HONG KONG'S NEW CHAPTER

Hong Kong has launched its first five-year plan to elevate the economy and ensure the dividends of development are shared by all. The blueprint aims for economic breakthroughs through innovation, new industries, quality global talent and holistic policies to improve livelihoods.

Hong Kong will be an "opportunity-rich world city", Chief Executive John Lee Ka-chiu pledged as he set out the plan alongside his annual policy address on September 16. Giving strategic direction amid geopolitical uncertainties, the road map harnesses the city's advantages while riding on the nation's five-year plan. It has 22 key performance indicators: five "binding" ones to be fulfilled and 17 "anticipatory" or aspirational goals.

SEVEN PRINCIPLES

- Adhere to the "one country, two systems" principle
- Remain committed to a livelihood-oriented approach
- Uphold an executive-led system
- Embrace reform and innovation
- Uphold twin approach of effective market and capable government
- Adopt a holistic approach to development and security
- Pragmatic and proactive planning

83 'WORK INDICATORS'

These are on top of the 22 major indicators, bringing the number of goals to 105. Some key ones:

- Increase flight destinations from 220 to 240
- Increase the proportion of foreign visitors among overnight tourists to 40%
- Expand product supply in the offshore RMB market
- Set up a HK$10 billion Innovation and Technology Industry-Oriented Fund
- Implement the half-rate tax concession for commodity trading
- Advance the establishment of the International Commercial Court

SIX KEY THEMES

Double down on four centres, one hub ambitions: enhance status as international financial, trade, maritime and aviation, and I&T centres and hub for high-calibre talent

Deepen Greater Bay Area connections: work towards first-class bay area, extend international exchanges and networks

Speed up development of Northern Metropolis: go north for innovation, the area will be ideal for living, work and travel

Leverage international city status: grow legal hub status, including on dispute and IP matters, deepen East-meets-West node for cultural exchanges

Enhance social well-being: benefits of growth and national development to be shared by residents

Adopt a holistic approach to development and security: have a reform-oriented mindset and safeguard long-term prosperity

DOES A FIVE-YEAR PLAN MAKE IT A PLANNED ECONOMY?

Lee has stressed the five-year plan will retain the city's capitalist core and give full play to the advantages of the free market "without distorting Hong Kong".

Experts say many places do long-term planning without weakening the market.

THE 22 TARGETS

If binding goals are not met, there will be accountability, Lee has vowed.

Major indicators (base year performance)	Goals by 2030
BINDING	
"Spade-ready sites" available in Northern Metropolis in five years (120 hectares)	900 hectares
Carbon intensity reduction against 2020 level (12.3%)	Cumulative 32.5% reduction in 2030 vs 2024 level
Zero-carbon energy share in fuel mix of electricity generation (25%)	30%
Average PM2.5 in ambient air (15 μg/m3)	Less than 14 μg/m3
Compliance of surface water quality goals (over 88%)	Over 90%
ANTICIPATORY	
Real GDP growth (3.6%)	Within a reasonable range
Labour Productivity Index growth (2.3%)	At a stable level
Air cargo throughput (5.07 million tonnes)	Maintain world-leading position
Total imports & exports of goods (HK$10,927.1 billion)	Steady growth
Total imports & exports of services (HK$1,626.8 billion)	Steady growth
Ratio of domestic expenditure on innovation to GDP (1.63%)	3% after 2030
Ratio of value added of manufacturing & new industries to GDP (3.8%)	5.5% after 2030
Global financial centre (ranked 3rd globally)	Strengthen world-leading position
International wealth management centre (ranked 1st globally)	Strengthen world-leading position
Companies with HQ outside Hong Kong (11,070)	Average annual increase of 4-5%
No. of domestic units in Northern Metropolis in five years (11,000)	70,000 units
No. of non-local students in full-time local post-secondary education programmes (79,800)	100,000 people
Value added of tourism industry (HK$86.2 billion)	HK$126 billion
Median monthly employment earnings of employed persons (HK$22,200)	In line with the trend of economic growth
Risk of premature mortality from four major non-communicable diseases (7.3%)	6.9%
Ratio of doctors per 1,000 population (2.25)	2.43 persons
Per capita public current health expenditure (HK$18,000)	On an upward trend

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Source: HKSAR Government

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