

(Translation)

**Speaking Notes of the Secretary for Innovation and Technology  
at the Special Meeting of the Finance Committee  
on 8 April 2020 (Wednesday)**

Chairman, the Innovation and Technology Bureau (“ITB”), through different measures in the past year, continued to perfect the innovation and technology (“I&T”) ecosystem in Hong Kong on the one hand, and stepped up support for the industry to cope with the volatile environment on the other. The Financial Secretary has announced in the 2020-21 Budget (“the Budget”) various new and enhanced measures. I will give a brief overview as follows.

2. Firstly, the Budget has announced to earmark \$3 billion for Phase II of the Hong Kong Science Park (“Science Park”) Expansion Programme. To respond to the keen local demand for research and development (“R&D”) facilities, the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation (“HKSTPC”) has commissioned a consultant to conduct a master planning study on the expansion of the Hong Kong Science Park (“Science Park”) to explore on-site and off-site development options. Upon completion of the relevant studies by the HKSTPC, we will consult the Legislative Council (“LegCo”) Panel on Commerce and Industry (“C&I Panel”) on the specific proposal and financial arrangement of the Expansion Programme, and seek funding approval from the LegCo Finance Committee.

3. Also, the Government has announced to set aside \$40 million to subsidise short-term internships for undergraduates and postgraduates taking STEM programmes in local universities. Through the STEM Internship Scheme, we hope to encourage STEM students to gain I&T-related work experience during their studies, and to develop an interest in pursuing a career in I&T after graduation, so as to enlarge the local I&T talent pool. We are drawing up the details of the scheme and consulting relevant universities on operational matters. We will consult the LegCo C&I Panel in due course, with a view to launching the scheme within 2020.

4. Besides, the Budget has announced to further enhance some existing funding schemes. We have since 1 April raised the Government’s

funding ratio under the Technology Voucher Programme (“TVP”) from two-thirds to three quarters, and increased the funding ceiling and maximum number of projects per applicant to \$600,000 and six. We believe that these would encourage local enterprises to undertake more and larger-scale projects for using technologies to improve productivity, and to upgrade or transform. We will also consolidate the Research Programme (“RP”) and the Postdoctoral Hub (“PH”) starting from July this year to allow for more flexibility for eligible institutions in engaging R&D talent.

5. Indeed, in the past few months, ITB has introduced enhancements to a number of funding schemes, thereby allowing more companies to benefit from our support and enabling companies to commence projects with sufficient funds. The enhancement measures include expanding the applicable technology areas and coverage under the Technology Talent Admission Scheme; extending the funding scopes of the Public Sector Trial Scheme, RP and PH, as well as enabling advance disbursement of partial funding for the Enterprise Support Scheme, TVP, the Reindustrialisation and Technology Training Programme and the Patent Application Grant.

6. As the Financial Secretary has said in the Budget, “there is still some way to go to develop I&T into mature industries”. In the coming year, my ITB colleagues and I will continue to work hard to foster I&T development in Hong Kong. Apart from implementing the initiatives and proposals put forward in the Budget, our key tasks include –

- first, to release the *Smart City Blueprint for Hong Kong 2.0* within this year to update the latest progress of various initiatives and set out new proposals;
- second, to launch the electronic identity platform currently named as “iAM Smart” and the “Next Generation Government Cloud” and “Big Data Analytics Platform” in the second half of this year;
- third, to continue taking forward I&T infrastructure projects, especially the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Park in the Loop, the Cyberport 5, the InnoCell, the Data Technology Hub and the Advanced Manufacturing Centre;
- fourth, to press ahead with the establishment of two *InnoHK* research clusters with a view to progressively setting up the first

batch of R&D laboratories this year, thereby promoting R&D collaboration between top local and overseas researchers;

- fifth, to launch the Re-industrialisation Funding Scheme and develop a Microelectronics Centre for promoting “re-industrialisation” in Hong Kong;
- sixth, to organise the first City I&T Grand Challenge to drive the I&T atmosphere in Hong Kong; and
- seventh, to continue actively participating in the development of an international I&T hub in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, creating a broader arena for the I&T sector.

7. At present, Hong Kong is still going through the difficult epidemic. We, hand in hand with the I&T sector, will continue making use of local technologies to contribute to the epidemic fight. On this occasion, I would like to thank Members for the support and valuable comments all along on I&T development. I hope Members and the public will continue to support the work of ITB.

8. Thank you, Chairman.

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