<u>Hong Kong enterprises to participate</u> <u>in third China International Import</u> <u>Expo (with photo)</u>

The third China International Import Expo (CIIE) will be held in Shanghai from November 5. In keeping with the epidemic prevention and control, the CIIE and the Hongqiao International Economic Forum Opening Ceremony was held today (November 4) in an integrated online-offline mode. The Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Mr Edward Yau, representing the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, participated online in the opening ceremony this evening.

"With strict control of the epidemic, the Mainland has seen a 'V-shaped' rebound in its economy since the second quarter. Our country has just approved the Outline of the 14th Five-Year Plan, and is determined to expand its domestic demand and develop a strong domestic market in the coming five years, with a view to establishing a new development model featuring domestic and international dual circulations that complement each other. Domestic consumption and potential for investment on the Mainland are both expected to increase significantly. To Hong Kong companies, future economic growth naturally lies in the Mainland market," Mr Yau said after the opening ceremony.

"Comparing with the last year, more Hong Kong companies participate in the CIIE this year, reflecting their desire to seize this golden opportunity to promote Hong Kong's quality products and professional services in the massive Mainland market. Hong Kong enterprises that could integrate into the overall development of the country and fully tap the opportunities brought about by the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area and the Belt and Road Initiative to expand their sales and network will be able to leverage on this historical opportunity to explore more business," he added.

There are about 240 Hong Kong enterprises participating in the CIIE this year, up by about 20 per cent over the previous year. Among them, 45 companies and organisations will participate in the exhibition at the Hong Kong Product Zone and the Hong Kong Services Zone specifically set up by the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC) at the CIIE venue, a facilitation arrangement provided by the HKTDC for the third straight year. The 45 Hong Kong companies will showcase products and services in various areas including infrastructure and construction, logistics, design, professional services, information and communication technologies and innovative technologies. In addition, the HKTDC will provide online one-on-one consultation services to enable participating Hong Kong companies to conduct online business negotiations.

In response to the establishment of a dedicated public health and epidemic prevention area for the first time at the CIIE, the HKTDC will also

showcase in the Hong Kong Services Zone technologies and services related to disease prevention and control. Invest Hong Kong will feature Hong Kong's unique business advantages, and Hong Kong's role as the gateway of the Mainland, encouraging Mainland enterprises to make the best use of Hong Kong's international business platform and professional services to tap overseas markets under the Belt and Road Initiative.

The Hong Kong Tourism Board will also establish a 200-square metre Hong Kong tourism pavilion with the theme of "Open House Hong Kong" to showcase the unique tourism experiences of Hong Kong, highlight Hong Kong's role as the tourism hub in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, and raise the trade's exposure in the Mainland market.

The CIIE will run for six days until November 10.

