

[Cursory Translation]

**MAINLAND AND HONG KONG**  
**CLOSER ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP ARRANGEMENT**

**Agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation**

***Preamble***

To promote trade and investment facilitation between the Mainland<sup>1</sup> and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (hereinafter referred to as the "two sides"), as well as to fully enhance the level of economic and technical exchanges and cooperation, the two sides decided to sign this Agreement to strengthen economic and technical cooperation between the Mainland and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (hereinafter referred to as "Hong Kong").

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<sup>1</sup> The "Mainland" refers to the entire customs territory of China.

**CHAPTER 1**  
**RELATIONSHIP WITH CEPA<sup>2</sup>**

***Article 1***

*Relationship with CEPA*

1. The two sides decided to sign this Agreement on the basis of CEPA and its Supplements. This Agreement is the Agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation of CEPA.
  
2. The relevant content of Articles 13, 14 and 15 in Chapter 4, Articles 16 and 17 of Chapter 5 and Annex 6 of CEPA shall be implemented in accordance with this Agreement. In the event of any conflict between the provisions of this Agreement and the provisions of the CEPA and its Supplements, the provisions of this Agreement shall prevail.
  
3. The two sides reaffirm the existing cooperation under CEPA, and agree to explore new areas of cooperation.

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<sup>2</sup> CEPA is the abbreviation of the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement.

## **CHAPTER 2**

### **COOPERATION OBJECTIVES AND MECHANISM**

#### ***Article 2***

##### *Cooperation Objectives*

1. Based on the principle of mutual benefit and with a view to further facilitating and promoting trade and investment between them, the two sides agree to enhance the level of economic and trade cooperation, and strengthen economic and technical cooperation in accordance with their respective laws and regulations, policy objectives and resource allocation.
  
2. The two sides encourage Hong Kong's participation in the "Belt and Road" Initiative, support the two places in strengthening sub-regional economic and trade cooperation, further deepen the cooperation in key areas between the Mainland and Hong Kong, promote trade and investment facilitation, and foster the joint development of the two places.

#### ***Article 3***

##### *Cooperation Mechanism*

1. Pursuant to Article 19 in Chapter 6 of CEPA, under the guidance and coordination of the Joint Steering Committee, the two sides will establish communication channels and mechanisms for consultation and coordination through the existing operational

mechanisms or setting up new working groups to notify each other on important policies, support exchanges between the industrial and commercial sectors of the two sides, and jointly promote cooperation and development in relevant areas.

2. At the request of either side, the two sides may consult each other on, supplement and amend the cooperation areas and specific content of cooperation pursuant to Article 2.

### **CHAPTER 3**

#### **DEEPENING COOPERATION IN ECONOMIC AND TRADE AREAS OF THE “BELT AND ROAD” INITIATIVE**

#### ***Article 4***

##### *Deepening cooperation in economic and trade areas of the “Belt and Road” Initiative*

The two sides agree to adopt the following measures with a view to deepening the cooperation in economic and trade areas of the “Belt and Road” Initiative:

1. Establish an operational liaison mechanism, and strengthen information exchanges and communication on the “Belt and Road” Initiative between the two places.

2. Encourage the establishment of multi-level communication channels by government departments, industry organisations and

investment promotion agencies of the two sides for information sharing.

3. Provide an exchange platform to support semi-official organisations, non-official organisations and the trade in the two places to play a part in facilitating the implementation of the “Belt and Road” Initiative.

4. Give full play to Hong Kong’s strengths in financial services, professional services, logistics, trading, etc., and support the trade of Hong Kong in participating in the development of various industrial parks and economic zones.

5. Support the trade of the two places to strengthen cooperation, jointly participate in the major projects of the “Belt and Road” Initiative, and jointly explore the markets along the “Belt and Road”. Support Hong Kong in providing professional services for the “Belt and Road” Initiative, including the provision of professional services such as legal, dispute resolution, accounting and taxation services, etc. in a market-oriented approach for Mainland enterprises’ expansion into overseas markets and investment projects. Support the cooperation between the two places in the integration of large-scale infrastructure projects in respect of construction and operation.

6. Enhance publicity campaigns related to the “Belt and Road” Initiative. Support Hong Kong in organising high-level “Belt

and Road” thematic forums. Encourage Hong Kong investment promotion agencies, industry associations and trade organisations to launch activities, such as seminars and training, relating to the “Belt and Road” Initiative.

## **CHAPTER 4**

### **COOPERATION IN KEY AREAS**

#### ***Article 5***

##### *Financial Cooperation*

The two sides agree to adopt the following measures with a view to further strengthening cooperation in the areas of banking, securities and insurance:

1. Support Mainland banks to make use of Hong Kong’s international financial platform to develop their international businesses on the premise of prudent operation.
  
2. On the basis of commercial sustainability and prudent risk management, taking into account individual banks’ characteristics and actual situation of development, and under the voluntary principle, support large commercial banks and joint-equity banks of the Mainland in re-locating their international treasury and foreign exchange trading centres to Hong Kong in a prudent manner.

3. On the basis of commercial sustainability and prudent risk management, taking into account individual banks' characteristics and actual situation of development, and under the voluntary principle, support Mainland banks in carrying out activities such as developing network and business activities in Hong Kong through acquisition, and setting up subsidiaries in Hong Kong for business operations in a prudent manner.
4. Establish a fast track ("green lane") for applications from Hong Kong banks for setting up branches in the central western and north eastern areas and Guangdong Province of the Mainland.
5. Encourage qualified Hong Kong banks to set up rural banks in rural areas of the Mainland.
6. Enhance the two-way cross-border Renminbi (RMB) fund flow mechanism and closer financial cooperation between the two places, including actively promoting the development of cross-border investment activities, increasing the investment quota of RMB Qualified Foreign Institutional Investors (RQFII) for Hong Kong, and promoting the RMB Cross-border Interbank Payment System (CIPS) as a main channel for cross-border RMB fund settlement with a view to further enhancing the cross-border RMB settlement infrastructure between the Mainland and Hong Kong.
7. The Mainland shall further streamline the relevant requirements for overseas listing of Mainland enterprises, so as to

support qualified Mainland enterprises that satisfy Hong Kong's listing requirements to get listed in Hong Kong, and create favourable conditions for Mainland enterprises, especially small and medium enterprises, to raise capital through direct listing in overseas markets.

8. Explore further relaxation of the restrictions on the shareholdings of, and the lowering of the entry threshold for, Hong Kong financial institutions setting up joint venture securities companies, fund management companies, futures companies and securities investment advisory companies in the Mainland; and depending on the situation, gradually increase the number of Mainland-Hong Kong joint venture securities companies in the Mainland with controlling shareholding by Hong Kong financial institutions.

9. On the basis of prudent risk management, study further expansion of the scope of eligible securities under the mutual capital market access scheme between the two places in an orderly manner, set a timetable for the establishment of an investor identification mechanism under the mutual market access scheme, and when the relevant conditions are fulfilled, to realise the inclusion of exchange-traded funds (ETFs) as eligible securities under the mutual market access scheme. Actively support the promotion of cooperation and connection between financial infrastructures in the two places, including the bond market.



10. Review and assess the progress of the mutual recognition of funds between the Mainland and Hong Kong, and continuously adjust and enhance the rules and regulatory policies on mutual recognition in view of new situations and new issues that arise in the course of the mutual recognition process.
11. Support the set-up of subsidiaries in Hong Kong by qualified Mainland futures companies to carry out business in Hong Kong in accordance with the laws.
12. Actively explore ways and means to deepen cooperation between the commodity futures markets in the Mainland and in Hong Kong, and promote the establishment of a futures market system in which both sides can complement each other's advantage, work in cooperation and develop mutually.
13. Continue to encourage Mainland enterprises to issue bonds in RMB and in foreign currencies in Hong Kong, promote the realisation of Mainland enterprises issuing RMB-denominated stocks in Hong Kong and making use of Hong Kong platform to raise capital, and promote the full circulation of H-shares.
14. Actively promote mutual access between bond markets in the two places, including the active promotion of mutual access between exchange-listed bond markets in the two places. Support Hong Kong's development of offshore risk management business for the Mainland financial markets, and study the models of mutual

access between bonds, over-the-counter financial derivatives and commodity derivatives markets in the two places. Promote the RMB Cross-border Interbank Payment System (CIPS) as a main channel for cross-border RMB fund settlement with a view to further enhancing the cross-border RMB settlement infrastructure between the Mainland and Hong Kong.

15. The Mainland will, in line with the principles of observing market rules and enhancing regulatory efficiency, support eligible Mainland insurance companies in listing in Hong Kong.

16. Support Hong Kong insurance companies to enter the market through setting up business institutions or capital participation, so as to take part and share in the development of the Mainland insurance market. Enhance bilateral cooperation in areas such as development of insurance products, business operation and operational management, etc.

17. Actively support qualified Hong Kong insurers to take part in compulsory traffic accident liability insurance business in the Mainland. The Mainland will, in accordance with relevant rules and regulations, actively consider facilitating applications made by Hong Kong insurers.

18. The Mainland will support the efforts of making full utilisation of and bringing into full play the role of Hong Kong financial

intermediaries during the process of reform, restructuring and development of the Mainland financial sector.

19. Both sides strengthen cooperation and information sharing between the financial regulators.

## **Article 6**

### *Cooperation in Tourism*

The two sides agree to adopt the following measures with a view to further strengthening cooperation in the area of tourism:

1. Support Mainland and Hong Kong tourism enterprises in expanding the scope of cooperation and enhancing interaction of the industry. Advance the cooperation in the development of cruise tourism between the Mainland and Hong Kong, support the collaboration among regional cruise homeports for mutual benefits, and strengthen cooperation in areas including the development of cruise itineraries, publicity and promotion, as well as human resources development. Promote the building of diversified tourism platforms in Hong Kong.

2. Utilise the platforms of overseas tourism exhibitions and fairs to conduct joint publicity and promotion, and further enhance the cooperation of the respective overseas offices of the Mainland and Hong Kong tourism organisations. Promote tourism exchange and collaboration between the Mainland and Hong Kong.

3. Establish a sound coordination mechanism for strengthening the regulatory regime for the tourism markets in the Mainland and Hong Kong, promote the exchanges of market regulatory information, strengthen the collaboration on law enforcement with regard to tourism, and jointly combat the organisation of tour groups at unreasonably low prices and other unlawful activities. Regulate the operation of tourism enterprises to protect the legitimate rights and interests of tourists, and jointly promote the healthy and orderly development of tourism markets in the Mainland and Hong Kong.

4. Deepen the regional tourism cooperation among Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao, and support the development of a world-class tourist destinations cluster within the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area. Contribute as the key link to connect Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao with Mainland coastal provinces such as Guangxi and Fujian, enrich “multi-destination” itineraries, and jointly develop Maritime Silk Road tourism products.

### ***Article 7***

#### ***Cooperation in Legal and Dispute Resolution Services***

The two sides agree to adopt the following measures with a view to further strengthening cooperation in the area of legal and dispute resolution:

1. Support professional institutions in the legal and dispute resolution services of the two places in building cooperation and exchange platforms to enhance business exchange and collaboration.
2. Support Hong Kong in establishing itself as a centre for international legal and dispute resolution services in the Asia-Pacific region.

### **Article 8**

#### *Cooperation in Accounting*

The two sides agree to adopt the following measures with a view to further strengthening cooperation in the area of accounting:

1. Improve the operational mechanism of ongoing convergence of accounting and auditing standards between the two places, jointly contribute in the international accounting and auditing standards setting organisations, and facilitate the setting of relevant high-quality international standards.
2. Support Hong Kong accounting professionals who have qualified as Chinese Certified Public Accountants to become partners of accounting firms in the Mainland, and support Mainland accounting professionals who have qualified as Hong Kong Certified

Public Accountants to become partners of accounting firms in Hong Kong.

3. Support the accounting sector of the two places to play a role in developing accounting and auditing standards, as well as establishing the management system of the accounting industry, and the appointment of Hong Kong accounting professionals as accounting advisory consultants.

4. Improve the mechanism on mutual exemption of certain papers of the professional qualification examinations for Mainland and Hong Kong Certified Public Accountants.

5. Deepen the convergence of the Mainland and Hong Kong auditing regulations, and further improve the regulatory cooperation mechanism based on mutual reliance.

6. Support Mainland accounting firms in setting up representative offices, branches, and developing member firms in Hong Kong.

7. Encourage accounting firms of the two places to strengthen cooperation and exchanges in business activities, such as deepening the development of the “Belt and Road” Initiative, and the provision of auditing services for listing of Mainland enterprises outside the Mainland.

## **Article 9**

### *Cooperation in Convention and Exhibition Industry*

The two sides agree to adopt the following measures with a view to further strengthening cooperation in the convention and exhibition industry:

1. The Mainland will support and cooperate with Hong Kong in organising large-scale international conventions and exhibitions.
2. With a view to promoting the development of Hong Kong's convention and exhibition industry, upon request of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and subject to the agreement of relevant authorities of the Central People's Government, the relevant Mainland departments will facilitate the processing of applications made by individuals of Mainland enterprises participating in conventions and exhibitions for travel documents and endorsements required for visiting Hong Kong to participate in conventions and exhibitions held there.
3. Support relevant semi-official organisations, non-official organisations and the trade to play a part in promoting cooperation in the convention and exhibition industry between the two places.

## **Article 10**

### *Cultural Cooperation*

The two sides agree to adopt the following measures with a view to further strengthening cooperation in the cultural industry:

1. Support and step up exchanges and communication with regard to the cultural industry of the two places, and promote the development of cultural trade of both places.
2. Exchange information relating to the formulation and enforcement of laws and regulations in respect of the cultural industry.
3. Promptly examine and tackle problems arising from the exchanges of the cultural industry of the two places.
4. Enhance cooperation in the organisation of visits, exchanges, exhibitions, etc.
5. Jointly explore cooperation proposals on marketing development and other areas.
6. Support relevant semi-official organisations, non-official organisations and the trade to play a part in promoting cultural cooperation between the two places.



## **Article 11**

### *Environmental Cooperation*

The two sides agree to adopt the following measures with a view to further strengthening cooperation in the environmental industry:

1. Strengthen exchanges and communication in the area of cooperation in the environmental industry.
2. Exchange information relating to the formulation and enforcement of laws and regulations in respect of the environmental industry.
3. Enhance cooperation in training, organising visits, etc.
4. Strengthen cooperation between the two places in the environmental industry by various means including organising trade exhibitions, seminars, etc.
5. Explore cooperation proposals to further facilitate business operations in order to support the development of the environmental industry of the two places.
6. Support and assist semi-official organisations, non-official organisations and the trade to play a part in promoting environmental cooperation between the two places.

## **Article 12**

### *Cooperation in Innovation and Technology*

The two sides agree to adopt the following measures with a view to further strengthening cooperation in innovation and technology:

1. Strengthen exchanges and cooperation between the two places in the area of innovation and technology, including technology trade, and continue to organise Mainland technology exhibitions in Hong Kong. Support Hong Kong in developing innovation and technology industry in areas including robotics, bio-medicine, smart city and financial technology, and nurture emerging industries.
2. Jointly build a platform for the two places, and through complementary advantages and synergy effect, actively connect and bring in outstanding international research institutes and talents, and promote the exchanges and cooperation in technological research and development and transfer of research and development results among institutes and enterprises in the Mainland, Hong Kong and overseas.
3. Support Hong Kong research personnel and organisations to participate in national science and technology projects, steadily promote the implementation of collaborative research and development projects, and progressively promote the involvement of

Hong Kong research institutes and enterprises in the national innovation and technology system.

4. Strengthen cooperation between the two places in scientific researches, high-tech research and development, and the application of the science and technology industry through platforms such as Partner State Key Laboratories (PSKLs) in Hong Kong, Hong Kong Branches of the Chinese National Engineering Research Centres (CNERCs), and Hong Kong National High-tech Industrialisation (Partner) Bases; and continue supporting the work of PSKLs in Hong Kong and Hong Kong Branches of CNERCs.

5. Support the cooperation and exchanges of the high-tech zones and co-working space between the two places, encourage young people in Hong Kong to innovate and develop start-up businesses, and promote the industrialisation of innovation and technology. Enhance the communication and exchanges of young entrepreneurial talents between the two places, facilitate Hong Kong young entrepreneurs to visit the Mainland, and explore cooperation in entrepreneurship and innovation with a view to providing Hong Kong young talents with room for development.

6. Support and assist semi-official organisations, non-official organisations and the trade to play a part in promoting cooperation in innovation and technology between the two places.

### **Article 13**

#### *Cooperation in Education*

The two sides agree to adopt the following measures with a view to further strengthening cooperation in the area of education:

1. Strengthen exchanges and communication in the area of education cooperation between the two places.
2. Strengthen exchanges of information in respect of education.
3. Strengthen cooperation in training, organisation of visits, etc.
4. Strengthen education cooperation through various means such as professional collaboration, organising seminars, etc.
5. Support Mainland education institutions and Hong Kong higher education institutions to jointly provide education programmes, establish joint research facilities and nurture talents at undergraduate or above level in the Mainland.

## **Article 14**

### *Cooperation in Electronic Commerce*

The two sides agree to adopt the following measures with a view to further strengthening cooperation in the area of electronic commerce:

1. Cooperate in specialised projects in respect of the study and formulation of rules, regulations and standards of electronic commerce, with a view to creating a favourable environment for promoting and ensuring the healthy development of electronic commerce.
2. Strengthen exchanges and cooperation in areas such as corporate application, promotion and training. Make full use of the relevant government departments of the two sides in promotion and coordination, foster interaction between the relevant government departments and enterprises of the two places, and facilitate the launching of electronic commerce among enterprises through demonstration projects.
3. Strengthen cooperation in implementing e-government, intensify exchanges and cooperation in the development of e-government at various levels.
4. Cooperate in economic and trade information exchanges, expand the breadth and depth of cooperation, and strengthen the

connection of e-commerce logistics information with Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao as the core to support the rapid development of electronic commerce in the region.

5. Continue the cooperation in promoting electronic signature certificates that comply with the mutual recognition certificate policy to ensure the security and reliability of cross-border electronic transactions.

6. Capitalise on the advantages of the two places to promote the development of cross-boundary electronic commerce for key industries and bulk commodities.

7. Strengthen exchanges between the two places regarding cross-boundary data flow, and form a joint working group to study feasible policy measures and arrangements.

### ***Article 15***

#### ***Cooperation in Small and Medium Enterprises***

The two sides agree to adopt the following measures with a view to further strengthening exchanges and cooperation between small and medium enterprises of the two places:

1. Jointly explore the strategy and support policy for the development of small and medium enterprises through visits and exchanges.

2. Organise visits and exchanges on the organisational and operational modes of the intermediaries providing services to small and medium enterprises in the two places, and promote cooperation of the intermediaries.
3. Establish channels for providing information services to small and medium enterprises in the two places, exchange regularly relevant publications, implement progressively information interchange and the interconnection of information website databases of the two sides.
4. Organise through different modes direct exchanges and communication between small and medium enterprises of the two places to promote their cooperation.
5. Support and assist semi-official and non-official organisations to play a part in promoting cooperation between small and medium enterprises of the two places.

## ***Article 16***

### ***Cooperation in Intellectual Property***

The two sides agree to adopt the following measures with a view to further strengthening cooperation in the area of intellectual property:

1. Exchange information and share experience relating to the formulation and implementation of laws and regulations in respect of intellectual property protection.
2. Share and promote materials and information relating to the protection, exploitation and trading of intellectual property to the public, the industry and relevant parties, through different modes of exchanges, including business visits, exchange activities, seminars and relevant publications.
3. Continue to enhance cooperation between the Mainland and Hong Kong in the areas of nurturing talents and personnel training.
4. Promote cooperation between the Mainland and Hong Kong in the implementation and exploitation of intellectual property, intellectual property intermediary services, intellectual property trading, and handling of intellectual property disputes through alternative dispute resolution (including arbitration or mediation).
5. Continue to support the enhancement of Hong Kong patent system, provide technical support and assistance for the implementation of the patent system in Hong Kong in various areas covering substantive examination, review, post-grant patent disputes, and automation services.



6. Support the cooperation in intellectual property creation, exploitation, protection and the development of intellectual property trading between Guangdong and Hong Kong, promote the publicity and education of intellectual property between the two places, and assist the development of high-end intellectual property service industry.

### ***Article 17***

#### ***Cooperation in Trademark and Branding***

The two sides agree to adopt the following measures with a view to further strengthening cooperation in trademark and branding:

1. The Trademark Working Coordination Group set up by the Office of Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan Affairs of the State Administration for Industry and Commerce and the Intellectual Property Department of Hong Kong will serve as a regular liaison mechanism for the two sides, with a view to further strengthening exchanges and cooperation in the areas of trademark and branding.
2. Strengthen exchanges and cooperation between the Mainland and Hong Kong in the areas of trademark registration, trademark protection, and matters relating to the “Protocol Relating to the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks”.

3. Exchange information relating to the formulation and implementation of laws and regulations in respect of protection of brands between the two sides; strengthen cooperation in areas such as training, visits and publications; and strengthen promotion of brands of the two places through various means such as promotion on websites, at exhibitions and seminars.

### ***Article 18***

#### ***Cooperation in Traditional Chinese Medicine and Chinese Medicinal Products Industry***

The two sides agree to adopt the following measures with a view to further strengthening cooperation in the area of traditional Chinese medicine and Chinese medicinal products industry:

1. Communicate on the formulation of their respective regulations on and management of traditional Chinese medicine and Chinese medicinal products with a view to achieving information sharing.
2. Strengthen communication on information on areas such as development strategy and development orientation of traditional Chinese medicine and Chinese medicinal products industry.
3. Strengthen communication and coordination in the management of registration of traditional Chinese medicinal products, implement standardisation in the management of traditional Chinese

medicinal products, and facilitate mutual trade in traditional Chinese medicinal products.

4. Support cooperation between enterprises in the traditional Chinese medicine and Chinese medicinal products industry of the two places and jointly explore the international markets.

5. Strengthen cooperation and trade and investment promotion in the traditional Chinese medicine and Chinese medicinal products industry, and expedite the development of trade in services of Chinese medicine.

6. Support and assist semi-official and non-official organisations to play a part in promoting cooperation in the traditional Chinese medicine and Chinese medicinal products industry between the two places.

**CHAPTER 5**  
**SUB-REGIONAL ECONOMIC AND TRADE COOPERATION**

***Article 19***

*Deepening Economic and Trade Cooperation in Pan-Pearl River  
Delta Region*

1. The two sides give full play to existing cooperation platforms and liaison mechanisms to continue deepening economic and trade cooperation in Pan-Pearl River Delta Region.
  
2. The two sides capitalise on the advantage of Hong Kong as an international financial, trading and shipping centre, strengthen cooperation of industries such as finance, commerce and trade, technology, tourism, etc., in the Pan-Pearl River Delta Region, promote the expansion of mutual investment, and jointly explore the international markets.
  
3. The two sides encourage enterprises in the Pan-Pearl River Delta Region to utilise Hong Kong as a platform to explore cooperation in investment with the countries and regions along the “Belt and Road”.
  
4. The two sides support the nine provinces/regions in the Pan-Pearl River Delta Region to leverage their own advantages to build various types of cooperation zones with Hong Kong.

5. On the existing basis of economic and trade cooperation, the two sides actively promote the development of Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area.

### ***Article 20***

#### *Supporting the Participation of Hong Kong in the Development of Pilot Free Trade Zones*

1. The two sides make use of the economic and trade cooperation mechanisms between the two places to enhance the notification of policies and information exchanges between the two sides on the development of the Mainland Pilot Free Trade Zones.

2. Under the framework of CEPA, the two sides study the further liberalisation for Hong Kong service industries in the Pilot Free Trade Zones. The two sides encourage Hong Kong to participate actively in the national strategies on major development through the Pilot Free Trade Zones, capitalise on the strategy of “leveraging on Hong Kong and Macao, serving the Mainland and reaching out globally” of the China (Guangdong) Pilot Free Trade Zone, and further promote the liberalisation of trade in services between Guangdong and Hong Kong.

3. The two sides encourage Hong Kong micro, small and medium enterprises and youth to start their businesses in the Pilot Free Trade Zones.

4. The two sides give full play to Hong Kong's strength in the aspects of investment management, trade regulation and financial innovation, etc. to integrate with the reform and liberalisation in the Mainland Pilot Free Trade Zones, invent the new modes of development and explore the potential for cooperation.

## ***Article 21***

### *Deepening the Cooperation*

#### *between Hong Kong and Qianhai, Nansha and Hengqin*

1. The two sides give full play to existing cooperation platforms and liaison mechanisms to promote the deepening of cooperation between Hong Kong and Qianhai, Nansha and Hengqin.

2. The two sides support Qianhai, Nansha and Hengqin in taking forward further liberalisation to Hong Kong in key areas such as finance, transportation and shipping, commerce and trade, professional services and technology on an early and pilot basis, and explore new modes to deepen economic cooperation with Hong Kong.

3. The two sides promote the setting up of cooperation demonstration zones for Guangdong and Hong Kong talents, and support Hong Kong youth to develop and start their businesses in Nansha, Qianhai and Hengqin, for example, at Guangdong Hong Kong and Macao Youth Entrepreneur Hub, and Youth Innovation and Entrepreneur Hub, etc.

**CHAPTER 6**  
**TRADE AND INVESTMENT FACILITATION**

***Article 22***

*Trade and Investment Promotion*

The two sides agree to adopt the following measures with a view to further strengthening cooperation in the area of trade and investment promotion:

1. Notify and publicise their respective policies and regulations on external trade and foreign investment promotion, with a view to achieving information sharing.
2. Exchange views and conduct consultations to solve common problems relating to trade and investment of the two sides.
3. Strengthen communication and collaboration in promoting mutual investment and overseas investment.
4. Strengthen cooperation in organising exhibitions and arranging delegations to participate in exhibitions across the border or abroad.
5. Conduct exchanges on other issues of mutual concern relating to trade and investment promotion.

6. Support and assist semi-official and non-official organisations to play a part in the area of trade and investment promotion, and to conduct trade and investment promotion activities.

### ***Article 23***

#### ***Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine***

The two sides agree to adopt the following measures with a view to further strengthening cooperation in the area of quality supervision, inspection and quarantine:

1. Inspection and supervision of electrical and mechanical products

To ensure the safety of consumers of both sides, the two sides will enhance information flow and exchanges through established communication channels, in particular the exchanges of information and intelligence on the safety of electrical and mechanical products, so as to jointly prevent safety problems associated with these products. The two sides will also promote cooperation in the training of inspection and supervisory personnel.

The two sides are committed to implementing the “Cooperation Arrangement on Electrical and Mechanical Products Safety” signed between the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of the People’s Republic of



China, and the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department of Hong Kong on 12 February 2003.

2. Inspection and quarantine of animals and plants, and food safety

The two sides will make use of the existing coordination mechanisms to step up cooperation in inspection and quarantine of animals and plants as well as in food safety, so as to enable both sides to enforce their respective regulations more effectively.

The two sides agreed to actively pursue discussions on the “Memorandum of Understanding between the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine and the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau of Hong Kong on the Arrangements for the Inspection of Wines Imported into the Mainland through Hong Kong”, actively commence cooperation and put in place clearance facilitation and related measures for wines imported into the Mainland through Hong Kong in accordance with relevant laws and regulations of the two sides and safety requirements.

3. Monitoring of health and quarantine issues

The two sides will make use of the existing channels to regularly notify each other of the information on epidemic outbreaks and to step up academic exchanges and joint researches on health

and quarantine issues; discuss health monitoring issues in respect of small vessels plying the control points of Guangdong and Shenzhen; enhance cooperation in areas such as investigation and prevention of tropical infectious diseases and diseases vectors, monitoring of health and quarantine issues related to biomedical special articles, and testing and handling of chemical, biological and nuclear agents.

4. Relevant authorities of the two sides will make use of existing cooperation channels to strengthen cooperation in the innovation of certification and accreditation systems, and support the certification, accreditation, inspection and testing organisations to conduct technical exchanges and cooperation.

5. To ensure consumer product safety of the two places, strengthen cooperation and exchanges in the area of consumer product safety, and convene regular meetings in accordance with the mechanism signed by and communication channels established by relevant authorities of the two places, while exploring cooperation such as technical exchanges and training in the area of consumer product safety.

6. Actively promote cooperation between Hong Kong's testing laboratories and Mainland's certification bodies which are members of international multilateral systems on mutual recognition of testing and certification that are open to national member bodies (such as the IECEE/CB system), so that Hong Kong's testing laboratories can be recognised under these multilateral systems.

7. Actively consider recommending an eligible certification body located in Hong Kong to join the International Electrotechnical Commission System of Conformity Assessment Schemes for Electrotechnical Equipment and Components (IECEE) as a National Certification Body (NCB) of China.

8. Consider applications of eligible certification bodies set up by Hong Kong enterprises in the Mainland to become designated certification bodies under the China Compulsory Certification (CCC) System.

#### ***Article 24***

##### *Transparency*

The two sides agree to adopt the following measures with a view to further strengthening cooperation in the area of transparency:

1. Exchange information on the enactment and revision of laws, regulations and rules in respect of investment, trade and other economic areas.

2. Disseminate in a timely manner information on policies and regulations through various media including newspapers, journals and websites.

3. Organise and support the organisation of various briefings and seminars on economic and trade policies and regulations.

4. Provide advisory services to commercial and industrial enterprises through channels such as WTO enquiry points and websites of “Invest in China” and “China Business Guide” of the Mainland.

### ***Article 25***

#### ***Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications***

1. The two sides agree to take forward mutual recognition of professional qualifications in the areas of construction and related engineering and real estate, etc.

2. Relevant authorities or professional bodies of the two sides will commence exchanges on the mutual recognition of qualifications of electrical and public facility engineers and will start technical exchanges on civil engineers (geotechnical) and land surveyor.

3. The two sides will establish a working group to study and take forward matters in connection with registration and practice for construction sector professionals after they have acquired professional qualifications through mutual recognition.

4. Relevant authorities or professional bodies of the two sides will carry on the mutual recognition of qualifications for professionals in disciplines where mutual recognition agreements have been signed and conditions well met.

5. Study the matters related to carrying on the mutual recognition of qualifications between Supervision Engineers of the Mainland and Building Surveyors of Hong Kong. Relevant authorities or professional bodies of the two sides will commence the mutual recognition of professional qualifications (supervision engineering) between Supervision Engineers of the Mainland and Building Engineers of Hong Kong, and exchanges in recognition of Hong Kong Architects obtaining qualification of Supervision Engineers of the Mainland.

6. Relevant authorities or professional bodies of the two sides will take forward the technical exchanges of landscape architectural professionals between the two places.

7. The two sides will continue with the mutual recognition of professional qualifications between real estate appraisers in the Mainland and general practice surveyors in Hong Kong, and between cost engineers in the Mainland and quantity surveyors in Hong Kong.

8. Continue to promote the work on mutual recognition of professional qualifications between estate agents of the Mainland and Hong Kong.

9. To allow Hong Kong residents who have formally become members of the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants on or before 31 March 2009 to be exempted from the "Finance and Accounting" paper when sitting for Mainland's Tax Agent qualification examination.

10. Relevant authorities and professional bodies of the two sides will study, consult, and formulate specific methodologies for mutual recognition of professional qualifications.

**CHAPTER 7**  
**OTHER PROVISIONS**

***Article 26***  
*Coming into Effect*

This Agreement shall come into effect on the day of signature by the representatives of the two sides.

This Agreement is signed in duplicate in the Chinese language.

This Agreement is signed on 28 June 2017 in Hong Kong.

Vice Minister of Commerce  
People's Republic of China

Financial Secretary  
Hong Kong Special  
Administrative Region of the  
People's Republic of China

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