



The CMA 2025-26 Budget Submission

Summary of Key Suggestions

1. Enhancing Government Funding Schemes

1.1	Raise the subsidy amount of the SME Export Marketing Fund (EMF) for each company and increase the funding ceiling for each project to HK\$150,000; introduce a revolving funding mechanism that allows companies to reapply; extend the EMF's special measures for local market coverage for three more years; establish a dedicated quota for funding local exhibitions.
1.2	Expand the Incentive Scheme for Recurrent Exhibitions 2.0 to subsidise exhibitions held in venues beyond Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre and Asia-World Expo.
1.3	Extend the New Industrialisation Funding Scheme to include improvements to existing production facilities and expansion of high value-added businesses.
1.4	Broaden the coverage of Digital Transformation Support Pilot Programme to encompass all sectors
1.5	Enhance the Professional Services Advancement Support Scheme by removing industry restrictions and extending to cross-industry and general skills training projects.

2. Stepping up Efforts to Support Enterprises

2.1	Continue offering one-time rates concessions, including rates for residential and non-residential properties, rebates on profits tax and salaries tax, exemptions from business registration fees and levies, reductions in water and sewage charges, and provide electricity subsidies for non-residential accounts.
2.2	Enhance the level of the guarantee fee waiver for the SME Financing Guarantee Scheme, lower the interest rates cap on guaranteed loan or offer a one-year interest subsidy. Additionally, further extend the principal moratorium arrangement by two years.
2.3	Lobby the central government to extend the coverage of "one-trip-per-week" Individual Visit Endorsements to all cities in the GBA, as well as to some Mainland cities directly accessible by Hong Kong through the high-speed rail network; Increase the frequency of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link (XRL), optimise XRL ticketing arrangements to align with Mainland practices, and lower administrative fees for ticket change and cancellation.

2.4	Streamline the application procedures and expedite the approval process for the Enhanced Supplementary Labour Scheme; raise the accommodation deduction to 20% of wages; eliminate the strict “referring to median wage” requirement; and extend the sector-specific labour importation schemes to more sectors.
-----	--

3. Building a New Development Pattern with New Quality Productive Forces

3.1	Establish new quality productive forces as the key driver for Hong Kong’s future development and strengthen relevant research and policy dissemination through the Chief Executive’s Policy Unit; Establish a “State Policy Research Institute” in partnership with local universities or think tanks.
3.2	Align with the “Eight Centers” positioning to guide various sectors in formulating strategic development blueprints, action plans, and timelines for industry development.
3.3	Encourage and support Hong Kong businesses in forming strategic alliances with Mainland enterprises, enhancing their position as overseas agents for mainland brands and products.

4. Actively Participating in the National 15th Five-Year Plan

4.1	Establish a dedicated task force under the Steering Group on Integration into National Development to gather industry views and propose development directions and policy recommendations for Hong Kong’s inclusion in the National 15th Five-Year Plan.
4.2	Develop a five-year or long-term development plan for Hong Kong.
4.3	Allocate more resources to the Chief Executive’s Policy Unit to enhance its research capacity; engage local and Mainland universities or think tanks to conduct consultancy study on specific topics that will assist Hong Kong in formulating actionable plans for its participation in the National 15th Five-Year Plan.

5. Advancing New Industrialisation

5.1	Develop strategies for new industrialisation that align with national approaches, focusing on nurturing strategic emerging and future industries while also supporting traditional industries and “new, distinctive, specialised, and sophisticated” SMEs.
5.2	Create a comprehensive policy framework for new industrialisation that includes three elements (I&T, Hong Kong Brands and Hong Kong’s advantages), three regions (Hong Kong, the Pearl River Delta, and Belt & Road economies), and three dimensions (new strategic industries, the high-quality development of traditional industries and the “outward development” of Hong Kong-funded enterprises).

5.3	Task the Innovation, Technology and Industry Bureau and Trade and Industry Department with developing and implementing policies to promote new industrialisation jointly.
5.4	Formulate strategies to boost the manufacturing sector's contribution to GDP; propose measures to facilitate the upgrading of traditional industries, and explore avenues for enhancing collaboration and interaction between Hong Kong's I&T sector and the manufacturing industry in the GBA.

6. Establishing a Cross-disciplinary Collaborative Organisation

6.1	Grant the Hong Kong New Industrialisation Development Alliance (the Alliance) statutory status to transform it into a public institution with substantive functions.
6.2	Appoint representatives from various sectors as board members of the Alliance; allocate initial operational funds; and establish an independent secretariat and operational arms.
6.3	The Alliance could basically focus on five key areas: promoting inter-sector exchanges, fostering business development (e.g. pilot manufacturing, intellectual property trading and relevant services, and generic technology development and promotion), conducting policy research, managing government funds, and nurturing talents.

7. Establishing the Hong Kong Advantageous Industrial Hub

7.1	Identify emerging and traditional advantageous industries as the two streams of key focus sectors for development in the Northern Metropolis Industrial Park.
7.2	Plan and construct pilot industrial parks, prioritising one industry from each focus sector stream to establish a holistic industrial chain that serves as a model for the Northern Metropolis Industrial Park.
7.3	Formulate specific development plans for selected industries and provide tailored policies and infrastructure support; Adopt a "chain chief" system to attract "chain master" and strategic enterprises to the Northern Metropolis, fostering comprehensive industrial clusters.
7.4	Create the "Hong Kong Food Industrial Park" to draw food enterprises, food-tech institutions, pilot manufacturing/ production platforms, as well as testing and certification organisations.
7.5	Set up an emerging industry park in the San Tin Technopole to connect with the Life and Health Technology Zone in the Hong Kong Park of Hetao Co-operation Zone, expediting the commercialisation of R&D outcomes.
7.6	Set up a dedicated institution and effective liaison mechanisms, and offer incentives such as preferential policies and equity investments to support enterprises in establishing offices in the Northern

	Metropolis Industrial Park.
--	-----------------------------

8. Setting up a Fund to Subsidise Pilot Production Platforms

8.1	Establish a dual- pilot manufacturing bases in the Hong Kong Park of Hetao Co-operation Zone as well as the San Tan Technopole, with the former focusing on advanced technologies, and the latter emphasising industry incubation and transformation.
8.2	Set up a dedicated fund to support non-profit organisations in establishing and operating pilot manufacturing platform
8.3	Establish a mechanism for statutory pilot manufacturing and certification to ensure the effective transformation and commercialisation of R&D outcomes.

9. Navigating China-US Trade Tensions

9.1	Maintain close contact with the central government and report the impact of China-US trade tensions on Hong Kong businesses.
9.2	Resume the swift communication mechanism between the government and representatives from business associations; assist the industries in staying informed of the latest developments and assessing their impact through information collection and dissemination, as well as situational analysis.
9.3	Provide more support to Hong Kong businesses intending to establish production bases and expand supply chain networks outside the Mainland. For example, offer financial subsidies and assist chambers of commerce and professional associations in organising business delegations, overseas visits, and exhibitions in emerging markets.
9.4	Establish additional Economic and Trade Offices or contact points in emerging market economies to enhance G2G co-operation and provide more local support to Hong Kong businesses.
9.5	Seek to establish free trade agreements, investment promotion and protection agreements, and comprehensive double taxation agreements with more economies; aim for early accession to the RCEP and more regional free trade agreements.
9.6	Seek central government’s support to establish a “pre-free trade agreement zone” that allows Hong Kong to enjoy partial privileges of the RCEP earlier.

10. Establishing a Multinational Supply Chain Management Centre

10.1	Establish an investment promotion team to partner with major business associations and representatives from the professional services sector. This team would regularly visit the Mainland to encourage companies to establish regional headquarters or offices in Hong Kong.
------	---

10.2	Establish a dedicated one-stop advisory platform to assist Hong Kong enterprises in bringing high-value-added R&D and production processes back to Hong Kong. This platform would also support their relocation and transformation activities in overseas regions. .
10.3	Enhance the capabilities of Hong Kong's professional services sector, especially in emerging areas such as environmental protection, ESG, technological innovation, and digital trade. For example, set up an interdepartmental task force to promote the development of ESG standards and assist businesses in addressing challenges such as the EU carbon tax.
10.4	Step up efforts to promote Hong Kong's advantages in value-added supply chain management services; compile a recommended list of supply chain management service providers.

11. Building a Regional Intellectual Property Trading Centre

11.1	Optimise the approval mechanism for the Innovation and Technology Fund to facilitate independent applications by businesses and incorporate the value of intellectual property into the approval criteria; Introduce additional criteria for the applicability and effectiveness of technology transfer when allocating university research funds
11.2	Raise performance requirements for the number of patents and commercial revenue for R&D Centres and university technology transfer offices, and increase transparency.
11.3	Promote the original grant patent system; increase funding for the Patent Application Grant, relax application criteria, and establish a fast-track approval process.
11.4	Combine existing online intellectual property information platforms to enhance the matching and advisory functions, and establish sector-specific patent trading and service platforms.
11.5	Boost cooperation with the Mainland on talent development, introduction of the Mainland technology transfer centers to Hong Kong, and facilitating alignment of trademark and intellectual property systems in both regions.

12. Developing the Silver Economy

12.1	Promote a culture of silver business by encouraging activities related to gerontechnology and smart homes for elderly, and establish a Hong Kong edition of the elder-friendly product and service list.
12.2	Allow individuals ageing in place to apply for the Innovation and Technology Fund for Application in Elderly and Rehabilitation Care.
12.3	Expand the Elderly Health Care Voucher Scheme to include the purchase or rental of gerontechnology products.
12.4	Prioritise the procurement of local gerontechnology achievements

	and elder-friendly products in government departments and public institutions
12.5	Improve existing funding schemes, such as the BUD Fund and the Development Fund for the Travel Industry, to cover elderly-friendly projects.
12.6	Integrate or establish special funds to support the R&D of gerontechnology, and encourage business participation in this sector.
12.7	Collaborates with chambers of commerce and professional organisations to establish standards and accreditation schemes for elderly-friendly products and services, and provide subsidies for businesses seeking relevant certifications.

13. Developing Industrial Tourism

13.1	Elevate “Industrial + Tourism” to the fifth major “+ Tourism” direction, formulate targeted strategies and action plans; and include high-tech industrial tourism projects in the Northern Metropolis development plan.
13.2	Incorporate industrial tourism attractions into tourism hotspots and promote them to visitors.
13.3	Simplify the application process for converting industrial buildings for industrial tourism use by exempting waiver fees, or eliminating the need for owners to apply for waivers.
13.4	Establish dedicated support schemes or expand existing funds to provide incentives for travel agencies to develop and operate industrial tourism routes.
13.5	Commission relevant organisations such as the Hong Kong Productivity Council, the Hong Kong Tourism Board, or universities to create operational procedures, assessment mechanisms, and reference standards for industry development.
13.6	Include local industrial-related content in tourism training courses and develop industry talents through the Training Programme Subsidy Scheme.

14. Exploring the Development of Blue Carbon Industry

14.1	Integrate the blue carbon industry with the transformation of local fisheries and agriculture, and explore the feasibility of industrialising blue carbon in the Northern Metropolis.
14.2	Assist manufacturing industries in the Northern Metropolis in achieving carbon neutrality goals, and attract more enterprises aiming for net-zero emissions.
14.3	Establish a blue carbon auditing system; incorporate blue carbon technology into key fields of Hong Kong’s I&T development and encourage I&T enterprises to become carbon sink developers.
14.4	Add blue carbon trading to the HKEX carbon marketplace and

	develop blue carbon rights trading products tailored to the characteristics of Hong Kong especially Northern Metropolis' manufacturing sector.
14.5	Assist the business community in providing professional services, such as financing, trading, and settlement, for blue carbon projects in the GBA and countries along the Belt and Road Initiative.

15. Fostering a Social Atmosphere that Values ESG Development

15.1	Establish an interdepartmental task force to coordinate ESG development in Hong Kong, promote ESG standards and capabilities across sectors, and formulate a specialised blueprint for ESG development.
15.2	Provide double tax deductions for enterprises' ESG-related expenses; extend the coverage of Environment and Conservation Fund; establish a dedicated ESG funding scheme; incorporate ESG strategies and practices into the BUD Fund application guidelines for brand building, design and communication, and management upgrades.
15.3	Support the industry in formulating ESG rating and certification standards, such as product carbon audits and green labeling systems, while enhancing related approval and recognition mechanisms.
15.4	Assist the business sector grow ESG professional services to make Hong Kong a regional hub for ESG services.

16. Assisting in Upgrading Hong Kong-funded Industries beyond the Boundary

16.1	Conduct a comprehensive survey of Hong Kong-funded manufacturing enterprises in the Greater Bay Area; establish standardised statistical indicators for Hong Kong's industrial activities beyond the boundary.
16.2	Form a dedicated task force to support Hong Kong-funded manufacturing and maintain close communication with major business associations and industry representatives; Deploy commissioners to overseas economic and trade offices and Mainland offices to assist Hong Kong businesses in their "outward development".
16.3	Offer key support for Hong Kong-funded "new, distinctive, specialised, and sophisticated" SMEs in the Mainland; establish a Whitelist to allow qualified companies to benefit from support policies in both Hong Kong and the Mainland

17. Expanding Business Opportunities in the Mainland Consumer Market

17.1	Urge the Hong Kong Export Credit Insurance Corporation to expand the insured scope, raise the limit for the insured amount and
------	--

	lower the fees for Hong Kong businesses in the Mainland market.
17.2	Extend simplified approval procedures for traditional proprietary Chinese medicines for external use nationwide, and broaden these policies to include more industries such as Chinese medicine, health supplements, and food.
17.3	Develop GBA Standards that align with Mainland customs clearance and market access standards.
17.4	Advocate for tax reductions or exemptions for Hong Kong products entering the Mainland market.
17.5	Advocate for hosting the third national-level commodity fair in Hong Kong, focusing on high-end consumer goods for the Mainland import market.

18. Promoting Hong Kong Brands

18.1	Establish a permanent section on Mainland and international e-commerce platforms to promote Hong Kong brands.
18.2	Advocate for a brand economy to drive high-quality development in the GBA, leveraging Hong Kong's strengths in branding and professional services.
18.3	Organise events, exhibitions and live-streaming activities to promote Hong Kong brands overseas and in the GBA, expanding their market influence.
18.4	Extend the coverage of the BUD Fund to include brand building and market promotion activities in Hong Kong
18.5	Establish a certification system for Hong Kong brands, protect the Hong Kong geographical indication, and enhance cooperation with the Mainland on brand protection.