<u>Director of WHETO visits Xiaogan</u> <u>Municipality of Hubei Province (with photos)</u>

The Director of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Wuhan (WHETO), Mr Vincent Fung, visited Xiaogan Municipality, Hubei Province yesterday (December 13). He met and had lunch with Vice Mayor of Xiaogan Municipality, Ms Liu Min, to introduce the role of the WHETO and the latest developments of Hong Kong, and learn about the situation and the latest developments of Xiaogan Municipality. Mr Fung expressed that the WHETO would further strengthen the connections with the cities in the central region and look for more cooperation with those cities in economic and trade and other aspects. Besides, Mr Fung visited two Hong Kong-invested enterprises in Xiaogan to learn about their operations.

On the same day, the roving exhibition "Hong Kong Connect" organised by the WHETO was opened in Xiaogan. It provides the residents in the central region of the Mainland with an opportunity to learn about the major developments and achievements in Hong Kong in the fields such as economic and trade and culture under the successful implementation of "one country, two systems" and the Basic Law. The exhibition also demonstrated how Hong Kong transforms those major developments into the momentum to connect and excel, and plays an active role in the country's development.

In his opening remarks for the exhibition, Mr Fung said that Hong Kong has been serving the country's needs with its strengths. Apart from a large number of Hong Kong businessmen investing in the Mainland, the promising development of the Mainland has also made Hong Kong an international financial and trading hub. We have also transformed ourselves into an important platform for Mainland enterprises to "go global" and to develop overseas business. Although Hong Kong is facing considerable difficulties in recent months, we are still strong at finance, trading, hi-tech and professional services. With the firm support from the Central People's Government, Hong Kong, under the principle of "one country, two systems", remains a highly internationalised metropolitan with a world renowned financial industry and an attractive stock market. The city also has a fair and independent judiciary operating in accordance with the Basic Law and maintaining the international reputation of Hong Kong.

The roving exhibition "Hong Kong Connect", which is open to the public free of charge, is staging at Qiankun Shopping Plaza in Xiaogan Municipality from now to December 18.











