<u>Second Belt and Road Joint Conference</u> <u>to be held in Beijing</u>

The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), the National Development and Reform Commission, the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council and other relevant Mainland authorities will hold the second Belt and Road Joint Conference in Beijing on July 19.

The Secretary for Justice, Ms Teresa Cheng, SC; the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development and Hong Kong-side Convenor of the Joint Conference, Mr Edward Yau; and representatives from the Department of Justice, the Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau, the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau, the Development Bureau, the Belt and Road Office, Invest Hong Kong, the Hong Kong Monetary Authority, the Insurance Authority and the Hong Kong Trade Development Council will attend the Joint Conference.

The meeting will discuss work priorities and suggestions related to promoting Hong Kong's participation in and contribution to the Belt and Road Initiative, which include the setting up of a Belt and Road-related dispute avoidance and resolution mechanism and fostering collaborations on policy exchanges and capacity building between the HKSAR Government and relevant Mainland authorities.

Mr Yau will depart for Beijing tomorrow (July 18) and return to Hong Kong on July 19. Apart from attending the Joint Conference, Mr Yau will meet with representatives of the Ministry of Commerce and state-owned enterprises.

During the absence of Mr Yau, the Under Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Dr Bernard Chan, will be the Acting Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development.