

The First Five-Year Plan for Economic and Social Development of the HKSAR (2026-2030)

Overview

In the opening year of the National 15th Five-Year Plan, this inaugural **Five-Year Plan of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR)** is formulated to proactively align with national development strategies, and better integrate into and serve the overall national development. The First Five-Year Plan for Economic and Social Development of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (2026-2030) (Hong Kong's Five-Year Plan) is grounded in the city's present and devises the medium- to long-term strategy for Hong Kong's development. It is a forward-looking, strategic and directional guiding document. By formulating the Five-Year Plan, we shall shed light on our directions of development, optimise resource allocation, enhance social expectation certainty, and better protect social well-being as well as the interests of investors across the world. Hong Kong will continue to make more substantial contributions to building a strong country and achieving national rejuvenation through advancement of Chinese modernisation.

Hong Kong's Five-Year Plan

The Seven Underlying Principles

- Adhere to the "One Country, Two Systems" principle
- Remain committed to a livelihood-oriented approach
- Uphold an executive-led system
- Embrace reform and innovation
- Uphold the two-pronged approach of "effective market" and "capable government"
- Adopt a holistic approach to development and security
- A pragmatic and proactive planning

The Five Major Objectives

- Achieving new breakthroughs in economic development
- Expanding our global competitiveness and influence continuously
- Enhancing the speed and effectiveness of the Northern Metropolis development
- Enhancing social well-being markedly
- Taking significant strides in integrating into and serving the overall national development

The Six Themes

We will build a Hong Kong that is more open, more inclusive, more liberal, more prosperous and safer.

1. Strengthen the Four Centres, Develop the Hub for High-calibre Talent

Advance the development of the “four centres and one hub” at full steam to further sharpen our city’s competitive edge, and drive and sustain Hong Kong’s economic development.

➤ **Consolidate and enhance Hong Kong’s status as an international financial centre**

- Showcase Hong Kong’s international positioning as an **international financial centre** by leveraging its open financial markets to attract global capital, talent, and financial enterprises.
- Strengthen Hong Kong’s role as a **global offshore renminbi (RMB) business hub** by refining the RMB Business Facility, expanding product supply in the offshore RMB market, actively promote the use of RMB for pricing, settlement and investment purposes, and supporting the wider use of RMB in cross-boundary business, etc.
- Buttress Hong Kong’s status as a world-leading **cross-boundary wealth management centre** by providing quality services for global sovereign wealth funds and family offices to develop their businesses in Hong Kong, strengthening Hong Kong’s role as an international asset and wealth management centre.
- Strengthen Hong Kong’s role as an **international risk management centre** by deepening regulatory cooperation with the Mainland and overseas markets while advancing the synergised development of traditional insurance and non-traditional risk management tools.
- Enhance the **market regime design and product ecosystem for the equity and bond markets** by enhancing the competitiveness of Hong Kong’s listing regime and operating efficiency of the securities market infrastructure, steadily broadening the mutual access mechanism, and expediting the commercialisation, internationalisation and modernisation of the Central Moneymarkets Unit, etc.
- Develop a **commodity trading ecosystem** with gold as an entry point by driving the development of the clearing system, storage, supply, and infrastructure related to gold trading, as well as striving to achieve innovation and breakthroughs for commodity trading in the offshore RMB market, etc.
- **Take forward “Finance+” to serve the real economy** in areas such as I&T, trade, green development, IP, maritime, and livelihood, encouraging investment to provide solid support for technological innovation and development of the real economy.

➤ **Consolidate and enhance Hong Kong’s status as an international maritime centre and international aviation hub**

- Stabilise Hong Kong’s container throughput, add value, and strengthen synergy, driving a **“volume to value” transformation** of the Hong Kong Port, advancing the digitalisation, smart transition, and green transformation of the maritime industry, and deepening cooperation with Mainland and international shipping ports, thereby promoting high-quality collaborative development among ports.
- Develop a **high value-added maritime services ecosystem** by reforming Hong Kong’s ship registration regime. Leverage Hong Kong’s strengths in maritime services and support the upgrading and development of the high value-added maritime services cluster.
- **Deeply engage in the development of the national aviation network**, enhance the

Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area's intermodal network; and actively integrate into the country's "one circle, six corridors, and five channels". Continue to launch new routes, and expand Hong Kong's aviation partnership network with the Belt and Road Initiative partner countries.

- Develop a **New Ecosystem for the Aviation Industry**. Develop an aircraft parts processing and trading industry ecosystem. Achieve a Sustainable Aviation Fuel consumption ratio of 1% to 3% for flights departing from the Hong Kong International Airport in 2030. Develop Hong Kong into the Asia-Pacific hub for innovative low-altitude applications.

➤ **Consolidate and enhance Hong Kong's status as an international trade centre**

- Continue to uphold **free trade, maintain zero tariff**, and support the rules-based **multilateral trading system**.
- Develop a **high value-added supply chain services centre**, fully leveraging the Task Force on Supporting Mainland Enterprises in Going Global, so as to help support Mainland enterprises in tapping into international markets and taking part in the global industry, supply, and value chains.
- Continue to pursue the **Comprehensive Upgrade of the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA)** for further expansion of market access and liberalised areas in the Chinese Mainland.

➤ **Develop the international innovation and technology centre and an international hub for high-calibre talent**

- Press full steam ahead with developing the new **"Three Major Innovation and Technology Parks and Five Key Research and Development Institutions"** paradigm. Advancing the development of the Hong Kong Park of the Hetao Shenzhen-Hong Kong Science and Technology Innovation Co-operation Zone (the Loop Hong Kong Park) and San Tin Technopole, the Science Park, and Cyberport to form the "north-central-south" development paradigm in Hong Kong.
- Advance the development of five key research and development (R&D) institutions (i.e. the Hong Kong Productivity Council, the Hong Kong Applied Science and Technology Research Institute, the Hong Kong Microelectronics Research and Development Institute, the Hong Kong Artificial Intelligence Research and Development Institute, and the Life and Health Technology Research Institute). Make good use of **the "dual base" of the State Key Laboratories in Hong Kong and the InnoHK research clusters**, and fully capitalise on the basic scientific research capabilities of Hong Kong's universities, so as to deepen the reform of the city's I&T innovation system.
- Foster a comprehensive industry ecosystem covering R&D, transformation, pilot, and mass production through the **synergised development at the upstream, midstream, and downstream levels** between **the Loop Hong Kong Park** and **San Tin Technopole**.
- Promote **new industrialisation** by facilitating the upgrading and transformation of traditional industries by making use of I&T; developing and strengthening emerging industries of strategic value (including **aerospace economy and marine economy**, etc);

and planning for future industries (such as quantum technology and embodied intelligence, etc.).

- Take forward the **AI+ Initiative** on all fronts by promoting the deep integration of AI in different fields and sectors under the development directions of “industries for AI” and “AI for industries”.
- Expedite the development of the **international health and medical innovation hub**. Comprehensively **intensify the regulatory reform of medical products** by establishing an internationally renowned authority for medical products while implementing “primary evaluation” in phases and acquiring independent evaluation capacity, so as to expedite the evaluation and approval of innovative drugs and medical devices for clinical application. Build a comprehensive **clinical trial infrastructure** and digital portal, and fully implement the interfacing of clinical trial resources between Hong Kong and Shenzhen.
- Promote the **integrated development of education, technology and talent**, enhance Hong Kong’s own capabilities in nurturing and attracting high-calibre talent, and establish the “Study in Hong Kong” brand.

2. Leverage Hong Kong’s Advantages as an International City and Comprehensively Strengthen its Global Competitiveness

Drive the high-end and high value-added transformation and upgrading of Hong Kong’s service sector, assemble global innovation resources, professional talent, and high-end factors, while reinforcing the integrated development of industries.

- **Deepen the development of an international legal and dispute resolution services centre**
 - Leverage Hong Kong’s unique advantages as a common law jurisdiction to develop the city into a **hub for high-calibre legal talent**.
 - Promote **closer interface of rules and mechanisms** concerning the safeguards of the rule of law in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area.
 - Support and work with the International Organization for Mediation to further its role, thereby reinforcing Hong Kong’s status as a **global capital of mediation**.
- **Develop a regional intellectual property trading centre**
 - **Enhance the city’s IP protection mechanism** in alignment with international rules.
 - **Deepen the reform of the patent system** to foster innovation development, so that the system may provide more effective support for the protection, technology transformation, commercialisation, and industrialisation of R&D outcomes.
 - Develop a thriving and sound **IP trading ecosystem** by exploring IP financing modes, so as to channel capital into IP-intensive industries, etc.
- **Develop an East-meets-West centre for international cultural exchange**
 - Develop **diverse arts, culture, and creative industries**, and enhance the sustainable ecosystem for them.
 - Drive **wider participation** in sports, develop **elite sports**, maintain Hong Kong as a centre for **major international sports events**, enhance **professionalism** in sports, and develop

sports **as an industry**.

- Deepen **the integrated development of culture, sports, and tourism**, and enrich the supply of high-quality tourism products, while bolstering infrastructure and ancillary facilities.
- Develop a **core demonstration zone for multi-destination tourism** and facilitate visitors' further extension of itineraries to the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area as well as other provinces and municipalities.

3. Deepen the Development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area and Create an International Collaboration Network

The Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area serves as a strategic fulcrum of the country's new development paradigm, a demonstration zone of high-quality development, and a pioneer of Chinese modernisation. Hong Kong will participate in the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area into an international first-class bay area with global influence. Through the "high-end R&D-advanced manufacturing-modern services" collaboration model, Hong Kong will develop an I&T industry chain in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area.

➤ **Promote "hard connectivity" of infrastructure**

- Contribute to the development of the "Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area on the Rail" by advancing **cross-boundary railway projects**.
- Promote the interconnectivity of **computing infrastructure** with other Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area cities; and expedite the formation of enormous intelligent computing clusters.

➤ **Foster "soft connectivity" by deepening the alignment of rules and mechanisms**

- Facilitate the **mutual recognition of professional qualifications** in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area.
- Align with the development of the "Healthy Bay Area" to enhance the **medical cooperation** and promote the alignment of healthcare services and regulatory frameworks.
- Explore **enhancement of the mutual capital market access mechanism** and enhance cross-boundary financial services for people's livelihood.
- Facilitate the convenient **cross-boundary flow of factors** such as personnel, materials, capital, and data.

➤ **Achieve "connectivity of hearts" among residents in Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao**

- Strengthen cooperation between Hong Kong's higher education institutions and those in other Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area cities to enhance joint **talent cultivation and exchanges** between Guangdong and Hong Kong.
- Broaden the horizons for **young people to develop their careers** in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area.
- Enhance **the interface of cross-boundary elderly services** and expand the Residential Care Services Scheme in Guangdong.
- Promote ecological civilisation and enhance biodiversity of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-

Macao Greater Bay Area, to jointly develop an international, first-class **beautiful bay area**.

- Promote the **integrated development of culture, sports, and tourism**, to develop the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area into a cultured bay area.

➤ **Advance the development of major co-operation platforms within the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area**

- Continue to actively participate in the development of the various major cooperation platforms, including **Qianhai of Shenzhen, Nansha of Guangzhou, Hengqin of Zhuhai, and the Hetao Shenzhen-Hong Kong Co-operation Zone**, to promote mutual benefits.

➤ **Create an international collaboration network**

- Deepen **regional collaboration with the Mainland**.
- Deepen **international cooperation and exchanges**, actively participate in the work of international organisations, and promote Chinese standards.
- Deeply participate in the high-quality **Belt and Road cooperation**.

4. Expedite the Development of the Northern Metropolis and Spearhead Spatial Layout Optimisation

Forge a blissful, vibrant, and innovative Northern Metropolis with the objectives of university town, I&T, industry, and an environment suitable for living, work, and travel.

➤ **The Northern Metropolis University Town will be developed under a town area concept, integrating the five elements of education, technology, industry, talent, and urban development. Guided by the “One Town, Five Elements” development layout, it will achieve the integrated development of education, technology and talent.**

- There are **three University Towns (San Tin, Hung Shui Kiu, and Ta Kwu Ling)** in the Northern Metropolis, each developed based on the concept of “One Town, Five Elements” with their own functions and positioning.
- **Each university town encompasses campus area, technology area, industry area, and living community area, forming a hub for talent development.** The educational facilities within the 300-hectare campus area of each university town will be connected to the adjacent areas of strategic industry and distinctive conservation, recreational, sports and cultural facilities, as well as the surrounding living community, **The total area of the three towns has been expanded to over 1,000 hectares.**
- The **San Tin University Town** is positioned to focus on the development of medicine, life and health technology, AI, robotics, microelectronics, and emerging industries. Commence the construction of the medical school of The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology and the integrated medical teaching and research hospital.
- The **Hung Shui Kiu University Town** is positioned as a cultivation centre for smart manufacturing applied post-secondary education and internationalised talent. Site allocation for the campus area will commence in 2026 and post-secondary institutions will move in by 2027 to 2028.
- Arts and blue-green development elements will be incorporated into **Ta Kwu Ling University Town**, while reserving strategic development space for future development

needs. From 2030 onwards, sites will be made available progressively to support emerging industries, advanced construction industries, traditional industries, and new industries development.

➤ **A technology-driven industry-academia-research collaborative innovation system**

- Expedite the development of the **Hetao Shenzhen-Hong Kong Science and Technology Innovation Co-operation Zone** under the vision of “one river, two banks” and “one zone, two parks”, and strengthen the alignment of both Hong Kong and Shenzhen Parks in terms of spatial layout, planning coordination, infrastructure connectivity, etc. to **facilitate the secure, efficient and convenient flow of factors**.
- Establish a **platform for diversified industry development**, including San Tin Technopole, the Sandy Ridge Data Facility Cluster, the Hung Shui Kiu Industry Park, the modern logistics cluster in Hung Shui Kiu, the Lau Fau Shan Digital Technology Hub, the Advanced Construction Industrial Park in Yuen Long South, and establish the Ta Kwu Ling New Development Area as a base for emerging industries, among others.

➤ **Diversified development of a metropolis ideal for living, work, and travel**

- Make available about **900 hectares of “spade-ready sites”** from 2026-27 to 2030-31, enable the provision of **over 70,000 housing units** and **one million square metres of economic floor space**.
- Enact the **Northern Metropolis Development Ordinance** and its subsidiary legislation to streamline control along the whole development process in order to expedite developing the Northern Metropolis and bringing in industries.
- Under the **“Eight Vertical and Eight Horizontal Corridors” infrastructure layout**, press full steam ahead with the major Northern Metropolis-related railway and road projects including the Northern Link Spur Line, the Hong Kong section of Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Rail Link, Northern Metropolis Highway (San Tin Section), the Tsing Lung Bridge at the Southern end of Route 11. The Kwu Tung Station on the East Rail Line and the Hung Shui Kiu Station on the Tuen Ma Line will commence operation in 2027 and 2030 respectively.

5. Enhance Social Well-being and Refine the Social Protection Framework

The ultimate objective of governance lies in enhancing social well-being. We will actively address the challenges arising from demographic changes, such as ageing population and declining birth rate, and continue to pursue enhancements in various policy areas.

➤ **Strengthen future-ready education system, advance quality education**

- Holistically **promote the progressive integration of AI into learning, teaching, and assessment**. Foster students’ spirit of “Technology for Good” with humanistic qualities through curriculum development.
- **Promote digital education** to strengthen students’ learning in mathematics, science, and technology. Create more room for teachers to cultivate children’s innovation. Enhance the compilation of teaching materials and the review mechanism for textbooks.
- Nurture a new generation with **affection for our country and Hong Kong** and **a global**

perspective;

- Nurture **cross-functional and multi-skilled talent** by advancing the high-quality development of vocational and professional education and training.

➤ **Foster the development of young people, women, families and a harmonious society**

- **Enhance youth development opportunities** by providing support on exchanges, internship, employment and entrepreneurial endeavours among young people.
- **Empower women to realise their potentials** and promote their high-quality career development.
- **Strengthen family bonds, education and traditions**, and promote good family values.
- Encourage Hong Kong's **religious communities to sustain their efforts in fostering social harmony and inclusion**.
- Facilitate communication and development with and among the **rural communities**.
- Enhance support for **ethnic minorities**.

➤ **Deepen healthcare system reform**

- Develop a **sustainable governance system for primary healthcare**, establish multi-disciplinary, evidence-based, coordinated and coherent service and referral standards. Enhance the synergised development of the family doctor system across both the public and private sectors through establishing a statutory register of primary healthcare service providers. Bring the number of cumulative beneficiaries of District Health Centres to one million within five years. Steadily increase resource allocation to primary healthcare programmes, with an estimated rise of about 30% from the current level by 2030-31.
- **Deepen the reform of the public healthcare service subsidisation structure**, so as to enhance the protection for "poor, acute, serious, critical" patients on all fronts and make the healthcare system more sustainable. Continue to implement the healthcare service reform under the principles of "the Government's overall commitment will not be lessened" and sustainability of subsidisation.
- Advance the **development of healthcare infrastructure**. Enhance the works projects under the First Hospital Development Plan, which upon completion will increase the total number of public hospital beds under the Hospital Authority to about 35,000 in 2031, and that of operating theatres to **about 360**.
- **Strengthen the disease prevention and control system and smart anti-epidemic measures**, and build an "integrated epidemic management system", so as to consolidate frontline defence against communicable diseases.

➤ **Strive to resolve the housing issue**

- **Eradicate substandard subdivided units in an orderly manner**. Press ahead with the Basic Housing Unit regime, with the target of resolving the issue of substandard units in residential buildings by 2030.
- Substantially **increase public housing supply**. Taking into account Light Public Housing, the total public housing production in Hong Kong will reach around 196,000 units from 2026-27 to 2030-31. The Composite Waiting Time for Subsidised Rental Housing will reduce to less than four years in 2030-31.

- Continue to enhance the **housing ladder** by increasing the supply of subsidised sale flats while refining sale and resale arrangements, so as to assist young people, public rental housing residents, as well as those of different income groups in achieving home ownership.
 - The Urban Renewal Authority will commit at least around \$40 billion in the next five years for **urban renewal initiatives**.
- **Provide targeted support, enhance protection for people's livelihood**
- Promote data-driven proactive support and champion a shift in approach from "reactive response" towards "**proactive identification and targeted support**". Explore the establishment of a "welfare information sharing e-platform" and promote an institutionalised model of tripartite collaboration among **the Government, the business sector, and the community** in poverty alleviation.
 - **Continue to strengthen the child protection system** and safeguard children's well-being.
 - **Enhance elderly care service capacity** and foster a sense of security among the elderly.
 - Encourage the elderly to participate in social affairs to promote their **social integration into the community**. Further enhance the support measures for **cross-boundary elderly care** to provide the elderly with more choices and greater convenience.
 - Provide targeted support for **persons with disabilities as well as their carers** and build a thriving disability-inclusive society.
 - Harness I&T to enhance **employment services**. Protect employment rights and **foster harmonious labour relations**.
- **Realise green transformation, strengthen ecological protection**
- Promote **continuous optimisation of the energy mix** and progressively increase the use of zero-carbon energy to strengthen energy security and **maintain the stability of electricity tariffs**.
 - Promote the use of **green transport**, thereby creating conditions for achieving the target of zero vehicular emissions before 2050.
 - **Move away from reliance on landfill disposal of municipal solid waste** by 2035. Enhance Hong Kong's recycling and waste-to-energy networks to turn waste into resources.
 - Develop green technologies and new energy for **proactive decarbonisation**. Establish a certification system for green hydrogen and low-carbon hydrogen standards that connects with the Mainland and the rest of the world.
 - Strengthen the **protection of wild fauna and flora as well as endangered species**, and expand cooperation in ecological conservation with relevant Mainland provinces and municipalities.

6. Adopt a Holistic Approach to Development and Security, Enhance Public Governance Efficacy

Security is the prerequisite for development, whereas development reinforces security. Drive a shift towards a prevention-based model for security governance of the city to enhance the resilience of the economy and society. Spearhead various initiatives with a reform-oriented mindset to induce

development impetus.

➤ **Safeguard national security**

- Under the guidance of the holistic national security approach, continue to improve Hong Kong's **top-level structure, legal system, and enforcement mechanisms** to safeguard national security;
- Resolutely **ensure that laws are observed and strictly enforced** to bring offenders to account. Strengthen national security education.

➤ **Reinforce city governance, strengthen disaster prevention, mitigation, and response capabilities**

- **Explore the development of Hong Kong's "AI City Brain" integrated city management system** to connect city management data of different departments. With the use of new technologies such as AI, big data, and the Internet of Things, etc. for **real-time inter-departmental data sharing and smart analysis**, realise real-time perception, risk alert, instant prediction, and synergised processing in the management and operation of the city, thereby enhancing the resilience of the city.
- Comprehensively enhance **fire safety governance efficacy** through inspections and rectifications on fire safety risks and implementation of an accountability mechanism, while improving the response strategy for tackling major fire incidents and pursuing legislative amendments of the Fire Services Ordinance to enhance the deterrent effect and enforcement effectiveness.
- Comprehensively **enhance building safety governance**. Reform building rehabilitation strategies and enhance the support for owners. Deepen building management reform by promoting the joint property management model in an orderly manner and encouraging innovative application of smart management solutions, so as to develop a smart community network.
- **Strengthen flood control and drainage, shoreline management, and slope safety management**. Enhance the drainage and regulation capabilities and optimise the synergised layout of drainage networks and flood control facilities in districts. Conduct R&D on AI model for a smart flood forecast and alert system. Continuously manage and control slope safety risks in a holistic manner.

➤ **Build an efficient government, digitalise and intelligentise public administration**

- Improve the **civil service training management system** to entrench the people-oriented ethos. Enhance the civil service performance appraisal system and the fairness in giving out rewards and meting out punishments.
- Expedite the **digitalisation and intelligentisation of public administration** to enhance efficacy, such as leveraging technology to enhance work efficiency of law enforcement agencies and utilising data analytics to step up surveillance for combating abuse of public rental housing, etc.
- **Empower process integration through digital intelligence**. Promote wider adoption of the "digital-first" principle in government processes, and expand the digital identity functions and one-stop e-services powered by "iAM Smart" and the Digital Corporate

Identity Platform.

➤ **Strengthen the district governance system**

- **Refine the high-level co-ordination mechanism** for the Steering Committee on District Governance and the Task Force on District Governance to coordinate the work of various bureaux and relevant departments on all fronts, with a view to proactively and efficiently addressing district governance issues. Strengthen District Officers' capabilities in discharging their duties by enhancing their coordination and execution capabilities.
- Bolster the district governance mechanism to enhance efficacy. **Deepen the collaboration of the "troika" of district governance** to uphold the ethos of "actively responding to the people's aspirations".

Strengthen the Institutional Safeguards for Effective Implementation of the Five-Year Plan

Establish a framework where "Five-Year Plan leads, Policy Address implements, Budget supports, annual report gives account", and delineate division of labour to advance the tasks in an orderly manner.

- The **Policy Address** delivered by the Chief Executive each year will serve as an **annual work plan** for implementing the Five-Year Plan. In response to the international environment as well as economic outlook and dynamics, adjust yearly plans, devise work indicators, implement the blueprint, and set out annual policy foci as well as major works and infrastructure projects.
- The **Budget** provides **solid resource support** for the implementation of the Five-Year Plan and the annual Policy Address.
- The Chief Executive will **report to the President of the People's Republic of China and the Central Government on the implementation of the Five-Year Plan** in the context of the annual duty visit.
- The implementation of the Five-Year Plan will be **monitored, assessed and checked** regularly, with mid-term adjustments to be made in light of actual circumstances.

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