

The 2024-25 Budget (Extracts)

83. Given maritime industry's vast market potential for green transformation, the Marine Department is planning to provide incentives for Hong Kong-registered ships that have attained high ratings under the international standards on decarbonisation formulated by the International Maritime Organization. This will involve about \$65 million in funding. And the Transport and Logistics Bureau (TLB), in collaboration with the Environment and Ecology Bureau (EEB) and other relevant departments, is conducting a feasibility study to provide green-methanol bunkering for local and ocean-going vessels. We expect to publish an action plan for Hong Kong's development into a green maritime fuel-bunkering centre this year.

83. 航運業綠色轉型市場潛力龐大，海事處計劃為在國際海事組織制訂的國際減碳標準中獲得高評級的香港註冊船舶，提供優惠措施，涉及撥款約六千五百萬元。此外，運輸及物流局正聯同環境及生態局及其他相關部門，就為本地船舶及遠洋船提供綠色甲醇加注開展可行性研究，預計將於今年內公布行動綱領，把香港打造成航運綠色能源加注中心。

162. Currently, around 90 per cent of the world's merchandise goods are transported by sea. With its advantageous geographical location, unique institutional strengths and extensive experience and network in international trade and commerce, Hong Kong enjoys a prime position in the shipping market. Supported by the National 14th Five-Year Plan and the Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, the Government promulgated the Action Plan on Maritime and Port Development Strategy (Action Plan) in December last year. The Action Plan formulates 10 strategies and 32 action measures to support the sustainable development of Hong Kong's maritime and port industry, with a view to enhancing the long-term competitiveness of the industry. It also consolidates and strengthens Hong Kong's position as an international maritime centre.

163. One of the directions set out in the Action Plan is to develop high value-added maritime services. Over the past few years, the Government has introduced a series of tax concession measures for the maritime industry in the areas of ship leasing, marine insurance, ship agency, ship management, shipbroking and so forth, which have begun to yield results. We will commence studies on further enhancements within this year.

164. In addition, Hong Kong's ship registration regime is widely recognised internationally. Hong Kong ranks fourth in the world in terms of gross tonnage, and excels in its high quality fleet. The port state control detention rate of Hong Kong registered ships is much lower than the global average. We plan to offer block registration incentive to attract shipowners to register ships in Hong Kong extensively. The Government will amend the

relevant regulations regarding this incentive starting this year, and provide an outline of the incentive rules, eligibility criteria and so forth.

165. The Government seeks to assist the logistics industry in better capitalising on the latest developments and business opportunities in smart logistics and e-commerce. To encourage the logistics industry to enhance productivity through technology application, the Government launched a \$300 million Pilot Subsidy Scheme for Third-party Logistics Service Providers in 2020 to provide subsidies to eligible logistics service providers. So far, the scheme has benefited over 190 enterprises, involving a total of about \$137 million. The scheme was enhanced in February this year, with the funding ceiling for each applicant enterprise increased from \$1 million to \$2 million and the scope of funding extended to cover services related to the application of ESG technology solutions.

162. 全球目前約有九成的貨物貿易採用海運。香港憑着優越的地理位置、制度上的獨特優勢，以及豐富的國際商貿經驗和網絡，在這個航運市場中佔一重要席位。在國家「十四五」規劃及《粵港澳大灣區發展規劃綱要》的支持下，政府於去年十二月公布《海運及港口發展策略行動綱領》，制定十大策略和三十二項具體行動措施，以支持香港海運及港口業的持續發展，提升業界的長遠競爭力，鞏固和提升香港作為國際航運中心的地位。

163. 《行動綱領》其中一個方向是發展高增值海運服務。政府過去數年推出一系列針對航運業的稅務優惠措施，包括船舶租賃、海事保險業務、船舶代理、船舶管理和船舶經紀業務等，有關措施初見成效。我們將在今年展開進一步優化的研究。

164. 另外，香港的船舶註冊廣受國際認可，以總噸位計全球排行第四位，並以優質船隊取勝。香港註冊船舶在全球港口當局監督的扣留率遠低於全球平均。我們計劃向船東提供批量註冊優惠，吸引船東大規模將船舶於香港註冊。政府會在今年起就批量註冊優惠修訂相關規例，概述相關規則和申請資格等。

165. 政府希望協助業界更好地把握智慧物流和電商業務的最新發展和商機。為此，政府已於二零二零年撥款三億元推出「第三方物流服務供應商資助先導計劃」，為合資格物流服務供應商提供資助，鼓勵物流業應用科技以提升生產力。至今，受惠於這項先導計劃的企業超過一百九十間，涉及款項約一億三千七百萬元。政府於今年二月優化這項先導計劃，將資助金額上限由每間企業一百萬元增加至二百萬元，並擴大資助範圍，以涵蓋應用 ESG 科技相關的服務。

170. As the only common law jurisdiction in China, Hong Kong enjoys a robust legal system and a pool of elite legal talent, which are cornerstones of Hong Kong's premier business environment and provide us with new opportunities for development.

171. With the staunch support from the Central Government, the International Organization for Mediation (IOMed), upon establishment, will have its headquarters hosted in Hong Kong. IOMed, specialising in resolving international disputes by means of mediation, will be the first international inter-governmental organisation to set up headquarters in Hong Kong. This will attract dispute parties, mediators and legal professionals to conduct mediation in Hong Kong, which will in turn boost other related economic activities.

172. Furthermore, the Department of Justice (DoJ) will continue to promote Hong Kong's legal and dispute resolution services by organising international conferences and exchange activities, as well as leading delegations of legal professionals to visit the Mainland, the Middle East, ASEAN member states, etc.

170. 香港是中國唯一實行普通法的地區，擁有健全的法律制度及優質的法律人才。這些都是香港優良營商環境的基石，也為我們帶來新的發展機遇。

171. 在中央的大力支持下，「國際調解院」在成立後會將其總部設在香港，成為首個在香港設立總部的政府間國際組織，專門以調解方式處理國際爭端。這有助吸引爭議各方、調解員、律師等專業人士選擇香港進行調解，亦會帶動相關經濟活動。

172. 此外，律政司會繼續舉辦國際會議和交流等活動，並帶領業界到訪內地、中東及東盟成員國，推廣香港的法律及爭議解決服務。

180. The Government introduced the Professional Training on Smart and Green Logistics Scheme and the Logistics Promotion Funding Scheme under the Maritime and Aviation Training Fund (MATF) in January this year. These schemes aim to enhance promotion and talent development in the logistics sector in line with new developments in smart and green logistics. We also launched the Aviation Promotion Project Funding Scheme to fund activities organised by local aviation-related organisations and academic institutions, while promoting to different sectors of the community the development of our aviation industry and the opportunities available. The TLB will conduct a comprehensive review of the MATF this year, to gauge its effectiveness in attracting talent and promoting manpower development in the maritime and aviation sectors.

180. 在「海運及空運人才培訓基金」下，政府於今年一月推出「智慧及綠色物流專業培訓計劃」及「物流推廣資助計劃」，以加強物流業的推廣和人才發展工作，配合智慧及綠色物流的新發展。我們也推出「航空業推廣活動資助計劃」，資助本地與航空業相關的機構及學術機構舉辦活動，向社會不同層面推廣航空業的發展情況和機遇。運輸及物流局會在今年全面檢討上述基金在吸引人才和促進業界人力發展的成效。

238. We will continue to take forward the implementation of the global minimum tax proposal drawn up by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development to address base erosion and profit shifting. We aim to apply the global minimum tax rate of 15 per cent on large multinational enterprise groups with an annual consolidated group revenue of at least EUR 750 million and impose the Hong Kong minimum top-up tax starting from 2025. We are now conducting consultation on the implementation of the above proposals and expect to submit a legislative proposal to LegCo in the second half of this year. It is estimated that these proposals will bring in tax revenue of about \$15 billion for the Government annually starting from 2027-28. Hong Kong maintains an edge over other tax jurisdictions in terms of tax competitiveness after the implementation of the proposals.

238. 我們會繼續推進落實經濟合作與發展組織就應對侵蝕稅基及轉移利潤的全球最低稅率方案，以期於二零二五年開始，向年度總收入七億五千萬歐元或以上的大型跨國企業集團，實施百分之十五的全球最低稅率，以及徵收香港最低補足稅。我們現正就實施方案進行諮詢，預期今年下半年提交立法建議。有關方案由二零二七 / 二八年度起，預計每年為政府帶來約一百五十億元的稅收。落實方案後，香港的稅務競爭力仍優於大部分稅務管轄區。