visit to Hangzhou in May 2024; the separate visits of the Chief Secretary for Administration (CS), SFST, USTL and US(Ed) to Shanghai in June 2024; the separate visits of SHYA and the Director of Immigration to Shanghai in July 2024; CS and SLW's visit to Hangzhou, FS's visit to Nanjing, the Secretary for Education (SED)'s visit to Shanghai, and the Secretary for Environment and Ecology's visit to Nanjing and Yangzhou in August 2024; and STL's visit to Shanghai in September 2024. SHETO also arranged exchange sessions for visiting officials to meet with local Hong Kong people. For example, arrangements were made for SLW to meet with successful Shanghai applicants under the Hong Kong Talent Admission Schemes and attend a gathering with Hong Kong people in Shanghai in January 2024; for CS to attend the meet-and-greet session held by Hong Kong communities in Shanghai in June 2024 to exchange views with Hong Kong people and representatives of Hong Kong enterprises in Shanghai; as well as for SED to meet with Hong Kong young people studying or working in Shanghai in August 2024. Besides, SHETO actively supported provincial and municipal government officials in its service areas to visit Hong Kong for organising exchange activities, and co-ordinated meetings between Mainland officials and the representatives of the HKSAR Government departments.

9. Moreover, SHETO proactively rendered support to Hong Kong students studying in the Mainland. In June 2024, SHETO organised a study tour jointly with Mainland authorities and the Hong Kong communities in Shanghai for Hong Kong university students to visit Yantai and Qingdao of Shandong Province. SHETO also provided students from Hong Kong with recruitment

information of the HKSAR Government. For instance, SHETO assisted the Hong Kong Police Force and the Customs and Excise Department in organising three recruitment promotion activities in Shanghai in December 2023; assisted the Immigration Department in organising five recruitment promotion activities in Shanghai and Hangzhou in May 2024; and helped the Civil Service Bureau organise four recruitment talks on the Administrative Officer and Executive Officer grades in Shanghai in September 2024.

10. Apart from actively encouraging organisations in the East China region to offer internship places for Hong Kong students, SHETO also arranged for, in collaboration with tertiary institutions in Hong Kong and Shanghai as well as the Hong Kong communities in Shanghai, nine Hong Kong university students and two Mainland college students to undertake internship concurrently in SHETO's office during the summer vacation in 2024 to provide internship opportunities and promote exchanges between students of the two places. Between April and August 2024, SHETO staff attended various sharing sessions organised by the Hong Kong communities in Shanghai for Hong Kong students who had participated in exchange/internship tours in Shanghai. SHETO also arranged for a number of student exchange/internship tours to visit its office and briefed them on the development of the East China region and the work of the HKSAR Government.

Immigration-related Matters and Assistance Rendered

11. The Immigration Division of SHETO is mainly responsible for processing applications for entry to Hong Kong, providing HKSAR travel document application service, handling enquiries on immigration matters and providing assistance to Hong Kong residents who have lost their personal documents or have personal safety issues in the Mainland. During the reporting period, the Immigration Division handled a total of 11 applications for entry, 85 requests for assistance, 1 366 HKSAR travel document applications and 53 342 enquiries, with 4 251 HKSAR travel documents issued.

12. The Immigration Division introduced facilitation measures in a timely fashion during the reporting period. Such measures included providing outreach travel document services in Hangzhou of Zhejiang Province jointly with ZJLU in November 2023; providing on-site services for application and collection of travel documents for Hong Kong school teachers, students and their parents in Shanghai in February 2024; providing outreach travel document services in Nanjing of Jiangsu Province in collaboration with the Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce in Jiangsu Province in June 2024; and providing outreach travel document services in Jinan of Shandong Province and Hangzhou of Zhejiang Province jointly with SDLU and ZJLU in September 2024. Given the increase in the number of Hong Kong people living and seeking development opportunities in the Mainland and hence the surging service

demand, the Immigration Division of SHETO will continue to introduce more enhanced services and facilitation measures as and when needed.

13. From 21 to 22 July 2024, SHETO organised the Third Yangtze Delta Region, Shandong and Hong Kong Ports and Immigration Management and Co-operation Symposium, with the aim of optimising immigration management co-operation by facilitating discussions on ports and immigration management and co-operation between Hong Kong and the Mainland for harnessing the collective wisdom of the various participating immigration inspection and exit-entry administration authorities as well as the HKMAO of the public security authorities. Adhering to the spirit of friendly co-operation, the Exit and Entry Administration of China, the Immigration Department (ImmD) of Hong Kong, the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the HKSAR and the immigration inspection and exit-entry administration authorities as well as the HKMAO of the public security authorities of Shanghai Municipality and Jiangsu, Zhejiang, Anhui and Shandong Provinces, sent a total of 50 representatives to attend the Symposium, focusing their discussions on two main themes: "Promoting professional mobility to support high-quality development" and "Preventing and combating immigration-related crimes to maintain national stability and prosperity", and jointly exploring new opportunities for port co-operation, with a view to providing strong support for the optimisation of and innovations in regional immigration management. Representatives from all participating authorities expressed that the Symposium enhanced mutual understanding and provided new ideas and directions for promoting regional co-operation and development.

14. On 21 July 2024, the ImmD appointed eight young people from Hong Kong who were studying or working in the East China region as the Youth Ambassadors of the ImmD in Shanghai. The Immigration Department Youth Ambassador Programme aims to identify and nurture more young talents who are committed individuals with aspirations and a willingness to strive hard for the future of the country and Hong Kong. Apart from collaborating with the Immigration Division of SHETO in disseminating and conveying the latest information and updates about the ImmD, the appointed Youth Ambassadors would also promote and give information on the works of the ImmD to the public, tell good stories of Hong Kong and serve as a bridge between the youths of the Mainland and Hong Kong.

Hong Kong Shipping Registry (Shanghai) Regional Desk

15. As an overseas outreach arm of the Hong Kong Shipping Registry in the world's major sea ports, the Hong Kong Shipping Registry (Shanghai) Regional Desk (RD) commenced operation in late 2019 to provide prompt support services for owners and ship management companies of Hong Kong registered ships. During the reporting period, RD conducted 66 ship quality inspections

at major ports in its service areas, and participated in five management reviews of ships flying the Hong Kong flag and Hong Kong ship management companies. In addition to organising six Hong Kong ship safety and promotion events in various municipalities such as Ningbo, Shanghai and Qingdao, RD visited 60 shipping enterprises and maritime bodies to strengthen connection with the shipping industry in the Mainland and promote Hong Kong's ship registration services and ship safety and quality standards. Besides, 11 visits to the administrative departments of maritime in the Mainland were conducted to enhance mutual liaison, exchanges and co-operation, and promote Hong Kong's ship registration and other high-end maritime services. Furthermore, RD processed registration documents for 81 ships and attended eight naming and delivery ceremonies of Hong Kong registered ships.

Shandong Liaison Unit (SDLU)

16. Established in 2015, SDLU strives to strengthen liaison with government departments at all levels, local business and industrial associations and cultural organisations in Shandong so as to promote exchanges and co-operation between Shandong and Hong Kong.

17. During the reporting period, SDLU maintained close liaison with the leading officials of various government departments and organisations, such as the HKMAO of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Shandong Provincial Committee, the Shandong Provincial Department of Culture and Tourism, the HKMAO and the United Front Work Department (UFWD) of CPC Jinan Municipal Committee, the UFWD and the HKMAO of CPC Qingdao Municipal Committee, the Laoshan Laboratory, the CPC Tai'an Municipal Committee and Tai'an Municipal Government, the UFWD of CPC Linyi Municipal Committee, the Municipal HKMAOs of Linyi and Weihai, the CPC Weifang Municipal Committee and Weifang Municipal Government, the UFWD of CPC Weifang Municipal Committee, the CPC Rizhao Municipal Committee and Rizhao Municipal Government, and the UFWD of CPC Rizhao Municipal Committee. SDLU will continue to collaborate with the Shandong Provincial People's Government and the government departments of the 16 municipalities of the Province to promote exchanges and co-operation between Shandong and Hong Kong.

18. During the same period, SDLU promoted Hong Kong's cultural programmes in Shandong Province. For instance, SDLU organised the performance of the Experimental Cantonese Opera, Farewell My Concubine and a pre-performance reception in Qingdao, and organised the concert "Bridging the Glorious Dynasties of Ancient China - Yan Huichang and Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra" and a pre-performance reception at the Shandong Provincial Capital Culture and Art Center Grand Theatre in November 2023. In January 2024, SDLU organised the "Together Shandong and Hong Kong Set Sail for the

Future” 2024 Spring Reception to celebrate the Chinese New Year, with the attendance of nearly 200 guests including the leading officials and representatives of the Shandong Provincial People’s Government and various offices of 16 municipalities as well as the representatives of the Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce in Shandong (HKCCSD) and the Jinan Association for the Promotion of Co-operation and Exchange with Hong Kong and Macao (JAPCE). Besides, SDLU organised a three-day Linyi Tour for Hong Kong students studying in Shandong in May 2024, with the participation of a total of 39 teachers and students from the Shandong University (SDU), the SDU (Qingdao), the Shandong University of Traditional Chinese Medicine (SDUTCM) and the Ocean University of China (OUC). In August 2024, SDLU attended the Closing Ceremony of the Hong Kong Youth Internship Programme at Qingdao of Shandong on Marine Science 2024, which was jointly organised by the Home and Youth Affairs Bureau, the HKMAO of CPC Shandong Provincial Committee and the Laoshan Laboratory.

19. SDLU maintained close contact with local Hong Kong people, businessmen and communities, and met regularly with member representatives of the HKCCSD and the JAPCE, so as to better understand their work as well as the local business environment and provide them with assistance as appropriate. During the reporting period, SDLU participated in a series of study activities organised by the JAPCE to visit different districts and counties of Jinan. SDLU also actively promoted cultural exchanges between Shandong and Hong Kong, and will organise an exhibition featuring Hong Kong with miniature models and a string performance in Qingdao and Jinan respectively in December 2024. In addition, SDLU vigorously promoted Hong Kong’s excellent business and investment environment to local large and representative enterprises through regular meetings, study trips, visits and other activities and briefed the senior management of these enterprises on the Top Talent Pass Scheme and other relevant talent admission schemes of Hong Kong.

20. During the reporting period, SDLU met and exchanged views with Deputy Director of the HKMAO of SDU, Deputy Director of the Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan Affairs Office of OUC, and Dean of the School of International Education of SDUTCM to learn about the study situation of Hong Kong students in Shandong Province, so that better services could be provided for them. In May 2024, SDLU organised the Linyi Tour for Hong Kong students studying in Shandong. During the trip, the delegation attended an exchange and interaction session at the Linyi University, and visited representative enterprises and cultural venues as well as the Patriotic Education Base in Linyi, so as to gain a comprehensive understanding of the socio-economic situation and folk life of Linyi. In addition, SDLU proactively promoted youth internship and exchanges between Hong Kong and Shandong by organising the two-week Hong Kong Youth Internship Programme at Qingdao of Shandong on Marine Science for the third time at the Laoshan

Laboratory in Qingdao of Shandong Province, as well as a one-week eco-study visit in Yantai. A total of 16 Hong Kong university students took part in the youth internship programmes.

21. During the same period, SDLU arranged for and accompanied the SCST and the Executive Director of the Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTB) to meet with the Mayor and the Head of the UFWD of CPC Municipal Committee of Qingdao. SDLU also attended the briefing sessions for the media and the tourism sector organised by the HKTB to showcase and promote Hong Kong tourism shortly after the inclusion of Qingdao into the Individual Visit Scheme for travelling to Hong Kong and Macao. Furthermore, SDLU assisted in arranging for leading officials of Shandong to visit Hong Kong, including the visits of the delegation led by the Vice Governor of Shandong Province to the Development Bureau (DEVB) and the Drainage Services Department in December 2023; the visit of the delegation led by the Secretary of the CPC Zibo Municipal Committee to the Innovation, Technology and Industry Bureau (ITIB) in March 2024; the separate visits of the Vice Mayor of Qingdao and the Chairman of CPPCC Qingdao Municipal Committee to the ITIB and the Culture, Sport and Tourism Bureau respectively in April 2024; and the visit of the delegation led by the Secretary of the CPC Shandong Provincial Committee in May 2024, during which they met with the CE and organised a number of events such as the 2024 Hong Kong-Macao-Shandong Week and the exchange session on Hong Kong's co-operation with Shandong, etc.

Zhejiang Liaison Unit (ZJLU)

22. Established in 2017, ZJLU has been actively maintaining close contact with government departments at all levels, local business and industrial associations as well as community groups in Zhejiang so as to promote exchanges and co-operation between Zhejiang and Hong Kong.

23. During the reporting period, ZJLU continued to enhance inter-governmental co-operation and foster close connection with various government departments at provincial and municipal levels. The cities to which ZJLU paid visits included Yiwu, Jiaxing, Ningbo and Taizhou. Moreover, ZJLU assisted in arranging mutual visits for the senior officials of Zhejiang and Hong Kong, including the STL's visit to Hangzhou in December 2023; the FS's visit to Hangzhou and the visit of the delegation of District Officers for a study programme on district governance led by the SHYA to Zhejiang in April 2024; the S for Housing's visit to Hangzhou in May 2024; the visit of the inter-departmental delegation led by the Director of the Northern Metropolis Co-ordination Office of the DEVB to Hangzhou in June 2024; the visit of the CS and the SLW to Hangzhou in August 2024; the visit of the STL and the Legislative Council Panel on Transport to Hangzhou in September 2024; and the visits to Hong Kong by the following Mainland officials: the Vice

Mayor of Hangzhou in February 2024, the Head of the UFWD and the Director of the Publicity Department of the CPC Zhejiang Provincial Committee in March 2024, the Chairman of CPPCC Zhejiang Provincial Committee in April 2024, as well as the Deputy Secretary of the CPC Zhejiang Provincial Committee and the Secretary of the CPC Hangzhou Municipal Committee in May 2024, etc.

24. ZJLU maintained liaison with Hong Kong people, business community and other relevant groups in Zhejiang and its municipalities, and strived to provide them with feasible and practical support on issues of their concern, such as disseminating information to Hong Kong people in Zhejiang as well as seeking their views and relaying them to the relevant government departments in a timely manner. ZJLU also updated Hong Kong businessmen on the latest information through periodic newsletters issued by SHETO. In order to strengthen communication with Hong Kong people in Zhejiang, ZJLU organised and took part in various gatherings and activities, including holding the West Lake Gathering of Hong Kong People in Hangzhou and the Meeting at Sanjiangkou with Hong Kong People and Students in Ningbo in November 2023, a Chinese New Year's Eve gathering for Hong Kong people in Hangzhou in February 2024 and a gathering between the FS and Hong Kong people and representatives of Hong Kong enterprises in Zhejiang in April 2024, and attending a gathering between the CS and Hong Kong people in Zhejiang organised by the Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce in Zhejiang in August 2024, etc.

25. ZJLU actively maintained close contact with Hong Kong students studying in Zhejiang while supporting and promoting youth exchanges between Zhejiang and Hong Kong. During the reporting period, ZJLU visited the Zhejiang University, the Zhongfa Aviation Institute of Beihang University, the Westlake University, etc. to learn about the development of the tertiary institutions in Zhejiang and their planned and actual admission of Hong Kong students, as well as the study and living situation of Hong Kong students in Zhejiang. In addition, ZJLU organised a gathering for Hong Kong students in Hangzhou and a visit to Taizhou for Hong Kong university students studying in Zhejiang in November 2023, the Ningbo Tour for Hong Kong university students studying in Zhejiang in March 2024, as well as the Weihai, Shandong Tour for Hong Kong university students studying in Zhejiang in April 2024, so as to help Hong Kong students learn more about the latest development of the country and develop an affection for the nation. ZJLU also took an active role in providing assistance for different organisations to hold various exchange visits to Zhejiang for Hong Kong students between July and August 2024, such as the Hangzhou study tour under the Strive and Rise Programme organised by the Hong Kong Children & Youth Services with the sponsorship of the Hong Kong Jockey Club.

26. ZJLU also promoted the positive image of Hong Kong and enhanced the Zhejiang residents' understanding of Hong Kong through different channels and activities, such as serving as the supporting organisation of the Violin Recital by Yao Jue in Hangzhou in November 2023, organising the film festival in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the passing of Bruce Lee in Hangzhou in December 2023, and co-organising a Ningbo-Hong Kong thematic exhibition with the Ningbo City Exhibition Hall in September 2024.

Looking Ahead

27. SHETO will continue to facilitate exchanges between HKSAR and the East China region, promote the positive image of Hong Kong and enhance the Mainland public's understanding of Hong Kong. SHETO will also continue to strengthen liaison with and support for Hong Kong people and businessmen in the Mainland. In this regard, SHETO will:

- (a) provide more appropriate support for Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland through the Immigration Division;
- (b) strengthen inter-governmental relations and enhance liaison with Hong Kong people and businessmen, so as to provide better services and give play to its role as a bridge between the local governments and the business sector; and
- (c) through SDLU and ZJLU, continue to facilitate travel among Hong Kong, Shandong and Zhejiang, and to further enhance Shandong and Zhejiang public's understanding of Hong Kong. SDLU and ZJLU will continue to enhance support for Hong Kong people and businessmen in Shandong and Zhejiang, and closely monitor the introduction of policies, legislation and measures on economic and trade developments in Shandong and Zhejiang and provide relevant information to the Hong Kong business sector in a timely manner.

Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Shanghai
The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
November 2024

**Report on the Work of
the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Chengdu of
the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region**

The main functions of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Chengdu (CDETO) of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) (including its Chongqing Liaison Unit (CQLU) and Shaanxi Liaison Unit (SNLU)) are to (a) promote the communication and liaison of government authorities between the HKSAR and seven provinces, municipality and autonomous region under its service coverage, namely Sichuan Province, Chongqing Municipality, Shaanxi Province, Guizhou Province, Qinghai Province, Yunnan Province and Tibet Autonomous Region (service areas); (b) foster economic and trade co-operation between Hong Kong and its service areas, so as to provide support to Hong Kong enterprises as well as to attract Mainland enterprises to invest in Hong Kong and use Hong Kong as a platform to “go global”; (c) promote Hong Kong and tell the good stories of Hong Kong, and enhance co-operation, communication and liaison between the HKSAR and its service areas; and (d) provide relevant information and assistance to Hong Kong enterprises and people doing business, working and studying in the service areas as well as handle enquiries and requests for assistance from Hong Kong residents in the region.

Commercial Relations

2. CDETO continued its efforts to support Hong Kong enterprises operating or intending to operate in the service areas. Through organising or participating in various types of activities such as exchange programmes, seminars, visits and exhibitions, CDETO introduced the local economic policies and development plans with integration of Hong Kong’s characteristics and the industries where Hong Kong enjoyed clear advantages, to assist Hong Kong enterprises in better grasping local development opportunities for expanding the scope of economic and trade development of Hong Kong and the Western region. Meanwhile, CDETO collected the latest information on trade-related policies, laws and regulations as well as economic development in the region, and disseminated such information to Hong Kong enterprises. During the reporting period, major events included –

- (a) Organising seminars and visits about the Mainland’s economic policies and development plans to assist Hong Kong enterprises in better grasping local development opportunities. For example, in November 2023, CDETO and the Sichuan Provincial Bureau of Economic Co-operation jointly organised a business seminar entitled “An Analysis of the New Stage to Explore New Opportunities” to give Hong Kong-funded enterprises in Western China an in-depth analysis of the prevailing

policies, regulations and measures relating to business operation. In April 2024, CDETO organised the “Taxation Seminar for Hong Kong Enterprises” in collaboration with the Chengdu Office of Hong Kong Trade Development Council and Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce in Sichuan (HKCCSC), and invited specialists of Chengdu Municipal Tax Service to explain the taxation laws and regulations and interpret the latest policies to Hong Kong-funded enterprises. In May 2024, CDETO organised the “Hong Kong Enterprises in Sichuan Gaining Access to Pu’er” and visited the tea and coffee industry in Pu’er to assist Hong Kong enterprises in exploring business opportunities. In July 2024, CDETO jointly organised the “Visiting Hong Kong Enterprises in Sichuan cum Seminar” with Sichuan Provincial Bureau of Economic Co-operation and the HKCCSC, and called on the Hong Kong-funded enterprises in Sichuan to learn about the current developments in the business of Hong Kong enterprises and the business investment trend;

- (b) Assisting business delegations from Hong Kong in visiting Western China to enhance their understanding of the local business environment. CDETO proactively co-ordinated the study visits by Hong Kong enterprises and business delegations to its service areas and provided support for them for business expansion. For example, in June 2024, a delegation of over 20 members of the Chinese General Chamber of Commerce, Hong Kong (CGCC) led by its Chairman visited Chengdu and Chongqing and called on CDETO during their visit to exchange views on the latest development of the trade and economic industries of Western China and explore co-operation opportunities. In August 2024, CDETO co-ordinated and arranged meetings and exchanges between a delegation from Hong Kong, which comprised over ten Hong Kong travel agencies and enterprises of the accommodation and air cargo industries, and the Sichuan Provincial Department of Culture and Tourism and representatives of local tourism industry to discuss the promotion of culture and tourism development in the two places. In August 2024, CDETO coordinated and arranged various activities for the delegation of the Federation of Hong Kong Industries led by its Chairman, including study visits to Chengdu and Chongqing, the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on co-operation with relevant local authorities, and visits to relevant government leading officials and enterprises to establish ties;
- (c) Organising or participating in various types of exhibitions to grasp the latest development of different places and introduce Hong Kong’s characteristics and the industries where Hong Kong enjoyed clear advantages. For example, in March 2024, CDETO organised the “Hello Hong Kong – Photo Gallery 2024” in Yibin, Sichuan; and had a train carriage in Yibin’s autonomous rail rapid transit system painted

showcasing Hong Kong's special elements, and the various talent admission schemes of Hong Kong to the local residents. In July 2024, CDETO attended and participated in the "25th China Qinghai Investment and Trade Fair for Green Development" (the Qinghai Fair) in Xining, Qinghai. Incorporating texts with images, the exhibition booth of CDETO introduced the services and functions of CDETO, as well as the latest developments and overall advantages of Hong Kong, including the unique advantage of Hong Kong of enjoying strong support of the Motherland and being closely connected to the world under the "One Country, Two Systems", the positioning and opportunity under the National 14th Five-Year Plan, active dovetailing with the national strategies such as the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and the development of Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area and measures to attract business and investment. At the exhibition booth in the Qinghai Fair, successful cases of enterprises in the Western region in expanding their markets in Hong Kong were also presented to showcase Hong Kong's opportunities and strengths;

- (d) Collecting information about important policies, laws and regulations, major developments and investment projects of different places, particularly keeping in view the latest development of the Western Region Development, Chengdu-Chongqing Economic Circle, New Land and Marine Routes for Western Regions, and the pilot free trade zones; the development scope and policy measures of the provinces, municipality and autonomous region in the service areas in relation to the National 14th Five-Year Plan and the BRI; and the initiatives of various places to enhance the business environment and facilitate Hong Kong people and enterprises. Upon collation, CDETO disseminated such information to Hong Kong enterprises in a timely manner through the "CDETO Newsletters" or topical newsletters, etc.; and
- (e) Fostering the development of Hong Kong's service sector in Sichuan, Chongqing and Shaanxi, and promoting Hong Kong's service enterprises and their services by compiling and updating the "Directory of Hong Kong Service Enterprises in Sichuan, Chongqing and Shaanxi" to facilitate the establishment of contact among enterprises.

Business and Talent Attraction / Investment Promotion

3. The Investment Promotion Division (IPD) of CDETO took forward investment promotion work proactively and in a targeted manner on key or distinctive industrial areas of its service areas in accordance with Hong Kong's "eight centres" positioning and in line with the promotion of major national strategies such as developing new quality productive forces and the BRI, and provided enterprises interested in investing in Hong Kong with assistance and

consultation services. During the reporting period, the IPD of CDETO visited 279 Mainland enterprises; organised, co-organised and engaged in 26 initiatives relating to investment promotion and other conferences and exhibitions related to economic, trade and investment, which altogether attracted the participation of around 800 representatives from government departments, trade associations and enterprises; and generated 25 live projects and successfully completed 13 investment projects. Major investment promotion initiatives included –

- (a) Co-organising with Invest Hong Kong (InvestHK) and Sichuan Provincial Department of Commerce the “‘Unparalleled Opportunities to Expand Your Global Business’ — An Exchange Forum on Leveraging Hong Kong’s Advantages to Assist Sichuan Enterprises Going Global” in Chengdu in November 2023. Over 130 representatives from local enterprises and guests were briefed on Hong Kong’s strengths and opportunities in business operation, and issues concerning enterprises in going global such as taxation, finance and risk management;
- (b) Co-organising with InvestHK and Chengdu Financial Service Chamber of Commerce the “Chengdu-Hong Kong: A Seminar on Understanding Family Offices” in Chengdu in December 2023. Nearly 50 people comprising representatives of local business associations, enterprises and trade professionals were briefed on Hong Kong’s business environment and the HKSAR Government’s policies on promoting the development of family offices, as well as relevant information on Hong Kong’s advantages and strengths in the field of global family office business;
- (c) Co-organising with InvestHK and Sichuan Provincial Department of Commerce the “‘Unparalleled Opportunities to Expand Your Global Business’ — An Exchange Forum on Leveraging Hong Kong’s Advantages to Assist Catering Enterprises in Sichuan Going Global” in Chengdu, and with InvestHK and Chongqing Municipal Commission of Commerce the “‘Unparalleled Opportunities to Expand Your Global Business’ — An Exchange Forum on Leveraging Hong Kong’s Advantages to Assist Catering Enterprises in Chongqing Going Global” in Chongqing in April 2024. A total of about 90 representatives from the catering industry in Sichuan and Chongqing and guests were briefed on Hong Kong’s strengths in business operation, local catering industry’s market situation, latest trend and case studies on business operation, as well as the latest policies of the Government of the HKSAR in attracting and providing support for enterprises;
- (d) Co-organising with InvestHK and Big Data Industry Federation in Sichuan the “Exchange Forum on Leveraging Hong Kong’s Advantages to Assist Data Science and Information Technology Enterprises in Going Global” in Chengdu in June 2024. About 40 representatives of the data

science and information technology enterprises in Sichuan and guests were briefed on Hong Kong's strengths in business operation, the overview and latest trend of local innovation and technology industry, as well as the latest policy of the Government of the HKSAR in attracting and supporting related enterprises;

- (e) Co-organising with InvestHK and the Management Committee of Chengdu Hi-tech Zone the "Exchange Forum on the Innovation and Technology Industry (Life and Health and New Economy) in Chengdu and Hong Kong" in Chengdu in June 2024. About 70 representatives from the enterprises in Sichuan from the innovation and technology industry, such as life and health and new economy, and guests were briefed on Hong Kong's strengths in business operation, the overview and latest trend of local innovation and technology industry, the latest policy of the Government of the HKSAR in attracting and supporting related enterprises, as well as technical issues such as transformation of scientific research achievements in Hong Kong, capital market, cross-border capital management, taxation, intellectual property rights financing and legal risk management; and
- (f) Co-organising with the Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises (OASES), InvestHK and Xi'an Municipal Bureau of Commerce the "Leveraging Hong Kong in Going Global and Connecting to the World – Exchange Forum on Leveraging Hong Kong's Strengths in Business Operation to Assist Shaanxi Enterprises in the Optimisation and Sustainability of Global Supply Chain" in Xi'an in August 2024. About 60 representatives from strategic enterprises in Shaanxi in the fields of advanced and smart manufacturing and guests were briefed on the policies of Hong Kong to attract strategic enterprises to develop in Hong Kong, relevant industries' latest development and opportunities, the international trend and information on global supply chain management, as well as issues relating to enterprises going global, such as trade and financing, taxation, legal risk management, etc.

4. CDETO maintained good working relationships with government departments as well as trade and industrial organisations in the service areas to broaden its liaison network. Apart from regularly participating in investment promotion and co-operation activities held in the Mainland, CDETO assisted in arranging visits by Mainland officials and enterprises to Hong Kong for them to learn about Hong Kong's latest economic situation and investment environment, including assisting Mainland's government departments and trade in organising activities in Hong Kong. For example, CDETO assisted in arranging the Head of Mainland and GBA of InvestHK of the HKSAR Government to attend the 2024 Invest in Chengdu Promotion Conference (Hong Kong) on 8 August 2024; assisted government departments and trade associations, including Yunnan

Provincial Department of Commerce, the Management Committee of Tianfu New Area in Sichuan and Sichuan Provincial Federation of Industry and Commerce in conducting study visit to Hong Kong; and assisted with the establishment and operation of Hong Kong business representative offices of the Guizhou Provincial Government and Xi'an Municipal Government etc.

5. Besides, IPD of CDETO actively supported the work of OASES by liaising with and recommending strategic enterprises, co-organising exchange activities to elucidate Hong Kong's policies on attracting strategic enterprises and so on, and recommending enterprises to partake in major exhibition events in Hong Kong etc.

Public Relations

6. On public relations, CDETO has taken forward a series of work to showcase Hong Kong's unique feature as a cultural melting pot of East and West through different ways, including organising and participating in exhibitions, performance and cultural activities with the support of the media and social platforms. In parallel, Hong Kong's positioning as one of the "eight centres" with the support of the 14th Five-Year Plan, the new opportunities of "three centres and a hub" stated in the Third Plenary Session of 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC Central Committee) and the important role and unique advantage of Hong Kong as the "super connector" and "super value-adder" were promoted. CDETO also took the opportunity to liaise with the local government departments and relevant authorities, Hong Kong people, enterprises and students, and promoted the new initiatives of Hong Kong in the areas of trade and economic development, business and talent attraction, etc.

Cultural and Art Exchanges

7. In January 2024, CDETO organised the "Iconic Songs: Hong Kong Movies and Music" in Kunming, Yunnan. By making use of Hong Kong films and music which the Mainland audience was familiar to and fond of, CDETO kicked off its first-ever cultural event in Yunnan following the re-establishment of the liaison network to cover Yunnan. In July 2024, CDETO invited the "Hong Kong Harmonia Virtuosi" to stage three performance in collaboration with the local musicians in the "Chengdu International Sister Cities Youth Music Festival". In October 2024, Warren Mok, the world-renowned tenor, was invited to tour with Opera Hong Kong in Chengdu, Guiyang, Xining and Chongqing and have exchange sessions with local professional art institutions. During the performance in Guiyang, CDETO particularly arranged for Opera Hong Kong to participate in the "Concert along Guiyang Roadside" to celebrate the national day together with audience, with a view to showcasing Hong Kong's charm as a cultural hub.

8. In June 2024, Windpipe Chinese Music Ensemble, an orchestra from Hong Kong, staged a joint performance with Sichuan Conservatory of Music with the support of CDETO, with a view to showcasing the attempts and contributions of Hong Kong art groups in passing on “Cantonese Music”, a national intangible cultural heritage. In September 2024, CDETO also supported the performance of Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra to participate in the “Autumn in Chengdu – Chengdu International Music Festival” in Chengdu.

9. In April 2024, CDETO invited representatives from Hong Kong culture and art sectors to visit Chengdu to promote Hong Kong’s culture and art through participating in the local cultural and art programmes and visits to various art groups. It provided a platform for Hong Kong art talents and groups to showcase Hong Kong’s crucial role as an East-meets-West centre for international cultural exchange.

10. In May 2024, CDETO organised a gourmet networking event entitled “Food Journey from Yunnan to Hong Kong” in Kunming, Yunnan to promote Hong Kong culture and exchanges between the two places by integrating Hong Kong’s gourmet food and music with the local culture.

Exhibition Events

11. In January 2024, CDETO, in collaboration with the Intangible Cultural Heritage Office of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department, organised “A Journey into the Past and Present — Hong Kong Intangible Cultural Heritage Exhibition” in Chengdu. Incorporating texts and graphics with creative displays, Hong Kong intangible cultural heritage items were introduced to Sichuan people, with a view to promoting Hong Kong’s cultural diversification and showcasing the unique cultural landscape of Hong Kong.

12. CDETO seized the opportunity to participate in large-scale exhibitions or related events held in its service areas. In May 2024, the coverage of the Individual Visit Scheme (IVS) was expanded to cover Lhasa of the TAR and Xining in Qinghai¹, the service area of CDETO. In this connection, CDETO displayed its publicity materials at the main venue of “Lhasa Culture and Tourism Industry Development Conference”, and conducted a joint publicity with the relevant government departments of the TAR and Lhasa. In July 2024, CDETO specially promoted the IVS and Hong Kong’s tourism at the exhibition booth in the Qinghai Fair.

¹ Starting from March 2024, the IVS was expanded to cover Xi’an in Shaanxi. The publicity work of SNLU was set out in paragraph 22(f).

Media Publicity

13. CDETO continued to maintain close contact with the local media to support the events. The Director of CDETO (D/CDETO) gave an interview to media outlets on every occasion. While introducing individual programmes, D/CDETO also stepped up efforts in promoting the key policies and new developments of Hong Kong in the areas of economic and trade activities, business and talent attraction, etc., so that the Mainland people could have a deeper understanding of Hong Kong's latest development and advantages.

14. Meanwhile, CDETO made use of different social media platforms, including WeChat, Weibo, Douyin and Xiaohongshu, etc., to promulgate the latest information of Hong Kong, such as policy initiatives and updates of mega events, as well as the Central Government's policies and measures benefitting Hong Kong. For example, CDETO released posts or video clips on the District Council Ordinary Election held in December 2023 through different platforms to encourage Hong Kong people in the Mainland to cast their ballots in Hong Kong. In May 2024, CDETO produced a video clip to welcome Lhasa visitors travelling to Hong Kong under the IVS, and co-produced a news video clip with Qinghai Satellite TV to promote the IVS. Since August 2024, CDETO has also reproduced the updates of the first-ever twin giant pandas born in Hong Kong from time to time.

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

15. During the reporting period, CDETO kept close liaison with relevant authorities in the service areas and acted as a connector between government departments and organisations, with a view to fostering mutual co-operation in various aspects. CDETO also briefed governments at various provincial or municipal levels on the current and future developments of Hong Kong, proactively supported government officials in its service areas to visit Hong Kong for organising networking programmes, and co-ordinated meetings between officials from the Mainland with representatives from the government departments of the HKSAR. The objective is to let them have a more comprehensive understanding of Hong Kong through high-level meetings, exchanges with the policy bureaux and departments of the HKSAR and other different types of programmes².

16. CDETO provided logistical support to senior officials of the Government of the HKSAR during their visits to the region. For example, the Chief Executive and his wife, the Secretary for Culture, Sports and Tourism and the Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation visited Chengdu in July

² This included co-ordinating and arranging the visit of a delegation led by the Deputy Secretary of the CPC Chongqing Municipal Committee and the Mayor of Chongqing to Hong Kong in June 2024, and the visits by the Secretary of the CPC Shaanxi Provincial Committee and the Governor of Qinghai to Hong Kong in September 2024.

2024 to deliberate mainly on and understand the arrangements of the pair of giant pandas gifted to the HKSAR by the Central Government, during which they had exchanges with the leading officials of Sichuan and Chengdu. Other examples included the visits by the Secretary for Education to Guiyang and Kunming in November 2023 and April 2024; the visits by the Under Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry to Chongqing and Chengdu in March 2024; the visits by the Under Secretary for Education to Chengdu and Guiyang in April and August 2024; the visit by the Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs to Chengdu in June 2024; the visit by the Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs to Chengdu in August 2024; and the visits by the Secretary for Culture, Sports and Tourism in August and September 2024, etc. CDETO also arranged exchange sessions between visiting officials and Hong Kong people in the region.

17. CDETO continued to strengthen liaison with Hong Kong people in the service region to have a better understanding of their life in the Mainland and provide them with assistance as appropriate. It also enhanced communication with different sectors and stepped up publicity in the service region. The efforts included –

- (a) Maintaining close contact with Hong Kong people (including those working and studying in the region, representatives of Hong Kong enterprises and the Hong Kong committee members of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC)) in the region through a wide variety of activities, such as Chinese New Year gatherings for Hong Kong people, gatherings for the Hong Kong committee members of the CPPCC, career talks and film screenings, so as to better understand their situation and needs, and provide them with the services and information on local living, studying, employment, etc. as necessary;
- (b) Disseminating useful and practical information about living, studying and employment in the region to the public through different channels, including the "Practical Guide for Hong Kong People Living in the Mainland", CDETO's website, WeChat public account, email and Weibo etc.;
- (c) Establishing working relationships and maintaining contact with relevant authorities in the service region to enable timely communication on the overall situation of the requests for assistance made by Hong Kong people; and
- (d) Reaching out to the Committee for Liaison with Hong Kong, Macao, Taiwan and Overseas Chinese/Hong Kong and Macao representatives of the CPPCC in the service region, in addition to regular liaison with local officials, to foster mutual understanding between Hong Kong and the

region through communication and exchanges.

18. CDETO provided support for Hong Kong students studying in the Mainland through various means, such as organising different forms of student activities to learn more about their life, studies and work, foster mutual understanding among the students, and strengthen their ties with Hong Kong people in the region. CDETO also organised visits and study tours in Sichuan, Shaanxi and Chongqing for Hong Kong students studying there, as a way to enhance CDETO's connection with these students and enrich their understanding of the local history and culture as well as the latest development. In addition, CDETO maintained close liaison with higher education institutions in Sichuan, Chongqing, Shaanxi, Guizhou and Yunnan with the intake of Hong Kong students, so as to better understand their life and studies.

19. CDETO attached great importance to youth development work, with a view to enhancing the understanding of Hong Kong youths and students regarding the latest development of the Mainland, and promoting a closer relationship between the Mainland and Hong Kong. During the reporting period, CDETO and its liaison units provided a total of seven summer internship placements for application by Hong Kong students. CDETO and its liaison units also encouraged public organisations in the service areas to provide 41 internship placements for Hong Kong students in the summer vacation this year. In parallel, CDETO actively supported the "Youth Internship Programme at the Wolong National Nature Reserve in Sichuan" implemented by the Home and Youth Affairs Bureau, including accompanying the Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs to attend the closing ceremony and visits of the Programme. CDETO also proactively supported and participated in the exchange or internship programmes in its service areas for Hong Kong youths and students. During the summer vacation this year, CDETO attended a number of sharing sessions to learn about the internship and exchange tours of Hong Kong students in Sichuan, Yunnan, Qinghai and Guizhou and had exchanges and interactions with the youth and students.

20. To promote the District Council Ordinary Election held in December 2023, CDETO proactively organised promotion conferences and gatherings for the district council election starting from November 2023. At the exhibitions, expos, seminars and gatherings for Hong Kong enterprises and students, CDETO also took the opportunity to publicise the district council election and broadcast the lively promotional videos featuring Hong Kong people and students, with a view to encouraging more Hong Kong people in the Mainland to cast their ballots in Hong Kong in support of the improvement of governance at the district level.

Chongqing Liaison Unit (CQLU)

21. CQLU maintained close contact with local government departments as well as trade and industrial organisations to expand its network and promote economic and trade exchanges between Hong Kong and Chongqing. In addition, CQLU conducted study visits to different districts and counties of Chongqing to learn about the latest business environment and preferential policies so as to explore new investment and co-operation opportunities for Hong Kong enterprises. Relevant information gathered was disseminated to related chambers of commerce of Hong Kong and Hong Kong businessmen. Regular meetings with Hong Kong people and enterprises in Chongqing were held to better understand their needs. During the reporting period, major tasks included –

- (a) On regional co-operation with the Mainland, CQLU maintained liaison with government leading officials and departments at all levels in Chongqing to introduce the functions of CQLU and exchange views on work plans. CQLU also provided support in the communication and liaison between the Chongqing Municipal Government and the HKSAR Government, and co-ordinated exchange and co-operation programmes between the two places. Since the establishment of the mechanism of the “Hong Kong/ Chongqing Co-operation Conference” in May last year, both governments have been proactively taking forward and implementing co-operation projects in various fields, with CQLU taking up the role as a connector. As the mechanism has been established for a year, CQLU provided assistance to the Deputy Secretary of the CPC Chongqing Municipal Committee and the Mayor of Chongqing in leading a Chongqing Municipal Government delegation to Hong Kong from 26 to 28 June 2024 to strengthen and further promote co-operation between Chongqing and Hong Kong on all fronts;
- (b) On supporting Hong Kong people in Chongqing, CQLU continued to strengthen liaison with Hong Kong people in Chongqing in understanding their needs in the Mainland and provide them with assistance as appropriate. CQLU also maintained close liaison with relevant departments of the Municipal Government to follow up on the latest implementation progress of the policies and measures that facilitated Hong Kong people’s development in the Mainland. Besides, CQLU organised the “Gathering for Hong Kong Committee Members of the CPPCC Chongqing Municipal Committee” in January 2024 to exchange views with Hong Kong committee members on enhancing co-operation between Chongqing and Hong Kong. CQLU organised the “Chinese New Year Gathering for Hong Kong People and Enterprises in Chongqing” in February 2024 to keep close contact and celebrate the Chinese New Year with Hong Kong residents doing business, living,

working and studying in Chongqing, as well as the representatives of Hong Kong-funded enterprises there;

- (c) On supporting Hong Kong enterprises in Chongqing and fostering economic and trade co-operation between Hong Kong and Chongqing, CQLU continued to closely monitor the policy developments, and proactively organised or co-organised events, with an aim to familiarise Hong Kong-funded enterprises in Chongqing with local policies, laws and regulations as well as measures in relation to business operation and help them explore business opportunities. These included the “Economy Recovery: Seminar on Business Opportunities and Policies” co-organised with the Chongqing Municipal Commission of Commerce in November 2023; and the “Hong Kong Enterprises in Western China Gaining Access to Yongchuan of Chongqing” organised in June 2024, with the participation of representatives from about 30 Hong Kong enterprises in Western China. CQLU also co-organised the “Channelling Global Business through Hong Kong’ – Seminar on Leveraging Innovation Technology Platform in Hong Kong to assist Enterprises in Chongqing in Going Global” in March 2024. A number of representatives from the innovation technology sector gathered to discuss the advantages of Hong Kong’s innovation technology environment and development opportunities. In addition, CQLU proactively made arrangements for the visits conducted by Hong Kong business associations and professional bodies to Chongqing or provided assistance as appropriate. For example, for the “Delegation of the Hong Kong Institute of Housing Visiting Chongqing” in November 2023 and the “Delegation of the CGCC and the Y.Elites Association Visiting Chongqing” in May 2024, CQLU assisted in arranging some itineraries and organised networking luncheon for the Hong Kong trade and economic bodies visiting Chongqing to enhance their understanding of the development of Chongqing in various aspects. In June 2024, CQLU co-organised the “Seminar for Entrepreneurs in Chongqing and Hong Kong”, which was attended by important guests like the Chairman of the CGCC and the President of Chongqing Federation of Industry & Commerce. Enterprises from Chongqing and Hong Kong shared their experience of success and development strategies on the seminar;
- (d) CQLU closely kept in view the areas of development and policy measures of Chongqing in relation to the National 14th Five-Year Plan, the BRI, as well as the development of Chengdu-Chongqing Economic Circle, New Western Land-Sea Corridor and Pilot Free Trade Zone, reported the latest development and analysis in a timely manner, and disseminated to Hong Kong enterprises information about the areas of development and policy measures involved;

- (e) On promoting Hong Kong, CQLU organised the “Hong Kong in Miniature Exhibition” in Yuzhong District in Chongqing in January 2024. The Joyful Miniature Association was invited to showcase the characteristics and vibrancy of Hong Kong, its distinctive culture, traditions and custom, as well as the cityscape and aspects of daily life in Hong Kong by presenting numerous miniature artworks. Besides, Chongqing, a vast territory with rich resources, is the largest and most populous municipality in China. In view of this, CQLU has been proactively organising exhibitions in areas outside the main city area, such as the “Hong Kong Thematic Exhibition 2024” held in Yongchuan of Chongqing in June and July 2024; and the “Celebrating Mid-Autumn Together under the Full Moon Night together with Hong Kong – Photo Gallery 2024” held in Fuling in Chongqing in September 2024;
- (f) On fostering cultural and art exchanges and people-to-people bonds between Chongqing and Hong Kong, CQLU organised the “Looking at Hong Kong from different perspectives” culture exhibition in Yuzhong, Chongqing in March 2024. Through lively images and texts along with videos, the exhibition introduced various intangible cultural heritage inventories of Hong Kong, such as Cantonese opera, herbal tea and “Jiao Festival” in Cheung Chau. CQLU also organised a concert performed by Opera Hong Kong at the Chongqing Grand Theatre in October 2024. Warren Mok, the internationally renowned musician, was invited to perform in Chongqing, with a view to bringing a music feast to Chongqing citizens and enhancing the cultural exchanges and co-operation between the two places; and
- (g) On youth work, CQLU liaised with the relevant associations of Hong Kong in respect of the arrangements for the exchange tours of Hong Kong students to Chongqing. CQLU attended and supported the programmes for Hong Kong students visiting Chongqing, and met and had exchanges with Hong Kong students and youth associations visiting Chongqing, with a view to assisting them in understanding the culture, youth exchange, etc. of Chongqing. For example, in November 2023, CQLU attended the “Kick-off Ceremony of the First Mainland Study Tour to Chongqing for Students of Subject of Citizenship and Social Development in Hong Kong”. From February to July 2024, CQLU attended several activities such as the kick-off ceremony of the “Tour for Senior Secondary Students of Subject of Citizenship and Social Development Visiting Chongqing”, the programmes of certain sister schools of Chongqing and Hong Kong and the networking programmes for other students of the two places.

Shaanxi Liaison Unit (SNLU)

22. SNLU maintained close contact with local government departments, associations as well as trade and industrial organisations to expand its network, and promote economic, trade and cultural exchanges between Shaanxi and Hong Kong. In addition, SNLU conducted study visits in different municipalities to learn about the latest business environment and preferential policies there, and information gathered was disseminated to Hong Kong businessmen. SNLU also held regular meetings with Hong Kong people and enterprises in Shaanxi to better understand their situation and needs in relation to investment, business operation and daily life. During the reporting period, major events included –

- (a) On regional co-operation with the Mainland, SNLU maintained liaison with the government leading officials and departments at all levels in Shaanxi to introduce the functions of SNLU and exchange views on work plans. SNLU also provided support in the communication and liaison between the Shaanxi Provincial Government and the HKSAR Government, and co-ordinated exchange and co-operation programmes between the two places. These included the visits by the Secretary for Culture, Sports and Tourism to Xi'an in March and May 2024; the visits by the Secretary for Education to Xi'an and Yan'an in March 2024; and the visits by the Secretary for Security to Xi'an and Yan'an in August 2024. In addition, SNLU assisted in arranging a delegation led by the Secretary of the CPC Shaanxi Provincial Committee to visit Hong Kong in September 2024. During the visit, the Secretary of the CPC Shaanxi Provincial Committee and the Chief Executive witnessed the signing of the Strengthening Hong Kong/Shaanxi Co-operation Agreement at the Shaanxi High-Quality Opening-up and Co-operation Conference. At the same time, the relevant government departments and institutions of the two places signed five co-operation agreements, covering the areas of legal services, tourism, innovation and technology, and economy and trade;
- (b) On supporting Hong Kong people in Shaanxi, SNLU continued to strengthen liaison with Hong Kong people in Shaanxi to see how they were doing in the Mainland and provide them with assistance as appropriate. SNLU also maintained close liaison with relevant government departments to follow up on the latest implementation progress of the policies and measures that facilitated for Hong Kong people's development in the Mainland. In addition to joining the activities of Hong Kong business associations and bodies in Shaanxi, SNLU organised different programmes, such as "Hello 2024 Silk Road Serendipity with Pearl in Shaanxi – Chinese New Year Gathering for Hong Kong People and Enterprises" to strengthen ties and pool together and support Hong Kong people and enterprises in Shaanxi. SNLU

proactively exchanged views and communicated with the representatives of Hong Kong Committee Members of the CPPCC Shaanxi Provincial Committee and Xi'an Municipal Committee. SNLU also organised the "Qinling Ecology Study Programme for Hong Kong Students of Higher Education Institutions in Shaanxi" to provide support and exchange opportunity for Hong Kong students studying in Shaanxi. SNLU would meet with the leading officials and Hong Kong students in higher education institutions from time to time to learn about students' daily and study life;

- (c) On supporting Hong Kong enterprises in Shaanxi and fostering economic and trade co-operation between Hong Kong and Shaanxi, SNLU continued to closely keep in view the policy developments, and proactively participated in and organised exchange sessions and symposiums to introduce Hong Kong's strengths and further promote co-operation between Shaanxi and Hong Kong. For example, in June 2024, SNLU organised two "Seminars on Various Talent Admission Schemes of Hong Kong". In August 2024, SNLU assisted the OASES of the HKSAR Government in organising the "Exchange Forum on Leveraging Hong Kong's Strengths in Business Operation to Assist Shaanxi Enterprises in the Optimisation and Sustainability of Global Supply Chain". In May 2024, SNLU attended the symposium on co-operation organised by Investment and Co-operation Bureau in Xi'an and the "Networking Seminar for Banking Enterprises" organised by Hong Kong Xi'an Trade Association Limited. In order to enable Hong Kong enterprises in Shaanxi to grasp local business opportunities and policies on business operation, and provide a platform for exchanges and co-operation between Hong Kong enterprises in Shaanxi and the local enterprises, SNLU organised a business seminar entitled "Shaanxi-Hong Kong Co-operation: Unlimited Opportunities" in January 2024. At the same time, SNLU supported delegations from Hong Kong to visit Shaanxi to deepen their understanding of local business and investment environment. In January 2024, SNLU participated in the study visit to the base of vegetables supplied to Hong Kong by Shangluo, and arranged meetings between enterprises and the local government, with a view to establishing ties;
- (d) Closely keeping in view the areas of development and policy measures of Shaanxi in relation to the National 14th Five-Year Plan, the BRI and Shaanxi Free Trade Zone, and reporting the latest development and analysis in a timely manner;
- (e) On promoting Hong Kong, SNLU organised cultural activities such as exhibitions and performance to enhance Shaanxi people's understanding of Hong Kong and promote Hong Kong's cultural and tourism features,

including setting up exhibition booths at the 7th and 8th “Silk Road International Exposition and the Investment and Trade Forum for Co-operation between East and West China” held in November 2023 and September 2024 respectively in Xi’an;

- (f) On fostering cultural and art exchanges between Shaanxi and Hong Kong, SNLU organised the “Shaanxi · Hong Kong Film Culture and Art Exhibition 2023” in Xi’an in December 2023, and the “Pearl of the Orient on the Silk Road — An Exhibition Dedicated to the Culture of Hong Kong” in Xi’an in February 2024, in which the expansion of the IVS to cover Xi’an from March 2024 onwards was promoted. SNLU also organised various cultural programmes in Yan’an in October 2024. In addition, SNLU supported different cultural bodies to have exchanges in Shaanxi, including, among others, the performance of Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra, Hong Kong Youth Chinese Orchestra and Windpipe Chinese Music Ensemble in Xi’an, etc.; and
- (g) On youth work, SNLU liaised with the relevant associations of Hong Kong in respect of the arrangements for the exchange tours of Hong Kong youth to Shaanxi, and met and had exchanges with Hong Kong students and youth associations visiting Shaanxi, with a view to fostering their understanding of Shaanxi. The related work included co-ordinating and arranging the internship programmes in Shaanxi for Hong Kong university students, and their meetings and exchanges with different youth associations, including a train tour for the youth entitled “Love our China”, a networking programme entitled “Ten Thousand Miles Tour 2024 – Discovering Chinese Culture (Xi’an)” and “Future Dreams in Shaanxi (Xi’an) – Shaanxi-Hong Kong Youths Exchange Programme”. SNLU also supported and attended the interactive exchanges of several schools and the formation of sister schools of several schools in Shaanxi and Hong Kong.

Immigration-related Matters and Assistance Rendered

23. Immigration matters handled by CDETO include handling requests for assistance from Hong Kong residents in distress in its service areas, providing application service for HKSAR travel documents, assisting the promotion of various talent admission schemes of Hong Kong, and handling the enquiries about immigration-related matters. During the reporting period, CDETO received a total of 33 requests for assistance from Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland (which involved injury, sickness, death, loss of travel documents, request for assistance to return to Hong Kong and detention in the Mainland). In addition, CDETO handled 1 135 enquiries about immigration-related matters. Regarding the application service for travel documents, CDETO processed 90 applications for HKSAR passport, 26

applications for Document of Identity for Visa Purposes, and 25 applications for Re-entry Permit. Moreover, CDETO received a total of 5 other assistance cases during the reporting period. CDETO has made referrals to the relevant Mainland authorities for follow-up and monitored the progress.

Looking Ahead

24. Looking ahead, CDETO and its liaison units will continue to strengthen liaison with government departments at all levels in the service areas, deepen their co-operation, enhance the promotion of Hong Kong's strengths and development opportunities as a "super connector" and "super value-adder" in its service areas, and proactively establish the platforms for communication between Hong Kong enterprises and relevant departments, so as to provide more development opportunities for Hong Kong enterprises.

25. Moreover, through organising investment promotion conferences and economic and trade activities regularly, CDETO will showcase Hong Kong's unique advantages on all fronts, as well as its positioning as one of the "eight centres" under the 14th Five-Year Plan and as the "three centres and a hub" stated in the Third Plenary Session of the 20th CPC Central Committee, with a view to encouraging enterprises and quality talents in its service areas to make good use of Hong Kong as a platform to explore more business opportunities in Hong Kong. In addition, CDETO will continue to reach out to Hong Kong people, businessmen and students in the service areas, and provide them with information and assistance as appropriate. CDETO will continue to organise a variety of events to further enhance the local citizens' understanding of Hong Kong through youth and cultural exchange programmes, so that more people would know and love the unique charm of Hong Kong. In line with the youth policy of the HKSAR Government, CDETO will continue to seek for more internship placements and exchange opportunities in the service areas, so as to help Hong Kong young people learn more about the country's development, encourage them to interact with Mainland people, and heighten their sense of national identity.

26. In summary, CDETO will continue to enhance liaison between Hong Kong and other regions in its service areas through multi-faceted work and further promote co-operation between Hong Kong and Western China on all fronts, so that the stories of Hong Kong could be better disseminated in the service areas.

Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Chengdu
The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
November 2024

**Report on the Work of
the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Wuhan of
the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region**

The main functions of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Wuhan (WHETO) of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) (including its Hunan Liaison Unit (HNLU) and Henan Liaison Unit (HALU)) are to (a) enhance liaison and communication between the HKSAR Government and the government authorities of the five provinces in Central China, i.e. Hubei, Hunan, Shanxi, Jiangxi and Henan (the Central Region); (b) strengthen economic and trade co-operation between Hong Kong and the Central Region, provide support for Hong Kong enterprises and attract Mainland enterprises to invest in Hong Kong and utilise Hong Kong as a platform to “go global”; (c) publicise and promote Hong Kong, and enhance people-to-people, cultural and youth exchanges between Hong Kong and the Central Region; and (d) provide appropriate information and assistance to Hong Kong residents working, studying and living in the Central Region, and handle enquires and requests for assistance from Hong Kong residents living in the areas under WHETO’s purview.

2. During the reporting period, WHETO continued to actively strengthen and deepen the co-operation between Hong Kong and Hubei Province. In November 2021, the “High-Level Meeting cum First Plenary Session of the Hong Kong/Hubei Co-operation Conference” was held in Wuhan, during which both sides signed a Memorandum of Understanding and reached consensus in 13 co-operation areas, including finance, innovation and technology, trade and investment, logistics, youth development, health industry and biomedicine, education, culture, and tourism, etc. It was the first high-level government co-operation mechanism established between the HKSAR and a Central Region province of the Mainland. With the co-ordination and promotion by WHETO and the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office (HKMAO) of Hubei Province, a number of co-operation projects have commenced in an orderly manner. As at October 2024, in-depth exchanges and co-operation over 40 projects have started.

Commercial Relations

3. WHETO is committed to providing support for Hong Kong enterprises to operate and develop in the Central Region as well as deepening their understanding of the business and investment environment in the Central Region, with a view to helping them capitalise on new opportunities brought about by the “14th Five-Year Plan” and better integrate themselves into the overall National Development. During the reporting period, WHETO actively maintained close contact with relevant government departments, Hong Kong

business associations and organisations in the Central Region. WHETO also visited Hong Kong enterprises in different cities and states to directly understand their business conditions and challenges encountered. Key work included:

- (a) Visiting government commerce departments in the Central Region, and to co-organise events with them or participating in their activities, so as to encourage and promote economic and trade exchanges between Hong Kong and the Central Region. For example, WHETO attended the “Seminar on Promoting the Effective Operation of the Co-operation Mechanism between Hong Kong and Hubei” and the “2023 Conference on Overseas Chinese Pioneering and Developing in China” in November 2023; participated in the “the 6th Session of the 1st Members’ General Meeting of Hubei Association of Enterprises with Foreign Investment” and “the First New Commercial Development Conference of China Optics Valley” in December 2023; the “2024 Spring Salon for Exchanges with Foreign Institutions and Foreign-invested Enterprises in Wuhan” in January 2024; and the “2024 Cherry Blossom Viewing: Business Co-operation & Fortune 500 Dialogue with Hubei” in March 2024. WHETO also co-organised an event entitled “Opportunities for Wuhan and Hong Kong: Collaborative Development of Innovation and Technology” with the Administrative Committee of Wuhan East Lake High-Tech Development Zone, Invest Hong Kong, and the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, etc. in March 2024. During which, Hong Kong enterprises conducted site visit at the “Optics Valley of China” in order to explore new investment opportunities; local leading science and technology innovation enterprises were given an introduction of the business environment and strengths of Hong Kong, and were encouraged to leverage Hong Kong’s international platform to “go global”. In May, WHETO participated in thematic seminar on “Accelerating the Establishment of Inland Open Highland”, the Zhengzhou Cross-border E-commerce Conference and Conference for Major Foreign Investment Projects in Henan Province cum Business Matching Session amongst the Government, Financial Institutions and Enterprises. WHETO attended the 13th Expo Central China and the 9th China International Food and Catering Expo held in Changsha, Hunan in June and September respectively in which Hong Kong Pavilions were set up to promote Hong Kong’s positive image as a gourmet paradise and events capital. During the reporting period, WHETO and its two liaison units made a number of visits to the government commerce departments in the Central Region, such as the Administrative Committees of various High-tech Development Zones as well as Economic & Technological Development Zones, planning institutes, Department of Finance, Department of Commerce, etc., so as to learn about the policies related to Hong Kong enterprises directly;

- (b) Maintaining close liaison and co-organise activities with Hong Kong trade associations and organisations in the Central Region, and actively support their activities. For example, WHETO co-organised with the Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce in Hubei (HKCCC-Hubei) the “Innovation Drives Development” Sharing Session cum Annual Dinner in December 2023; attended an exchange session organised by the Henan Association of Enterprises with Foreign Investment in March 2024; co-organised with the HKCCC-Hubei the Mid-autumn Festival Dinner for Hong Kong enterprises and businessmen in September 2024, during which a “Hong Kong-Style” market fair was held to provide a platform for the participated member enterprises of HKCCC-Hubei and other Hong Kong enterprises to promote Hong Kong brands in Wuhan. During the reporting period, WHETO conducted visits to 68 Hong Kong enterprises and business associations operating in the Central Region so as to foster ties;
- (c) Supporting provinces/municipalities in the Central Region in visiting Hong Kong to organise economic and trade activities, and co-ordinate meetings between the visiting Mainland officials and senior officials of the HKSAR Government. For example, WHETO assisted in arranging the meetings between the Vice-Governor of Henan Province and the Vice-Governor of Hunan Province with the Chief Secretary for Administration and the Financial Secretary in February and March 2024 respectively; assisted in coordinating the meetings between the Director of Department of Commerce of Shanxi Province and the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development in December 2023 and September 2024; assisted in coordinating the delegations led by the Secretary of the Jiangxi Provincial Party Committee to organise trade promotion events as well as arranging the meeting with the Chief Executive in September 2024;
- (d) Organising seminars and visits, as well as to invite relevant experts to deliver speeches to Hong Kong enterprises in the Central Region on hot topics such as tax policies of the Mainland, labour law and human resources management, and analysis of Mainland economic policies and development plans. During the reporting period, WHETO including its two liaison units organised a total of six thematic seminars in Wuhan (Hubei Province), Zhengzhou (Henan Province), Changsha (Hunan Province), Taiyuan (Shanxi Province), and Nanchang (Jiangxi Province); and
- (e) Keeping Hong Kong’s major industrial and trade organisations as well as Hong Kong residents and enterprises in the Central Region informed of the latest economic and trade policies, legislations and measures in the region through newsletters and sharing sessions; monitoring closely those

latest policy developments and regulations that might have an impact on Hong Kong enterprises and report to the relevant bureaux and departments of the HKSAR Government in a timely manner; gauging local Hong Kong enterprises' views on the development/legislations and reflect their views to relevant Mainland authorities for consideration where appropriate; and handling the assistance cases from Hong Kong enterprises. During the reporting period, WHETO issued 12 "Monthly Newsletters", 12 "Topical Newsletters" and 4 quarterly "Mainland Economic and Trade Activities Newsletter". In March 2024, WHETO also organised the "2024 Forum for Representatives of Hong Kong Enterprises in Wuhan", during which relevant government departments of Hubei Province and Wuhan Municipality were invited to have dialogues with representatives of Hong Kong enterprises. Over 50 representatives from the government and enterprises attended.

Public Relations

4. During the reporting period, WHETO organised or supported various activities to promote Hong Kong as well as cultural and arts exchanges through different online and offline channels. WHETO strived to promote Hong Kong's advantages and positive image, to tell the good stories of Hong Kong in an all-round manner, and to strengthen the ties of people between Hong Kong and the Central Region. Specific work included:

- (a) In November and December 2023, to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the passing of Leslie Cheung and Anita Mui and to promote Hong Kong's popular culture, the "Revisiting the Glory Days - 2023 Hong Kong Film Festival" was held in Wuhan and Changsha respectively screening several classic films of the two late superstars. The Film Festival attracted over 2,700 audience. "Revisiting the Glory Days - Leslie Cheung and Anita Mui Movie Poster Exhibition" was also held in Wuhan during the same period, showcasing 50 selected posters from the movies of Leslie Cheung and Anita Mui. The Film Festival and Poster Exhibition received significant attention from the fans of Leslie Cheung and Anita Mui across the country, with some even traveling from other provinces to join. There was also overwhelming feedback on social media with numerous posts and likes;
- (b) During November to December 2023, the WHETO actively introduced the enhanced District Council election system and arrangements for the Near Boundary Polling Stations to Hong Kong people in Central Region through various platforms, and encouraged them to return to Hong Kong with their family and friends to vote. During this period, the WHETO invited a few Hong Kong residents and students from Central China to make short videos, entitled "Working hard outside is for a better home",

and hosted or co-organised 21 different types of events with the Hubei Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce and student groups, appealing for Hong Kong people and students' active participation in the polling;

- (c) In March 2024, the WHETO together with the Hubei Provincial Library and the Shanghai Library supported the Xiangyang Municipal Government and local organisations to organise activities to commemorate the centennial birthday of Jin Yong, by providing some of the exhibits of the 2022 Jin Yong-themed Exhibition organised by the WHETO to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Establishment of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. In June 2024, the WHETO produced three short videos by taking shoots in ten Jin Yong's fiction-related locations in the five provinces of Central Region for promoting the historical and cultural connections between Hong Kong and Central Region;
- (d) During May to August 2024, to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the WHETO, "Our Ten Springs and Autumns" 2024 Hong Kong-Central China Photography Contest was co-organised with the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Offices of the five provinces in Central Region. Members of the public in Central Region were invited to take photos with elements of Hong Kong, and Hong Kong citizens were encouraged to submit photo works related to Central China, with an aim to connect the hearts of people of both places. To enhance publicity, the WHETO held photo shooting activities in Xiangyang, Taiyuan, Zhengzhou, Changsha, and Nanchang in July, with over 150 participants. The competition received an enthusiastic response, with over a thousand entries submitted;
- (e) From June to August 2024, cheering squads with over 200 Hong Kong people were mobilised to support "the Hong Kong Bulls" Team, the first Hong Kong basketball team participating in the national league, when they had their four away games held in Wuhan, Changsha and Ganzhou;
- (f) In July 2024, a Reception was held in Wuhan to celebrate the 27th anniversary of the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region;
- (g) From August to October 2024, "The Best in the World" James Wong's Song Lyrics Display was held in major shopping areas in Wuhan, Nanchang and Taiyuan. On the 20th anniversary of the passing of the famous songwriter James Wong, the exhibition showcased selected lyrics from his classic works. The events recalled the memories of many local people of their familiar songs and promoted Hong Kong's pop music culture, highlighting the cultural roots and connections between the two

places. The events were also served as the overseas contribution programme of the Hong Kong Pop Culture Festival 2024 and received extensive local media coverage; and

- (h) In September 2024, to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China and the Mid-Autumn Festival, a Hong Kong style market fair was held in Wuhan. It was jointly organised with the Hubei Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce and local Hong Kong-invested enterprises. The Hong Kong Immigration Department band was invited to perform at the market fair as well as various landmarks in Wuhan, and had an exchange performance with a local university. The performance received a very warm and welcoming response. In the same month, the HNLU and HALU also held gatherings respectively for Hong Kong people to celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival and the National Day.

5. During the reporting period, WHETO invited different Hong Kong artists to perform and organise events in the Central Region with a view to promoting cultural exchanges between Hong Kong and the five provinces under its purview, thereby demonstrating Hong Kong's positioning as an East-meets-West centre for international cultural exchange. Key activities included:

- (a) In April 2024, Warren Mok, the internationally renowned Hong Kong bel canto tenor with a group of outstanding young artists of Opera Hong Kong, were invited to make a concert tour in the four provincial capital cities in Central Region, namely Wuhan, Nanchang, Taiyuan and Zhengzhou. They also conducted masterclasses for students of the Wuhan University, Shanxi University and Zhengzhou University;
- (b) In May 2024, the internationally renowned Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra featuring Principal Guest Conductor Yu Long and Cellist Wang Jian were invited to perform in Wuhan and Changsha to bring Chinese and Western symphonic classics to Central Region audiences; and
- (c) In October 2024, SENZA A Cappella, a famous a cappella group in Hong Kong, was invited to hold their first performance in Wuhan.

6. During the reporting period, WHETO enhanced the use of online platforms to provide useful information to Hong Kong residents and share the latest developments in Hong Kong with people in the Central Region, including posting 670 pieces of news and event information on its WeChat official account, and producing 22 short videos and uploading them to various social media platforms. The contents covered the District Council election, major events, cultural exhibitions, etc.

7. WHETO continued to make good use of the Sponsored Journalist Programme launched by the Information Services Department to nominate ten local reporters to cover Hong Kong major events through the Programme so as to publicize to the public in the Central Region about Hong Kong's advantages and resources.

8. WHETO nominated three Hong Kong residents living in Central Region to be the guest hosts of RTHK radio programme “大城小事” to share their daily life on a monthly basis with a view to enhancing Hong Kong citizen's understanding of Central Region.

Youth Work

9. WHETO has launched the “Summer Internship Programme for Hong Kong Students studying in Central China” for three consecutive years to support Hong Kong students to gain an in-depth understanding of the development of the motherland and the Central Region, to cultivate their sentiment for home and country, and to strengthen their sense of national identity and national pride. The programme has received great assistance and support from the Hubei Provincial Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office, Hubei Provincial Youth Federation, Wuhan Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office, Hubei Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce, and Hubei Provincial Youth Enterprise Federation. This year, 56 government institutions and enterprises provided a total of 315 internship placements, including Institute of Hydrobiology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Hubei Provincial Museum, member companies of the Hubei Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce, domestic enterprises, etc. WHETO and its two liaison units in Changsha and Zhengzhou also provided a total of nine internship positions. Over the last three years, a total of 102 Hong Kong students have been successfully posted as interns in different positions under this programme.

10. From February to June 2024, on invitation of the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of Wuhan Municipal Government (WH HKMAO), WHETO recruited 27 Hong Kong students studying in Hubei Province and Hong Kong to participate in the third “Students Reinventing Cities Competition”¹ organised by C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group. In addition to inviting a Hong Kong designer based in Wuhan to serve as the tutor to lead the 27 Hong Kong students in discussion of urban planning and environmental design ideas, WHETO also organised a number of supporting activities with WH HKMAO, including on-site in-depth visits of the competition venues as well as visits to national

¹ The C40 Cities Climate Leadership, with its headquarters in London, is an international public welfare organisation with extensive influence in the field of global climate change. The “Students Reinventing Cities Competition” aims to encourage students to propose innovative ideas and practical solutions for low-carbon city development. It has been successfully held for two editions, attracting participation of over 2,000 international students and more than 200 universities from 28 cities around the world. In the third edition of the Competition this year, a total of 17 community projects from international cities were selected, among which Wuhan Beihu Street was selected as the Competition area in China.

“green factories”, national wetland parks, and historic conservation areas in Wuhan so as to enhance their understanding of Wuhan’s environmental protection industry, ecological environment construction, and revitalisation of historical buildings under the theme of “Urban Environmental Planning and Protection”. The 27 Hong Kong students grouped in two teams submitted proposals and received special mention awards. It is laudable for Hong Kong designers and Hong Kong students to participate in a major event in the environmental protection industry. It highlighted Hong Kong as an international metropolis city and its integration with the world in urban development, and helped Hong Kong students deepen their understanding of the country’s efforts and achievements in environment protection and sustainable development promotion in recent years.

11. WHETO actively supports relevant policy bureaux and organisations in promoting youth exchange programmes in the Mainland. In April and July 2024, WHETO received delegations of the “Centum Charitas Foundation Youth Exchange Group”, the “Rehabilitation Pioneer Leaders Youth Group of Correctional Services Department” and “Fire Safety Ambassadors Youth Delegation of Yau Tsim Mong District”, and attended the launching ceremony of “Million Hong Kong and Macao Youth to Explore their Motherland (Hubei)”, briefed them on the functions and work of WHETO, and elaborated the latest development of co-operation between Hong Kong and the Central Region. In celebration of the 75th anniversary of the founding of the People’s Republic of China, WHETO assisted the Home and Youth Affairs Bureau in organising the “Youth Link Jiangxi Province Historical and Cultural Exchange Tour” in October 2024, arranging 75 young people to visit Jinggangshan and Nanchang in Jiangxi Province and to learn about the history and latest development of the Mainland.

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

12. WHETO strived to broaden and deepen liaison network, step up information collection, and implement various measures to better support Hong Kong residents living, doing business, working and studying in the Central Region. Specific work included:

- (a) Enhancing government-to-government liaison work by visiting government authorities in the Central Region and participating in activities organised by/co-organised with them with a view to strengthening mutual liaison and co-operation. WHETO liaised with the relevant authorities from time to time to obtain details on planning and policies, etc. of the Central Region and reported to the HKSAR Government. During the reporting period, the Director of WHETO made a number of visits to the relevant government departments in the

Central Region to learn about the latest developments in the provinces concerned and strengthen work ties;

- (b) Assisting in the mutual visits between government officials of the Central Region and the HKSAR. In November 2023, WHETO assisted in the arrangement for Permanent Secretary for the Civil Service to visit Wuhan; in May 2024, WHETO assisted in the arrangement for the Under Secretary for Culture, Sports and Tourism to visit Nanchang; in June 2024, WHETO assisted in the arrangement for the Secretary for Health to visit Wuhan to attend China Organ Donation Day and the Opening Ceremony of the 8th China Transplant Games, and to learn about the medical health development of Hubei Province; in August 2024, WHETO assisted in the arrangement for Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, Environment and Ecology Bureau and other departments to visit Henan; in September 2024, WHETO assisted in the arrangement for the Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry to visit Wuhan; in October 2024, WHETO assisted in the arrangement for the Under Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs to meet with local authorities during “Youth Link Jiangxi Province Historical and Cultural Exchange Tour”. During the reporting period, WHETO also assisted in the arrangement for 13 visits of Mainland government officials to Hong Kong to meet with relevant government bureaux/departments and to attend events and visits, so as to deepen their understanding of Hong Kong and its latest developments;
- (c) Liaising proactively with Hong Kong people in the Central Region so as to understand their needs and provide assistance as appropriate, including:
 - Maintaining close contact with Hong Kong people in the Central Region through the WeChat Public Account and WeChat groups for Hong Kong people in the Central Region. Apart from releasing the information about the latest political and economic development in Hong Kong and the activities of WHETO, the concerns of Hong Kong people in the Central Region regarding their lives, business and studies would also be collected, and actively communicate with relevant government departments to reflect their demands. During the reporting period, WHETO handled a total of 27 enquiries from Hong Kong people in the Mainland;
 - Organising spring receptions for Hong Kong people in the provincial capitals of four provinces in the Central Region, namely Wuhan, Zhengzhou, Changsha and Nanchang in February and March 2024 to strengthen liaison with Hong Kong people in the municipalities, and promote the latest information about Hong Kong;

- Organising “Career Talk for Hong Kong Students studying in Central China” with main stage in Wuhan and sub venues in Changsha and Zhengzhou in March 2024, to provide Hong Kong students studying in the Central Region with information related to job seeking and business startup in Hong Kong or the Central Region, and to support them to better plan for their future career. Apart from Immigration Division of WHETO, Hong Kong Police Force, Hong Kong Customs and Excise Department, and the Correctional Services Department of the HKSAR Government also deployed their staff members to provide recruitment information at the Career Talk. More than 370 Hong Kong students participated in the Career Talk on-site and online. After the event, WHETO also provided assistance to the recruitment team of Hong Kong Police Force in holding the auditions, interviews and written examinations for probationary inspectors and constables;
 - To pay keen attention to the implementation of the facilitation measures for Hong Kong and Macao residents in the Central Region, which were put in place by the relevant Mainland departments of the Central Government. WHETO also completed a thematic research in January 2024 to understand the lives, work, business and studies of Hong Kong people in Hubei and reflect their concerns and views to the relevant government departments;
- (d) Maintaining close contact actively with student organisations and relevant entities in the Central Region, and help Hong Kong students in the study and living in the Central Region as soon as possible through various activities such as meetings and exchanges, orientation activities, study tours, and gatherings, etc. In June, September and October 2024, WHETO visited Wuhan University, Huazhong University of Science and Technology, Central China Normal University and Nanchang University in Jiangxi to facilitate exchanges with students and to meet the school’s administrative heads to acquire an understanding of the current learning environment of Hong Kong students. In December 2023 and September 2024, WHETO and HKCCC-Hubei co-organised the Hubei-Hong Kong Youth Fencing Competition; and
- (e) Assisting Hong Kong civil servants to visit the Central Region for training and introduced to them the developments of the Central Region and the functions of mainland offices set up by HKSAR Government. During the reporting period, WHETO received five batches of participants of the “National Study Programme at Wuhan University for Hong Kong Civil Servants”, two batches of “Mainland Study Course for Executive Officer grade”, “Study Course on National Affairs for the

Youth of the Immigration Department” and “Study Programme on Foreign Affairs for Immigration officers” to visit Jinggangshan and Nanchang. HNLU received participants visiting Changsha, Hunan in September 2024 for the national studies course designated for senior directorate officers organised by the National Academy of Governance.

Business and Talent Attraction / Investment Promotion

13. During the reporting period, the Business and Talent Attraction / Investment Promotion Unit (BTA/IPU) of WHETO adopted more proactive strategies to encourage Central China enterprises to invest in Hong Kong. In addition to exploring the possibility of establishing long-term co-operation mechanisms with Departments of Commerce, Trade Promotion, Development and Reform, etc. in Central Region to effectively screen interested enterprises, according to the advantages of industrial clusters of each province, the BTA/IPU of WHETO also identified and visited more actively enterprises with potential to brief them on the business advantages and talent policies of Hong Kong. During the reporting period, the BTA/IPU of WHETO proactively reached out and visited different enterprises and organisations for a total of 299 times, initiated 27 live projects and completed 22 investment projects.

14. During the reporting period, the BTA/IPU of WHETO collaborated with InvestHK, Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises (OASES) and other business promotion organisations in the Mainland to co-organise 13 seminars/round tables for different sectors as well as other talent attraction and investment promotion activities, attracting over 853 representatives from enterprises or organisations and provided talent consultation services on 67 occasions. Major activities included organising Food and Beverage (F&B) round table in Changsha in collaboration with InvestHK and China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT) Hunan Provincial Committee in November 2023; organising a seminar entitled “Opportunities for Wuhan and Hong Kong: Collaborative Development of Innovation and Technology” in collaboration with InvestHK, OASES and Management Committee of Wuhan East Lake High Tech Zone in March 2024; in June 2024, hosting a F&B seminar in Changsha during Central China Expo which was for the first time an official Expo Central China event hosted by WHETO; in the same month, hosting round tables focusing on I&T in Changsha and Wuhan respectively; in September 2024, joined efforts with InvestHK, Henan CCPIT to organise a round table on food industry in Zhengzhou. Meanwhile, the BTA/IPU of WHETO proactively hosted and participated in different activities in Wuhan, Yichang, Changsha, Zhuzhou, Nanchang, Taiyuan, Nanyang, Ganzhou, Datong, Changzhi, Jincheng and other cities of Central Region to promote Hong Kong’s business environment and talent policies.

15. The BTA/IPU of WHETO has been keeping good working relationship with various government bodies in Central Region and helped their Hong Kong promotion activities so as to let them understand the latest economic development and investment environment of Hong Kong. For example, to facilitate the arrangement of Director-General of InvestHK to attend the Spring Festival Dinner of Henan Government; to help Jiangxi Provincial Delegation and the delegation of the Henan Provincial Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference visiting to Hong Kong; to support the trade promotion events organised by Datong, Shanxi Province and Xiangyang, Hubei Province in Hong Kong.

Hunan Liaison Unit (HNLU)

16. HNLU strived to strengthen liaison with Hong Kong and Hunan Province as well as its municipalities by enhancing exchanges and co-operation between Hong Kong, Hunan and its municipalities on economic and trade and cultural fronts, as well as assist Hong Kong people and enterprises in the area in better capitalising on the opportunities brought about by the development of the Central Region. Specific work included:

- (a) Enhancing government-to-government co-operation between Hong Kong and Hunan Province and maintaining close liaison with various government departments of Hunan Province and its municipalities. During the reporting period, HNLU paid visits to Zhuzhou Municipality, Yueyang Municipality, Hengyang Municipality, Chenzhou Municipality, Zhangjiajie Municipality, etc. to strengthen liaison with major local government departments;
- (b) Fostering economic and trade exchanges and co-operation between Hong Kong and Hunan, including organising a trade seminar in November 2023 to introduce Hong Kong's latest policies on investment and talents schemes; setting up a Hong Kong Pavilion at the "9th China International Food and Catering Expo" held in Changsha in September 2024 to promote Hong Kong's food and wine industries. In addition, HNLU liaised closely with the local government departments and commercial and industrial organisations to learn about the latest business environment and preferential policies, and disseminate information on the relevant trade-related policies, laws, etc. to Hong Kong people and businesses through social platforms;
- (c) Maintaining close liaison with Hong Kong people in the area and regularly organised gatherings, including holding a tea gathering in November 2023, a spring reception for Hong Kong people and enterprises in Hunan in March 2024, a celebration reception for the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the PRC in September 2024, etc.

Besides, HNLU provided support to address their concerns, including disseminating information on the relevant policy measures to Hong Kong people in Hunan through the WeChat official account of WHETO, publications and social platforms, and reflecting the views of Hong Kong people to the relevant authorities of the Hunan Provincial Government in a timely manner;

- (d) Maintaining active liaison with Hong Kong students studying in Hunan, including providing them with information and support in a timely manner, arranging regular gatherings, hosting a welcoming gathering for new students, mobilising them to join a career talk, providing summer internship in HNLU and organising a study tour to Zhangjiajie to learn about the Wulingyuan Tujia culture in August 2024. HNLU also visited local universities and colleges from time to time to better know Hong Kong students' living and study situation;
- (e) Supporting and promoting exchange activities between youths of Hong Kong and Hunan actively, including attending the opening ceremony of the "Youth Hi-speed Rail – Changsha Culture and Creativity Experience Tour" organised by the Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups in March 2024, and supporting the "2024 Chinese Medicine Culture Study Camp of Hunan-Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao Greater Bay Area" hosted by Hunan University of Chinese Medicine in June 2024, etc; and
- (f) Promoting Hong Kong's positive image and enhancing Hunan public's understanding on Hong Kong through organising a photo exhibition "Watch Hong Kong" in Zhuzhou in December 2023 to showcase Hong Kong's city outlook and advantages, publicising the attractions of Hong Kong as a tourist city and events capital at the "9th China International Food and Catering Expo" in Changsha in September 2024, and collaborating with a major local media Hunan Today by setting up a designated page "Hong Kong's Window" to publish the latest news and information on Hong Kong.

Henan Liaison Unit (HALU)

17. HALU strived to strengthen liaison between the HKSAR and Henan Province as well as its municipalities and counties, enhance government-to-government co-operation, promote economic, trade and cultural exchanges and co-operation between Hong Kong and Henan, and assist Hong Kong people and businessmen in better capitalising on the opportunities brought about by the development of the Central Region. Specific work included:

- (a) Liaising actively with and visited relevant government units of Henan Province from time to time to introduce the functions of HALU,

exchange views on its work and specific work plans, and learn about the latest business environment and preferential policies in the province, with a view to helping Hong Kong businessmen explore new investment and co-operation opportunities; actively liaising with the HKMAO of Henan Province and relevant units to reflect the concerns of Hong Kong people and following up on the implementation of facilitation measures for Hong Kong people in Henan Province;

- (b) Maintaining close connection with Hong Kong people and students in Henan Province, including dissemination of important news and policy information through the WeChat Public Account of WHETO and WeChat groups for Hong Kong people, organising visits and meetings to understand their situation of living, working, doing business and learning, and provide appropriate support as necessary. In addition, HALU organised gatherings for Hong Kong people in Henan Province from time to time with a view to enhancing connection and exchanges among Hong Kong people in the province, for example, holding study visits for Hong Kong students in Henan Province in November 2023 and March 2024, organising the “Gathering for Hong Kong People and Enterprises to Celebrate the Chinese New Year” and the “Gathering for Hong Kong People and Enterprises to Celebrate the National Day and Mid-autumn Festival” in March and September 2023, etc.;
- (c) Supporting and promoting actively youth, cultural and other exchanges between youths of Hong Kong and Henan Province, catalysing various groups and organisations to hold mutual exchange activities, and attending the youth exchange events holding by them. These included the “2024 Fan Changjiang Operation – Central China Tour”, the “Silk Road Civilization Evolution and Sancai Glaze of the Tang Dynasty - 2024 Hong Kong Youth Cultural Exchange Tour to Henan” and the “Hong Kong Youth Visit Mainland Programme – Henan Tour cum Hong Kong Youth Science and Technology Innovation Group Exchange Programme” in June and July 2024, etc.;
- (d) Organising in August to October 2024 “Discovering Hidden Gems in Hong Kong – 2024 Hong Kong Photo Exhibition” in Shangqiu Municipality to introduce Hong Kong through ten themes from the perspective of city walk and promoting “tourism is everywhere” in order to attract more Henan people coming to Hong Kong for in-depth tour; and
- (e) Collaborating with a Henan media agency, “Dingduan News”, to set up a dedicated Hong Kong page on their “Dingduan News APP for Clients” to disseminate Hong Kong-related news and information.

Immigration-related Matters and Assistance Rendered

18. The immigration matters handled by the Immigration Division under WHETO include providing HKSAR passport application service, providing HKSAR Document of Identity for Visa Purposes and HKSAR Re-entry Permit replacement service, handling enquiries on immigration matters, publicising and promoting the talent admission schemes, and providing practical and timely assistance to Hong Kong residents who have lost their personal documents or encountered personal safety problems in the Mainland. During the reporting period, WHETO received a total of 24 requests for assistance from Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland, processed 82 applications for HKSAR travel documents, issued 335 HKSAR travel documents and handled 3,434 enquiries.

19. In April and May 2024, the Immigration Division of the WHETO visited Wuhan University and Huazhong University of Science and Technology in Hubei Province, and Nanchang University, Jiangxi University of Finance and Economics, and East China Jiaotong University in Jiangxi Province to hold promotional seminars for Hong Kong talent admission schemes. The seminars introduced various talent admission schemes and encouraged students to pursue careers in Hong Kong after graduation.

Looking Ahead

20. WHETO will continue to step up publicity and promotion of Hong Kong's strengths, and to tell the good stories of Hong Kong in the Central Region. WHETO will also promote multi-dimensional and multi-level exchanges and co-operation between Hong Kong and the Central Region in various aspects such as economy and trade, innovation and technology, culture and youth development, and proactively co-ordinate and deepen the implementation of the "Hong Kong/Hubei Co-operation Mechanism", so as to align with the policy objective of the Policy Address to strengthen liaison with the Mainland.

21. WHETO will continue to enhance the liaison and services for Hong Kong youths in the Central Region so as to facilitate their development, and to promote HKSAR Government's latest talent admission policies through different channels so as to attract Mainland talents to settle and work in Hong Kong.

22. WHETO and its Liaison Units will also continue to strengthen government-to-government relations and maintain close liaison with the Mainland authorities to keep abreast of the developments in the Central Region. It will monitor the latest developments in major policies, legislations and measures in the region and report to bureaux and departments in a timely manner to facilitate the assessment of their impact on Hong Kong. At the same time, WHETO will enhance the liaison with and better serve Hong Kong enterprises and residents in the Central Region, follow up on the implementation progress of the facilitation measures for the development of Hong Kong people in the Mainland in connection with those in the Central Region, collect the views and suggestions of Hong Kong people in the Central Region for reflection to the relevant authorities, and disseminate the relevant information through various channels.

Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Wuhan
The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
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