

**Box 1.4**

**The 15th Five-Year Plan and Opportunities for Hong Kong’s Economic Development**

In March 2026, the fourth session of the 14th National People’s Congress approved the “Outline of the 15th Five-Year Plan for National Economic and Social Development of the People’s Republic of China” (the 15th FYP), which provides a blueprint for the country’s social and economic development over the next five years, and in turn brings new opportunities for Hong Kong’s economic development. This box article sets out in table form the opportunities presented by the 15th FYP for Hong Kong’s economic development (*Table 1*). Under the 15th FYP, Hong Kong will consolidate its traditional strengths as an international financial, shipping and trade centre as well as in areas such as innovation and technology (I&T), legal services and intellectual property. At the same time, Hong Kong will further deepen the integration of the financial, technology and professional services sectors with the real economy, and thereby fostering high-quality, high value-added and more diversified economic development to bolster long-term competitiveness.

**Table 1 : The 15th FYP and opportunities for Hong Kong’s economic development**

Area	The 15th FYP’s development direction and Hong Kong’s positioning	Opportunities for Hong Kong’s economic development
<p><b>Hong Kong’s overall positioning</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The 15th FYP explicitly states the commitment to resolutely safeguard and promote long-term prosperity and stability in Hong Kong and Macao; promote the economic and social development of Hong Kong and Macao, and leverage the unique strengths and important roles of Hong Kong and Macao in having the backing of the motherland and maintaining close connection with the rest of the world.</li> <li>➤ The 15th FYP supports Hong Kong in consolidating and enhancing its status as an international financial, shipping and trade centre and an international aviation hub; strengthening its functions as a global offshore Renminbi (RMB) business hub, an international asset management centre, and an international risk management centre; developing into an international I&amp;T hub, and further advancing its development as an international legal and dispute resolution services centre, a regional intellectual property trading centre, and an East-meets-West centre for international cultural exchange.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ With the country’s support, Hong Kong should proactively align with national strategic priorities, better integrate into and contribute to the country’s overall development agenda, capitalise on new opportunities arising during the 15th FYP period, and advance the economy towards high-quality, high value-added and more diversified development.</li> <li>➤ Hong Kong should actively participate in the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA) as a world-class city cluster, and strengthen the alignment of rules and coordination mechanisms with other GBA cities in areas of technological innovation and economic development etc. (e.g. such as cross-boundary data flows, commercial mediation and arbitration).</li> </ul>

## Box 1.4 (Cont'd)

**Table 1 : The 15th FYP and opportunities for Hong Kong's economic development  
(Cont'd)**

Area	The 15th FYP's development direction and Hong Kong's positioning	Opportunities for Hong Kong's economic development
<b>Hong Kong's overall positioning (Cont'd)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The 15th FYP outlines, for the first time, the support for Hong Kong in building a commodity trading ecosystem and a high value-added supply chain service centre. It also explicitly backs Hong Kong in accelerating the development of the Northern Metropolis and becoming an international hub for high-calibre talents.</li> <li>➤ The 15th FYP supports the GBA in developing into a world-class city cluster; proposes deepening collaboration among Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao, and continuously driving breakthroughs in priority areas of co-operation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The HKSAR Government is formulating Hong Kong's first Five-Year Plan. A collaborative research and public opinion gathering mechanism between the Government and the Legislative Council has been established. The Government aims to release a public consultation document for the Five-Year Plan in the second quarter, and to complete and publish the official Hong Kong Five-Year Plan within this year.</li> </ul>
<b>I&amp;T and new quality productive forces</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The 15th FYP adheres to pursuing smart, green and integrated development in upgrading traditional industries while fostering emerging industries and industries of the future; proposes achieving greater self-reliance and strength in science and technology by promoting advances in original innovation and breakthroughs in core technologies in key fields, and strengthening the deployment of science and technology in strategic frontiers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ With strong basic research capabilities, an increasingly vibrant I&amp;T ecosystem, and a pool of innovative resources and talent from home and abroad, Hong Kong will enhance its influence as a global source of original innovation during the 15th FYP period.</li> </ul>

## Box 1.4 (Cont'd)

**Table 1 : The 15th FYP and opportunities for Hong Kong's economic development  
(Cont'd)**

Area	The 15th FYP's development direction and Hong Kong's positioning	Opportunities for Hong Kong's economic development
<b>I&amp;T and new quality productive forces (Cont'd)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The 15th FYP attaches emphasis on ensuring more efficient supply of computing power, algorithms and data, advancing the “AI Plus” initiative across the board, and using digital and intelligent technologies to empower all sectors and industries.</li> <li>➤ The 15th FYP provides clear support for Hong Kong's development as an international I&amp;T hub and a regional intellectual property trading centre. It also supports Hong Kong in accelerating the development of the Northern Metropolis; deepening innovation collaboration among industries, academia and research institutions in Hong Kong, Macao and the Mainland; and promoting the high-quality development of the Loop and other major co-operation platforms.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The HKSAR Government is pressing ahead with the development of the Northern Metropolis. Through key infrastructures including the Loop and the San Tin Technopole, the Government will facilitate the cross-boundary flow of production factors – including technology, capital, talent and materials – within the area, and promote the development of I&amp;T, advanced manufacturing and related professional services, thereby driving the upgrading of the industrial structure.</li> <li>➤ Hong Kong is accelerating the “AI+” development strategy: pressing ahead with the industrialisation of AI and deepening its integration with the financial sector to empower all industries.</li> </ul>
<b>Using finance to serve the real economy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The 15th FYP sets out to accelerate the development of China into a financial powerhouse, improve the quality and efficiency of financial services for the real economy, and step up efforts to develop technology finance, green finance, inclusive finance, pension finance and digital finance.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Hong Kong should fully leverage its strength in finance and pursue a “Finance+” approach to empowering all business sectors. On one hand, Hong Kong can provide diversified financing channels for technology firms and start-ups, while strengthening patient capital; on the other hand, continue to promote the development of green finance to support the country in achieving its “dual carbon” goals.</li> </ul>

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Area	The 15th FYP's development direction and Hong Kong's positioning	Opportunities for Hong Kong's economic development
<p><b>Using finance to serve the real economy (Cont'd)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The 15th FYP proposes to advance the internationalisation of RMB, expand its use in international trade, investment and financing activities, pursue greater openness of RMB capital accounts, and develop offshore RMB market.</li> <li>➤ The 15th FYP reiterates its support for Hong Kong in consolidating and enhancing its status as an international financial centre, while strengthening its functions as a global offshore RMB business hub, an international asset management centre and an international risk management centre. The 15th FYP also supports Hong Kong in building a commodity trading ecosystem; and advancing, in an orderly manner, the mutual market access regime between Hong Kong and Mainland financial markets.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Hong Kong should consolidate its strength as a global offshore RMB business hub and, through arrangements such as enhancements to Cross-boundary Wealth Management Connect, Bond Connect and Stock Connect, further support the country in advancing the internationalisation of RMB. Meanwhile, with steady progress in building a commodity trading ecosystem, Hong Kong can develop trading, clearing, risk management, trade finance and related professional services, thereby bringing new impetus to finance and related sectors and expanding the depth and breadth of its international financial centre.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Promoting high-standard opening-up</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ In the face of a complex international environment, the country has always adhered to promoting high-standard opening-up by expanding market access and broadening the scope of opening up, particularly in the service sector. The 15th FYP proposes strengthening the coordination between imports and exports, giving equal importance to trade in goods and services, pursuing balanced development of trade, and adopting a coordinated approach to attracting foreign investment and promoting outbound investment. It also promotes the high-quality development of the Belt and Road Initiative.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Hong Kong should further leverage its unique advantages under “One Country, Two Systems”. Capitalising on its efficient financial services, shipping, aviation, logistics, and professional services, Hong Kong should give full play to its international and market-oriented characteristics in assisting Mainland enterprises to go global through Hong Kong, with a particular focus on fostering deeper exchanges with the Global South and other emerging economies.</li> </ul>

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Area	The 15th FYP's development direction and Hong Kong's positioning	Opportunities for Hong Kong's economic development
<b>Promoting high-standard opening-up (Cont'd)</b>	<p>➤ The 15th FYP reiterates the support for Hong Kong in consolidating and enhancing its status as an international shipping and trade centre as well as an international aviation hub, building a high value-added supply chain service centre, further advancing its development as an international legal and dispute resolution services centre and an East-meets-West centre for international cultural exchange. The 15th FYP also supports Hong Kong and Macao in deepening their participation in the high-quality development of the Belt and Road Initiative, leveraging their strengths in professional services to assist enterprises in “going global”, and harnessing their role as an important window for exchange and mutual learning between the Chinese and Western cultures.</p>	<p>➤ The country's support will facilitate Hong Kong's development of professional services in areas such as settlement, financing and risk management, thereby enabling the city to position itself as a leading global supply chain hub.</p> <p>➤ By continuously deepening the alignment of rules and coordination mechanisms with other GBA cities to contribute to the country's further high-standard opening-up, Hong Kong can also consolidate and enhance its role as a “super connector” and a “super value-adder”.</p>