<u>Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs</u> <u>visits Guangzhou</u>

The Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs, Miss Alice Mak, arrived in Guangzhou this morning (August 22) to start her visit there.

Miss Mak, accompanied by the Commissioner for Youth, Mr Eric Chan, attended the 4th meeting of the Guangdong-Hong Kong task force on youth employment, entrepreneurship and internship in the morning. At the meeting, they exchanged views on promoting Guangdon and Hong Kong youth entrepreneurship in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA) and strengthening collaboration with youth innovation and entrepreneurial bases with officials from the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the People's Government of Guangdong Province (GDHKMAO) and the Human Resources and Social Security Department of Guangdong Province (GDHRSSD). Miss Mak shared the latest progress of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government's work in promoting youth development and the work progress of the Alliance of Hong Kong Youth Innovation and Entrepreneurial Bases in the Greater Bay Area. She said that the Home and Youth Affairs Bureau will continue to work closely with the GDHKMAO and the GDHRSSD to provide comprehensive support for Hong Kong youth to seize the opportunities brought by the development of the GBA.

In the afternoon, Miss Mak, together with the Director-General of the GDHRSSD, Mr Du Mingqi, visited the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Guangdong) Innovation and Entrepreneurship Incubation Base and attended a kick-off ceremony of a youth entrepreneurship event.

Speaking at the ceremony, she said that the HKSAR Government attaches great importance to promoting Hong Kong youth entrepreneurship in the GBA. The Funding Scheme for Youth Entrepreneurship in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area has nurtured over 200 start-up teams since its launch. The Scheme provides entrepreneurial support and start-up capital for young people to realise their entrepreneurial dreams in the GBA. Miss Mak encouraged young entrepreneurs in Hong Kong to explore the huge Mainland market and business opportunities in the GBA.

About 50 youths from Hong Kong joined the event. They visited the innovation and entrepreneurial base and local businesses in Guangzhou, which allowed them to deepen their understanding of the policies of starting businesses and developing careers in the GBA.

Miss Alice finished the visit in the afternoon and returned to Hong Kong on the same day.