

CE meets Chairman of Foreign Affairs Committee of UK Parliament (with photo)

The Chief Executive, Mrs Carrie Lam, met with the Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee (FAC) of the House of Commons of the United Kingdom Parliament, Mr Tom Tugendhat, and members of the FAC at the Chief Executive's Office this morning (September 21). The Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Mr Edward Yau, and the Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs, Mr Patrick Nip, also attended the meeting.

Mrs Lam briefed Mr Tugendhat on Hong Kong's latest developments. She noted that since its return to the Motherland, Hong Kong has been exercising a high degree of autonomy and "Hong Kong people administering Hong Kong" in strict accordance with the Basic Law, thus demonstrating the full and successful implementation of the "One country, Two systems" principle. Adding that the rule of law and judicial independence are as robust as ever, Mrs Lam highlighted the fact that a number of overseas non-permanent judges of the Court of Final Appeal are from the United Kingdom, and these illustrious judges have made significant contributions to the city's rule of law and its judicial independence. The city's comprehensive legal aid system is also important for safeguarding justice, and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government attaches great importance to freedom of speech, which is also protected by the Basic Law, she added.

In addition, noting that Hong Kong is actively participating in the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, Mrs Lam said the HKSAR will strive to leverage its unique advantages and jointly develop the Bay Area into an international innovation and technology hub. Mrs Lam stressed that "One Country, Two Systems" is unique to the Bay Area, and will serve as an important foundation for the Bay Area to go international down the road. Hong Kong's integration into the development of the Bay Area will not undermine the implementation of "One Country, Two Systems" but will enrich it, as well as being conducive to maintaining Hong Kong's long-term prosperity and stability.

