## <u>Home and Youth Affairs Bureau launches</u> <u>new round of Funding Scheme for Youth</u> <u>Exchange in the Mainland</u>

The Home and Youth Affairs Bureau (HYAB) and the Youth Development Commission (YDC) jointly launched the 2025-26 (first round) Funding Scheme for Youth Exchange in the Mainland today (November 15). Eligible nongovernmental organisations (NGOs) are invited to submit applications.

The Government attaches great importance to youth development. The HYAB promulgated the Youth Development Blueprint in end-2022, which states that the Government will further strengthen the breadth and depth of the Mainland and international internship and exchange programmes with a view to enhancing young people's understanding of the country and supporting their integration into the overall development of the country. Through the Funding Scheme for Youth Exchange in the Mainland, the HYAB and the YDC provide funding for NGOs to organise youth exchange projects on the Mainland for Hong Kong young people to enhance their awareness and understanding of the country's development, foster exchanges with Mainland people and strengthen their sense of national identity. Launched earlier this year, the Pilot Scheme on Subsidy to Grassroots Youth for Participating in Exchange Activities Outside Hong Kong will also continue to provide additional subsidies to grassroots youth with financial needs to participate in exchange projects under the 2025-26 funding scheme.

The 2025-26 funding scheme accepts two rounds of applications. Details of the first round and application forms are available on the YDC website (<a href="http://www.ydc.gov.hk/en/programmes/ep/ep\_fundingscheme.html">www.ydc.gov.hk/en/programmes/ep/ep\_fundingscheme.html</a>). Interested NGOs should submit their applications on or before December 16. The second round of applications will be launched in mid-2025.