

## Press Release

### The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers' Views on the Coming 2023-24 Budget

(Hong Kong, 20 February 2023) The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers (“HKIE”) has recently expressed views and made recommendations to the Financial Secretary for the coming 2023-24 Budget on seven key areas. In essence, the HKIE looks forward to a Budget that enables the Government in taking up an active role in increasing investment into the society and safeguarding the economic/financial strength of Hong Kong and supports the economic rebound of the city.

Key highlights of the HKIE’s recommendations are:

#### 1. Competing for Talents

- Increase the governmental subsidy to engineering companies hiring engineering graduates under the HKIE Formal Training Schemes (Scheme “A” / AM Training) as trainees from HK\$5,610 (an amount that has not been adjusted for many years) to HK\$10,000 or above to provide those companies with a stronger incentive to hire graduates as trainees.
- Offer two-year subsidies of approximately HK\$10,000 each to companies that employ overseas graduates to attract engineering talents from abroad.
- Review the education system, secondary education curricula, and university admission requirements to help encourage STEAM education and nurture local engineering talent pool.
- Launch special schemes to support mid-career engineers to help retaining talents, alleviate manpower shortage, and foster the sustainable growth of the engineering industry, which are essential for delivering commitments formulated in the development blueprint.
- Detailed recommendations were made earlier in the HKIE’s report in April 2022: [Research on Augmenting Engineer Manpower to Cope with the Foreseeable Surge in Demand](#) (English only)

#### 2. Well-planned Infrastructure Development

- Set out a detailed infrastructure blueprint setting out the priority and timeframe of each infrastructure project for the coming two decades.

- Relevant authorities to coordinate and prioritise projects in various strategic planning roadmaps according to cost-effectiveness, demand, capability to address existing social issues to best allocate and utilise available resources.
- Speed up implementation of railway and transportation projects that are behind actual development, and review previous experiences and bring about improvements to guard against recurrence of serious underperformance.

### **3. Land and Housing Supply**

- Transform isolation facilities into transitional housing or Light Public Housing.
- Develop greenfield sites to solve social problems such as urban redevelopment to cater for the ageing buildings in the downtown areas.
- Devise prudent financial arrangement and consider launching infrastructure financing securitisation products.
- Study a pedestrian and cycle network that links up the CBD3 at Kau Yi Chau (KYC) Artificial Islands Development and use the surplus public fill as construction materials for KYC reclamation as much as is feasible to reduce carbon footprint in transporting materials for disposal.

### **4. Streamlining Development Processes**

- Step up assistance to applicants who satisfy certain necessary criteria to speed up the development and project approval processes, and augmenting the government officials' role as encompassing not only "regulators" but also "facilitators" on the premise that quality and safety are not compromised.
- Detailed recommendations were made earlier in the HKIE's report in September 2022: [Recommendations on Streamlining Building Works and Infrastructure Development Processes](#) (English only)

### **5. Innovation and Technology Development**

- Implement a better package for local and young people to join the research and development field to secure talent required for the New Industrialisation Strategy proposed in the Innovation and Technology Blueprint.
- Allow mainland and overseas graduates of Hong Kong higher diploma/sub-degree programmes to work in Hong Kong.

- Allocate additional land for data centre development to enhance the capacity and capability for Hong Kong's transformation into a data centre hub and ridge between mainland and foreign countries.

## **6. Building a Smart, Green and Resilient City**

- Speed up the installation of quick charger facilities for electric vehicles, and reserve space for such chargers in new development areas and public transport interchange. In particular, a clause could be included in the terms and conditions of the Lands Department for the provision of a certain number of electric vehicle chargers for land sale and short-term tenancies.
- Relax the testing and usage of hydrogen vehicle in designated area under the overriding principle of ensuring public safety.
- Handle waste with lower value directly or indirectly through subsidising the recycling industry or non-governmental organisations, and leave waste with higher value to be handled directly by the recycling industry.
- Incentivise and stimulate businesses for the recycling industry by setting aside financial resources and expanding the land provision for the recycling industry.

## **7. Leveraging Opportunities in the GBA**

- Take lead in discussing qualification benchmarking and professional practice with mainland authorities to allow more engineers to practise in the mainland via CEPA or other related agreements.

The HKIE will continue to contribute our professional engineering expertise and join hands with different sectors to support the development of a better Hong Kong.

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