

International Financial Centre:

Consolidating Existing Strengths

Asset and Wealth Management Centre

98. The number of single-family offices in Hong Kong exceeds 3 300. To attract more family offices and funds to set up in Hong Kong, we will enhance our tax regime, including expanding the scope of "fund" to cover specific funds-of-one, as well as classifying digital assets, precious metals, specified commodities, etc. as qualifying investments eligible for tax concessions. We will introduce an amendment bill in the first half of this year, with a view to effecting the implementation from the year of assessment 2025/26.

Commercial Data Interchange

110. Last year, the HKMA launched Project Cargox under the Commercial Data Interchange to enhance the digital ecosystem for trade finance by harnessing the power of cargo and trade data. The Government is actively following up on the recommendations of the Expert Panel on Cargox with a view to promoting Hong Kong as a leading trade financing centre and supply chain hub.

International Trade Centre

Expand Commercial and Trade Network

125. Hong Kong has so far signed a total of 55 Comprehensive Avoidance of Double Taxation Agreements (CDTA), including those signed with Jordan, Maldives, Norway and Rwanda last year. We will further expand our CDTA network.

126. We will continue reaching out to relevant authorities in B&R regions to seek more project matching opportunities for Hong Kong enterprises and professional services, while encouraging and assisting external organisations to stage roadshows in Hong Kong. Outbound missions and project matching activities will also be organised to promote our professional services.

International Maritime Centre

143. Hong Kong will further align with the national maritime strategic development, and elevate our status as an international maritime centre. Meanwhile, we are striving to promote smart logistics and digital transformation in the industry, while expanding our cargo hinterland to secure more transshipment cargo.

Smart Port

144. The newly launched Port Community System (PCS) provides real-time tracking of sea, land and air cargo, fostering free flow of information among different industries. In addition, the PCS and Guangdong e-Port are connected to provide value-added services

such as One-Data-Multiple-Declarations. More than 3000 companies have registered with the PCS. We will continue leveraging the data provided by the PCS to bring greater values to the industry.

High Value-Added Maritime Services

145. We will introduce an amendment bill in the first half of this year to enhance tax concession measures for the maritime service industry and provide a half-rate tax concession to eligible commodities traders. All these will further promote the development of high value-added maritime services in Hong Kong.

146. To consolidate Hong Kong's premier position in ship registration, we will introduce an amendment bill this year to revamp the existing ship registration arrangements, including permitting dual registration arrangement to cater for the diverse operating models of international maritime enterprises.

Hong Kong Maritime Week

147. This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Hong Kong Maritime Week. We will organise more large-scale forums and seminars in collaboration with different international maritime organisations, with a view to enhancing Hong Kong's influence as an international maritime centre.

Green Shipping

Develop a Green Maritime Fuel Bunkering Centre

148. To develop Hong Kong into a green maritime fuel bunkering and trading centre, the Government will provide port dues concessions for vessels powered by green fuel as well as those carrying green fuels to attract more vessels to bunker green fuel in Hong Kong. An incentive scheme will also be launched for green vessels registered in Hong Kong to encourage green transformation of Hong Kong fleets. All these involve government subsidies of around \$34 million. The Government will take forward a legislative amendment exercise this year to provide more anchorages for green maritime fuel bunkering operations.

Synergy of Financial and Maritime Services

149. The international maritime industry is undergoing green transformation. Substantial capital investments are needed for building new green vessels or retrofitting existing ones. Hong Kong will leverage our strengths to promote the co-development of financial and maritime centres.

Open up New Cargo Sources

150. We are fully committed to establishing a comprehensive "rail-sea-land-river" intermodal transport system connecting the inland region, striving to channel more

inland cargo for export through Hong Kong. The relevant legislation will be amended within this year to extend the current arrangements under the Air Transshipment Cargo Exemption Scheme to other sea transshipment and sea-air transshipment modes.

Smart Logistics

151. To develop Hong Kong into an international smart logistics hub, the Government will launch the Future Innovative Logistics Acceleration Scheme this year to drive the transformation of the industry and enhance the interconnectivity of logistics data, with a view to increasing the competitiveness of the logistics industry.

Modern Logistics Cluster

152. The Hung Shui Kiu/Ha Tsuen New Development Area is connected with the Qianhai Co-operation Zone and will become the centre for modern services in the NM. The Government has reserved about 32hectares of land for developing a modern logistics cluster and will invite expressions of interest from the industry for the development of the first site this year.

International Legal and Dispute Resolution Services Centre

International Legal Hub

Strengthen the Promotion of Mediation and Arbitration Services

155. The Government will strengthen the regulatory framework for accreditation and disciplinary matters of the mediation profession in Hong Kong, and will take forward the legislative exercise this year.

Accelerating Green Development

Green Technology

199. Since the establishment of the Green Tech Fund, the Government has injected a total of \$400million into the fund and approved a number of projects, including production and storage of hydrogen fuel and the technology of turning waste into resources, etc. In particular, a university research team has promoted its newly developed industrial wastewater treatment technology to the GBA and the Yangtze River Delta Region, while another is planning to promote a new fuel cell stack technology in collaboration with a hydrogen fuel cell enterprise.

Hydrogen Development

200. Pursuant to the Strategy of Hydrogen Development in Hong Kong, we will formulate hydrogen standard certification. We are consulting the trade on the framework, with a view to establishing a certification system that connects with both the Mainland and the world, building Hong Kong into a demonstration platform for the export of green and low-carbon hydrogen technologies and products.

201. The Government will host the Hydrogen Week in May to foster international exchanges, and organise visits to the Mainland on the development of hydrogen applications for overseas experts.

Green Finance

202. To consolidate and enhance Hong Kong's status as an international green finance centre, the Government will continue issuing sustainable bonds, establishing an enabling regulatory environment and strengthening cross-sectoral collaboration, including taking forward the implementation of the Hong Kong Sustainability Disclosure Standards. The Accounting and Financial Reporting Council is consulting the public on the proposed regulatory framework for assurance.

203. The HKMA has been refining the Hong Kong Taxonomy for Sustainable Finance to more effectively address the financing needs of relevant projects, thereby expediting low-carbon transition in the region. It will also strive to develop green transition planning guidance for banks within this year.

204. We will support the exploration with the Mainland and international multilateral financial institutions of the establishment of a Hong Kong-based Green Technology Projects Accelerator. The Accelerator will provide incubation, acceleration, and empowerment services for green technology projects in B&R regions, and serve as an innovative demonstration of Hong Kong's green finance-related services. We will also explore facilitating financial institutions to obtain public utility usage data of enterprises with their consent to enhance the efficiency of green financing and risk assessment.