

CEDB and GACC sign Cooperation Arrangement on Single Window between Mainland and Hong Kong (with photos)

The Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (CEDB) of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC) signed the Cooperation Arrangement on Single Window today (May 19) to further strengthen collaboration and exchanges on Single Window between Hong Kong and the Mainland, as well as to enhance system connectivity between the two places.

The Cooperation Arrangement was signed by the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Mr Algernon Yau, and the Minister of the GACC, Ms Sun Meijun.

Mr Yau said that the Mainland is Hong Kong's largest partner in trade in goods with frequent cross-boundary trade. An efficient and convenient cargo clearance process between the two places is of utmost importance. As an important trade facilitation measure, Single Window provides a one-stop electronic platform for the trade to lodge various types of trade documents for trade declaration and cargo clearance. The CEDB and the Hong Kong Customs and Excise Department (C&ED) have been maintaining close liaison with the GACC on the development of Single Window, and sharing experiences and exploring opportunities for collaboration with the Mainland authorities through the established Single Window Expert Group. The signing of the Cooperation Arrangement will allow collaboration and interconnectivity of the systems of the two places to reach new heights, enhancing the existing mechanism of exchange and co-operation, as well as exploring different areas of collaboration.

The implementation of Single Window will enhance the efficiency of cargo clearance in Hong Kong and consolidate Hong Kong's status as an international trade centre and logistics hub. The CEDB is implementing Single Window in three phases, with Phase 1 and Phase 2 in full service since 2020 and 2023 respectively, covering a total of 42 types of trade documents. Phase 3 services will be rolled out in batches from 2026 onwards. By then, the system will be connected with the Mainland's Single Window.

In addition, to promote the development of cargo clearance facilitation between the two places, the GACC and the C&ED launched the Mainland-Hong Kong "Single Submission for Dual Declaration" Scheme in November 2024, covering all cargo imported from the Mainland to Hong Kong through land boundary control points. The Scheme helps enterprises save time and manpower required for declaration and minimise operating costs. To enhance the facilitation, the Scheme will cover all cargo passing through land boundary control points between the two places starting from today, enabling industry stakeholders to reuse road cargo information when submitting to the systems of both sides,

thereby further facilitating the trade and enhancing efficiency.

The Scheme will be reprovisioned in Phase 3 of Single Window. The Government will maintain close collaboration with the GACC to explore the feasibility of extending the relevant functions to other trade documents and transport modes.

