

Pursuing High-quality Growth 邁向高質量發展

Hong Kong is embarking on a bold new chapter of development and innovation, in line with President Xi's vision as laid out at the Two Sessions 2023
香港正開啟發展和創新的新篇章，實現習主席於2023年兩會提出的願景

With President Xi Jinping's unprecedented emphasis on the importance of Hong Kong's prosperity to China's overall progress at the Two Sessions 2023 in March, Hong Kong is stepping ambitiously into the next phase of economic development: high-quality growth and innovation.

The city already has all the attributes needed to enhance its role as a competitive centre for financial services, digitalization, Web3, and innovation and technology in the region, especially with the full support of the Mainland.

Hong Kong should continue to do what it does best – leverage its strength as a super connector and an international financial centre, further developing and strengthening the national financial ecosystem by supporting trade and investment flows, said Agnes Chan, the Chamber's Deputy Chairman, who attended the Two Sessions meetings in her role as a member of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC).

"The 14th Five-Year Plan supports the development of Hong Kong in eight key areas," she explained. "Hong Kong's geographic position provides us with a unique opportunity to drive and benefit from high-quality growth by actively integrating into national development and connecting China and the rest of the world."

The point was reiterated by HKSAR Chief Executive John Lee at the Digital Economy Summit in April, where he promised to work to boost business and investment opportunities in the city as Hong Kong develops its digital economy.

Web3

Financial Secretary Paul Chan is ensuring that the city is at the forefront of Web3, an internet system built using decentralized blockchains. The finance chief is actively promoting Web3, and in his 2023-24 Budget allocated HK\$50 million to the Cyberport business park to accelerate the internet service.







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「香港的地理位置帶來得天獨厚的機遇，我們應積極融入國家發展，並為中國與世界各地搭建橋樑，藉以推動高質量發展，從中獲益。」

— Agnes Chan,
Chamber Deputy Chairman
—— 陳瑞娟 總商會常務副主席

“The recent instability of the virtual assets market and the collapse of some virtual asset exchanges have cast doubts on the future of Web3, but we believe this is the best time to promote development,” he recently wrote on his blog. The Government will also introduce a licensing regime for virtual asset service providers

in June to ensure supervision and reduce risks in of Web3 development.

Elsa Wong, Chairman of the Chamber’s Digital, Information and Telecommunications (DIT) Committee, is of the opinion that two factors need to be considered for Web3 deployment: enforceable regulations that increase the trust

of the public, and when the cost of blockchain implementation will drop. “It could be the right time if we have a project which can utilize the technology to address the needs of all the parties involved at a reasonable cost, such as supply chain monitoring for some specific high valued products or helping the vulnerable to get their reasonable returns,” she explained.

Since Web3 is decentralized, content creators can profit more directly from their works, which will often be paid for in cryptocurrencies and whose ownership will be verified on a blockchain. “Web3 can be useful in many ways, such as in architecture, culture, art and music, etc, where designers and artists can earn profits directly and effectively,” she said. “It can also benefit enterprises through tokenization, helping optimize business processes

and enable new platforms with suppliers or partners across different industries.”

Innovation & Technology

In December, the Innovation, Technology and Industry Bureau revealed ambitious goals in its Innovation & Technology Development Blueprint, which plans to double the number of talent, start-ups and unicorn enterprises in the city over the next 10 years.

The targets reflect the Bureau’s four broader policy goals: boosting growth through a larger talent

pool, enhancing the I&T ecosystem, developing Hong Kong into a smart city, and integration to align with national development.

“The blueprint goals leverage on Hong Kong as a gateway between the Mainland and the rest of the world,” explained Fred Sheu, DIT Committee Vice Chairman. “The city has a strong network of business partners and world-class infrastructure, and doubles as a lucrative platform for collaboration and co-innovation with different stakeholders in the international innovation and technology ecosystem.”

Meanwhile, the city has been flexing its I&T capabilities via timely fairs, including the Hong Kong Trade Development Council’s InnoEX exhibition, the Hong Kong Electronics Fair and Hong Kong International Lighting Fair.

According to Sophia Chong, HKTDC Deputy Executive Director, the three fairs welcomed a total of nearly 3,000 exhibitors across 20 countries and regions, playing a major role in the innotech ecosystem of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao. The success of these events reflects Hong Kong’s determination to develop at full speed into an

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- ✦ 多項新增和獲擴闊的版權豁免
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Intellectual Property Department

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international centre for innovation and technology, she said.

Financial Services

In its role as an international finance hub, Hong Kong enjoys close financial integration with the Mainland and extensive networks with the world, besides a sound legal system, a competitive tax regime, free flow of capital, and diverse financial products. In 2021, the sector employed 7.6% of the city's working population and contributed to about a quarter of the GDP.

For further growth, Jack Chan, Vice Chairman of the Financial and Treasury Services Committee, suggests accelerating the development of new financial products and services and fostering a culture of innovation. "Hong Kong has a track record of offering innovative, high-quality financial services. We can build on this by exploring new technologies and approaches that enhance efficiency, reduce costs and increase transparency. For example, sustainable finance and digital finance are the two areas in which we should put more efforts."

A new listing regime for specialist technology companies, announced by the finance chief and already in effect, is being heralded as a positive step towards development. "Prior to the implementation of the new listing regime, specialist technology companies faced difficulties listing here because they often could not meet the financial eligibility requirements of the Main Board listing," Chan explained. "Since

technology firms have been a mainstay of IPO activity in recent years and are believed to continue to lead listings by volume globally, we expect the new regime will improve the attractiveness of Hong Kong as a listing venue for new economy companies and drive growth in talent and investment in the region and beyond."

One area of potential growth is more collaboration with the Mainland to expand mutual market access, enhancement arrangements, etc. "We could work together to develop training and exchange programmes that allow financial professionals in both markets to share knowledge and expertise," said Chan, as it would also build a stronger pool of talent in the financial services industry. "The same idea applies to information exchange. Sharing data and information on market trends and regulatory developments would help promote greater understanding and cooperation."

Retail

The retail industry is another significant contributor to the economy, representing a fifth of the city's GDP in 2022. Hong Kong boasts a pivotal position within Asia, offering international and Chinese companies multiple opportunities to launch their products, build their brands and expand their product range. In its pursuit of high-quality development and better national integration, Hong Kong can continue playing a vital role as the bridge between the Mainland and the global market.



"Hong Kong's dynamic retail market and the opportunities makes it a key destination for launching or expanding brands in Asia," explained PC Yu, General Committee member and CPPCC member. "As an international city and tourist destination, Hong Kong connects businesses from all over the world. Its cosmopolitan population gives retailers opportunities to strengthen sales and become more visible in a region ready for new products and services. Besides, Hong Kong attracts a diverse pool of visitors from across the globe who favour retailers that promote their products and services using Hong Kong as a shop window."



With half of the world's population living within five hours' flying time of Hong Kong and the city being well-connected to over 220 destinations, Hong Kong has huge advantages, especially to promote high-quality Chinese products and brands globally, said Yu. "We can help enhance Mainland products and brands to the standard of international level by better utilizing the city's international outlook, business-friendly environment and free trade port," he added.

Challenges of the Future

While HK\$500 million has been earmarked to launch a Digital

Transformation Support Pilot Programme to assist SMEs in applying ready-to-use basic digital solutions, local businesses continue to face some challenges, such as a lack of knowledge and resources.

Sheu believes that with the advancement of mobile computing, AI and cloud technologies, some digital solutions can be easily adopted and deployed. "For example, SaaS-based online e-business platforms, mobile payments and productivity tools are examples of ready-to-use basic digital solutions that can benefit SMEs," he explained.

According to Timothy Tam, DIT Committee Vice Chairman, clear frameworks and digital roadmaps will also facilitate better adoption, as evidenced by the examples of the Open AI for the banking sector and the Faster Payment System (FPS), where firms were quick to buy in and adopt once a clear direction was set.

Tam said there is also room to better support SMEs in talent development and cross-sectoral collaboration models and frameworks. "There are gaps in the suitability and availability of talent specialised in product innovation and sales and marketing, as well as talent who can bring in unique perspectives with a combination of these core competencies," he said. "These gaps reinforce the need for the private and public sectors to work together to assess the competencies in demand, groom local STEM talent, and attract talent from overseas."

Then there is the challenge of beating out the competition: in the 2023 edition of the IMD Smart City Index, Hong Kong ranked 19th, 12 places below Singapore.

"Hong Kong has all the elements including capital, access to international markets and global talent from around the world, etc. to pursue innovation and quality development," said Wong. "We should be able to stay ahead of competitors with the commitment of the Government and the support of the China."

But to achieve this, the Government has to state more clearly how they would adopt and deploy the

technology while providing clear vision and targets for industries, said Wong. "Every industry is trying to innovate to address labour shortages, increase efficiency and increase capital. The Government should define a clear statement for each critical issue of the city to be solved, explaining what it wants to achieve in the short and long term."

Tam agrees that, despite the challenges, corporates and SMEs are continuing to invest and partner in digital initiatives for long-term impact, and integrating digital solutions and initiatives into daily operations and a customer-centric

experience. "The Government's supportive measures, such as funding and talent schemes, and holistic, long-term talent planning, are expected to catalyse the city's digitization," he said.

As Hong Kong sets out on its digital transformation journey, David Lie, former General Committee member and Member of the CPPCC, noted that pursuing these targets go hand-in-hand with the need to disseminate positive stories about Hong Kong to the world. "How the international community perceives us at this time, as we emerge in the post-

pandemic era, is crucial, and that is part of the battle," he said.

"While telling good stories about our city, we also have to engage with those who have doubts, and demonstrate to them our strengths and capabilities."

After the pandemic-induced challenges of the past few years, we are on our way to economic recovery while working towards quality growth and better national integration, stated Agnes Chan, adding that the only direction to go is up: "To quote Premier Li Qiang, Hong Kong can only become better and stronger."



2023年兩會在3月召開期間，國家主席習近平強調香港的繁榮對中國整體發展至關重要。為此，香港正進入經濟發展新階段，全力推動創新和高質量發展。

香港已具備所有必要的條件，在內地的全力支持下，可提升作為區內金融服務、數碼轉型、Web3及創科中心的競爭力，發揮更大作用。

總商會常務副主席陳瑞娟早前以全國政協委員的身份出席兩會，她表示香港應繼續發揮所長，善用作為超級聯繫人和

國際金融中心的優勢，促進貿易投資，助力國家進一步發展和加強金融生態系統。

她解釋：「『十四五』規劃支持香港發展八個重點領域。本港的地理位置帶來得天獨厚的機遇，我們應積極融入國家發展，並為中國與世界各地搭建橋樑，藉以推動高質量發展，從中獲益。」

香港特區行政長官李家超在4月舉行的數字經濟峰會上重申這一點，他承諾將着力推動香港發展數碼經濟，開創商業和投資機遇。

第三代互聯網

第三代互聯網（Web3）是以去中心化區塊鏈為基礎的互聯網系統，財政司司長陳茂波正積極推動Web3發展，務求令香港走在最前，並已在2023-24年度《財政預算案》中撥款港幣5,000萬元予數碼港，以加速本港Web3生態圈的發展。

他最近在網誌表示：「過去一段時間虛擬資產市場大幅波動，最近也有虛擬資產交易所倒閉，讓社會上一些人對Web3的前景感到懷疑。然而，我們認

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“Web3 can benefit enterprises through tokenization, helping optimize business processes and enable new platforms with suppliers or partners across different industries.”

「Web3可通過代幣化協助企業優化業務流程，以及與各行各業的供應商或合作夥伴建立新平台。」

— Elsa Wong,

Chairman, Digital, Information and Telecommunications Committee

—— 黃玉娟 數碼、資訊及電訊委員會主席

為這正是推動Web3發展的最好時機。」此外，虛擬資產交易平台發牌制度將於6月生效，以加強監管及減低Web3發展帶來的風險。

總商會數碼、資訊及電訊委員會主席黃玉娟認為，應用Web3時宜考慮兩個因素：制定切實可行的規管以提升公眾信心，以及使用區塊鏈的成本何時下降。她解釋：「若然有項目能以合理的成本應用科技來滿足各方的需要，例如監察特定高價值產品的供應鏈，或協助弱勢社群獲取合理回報等，則不失為一個良機。」

基於Web 3.0去中心化的特點，內容創作者可更直接透過作品獲利，當中不少交易會以加密貨幣進行，其所有權將經由區塊鏈認證。她說：「Web3用途甚廣，例如可用於建築、文化、藝術及音樂等領域，讓設計師和藝術家可直接高效地賺取利潤。代幣化亦有助企業優化業務流程，以及與各行各業的供應商或合作夥伴建立新平台。」

創新科技

創新科技及工業局在12月公布的《香港創新科技發展藍圖》提出了進取的目標，計劃在未來十年內實現本地人才、初創企業和獨角獸企業數目翻倍增長。

這些目標反映了當局的四大政策方向：「壯大創科人才庫，增強發展動能」、「完善創科生態圈」、「建設智慧香港」及「積極融入國家發展大局」。

數碼、資訊及電訊委員會副主席許遵發解釋：「藍圖的目標正好發揮香港作為聯繫內地與世界各地的門戶角色。香港坐擁強大的商業網絡和世界級基建，亦為國際創科生態圈的不同持份者提供良好的協作和共同創新平台。」

與此同時，香港透過舉辦多個展覽會，包括由香港貿易發展局（貿發局）主辦的「香港國際創科展」、「香港電子產品展」及「香港國際燈

飾展」，提升創新科技實力，可謂正合時宜。

貿發局副總裁張淑芬表示，三個展會合共吸引來自20個國家和地區近3,000家參展商，這些企業在粵港澳三地的創科生態系統發揮着重要作用。她補充，這些活動圓滿成功，反映了香港全速建成國際創科中心的決心。

金融服務

香港作為國際金融中心，除了有健全的法律制度、具競爭力的稅制、資金自由流動和多元化的金融產品，在金融方面亦與內地市場高度一體化，並擁有廣泛的全球網絡。金融業於2021年聘用本港7.6%的就業人口，佔本地生產總值近四分之一。

要進一步推動增長，金融及財資服務委員會副主席陳凱建議加快開發新的金融產品和服務，並建立創新文化。他說：「香港一直以來提供創新、優質的金融服務，我們可在這基礎上探索新技術和方法，藉以提升效率、降低成本和增加透明度。舉例說，我們應加大力度發展可持續金融和數碼金融。」

香港交易所公布的新特專科技公司上市機制現已生效，被視為向前邁出的積極一步。陳凱解釋：「在實施新上市機制前，特專科技公司往往未能符合在主板上市的財務要求，難以在香港上市。近年，科技企業是首次公開招股的中流砥柱，相信未來這類企業在全球上市的數量也將繼續領先，故我們預料新機制能增加香港作為新經濟企業上市目的地的吸引力，從而帶動區內以至其他地區的人才和投資增長。」

其中一個潛在發展領域，是與內地加強協作，例如擴大市場互聯互通和完善安排。「我們可合作推出培訓和交

流計劃，讓兩地金融專才分享專業知識，同時為金融服務業建立更強大的人才庫。」他續道：「資訊交流同樣重要，就市場趨勢和規管發展分享數據和資訊，將有助增進了解和合

零售業

零售業作為香港經濟的另一重要支柱，佔2022年本地生產總值的五分之一。香港在亞洲扮演舉足輕重的角

色，為國際和內地企業提供平台，以推出產品、建立品牌和擴展產品種類。香港在邁向高質量發展和進一步融入國家發展大局的過程中，可繼續充當內地與全球市場之間的重要橋樑。

總商會理事及全國政協委員余鵬春表示：「零售市場充滿活力，機遇處處，使香港成為品牌進駐或擴展亞洲市場的首選地點。」他解釋：「香港作為國際都會和旅遊城市，與世界各

地企業對接，而本地的多元人口亦為零售商增加營銷機會，並提升知名度，以便為市場引入新產品和服務。此外，香港是廣受全球各地歡迎的旅遊熱點，零售商可利用香港作為櫥窗，推廣店鋪的產品和服務。」

余鵬春指出，香港與世界半數人口相隔不到五小時的飛行距離，連接全球超過220個航點，盡享地利之便，尤其是向國際市場推廣優質中國產品和品牌方面。他續道：「我們可善用香

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未來挑戰

政府已預留五億元推行「數碼轉型支援先導計劃」，協助中小企應用現成

的基礎數碼方案配套，不過本地企業仍面對不少挑戰，例如認識和資源不足。

許遵發認為，隨着流動運算、人工智能和雲端技術不斷進步，部分數碼化方案能輕易部署應用。他解釋：「以『軟件即服務』（SaaS）為基礎的網上商務平台、流動支付和生產力工具

等，都是助益中小企的現成基礎數碼方案例子。」

數碼、資訊及電訊委員會副主席譚雨川表示，清晰的框架和數碼化路線圖亦可促進企業應用數碼方案，例如銀行業和轉數快面對Open AI崛起，在制定明確的路線後，隨即採用這種嶄新技術作為輔助。

譚雨川指出，在人才發展和跨界別協作的模式和框架方面，當局仍有支援中小企的空間。他說：「中小企缺乏足夠和合適的人才，以專門從事產品創新、銷售和市場推廣，並且運用這些核心技能為公司帶來獨到見解。這些不足反映公私營機構有必要合作，評估業界所需的技能、培養本地STEM人才，以及吸納海外人才。」

要在競爭中脫穎而出，亦是一大挑戰：香港在2023年IMD全球智慧城市指數中排行第19，比新加坡落後12名。

黃玉娟表示：「香港具備邁向創新和高質量發展的一切要素，包括資本、

“Hong Kong has a track record of offering innovative, high-quality financial services. We can build on this by exploring new technologies and approaches that enhance efficiency and reduce costs.”

「香港一直以來提供創新、優質的金融服務，我們可在這基礎上探索新技術和方法，藉以提升效率、降低成本。」

— Jack Chan,
Vice Chairman, Financial and Treasury Services Committee
—— 陳凱 金融及財資服務委員會副主席

與國際市場及全球人才連通等，我們在政府努力和中央支持下，有能力領先其他對手。」

但她強調，要做到這一點，政府需要清楚說明如何採用和推行新技術，並向業界提供清晰的願景和目標。她說：「各行各業正嘗試以創新方法應對人手不足問題、提升工作效率和增加收入。政府應闡明本港有待解決的各項重要議題，並解釋當局希望達到的短期和長期成果。」

譚雨川對此表示贊同，認為大企業和中小企雖然面對重重困難，但仍繼續投放資源，參與推動長遠數碼發展，又在日常營運中融入數碼方案，創造以客為先的體驗。他說：「政府透過資助、人才計劃及全面、長期的人才規劃等支援措施，都有助加速數碼轉型的進程。」

總商會前理事及全國政協委員李大壯認為，隨着香港走向數碼轉型，除了要為這些目標而努力，亦要向世界說

好香港故事。他說：「踏入後疫情時代，國際社會如何看待我們極其重要，就此我們必須加倍努力，在說好香港故事之餘，還要向一些對我們仍有保留的朋友展示香港的實力和優勢。」

陳瑞娟表示，經歷了過去數年疫情帶來的挑戰，本港經濟現正邁向復蘇，同時全力推動高質量發展，更好融入國家發展大局。她又表示香港未來的發展方向只有一個：「引用總理李強的說法，香港未來只會更好更強。」

風雨安排早溝通 返工放工更輕鬆

Make prior work arrangements in times of typhoons and rainstorms

Benefit employers and employees

僱主應盡早與僱員訂明有關惡劣天氣下的工作安排，包括上班、下班、復工及在家工作等。僱主應體諒僱員情況和顧及其安全，並作情理兼備及彈性的處理。

Employers should work out with employees as early as possible the work arrangements in times of adverse weather conditions, including reporting for duty, release from work, resumption of work and work from home, etc. Employers should be considerate and flexible with regard to the needs and safety of employees.

颱風及暴雨情況下工作守則

Code of Practice in Times of Typhoons and Rainstorms

例如熱帶氣旋、暴雨警告或超強颱風後的「極端情況」等。在「極端情況」存在期間，除已協定上班的必要人員外，僱員在八號熱帶氣旋警告信號取消後的兩小時應留在原來地點，而非啟程上班，並留意政府的公布。

such as tropical cyclone, rainstorm warnings or "extreme conditions" after Super Typhoons, etc. When "extreme conditions" exist, except for essential staff with agreement to be on duty, employees are advised to stay in the place they are currently in for two hours after cancellation of Tropical Cyclone Warning Signal No. 8 instead of heading for work and stay alert to Government announcement.

中文版 Chinese version

英文版 English version



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