<u>Annual reciprocal visit between HKSARG</u> <u>and MFA to take place next week</u>

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau will lead a delegation of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government to visit Beijing and Guizhou from May 12 to 17 under the annual reciprocal visit arrangement between the HKSAR Government and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA). The visit arrangement has been in place since 1999 to enhance communication and exchange between the two sides. It had been suspended during 2020-22 due to the COVID-19 epidemic, and was relaunched last year.

The Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs, Mr Erick Tsang Kwok-wai, will lead the HKSAR Government delegation to visit Beijing from May 12 to 15, and the Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs, Ms Gracie Foo, will lead the HKSAR Government delegation to visit Guizhou from May 15 to 17.

While in Beijing, the delegation will meet with officials of the MFA and other central ministries from May 12 to 15. The delegation will then visit Guizhou from May 15 to 17, where it will meet with officials of Guizhou and study developments in various areas of the province.

Mr Tsang will return to Hong Kong in the afternoon on May 15. During his absence, the Under Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs, Mr Clement Woo, will be the Acting Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs.