

**Action Agenda Proposed by the  
Focus Group on Professional Services, Information & Technology and Tourism**

**Sub-group on Professional Services**

<b>Strategic Proposals</b>	<b>Proposed Specific Measures</b>	<b>Implementation Schedule</b>	<b>Responsible Bureaux / Departments</b>	<b>Relevant Organizations</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
<p><b>P1. Maintaining the strengths of Hong Kong lawyers by improving the standard of the legal services and promoting their competitiveness</b></p>	<p><b>P1-1</b> To enhance legal training, and encourage exchanges with professionals from around the world; and to leverage on the strengths of our legal services sector (i.e. having a wealth of practitioners with the same culture and origin and share the same language with their counterparts in the Mainland).</p>	<p>Long-term strategy to be implemented on an on-going basis</p>	<p>Please see the column “Relevant Organization” for details</p>	<p>The legal services sector (including the Law Society, the Bar Association and academics) should be responsible for implementing the proposal.</p> <p>Department of Justice provides assistance and cooperation.</p>	<p>The interactive cooperation between lawyers in Hong Kong and the Mainland aims at promoting professional standard of the two places rather than discriminating against foreign lawyers.</p> <p>The Hong Kong legal services sector should also be aware of the services provided by foreign law firms and the mode of their operation with a view to enhancing the standard of their business.</p>

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	<p><b>P1-2</b> To elevate the standard of basic legal education and to formulate and promote legal education reforms so as to provide Hong Kong with quality legal professionals.</p>	<p>Long-term strategy to be implemented on an on-going basis</p>	<p>Please see the column “Relevant Organization” for details</p>	<p>Law schools, Standing Committee on Legal Education and Training, and the legal services sector should be responsible for implementing the proposal.</p> <p>Department of Justice provides assistance and cooperation.</p>	<p>Attention should also be paid to students’ language proficiency, including both Chinese and English.</p> <p>The standard of continuing education should also be raised.</p>

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<p><b>P2. To improve and enhance the platform for co-operation between the legal services sector of Hong Kong and the Mainland</b></p>	<p><b>P2-3</b> To make good use of the Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA) framework and other government-to-government mechanisms to clarify :</p> <p>(a) any existing ambiguities encountered by Hong Kong lawyers in providing services or developing business in the Mainland; and</p> <p>(b) any grey areas under the Arrangement for Reciprocal Enforcement of Arbitral Awards between Hong Kong and the Mainland.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Long-term strategy to be implemented on an on-going basis; and</li> <li>- Within the span of the 11<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan on any ambiguities or grey areas.</li> </ul>	<p>Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau, and Department of Justice</p> <p>Department of Justice</p>		<p>Under “One Country, Two Systems”, the legal systems of the two places differ, and so do the problems they encounter.</p> <p>The handling of legal matters may involve many different departments in the Mainland. For example, the appearance of lawyers in court in civil actions involves both the court and the Ministry of Justice. As such, some problems may take time to solve.</p>

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	<p><b>P2-4</b> To help the Mainland enrich the legal system by sharing with the Mainland our legislative and judicial experience and our experience in strengthening the rule of law; and to introduce the Hong Kong legal services sector's experience of self-regulation to their Mainland counterparts.</p>	<p>Long-term strategy to be implemented on an on-going basis</p>	<p>Department of Justice</p>	<p>The legal services sector should also be responsible for implementing the proposal.</p>	<p>Attention should be paid to the characteristics and effectiveness of the two legal systems.</p>
<p><b>P3. To reinforce and promote Hong Kong as a regional centre for legal services and the resolution of commercial disputes, in particular, those involving the Mainland and foreign countries</b></p>	<p><b>P3-5</b> To consider bringing amendments to the Arbitration Ordinance in order to render it more user friendly and to encourage parties to resolve their disputes by using arbitration services in Hong Kong</p> <p><b>P3-6</b> To promote greater use of mediation services in Hong Kong</p> <p><b>P3-7</b> To implement the Reciprocal Enforcement of Judgments Arrangement between the Mainland and</p>	<p>Long-term strategy to be implemented on an on-going basis. Amendment of legislation may be implemented within the span of the 11<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan.</p>	<p>Department of Justice</p>	<p>Hong Kong's arbitration and mediation organizations should also be responsible for implementing P3-5 and P3-6.</p> <p>Legal services sector and academics provide assistance and cooperation for P3-5, P3-6 and P3-7.</p>	<p>Implementation involves consultation, amendment of existing legislation, promotion and publicity.</p>

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	the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) by introducing legislation to the Legislative Council.				
<p><b>P4. To explore the feasibility of providing one-stop services to clients with different needs</b></p>	<p><b>P4-8</b> To conduct a study on any follow-up action regarding multi-jurisdictional partnership and multi-disciplinary co-operation.</p>	<p>The legal services sector should strive to complete the study and reach conclusions within the span of the 11<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan.</p>	<p>Please see the column “Relevant Organization” for details</p>	<p>The legal professional bodies and other related sectors (such as the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants, etc) should be responsible for implementing the proposal and initiate the discussion.</p> <p>Department of Justice provides assistance and cooperation.</p>	<p>These are controversial issues, and no final conclusion has yet been reached in some of the jurisdictions. The legal services sector has discussed the issues in the past but, given the divergent views, no consensus was reached.</p> <p>The principle of professional self-regulation should be respected in the course of cooperation.</p>

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	<p><b>P4-9</b> To discuss with the relevant Mainland authorities the establishment of “greater China law firms” as a mode of practice so as to allow lawyers qualified to practise in both the Mainland and Hong Kong to hold licences to practice in the two places simultaneously and provide services for their clients in both places.</p>	<p>Long-term strategy to be implemented on an on-going basis</p>	<p>Department of Justice</p>	<p>The legal services sector should also be responsible for implementing the proposal.</p>	<p>Under “One Country, Two Systems”, the legal systems of the two places differ.</p> <p>The scope of the proposal (e.g. the mode of practice) needs to be further defined. The practice of lawyers is generally subject to local laws and regulations. The proposal may involve amendment of legislation.</p>

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<p><b>P5. To maintain influence in the international professional arena.</b></p>	<p><b>P5-10</b> To play an active role in the formulation of accounting standards by international and regional accountancy bodies (e.g. International Federation of Accountants, International Accounting Standards Board and Confederation of Asian and Pacific Accountants), so that the formulation of standards can fully take into account the economic and financial markets development of the Mainland and Hong Kong.</p>	<p>Long-term strategy to be implemented on an on-going basis</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>The Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants is responsible for implementing the proposal.</p> <p>Other professional accountancy bodies and Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited provide assistance and cooperation.</p>	<p>The current Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards, auditing standards and codes of professional conduct are fully aligned with international standards. The Mainland aims to achieve convergence of its financial reporting standards with international standards from 2007. Given our considerable involvement in the international and regional accountancy bodies, Hong Kong can serve as the launchpad for Mainland accountancy bodies to develop a global presence and increase the influence of China's accountancy profession internationally.</p>

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<p><b>P6. To enhance cooperation and exchange between accounting profession in the Mainland and Hong Kong.</b></p>	<p><b>P6-11</b> To conduct discussion with relevant Mainland authorities on early extension of the scope of mutual exemption for qualification examinations under the CEPA framework including:</p> <p>(a) enabling Hong Kong accountants whose professional qualification was not acquired through the The Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants' Qualification Programme Examinations to benefit from the mutual examination exemption arrangements; and</p> <p>(b) increasing the number of mutual exemption examination papers.</p>	<p>To commence negotiations with the relevant Mainland authorities in the first two years of the 11<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan period. If the option is feasible, the timetable will be finalized together with the relevant Mainland authorities</p>	<p>Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau and Commerce, and Industry and Technology Bureau</p>	<p>The Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants is also responsible for implementing the proposal.</p>	<p>Hong Kong accountants whose professional qualification was not acquired through the The Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants Qualification Programme Examinations mostly obtained their professional qualification by sitting examinations administered by 10+ overseas accountancy institutions, it is expected that negotiations with the Mainland on this proposal will take some time.</p> <p>As the Mainland has announced that financial reporting of listed enterprises must comply with the new Chinese Accounting Standards with effect from 1 January 2007, the discussion with the Mainland may first target mutual exemption for the professional examination paper on "financial reporting/accounting".</p>



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	<p><b>P6-12</b> To actively pursue allowing Hong Kong and Mainland accounting firms to “practise in association” and to take forward this proposal under the CEPA framework.</p>	<p>To commence negotiations with the relevant Mainland authorities in the first two years of the 11<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan period. If the option is feasible, the timetable will be finalized together with the relevant Mainland authorities</p>	<p>Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau and Commerce, and Industry and Technology Bureau</p>		<p>The option of allowing Hong Kong and Mainland accounting firms to “practise in association” may involve legislative amendments to the People's Republic of China's (PRC) Law on Certified Public Accountants. At present, the Mainland does not allow accounting firms in different provinces to do so.</p>

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<p><b>P7. To actively transfer knowledge and provide technical support in the formulation and convergence of our country's financial reporting standards and to provide necessary training, so that its accounting system can be perfected and internationally recognised.</b></p>	<p><b>P7-13</b> To provide advice and assistance to the China Accounting Standards Committee in the standard convergence process; and</p> <p><b>P7-14</b> To provide training courses to acquaint and update Mainland's accountants with the knowledge and usage of International Financial Reporting Standards.</p>	<p>Long-term strategy to be implemented on an on-going basis</p> <p>Long-term strategy to be implemented on an on-going basis</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>The Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants is responsible for implementing the proposals. Other professional accountancy bodies provide assistance and cooperation.</p>	

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<p><b>P8. To consolidate and further develop Hong Kong's position as an outstanding professional medical centre in the Region</b></p>	<p><b>P8-15</b> Explore the feasibility of setting up multi-partite medical centres of excellence. The centres would, in the long run, become focal points for medical experts, provide training opportunities for the medical profession and render quality medical services (such as tertiary treatment) to people of Hong Kong and those from the Mainland and other regions.</p>	<p>Should seek to complete the study within the 11<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan period.</p>	<p>Health, Welfare and Food Bureau</p>	<p>The medical sector and other involved sectors</p>	<p>Need to consider whether the medical system, facilities and manpower in Hong Kong have adequate capacity to cope with the demand of people coming from outside Hong Kong for medical treatment. To increase the provision of manpower and facilities as appropriate.</p> <p>Should assess the distribution of patients and avoid causing a massive drain on patients from other local medical institutes, which would adversely affect the healthy development of the medical sector.</p>

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	<p><b>P8-16</b> Introduce more channels for promoting the medical institutes and services in Hong Kong, such as setting up websites; or disseminating relevant information to people from the Mainland and other regions who are interested in visiting Hong Kong for medical services through related organizations, such as the Hong Kong Tourism Board's offices in the Mainland and overseas.</p> <p><b>P8-17</b> Consider suitably relaxing the restrictions on advertising in the Professional Code and Conduct for the Guidance of Registered Medical Practitioners and the code for dentists.</p>	<p>Should seek to complete this item within the 11<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan period.</p> <p>Should seek to complete this item within the 11<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan period.</p>	<p>Please see the column "Relevant Organization" for details</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>The medical sector</p> <p>Health, Welfare and Food Bureau to provide assistance as appropriate</p> <p>Medical Council and Dental Council to consider the proposal.</p>	<p>Dissemination of the relevant information should observe the medical ethics and the related restrictions on advertisement in Hong Kong.</p>

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	<p><b>P8-18</b> Consider the feasibility of issuing entry permits of a longer validity to facilitate Mainland patients to seek medical treatment in Hong Kong.</p>	<p>Should seek to complete the study within the 11<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan period.</p>	<p>Health, Welfare and Food Bureau and Security Bureau</p>		<p>Need to consider whether the medical system, facilities and manpower in Hong Kong have adequate capacity to cope with the demand of people coming from outside Hong Kong for medical treatment. To increase the provision of manpower and facilities as appropriate.</p> <p>Need to carefully consider the cost to society, e.g. how to finance the Mainland patients' cost of living when they are in Hong Kong; whether they would compete for public resources with local residents.</p>

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<p><b>P9. To promote exchanges in medical practice and culture between Hong Kong and the Mainland, enhance each other's professional standard and status, and explore opportunities for further development</b></p>	<p>Exchanges in medical culture  <b>P9-19</b> Encourage mutual visits between medical professional bodies and their Mainland counterparts to enhance understanding of the Mainland's medical systems, regulations and direction of development, and to facilitate experience-sharing.</p>	<p>Long-term strategy to be implemented on an on-going basis</p>	<p>Please see the column "Relevant Organization" for details</p>	<p>Medical professional bodies  Health, Welfare and Food Bureau to provide assistance as appropriate.</p>	<p>As there are already ample opportunities for academic exchanges between the medical professions of Hong Kong and the Mainland, consideration should be given to increasing the exchanges on matters concerning medical practices.</p>
	<p>Exchange of experience on professional practices  <b>P9-20</b> Encourage the setting up of medical teams led by senior medical professionals and managers and comprising young personnel to provide medical services in the Mainland, thereby introducing the medical culture and management model of Hong Kong to the Mainland.</p>	<p>Long-term strategy to be implemented on an on-going basis</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Medical professional bodies</p>	<p>Need to consider if there are adequate medical professionals and managers to join the medical team.</p>

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	<p><b>P9-21</b> Develop Hong Kong into a medical training centre to provide continuous medical training for both Hong Kong and the Mainland, promote medical exchanges and enhance Hong Kong's international reputation.</p> <p><b>P9-22</b> Collaborate with the Mainland in organizing continuous medical training programmes to introduce the medical culture and management models in Hong Kong to the medical system of the Mainland.</p>	<p>Long-term strategy to be implemented on an on-going basis</p> <p>Long-term strategy to be implemented on an on-going basis</p>	<p>Health, Welfare and Food Bureau, and Hospital Authority</p> <p>Health, Welfare and Food Bureau, and Hospital Authority</p>	<p>The medical sector</p> <p>The medical sector</p>	

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	<p><b>P9-23</b> Implement the Memorandum of Understanding between Ministry of Health and Hong Kong Academy of Medicine on a Pilot Programme for Specialists Registration System signed by the Ministry of Health and the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine in April 2006.</p> <p><b>P9-24</b> The Hospital Authority will discuss with medical organisations in some provinces and municipalities in the Mainland on cooperation agreements with a view to signing cooperation memoranda and taking forward exchange and training programmes.</p>	<p>Long-term strategy to be implemented on an on-going basis</p> <p>Long-term strategy to be implemented on an on-going basis</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>Hospital Authority</p>	<p>Hong Kong Academy of Medicine</p>	



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<p><b>P10. To provide a conducive environment to encourage Hong Kong medical practitioners to practise in the Mainland</b></p>	<p><b>P10-25</b> Promote the development of the concept of “Personal Professional Services Governance” in the Mainland, with a view to creating more opportunities for Hong Kong doctors to engage in solo-practice in the Mainland.</p>	<p>Long-term strategy to be implemented on an on-going basis</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Medical professional bodies</p>	<p>Under the existing public medical system of the Mainland, private doctors in Hong Kong may not engage in solo-practice in the Mainland and the setting up of private clinics is subject to the regulations governing external business investment, which require a capital of not less than \$20 million.</p> <p>Doctors who want to do solo-practice in the Mainland should be prepared to handle disputes involving customers and medical incidents.</p>

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	<p><b>P10-26</b> Under the CEPA framework, eligible Hong Kong doctors may, upon obtaining the qualification for practising in the Mainland, operate clinics in the Mainland. However, the application for operation and the registration of the clinics shall be dealt with in accordance with relevant Mainland rules and regulations. Clarifications should be sought on the details of such rules and regulations.</p>	<p>To clarify the uncertain parts with relevant Mainland authorities during the 11<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan period.</p>	<p>Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau, and Health, Welfare and Food Bureau</p>	<p>N/A</p>	

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<p><b>P11. To strengthen the support for the development of our construction and related engineering services sector in the Mainland and overseas markets</b></p>	<p><b>P11-27</b> To actively pursue the setting up of measures in helping business partner matching as well as provision of tender and business information on the Mainland and overseas markets.</p>	<p>To implement the proposal within the period of the 11<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan.</p>	<p>Environment, Transport and Works Bureau</p>	<p>The construction and related engineering services sector and Hong Kong Trade Development Council</p>	
	<p><b>P11-28</b> To reinforce the initiatives to attract, maintain and nurture professionals for the construction and related engineering services and to strengthen professional training and technological research.</p>	<p>To complete a study on the professional resources of the construction and related engineering services and formulate overall strategy within the period of the 11<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan.</p>	<p>Environment, Transport and Works Bureau, and Education and Manpower Bureau</p>	<p>The construction and related engineering services sector and Universities</p>	

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<p><b>P12. To enhance the cooperation of the construction and related engineering services sectors between Hong Kong and the Mainland.</b></p>	<p><b>P12-29</b> To assist our Mainland’s counterparts in “going out” to international markets with our professional management and with international market experience and networking -</p> <p>(a) to organize exchange activities for professionals of the two places to strengthen their connection and enhance the professional standard of both sides.</p> <p>(b) to organize overseas promotional and study visits to enhance the cooperation of professionals of the two places for jointly exploring the Mainland and overseas markets.</p>	<p>To organise different forms of exchange programmes and overseas study visits within the period of the 11<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan.</p>	<p>Environment, Transport and Works Bureau</p>	<p>The construction and related engineering services sector</p>	

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	<p><b>P12-30</b> To strive for the establishment of wholly owned enterprises by Hong Kong's construction and related engineering professional services in the Mainland</p> <p>(a) To continue the consultation with the Mainland authorities concerned under the framework of CEPA, with a view to lowering the market entry requirements and expanding the scope of business in the Mainland;</p> <p>(b) To strive for early implementation of CEPA concessions and simplification of application and assessment procedures;</p>	<p>To reach understanding with the Mainland side on the proposal during the period of the 11<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan.</p>	<p>Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau, and Environment, Transport and Works Bureau</p> <p>Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau, and Environment, Transport and Works Bureau</p>		<p>As the proposal involves Mainland policies and regulations, the feasibility has to be further studied.</p>

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	<p>(c) To strive for the implementation of a pilot scheme in the nine provinces/autonomous region of the Pan-Pearl River Delta (Pan-PRD) region for relaxing the requirement of the proportion of Hong Kong professionals registered in the Mainland when processing construction and engineering design enterprise qualification applications submitted by Hong Kong companies, with a view to speeding up the establishment of their wholly owned operations in the Mainland.</p>		<p>Environment, Transport and Works Bureau</p>		

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<p><b>P13. To target the urban construction and development projects in second-tier cities in the Mainland for our “one-stop” integrated services (including planning, site formation, building development, construction and management of transport infrastructural facilities, energy/water supply and waste disposal, etc). These one-stop integrated services also cover the whole project life cycle including financing, feasibility studies, planning consultation, environmental assessment, design, contract management, construction supervision and management, as well as project</b></p>	<p><b>P13-31</b> To conduct a market research on the trends of Mainland economic development and the specific demands of different regions for urban construction and development.</p> <p><b>P13-32</b> To conduct a feasibility study on the details, modes of operation and management structures of the diversified modes of services (including “one-stop” services), including matters on “cross-industries” cooperation.</p> <p><b>P13-33</b> To work out the detailed proposal on the diversified modes of services for consultation of the relevant Mainland authorities and industries.</p>	<p>Within the period of the 11<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To complete the market research and the feasibility study;</li> <li>- To work out the detailed proposal on the diversified modes of services;</li> <li>- To carry out publicity and promotion activities.</li> </ul>	<p>Environment, Transport and Works Bureau</p>	<p>The construction and related engineering services sector and the real estate services sector</p>	

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management.	<b>P13-34</b> To carry out publicity and promotion activities upon implementation of the proposal.				



**Sub-group on Innovation, Technology and Information Services**

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<b><u>Innovation and Technology</u></b>					
<p><b>P14. Hong Kong should participate proactively in the process of the development and formulation of product standards in the Mainland. The HKSARG should appeal to the relevant Mainland authorities to allow Hong Kong enterprises and experts to participate in these works. Focus areas include cross-boundary business transaction, multi-media products, DigiHome, digital TV, radio</b></p>	<p><b>P14-35</b> SARG should discuss a cooperation plan with the relevant ministries of the Central People's Government (e.g. the Ministry of Information Industry) as soon as possible in order to facilitate the participation of enterprises, Research and Development (R&amp;D) institutions and experts in the development of national standards for technology and products, so that the local industry could better understand the key points of these standards to harness the opportunities of</p>	<p>To discuss and formulate a cooperation plan with the Ministry of Information Industry in early 2007</p>	<p>Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau</p>		

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<p>frequency identification (RFID), Audio Video coding Standard (AVS) and WLAN Authentication and Privacy Infrastructure (WAPI).</p>	<p>cooperation and business development.</p> <p><b>P14-36</b> To make use of Hong Kong's R&amp;D strengths and marketing experience effectively when providing assistance in the process of standards development in the Mainland.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau</p>		

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<p><b>P15. Hong Kong should establish closer cooperation with Shenzhen and work out specific measures for setting up the “Shenzhen-Hong Kong Innovation Circle”. With a view to serving as a regional one-stop platform for innovation and technology services, both sides should enhance exchanges in expertise, information and resources and promote collaboration between the R&amp;D institutions. The</b></p>	<p><b>P15-37</b> SARG should sign a cooperation agreement with Shenzhen on strengthening technology cooperation in various aspects, including establishing a mechanism for regular communication, fostering exchange in expertise and information, jointly supporting R&amp;D projects, effectively utilising the existing technology platforms, providing convenient immigration arrangements for R&amp;D personnel, promoting cooperation between science and technology parks and intermediary service organisations.</p>	<p>To sign the agreement in early 2007</p>	<p>Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau</p>		

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<p><b>two governments should actively promote the two places as a world-class regional hub for technology activities to the international community.</b></p>	<p><b>P15-38</b> The HKSARG and the community should actively promote the advantages of Shenzhen and Hong Kong in technology development on appropriate occasions.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau</p>	<p>Industry associations of the relevant industries, technology institutions and tertiary institutions</p>	

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<b><u>Information Service</u></b>					
<p><b>P16. Hong Kong should actively promote overseas its numerous advantages that are conducive to the development of data services, including a stable and secure electricity supply network, low-cost and reliable telecommunications service as well as state-of-the-art information infrastructure and a sound legal system, and strive to be the key data centre in the region. To achieve this goal, the HKSARG should review the existing land policy to allow service providers to set up the relevant equipment or facilities in industrial</b></p>	<p><b>P16-39</b> SARG should review the existing land policy regarding the application procedures by emerging industries (e.g. telecommunications, information technology, etc.) to operate and install relevant equipment and facilities in industrial premises and allowing them to pay government rent instead of land premium, with a view to coping with the growing demand for the service of data centre.</p>	<p>To conduct the relevant review in 2007</p>	<p>Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau</p>		

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<p>premises without requiring them to make special application or pay additional fees.</p>					
<p><b>P17. Harnessing our existing infrastructure, Hong Kong can ally with Shenzhen as a pilot area to establish a quality and reliable cross-boundary broadband network for providing e-commerce and digital content transmission services on a business-to-business basis across the boundary.</b></p>	<p><b>P17-40</b> SARG and Shenzhen should examine how to integrate their network facilities to form a backbone network covering both technological and general commercial applications, thereby allowing users of both places to carry out e-commerce and digital content transmission by connecting to the backbone network.</p>	<p>To start discussion with the Shenzhen authorities in 2007 to draw up specific measures as soon as possible</p>	<p>Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau</p>		

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	<p><b>P17-41</b> Where appropriate, Hong Kong should consider extending the operation of the cross-boundary broadband network to Guangdong Province and other Mainland provinces and cities.</p>	<p>To further examine the proposal in the light of the progress of the Hong Kong/ Shenzhen broadband network</p>	<p>Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau</p>		

**Sub-group on Tourism**

Strategic Proposals	Proposed Specific Measures	Implementation Schedule	Responsible Bureaux / Departments	Relevant Organizations	Remarks
<b>P18. To enhance cross-boundary visitor flows</b>					
18.1 To strengthen Hong Kong's role as a transportation hub by increasing supporting transport facilities	<b>P18-42</b> Air: To discuss with relevant Mainland authorities to explore measures to improve air traffic flow, e.g. establishing additional flight paths between the two sides and reduce flight waiting time.	Ongoing	Economic Development and Labour Bureau, and Civil Aviation Department		



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	<p><b>P18-43</b> Land: To improve cross-boundary rail service, e.g. increasing the frequency of through train service between Guangzhou and Hong Kong, and shortening the rail journeys between other Mainland cities and Hong Kong.</p>	See remarks	Environment, Transport and Works Bureau	Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation	<p><u>Increasing the frequency of Guangzhou-Kowloon Through Train service</u> It is a commercial decision on the part of Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation to increase the frequency of through train service or not. The Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation will properly adjust the frequency of through train service in the light of actual patronage.</p> <p><u>Shortening rail journeys</u> The Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation noted that Mainland railways are</p>

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					undergoing a speed raising project. The journeys of through train service will be shortened upon the completion of the project.
	<b>P18-44</b> Sea: To speed up the construction of new cruise terminal so that Hong Kong can become a “must-call” destination on cruise itineraries.	2012	Tourism Commission		
18.2 To implement an entry control policy that will help enhance cross-boundary passenger flows	<b>P18-45</b> To strive for an entry control policy that facilitates passenger flows by exchanging views with relevant Mainland authorities on the feasibility of such measures, e.g. allowing visitors under the Individual Visit Scheme (IVS) heading for Macau to enter Hong Kong visa-free, and allowing overseas visitors to travel	Ongoing	Security Bureau		

Strategic Proposals	Proposed Specific Measures	Implementation Schedule	Responsible Bureaux / Departments	Relevant Organizations	Remarks
	between the Mainland and Hong Kong without an additional visa in the Mainland.				
<b>P.19 To facilitate tourism development in Hong Kong and the Mainland</b>					
19.1 To strengthen co-operation with the Mainland in tourism promotion	<p><b>P19-46</b> To communicate with more Mainland provinces/cities to establish cooperation plans and to promote thematic “multi-destination” itineraries to overseas markets.</p> <p><b>P19-47</b> To ride on the opportunities presented by Beijing 2008 Olympics to co-operate with the Mainland in overseas promotion of “multi-destination” itineraries.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>2008</p>	<p>Tourism Commission</p>	<p>Hong Kong Tourism Board, Travel Industry Council of Hong Kong, and local industry</p> <p>Hong Kong Tourism Board</p>	

Strategic Proposals	Proposed Specific Measures	Implementation Schedule	Responsible Bureaux / Departments	Relevant Organizations	Remarks
	<p><b>P19-48</b> To discuss with individual provinces to achieve more effective co-ordination of multi-lateral joint promotion efforts.</p>	Ongoing		Hong Kong Tourism Board	
<p>19.2 To capitalise on the new measures under CEPA in order to create business opportunities for local tourism industry</p>	<p><b>P19-49</b> To grasp the opportunities arising from the new measures under CEPA, to enter into the Mainland market by operating “Hong Kong and Macau Tours” in Guangdong under a pilot scheme with effective from 1 January 2007. This will lead to healthy competition that helps improve the tourism market operation in the Mainland</p>	Early 2007		Travel Industry Council of Hong Kong, and local industry	

Strategic Proposals	Proposed Specific Measures	Implementation Schedule	Responsible Bureaux / Departments	Relevant Organizations	Remarks
	<p><b>P19-50</b> To organise exchange of visits for stakeholders in the Pan-PRD region and other provinces/cities, including travel agents, tourist attraction operators and hotels, to promote mutual understanding of the economic environment and development potential. They then can consider making investment and explore business opportunities.</p>	Ongoing	Tourism Commission	Travel Industry Council of Hong Kong	

Strategic Proposals	Proposed Specific Measures	Implementation Schedule	Responsible Bureaux / Departments	Relevant Organizations	Remarks
	<p><b>P19-51</b> To study the feasibility for Hong Kong travel agents to operate outbound tours in the Mainland (Guangdong Province as a pilot scheme) in support of the request of local industry.</p> <p><b>P19-52</b> To strengthen promotion in IVS cities, both previously and newly joined to enhance deeper understanding of Hong Kong among visitors from these cities, hence to attract their visits to Hong Kong.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Tourism Commission</p> <p>Tourism Commission</p>	<p>Travel Industry Council of Hong Kong</p> <p>Hong Kong Tourism Board</p>	



Strategic Proposals	Proposed Specific Measures	Implementation Schedule	Responsible Bureaux / Departments	Relevant Organizations	Remarks
	<p><b>P20-55</b> To consider the recruitment of Mainland talent who are fluent in foreign languages, such as Russian, Spanish, etc so as to provide professional translation service for local tourism industry.</p>	Ongoing	Tourism Commission		
<p>20.2 To enhance the appeal of Hong Kong through boosting tourists' confidence in visiting the city with better tourist protection in support of the China National Tourism Administration's (CNTA) policy of "Honest &amp; Quality Tourism".</p>	<p><b>P20-56</b> To enhance communication with the CNTA about the implementation of "Honest &amp; Quality Tourism" and promote co-operation between the two sides on regulatory issues.</p>	Ongoing	Tourism Commission	Hong Kong Tourism Board, and Travel Industry Council of Hong Kong	



Strategic Proposals	Proposed Specific Measures	Implementation Schedule	Responsible Bureaux / Departments	Relevant Organizations	Remarks
	<p><b>P20-57</b> To continue to enhance the “Quality Tourism Services Scheme” and expand the Scheme to cover more tourism-related trades.</p>	Ongoing		Hong Kong Tourism Board	
	<p><b>P20-58</b> To review the Demerit Points System for Registered Shops under the “14 Days 100 Percent Refund Guarantee Scheme” to make it more effective in protecting visitor rights.</p>	End-2006		Travel Industry Council of Hong Kong	
	<p><b>P20-59</b> To step up the publicity to inform tourists of their consumer rights and protection in Hong Kong, increase the transparency of their itineraries and items of expenditure, and promote “smart consumption”.</p>	End-2006	Tourism Commission	Hong Kong Tourism Board Travel Industry Council of Hong Kong	

Strategic Proposals	Proposed Specific Measures	Implementation Schedule	Responsible Bureaux / Departments	Relevant Organizations	Remarks
	<p><b>P20-60</b> To support the Travel Industry Council of Hong Kong to enforce strictly existing rules and penalties stipulated so as to punish the non-compliance of travel agents and tour guides.</p> <p><b>P20-61</b> To support Travel Industry Council of Hong Kong's early review of the existing regulatory mechanisms and consider inviting members from different sectors to partake in the regulatory mechanism.</p>	<p>End-2006</p> <p>End-2006</p>	<p></p> <p>Tourism Commission</p>	<p>Travel Industry Council of Hong Kong</p> <p>Travel Industry Council of Hong Kong</p>	

Strategic Proposals	Proposed Specific Measures	Implementation Schedule	Responsible Bureaux / Departments	Relevant Organizations	Remarks
<b>P.21 To enhance local tourist attractions and supporting facilities</b>					
21.1 To plan new tourism facilities and improve existing attractions	<b>P21-62</b> To plan new tourism facilities to enhance the appeal of Hong Kong, e.g. providing full support to the Ocean Park Corporation in implementing its redevelopment project and facilitating development of new cruise terminal facilities as soon as practicable.	To be introduced successively in the coming years	Tourism Commission	Operators of related tourism facilities	

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	<p><b>P21-63</b> To implement a series of projects under the Tourism District Enhancement Programme to enhance the existing attractions, e.g. the Aberdeen Tourism Project to complement the Redevelopment Project of the Ocean Park, enhancement of the Lei Yue Mun waterfront, and development of a piazza in Tsim Sha Tsui.</p>	To be completed in phases by 2012	Tourism Commission		

