

## CE meets Governor of Qinghai Province (with photo)

The Chief Executive, Mr John Lee, met the Governor of Qinghai Province, Mr Luo Dongchuan, today (February 20) to exchange views on deepening co-operation between Hong Kong and Qinghai. Also attending the meeting were the Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs, Mr Erick Tsang Kwok-wai, and the Director of the Chief Executive's Office, Ms Carol Yip.

Mr Lee welcomed Mr Luo and his delegation to Hong Kong to attend and officiate at a conference promoting Qinghai-Hong Kong economic and trade exchanges and co-operation. Mr Lee noted that the economic and trade relations between Hong Kong and Qinghai have long been close, with Hong Kong being the largest source of external investment for Qinghai. As of the end of 2023, the cumulative number of Hong Kong enterprises established in Qinghai had exceeded 340. Hong Kong will continue to leverage its advantage of connecting the Mainland and the world, and work with Qinghai to achieve complementarity and mutual benefits, jointly contributing to the country's high-quality development.

Mr Lee said that the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government attaches importance to youth development. It encourages and supports Hong Kong youth to visit the Mainland for exchanges and internships to enhance their understanding of national development. In July last year, more than 100 young people from Hong Kong visited Xining in Qinghai Province for an exchange programme. He thanked the Qinghai Provincial Government for its emphasis on and support for the event, and looked forward to more youth exchange projects to promote mutual friendship and broaden the horizons of young people from the two places.

With Xining in Qinghai Province being included as one of the applicable cities of the Individual Visit Scheme, and the resumption of direct flights between Xining and Hong Kong, Mr Lee said that people-to-people exchanges between Hong Kong and Qinghai will be further promoted. Hong Kong will continue to deepen its exchanges and co-operation with Qinghai in such areas as the economy and trade, cultural tourism, and youth development, with a view to making greater contributions to national development.

