
Policy Agenda

Introduction

The success of Hong Kong is attributed to the dedication of generations of Hong Kong people who helped to make our home a better place. To sustain this hard-earned achievement, further our economic and social development and improve the quality of life of the public, the Government and every citizen must join force in heading towards the same goals. Last year, Hong Kong experienced a major social incident. At this juncture, the community needs to forge consensus, re-build relationships and move forward on the path of constitutional development. Whilst these remain our priorities, it is pivotal for the Government to continue our efforts to further economic development and improve people's livelihood through appropriate policies and measures and invest in Hong Kong's long-term development.

Over the past two years, the Government started long-term planning in a number of major policy areas, and has put in place various initiatives to address the needs and aspirations of different sectors of the community. Such initiatives include releasing "A Clean Air Plan for Hong Kong" and the "Hong Kong Blueprint for Sustainable Use of Resources 2013-2022"; setting up the Financial Services Development Council and the Economic Development Commission to give advice on our major industries; increasing land and housing supply; embarking on major infrastructure projects such as the three-runway system at the Hong Kong International Airport, the Hong Kong section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link and the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge; enhancing financial support for the elderly through the Old Age Living Allowance; establishing

the Poverty Line; planning for the introduction of the Low-income Working Family Allowance; and formulating new initiatives to foster the diversified and all-round development of our young people.

We have mentioned in this year's Policy Address two policies which would have significant impact on Hong Kong's long-term development. The first is the Long Term Housing Strategy announced in last December and the second is our population policy, both having gone through an extensive process of policy deliberation and public discussion. The former sets out a new strategy and policy direction for addressing our housing problem, with the goal of adequate housing for all in the long run. The latter outlines the blueprint and objectives of our population policy, alongside a package of measures to enable individuals to realise their potential, engender an inclusive society whilst driving social and economic development, and enhance the quality of life of the community.

Sustained economic growth is the cornerstone for social development. We need to strengthen our position as an international financial centre by capitalising on the unique role of Hong Kong in the process of our country's opening up and comprehensive deepening of reforms, whilst exploiting fully the advantages of the Shanghai-Hong Kong Stock Connect and our status as a global offshore Renminbi hub. Furthermore, we should develop a diversified and high value-added service industry to benefit the public more widely, particularly our young people and the grassroots, so that they can share the fruits of our economic achievements.

Last year was a year full of challenges. Looking ahead, the Government will persevere and would, on the basis of the Policy Address and Policy Agenda, continue to develop our strengths and new forces for economic growth. We strive to lay a solid foundation for Hong Kong's overall sustainable development, so that this place that we called home, will continue to thrive.