

Fourth-term Human Resources Planning Commission convenes first meeting (with photo)

The Chief Secretary for Administration, Mr Chan Kwok-ki, today (March 10) chaired the first meeting of the fourth-term Human Resources Planning Commission (HRPC).

At the meeting, the Office of the Government Economist reported to members Hong Kong's latest economic performance and labour market situation. Members took note that Hong Kong's economy progressed steadily last year amid a complicated and changing external environment, recording a moderate growth of 2.5 per cent. The labour market remained tight, with the latest unemployment rate staying low at 3.1 per cent. Looking ahead, the Hong Kong economy is expected to register further growth of 2 to 3 per cent in 2025 despite a challenging external environment.

Members were also briefed on the 2024 highlights and 2025 plans of Hong Kong Talent Engage (HKTE). HKTE provides comprehensive one-stop support to incoming talent, and promotes Hong Kong's advantages and attracts talent globally. HKTE organised the inaugural Global Talent Summit · Hong Kong (GTS) in May last year, which successfully promoted Hong Kong's dual role as an international talent hub and the country's gateway for talent to the international community, and at the same time strengthened regional talent exchanges and co-operation. To reinforce Hong Kong's status as an international hub for high-calibre talent, HKTE will organise the second GTS early next year. At the meeting today, members exchanged views on HKTE's work strategy for attracting talent and promoting Hong Kong.

Members were also briefed by the Labour and Welfare Bureau on the outcomes of the latest round of the Talent List update. With the addition of nine new professions, the updated Talent List covers 60 professions with local talent shortages, and would help attract top talent and professionals required for the development of industries related to the "eight centres" with a view to generating new impetus for their growth. Members were pleased to note that the HRPC's views as well as those from various local business chambers and industry organisations have been taken on board during the process. They also discussed ways to strengthen external promotion of the Talent List.

Mr Chan said, "The HRPC is an important policy platform for members from various professional backgrounds to exchange views with the relevant policy bureaux on strategies and measures to develop human resources and enhance the quality of manpower. I look forward to working closely with members in the future to assist the Special Administrative Region Government's work in building a vibrant economy and striving for development, ensuring effective human resources planning to promote diversified development of Hong Kong's

economy."

