

**Legislative Council Panel on
Commerce, Industry, Innovation and Technology**

**2025 Policy Address
Policy Initiatives of
Commerce and Economic Development Bureau**

Overview

Underpinned by the advantages of a highly international city, Hong Kong continues to play an important role in international trade. In 2024, Hong Kong was the world's seventh largest merchandise trading economy and ranked third in foreign direct investment internationally. According to the Economic Freedom of the World 2024 Annual Report released by the Fraser Institute, Hong Kong was the freest economy in the world, topping the rankings in "freedom to trade internationally" and "regulation". As indicated in the World Competitiveness Yearbook 2025, Hong Kong's overall ranking rose two spots from the previous year to become the world's top three most competitive economies, with both "business legislation" and "tax policy" ranking first in the world.

2. Notwithstanding the persistent uncertainties in global economy and trade stemming from the wavering trade policies of the United States (US) and its unilateral imposition of unreasonable tariffs, Hong Kong's total exports of goods saw accelerated year-on-year growth of 11.5% in real terms in the second quarter of 2025, as supported by resilient external demand and some rush shipments in response to the US' temporary easing

of tariff measures. Looking ahead, taking into account the actual outturn in the first half of the year and the latest developments of the global and local situation, the real Gross Domestic Product growth forecast for 2025 as a whole is maintained at 2% to 3%.

2025 Policy Address

3. The 2025 Policy Address puts forward an array of measures to proactively leverage Hong Kong's unique advantages under "One Country, Two Systems", capitalising on its strong ties with the Chinese Mainland and global connectivity. Apart from consolidating traditional pillar industries, we will actively explore new economic growth areas to enhance Hong Kong's competitiveness and international influence, strengthening our roles as "super connector" and "super value-adder". Meanwhile, we will continue to fully participate in and facilitate the national development strategies such as the Guangdong-Hong Kong Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA) development and the Belt & Road (B&R) Initiative, actively consolidating Hong Kong's position as an international trade centre and regional intellectual property trading centre under the National 14th Five-Year Plan.

4. This note briefs Members on the initiatives relating to the **Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (CEDB)** and this Panel as set out in the 2025 Policy Address. The relevant indicators are listed at **Annex**.

I. International Trade Centre

5. In 2024, Hong Kong's total merchandise trade value reached \$9,464.5 billion, which was the seventh highest in the world. In the face of the new international trade landscape and order, Hong Kong must devise appropriate strategies guided by the principles of consolidating advantages, seizing opportunities, as well as preventing and mitigating risks. To cope with these challenges, the HKSAR Government is actively implementing various measures to consolidate and enhance Hong Kong's status as an international trade centre. Under "One Country, Two Systems", Hong Kong plays the unique role of connecting with both the Chinese Mainland and the rest of the world. We need to grasp the opportunities, by adopting the strategy of forging closer partnerships with the GBA and opening up more overseas markets, to identify new areas for economic growth for promoting sustainable economic development amidst the complex and competitive international landscape.

Supporting Mainland Enterprises in Going Global

6. In view that the global trade landscape and geopolitics are rapidly changing, with parts of the supply chains shifting to the Global South and B&R countries, more Mainland enterprises are planning to go global to diversify commercial risks and expand businesses. To better support Mainland enterprises in going global, 2025 Policy Address has proposed the establishment of a one-stop platform by mobilising Hong Kong offices abroad, including those under Invest Hong Kong

(InvestHK) and Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC), as well as Hong Kong offices in the Mainland, and setup of the Task Force on Supporting Mainland Enterprises in Going Global (GoGlobal Task Force) to encourage Mainland enterprises to use Hong Kong as a platform to go global. InvestHK will be responsible for coordinating the interface between the GoGlobal Task Force and Mainland small and medium enterprises (SMEs). Through collaboration with HKTDC and other agencies, InvestHK will also promote to target Mainland enterprises Hong Kong's advantages as a "go global" platform by various channels and provide enterprises with comprehensive and customised support services based on their needs.

7. The Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development will steer the work of the GoGlobal Task Force and co-ordinate various bureaux, departments and agencies in formulating diverse proposals for enterprises looking to go global. To kick-start the relevant work as soon as possible, we plan to discuss strategies and work plan of the GoGlobal Task Force, and organise the first large-scale promotion event by end-2025 so as to promote the relevant work.

Attracting Investment and Industries

8. The current-term Government attaches great importance to attracting enterprises and investment. From 2023 to August this year, InvestHK assisted a total of 1 365 Mainland and overseas enterprises to set up or expand businesses in Hong Kong. They are expected to bring in direct investment of over HK\$175 billion and create around 20 000 job

opportunities. InvestHK has completed in advance the key performance indicator (KPI)¹ as set out in 2022 Policy Address.

9. As announced in the 2025 Policy Address, the Financial Secretary (FS) will lead the relevant policy bureaux, departments, and public organisations in formulating packages of preferential policies including land grants, land premiums, financial subsidies, and tax incentives, to attract high value-added industries and high-potential enterprises to set up in Hong Kong, thereby promoting high-quality development. Being an important player of the HKSAR Government's investment promotion regime, InvestHK can flexibly use the policy packages during negotiations with enterprises on settlement details, and then report to the FS for approval.

10. Apart from the usual investment promotion work, InvestHK will proactively attract high value-added industries and high potential enterprises to establish presence in Hong Kong so as to promote high-quality development of Hong Kong's economy. In the meantime, to tie in with the long-term planning of the Northern Metropolis (NM) development, InvestHK will also step up efforts in attracting strategic industries and enterprises to develop in the NM.

Expanding International Economic and Trade Networks

11. To further expand Hong Kong's "circle of friends" in trade and

¹ The KPI in 2022 Policy Address requires attracting at least a total of 1 130 enterprises to set up or expand their operations in Hong Kong from 2023 to 2025, thereby bringing in direct investment of at least HK\$77 billion and creating at least 15 250 job opportunities.

promote long-term economic development of Hong Kong, we have been actively seeking to cooperate with trading partners, including economies with strong economic and trade connections with Hong Kong as well as markets with development potential or at strategic locations, to deepen Hong Kong's international economic and trade networks through setting up offices in and forging free trade agreements (FTAs) as well as investment agreements (IAs).

12. Since assuming office in 2022, the Chief Executive (CE) has led high-level business delegations on two visits to the Middle East and three visits to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), creating business opportunities for Hong Kong and strengthening relations with these economies. Other principal officials of the HKSAR Government also continue to conduct overseas visits to strengthen the economic and trade network of Hong Kong. Currently, the HKSAR Government has 16 offices/liaison units on the Chinese Mainland and 14 overseas Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs). Together with the offices of InvestHK and HKTDC worldwide, Hong Kong has set up offices in 68 cities around the world, covering 129 countries.

Expand ETO Networks

13. ETOs play an important role in deepening international exchanges and cooperation for Hong Kong. To further promote the relevant works, we will expand the network and coverage of ETOs. Among others, the HKSAR Government has wrapped up the discussion with the Malaysian Government regarding the establishment of Kuala

Lumpur ETO. We are pressing ahead in full steam with the preparatory work, and the new ETO is expected to commence phased operation by the end of this year. We will submit to the Legislative Council (LegCo) the staffing proposal for the Kuala Lumpur ETO in due course.

14. With the establishment of Kuala Lumpur ETO, we plan to expand the coverage of existing ETOs in ASEAN accordingly to deepen economic and trade promotion in ASEAN and neighbouring countries. Meanwhile, we will continue to follow up actively with the Government of Saudi Arabia on our plan of establishing an ETO in Riyadh. In addition to strengthening ties with the Middle East market, Latin America and Central Asia are also enormous regions with great development potential. We plan to expand the coverage of existing ETOs to Latin America and Central Asia with a view to strengthening Hong Kong's economic and trade ties with these markets and exploring more business opportunities for Hong Kong enterprises. We will work out the relevant details and carry out the preparatory work.

15. Besides, InvestHK has set up consultant offices in Cairo, Egypt, and Izmir, Türkiye within 2024-25 according to the 2023 Policy Address, for attracting capital and enterprises from high-potential emerging countries in the Middle East and North Africa. These are the third and the fourth consultant offices set up by the current-term Government since it took office, after the ones established in Nairobi, Kenya and Almaty, Kazakhstan. The HKTDC has established a consultant office in Cambodia early this year to support the HKSAR Government's effort to expand Hong Kong's economic and trade network.

Free Trade Agreements and Investment Agreements

16. Besides, Hong Kong has, all along, been proactively seeking early accession to the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). The HKSAR Government has, upon the coming into force of RCEP on 1 January 2022, promptly submitted Hong Kong's formal request to join RCEP. At the same time, we noticed the discussion of the Terms of Reference of the Accession Working Group at the RCEP Ministerial Meeting in September. We will proactively work with RCEP regarding the accession of new members, and continue to maintain close liaison with RCEP members, with a view to seeking early accession to RCEP.

17. Apart from RCEP, so far Hong Kong has signed nine FTAs with 21 economies², including the one signed with Peru in November 2024 which is the first FTA signed by the current-term HKSAR Government. We will continue to actively take forward the work in this area.

18. Hong Kong has also signed 24 IAs with 33 overseas economies³. The HKSAR Government and Qatar largely concluded the negotiations on an IA in mid-2025, which will be signed after the completion of respective internal procedures. We are also exploring the

² The economies are the Chinese Mainland, New Zealand, the Member States of the European Free Trade Association (i.e. Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland), Chile, Macao SAR, the ten ASEAN Member States (i.e. Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam), Georgia, Australia and Peru. Except for the FTA signed with Peru, all FTAs have entered into force.

³ The economies are the ten ASEAN Member States, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Korea, Kuwait, Luxembourg, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and the United Kingdom. Except for the IA signed with Türkiye, all IAs have entered into force.

signing of new IAs with Saudi Arabia, Bangladesh, Egypt and Peru.

19. As for the Middle East, we have signed IAs with the UAE, Kuwait and Bahrain. Going forward, apart from taking forward the aforementioned IA with Saudi Arabia and signing the IA with Qatar as soon as possible, we will continue to proactively explore the possibility of FTAs with economies with potential.

Work Related to World Trade Organization (WTO)

20. As a founding Member of the WTO, Hong Kong has consistently supported the rules-based multilateral trading system, and is committed to maintaining the credibility and efficiency of the WTO. For example, Hong Kong has been actively participating in and supporting the negotiations related to the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies (AFS). The AFS ultimately entered into force on 15 September this year upon acceptance by the majority of the WTO members, demonstrating the WTO's commitment to ocean sustainability and its continued influence in addressing issues of global concern. Throughout the process, Hong Kong has played an active role and our efforts have been recognised by other WTO members. Hong Kong will continue to work with other WTO members, actively participating in the WTO's work, with the aim of achieving deliverables at the 14th WTO Ministerial Conference in Cameroon next March to advance Hong Kong's economic and trade interests and promote trade liberalisation.

Work Related to Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)

21. In addition, we have been actively participating in the affairs of APEC in order to reinforce Hong Kong's status as an international trade and financial centre. This year, the Hong Kong delegation will continue to participate in APEC meetings, making full use of the APEC platform to step up our efforts in deepening international exchanges and co-operation. With China playing host of APEC 2026, we will continue our active participation in the work of APEC and deepen cooperation with other member economies on economic and trade issues in the region, so as to demonstrate to international trading partners our strong commitment to supporting free trade and promoting regional economic development, and to tell the good stories of Hong Kong.

Deepening the Trade and Economic Co-operation with the Mainland

22. The Ministry of Commerce and the HKSAR Government signed a new agreement⁴ on 9 October 2024 under the framework of the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA) to further amend the CEPA Agreement on Trade in Services. The new agreement introduces further liberalisation measures on trade in services in a number of sectors which Hong Kong enjoys competitive advantages, while at the same time brings along institutional innovation and collaboration enhancements, including the addition of “allowing Hong Kong-invested enterprises to adopt Hong Kong law” and “allowing

⁴ The new agreement is the Second Agreement Concerning Amendment to the Agreement on Trade in Services of the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (the Amendment Agreement II).

Hong Kong-invested enterprises to choose for arbitration to be seated in Hong Kong” as facilitation measures for Hong Kong investors, as well as removal of the period requirement on Hong Kong service suppliers to engage in substantive business operations in Hong Kong for three years in most services sectors. The new agreement has been implemented since 1 March 2025, creating more favourable conditions for Hong Kong enterprises and professionals to explore the Mainland market, allowing them to better tap into the business opportunities brought about by the rapid development of the country as well as the national and international dual circulation strategy, while at the same time attracting more start-ups, overseas enterprises and talents to establish their presence in Hong Kong to tap into the Mainland market. The HKSAR Government will continue the promotional work, deepen the implementation of the outcomes of the new agreement and assist the trade in making good use of the CEPA measures.

Expanding Our Reach to Belt and Road Markets

23. We are committed to consolidating our role as a functional platform for the B&R and giving full play to our role as a “super connector” and “super value-adder”, thereby making our contribution to the latest national strategy, better aligning with the country’s B&R work focuses and integrating into national development. The Belt and Road Summit (Summit) has been recognised by our country and is Hong Kong’s flagship event in promoting the B&R Initiative. The tenth Summit was held on 10-11 September 2025, with the theme of “Collaborate for Change • Shape a Shared Future”. It attracted around

6 200 participants, including more than 90 government and business speakers, as well as over 100 delegations and 40 state-owned enterprises from the Mainland. 45 memorandums of understanding (MOUs), a record high, were witnessed at the Summit, including nine government/public and 36 business MOUs, highlighting Hong Kong's role as the functional platform for the B&R Initiative.

Strengthening Promotion of Hong Kong Professional Services

24. In June 2025, the Commissioner for Belt and Road led a delegation to visit Indonesia and Malaysia to promote Hong Kong's professional services related to infrastructure and construction and to explore opportunities for co-operation. The delegation met with government officials, business leaders and representatives of professional organisations and enterprises of the two places, and attended presentations of signature projects there. We will continue to organise outbound missions to the B&R markets, and will organise roadshows of the Belt and Road Cross-professional Forum to promote Hong Kong's cross-professional strengths to facilitate Hong Kong enterprises and professional services to further expand business opportunities.

25. The Belt and Road Office will coordinate with public bodies and institutes in Hong Kong to provide training for personnel in B&R countries to enhance Hong Kong's soft power branding, thereby showcasing Hong Kong to overseas and the Mainland as a partner in cross-professional and cross-regional "soft connectivity" of rules and standards, as well as expanding horizon on the potential opportunities for

development along the B&R brought by relevant co-operation. In addition, we will actively reach out to agencies in charge of projects in B&R countries and regions to introduce more matching opportunities in B&R projects for Hong Kong enterprises and professional service through multilateral collaboration.

Enhancing Support for SMEs

26. The Dedicated Fund on Branding, Upgrading and Domestic Sales (BUD Fund) provides funding to encourage SMEs to implement projects on brand building and enhancement of enterprise competitiveness, thereby developing more diversified markets and expanding businesses. Its funding scope covers 40 economies with which Hong Kong has signed FTAs and/or IAs. As at end July 2025, around \$7.2 billion funding has been approved under the BUD Fund, benefitting over 7 500 enterprises and over 74 000 employees. To further support SMEs to cope with geopolitical challenges and diversify away from traditional markets, the CE announced in the 2025 Policy Address the injection of \$1.43 billion into the BUD Fund, as well as the expansion of the BUD Fund's geographical scope to cover eight more economies, including B&R countries. At the same time, as the SME Export Marketing Fund will be consolidated into the BUD Fund starting from July 2026, we will enhance promotion and facilitate the participation of companies in exhibitions and export promotion activities through "Easy BUD", thereby developing more diversified markets. Apart from the BUD Fund, we will continue to implement the Trade and Industrial Organisation Support Fund to help SMEs enhance competitiveness.

27. In addition, the Government has enhanced the services of “SME ReachOut” since October 2023 by stepping up the support for SMEs to apply for government funding, as well as providing capacity-building services, including holding one-on-one consultation meetings for SMEs and organising large-scale events that focus on areas such as technology transformation, digitalisation and cyber security. As at end July 2025, “SME ReachOut” has organised 67 seminars/webinars, more than 300 outreach activities and handled over 33 300 enquiries. Besides, the “SME ReachOut: FUND Fair plus Tech Sourcing 2025” (tentative name) will be held from 16 to 17 October, with a view to strengthening promotion and assisting SMEs in applying for government funding schemes, thereby enhancing their competitiveness.

28. On the issue of cash flow, the Government has been providing loan guarantees through the SME Financing Guarantee Scheme (SFGS) since 2012 to help SMEs obtain commercial loans, and kept on introducing enhancement measures to meet the financing needs of SMEs during economic downturn. The SFGS has been well-received by the business sector. As at end July 2025, a total of nearly \$297 billion of loans has been approved, benefitting over 67 000 enterprises and 832 900 employees.

29. Considering that the global economy remains unstable and the recovery pace of individual industries varies, coupled with new challenges facing SMEs arising from the changing consumption pattern of residents and inbound visitors in recent years, the Government will extend the application period for the 80% Guarantee Product under the

SFGS for two years and further extend the principal moratorium arrangement for one year, so as to provide more room for SMEs to seize the opportunities brought about by economic recovery.

“Economic and Trade Express”

30. All along, ETOs, InvestHK and HKTDC together with their global office network have been duly performing their respective roles in actively conducting trade and investment promotion works. To enhance synergy among the trio, we will set up the “Economic and Trade Express”, joining the efforts of ETOs, InvestHK and HKTDC to form a functional platform, capitalising on their complementary advantages to promote Hong Kong’s trade and investment abroad. The “Economic and Trade Express” will focus on supporting SMEs and start-ups by proactively organising overseas business missions for relevant enterprises with one stop supporting services (including arrangement of business matching and other activities) to assist Hong Kong enterprises to explore business opportunities in overseas markets. Through this process, InvestHK will identify overseas enterprises to connect with Hong Kong’s business sectors, facilitating more enterprises to invest and establish operations in Hong Kong, thereby promoting two-way flow of enterprises and investments.

31. In addition, the “Economic and Trade Express” will conduct more trade and investment promotional activities and works by pooling the resources of the trio to enhance the scale and impact of such activities. On the other hand, we will mobilise more business and community forces

to promote Hong Kong's strengths abroad. ETOs will invite leaders from the local business sector etc. to attend economic, trade and investment promotion activities held in overseas markets during their outbound visits, and promote specifically the advantages of Hong Kong to the business sectors abroad.

Strengthening communication with local enterprises

32. Given the complex and ever-changing international trade landscape, coupling with new developments and various trade measures in overseas markets from time to time, the Trade and Industry Department (TID) will establish a regular mechanism to disseminate the latest international and Mainland economic and trade information more effectively to enterprises, particularly SMEs, assisting them in planning their business operations in a more effective and timely manner.

Tapping into the Mainland Domestic Market and Developing Electronic Commerce (E-commerce) Business

33. The demand of the Mainland market continues to grow under the nation's dual circulation strategy. The HKSAR Government endeavours to assist Hong Kong enterprises in tapping into the Mainland domestic market, including promoting Hong Kong's quality products and services and strengthening Hong Kong's role as an important channel connecting our nation and the world through Mainland exhibitions and platforms, with a view to better integrating into the overall development of our nation and seizing the enormous business opportunities on the

Mainland.

34. In addition, various policies and measures have been implemented to encourage enterprises to leverage business opportunities and develop e-commerce business since the Government's establishment of the inter-departmental E-commerce Development Task Force in 2024. Among others, we launched "E-commerce Easy" under the BUD Fund in July 2024 to encourage enterprises to implement e-commerce projects. In March 2025, we have expanded the geographical scope of "E-commerce Easy" to the 10 ASEAN countries. In 2025-26, HKTDC has launched the "E-Commerce Express" to provide a series of thematic training seminars and research sharing sessions for enterprises, and implemented a series of brand promotion measures to pave the way for Hong Kong brands to develop business through e-commerce platforms. Moreover, the Mentorship Programme (Branding and E-commerce Development) under the TID was launched in August 2025 to assist enterprises in developing brands and expanding the sales network of e-commerce. The Support and Consultation Centre for SMEs under TID will also continue to take lead and co-operate with the other three SME centres (i.e. the "SME Centre" under HKTDC, the "SME One" under the Hong Kong Productivity Council, and the "TecONE" under the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation) to strengthen the provision of information to SMEs on conducting e-commerce in the Mainland and ASEAN markets and enhance enterprises' capabilities in expanding the sales network of e-commerce.

35. It was announced in the 2025 Policy Address a number of

measures to promote cross-border e-commerce development. On cross-border e-commerce logistics, the Hong Kong Customs and Excise Department (C&ED) launched in December 2024 a pilot scheme entitled the Cross-boundary Express Cargo Clearance Facilitation Arrangement (CEFA), under which C&ED provides, on a pilot basis, express cargo clearance at the warehouse of a logistics provider. To enhance the efficiency of e-commerce shipment, we will recruit a logistics provider as an additional pilot participant of CEFA. Moreover, we organised through HKTDC the second edition of the Hong Kong Shopping Festival (HKSF) on Mainland e-commerce platforms in August 2025. The event has attracted the participation of around 260 brands, enabling SMEs to leverage the extensive visitor traffic and diverse customer base of these platforms to raise brand awareness and develop businesses in the Mainland market. Having regard to the experience of the two editions of HKSF, HKTDC will continue to organise HKSF in the Mainland and ASEAN markets over the next three years (i.e. 2026 to 2028) to promote Hong Kong brands.

36. We notice that Hong Kong enterprises generally lack avenues to connect with local and non-local e-commerce service providers. At the same time, in view of the enormous potential of “goods economy”, SME ReachOut and HKTDC will implement the “Creativity • E-commerce – Beyond Limits” to assist enterprises in collaborating with brands and developing cross-border e-commerce business. HKTDC will also provide one-stop business matching and referral services to strengthen the interface between enterprises and e-commerce service providers, facilitate more business matching and enhance those brands’

competitiveness on cross-border e-commerce platforms.

Support market expansion of export industry

37. To support market expansion of our exporters, following the launch of support measures⁵ for the export industry in April this year, the Hong Kong Export Credit Insurance Corporation (ECIC) will further collaborate with financial institutions to enhance financing support for Hong Kong e-commerce businesses using different e-commerce platforms (such as e-commerce platforms in the Mainland). Furthermore, ECIC will extend the geographical coverage of its 20 free buyer credit checking service from the Mainland, the Middle East and ASEAN to all insured markets of ECIC, helping Hong Kong businesses develop diversified export markets. ECIC will continue to closely monitor the needs and development of export market, and introduce appropriate measures.

II. Regional Intellectual Property (IP) Trading Centre

38. Hong Kong's IP regime is highly regarded internationally. According to the World Competitiveness Yearbook 2025 published by the International Institute for Management Development in Lausanne, Switzerland, Hong Kong ranks sixth globally on the criterion for "intellectual property rights", an improvement of six places since the

⁵ To support Hong Kong exporters (in particular SMEs) in coping with the challenges posed by unstable global trade environment, ECIC launched three support measures in April 2025, including (a) extending the free-pre-shipment cover for holders of "Small Business Policy" to 30 June 2026; (b) offering a 50% discount on pre-shipment risks cover premiums for each non-"Small Business Policy" holders; and (c) reducing premiums for emerging markets in line with those for traditional major markets which can help exporters mitigate costs and expand into emerging markets.

current-term Government took office, outperforming many developed economies.

39. IP is a legally protected intangible asset and the cornerstone of encouraging innovation and technology (I&T) development and creativity. The HKSAR Government will push forward measures in IP financing, valuation and protection, and strengthen external promotion to boost IP trading.

40. As announced in the 2025 Policy Address, the HKSAR Government will roll out the following measures to promote IP financing and trading with a view to building the pertinent ecosystem:

- (a) CEDB and the Intellectual Property Department (IPD) will collaborate with the Hong Kong Monetary Authority to launch an IP financing sandbox to assist pilot sectors (particularly the technology sector) in leveraging IPs for financing with the support of the banking, insurance, valuation, legal and other professions.
- (b) Upon the official operation of the Hong Kong Technology and Innovation Support Centre, by the end of this year the earliest, the HKSAR Government will support the centre in providing local small and medium I&T enterprises with patent evaluation based on national standards, and launching a two-year pilot programme to subsidise patent valuation as a reference for credit financing.

- (c) The IPD will also collaborate with banking industry organisation to provide training for banking practitioners covering IP categories, protection, financing, etc., to enhance the industry's understanding of IP financing.
- (d) CEDB will also review the tax deduction arrangements for enterprises purchasing IP or the rights to use IP, increase tax incentives, and enhance the promotion of development of IP trading.⁶

41. On strengthening IP protection, following the completion of the public consultation on enhancement of the Copyright Ordinance regarding the protection for AI technology development in September last year, the HKSAR Government will formulate a code of practice in respect of relevant legal principles and prepare a legislative proposal. We are also reviewing the local registered designs regime for consultation by end of the year.

42. To strengthen external promotion, the HKSAR Government and the HKTDC will promote IP financing in the Business of IP Asia Forum 2025. The IPD will also nominate local enterprises to compete for the China Patent Award jointly organised by the China National Intellectual Property Administration and the World Intellectual Property Organization.

⁶ The 2025-26 Budget announced that the Government will review the tax deduction arrangements incurred by enterprises on purchase of IP or the rights to use IP, so as to accelerate the development of IP-intensive industries and promote the development of IP trading in Hong Kong.

III. Digitalisation of Trade Documents

43. We have been pressing ahead with the development of the Trade Single Window in three phases to provide a one-stop electronic platform for the trade to lodge “Business-to-Government” trade documents for trade declaration and cargo clearance. Phase 1 and Phase 2 are in full operation, covering 42 types of trade documents in total. They have been operating smoothly and are well received by the trade. We are developing the information technology system for Phase 3 at full steam. Our target is to roll out the services by batches from mid-2026 onwards. We signed the Cooperation Arrangement on Single Window in May this year with the General Administration of Customs of the People’s Republic of China to enhance system connectivity between the two places. We are also working closely with the Mainland authorities to explore the feasibility of expanding the existing “Single Submission for Dual Declaration” Scheme to cover other trade documents and transport modes. In order to benefit the trade further, we are also exploring with ASEAN the feasibility of connecting with its Single Window and the trade documents to be covered. To this end, we are exploring with ASEAN to take forward a pilot project on exchanging electronic Certificates of Origin via the single windows of both sides to enhance trade and customs clearance efficiency, thereby strengthening trade ties between Hong Kong and ASEAN.

44. As for Business-to-Business trade documents, the Government is making reference to the relevant model law advocated by the United Nations, namely the Model Law on Electronic Transferable Records

(MLETR)⁷, with a view to submitting the legislative proposal to the LegCo next year to provide the legal basis for the digitalisation of Business-to-Business trade documents. CEDB is working with relevant bureaux and departments to consider the legislative amendments with reference to the MLETR and experience from other common law jurisdictions. We will consult the industry within the year to align the legislative proposal with the needs of the industry and allow the industry to propose different technical solutions to support development.

Closing Remarks

45. In the face of uncertainties stemming from the global trade landscape and geopolitics, the HKSAR Government will proactively consolidate Hong Kong's status as our country's south gate, continue to leverage our unique advantages in connecting with both our country and the world, and further deepen international exchanges and cooperation, with a view to turning crises into opportunities amidst the complex and ever-changing global trade landscape. We will capitalise on our pivotal role as a dual platform connecting our country and the world to attract more Chinese Mainland and overseas enterprises to set up operations in Hong Kong. Meanwhile, we will assist Hong Kong enterprises to explore business opportunities in the Chinese Mainland and overseas markets to provide impetus for Hong Kong's economic growth.

⁷ The MLETR is a global standard advocated by the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) to provide a legal framework for electronic trade documents.

Other Proposals

46. The 2025 Policy Address also sets out in detail numerous other proposals on telecommunications and broadcasting. CEDB has briefed the LegCo Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting on the proposals. We will not repeat such proposals here.

**Commerce and Economic Development Bureau
September 2025**

**Relevant Indicators for the
Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (CEDB)**

Indicators for Specified Tasks in 2025 Policy Address

(I) New Indicators

“Bringing in and Going Global”: Hong Kong as a Platform for Overseas Expansion

1. Discuss strategies and work plan of the Task Force on Supporting Mainland Enterprises in Going Global, and organise the first large-scale promotion event **by end-2025**.
2. Attract at least **1 200** Mainland or overseas enterprises to set up or expand businesses in Hong Kong **between 2026 and 2027**, thereby bringing in direct investment of at least **HK\$120 billion** and creating at least **12 000** job opportunities

International Trade Centre

3. Promote Digital Trade:
 - Start rolling out in batches the Phase 3 services of the Trade Single Window **in 2026**; and
 - Put forward a legislative proposal **within 2026** to facilitate the digitalisation of business-to-business trade documents with reference to the Model Law on Electronic Transferable Records.

Regional Intellectual Property Trading Centre

4. Bolster intellectual property (IP) financing:

- Announce the arrangements for the IP financing sandbox pilot scheme in collaboration with the Hong Kong Monetary Authority **within 2025**;
- Launch a pilot programme **within 2026** to subsidise small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to conduct patent valuation; and
- Organise at least **two** IP training courses for practitioners in the banking sector **in 2025-26**.

Support the Local Economy

5. Enhance support for SMEs:

- Expand the geographical scope of the BUD Fund to cover **eight** more economies, including B&R countries **within 2026**.

(II) On-going and Valid Indicators for Specified Tasks Introduced in the 2024 Policy Address ¹

Deepen International Exchanges and Co-operation

6. Continue to promote Hong Kong as the functional platform for the B&R Initiative in 2026:

- Organise promotional programmes and networking sessions to be attended by no less than **7 500** persons in total;
- Reach out to no less than **560** professional and business associations, chambers and community groups; and
- Organise business missions to five B&R countries with about **120** participants in total.

¹ Some of the ongoing and valid indicators introduced in 2024 have been updated or enhanced in light of the latest situation.

International Trade Centre

7. Seek early accession to the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) by holding or participating in **70** related events to liaise with RCEP members and stakeholders **within 2026**.

Regional Intellectual Property Trading Centre

8. Continue to work towards the goal of acquiring institutional autonomy in conducting substantive patent examination **in 2030** to foster the development of the patent system in Hong Kong.
9. Continue to forge ahead with the preparatory work for implementing the Protocol Relating to the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks in Hong Kong **in 2026**.
10. Promote IP public education, human resources training and professional services within the five years from **2022 to 2027** through the following measures:
 - Promote the awareness of respecting and protecting IP rights among **200 000** students; and
 - Attract about **10 000** local, Mainland and overseas participants to attend the annual Business of IP Asia Forum.

Progress of Indicators for Specified Tasks in 2024 Policy Address

(I) New Indicators

Indicator No.	Indicators for Specified Tasks	Progress
14	The Invest Hong Kong (InvestHK) and the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC) to commence work by end-2024 for setting up a mechanism and enhancing the interface for attracting Mainland enterprises to establish international or regional offshore trading and supply chain management headquarters in Hong Kong. One stop diversified professional advisory services will also be provided to the enterprises in Hong Kong. (CEDB)	Task completed. The InvestHK and the HKTDC established the high value-added supply chain services mechanism in December 2024 to provide one-stop advisory services for Mainland enterprises wishing to go global.
15	Expand the geographical coverage of “E-commerce Easy” to the 10 ASEAN countries within 2025 to help enterprises tap into the ASEAN e-commerce market. (CEDB)	Task completed. The geographical coverage of “E-commerce Easy” has been expanded to the 10 ASEAN countries starting from 14 March 2025.

Indicator No.	Indicators for Specified Tasks	Progress
25	<p>Enhance the intellectual property (IP) legal framework within 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Set out the way forward for further enhancement to the Copyright Ordinance regarding the protection for artificial intelligence (AI) technology development;	<p>Task completed. The Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (CEDB) consulted the LegCo Panel on Commerce, Industry, Innovation and Technology in February 2025 regarding the proposed amendments to the Copyright Ordinance, and received the Panel's support.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enact subsidiary legislation under the Copyright Ordinance to specify libraries, museums and archives eligible for certain permitted acts and prescribe the conditions, and to designate non-government-owned libraries, museums or archives that can be exempted from certain criminal liabilities;	<p>Task completed. The two pieces of subsidiary legislation were tabled before the LegCo in May and July 2025 respectively, and the negative vetting procedures have been completed.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Launch a consultation on updating the registered designs regime; and	<p>Task on track. The public consultation on the review of the registered designs regime will be launched by end-2025.</p>

Indicator No.	Indicators for Specified Tasks	Progress
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enact subsidiary legislation to streamline IP litigation processes. (CEDB) 	Task completed. The relevant subsidiary legislation was tabled before the LegCo in May 2025 and the negative vetting procedure has been completed.
26	<p>Strengthen capacity building of IP talents within 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop practical training materials on IP that can be widely deployed across 23 different industries; and 	Task on track. It is expected that the practical training materials on IP will be launched in Q4 2025 for adoption by various industries.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete a survey on Hong Kong's IP-related professional and business services. (CEDB) 	Task on track. The target is to announce the survey findings in Q4 2025.
27	Launch a new AI-assisted trademark image search service within 2025. (CEDB)	Task on track. The relevant service will be launched in December 2025.

Indicator No.	Indicators for Specified Tasks	Progress
28	<p>Promote the development of digital economy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review the procedures relevant to cross-border e-commerce logistics within 2025 to enhance the efficiency of cross-border distribution of goods. (CEDB)	<p>Task on track. To facilitate shipment of cross-border e-commerce goods, the Customs and Excise Department will recruit a logistic provider as an additional pilot participant of the Cross-boundary Express Cargo Clearance Facilitation Arrangement (CEFA), thereby enhancing the efficiency of e-commerce shipment.</p>

(II) On-going and Valid Indicators for Specified Tasks Introduced in the 2023 Policy Address

Indicator No.	Indicators for Specified Tasks	Progress
12	Increase inward investment by attracting at least 1 130 companies to set up or expand their operations in Hong Kong from 2023 to 2025, an increase of 16% over the annual average number in 2020 and 2021, thereby bringing in direct investment of at least \$77 billion and creating at least 15 250 job opportunities. (CEDB)	Target completed in advance. During the period from 2023 to August 2025, the InvestHK attracted a total of 1 365 Mainland and overseas companies to set up or expand their operations in Hong Kong, bringing in direct investment of around \$175.4 billion and creating around 19 900 job opportunities.
22	The InvestHK and the HKTDC to further set up consultant offices along the Belt and Road (B&R) within 2024-25. (CEDB)	Task completed. The InvestHK's two new consultant offices in Cairo, Egypt and Izmir, Türkiye commenced operation in July 2024 and January 2025 respectively as planned. The HKTDC also established a consultant office in Cambodia in early 2025.
23	Seek early accession to the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) by holding or participating in 70 related events to liaise with RCEP	Task on track. The Trade and Industry Department and the overseas Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices will continue to proactively liaise with RCEP members

Indicator No.	Indicators for Specified Tasks	Progress
	members and stakeholders within 2025. (CEDB)	and stakeholders so as to rally support from all parties and sectors for Hong Kong's early accession to the RCEP. It is expected that the relevant target will be met by end-2025.
24	<p>Continue to promote Hong Kong as the functional platform for the B&R Initiative in 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organise promotional programmes and networking sessions to be attended by no less than 7 500 persons in total; • Reach out to no less than 560 professional and business associations, chambers and community groups; and • Organise business missions to five B&R countries with about 120 participants in total. (CEDB) 	Task on track. The CEDB has organised and initiated preparation for a number of relevant promotional programmes and networking sessions. Efforts have been made to reach out to various professional and business associations, chambers and community groups. Business missions have also been organised.

Indicator No.	Indicators for Specified Tasks	Progress
27	<p>Foster the development of the patent system in Hong Kong:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to discuss with the patent agent sector and stakeholders in 2025 to plan for the establishment of regulatory arrangements for local patent agent services; and 	<p>Task on track. The Intellectual Property Department (IPD) will continue to conduct more extensive consultation on the establishment of regulatory arrangements for local patent agent services, with a view to deciding on the way forward.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to work towards the goal of acquiring institutional autonomy in conducting substantive patent examination in 2030. (CEDB) 	<p>Task in progress. The IPD will, having regard to the additional resources acquired, continue to enhance the substantive examination capability of patent examiners under the original grant patent system, with the target of acquiring institutional autonomy in conducting substantive patent examination in 2030.</p>
28	<p>Continue to forge ahead with the preparatory work for implementing the Protocol Relating to the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks in Hong Kong in 2025. (CEDB)</p>	<p>Task on track. The CEDB and the IPD will continue to forge ahead with the preparatory work for implementing the Protocol Relating to the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks in Hong Kong.</p>

Indicator No.	Indicators for Specified Tasks	Progress
29	<p>Promote IP public education, capacity building and professional services within the five years from 2022 to 2027 through the following measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Promote the awareness of respecting and protecting IP rights among 200 000 students;	<p>Task on track. The IPD has already reached out to over 170 000 students to promote the awareness of respecting and protecting IP rights, and encourage them to actively explore and innovate.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide IP training to 5 000 personnel across different industries; and	<p>Target completed in advance. The IPD provided IP training for over 5 200 personnel across different industries within the first three years of the current term of the Government, achieving the relevant target as set out in the 2022 Policy Address ahead of schedule.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attract about 10 000 local, Mainland and overseas participants to attend the annual Business of IP Asia Forum. (CEDB)	<p>Task on track. The 2024 Business of IP Asia Forum attracted the attendance of more than 3 200 local, Mainland and overseas participants. The 2025 Business of IP Asia Forum will be held on 4 to 5 December 2025.</p>