

# SCED attends Asia-Pacific Telecommunity Ministerial Meeting in Japan (with photos)

The Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Mr Algernon Yau, today (May 30) attended the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) Ministerial Meeting in Tokyo, Japan, to strengthen regional collaboration on promoting information and communications technology development.

Speaking at a discussion session, Mr Yau shared with participating ministers Hong Kong's latest efforts in building sustainable and accessible information and communications technology infrastructure, as well as its commitment to a more inclusive and resilient digital future.

Mr Yau said that since the full liberalisation of its telecommunications market in 2003, Hong Kong's telecommunications sector has become one of the most advanced, open, and dynamic markets globally. Hong Kong leads the world in mobile voice affordability, ranks second globally in mobile broadband affordability and seventh in fixed broadband affordability. Hong Kong's 5G availability also ranks first in the Asia-Pacific region.

Mr Yau highlighted that Hong Kong's robust infrastructure provides a strong foundation for sustainable telecommunications development, including future 6G deployment and other cutting-edge services. The 6G Global Summit held in Hong Kong earlier this month, first held in the Asia-Pacific region, also fostered ideas and rallied regional support for 6G development.

Turning to innovation and technology (I&T), Mr Yau said that Hong Kong promulgated the Hong Kong I&T Development Blueprint in 2022, setting out clear development directions and major strategies including accelerating the development of new digital infrastructure.

He added that artificial intelligence opens up vast new opportunities for global economic development and scientific research. Hong Kong has been pursuing an all-round strategy to develop the AI ecosystem on various fronts, such as the launch of the AI Supercomputing Centre by Cyberport to meet the strong local demand for high-performance computing power.

Mr Yau said that Hong Kong will continue to work hand in hand with fellow members and stakeholders to advance sustainable infrastructure and promote eco-friendly information and communications technology for a connected future.

In addition to attending the APT meeting, Mr Yau also took the opportunity to meet with Japanese political and business leaders during his stay in Tokyo. Mr Yau today paid a courtesy call on the Chairman of the Japan-Hong Kong Parliamentarian League, Ms Jimi Hanako, a Member of the House

of Councillors, to give her an update on Hong Kong's latest economic and trade developments.

Upon arrival yesterday (May 29), Mr Yau paid a courtesy call on the State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, Mr Miyaji Takuma. Recognising the close bilateral relations between the two places, Mr Yau updated him on the robust economic developments in Hong Kong on various fronts under the "one country, two systems" principle, and solicited Japan's support for Hong Kong's early accession to the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership. Mr Yau also met with representatives of Keizai Doyukai (Japan Association of Corporate Executives) to promote Hong Kong's business advantages and investment opportunities.

Mr Yau will return to Hong Kong tomorrow (May 31) after the APT Ministerial Meeting concludes.



