

SCED leads delegation to visit Xinjiang to enhance co-operation to jointly explore Belt and Road opportunities (with photos)

Leading a business delegation to visit Urumqi, Xinjiang, the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Mr Algernon Yau, met with the Secretary of the CPC Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Regional Committee, Mr Ma Xingrui; the Chairman of Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, Mr Erkin Tuniyaz; and Deputy Prime Minister of Kazakhstan Mr Serik Zhumangarin today (December 5) to exchange views on promoting economic and trade co-operation among the three places, with a view to jointly exploring the full range of opportunities arising from the Belt and Road Initiative.

Mr Yau noted that Kazakhstan is a hub connecting Europe and Asia, while Xinjiang serves as a key link for the Silk Road on land, whereas Hong Kong is the premier gateway to the Mainland market. By strengthening exchanges and co-operation, the three places will be able to achieve complementarity for greater benefits, contributing to the prosperity of the Belt and Road regions.

Mr Yau said that over the past decade, trade value between Hong Kong and Belt and Road economies other than Mainland China has increased by nearly 60 per cent, demonstrating that the Belt and Road Initiative has been creating more opportunities for Hong Kong and has become a new driving force for Hong Kong's economic growth.

He added that Hong Kong is ranked as the world's freest economy and serves as the country's gateway to the world and the functional platform for the Belt and Road Initiative. The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government will continue to support enterprises and professional services in exploring global markets and business opportunities along the Belt and Road, as well as assist Belt and Road countries and regions to enhance professional capacities and promote people-to-people bonds.

Mr Yau also held bilateral meetings with Mr Tuniyaz and Mr Zhumangarin respectively to exchange views on issues of mutual concern.

The Commissioner for Belt and Road, Mr Nicholas Ho, and other members of the delegation attended a co-operation and exchange forum between China (Xinjiang, Hong Kong) and Kazakhstan today to promote Hong Kong's advantages and participated in sharing sessions focusing on various areas including cultural exchanges, energy industries, digital economy, commerce and logistics and finance, with a view to promoting economic and trade co-operation and people-to-people exchanges among the three places.

After his arrival yesterday (December 4), Mr Yau visited the exhibition centre of textile and geographical indication products of Urumqi, Xinjiang, to learn about the development of local specialty products. He then had dinner with representatives of Hong Kong enterprises in Xinjiang to keep abreast of their business operations and the latest economic developments in the region.

Mr Yau will lead the delegation to visit local enterprises tomorrow (December 6) to gain an understanding of the development of the related industries before returning to Hong Kong.

