

Media Release

For Immediately Release

Hong Kong Computer Society Fully Supports Hong Kong's First "Five-Year Plan" and the Policy Address 2026-27 to Advance Technological Development Accelerating the Development of an International Innovation and Technology Centre and Developing an International Hub for High-calibre Talent

September 16, 2026 HONG KONG - The Hong Kong Computer Society (HKCS) welcomes the Chief Executive's announcement today of Hong Kong's first Five-Year Plan and the Policy Address 2026–2027. The HKCS especially supports a range of measures aimed at accelerating the development of an international innovation and technology centre and developing an international hub for high-calibre talent. These include leveraging artificial intelligence (AI) to enable the growth of seven other international centres; creating the post of Commissioner for AI under the Digital Policy Office (DPO) to assist bureaux in taking forward AI risk-governance measures.

The HKCS further supports the clear delineation of responsibilities for advancing the "Three Major Innovation and Technology Parks and Five Key Research and Development Institutions." The Plan also advances the development of the Northern Metropolis University Towns alongside the I&T parks, while continuing to attract high-calibre technology talent and nurture local talent. To address community livelihood needs, initiatives include strengthening STEM education for local primary and secondary students, with particular emphasis on AI literacy; enhancing technology-related vocational reskilling to support workforce upgrading and career transitions; and actively developing gerontechnology, health technologies, and smart hospital solutions, as well as construction technology (ConTech) to enhance construction management efficiency and safety.

Mr. Dave Chen, President of HKCS, said:

"Today's announcement of the Five-Year Plan, which aligns with the development direction set out in the National 15th Five-Year Plan, presents a forward-looking and strategic blueprint for Hong Kong's economic and social development over the next five years. It is an initiative of profound significance. The Plan's emphasis on accelerating the development of an international innovation and technology centre and establishing Hong Kong as a magnet for high-calibre international talent - leveraging the Northern Metropolis as a primary growth engine for higher education, innovation and technology - closely aligns with HKCS's longstanding vision for the

development of technology and talent in Hong Kong. We believe that Hong Kong can fully capitalise on its unique strengths by building a complete innovation and industrial ecosystem spanning basic research, technology translation, pilot testing and validation, product commercialisation, industrialisation and, ultimately, access to international markets. By leveraging the broad-based application of AI, the establishment of University Towns and key enabling infrastructure - including data resources and computing power - Hong Kong can emerge as an important hub within the country and the Greater Bay Area for R&D translation, testing and validation, alignment with international standards, and expansion into international markets. The Five-Year Plan also clearly proposes supporting enterprises in establishing R&D centres, pilot facilities and mass-production bases, thereby connecting the critical stages from research and development and testing through to practical applications and market launch. HKCS also welcomes and supports the Policy Address's proposal to implement the Five-Year Plan in a phased and systematic manner. Our professional members, representing a wide range of industries - including AI, FinTech, cybersecurity, enterprise architecture, robotics and drone, healthcare, construction, retail, education and start-ups - stand ready to share their expertise with the Government and contribute to the effective implementation of the Plan."

Promoting "AI City Brain"

Strengthening Data Interoperability and AI Risk Governance

Building on last year's Policy Address, which set out a development direction centred on "industries for AI" and "AI for industries," the newly released Five-Year Plan takes implementation and execution to the next level. It seeks to comprehensively advance the "AI+" action plan and promote the large-scale, scalable adoption of AI across industries, business operations and public services. The Plan will also foster deeper integration between AI and diverse fields and sectors, while supporting SMEs in accelerating AI adoption and related initiatives - measures that HKCS fully supports.

Mr. Chen continued:

"HKCS is particularly attentive to the Policy Address's indication that the Government is studying the construction of an 'AI City Brain' that consolidates city-management systems and connects and integrates big data related to government works departments and city-governance stakeholders such as works, environmental, transport, and emergency response agencies. The goal is to create a multi-directionally empowered shared-data environment. Through AI and big-data

analytics, departments can access real-time information to strengthen capabilities in daily city management and handling of unexpected incidents. The Five-Year Plan also calls on the Government to enhance artificial intelligence and data governance. It requires policy bureaux and departments to make effective use of departmental data catalogues and to apply the “Authorised Data Exchange Gateway” more extensively, thereby promoting data sharing within the Government and facilitating the delivery of more convenient public services for the public and businesses. The HKCS believes that further efforts should be made to promote interoperability and connectivity among data platforms operated by the Government, public organisations and different industries. Subject to the protection of security and privacy, and compliance with applicable requirements, this would help unlock the value of data.

The Policy Address states that, to achieve technology for good and ensure safety and control, the Government's AI risk-governance strategy focuses on seven aspects: combating the use of AI in criminal activities; protecting underage users; establishing a governance framework to regulate AI ethics; promoting application safety; clarifying liability for accidents caused by AI products; formulating safety-management guidelines for AI Agents; and assessing the impact of the widespread use of AI. These efforts are under the co-ordination of the Chief Secretary for Administration, with the creation of the post of Commissioner for AI under the DPO to assist various bureaux with the related work:

Over the past few years, HKCS's flagship annual event, the Hong Kong International Computer Conference (HKICC), has focused on the development of artificial intelligence (AI) and explored ways to harness its potential effectively. HKCS believes that, as Hong Kong actively promotes the application of AI and data, it should simultaneously strengthen AI risk governance, AI ethics, risk assessment, data governance, privacy protection and cybersecurity. It is also important to foster a development environment in which “data is interoperable, applications are trustworthy and governance is properly regulated”, while leveraging Hong Kong's strong rule-of-law foundation, international regulatory experience and professional expertise in finance. These efforts will enable trusted AI and robust data governance to become Hong Kong's competitive advantages. HKCS will continue to convene industry expertise through HKICC and through its specialist groups and industry groups relating to AI and cybersecurity, among others, to exchange views with the Government and the industry on AI application, data interoperability, governance, safety, and technical implementation.

Complementary and Coordinated Parks

Improving the Efficiency of Computing Power, Data, and Pilot/Test Resources

The Five-Year Plan introduces a new structure of “Three Major Innovation and Technology Parks and Five Key Research and Development Institutions.” HKCS believes different parks should operate on the principle of complementary coordination rather than competing with one another. Within an overall government framework for planning, each park should have clear positioning and division of roles. The HKCS also advocates exploring shared mechanisms for key infrastructures such as computing power, data, pilot testing, testing, and certification, so as to improve resource allocation and usage efficiency. With the momentum created by AI development, HKCS hopes the Government can continue to deepen collaboration with industry to further strengthen AI infrastructure and computing power support. This will accelerate the interconnection and interoperability of computing power between Hong Kong and the Greater Bay Area, as well as the layout of a large-scale intelligent computing cluster. Ultimately, this will enhance the competitiveness of “AI+” products and services and help expand international market opportunities.

Forward-Looking Blueprint for Emerging and Future Industries

Quantum Technologies, Aerospace, Embodied AI, and the Low-Altitude Economy

HKCS also notes that the Five-Year Plan aims to expand emerging industries and plan ahead for future industries, including quantum technology, aerospace technology, embodied intelligence, and the low-altitude economy. Among them, aerospace economy represents an emerging industry, while quantum technology and embodied intelligence are key directions for future industry development. HKCS agrees with the Five-Year Plan’s thinking on advancing the development of a low-altitude economic ecosystem and expanding more innovative application scenarios. HKCS supports the plan’s proposal to build an Asia-Pacific hub for low-altitude innovation and applications, to improve regulatory frameworks, standard-setting, infrastructure, R&D, and talent cultivation. HKCS also supports promoting Greater Bay Area low-altitude cross-border logistics development.

Mr. Chen added:

“In light of the rapid development of quantum technology, HKCS has newly established a ‘Quantum Computing Specialist Group’ to bring together expertise from both industry and academia. The group will promote knowledge exchange in quantum

technology, drive industrial applications, and support talent development. HKCS will also, through its 'Robotics and Drone Specialist Group,' promote professional exchange and application in robotics, unmanned systems, embodied intelligence, and related emerging technologies. Together with HKCS's other Specialist Groups and Industry Groups across different technology domains, HKCS will further strengthen communication and collaboration among industry, academia, and the Government - helping emerging technologies move from research into practical applications."

Building a Complete Talent Development Ladder From Schools to Technology Leaders

Talent is a vital foundation for innovation and technology development. However, the industry has long faced talent shortages and a gap in succession. For this reason, HKCS is committed to professional development and young talent cultivation. HKCS strongly supports the Five-Year Plan's integrated approach to advancing education, science and technology, and talent development, and its plan to enhance mechanisms for identifying, selecting, and nurturing young innovative talents. In addition to attracting international and Mainland top-tier talent, Hong Kong also needs to build a complete talent development ladder spanning primary and secondary schools, universities, entry-level professionals, upskilling and career transition, middle management, and ultimately technology leaders. The Five-Year Plan proposes promoting digital education in primary and secondary schools, and encouraging mutual support between scientific and technological innovation and talent cultivation - creating an integrated development model for education, technology, and talent. HKCS believes this aligns precisely with needs in this area. HKCS has also, since late last year, adjusted student membership eligibility to those aged 11 or above. It will further promote educational technology initiatives in Hong Kong and establish student chapters across various universities. HKCS's flagship talent development program, the two-year "IT Leadership Accelerator Platform" (iLEAP), will continue to promote the development of young, professional, and mid-level innovation and technology talent. It also supports industry in responding to changes brought about by AI in future jobs, youth employment and skills requirements - an approach that resonates strongly with the Five-Year Plan. HKCS is also willing to share with the Government its accumulated experience over many years.

Mr. Chen concluded:

"Hong Kong's first Five-Year Plan sets a clear direction for future development. In the next stage, Hong Kong must not only conduct research - it must, more

importantly, translate research outcomes into products, industries, and international competitiveness. HKCS will fully leverage the strengths of its various Specialist Groups, Industry Groups, and professional platforms to bring together industry experts, academia, and technology leaders to actively participate in areas including AI, computing power and data infrastructure, data governance, cybersecurity, quantum technology, robotics, and talent cultivation. HKCS will also capitalise on Hong Kong's unique advantages in connecting the Mainland and international markets - helping more national and Greater Bay Area technology outcomes land in Hong Kong, be validated, and move towards international markets."

Mr. Chen further stated:

"This year's HKCS flagship event, HKICC 2026, will also explore how 'AI+' can further enhance Hong Kong's competitiveness over the next five years. HKCS will bring together local, Mainland, and international industry experts and technology leaders to discuss innovation and technology development in Hong Kong over the coming five years. HKCS hopes to continue working closely with the Government, the industry, academia, and society at large, to make professional contributing to Hong Kong's development as an international innovation and technology centre and an international hub for high-calibre talent."

About the Hong Kong Computer Society (HKCS)

Founded in 1970, the Hong Kong Computer Society (HKCS) is the longest-standing non-profit professional organisation dedicated to advancing Hong Kong's Information Technology (IT) profession and industry. Their members come from a broad spectrum of Hong Kong's IT community, from corporations to like-minded individuals, all coming together to raise the profile and standards of the IT profession and industry. As a well-established IT professional body, the Society is committed to professional and industry development as well as community services to ensure the IT sector continues to make a positive impact on peoples' lives with three main goals, namely, 1) talent cultivation and professional development, 2) industry development and collaboration, and 3) the effective use of IT in our community.

For more details, please visit <https://www.hkcs.org.hk>.

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