

Media Release

For Immediately Release

Hong Kong Computer Society Responds to the 2026 Budget:

Support for Innovation, Technology, and AI-Enabled Industrial Development Advocating for Enhanced AI Governance and Industry Support to Strengthen Hong Kong's Innovation Competitiveness

25th February 2026 HONG KONG — The Hong Kong Computer Society (HKCS) welcomes the 2026 Budget announced today by the Financial Secretary, Mr. Paul Chan GBS, MH, JP, the Government of the Hong Kong SAR. In light of global transformation and technological change, the Government's plans to align with the national "15th Five-Year Plan," integrate into the broader development framework of the country, and build Hong Kong into an international innovation and technology centre are highly commendable. This includes continued investment and promotion of innovation and technology industries, enhanced synergy between finance and technological innovation, funding for new quality productive forces projects, and continued investment in major infrastructure such as the Northern Metropolis, San Tin Technopole, and the Lok Ma Chau Loop development.

The Budget also outlines initiatives to empower various industries through artificial intelligence (AI), including the establishment of the "Committee on AI+ and Industry Development Strategy", continued funding for AI research and industrialisation, expansion of Hong Kong's overall computing capacity, and the launch of citywide AI training for All programmes to foster AI literacy and skills among students, youth, and the general public. It further promotes the development of FinTech, smart ports, construction technology, and intellectual property trading, while encouraging government departments to leverage technology for greater efficiency. The HKCS expresses appreciation and support for these forward-looking measures and hopes that the related policies will be steadily and effectively implemented.

Mr. Dave Chen, President of the Hong Kong Computer Society, stated:

"The 2026 Budget fully reflects the Government's determination to make innovation and technology the driving force for economic transformation and high-quality development. We note that many of the proposed directions align with earlier industry recommendations — such as strengthening AI-enabled industrial development, expanding AI adoption across government departments to enhance efficiency, and promoting AI education and literacy across all age groups. With clear industrial

positioning and robust cross-sector collaboration, Hong Kong will be better positioned to align with national development strategies.”

Mr. Chen continued:

“We are pleased to see the establishment of the ‘Committee on AI+ and Industry Development Strategy’, chaired by the Financial Secretary, to formulate strategies and create favourable conditions for AI to empower the transformation and development of industries, with an initial focus on life and health technology and embodied AI. When combined with disciplines such as FinTech, Regulatory Technology (RegTech), and risk modeling, these initiatives can help generate stronger synergies between ‘AI+’ and ‘Finance+,’ bolstering Hong Kong’s overall competitiveness.”

Mr. Chen also noted that the HKCS established its Artificial Intelligence Specialist Group several years ago to bring together experts from academia and industry. The Society stands ready to share its experience with the Government to refine AI+ industrial strategies and to provide advice on technology standards, industry applications, and talent cultivation - thereby helping policies integrate resources more effectively and accelerate practical implementation.

The HKCS further highlighted Hong Kong’s deep strengths in fundamental research and its strong potential in areas such as AI, life and health technologies, FinTech, new materials, and renewable energy. The Society supports the Government’s continued investment in new quality productive forces, advanced manufacturing, and AI research projects. As generative AI increasingly integrates into core business processes, HKCS recommends that the Government simultaneously enhance AI risk management, data governance, and compliance frameworks, while strengthening investment in critical infrastructure and cybersecurity to improve overall city resilience and boost enterprise confidence in AI deployment.

On the issue of talent, Mr. Chen emphasised that Hong Kong’s IT industry has long faced manpower shortages, especially of professionals with hands-on experience in AI. The proposal for AI training for All programmes directly addresses this societal need. The HKCS hopes that such programs will span foundational literacy, professional skills, and cross-disciplinary applications, and stands ready to advise on aligning curriculum design with industry demands.

Mr. Chen further observed:

“The Budget also calls for active development of emerging industries — including the low-altitude economy, aerospace, autonomous driving, new materials, RISC-V, embodied AI, and quantum technology — supported by corresponding policy measures. We believe that accelerating the development of these new industries hinges on attracting high-quality technology enterprises and talent from both Mainland China and overseas. As one of Hong Kong’s longest-standing professional platforms, the HKCS can help enterprises integrate into the local market more quickly and expand their global reach through its well-established international networks.”

He added that, to support companies in “going global,” Hong Kong can integrate its overseas networks, professional services, and technological solutions through a unified platform. This would help enterprises better understand different market regulations, connect with partners, and manage risks — turning cross-border exchanges into tangible and sustainable business collaborations that drive Hong Kong’s internationalisation journey.

About the Hong Kong Computer Society (HKCS)

Founded in 1970, the Hong Kong Computer Society (HKCS) is the longest-standing non-profit professional organisation dedicated to advancing 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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