

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Hong Kong Computer Society's Response
to Chief Executive's 2022 Policy Address**

**Support the Government's Launch of "Hong Kong I&T Development Blueprint"
to Attract Key Tech Companies to Hong Kong
Optimize the TechTAS, Actively Develop the I&T industry and Re-industrialization,
Develop FinTech, Create smart cities, Expand I&T land,
Invest in Strengthening "Research- Academic-Industry"
to Promote Commercialisation of R&D outcomes and Collaboration with GBA**

October 20, 2022 Hong Kong - The Hong Kong Computer Society (HKCS), as the most well-established and the largest professional IT association in Hong Kong, expressed its active support to this year's Chief Executive Policy Address.

Dr. Rocky Cheng, President of the Hong Kong Computer Society, pointed out: "The Hong Kong Computer Society has always advocated the development of innovative technology industry, and actively supported the government's policies on attracting and nurturing talents, developing financial technology (FinTech) and re-industrialisation, which just echoed the Policy Address issued by the Chief Executive. As the most well-established and the largest professional IT association in Hong Kong, we welcome the government's top recognition of technology when formulating local policies and give priority to its development. This year's Policy Address also fully demonstrates that the current government is taking results as a priority goal, wherein, Key Performance Indices, performance-based governance concepts are rare in the governance of public institutions, even in previous policy addresses."

Under the Policy Address announced on October 19, HKCS highly welcomed the continued investment in the development of innovative technology and smart cities, as well as the Government's plan to promulgate the Hong Kong I&T Development Blueprint within this year to set out major policies in four broad development directions, to enhance Hong Kong's competitiveness in the long run; Create the post of Commissioner for Industry who will co-ordinate and steer the strategy on re-industrialisation; Earmark \$10 billion to launch the "Research, Academic and Industry Sectors One-plus Scheme" (RAISe+ Scheme) next year, and to fund, on a matching basis, research teams in universities which have good potential to become start-ups.; Steer up the construction of the "Northern Metropolis" with the theme of "new international I&T city", and increase the amount of land to be used for innovation and technology in Hong Kong. In addition, the Government will implement an array of new initiatives targeted at attracting enterprises, investment and talents, and will establish the Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises (OASES) within this year. OASES will

primarily focus on industries such as life and health technology, artificial intelligence and data science, as well as advanced manufacturing and new energy technology, and attract high-potential or representative I&T enterprises in these industries. HKCS believed these measures can bring vitality and a new atmosphere to the local I&T industry.

Dr. Rocky Cheng said that: "We find this year's Policy Address has a very precise policy focus and the right direction; it devotes its focus in attracting overseas major I&T companies and talents to Hong Kong, and uses technology as its core in building an international financial center and an innovation and technology hub, which are measures that echo with the national 14th Five-Year Plan and Greater Bay Area (GBA) development, and in line with the recommendations of HKCS in recent years, that can address the industry's actual needs. The HKCS has established 5 Specialist Groups, including Artificial Intelligence SG, Cyber Security SG, Enterprise Architecture SG, FinTech SG, Innovation and Entrepreneurship SG, and promotes professional certification and related training in FinTech, being measures to respond to market needs. The HKCS is also ready to launch more activities in line with government policies, and is pleased to provide constructive advice on technology development and policy to the committees of the government and various public institutions."

Dr. Rocky Cheng further said that "We are deeply encouraged by the introduction of a number of new measures in this Policy Address and the development of technology. The Policy Address has devoted more focus in talent attraction, FinTech development, promote commercialisation of Research & Development (R&D) outcomes by "Research- Academic-Industry" linkage, open data, 5G promotion, and smart government. Although the policy address also focuses on people's livelihood needs and public health, technology can play an even more important role in these areas, especially in primary medical care where medical technology can benefit a wider scope of citizens. As Gerontechnology can also enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of elderly care workers in Hong Kong, its applications should be promoted."

Dr. Rocky Cheng, President of HKCS, said: "Shortage of talents has always been an issue being faced by the Hong Kong I&T sector. Therefore HKCS always takes young talent cultivation as one of its key responsibilities. Thus, we are pleased to see that the Policy Address announces an array of measures to attract foreign talents, including, setting up a "Dedicated Team for Attracting Businesses and Talents", streamlining the General Employment Policy (GEP) and the Admission Scheme for Mainland Talents and Professionals (ASMTP), suspending the annual quota under the Quality Migrant Admission Scheme (QMAS) for a period of two years, optimizing the approval process, extending the limit of stay of employment visas, refunding the extra stamp duty paid by eligible incoming talents in purchasing residential property in Hong Kong, and most importantly, enhancing the Technology Talent Admission Scheme (TechTAS) by lifting the requirement for technology firms to employ additional local employees while admitting talents outside Hong Kong, with a view to speeding up

talent admission, and adding new energy to the local industry. Meanwhile, the Chief Executive also mentions a number of measures to nurture local talents, including stepping up efforts to promote STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics) education at primary and secondary levels, supporting post-secondary education, expanding the STEM Internship Scheme, and promoting vocational and professional education and training (VPET) and nurturing multi-skilled talents, including IT talents, which are believed to have a positive effect on solving the local talent shortage. "

The HKCS also welcomes a number of innovation and technology-related policies announced in the Policy Address. Dr. Rocky Cheng said, "In recent years, the government has regarded information and communication technology as the driving force for local economic development and smart city living, and it has achieved certain results. In this year's Policy Address, we are pleased to see the government continue to strengthen investment in innovation and technology, which can provide key impetus for Hong Kong's high-quality economic development. We are delighted to see the government's plans to, promulgate the Hong Kong I&T Development Blueprint to set out major policies in four broad development directions, including enhancing the I&T ecosystem and achieving re-industrialisation in Hong Kong, expanding The I&T talent pool for enhancing development momentum, building a smart Hong Kong to enhance the quality of life of citizens, and proactively integrating these initiatives into the overall development of our country and consolidating Hong Kong's advantages as an international city, which can provide a clear direction and all-round strategy for the development of Hong Kong I&T industry. These measures can further help I&T to become Hong Kong's new economic driver and an international innovation and technology center under the 14th Five-Year National Plan. The HKCS believes that such strategy and development direction are correct, and we highly support this."

Hong Kong's land resources have always been precious. The HKCS welcomes the government to make every effort to steer up the construction of the "Northern Metropolis" with the theme of "new international I&T city", especially for its central part with the San Tin Technopole as its core, The Northern Metropolis will pool I&T enterprises and create synergy with Shenzhen's I&T cluster just across the river, becoming a diversified test bed for innovation. The government will also fully implement the construction project of the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Park, and on the basis of "one zone, two parks" and through in-depth co-operation with Shenzhen, we will study the trial implementation of a cross-boundary policy on I&T co-operation in an innovative, exclusive and designated manner. The expansion of the Science Park and Cyberport will also be completed in phases starting from 2025.

Dr. Rocky Cheng pointed out, "As an international financial center, Hong Kong is the inevitable choice to continuously enhance its competitiveness in FinTech. HKCS also welcomes the Government's commitment to promoting the development of the financial industry through technology, including

encouraging more FinTech services and products to undergo proof-of-concept trials, taking forward cross-boundary Fintech projects and nurturing Fintech talents. It has also begun the preparatory work for issuing "e-HKD" and is collaborating with the Mainland institutions to expand the testing of "e-CNY" as a cross-boundary payment facility in Hong Kong. These are all good strategies to promote the development of FinTech, which are supported and welcomed by us."

Dr. Rocky Cheng continued: "The HKCS has always been concerned about the integration of Hong Kong's information technology sector with the GBA, and the development opportunities provided to local practitioners. The Policy Address proposes that the Steering Group on Integration into National Development will be established to press ahead with initiatives across bureaux and coordinate from a strategic and macro perspective, enhance communications with Mainland authorities, formulate strategic plans for Hong Kong to connect with the Nation's "14th Five-Year Plan" and the development of the GBA, and proactively forging ahead with development and collaboration; and formulating work plans and priorities with a view to fostering a greater flow of people, goods, capital and information within the GBA; strengthening regional co-operation mechanisms with Mainland provinces and municipalities, and monitoring the progress and effectiveness of the implementation of collaborative projects. These measures will provide key impetus for the development of an international I&T centre in the GBA, which is welcomed by the HKCS. "

Hong Kong Computer Society's Recommendations to the Policy Address

Dr. Rocky Cheng said that HKCS has made the following recommendations for the government to consider in terms of enhancing the comprehensiveness of its policy:

On promoting the construction of a digital Hong Kong

1. The government should propose a more comprehensive and specific development blueprint to share with the technology industry, so that the industry can make more substantial and practical preparations as soon as possible, in line with the government's long-term development plan:
 - Establish an expert organization
 - Formulate technical and data standards for smart city and digital economy construction, so that different sectors and industries can layout and plan in advance accordingly to avoid hiccups in future transition.
 - Many local experts under the Hong Kong Computer Society are willing to provide professional advice for the government to develop I&T and smart city.
 - Allow smart city be implemented in all walks of life, and cooperate with enterprises in PPP (Public Private Partnership), and make good use of technology to improve people's

livelihood; only with practical adoption scientific researches can o have the soil and water sources for growth.

2. The government should also participate in creating an atmosphere of digital Hong Kong:
 - The government should take the lead in improving the awareness and capability of digital transformation, and implement various measures of e-government, and focus on the experience of citizens.
 - For some projects launched by the government, such as iMSmart, CDI, and Open Data, etc., it is necessary to invest resources to nurture healthy and solid operations, and promote them promptly to allow opportunities for project expansion.
 - For the R&D projects supported by the Innovation and Technology Commission and its several research institutes, post-implementation benefit assessment is also required.
3. Actively promote the digital transformation of various industries and provide all necessary support:
 - Provide IT infrastructure systems, such as data centers, cloud services, ERP, etc. to SMEs and start-ups: This can solve SMEs' problem of lack of IT knowledge and personnel, and contribute to industry digitization and network and information security.
 - Set standards and cooperate with technology companies to contribute to society.

About Integration and Contribution to the Greater Bay Area

1. Establish a governance system for Hong Kong's cyber security and information security in the Greater Bay Area:
 - Improve laws and regulations, formulate industry standards, technical standards, and governance requirements
 - Talent training
 - Organizing cross-industry contingency drills
 - Build a talent sharing platform in the Greater Bay Area
2. Coordinate the construction and operation of cross-regional platforms:
 - Establish a one-stop platform in the Greater Bay Area that integrates medical care, health care, elderly care, and financial management to promote the complementarity of resources between the two places, solve the serious shortage of long-term medical care and elderly care resources in Hong Kong, and reduce the medical insurance burden of the grassroots elderly.
 - Hong Kong, as the operator of the platform, enables cooperation and resource sharing in the Greater Bay Area to be implemented.

- Solve cross-border data security issues with the help of technology platforms.

About local tech talent

The Hong Kong Computer Society has always taken IT talent nurturing as its key objective. Though the development of emerging technologies in Hong Kong has become increasingly prosperous in recent years, however, the supply of technology talents has been in short for many years. Therefore, we recommend:

1. Provide preferential policies for enterprises to outsource work to immigrant talents:
 - Due to the impact of the epidemic, remote work has been implemented all over the world, and most companies have made large investments in relevant software and hardware; since information and communication technology is connected through the Internet, work can basically operate globally without barriers. Therefore, it is suggested that enterprises may consider using remote working methods to employ talents who are familiar with the local culture and working environment and who have moved abroad to continue working for the enterprise.
 - Since the employment of overseas talents may involve various policy issues, including labor policies, tax arrangements, foreign exchange import and export, as well as network security and privacy issues, it is suggested that the government can review the actual needs and make policy arrangements.
2. Accelerate the growth and cultivation of FinTech talents:
 - Deepen the policy of "promoting research by application", and encourage universities and colleges to cooperate with local research institutes and enterprises on the basis of cultivating digital talents to provide short-term practical Fintech courses, on-the-job training or internship opportunities to help solve the current and urgent talent shortage problems in various industries, and avoid unnecessary irrational talent competition.
3. Cultivate local IT talents:
 - Education level:
 - Reform the education system: increase efforts to cultivate talents in scientific research, technology application and management, and provide a continuous stream of talent support for Hong Kong's science and technology innovation.
 - In the current STEM education system, introduce different levels of "Data Literacy" courses for primary and secondary school students: equip them to enter the digital age of artificial intelligence, robotics, big data and Industry 4.0, and help minimize

the negative social impact brought about by professional obsolescence as well as network surveillance and so on.

- Introduce “Spatial Data Training” into the current STEM curriculum for local students: Going forward, location intelligence will become important when setting information policies and providing personalized and targeted services in the community.
 - In traditional higher education front, the introduction of the "Core Competency-based Training" (CBT) model can help respond more quickly to the ever-changing business environment and help the community to react more quickly and accordingly to own personal needs, to upskill or transform to respond to skills needs that are lacking in Hong Kong.
- ICT professional development level:
 - Provide continuous professional training for ICT professionals: help them master new knowledge related to the industry to cope with the rapid development of information technology and innovative applications in various industries.
 - The government should make good use of resources: ensure that the content of training courses is not outdated, the trainers have sufficient knowledge, and have better incentives such as tuition subsidies or recognizable study certificates to attract students to enroll.

About the construction of network security system

To fully carry out the construction of smart city, network security is even more important, and it is the bottom line that must be guarded. Therefore, the Hong Kong Computer Society has the following recommendations:

1. Establish a sound network security governance structure and coordinate the building of network security capabilities of all sectors of society.
2. Improve cybersecurity and cybercrime legislation:
 - Increase enforcement of cybersecurity and information security regulations
 - Increased penalties for crimes
3. Develop industry codes and enforcement standards for cybersecurity:
 - Formulate policies to require enterprises to follow, especially for critical information infrastructure such as electricity, water conservancy, gas, transportation, medical care, finance, etc.
 - Refer to and introduce international or mainland best practices:

- Network security defense standards
 - Incident response mechanism
4. Set up a dedicated department:
 - Responsible for formulating a cross-industry cyber attack incident response drill mechanism
 - Coordinate drills
 - Encourage the good use of cybersecurity and cybercrime prevention technologies, and promoting relevant education widely
 5. Carry out the construction of the network security ecosystem and establish a mechanism platform for the sharing of network security talents and information between Hong Kong and the Mainland.

Major new ICT related measures announced in Policy Address 2022 at a glance

1. Dovetail with National Strategies to Create Strong Impetus for Growth
 - The Government will establish the Steering Group on Integration into National Development
 - To be chaired by the Chief Executive, with three Secretaries of Departments (i.e. the Chief Secretary for Administration, the Financial Secretary and the Secretary for Justice) as deputies.
 - The Steering Group will press ahead with initiatives across bureaux and provide steer from a strategic and macro perspective, enhance communications with Mainland authorities and regularly host briefing sessions on national policies.
 - ◆ Formulating strategic plans for Hong Kong to dovetail with the 14th Five-Year Plan and the GBA development, and proactively forging ahead with development and collaboration;
 - ◆ Formulating work plans and priorities with a view to fostering a greater flow of people, goods, capital and information within the GBA
 - ◆ Strengthening regional co-operation mechanisms with Mainland provinces and municipalities, and monitoring the progress and effectiveness of the implementation of collaborative projects
 - ◆ Proactively promoting high-quality development of co-operation between Hong Kong and the Belt and Road countries in trade and commerce, professional services and cultural exchanges, and formulating relevant measures.

2. Attract Strategic Enterprises and Investments

- The OASES to be established within this year will be tasked with attracting high-potential and representative strategic enterprises from around the globe, particularly those from industries of strategic importance, such as life and health technology, artificial intelligence and data science, financial technology (Fintech), and advanced manufacturing and new energy technology.
- The office will
 - draw up a list of target enterprises and provide steer to the Dedicated Teams for Attracting Businesses and Talents to reach out to and carry out negotiations with the enterprises
 - formulate attractive special facilitation measures covering aspects such as land, tax and financing that are applicable exclusively to target enterprises, and provide them with tailor-made plans to facilitate the setting up of their operations in Hong Kong
 - provide the employees of these target enterprises with one-stop facilitation services in areas such as visa application and education arrangement for their children.

3. Attracting talents.

- establish the Talents Service Unit, led by the Chief Secretary for Administration, for formulating strategies to recruit talents from the Mainland and overseas and co-ordinating relevant work, as well as providing one-stop support for incoming talents;
- set up Dedicated Teams for Attracting Businesses and Talents in the Mainland Offices and overseas Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs) of the Government to proactively reach out to target enterprises and talents and persuade them to pursue development in Hong Kong;
- set aside \$30 billion from the Future Fund to establish the Co-Investment Fund for attracting enterprises to set up operations in Hong Kong and investing in their business;
- launch the Top Talent Pass Scheme to widely entice talents to pursue their careers in Hong Kong;
- launch the Top Talent Pass Scheme for a period of two years.
 - Eligible talents will include individuals whose annual salary reached HK\$2.5 million or above in the past year, and individuals graduated from the world's top 100 universities with at least three years of work experience over the past five years.
 - These two categories of talents will be issued a two-year pass for exploring opportunities in Hong Kong and are not subject to any quota. Individuals who graduated from the world's top 100 universities in the past five years and have yet to fulfil the work experience requirement will also be eligible, subject to an annual quota of 10 000.

- The scheme will be reviewed after the first year of implementation;
- enhance existing talent admission schemes to better attract talents
 - Streamline the General Employment Policy (GEP) and the Admission Scheme for Mainland Talents and Professionals (ASMTP)
 - ◆ For vacancies falling under the 13 professions with shortage of local supply as listed in the Talent List or for vacancies with annual salary of HK\$2 million or above, employers are not required to provide proof to substantiate their difficulties in local recruitment in making applications for talent admission.
 - ◆ The Government will update the Talent List as soon as possible to reflect the latest shortage situation in various professions
 - ◆ Aim to complete it in the first quarter of 2023
 - Suspend the annual quota under the Quality Migrant Admission Scheme (QMAS) for a period of two years, and improve the approval process to attract more world-class talents to relocate to Hong Kong;
 - Relax the Immigration Arrangements for Non-local Graduates (IANG)
 - ◆ Extending the limit of stay from one year to two years to facilitate their staying in or coming to Hong Kong for work
 - ◆ Expand the scope of the arrangements to cover those who graduated from the GBA campus of a Hong Kong university on a pilot basis for a period of two years.
 - The pilot arrangement will be reviewed after the first year of implementation;
- Allow eligible incoming talents to, upon becoming permanent residents, apply for a refund of the extra stamp duty paid for purchasing residential property in Hong Kong.

4. Develop International Innovation and Technology Centre and achieve re-industrialisation

- The Government will promulgate the Hong Kong I&T Development Blueprint within this year to set out major policies under four broad development directions.
- To enhance the I&T ecosystem and achieve re-industrialisation in Hong Kong.
 - Promote commercialisation of research and development (R&D) outcomes
 - ◆ Will earmark \$10 billion to launch the "Research, Academic and Industry Sectors One-plus Scheme" (RAISe+ Scheme) next year.
 - ◆ It will fund, on a matching basis, at least 100 research teams in universities which have good potential to become start-ups.
 - ◆ Each team should complete its project in two stages: the first stage for the transformation and realisation of R&D outcomes within three years and the second stage for the commercialisation of R&D outcomes within the subsequent two years.
 - ◆ The aim is to incentivise collaboration among industry, academic and research sectors to further promote the "1 to N" transformation of R&D outcomes and the

industry development

- Promote the development of technology industry
 - ◆ Actively promote Hong Kong's new opportunities to the Mainland and overseas.
 - ◆ By collaborating with the OASES and making use of the \$5 billion Strategic Tech Fund as well as the land and space provided for I&T uses starting from 2024 in the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Park (HSITP) in the Lok Ma Chau Loop, it will attract high-quality enterprises and talents to Hong Kong, primarily focusing on industries such as life and health technology, artificial intelligence and data science, as well as advanced manufacturing and new energy technology.
 - ◆ The goal is to attract not less than 100 high-potential or representative I&T enterprises to set up or expand their businesses in Hong Kong in the coming five years, including at least 20 top-notch I&T enterprises, bringing more than \$10 billion of investment to Hong Kong and creating thousands of local job opportunities
- Press ahead with re-industrialisation
 - ◆ Will create the post of Commissioner for Industry who will co-ordinate and steer the strategy on re-industrialisation and assist the manufacturing sector in upgrading and transformation by making use of I&T.
 - ◆ Will explore the construction of the second Advanced Manufacturing Centre at the Tai Po InnoPark. We will also subsidise the setting up of more smart production lines in Hong Kong under the Re-industrialisation Funding Scheme, with the target of increasing the cumulative number of smart production lines by four times from about 30 at present to over 130 in five years.
 - ◆ Will strengthen the collaboration with the Hong Kong Productivity Council to support enterprises in upgrading to smart production
- Strengthen infrastructure and facilities
 - ◆ Will move full steam ahead with the construction of the HSITP and expedite the development of San Tin Technopole in the Northern Metropolis.
 - ◆ The expansion works of the Science Park and Cyberport will be completed in phases from 2025 onward, providing 100 000 square metres of additional floor area.
 - ◆ Are planning the Science Park/Pak Shek Kok Station of the East Rail Line for commissioning by 2033.
- To enlarge the I&T talent pool to create strong impetus for growth, with additional measures focusing on attracting I&T talents.
 - Attract leading I&T talents around the globe
 - ◆ By collaborating with the OASES, we will provide special facilitation measures in a targeted manner to attract top-notch I&T talents to bring with them their business or R&D outcomes to Hong Kong
 - Enhance existing technology talent schemes

- ◆ Will enhance the TechTAS by lifting the local employment requirement, extending the quota validity period to two years and expanding the coverage to more emerging technology areas.
- ◆ Will increase the subsidies provided for research institutions and I&T enterprises for employing research talents under the Research Talent Hub Scheme by about 10%.
- ◆ Research talents with a doctoral degree will be further provided with a living allowance
- Enhance accommodation support
 - ◆ Will build more accommodation facilities for I&T talents, including to explore the development of a new InnoCell near Science Park and accommodation facilities for talents at the HSITP.
 - ◆ In support of the development of San Tin Technopole, we will allow greater planning flexibility to provide additional accommodation for I&T talents
- Expand the STEM Internship Scheme
 - ◆ Will offer local I&T internship opportunities to university students studying STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) programmes overseas or at GBA campuses established by designated local universities.
- To develop Hong Kong into a smart city to improve the quality of life of our people
 - Build a smart government
 - ◆ Aim to turn all government services online in two years and provide one-stop digital services by fully adopting "iAM Smart" within three years so as to realise "single portal for online government services".
 - ◆ 100 digital government projects will be launched with the application of technology for the convenience of the public;
 - open up data
 - ◆ The Government will continue to actively open up data and encourage public and private organisations to follow suit for innovative industry applications.
 - ◆ Will also explore with the Mainland the arrangements for the flow of data from the Mainland to Hong Kong, with a view to jointly promoting the co-ordinated development of smart cities in the GBA
 - Expand the 5G network: will further expand the 5G network by amending the legislation next year to ensure that appropriate space is made available in new buildings for installation of mobile communication facilities.
- To proactively integrate into the overall development of the country and consolidate Hong Kong's advantages as an international city.
 - The HSITP will be the bridgehead for I&T co-operation between Hong Kong and Shenzhen. On the basis of "one zone, two parks" and through in-depth co-operation with Shenzhen, we will study the trial implementation of a cross-boundary policy on I&T co-operation in

an innovative, exclusive and designated manner, covering the flows of I&T material, capital, data and people between Hong Kong and Shenzhen.

- We will proactively attract Mainland and overseas I&T enterprises to the HSITP, providing key impetus for the development of an international I&T centre in the GBA.
- Recently, our country has announced for the first time the recruitment of payload specialists in Hong Kong to participate in the national manned space programme. We are actively supporting and facilitating the recruitment exercise to recommend suitable candidates for our country.

5. Continuously enhance competitiveness in Fintech

- The government will vigorously promote Fintech:
 - Encouraging more Fintech services and products to undergo proof-of-concept trials
 - Taking forward cross-boundary Fintech projects
 - Nurturing Fintech talents
 - The Commercial Data Interchange will be launched within this year to provide a one-stop platform for enterprises to share operational data, enabling banks to make accurate assessments on the operating condition of enterprises and providing SMEs with a better chance of securing loans
 - On virtual assets:
 - ◆ the Government has introduced a bill to propose establishing a statutory licensing regime for virtual asset service providers. The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) is examining market feedback on the regulation of stablecoins and will ensure that the regulatory regime is in line with both the international regulatory recommendations and the local context.
 - ◆ The HKMA has also begun the preparatory work for issuing "e-HKD" and is collaborating with the Mainland institutions to expand the testing of "e-CNY" as a cross-boundary payment facility in Hong Kong.

6. To Build up The Northern Metropolis

The current-term Government will take forward the development of the Northern Metropolis in full steam.

- The Government will establish a Steering Committee on the Northern Metropolis and an Advisory Committee on the Northern Metropolis to strengthen the governance system for the development of the area.
- Upon completion, the Northern Metropolis will emerge as a "new international I&T city",

integrating quality life, new economies, and culture and leisure.

- The central part, with the San Tin Technopole as its core, will pool I&T enterprises and create synergy with Shenzhen's I&T cluster just across the river, becoming a diversified test bed for innovation.
- Modern industries in the New Territories North New Town can also benefit from collaboration with Shenzhen. Endowed with rich natural and tourism resources, the east side is best placed for recreation and tourism development for Hong Kong and Shenzhen.
- In the Northern Metropolis by adopting higher plot ratios. As a guideline, the maximum plot ratio for commercial sites will be 9.5
- Make available sites for different industries
 - ◆ Sites will be made available gradually in the next five years to support the development of I&T and other industries.
 - ◆ Three buildings are under construction in the Lok Ma Chau Loop in San Tin Technopole, and part of the land in the Loop will be ready for attracting businesses and investment from next year.
 - ◆ The first batch of San Tin I&T sites outside the Loop will commence works in 2024, while the first batch of sites for development of industrial buildings in areas earmarked for logistics and emerging industries in Hung Shui Kiu and Yuen Long will be available from next year.
 - ◆ Hung Shui Kiu/Ha Tsuen NDA is positioned as a modern service hub, and site formation works for the commercial sites near Hung Shui Kiu Station will also be completed in 2026

7. Strengthen technology subjects in education system

The key strategies of strengthen technology subjects in education system are as follows:

- Step up efforts to promote STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics) education at primary and secondary levels
 - Will step up the promotion of STEAM education "for all", "for fun" and "for diversity" in primary and secondary schools, building a solid foundation for students in support of our direction of promoting I&T development in Hong Kong.
 - Promote learning "for all"
 - ◆ More learning elements of I&T will be incorporated in the curriculum, with the aim of at least 75% of publicly-funded schools implementing enriched coding education at the upper primary level
 - ◆ Introducing I&T elements such as Artificial Intelligence in the junior secondary curriculum by the 2024/25 school year

- Strengthen leadership and co-ordination
 - ◆ Starting from the current school year, all publicly-funded primary and secondary schools are required to designate co-ordinators to holistically plan STEAM education within and beyond the classroom
 - ◆ Starting from the next school year, to organise or arrange students to participate in quality STEAM activities every year
- Enhance professional training
 - ◆ At least 75% of the publicly-funded primary and secondary schools should arrange their teachers to undergo professional training on STEAM within two school years.
- Support post-secondary education and build a strong talent pool;
 - The Government staunchly encourages the University Grants Committee (UGC)-funded universities to enhance the quality of programmes for building a strong pool of talents.
 - In the coming five years, our target is that 35% of their students will be studying STEAM subjects
 - 60% will be studying subjects relevant to Hong Kong's development into the "eight centres" in the 14th Five-Year Plan.
- Promote vocational and professional education and training (VPET) by adopting the strategy of fostering industry-institution collaboration and diversified development, so as to nurture multi-skilled talents
 - Expand the Study Subsidy Scheme for Designated Professions/ Sectors
 - ◆ To meet the keen manpower demand of designated industries (e.g. nursing and information technology)
 - ◆ the respective numbers of subsidised places for self-financing higher diploma programmes and undergraduate programmes will be increased in phases by 1,000 and 2,000 per cohort respectively starting from the next academic year, increasing the total number of places from the existing 5,000 to 8,000.
 - ◆ Top-up degree programmes will be covered for the first time and priority will be accorded to programmes of applied nature that involve industry-institution collaboration

About the Hong Kong Computer Society (HKCS)

Founded in 1970, the Hong Kong Computer Society (HKCS) is a recognised non-profit professional organisation focused on developing Hong Kong's Information Technology (IT) profession and industry. Their members come from a broad spectrum of Hong Kong's IT community, from corporations to like-minded individuals, all coming together to raise the profile and standards of the IT profession and industry. As a well-established IT professional body, the Society is committed to professional and industry development as well as community services to ensure the IT sector continues to make a

positive impact on peoples' lives with three main goals, namely, 1) talent cultivation and professional development, 2) industry development and collaboration, and 3) the effective use of IT in our community.

For more details, please visit <http://www.hkcs.org.hk>.

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