

## Under Secretaries, Political Assistants and members of PICO to visit Beijing for study programme

A study group formed by Under Secretaries, Political Assistants and policy and project co-ordination officers of the Policy Innovation and Co-ordination Office (PICO) of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government will join a study programme of the Chinese Academy of Governance in Beijing from September 17 to 22 to better understand the country's latest developments. The Director of the Chief Executive's Office, Mr Chan Kwok-ki, will lead the study group and join the activities of the study programme in the first two days.

"The HKSAR Government has all along been organising various forms of training on national affairs for middle-ranking and senior officials, including partnering with Mainland institutions to host study programmes on national affairs to enhance the officials' understanding of the country's political, economic, social and cultural policies and developments. As political appointees and as part of the HKSAR Government's governing team, Under Secretaries and Political Assistants are expected to deepen their understanding of the country. For these reasons, the HKSAR Government and the Chinese Academy of Governance have jointly arranged the study programme, which includes such topics as the national system, policy and development with classroom learning and site visits," a Government spokesman said.

"Also included in the study group are several young people recruited earlier by the PICO. The Chief Executive announced in her Policy Address last year the establishment of the PICO to take charge of policy research and innovation as well as co-ordination across bureaux and departments, and the recruitment of young people who aspire to be engaged in policy and projects to give them more opportunities to participate in politics. The study programme will assist the young people from the PICO to broaden their horizons and create innovative ideas in their work."

The study group includes two Under Secretaries, 14 Political Assistants and three officers from the PICO.