

香港特別行政區政府  
行政長官 梁振英先生

尊敬的梁特首：

香港總商會一直密切關注國家宏觀經濟發展規劃的制定，繼 2006 年香港首度被納入國家「十一五」規劃後，在國家「十二五」規劃中，更首次設專章概述香港在國家發展戰略中的功能定位，此舉令香港各界甚為鼓舞，並期望在未來的國家經濟發展藍圖中，香港的參與能繼續有所增強。當前，國家正就「十三五」規劃進行研究，並落實在即，本會特研寫了一份建議書交兩地政府參考，希望在「十三五」規劃中，香港能充分發揮自身優勢，繼續為國家經濟發展作出貢獻。

在建議書中，本會提出香港商界希望在金融、航運、物流、旅遊、專業服務等優勢產業，繼續獲得兩地政府支持參與國家建設。同時，亦希望國家鼓勵香港服務創新、培育兩地新興產業。香港在「十三五」的定位和角色，總結歸納如下：

#### 一、鞏固和提升本港國際金融中心地位

- 支持香港發展成為離岸人民幣業務中心
- 支持香港成為“一帶一路”戰略的融資和資產管理平臺
- 支持香港加入亞洲基礎設施投資銀行
- 支持香港內地基金互認方面作出突破
- 支持香港深圳兩地股市互聯互通
- 培育香港成為最主要的離岸人民幣債券市場

#### 二、鞏固和提升本港國際航運中心地位

- 支持香港發展成為高增值航運服務中心
- 加強珠三角港口群及機場的整體效能

- 三、 支持深化兩地服務貿易合作，全面實現內地和香港服務貿易自由化
- 幫助內地企業 “走出去” 的理想平臺
  - 在 2015 年兩地基本實現服務貿易自由化的基礎上，內地與香港共同拓展合作深度，加快經濟融合
- 四、 支持香港作為亞洲的知識產權貿易中心
- 香港發展與知識產權相關的高增值服務，成為區內卓越的知識產權貿易中心，為內地及海外企業提供中介服務
- 五、 鼓勵服務創新，共同創造高附加值的產品和服務
- 利用香港企業勇於創新的精神，協助內地業界發展檢測認證、旅遊會展、解決爭議服務、文化創意產業
- 六、 加強珠三角地區環境保護，合力推動發展
- 建議中央政府向國際海事組織申請設立珠三角水域排放控制區
  - 香港可以擔當重要角色，測試和引進國外新興的環保技術和經驗到內地

最後，冀望國家在研究規劃工作時，能考慮到本會建議書內的意見。香港商界亦將積極抓住國家經濟發展的機遇，與香港政府及社會各界，共同努力提升香港的競爭力，持續為兩地經貿發展作出貢獻，以配合國家最終擬定的整體發展策略。祝願香港與內地繁榮昌盛，共同攜手邁向下一個更輝煌燦爛的經濟里程碑。

敬頌

鈞祺！

香港總商會主席



彭耀佳

2015年4月23日

附件：香港總商會 國家「十三五」規劃建議書

抄送：財政司長 曾俊華先生

中央人民政府駐香港特別行政區聯絡辦公室主任  
張曉明先生

尊敬的張主任：

香港總商會一直密切關注國家宏觀經濟發展規劃的制定，繼 2006 年香港首度被納入國家「十一五」規劃後，在國家「十二五」規劃中，更首次設專章概述香港在國家發展戰略中的功能定位，此舉令香港各界甚為鼓舞，並期望在未來的國家經濟發展藍圖中，香港的參與能繼續有所增強。

當前，國家正就「十三五」規劃進行研究，並落在在即，本會特研寫了一份建議書交兩地政府參考，希望在「十三五」規劃中，香港能充分發揮自身優勢，繼續為國家經濟發展作出貢獻。

在建議書中，本會提出香港商界希望在金融、航運、物流、旅遊、專業服務等優勢產業，繼續獲得兩地政府支持參與國家建設。同時，亦希望國家鼓勵香港服務創新、培育兩地新興產業。香港在「十三五」的定位和角色，總結歸納如下：

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#### 二、鞏固和提升本港國際航運中心地位

- 支持香港發展成為高增值航運服務中心
- 加強珠三角港口群和機場的整體效能

三、支持深化两地服务贸易合作，全面实现内地和香港服务贸易自由化

- 帮助内地企业“走出去”的理想平台
- 在2015年两地基本实现服务贸易自由化的基础上，内地与香港共同拓展合作深度，加快经济融合

四、支持香港作为亚洲的知识产权贸易中心

- 香港发展与知识产权相关的高增值服务，成为区内卓越的知识产权贸易中心，为内地及海外企业提供中介服务

五、鼓励服务创新，共同创造高附加值的产品和服务

- 利用香港企业勇于创新的精神，协助内地业界发展检测认证、旅游会展、解决争议服务、文化创意产业

六、加强珠三角地区环境保护，合力推动发展

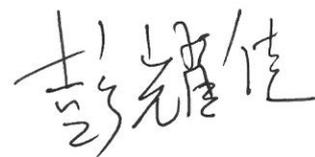
- 建议中央政府向国际海事组织申请设立珠三角水域排放控制区
- 香港可以担当重要角色，测试和引进国外新兴的环保技术和经验到内地

最后，冀望国家在研究规划工作时，能考虑到本会建议书内的意见。香港商界亦将积极抓住国家经济发展的机遇，与香港政府及社会各界，共同努力提升香港的竞争力，持续为两地经贸发展作出贡献，以配合国家最终拟定的整体发展策略。祝愿国家繁荣昌盛，共同携手迈向下一个更辉煌灿烂的经济里程碑。

敬颂

钧祺！

香港总商会主席



彭耀佳

2015年4月23日

附件：香港总商会 国家「十三五」规划建议书

## 国家发展和改革委员会主任 徐绍史先生

尊敬的徐主任：

香港总商会一直密切关注国家宏观经济发展规划的制定，继 2006 年香港首度被纳入国家「十一五」规划后，在国家「十二五」规划中，更首次设专章概述香港在国家发展战略中的功能定位，此举令香港各界甚为鼓舞，并期望在未来的国家经济发展蓝图中，香港的参与能继续有所增强。当前，国家正就「十三五」规划进行研究，并落实在即，本会特研写了一份建议书交两地政府参考，希望在「十三五」规划中，香港能充分发挥自身优势，继续为国家经济发展作出贡献。

在建议书中，本会提出香港商界希望在金融、航运、物流、旅游、专业服务等优势产业，继续获得两地政府支持参与国家建设。同时，亦希望国家鼓励香港服务创新，培育两地新兴产业。香港在「十三五」的定位和角色，总结归纳如下：

### 一、巩固和提升本港国际金融中心地位

- 支持香港发展成为离岸人民币业务中心
- 支持香港成为“一带一路”战略的融资和资产管理平台
- 支持香港加入亚洲基础设施投资银行
- 支持香港内地在基金互认方面作出突破
- 支持香港深圳两地股市互联互通
- 培育香港成为最主要的离岸人民币债券市场

### 二、巩固和提升本港国际航运中心地位

- 支持香港发展成为高增值航运服务中心
- 加强珠三角港口群和机场的整体效能

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- 帮助内地企业“走出去”的理想平台
  - 在2015年两地基本实现服务贸易自由化的基础上，内地与香港共同拓展合作深度，加快经济融合
- 四、支持香港作为亚洲的知识产权贸易中心
- 香港发展与知识产权相关的高增值服务，成为区内卓越的知识产权贸易中心，为内地及海外企业提供中介服务
- 五、鼓励服务创新，共同创造高附加值的产品和服务
- 利用香港企业勇于创新的精神，协助内地业界发展检测认证、旅游会展、解决争议服务、文化创意产业
- 六、加强珠三角地区环境保护，合力推动发展
- 建议中央政府向国际海事组织申请设立珠三角水域排放控制区
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敬颂

钧祺！

香港总商会主席



彭耀佳

2015年4月23日

附件：香港总商会国家「十三五」规划建议书

## **Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce Proposal on National 13<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan (2015 • 4 • 23)**

With the accelerated pace of reform and opening up in China, the economic tie between the Mainland and Hong Kong has been tightened, marching along the trend of economic integration. The study by the Central Government on the 13<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan is in full swing, and in fact, the business community in Hong Kong is looking forward to the 13th Five-Year Plan with great enthusiasm and expectation. We are pleased with the incorporation of Hong Kong in the last two Five-Year Plans, and are hoping to see bigger participation of Hong Kong in the blueprint of the national social and economic development in the coming five years (2016-2020). Being part of China, Hong Kong's sustained economic growth is closely dependent on the country's prosperity and stability, and vice versa. Hong Kong and the Mainland's economies are intimately related and mutually beneficial, so are the 13<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan and Hong Kong's future.

2. As the oldest and biggest business association in Hong Kong, the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce Chamber has all along been paying close attention to the Mainland's economic development, and thus we take the 13<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan very seriously as it outlines and directs the national development in the ensuing five-year planning period, and even in the longer term. The Chamber has organized two forums to collect views from our members and scholars, with an aim to generate constructive advices for the country, so as to make contribution to the country's development and reform in the next stage.

### **National 12<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan has further promoted Hong Kong's advantages**

3. Under the 11<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan, the Central Government clearly stated its support for "Hong Kong to develop finance, logistics, travel and tourism, information technology, and other service industries", and to "maintain Hong Kong's status as an international centre for financial services, trade and shipping." And then the national 12<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan published in 2011, for the very first time, included a special chapter outlining the functions and positioning of Hong Kong in the national strategic development. The Central Government stressed again its support for Hong Kong to develop finance, shipping, logistics, travel and tourism, professional services, information technology as well as other high value-added services; for Hong Kong to develop into an offshore RMB business centre and an international asset management centre; and for Hong Kong to develop high-value commodities inventory management and regional distribution centres, thereby consolidating and enhancing Hong Kong's status as an international centre for financial services, trade and shipping. The Five-Year Plan also addressed the need to

intensify economic cooperation between the Mainland and Hong Kong through the continued implementation of the "Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement" (CEPA), and confirming the significant functions and positioning of Hong Kong's cooperation with Guangdong according to the "Framework Agreement on Hong Kong/Guangdong Cooperation".

4. Backed by the Central Government, a series of concrete policy measures were formulated under the national 12<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan to support Hong Kong in further developing and deepening economic, trade and financial cooperation with the Mainland, with conspicuous results. In terms of financial innovation with regard to offshore RMB business, RMB deposits and outstanding RMB certificates of deposit in Hong Kong increased from RMB321.7 billion at end-2010 to RMB1,159 billion at end-May 2014, an increase of 2.6 times. RMB trade settlement handled by banks in Hong Kong increased from RMB369.2 billion in 2010 to RMB3,841 billion in 2013, an increase of 9.4 times. In the first half of 2014, the value of RMB bond issuance reached RMB130.2 billion, more than the total RMB bond issuance in 2013.

5. Hong Kong maintains its status as an international centre for trade and shipping, thanks to the Central Government's supportive policies under the 12<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan. In 2014, Hong Kong was the world's eighth largest trading economy, the fifth largest foreign exchange market, and the eighth largest banking centre. In 2013, Hong Kong's harbour handled 22.34 million TEUs (20-foot equivalent units) of containers, making it one of the world's busiest container ports. Hong Kong is also a major international and regional aviation hub. Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA) is the world's busiest international cargo gateway and among the world's 10 busiest passenger airports. The airport is served by over 100 airlines providing passenger and/ or freight services to some 180 destinations worldwide, including 43 cities in the Mainland. In 2014, HKIA welcomed 63.4 million passengers and handled 390,955 aircraft movements, representing growth of 5.8% and 5.1% respectively over 2013. Its annual cargo throughput was 4.38 million tonnes, up 6% year-on-year. The three traffic categories, i.e. passenger throughput, cargo throughput and aircraft movements, all achieved new records in 2014. Evidently, Hong Kong has benefited from the 12<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan on various fronts, consolidating its status as an international centre for financial services, trade and shipping, and hence stimulating Hong Kong's economic growth.

6. On the other hand, the country is experiencing the transition from industrial-based to service-based economies, working towards the anticipation of the basic formation of a service economy and a middle-class society in 2020. With a view to achieving such inspiring goals, the country is undergoing a comprehensive and in-depth reform. For instance, the liberalization agreement of trade in services between Hong Kong and Guangdong in December 2014 is a breakthrough in CEPA, with the "negative list" approach and the "national

treatment" offered to Hong Kong enterprises in the Mainland. The subsequent approval of the Guangdong free trade zone by the Central Government has also opened up new business opportunities for local enterprises. These major supportive measures adopted during the 12<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan period have stimulated entrance to the Mainland market by Hong Kong professional services, accelerating the bilateral economic cooperation.

### **Embrace the challenges, and build a better future**

7. Since the beginning of the 1980s, Hong Kong manufacturers have unremittingly moving their operation to the Mainland, not only extending the legendary economic prosperity of Hong Kong, but also building the reputation of China as the world's factory and contributing significantly to the remarkable achievements of the country's reform and opening up. At present, China's economic growth has slowed down in the softening global economic environment. The country is faced with the challenges of industrial overcapacity, declining foreign trade, and diminished demand for bulk commodities. On the other hand, the flourishing development of Internet technologies and e-commerce has brought in new opportunities and directions for China's economic development. Big data analytics is another revolutionary reform in information technology after cloud computing and Internet of things. In the long run, the application of big data will bring tremendous impact on government policies, global economies, business management models, and individuals' lifestyles.

8. To cope with the sluggish economic environment, ever-advancing technological innovations and ever-changing business world, economies are strengthening their regional cooperation, and China has launched industrial restructuring, administrative reform, rule by law and other significant initiatives. The Chamber believes that it is time Hong Kong adopted innovative business models in order to stay competitive in the global arena, and embraced the challenges together with the Mainland while seizing the opportunities that come along with its reforms.

### **Complement the National 13th Five-Year Plan**

9. The 13<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan will soon be launched, and the Chamber organized forums earlier to gather our members' views on how Hong Kong could complement the country in the 13<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan. This paper is being worked out based on studies carried out by the Chamber and other professional bodies over the years.

#### **➤ Consolidate and enhance Hong Kong's status as an international centre for financial services**

10. The country's "One Belt, One Road" strategy will be implemented during

the 13<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan period. With experience and expertise in financing and capital management, Hong Kong could facilitate the execution of the "One Belt, One Road" strategy with enormous capital and talents, by investment across Eurasia, enhancing trade, and fostering closer ties among jurisdictions and cultural exchanges. China may consider **positioning Hong Kong as the financing platform to serve "One Belt, One Road", and supporting Hong Kong to join the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)** so as to leverage Hong Kong's advantages in financing and asset management to provide capital stream for the development of "One Belt, One Road". In particular, we propose the Central Government to support the setting up of the treasury centre of AIIB in Hong Kong to take advantage of our fund raising and capital market expertise.

11. In addition, the Chamber is looking forward to **a breakthrough in the mutual recognition of funds in both places**, which will not only open up more investment opportunities for investors and provide outlets for the huge capital pool in the Mainland, but also energize the development of asset management in Hong Kong. At present, RMB deposits in Hong Kong reaches approximately RMB1,000 billion, but the actual loan for use accounts amounted to approximately RMB100 billion only, reflecting a low loan-deposit ratio. The Chamber proposes to extend the loan for use scope to cover more areas. For example, the loan for use in Qianhai can be applied to the entire Guangdong free trade zone, resolving the liquidity problem for more enterprises.

12. In regard to the bond business, the amount of RMB bonds issued in Hong Kong steadily increases annually. Nevertheless, judging from the size and performance of the local financing market, Hong Kong is capable of raising much more funds, so as to **strengthen Hong Kong's function as the major offshore RMB bond market**. As for stock trading, the Chamber is pleased to see the highly anticipated "Shenzhen-Hong Kong Stock Connect" to be launched this year, following the "Shanghai-Hong Kong Stock Connect". **The implementation of "Shenzhen-Hong Kong Stock Connect"** will boost the stock markets in both places. The Chamber expects greater flexibility and more open in "Shenzhen-Hong Kong Stock Connect" aggregate quota, trading constituents and number of stocks than "Shanghai-Hong Kong Stock Connect" as well as relaxing the licensing requirements for Hong Kong securities companies to operate in the Mainland market, further facilitating the development of the interactive potential of the stock markets in both places.

➤ **Consolidate and enhance Hong Kong's status as an international centre for shipping and logistics**

13. Enjoying a strategic location, Hong Kong is within five hours' flying distance from most major cities in the Asia-Pacific region, covering half of the world's population. Hong Kong International Airport consistently ranks among

the best airports in the world with its exemplary facilities and services. The passenger and cargo volumes it handled have been increasing year on year. Hong Kong's deep water harbour, and its renowned port facilities and efficiency, together with its free port status, make it one of the world's busiest container ports. Undoubtedly, many overseas and Mainland enterprises choose Hong Kong to be the transit point for re-export because of our trouble-free procedures which bring great convenience, efficiency and ease, making cargo handling of our airport and port top the list in the world. In view of the escalating demand on shipping capacity from the modern supply chain management perspective, the Chamber wishes to see continued support from the Central Government on sustainably enhancing our air and sea capabilities.

14. The blossoming Mainland shipping and transport industries inevitably demand more and more high value-added maritime services. Meanwhile, Hong Kong has been actively developing high-end professional maritime services, such as maritime financing, broking, leasing, marine insurance, maritime law and arbitration, and ship management. The Chamber proposes to **use the Guangdong free trade zone as testing ground**, relaxing the restrictions on Hong Kong service providers' participation in marine insurance, maritime law, ship brokerage and other related business. The Central Government may also consider **supporting the development of Hong Kong into a high-end shipping service centre**. The international experience of Hong Kong in these areas will bring facilitate the maritime trade in the Pearl River Delta region, echoing the strategic needs of the country's "21<sup>st</sup> Century Maritime Silk Road".

15. The Chamber hopes that the Central Government can take the aforementioned functions of Hong Kong into consideration when planning the country's overall shipping and port development, and when approving specific port projects, so that Hong Kong can fully utilize its network of global trade to help enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the country's logistics development in the Asia Pacific region. Hong Kong's exceptional air and sea connectivity around the globe could serve as the linkage between China and the global shipping industry. **The Central Government should, from the strategic level, consider the overall positioning and functions of Hong Kong and other ports and airports in the Pearl River Delta region so that they could complement each other and avoid redundancies, and also support the construction of the third runway in Hong Kong.** The resulting synergy should enable Hong Kong and Pearl River Delta region to become the leading shipping and aviation centre in Asia as well as in the world.

➤ **Support deepening trade in services cooperation, achieve full liberalization of trade in services between the Mainland and Hong Kong**

16. Hong Kong has a well-established and trusted legal system that respects copyright, contracts and the rule of law. The accommodative business environment, bountiful financial resources, free-flowing international

information, abundant accountants, lawyers, architects, engineers and other professionals, and reliable testing and certification services are the essences of Hong Kong that attract multinational companies to set up headquarters here, and also **the ideal platform for Mainland enterprises to "go global"**. The Chamber suggests, **on the basis of basic liberalization of trade in services between the Mainland and Hong Kong in the end of 2015, both places should join hands to deepen the cooperation and accelerate the pace of economic integration.** In particular, the Central Government can further support Hong Kong professionals working in the Mainland, bringing in their knowledge and experience to help the country move towards a service-dominated economy in 2020.

➤ **Support Hong Kong to be an intellectual property trading centre in Asia**

17. Hong Kong enjoys a free flow of information and pays respect to intellectual property and rule of law. In general, the business sector operates based on the principle of openness, fairness and transparency. It explains the results of the survey conducted by Hong Kong Trade Development Council in 2013 that over 50% of the respondents found Hong Kong the best intellectual property management hub in Asia, way ahead of Singapore and Shanghai. In fact, many overseas enterprises use Hong Kong's intellectual property services to develop the Mainland market. Since China's economic take-off, many Mainland enterprises, with reference to overseas technology and facilities, have engaged in R&D and upgrading to open up overseas markets, resulting in a huge demand for intellectual property rights overseas. Based on the aforementioned strengths and decades of post-reform experience of participating in China's economic development, **as an international commercial centre, Hong Kong is in the prime position to promote high value-added services related to intellectual property and develop into the leading intellectual property trading centre in the region, providing intermediary services to Mainland and overseas enterprises.** In recent years, the Hong Kong Government has been actively advocating intellectual property trading in Hong Kong, formulating supporting strategies and providing advisory services and training programmes. As such, the Chamber pleads the Central Government to include this section in the 13<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan.

➤ **Encourage service innovation, and work together to create high value-added products and services**

18. Making use of the complementary strengths, Hong Kong and the Mainland have seized the golden opportunities of the development in the manufacturing industries in the past 30 plus years, generating enormous economic benefits. At present, both places are in search of new directions for economic growth. The services industry has traditionally been the priority industry in Hong Kong, especially modern services, and the services industry is also taking up growing shares in the economic structure of the Mainland. More

than 90% of service-based companies in Hong Kong are small and medium enterprises. The key to their success is flexibility and innovation. To fit in with the ever-changing business environment, they may adopt new technologies, business models, and/or management strategies to innovate/improve ways of service provision, create high-value added products or services, enhance user experience and ultimately strengthen their competitiveness. As a matter of fact,

Hong Kong manufacturers are similarly innovative and creative. They are aware of the need of adding values in their products through innovation in terms of their brands, product design, testing and certification and intellectual property protection.

19. The Chamber recommends the Central Government to consider in the 13<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan, to make use of **Hong Kong enterprises' spirit of innovation in helping Mainland businesses develop, especially in testing and certification, tourism and convention, dispute resolution services, and cultural and creative services.** The Mainland and Hong Kong should work together to develop cooperative scopes and service coverage of testing and certification. The testing and certification industry is an indispensable component of the entire supply chain. Hong Kong's reliable and internationally recognized testing and certification services could support the development of the country's manufacturing industries, export trade and other service industries through providing quality assurance on locally-developed products or brands for overseas exports, and overseas products or service imported into the Mainland.

20. Enjoying a favourable geographical location, Hong Kong as a key aviation hub with extensive complementary infrastructural networks and tourism facilities has been popular among major international conferences and exhibitions as well as tourists. Upon completion of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge and the Hong Kong Section of Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link, Hong Kong, Macau and other cities in the Pearl River Delta region will be able to better utilize their tourism resources and enjoy economies of scale in a systematic and cooperative way. Practitioners of the related industries in Hong Kong can also help raise the quality and productivity of the Mainland counterparts.

21. China is engaging in energy saving, emission reduction and environmental protection works. Hong Kong and other cities in the Pearl River Delta region should coordinate their environmental policies. Following the joint efforts in emission control measures to improve air quality, we should formulate regional strategies to improve the environment. For example, the legislative process has completed in Hong Kong to restrict all ocean-going vessels to use cleaner fuels while at berth in Hong Kong waters, and Guangdong is also working towards this direction. Therefore, we propose the Central Government to apply to the International Maritime Organization for the

establishment of an emission control area in the Pearl River Delta region. It not only is in line with the country's goal but also benefits the Pearl River Delta region. On the economic front, China should continue to promote the development of the environmental protection industry, where Hong Kong can play an important role in testing and introducing advanced foreign environmental technologies and experience to the Mainland so as to achieve mutual benefits.

22. The law-abiding tradition and legal system in Hong Kong are internationally reputed, which favours the development of legal and dispute resolution services. In recent years, the Hong Kong Government has been actively promoting the development of arbitration and mediation as well as related dispute resolution services, including a number of specialized areas, e.g. maritime arbitration services. The arbitral awards made in Hong Kong are valid in over 150 signatory jurisdictions under the "New York Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards", as well as the Mainland and Macau. Therefore, it gives overseas enterprises a peace of mind to engage in any commercial activities, contract signing or undertaking transactions in Hong Kong as any dispute handling, either through court proceedings or arbitration mechanism, will be transparent, open, and fair. The Chamber is pleased to see the setting up of international arbitration centre in Qianhai and Nansha, and they work closely with the arbitration bodies in Hong Kong, allowing enterprises the option of adopting the arbitration rules in Hong Kong. The Chamber proposes extending this practice to other regions in the Mainland in the 13<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan.

23. The growth rate of Hong Kong's cultural and creative industries has exceeded the overall economic growth in Hong Kong in recent years. The Government has allocated more resources to cope with the rapid development and been working closely with the industries to create a social environment favouring creativity, and expand both local and overseas markets. Nurtured under cross-cultural influences where East meets West in Hong Kong, the fashion and brand design, film, cultural arts, and other cultural and creative industries in Hong Kong develop their uniqueness and thrive in recent years thanks to the more abundant resources available. In fact, some industry practitioners have already reached out to their Mainland counterparts for quite some time to explore cooperative opportunities. Hence, the Chamber proposes that, in the 13<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan, the Central Government should further encourage closer interactive exchanges in both places so that both economies can flourish in more diversified platforms.

## **Conclusion**

24. The business community in Hong Kong aspires to continuously receive support from the Mainland on finance, shipping, logistics, travel and tourism, professional services industries where we enjoy a competitive edge. In addition,

we hope the Central Government would encourage innovative services and startups in Hong Kong. The Chamber pleads for the country's consideration on the recommendations of this submission for the 13<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan. Hong Kong's business sector will continue to strive to grab opportunities arisen from the rapid economic development in China. We will work hand in hand with the Hong Kong Government and other sectors to raise the overall competitiveness of Hong Kong. We will also continue to make contribution to the economic growth in both places, and complement the country's overall strategies to be launched in the 13<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan. The Chamber wishes for the prosperity of the country. And with our joint efforts, together we can move the country forward in this important economic milestone.