

SITI continues visit in Singapore (with photos)

The Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry, Professor Sun Dong, started the second day of his visit in Singapore today (May 23) by calling on the Deputy Prime Minister and Coordinating Minister for Economic Policies of Singapore, Mr Heng Swee Keat.

Professor Sun said he was pleased to see Mr Heng again after the Deputy Prime Minister's working visit to Hong Kong in August last year. He briefed Mr Heng on the latest developments of innovation and technology (I&T) in Hong Kong since the promulgation of the Hong Kong I&T Development Blueprint last December. They had exchanges on issues of common interest and concerns over common challenges faced by the two places. While Hong Kong was keen to foster closer collaboration on the I&T front with other economies, including Singapore, Professor Sun looked forward to creating a powerful synergy that drives economic growth and innovation in the region.

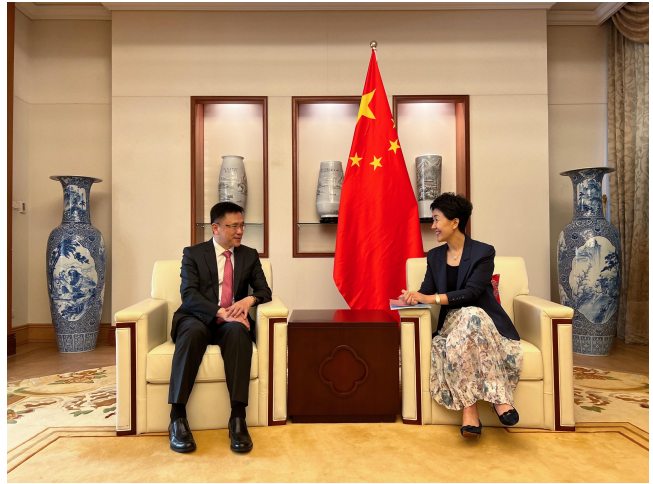
Professor Sun delivered a thematic speech, "Hong Kong: The innovation powerhouse of Greater Bay Area (GBA) – Propelling the I&T development of the Region" at a business luncheon attended by around 100 leaders and executives from the Singaporean I&T community organised by the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Singapore and Invest Hong Kong. Sharing with the community the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government's vision and efforts to develop Hong Kong into an international I&T centre, Professor Sun stressed that Hong Kong and Singapore, both renowned as leading financial and business hubs in Asia, have immense potential to collaborate in the field of I&T development.

"While Hong Kong is the primary gateway to Mainland China and a central city in the GBA powering its regional development, Singapore is one of the leading players and I&T powerhouses in the ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) region. By working together, we both cities can become dual engines propelling the growth of I&T in the region, benefitting not only ourselves but also the entire Asia-Pacific region. Hong Kong can serve as a springboard for Singapore start-ups and enterprises to venture into the GBA and Mainland China markets. In contrast, Hong Kong tech companies can make full use of Singapore as a gateway to expand their businesses in the ASEAN region," he said.

In the afternoon, Professor Sun called on the Minister for Communications and Information, Mrs Josephine Teo. They exchanged views on data, artificial intelligence and Singapore's Smart Nation initiatives. Mrs Teo also shared Singapore's experiences in drafting Singapore's Personal Data Protection Act.

Professor Sun then called on the Chinese Ambassador to Singapore, Ms Sun Haiyan, and briefed her on Hong Kong's continuous efforts in integrating into the national I&T development.

Professor Sun will continue his duty trip in Singapore tomorrow (May 24) to visit JTC Corporation and tour One-north.



[S for S to lead delegation to visit Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area tomorrow](#)

The Secretary for Security, Mr Tang Ping-keung, will lead a delegation to commence a two-day visit to the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area tomorrow (May 24). The delegation will visit Guangzhou, Dongguan and Huizhou to call on the Department of Emergency Management of Guangdong Province as well as the public security bureaux and emergency management bureaux of Guangzhou, Dongguan and Huizhou, and visit local innovation and technology enterprises.

Members of the delegation include the Permanent Secretary for Security, Mr Patrick Li; the Assistant Commissioner of Police (Operations), Mr Lui Kam-ho, and the Assistant Director of Fire Services Department (New Territories

North), Mr Lee Koon-yau.

Mr Tang will return to Hong Kong on May 25. During his absence, the Under Secretary for Security, Mr Michael Cheuk, will be the Acting Secretary for Security.

[Hong Kong Customs seizes about 192 kilograms of suspected scheduled red sandalwood \(with photo\)](#)

â€‹Hong Kong Customs on May 16 and yesterday (May 22) seized a total of about 192 kilograms of suspected scheduled red sandalwood, with an estimated market value of about \$1 million, at Hong Kong International Airport and in Sheung Shui. A man was arrested.

Through risk assessment, Customs officers on May 16 inspected an air consignment, declared as carrying decorative products, arriving in Hong Kong from Dubai. Upon inspection, Customs officers found a total of about 120kg of suspected scheduled red sandalwood concealed inside five carton boxes.

After a follow-up investigation, Customs officers yesterday searched a warehouse in Sheung Shui and further seized a batch of wooden blocks and beads made of suspected scheduled red sandalwood, totalling about 72kg. A 50-year-old man suspected to be connected with the case was arrested.

An investigation is ongoing. The arrested man has been released on bail pending investigation and the likelihood of further arrests is not ruled out.

Under the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance, any person found guilty of importing or exporting an endangered species without a licence is liable to a maximum fine of \$10 million and imprisonment for 10 years.

Members of the public may report any suspected smuggling activities to Customs' 24-hour hotline 2545 6182 or its dedicated crime-reporting email account (crimereport@customs.gov.hk).



[Speech by SITI at business luncheon with Singaporean innovation and technology community \(English only\) \(with photo\)](#)

Following is the speech by the Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry, Professor Sun Dong, at a business luncheon with the Singaporean innovation and technology community today (May 23):

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

Good afternoon. It is my great pleasure to join you all today in the beautiful city of Singapore. As we gather here to enjoy a delicious meal and good company, I am delighted to have this opportunity to share with you our vision and efforts to develop Hong Kong into an international innovation and technology centre in the region as well as an innovation powerhouse of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area.

Promoting the development of innovation and technology in Hong Kong, I&T in short, is high on the policy agenda of the current term of the Government of Hong Kong. Our city's unique East-meet-West character, strategic geographical location being the primary gateway to the Mainland and the Greater Bay Area, and the unwavering support from the Central Government have all played a crucial role driving our success I&T stories. Hong Kong is well known for its openness, diversity, and vibrant entrepreneurial spirit, which have fostered a fertile ground for innovation and creativity. We have a long-standing history of being an important hub connecting Mainland China and the rest of the world, which has enabled our city to capitalise on emerging market trends and access to a diverse pool of talent. Furthermore, our achievements both locally and globally have been widely recognised, with Hong Kong being ranked as one of the world's most competitive economies and a top innovation destination. These factors, combined with the Government's strong

commitment to the I&T development, have positioned Hong Kong as an innovation hub in the region.

Last December, we published the Hong Kong I&T Development Blueprint, which establishes a clear development path and systematic strategic planning for Hong Kong's I&T development over the next five to 10 years. The Blueprint sets out four major development directions and eight key strategies to chart Hong Kong in moving full steam towards our goal of becoming a leading international I&T centre with the staunch support from the Central Government.

One of the key directions that we will put our prime focus on is to further enhance our I&T ecosystem and promote interactive development of the upstream, midstream and downstream sectors. Hong Kong possesses significant strengths in the upstream sector with our strong R&D (research and development) capabilities and our ability to achieve breakthroughs out of the blue. Hong Kong boasts the highest concentration of top-quality universities globally, with five of them ranking in the world's top 70. Our scientific research standards have garnered widespread recognition both nationally and internationally, thanks to the revolutionary and forward-looking R&D outcomes produced by many world-renowned scholars and experts in their respective fields.

In order to further enhance basic research in frontier technology fields such as AI (artificial intelligence) and quantum technology, as recently announced in our Government Budget, the Government of the Hong Kong SAR (Special Administrative Region) will earmark an additional funding of 3 billion Hong Kong dollars, which is equivalent to around 500 million Singapore dollars, to promote the development of relevant facilities, in particular to attract worldwide leading I&T talent, research teams and enterprises, thereby promoting cross-sectoral research co-operation.

Apart from consolidating our upstream R&D strengths, it is important to promote the midstream and downstream sectors by incentivising universities to proactively push ahead with technology transfer and to commercialise their outstanding R&D outcomes, thereby bringing real benefits to the community. To this end, we will be launching later this year a new funding scheme named "Research, Academic and Industry Sectors One-plus Scheme" in a scale of 10 billion Hong Kong dollars, approximately 1.7 billion Singapore dollars, to promote closer collaboration among industry, academic and research sectors and to accelerate the "1 to N" transformation of excellent deep-tech R&D outcomes and the industry development.

We understand that start-ups play a vital role in building a vibrant and sustainable I&T ecosystem. Start-ups are known for their agility, creativity, and risk-taking mindset, which are essential for driving breakthroughs. To support and nurture start-ups, an additional funding of 775 million Hong Kong dollars, equivalent to around 130 million Singapore dollars, will be earmarked this year to launch different programmes to invest in or support the growth of tech start-ups by our two I&T flagships, namely Hong Kong Science Park and Cyberport.

Indeed, the Hong Kong SAR Government is making all-out efforts on promoting the development of technology industries in Hong Kong, with a special emphasis on those that have a competitive advantage and strategic significance, such as life and health technology, AI and data science, as well as advanced manufacturing and new energy technology. To promote the development of the above strategic technology industries, we will make use of the 35 billion Hong Kong dollars fund, equivalent to around 6 billion Singapore dollars, as well as the land and space provided for I&T use starting from 2024 in the Lok Ma Chau Loop and elsewhere in San Tin Technopole to attract high-quality enterprises and talent from all around the world to set foot in Hong Kong. I am most happy to share with you that we have made good progress in attracting both Mainland and international tech companies to establish or expand their businesses in Hong Kong, following months of hard work.

Indeed, this is my first trip to ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) countries since I took up the position of the Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry in last July. I sincerely hope that my visit this time can send a clear message to tech companies in Singapore as well as in other ASEAN countries that Hong Kong welcomes you to set up or expand your operations in Hong Kong, where you can leverage the seamless access to the gigantic market in the Greater Bay Area (GBA) and the Mainland market, and explore boundless business opportunities.

Ladies and gentlemen, Hong Kong and Singapore, both renowned as leading financial and business hubs in Asia, have immense potential to collaborate in the field of I&T development. While Hong Kong is the primary gateway to Mainland China and a central city in the GBA powering its regional development, Singapore is one of the leading players and I&T powerhouses in the ASEAN region. By working together, we both cities can become dual engines propelling the growth of I&T in the region, benefitting not only ourselves, but also the entire Asia-Pacific region. Hong Kong can serve as a springboard for Singapore start-ups and enterprises to venture into the GBA and Mainland China markets. In contrast, Hong Kong tech companies can make full use of Singapore as a gateway to expand their businesses in the ASEAN region.

Indeed, a closer collaboration between Hong Kong and Singapore in I&T development can create a powerful synergy that drives economic growth and innovation in the region. By leveraging each city's strengths and resources, we can work together to overcome challenges and seize new opportunities in the rapidly evolving global I&T landscape.

In closing, I would like to express my sincere appreciation for taking your time to join us at this luncheon. I hope that this luncheon can provide you with some new perspectives and insights into the opportunities that are available in Hong Kong. I encourage you to explore these opportunities, and my colleagues in the Innovation, Technology and Industry Bureau and at the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office are more than happy to assist you to connect to Hong Kong and provide you with all necessary support. Please enjoy and have a good day.



[FEHD Weekend Bazaars to start from this Thursday](#)

A spokesman for the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) said today (May 23) that Weekend Bazaars co-organised by the FEHD and local groups will start from this Thursday (May 25). Admission to the Weekend Bazaars is free and members of the public are welcome to join.

The spokesman said, "The Chief Executive announced in his 2022 Policy Address the Weekend Bazaars project to develop more leisure facilities and projects, and add variety to the activities of citizens, thereby fostering diversified local economic activities. Drawing on the experience of the Home Affairs Department last year, the FEHD will join hands with local groups to organise five Weekend Bazaars this year."

The Weekend Bazaars in Sai Kung District and Tsuen Wan District will be held this week, while the Weekend Bazaar in Yau Tsim District will be held in mid-June. The information of the remaining two bazaars will be announced later. The bazaars offer a diverse range of activities, including performances, various booths providing food, shopping, games, etc, for members of the public to enjoy the weekend. Details of the events are as follows:

Sai Kung District Weekend Bazaar

Date: May 25 to 29

Time: 10am to 11pm

Location: Sai Kung Tin Hau Temple (Sai Kung Town Centre)

Tsuen Wan District Weekend Bazaar

Date: May 26 to 28

Time: 10am to 6pm

Location: Sha Tsui Road Playground, Tsuen Wan

Yau Tsim District Weekend Bazaar

Date: June 17 to 18

Time: 10am to 5.30pm

Location: Piazza of Kowloon Park, Tsim Sha Tsui

For details and relevant information of the events, please visit the FEHD website (www.fehd.gov.hk/english/events/weekend_bazaars_2023.html).