<u>CE chairs third meeting of Steering</u> <u>Group on Integration into National</u> <u>Development (with photo)</u>

As Chairperson of the Steering Group on Integration into National Development, the Chief Executive, Mr John Lee, chaired the Steering Group's third meeting today (June 13). Joining him were the Steering Group's three deputies, ie, the Chief Secretary for Administration, the Financial Secretary and the Secretary for Justice, as well as Deputy Secretaries of Departments and Directors of Bureaux, etc.

The three deputies reported to the Chief Executive on the progress and co-ordination work of various strategies for promoting Hong Kong's integration into national development, including policy areas covering finance, innovation and technology, infrastructure and transportation, healthcare, and legal and dispute resolution services under the National 14th Five-Year Plan, the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area development and the Belt and Road Initiative. The Chief Executive monitored the implementation of each policy measure. He also made decisions and provided guidance.

In addition, the meeting discussed conducting in-depth and extensive research work and further strengthening policy research and continuous formulation of new policy recommendations. The Chief Executive instructed policy bureaux and relevant departments to communicate with the industries and stakeholders in the respective policy areas and listen to their views, to keep abreast of the situation they face in integrating into the national development and areas they expect the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government can assist in, and to provide constructive policy recommendations for the industries to enter the Mainland. Policy bureaux should also conduct in-depth and extensive policy research in their respective policy areas, propose new policy recommendations which can facilitate the long-term development of Hong Kong for the Steering Group's further decisions and guidance.

Mr Lee said that conducting in-depth and extensive research work can help the Steering Group better understand the actual situation of the industries and the support they need. Effectively taking into account feedback of the industries can promote policy research, continuously providing up-to-date policy recommendations to the Steering Group, and thus building a more solid foundation for the HKSAR to actively integrate into the overall development of the country.

Established by the HKSAR Government at the end of last year, the Steering Group on Integration into National Development aims to promote and supervise work on integrating into the national development from a macro perspective. The Steering Group will continue to adhere to the principles of being proactive and pragmatic, and achieve mutual benefits when formulating and implementing various policy initiatives, with a view to enhancing Hong Kong's active integration into the national development, grasping the unlimited opportunities brought by the country's development, and creating strong impetus for the growth of the HKSAR.

