

# CS attends thematic forum of Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2024 and meets with leaders of Hainan Province and youth volunteers of Hong Kong in Hainan (with photos/videos)

The Chief Secretary for Administration, Mr Chan Kwok-ki, attended the Global Free Trade Ports Development Forum of the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2024 in Hainan today (March 27) to exchange views with the Governor of Hainan Province, Mr Liu Xiaoming, and leaders across the globe.

Speaking at the thematic forum, Mr Chan said that Hong Kong is a staunch supporter of free trade and has been promoting free trade at multilateral and regional levels, including the World Trade Organization and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, to eliminate trade barriers and promote economic growth. In 2022, Hong Kong was the world's 10th largest merchandise trading economy, and ranked fourth and seventh in the world in terms of foreign direct investment inflows and outflows respectively, demonstrating Hong Kong's important role in global trade.

Mr Chan added that Hong Kong enjoys the distinctive advantages of enjoying the strong support of the motherland and being closely connected to the world, and is consolidating and enhancing its strategic positioning as an international trade centre through two major directions, namely actively exploring global partnerships, and actively integrating into the overall development of the country. He stressed that the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) will continue to seize the opportunities upon the eastward shifting of the global economic gravity and high-quality development of the country, and strive to strengthen Hong Kong's roles as a "super connector" and a "super value-adder" between the country and the rest of the world, in particular to capitalise on the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area development and the Belt and Road Initiative, so as to enhance the strategic positions of the country and Hong Kong in the international economic and trade arena.

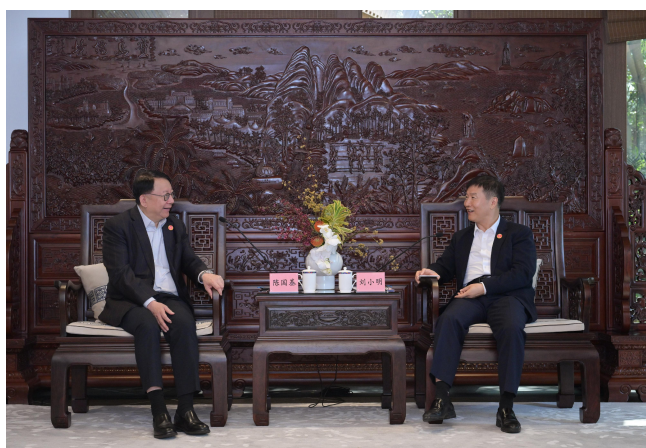
Before attending the thematic forum, Mr Chan met with the Governor of Hainan Province, Mr Liu Xiaoming. Mr Chan said that the economic and trade relationship between Hong Kong and Hainan has always been close. Many Hong Kong enterprises are conducting business in Hainan. Hong Kong is also the largest source of foreign investment and an important trading partner for Hainan. Mr Chan continued that he looks forward to Hainan and Hong Kong's continued pursuit of the principles of complementarity and mutual benefits by leveraging Hong Kong's advantage as a highly internationalised city, as well as seizing the development opportunities of the Hainan Free Trade Port, to help Hainan enterprises go global.

Mr Chan added that the Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises, Hong Kong Talent Engage, and Dedicated Teams for Attracting Businesses and Talents in various Economic and Trade Offices, of the HKSAR Government have been actively attracting enterprises, investments and talent to Hong Kong, yielding fruitful results. He welcomes enterprises, talent and youth from Hainan to pursue development in Hong Kong and said that the HKSAR Government will continue to foster exchanges and co-operation between Hainan and Hong Kong in various areas including trade, finance, culture and youth development.

Also, Mr Chan interacted with the Chairman of the Y. Elites Association, Mr Lawrence Lam, the Executive Vice Chairman of the Association, Mr Jason Wong, and the Hong Kong youth serving as volunteers at the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2024, to understand their work and feelings. He said he was pleased to learn that the association had been organising Hong Kong youth to participate in the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference in Hainan over the past years, enabling them to showcase their talents and broaden their horizons. He also showed his appreciation that the Hong Kong youth volunteers have gained rich work experiences at this year's conference and deepened their understanding of the high-quality development of Hainan and the country at large.

Mr Chan encouraged Hong Kong youth to combine reading and travelling, and pay visits to and intern more often in different provinces and cities of the Mainland, to delve into the history and culture of the country and national affairs, thereby fostering Hong Kong's integration into the overall development of the country.

Mr Chan will attend the opening plenary of the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2024 tomorrow (March 28) and return to Hong Kong the same day.





## [SFST's remarks at Wealth for Good in Hong Kong Summit \(English only\) \(with photo\)](#)

Following are the remarks by the Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury, Mr Christopher Hui, at the Wealth for Good in Hong Kong Summit today (March 27):

Good afternoon, esteemed guests and distinguished attendees of the Wealth for Good in Hong Kong Summit:

It is my great honour and privilege to welcome you all to this prestigious event. I am filled with a profound sense of excitement and anticipation to have you, the decision makers and experts from the family office sector, gathered here today. This is where the future of wealth is being shaped, and we are honoured to have you be a part of it.

Hong Kong has long been known as a financial powerhouse, a resilient and dynamic city that has weathered countless storms. But today, we stand before you with an even greater purpose – to transform our city into a global hub for wealth management, family offices, and the realisation of "Wealth for Good".

In the face of growing uncertainty, we have been working tirelessly with partners and stakeholders to create an environment that not only safeguards your wealth but empowers you to grow it in a way that benefits the greater good. Through bold initiatives such as the new Capital Investment Entrant Scheme, tax concessions, and the establishment of the Hong Kong Academy for Wealth Legacy and many more, we have rolled out the red carpet, inviting you to make Hong Kong your home.

The lineup of panels and discussions we have prepared for you today is a testament to our unwavering commitment to providing you with the tools and resources you need to thrive. From luxury and legacy to green technology, philanthropy and wealth legacy, and the ever-evolving development of family offices – we have curated an experience to inspire, educate, and challenge you all to redefine the boundaries of what is possible.

But before we continue delving into the rich agenda, I would like to take a moment to showcase the success stories that have made Hong Kong the premier destination for family offices. In just a moment, we will show you a video that highlights the remarkable success stories of our city, the innovative spirit that drives us, and the unparalleled opportunities that await you here.

As you watch this video and immerse yourselves in the vibrant tapestry of Hong Kong, I encourage you to imagine the limitless possibilities that lie before us. This city is not just a financial hub; it is a place where your wealth can grow and flourish, where your vision for a better world can be realised. Maybe next time our video will tell your stories in Hong Kong.

Hong Kong stands ready to be your partner in this endeavour, providing you with the support, resources, and unwavering commitment you need to turn your vision into reality. We are more than just a destination; we are a testament to the power of collaboration, the strength of determination, and the unwavering pursuit of excellence.

So, as you settle in for thought-provoking dialogues and meaningful connections, I urge you to embrace the endless possibilities that Hong Kong has to offer. This is a city that has weathered adversity, a place where

innovation and resilience go hand in hand. Together, let us embark on a journey of "Wealth for Good" – a journey that will not only benefit your own legacy but also uplift our global community.

Without further ado, please enjoy the video that showcases the remarkable success stories of Hong Kong.



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## [Assessment Committee for the Funding Scheme to Support Transitional Housing Projects by Non-government Organisations convenes meeting](#)

A meeting of the Assessment Committee for the Funding Scheme to Support Transitional Housing Projects by Non-government Organisations, chaired by the Under Secretary for Housing, Mr Victor Tai, was convened this afternoon (March 27).

The Assessment Committee agreed to subsidise the development of Phase 3 of the transitional housing project at Ming Wah Dai Ha, A Kung Ngam Road, Shau Kei Wan, by the Hong Kong Housing Society through conversion of flats. With a total funding of \$5 million, the project is expected to provide 50 units.

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## [Dentists Registration \(Amendment\) Bill](#)

# 2024 to be introduced into LegCo

The Government announced today (March 27) that the Dentists Registration (Amendment) Bill 2024 (the Bill) will be gazetted tomorrow (March 28), with the First Reading at the Legislative Council scheduled for April 10, to amend the legislative framework that has been in place since 1959.

The Bill proposes to create new pathways for admitting qualified non-locally trained dentists to practise in Hong Kong, introduce an internship for local dental graduates and a period of assessment for non-locally trained dentists to enrich their clinical experience, as well as update the regulatory regime for dental hygienists and dental therapists to tie in with the Government's policy direction of promoting oral health and dental care. The introduction of the Bill aims to increase dental manpower in Hong Kong to support public and subsidised dental services and enhance the overall standards of dental professionals to better protect users of dental services.

## Admission of non-locally trained dentists

Hong Kong is now facing an acute shortage of dentists, with only 0.37 dentist per 1 000 population. This ratio is considerably lower than that in Mainland China and other advanced economies. Such a manpower shortage persists despite the fact that the Government had increased the number of local training places for dentists on four occasions (from 50 per year in the 2008-09 academic year to 90 per year in the 2022-23 academic year). In recent years, the manpower shortage has been particularly severe in the public sector which offers, amongst others, school dental care and other public dental services. As at January 1 this year, the vacancy rate of the Dental Officer grade of the Department of Health (DH) has reached 27 per cent (100 vacancies out of 370 posts).

With reference to the experience of admitting non-locally trained medical practitioners, the Bill will introduce new pathways for admitting qualified non-locally trained dentists, including the limited registration (LR) to be open to all dentists and the special registration (SR) to be provided for specialist dentists. For any non-locally trained dentist who is selected for full-time employment in a specified institution, including the DH, the Hospital Authority, the University of Hong Kong and the Prince Philip Dental Hospital, he or she may submit an LR or SR application to the Dental Council of Hong Kong (DCHK), and, upon approval, directly practise in the aforementioned specified institution.

If a non-locally trained dentist has served in a specified institution(s) for at least five years in aggregate and is certified by the employing specified institution(s) to have served satisfactorily, an LR dentist will be exempted from taking part of the licensing examination while an SR dentist may be exempted from taking part or all of the licensing examination subject to the DCHK's consideration in accordance with the nature of work undertaken by the dentist. The non-locally trained dentist will be

eligible for full registration to practise in any institution in Hong Kong after passing the required part of the licensing examination.

The Bill will also introduce temporary registration (TR) to enable dentists from other jurisdictions to perform clinical teaching or research in Hong Kong for a period not exceeding 14 days. A TR dentist cannot migrate to full registration.

#### Internship and period of assessment

To further enhance the professional standard of dentists, the Bill will require local dental graduates and non-locally trained dentists who opt to take the licensing examination directly to undergo a one-year internship or period of assessment before obtaining full registration by modelling on the prevailing practice for medical practitioners. The requirement will enhance their clinical experience in real-life work settings and enable them to get familiar with the practice in Hong Kong, thereby safeguarding patients' safety to a greater extent.

Under the new requirement, local dental graduates will need to undergo a one-year internship before obtaining full registration. As students of the local Bachelor of Dental Surgery programme about to graduate this summer have started to seek employment, the internship requirement will apply to local dental graduates of the class of 2025 and thereafter at the earliest.

As for non-locally trained dentists who are not admitted to Hong Kong through LR or SR but opt to take the licensing examination directly, they will, upon passing the licensing examination, need to undergo a period of assessment for one year (or a duration specified by the DCHK, subject to the dentist's clinical experience) before obtaining full registration.

The exact timing for implementing the above arrangements for internship and period of assessment will hinge on the actual legislative progress.

#### Registration system for dental care professionals

At present, two categories of ancillary dental workers in Hong Kong directly provide dental care services to patients under the supervision of dentists. They include:

- (1) Dental hygienists (Note): To perform preventive dental care (e.g. oral examination, education, teeth cleaning and polishing, fluoride application, as well as scaling); and
- (2) Dental therapists: Currently employed by the DH only to provide school dental care service and perform preventive dental care and basic curative dental care (e.g. filling and extraction).

The Bill will update the regulatory regime for ancillary dental workers by introducing a statutory registration system, while retitling the relevant workers as dental care professionals (DenCPs). Meanwhile, the Bill will

suitably adjust the scope of practice of dental hygienists and dental therapists on a risk-based approach by specifying the types of dental work they can perform and the related conditions. This serves to establish the professional status of these workers, while ensuring their service quality under a more formalised regulatory regime to safeguard the rights of patients.

Upon legislative amendment, dental hygienists and dental therapists must be engaged by a registered dentist(s), or a partnership, organisation, establishment or body corporate which has engaged registered dentist(s), for practice. The Government expects the DCHK to put in place the statutory registration system for DenCPs within three years after passage of the Bill to enable dental therapists to work in organisations other than the DH (including those in the public or private sector).

#### Other amendments

The Bill will specify continuing professional development as a mandatory requirement for dentists and DenCPs in a bid to maintain their professional competencies, and also revamp the composition and structure of the DCHK to cater for its additional statutory functions. Furthermore, the Bill will make other technical amendments, such as updating the definition of practising dentistry, to bring the regulatory regime up to date.

Note: The existing Chinese title of dental hygienists (牙醫助理) is not in line with that of dental therapists (牙醫). Their current scope of work is not limited to teeth (牙) (such as taking x-ray films inter-orally or extra-orally for the investigation of lesions of the mouth, jaw, teeth and associated structures). The Government will rename the title as "牙醫" when introducing the statutory registration system.

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