

**Recommendations from the Task Force on Economic Challenges
For promoting the development of the six economic areas**

1. Educational services

(a) Immediate measures

- Government should provide suitable sites as soon as possible within the urban area to support the development of self-financed post secondary and higher education programmes by interested sponsoring bodies.
- Government should review the Post-Secondary Colleges Ordinance (Cap. 320) to provide a legal framework to facilitate the development of self-financed post secondary and higher education institutions with potential and capabilities.
- To facilitate Mainland talents to stay and work in Hong Kong, Government should consider whether there is a need to set up schools outside the current international school system, which will follow or be in alignment with the Mainland's curriculum, and provide policy support to extend the scope of our education services.

(b) Medium-term measures

- Continue to explore the feasibility of developing the Lok Ma Chau Loop with higher education as the major land use, to be complemented by new high technology and cultural and creative industries.
- Explore the possibility for Mainland students to pursue studies at our non public-sector senior secondary schools.
- Work with local institutions to strengthen cooperation with the Mainland in developing quality higher education to complement the "Outline of the Plan for the Reform and Development of Pearl River Delta (2008-2020)".

2. Medical services

(a) Immediate measures

- Government should reserve suitable sites for auction by operators interested in providing private medical services.
- Speed up the establishment of the medical centres of excellence in paediatrics and neuroscience to further promote public-private partnership.

(b) Medium-term measures

- Enhance training of medical professionals, including doctors, nurses and allied health professionals.
- Create favourable conditions to attract more medical talents from outside Hong Kong for exchange of expertise, research and training, with a view to further raising the professional standard of the local healthcare sector.

- Encourage public hospitals to adopt Chinese medicine in treatment.
- Facilitate the promotion of medical professionals and private medical services of Hong Kong in the Mainland.

3. Testing and certification

(a) Immediate measures

- Establish a “Hong Kong Council for Testing and Certification” to enhance professional standards and recognition of our industry in the international arena, and explore more business opportunities.
- Government should continue to provide more business opportunities for the private laboratories, for example, by increase outsourcing of food tests to complement new legislation, and encourage the Chinese medicine trade to monitor the quality of Chinese medicine products by conducting basic tests on their products on a regular basis.

(b) Medium-term measures

- Promote our testing and certification services in the Mainland and overseas through the Hong Kong Productivity Council, the Trade Development Council and the Government’s Economic and Trade Offices.
- Pursue discussions with the Mainland authorities through CEPA to seek their agreement to recognise the testing reports of Hong Kong-accredited laboratories.
- Strengthen vocational training programmes for the industry.

4. Environmental industry

(a) Immediate measures

- Government should take the lead to build Hong Kong into a green and quality living city. Apart from legislating to facilitate behavioral change, Government should set a good example by expanding the scope of green procurement and should support the recycling industry.
- Launch a pilot recycling scheme at the EcoPark by inviting non-profit making organizations to participate in the collection and processing of recyclables such as waste plastics and waste electrical and electronic equipment.

(b) Medium-term measures

- Assist local industries to expand their Mainland market, e.g. by participation in environmental, infrastructural and Clean Development Mechanism projects.
- Encourage professional and training bodies to upgrade equip their practitioners’ professional and technical know-how on environmental services, auditing and consultancies.

5. Innovation and technology

(a) Immediate measures

- Actively explore the provision of financial and policy incentives to encourage more R&D investment in the private sector.
- Enhance the technological infrastructure by exploring the development potential of Science Park Phase 3 and facilitating the revitalization of the use of industrial estates in meeting the demand from technology industries.
- Provide more resources to the five R&D Centres to roll out more applied R&D projects and to strengthen their work in commercialization through the ITF.

(b) Medium-term measures

- Facilitate commercial exploitation of intellectual property in Government's IT systems.
- Reinforce technology cooperation with Shenzhen under the Shenzhen-Hong Kong Innovation Circle and jointly attract more R&D establishments into the region.

6. Cultural and creative industries

(a) Immediate measures

- Better nurture the local audience especially the younger generations to develop their interest in and appreciation for arts and culture.
- Consider policy initiatives to facilitate the conversion or redevelopment of under-utilised industrial buildings to provide more useable floor space and land for the cultural and creative industries and other suitable economic areas.
- Through sponsorship by the Film Development Fund, introduce elements of film and animation in the new secondary school curriculum of visual arts. This will train talent for the industries as such early stage exposure will help the students to develop interest in creative industries.
- Organise more major regional events which can be further expanded to become signature events for creative industries in the region, e.g. the Entertainment Expo and the Business of Design Week, so as to make Hong Kong the creative capital in the region.

(b) Medium-term measures

- Government should continue to seek more liberalisation measures under CEPA for the industries (e.g. online games, comics and animation, and digital entertainment) to access the Mainland market.
- Government should review its procurement policy for public projects to put greater emphasis on creative elements and facilitate participation by SMEs with creative expertise.
- Enhance promotion of Hong Kong creative products overseas and in the Mainland and assist SMEs/individuals to build up the Hong Kong brand in the Mainland and overseas.