

# Speech by CE at 6th “Belt and Road” Initiative International Forum and “Belt and Road” Cooperation and Partnership Model Agreement Conference (English only)

Following is the speech by the Chief Executive, Mr John Lee, at the 6th "Belt and Road" Initiative International Forum and the "Belt and Road" Cooperation and Partnership Model Agreement Conference today (October 13):

Deputy Director Liu Guangyuan (Deputy Director of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR)), Deputy Commissioner Fang Jianming (Deputy Commissioner of the Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China in the HKSAR), Dr Priscilla Leung (Co-Chair of the Belt and Road International Research Institute International Law Forum Organising Committee), distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning to you all. It gives me great pleasure to be here today, to speak to you at this international forum on the Belt and Road Initiative. I am pleased, as well, to be joining you at the launch of the Belt and Road Cooperation and Partnership Model Agreement.

It has been a greatly gratifying month for the Belt and Road Initiative, and also for Hong Kong. On this day last month, I opened the eighth Belt and Road Summit, organised by the Hong Kong SAR Government and the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, here in Hong Kong. And, just two days ago, I addressed the Law Society of Hong Kong's International Summit, with a theme on promoting peace and prosperity on the Belt and Road. And now, I'm pleased to address you, this gathering of eminent jurists and legal professionals celebrating the Belt and Road Initiative on its 10th anniversary.

What a decade it's been. Brought to inspired life by President Xi Jinping, the Belt and Road has long belonged to the world. At last count, more than 150 countries and regions, and 30 international organisations have signed Belt and Road co-operation agreements and related documents.

Earlier this week, the Central Authorities published a white paper, presenting the progress of the Belt and Road Initiative since its inception in 2013.

The white paper spotlights the Belt and Road's remarkable rise from ideas to action, vision to reality. The Initiative's central goal – common development and shared prosperity – is a compelling path to global well-being. A path to peace and prosperity, to openness, innovation and social

progress.

No less important, it has laid the foundations for gainful people-to-people ties all over the world. And, of course, the Belt and Road continues to build on its ambitious goals and people-to-people ties.

I can attest to that. I made a visit to a number of countries along the Belt and Road, in Southeast Asia and the Middle East, together with high-level delegations from Hong Kong. In doing so, we welcomed the support of ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) member states on Hong Kong's accession to the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, or RCEP, which is the world's largest free trade agreement. We also expanded our ties with ASEAN and the Middle East, with the delegations' signing of a wide variety of MOUs and letters of intent with different countries.

They appreciate Hong Kong's unique strengths under the "one country, two systems" principle, including our robust legal and regulatory framework, and our proactive participation in such national strategies as the Belt and Road Initiative. We are the only common law jurisdiction in our country. In aligning with international business rules and regulations, Hong Kong serves as an important conduit between the Mainland of China and the international community.

Hong Kong has, to date, signed nine mutual legal assistance arrangements with the Mainland on civil and commercial matters. This offers greater convenience and wider legal protection to Belt and Road investors, who choose Hong Kong and our law for their contracts and as a venue for dispute resolution.

Our country supports Hong Kong's rise as an international legal and dispute resolution services centre, one of eight key areas that the National 14th Five-Year Plan looks to Hong Kong to gain regional or international expertise in.

The International Organization for Mediation Preparatory Office was set up in Hong Kong in February. It's the first international organisation dedicated to providing mediation services for settling international disputes. And it will certainly contribute to international relations built on peace and harmony along the Belt and Road.

A sound legal system for negotiating international agreements is essential to building a rules-based business environment. The International Academy of the Belt and Road, which organises today's forum, has dedicated significant effort in promoting exactly that. The Academy's work in enhancing the Belt and Road's dispute resolution mechanism, and its participation in the Belt and Road Cooperation and Partnership Model Agreement, have been instrumental in providing cross-boundary trade and investment improvements. For that, and a great deal more, I am very grateful.

On Monday, I will lead a Hong Kong delegation of some 70 senior government officials and high-profile institutional and business leaders to

Beijing for the Third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation.

The two-day event will be attended by government leaders and representatives from more than 130 countries and over 30 international organisations. Hong Kong is immensely honoured to be invited to address various sessions of the Forum, signifying our most prominent participation yet in this high-powered event.

I look forward to telling the business and political heavyweights from all over the world about the good and real stories of Hong Kong, especially our vital role in the Belt and Road, in helping to build a global community with a rewarding and shared future for us all.

My thanks to the organisers of today's Forum – the International Academy of the Belt and Road, together with Zhejiang University's Academy of International Strategy and Law, and the Hague Conference on Private International Law Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific – for staging today's meaningful gathering.

I wish you all the best of business, and health, in the coming years.

Thank you very much.

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## **Shek O Beach reopened**

Attention TV/radio announcers:

Please broadcast the following as soon as possible:

Here is an item of interest to swimmers.

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department announced today (October 13) that the shark prevention net at Shek O Beach in Southern District, Hong Kong Island, has been repaired and the beach is reopened.

The beach was temporarily closed earlier for shark prevention net maintenance work.

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## **CE to lead HKSAR delegation to**

# participate in third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation in Beijing

The third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation will be held in Beijing from October 17 to 18. The Chief Executive (CE), Mr John Lee, will lead a high-level 70-strong Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) delegation next Monday (October 16) to participate in the Forum.

Mr Lee said, "This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative (B&RI). The third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation is a key event of our country this year, and an international event at the highest level in promoting the B&RI. With the support of our country, I am honoured to lead the high-level delegation to proactively take part in the Forum to showcase Hong Kong's commitment to contribute to the joint development of the B&RI as advocated by the country."

Led by the CE, official members of the HKSAR delegation include six Secretaries of Departments and Directors of Bureaux, namely the Financial Secretary, Mr Paul Chan; the Secretary for Justice, Mr Paul Lam, SC; the Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs, Mr Erick Tsang Kwok-wai; the Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury, Mr Christopher Hui; the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Mr Algernon Yau; and the Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry, Professor Sun Dong. Together with the Commissioner of the Independent Commission Against Corruption, Mr Woo Ying-ming; the Director of the Chief Executive's Office, Ms Carol Yip; the Head of the Chief Executive's Policy Unit, Dr Stephen Wong; and the Commissioner for Belt and Road, Mr Nicholas Ho, a total of 11 senior government officials will take part in the Forum.

In addition to senior government officials, the HKSAR delegation comprises 59 members from political and business sectors, public bodies and large enterprises, as well as professional services, innovation and technology, and cultural sectors. The delegation list is available in the Annex.

"The delegation will proactively share with the international community on Hong Kong's strengths on various fronts, including our role as the prime functional platform in promoting the high-quality development of the B&RI, our professional services, as well as our unique advantage of enjoying strong support from the country and being closely connected to the world," Mr Lee said.

Mr Lee will return to Hong Kong on October 19. During his absence, the Chief Secretary for Administration, Mr Chan Kwok-ki, will be the Acting Chief Executive. During the absence of Mr Paul Chan, the Deputy Financial Secretary, Mr Michael Wong, will be the Acting Financial Secretary. During

the absence of Mr Lam, the Deputy Secretary for Justice, Mr Cheung Kwok-kwan, will be the Acting Secretary for Justice. During the absence of Mr Tsang, the Under Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs, Mr Clement Woo, will be the Acting Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs. During the absence of Mr Hui, the Under Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury, Mr Joseph Chan, will be the Acting Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury. During the absence of Mr Yau, the Under Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Dr Bernard Chan, will be the Acting Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development. During the absence of Professor Sun, the Under Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry, Ms Lillian Cheong, will be the Acting Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry.

The Executive Council will not convene its meeting on October 17.

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## **HKMA issues alert regarding specific websites**

The following is issued on behalf of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority:

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) wishes to alert members of the public in Hong Kong that Topcredit Digital Currency Bank, Inc./ Topcredit International Bank/ Topcredit Technology Co., Ltd./ Topcredit International as referred to on the websites (<https://www.tope.com> / <https://www.topcredit.com> / <https://www.topcreditbank.com>) do not have the authorization of the Monetary Authority (MA) under the Banking Ordinance (the Ordinance) to carry on banking business, or the business of taking deposits, in Hong Kong; and Topcredit Digital Currency Bank, Inc./ Topcredit International Bank/ Topcredit Technology Co., Ltd./ Topcredit International do not have the approval of the MA to establish a local representative office in Hong Kong under the Ordinance.

Given the global nature of the Internet, members of the public are reminded to verify the status of any organisation making use of the Internet to offer bank accounts to, or to solicit deposits from, the public in Hong Kong prior to transferring any funds to, or providing any personal information to, any such organisation.

A list of Authorized Institutions is available on the HKMA's website ([www.hkma.gov.hk](http://www.hkma.gov.hk)). Members of the public may also check the status of any entity which appears to be soliciting deposits from the public in Hong Kong, or holding itself out as a bank or deposit-taking company in Hong Kong, by emailing the HKMA's public enquiry service ([publicenquiry@hkma.gov.hk](mailto:publicenquiry@hkma.gov.hk)).

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## **LCSD's Mobile Library 12 resumes service**

The services provided by Mobile Library 12 have resumed after completion of urgent repairs to the mobile library van, a Leisure and Cultural Services Department spokesman announced today (October 13).

The service points of Mobile Library 12 are Cheong Shing Court and Ka Fuk Estate in Fanling; Kwong Fuk Estate in Tai Po; Lei Muk Shue Estate, Tsuen King Circuit Playground, Cheung Shan Estate, Bayview Garden and Sham Tseng Market Carpark in Tsuen Wan; Kwai Luen Estate and Tai Wo Hau Estate in Kwai Chung; Kam Tsin Village and Tung Hing Road Car Park in Sheung Shui; and Fu Cheong Estate in Sham Shui Po.

For enquiries about Mobile Library 12 services, please call 2479 1055.