

# Opening remarks by SCED at opening ceremony of Hong Kong International Jewellery Show and Hong Kong International Diamond, Gem and Pearl Show 2025 (English only)

Following are the opening remarks by the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Mr Algernon Yau, at the opening ceremony of the Hong Kong International Jewellery Show and the Hong Kong International Diamond, Gem and Pearl Show 2025 today (March 2):

Winston (Chairman of the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC) Jewellery Advisory Committee, Mr Winston Chow), Lawrence (Chairman of the HKTDC Hong Kong International Jewellery Show and HKTDC Hong Kong International Diamond, Gem and Pearl Show Fair Organising Committee, Mr Lawrence Ma), Margaret (Executive Director of the HKTDC, Ms Margaret Fong), distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

Good afternoon. Thank you for coming to the opening ceremony of the Hong Kong International Jewellery Show and the Hong Kong International Diamond, Gem and Pearl Show 2025. This is a signature event in Hong Kong. This year, we are welcoming some 4 000 exhibitors from over 40 countries and regions. They have all brought with them high-quality products to showcase. I hope that all exhibitors and buyers will find this event rewarding, and can make new friends, new business connections. In addition, I hope you would enjoy your stay in Hong Kong.

Convention and exhibition is a very important sector for us. Hong Kong is strategically right at the heart of Asia, and has superb transport connections with the rest of the world. The connections and the convenience make us a prime location for business activities.

Every year, we host hundreds of large-scale conventions and exhibitions. They in turn attract millions of visitors to Hong Kong, bringing business opportunities for the local tourism, retail, catering and entertainment industries. Of all the international trade shows held in Hong Kong, over 10 are the largest in Asia and globally for their respective trades, including electronics, jewellery, gifts, watches and clocks, lighting, among others.

To bring in more international exhibitions to our city, the Government will launch an incentive scheme later this year called the Incentive Scheme for Recurrent Exhibitions 2.0. The scheme will offer incentive support to attract new or recurrent large-scale international exhibitions to be held in Hong Kong, thereby driving further our economic growth.

The global business environment is facing a lot of uncertainties these

days. Protectionism is rising again. It has caused disruptions to trade, supply chain, cash flow and sentiment in the investment market. While putting Hong Kong's economic resilience to the test, these challenges also make us more determined to reform, to innovate and to improve. But as a matter of principle, Hong Kong is an international trade centre and we will continue to support free trade.

We do not agree with unnecessary tariffs and trade barriers. They affect global trade and capital flows, dampen investment confidence and slow down global economic development. We will continue to be a dedicated supporter of a rule-based multilateral trading system, for the benefits of the whole world.

We hope to see more and more trade shows and mega events in Hong Kong, and welcome you to our city many times in the future. I would also like to thank the organiser for bringing us all together for networking and to enjoy the wonderful jewellery designs on display. Thank you.