

TWO SESSIONS | SAR FOCUS

Deputies to convey national policy

HK, Macao representatives will relay strategic directions from two sessions

By WILLIAM XU
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Hong Kong and Macao representatives who attended the nation's two sessions on Tuesday pledged to actively relay key national development strategic directions and policies back to their local communities, helping enhance the roles of the two special administrative regions as outlined in the national blueprint.

Their tasks came after attending the closing meeting of this year's National People's Congress, the nation's top legislature, on Tuesday.

During the closing session, 36 Hong Kong deputies and 12 Macao deputies, along with national lawmakers from across the country to vote on a series of core documents, including draft resolutions on the Government Work Report, national and local budget proposals, and reports from the NPC Standing Committee and other central government bodies.

Speaking to reporters following the meeting, Ma Fung-lik, head of the Hong Kong delegation, emphasized the active and full participation of Hong Kong deputies throughout the weeklong national legislative sessions.

During the meetings, Hong Kong NPC deputies submitted over 200 proposals, and Macao deputies delivered 154 speeches, and participated in over 400 media interviews, Ma said.

Upon their return to Hong Kong, deputies will proactively convey the essence of the two sessions to local residents, support the SAR government's law-abiding govern-



Maggie Chan Man-ki (third from left) joins other Hong Kong deputies to the National People's Congress at a media briefing after the closing meeting of the third session of the 14th NPC in Beijing on Tuesday. LESELYU / CHINA DAILY

ance, and leverage Hong Kong's unique strengths to contribute to the nation's development, Ma added.

Starry Lee Wai-king, the Hong Kong member of the NPC Standing Committee, expressed confidence that the Hong Kong community will respond positively and take concrete actions to fulfill the country's emphasis on deepening international exchanges and cooperation, a key takeaway from this year's Government Work Report.

Priscilla Leung Mei-fun, an NPC deputy and a law professor in Hong Kong, underscored the national lawmakers' responsibility to bridge communication between the central authorities and local communities. She pledged to introduce legislative proposals to Hong Kong residents and explore ways to enhance

the effective implementation of the "one country, two systems" principle.

Maggie Chan Man-ki, a Hong Kong NPC deputy and a solicitor, said the two sessions reflected the nation's people-centered governance philosophy. With solid backing from the nation and strong global connections, Hong Kong is poised for greater prosperity, stability, and a brighter future, she added.

Jose Chui Sai-peng, a Macao national lawmaker and an urban planner, praised the central authorities' swift response to proposals and suggestions submitted by Macao delegates during the two sessions.

Chui promised to share with Macao society the economic and social accomplishments of the country over the past year. He said that these hard-won results will reinforce

the SAR's confidence in the nation's pursuit of high-quality development.

The closing session of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, the nation's top political advisory body, took place on Monday.

Grace Wong Hui-cheng, a CPPCC National Committee member from Macao, echoed the Government Work Report's commitment to pursuing people-oriented overall policies, including allocating additional resources to increase jobs, reduce people's burdens, and boost consumer spending.

Wong expressed her hopes that Macao's forthcoming policy address — currently being drafted by the new administration led by Chief Executive Sam Hou-fai — will comprehensively reflect the gist of the national two sessions.

Adviser: Cultural boom spurs HK fashion business

By WILLIAM XU

The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region should ride the nation's cultural boom to promote hometown cultural brands and make the city a fashion hub, said Henry Tan, national political adviser and prominent garment entrepreneur.

Guochao films and animations for greater exposure.

He noted that a French fashion brand has found favor with young Chinese consumers through its sponsorship of *Blossoms Shanghai* — a popular mainland television series directed by Hong Kong director Wong Kar-wai. The drama's overseas releases have even taken the brand to a larger audience, he said.

Tan, who has been in the garment



Henry Tan

and textile business for decades, said Hong Kong's role in the industry has shifted from manufacturing to areas with added value, such as distribution and design, which he believes can complement mainland fashion brands' expansion abroad — a trend that has been fueled by *guochao*.

"Mainland clothing products are of good quality and design," Tan said, pointing to the dark blue Chinese-style coat he was wearing. He said Hong Kong has a pool of professionals and well-developed international business networks.

"We (the mainland and Hong Kong) are in the same boat when exploring overseas markets," he said.

Starting in 2024, Hong Kong will host Hong Kong Fashion Design Week annually to propel the devel-

opment of its fashion-and-textile design brands.

The Hong Kong Research Institute of Textiles and Apparel — a government-funded research body established in 2006 — aims to strengthen the competitiveness of the local textile and clothing industry through research and technology transfer.

Tan said he hopes these policies, coupled with the industry's efforts, will turn Hong Kong into an Asian fashion hub in line with the global garment landscape.

"As Asia's fashion power, Asian clothing brands will be able to win a big share of the market dominated by European and American brands," he said.

Thus, Hong Kong's role as a fashion center can be of better help to the country and the region, he added.

Chui highlighted the need for matching tax systems and business practices as crucial next steps. During the two sessions, he proposed speeding up the alignment of Hongkings and mainland's tax systems, noting this would encourage more Macao enterprises to expand their business to Hong Kong.

Chui also added that the different policies related to business receipts could cause inconvenience.

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Further integration expected in Hengqin's next development phase

By WILLIAM XU

Macao delegates attending the nation's annual two sessions have called for closer integration between Macao and the Hengqin cooperation zone, aiming to diversify the special administrative region's economy and enhance residents' access to quality services.

They made the remarks during the meetings of the National People's Congress and the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference National Committee — the nation's top legislature and political advisory body — held in Beijing from March 4 through Tuesday.

The 106-square-kilometer Guangdong-Macao In-Depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin, located within Zhuhai, Guangdong province, was established to provide Macao with additional development space and new economic opportunities.

In 2024, the GDP of Hengqin surpassed 52.8 billion yuan (\$7.4 billion), an increase of over 30 percent increase compared with 40 billion yuan in 2020.

"The policy framework of Hengqin has been formed with clear development objectives, yet implementation can be further enhanced," said Jose Chui Sai-peng, an NPC deputy from Macao and a member of the Macao Legislative Assembly.

The year 2024 marked the conclusion of the first phase of Hengqin's three-phase development road map, which spans from 2021 to 2035. The 2021-24 phase focused on laying the groundwork for integrated development between Macao and Hengqin, with progress on improved infrastructure and policy framework.

Its second phase (2025-29), partially overlapping with the nation's 15th Five-Year Plan (2022-30), will prioritize deeper regulatory links, efficient cross-boundary flows, and accelerated economic diversification in Macao.

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tions," he said.

Hengqin is also viewed as an important platform to support Macao's economic diversification. To address the city's previous reliance on tourism and leisure, policymakers have adopted a "1+4" strategy, identifying four new sub-pillar industries as part of a sustainable industrial structure in Macao.

The key sector identified is traditional Chinese medicine and health. In her proposal, Grace Wong Kil-cheng, a Macao member of the CPPCC National Committee, underlined the need to streamline regulations for the Beijing from March 4 through Tuesday.

Wong proposed speeding up the establishment of a fast-track registration channel for Macao-developed medicines selling on the Chinese mainland — a measure already included in Hengqin's development plan. Such a policy would help Macao's TCM sector better access both mainland and overseas markets, Wong said.

Wong also suggested standardizing healthcare and implementation services to accelerate the growing Macao community in Hengqin. In June, over 16,000 Macao residents were living, studying or working in the zone.

Ng Siu-ai, a Macao deputy to the NPC and a veteran social worker, proposed introducing Macao-standard elderly care services to Hengqin, including the city's long-established home-based elderly care model.

Currently, Hengqin has four community elderly care service centers and five special centers catering to elderly residents. In April, Hengqin launched a pilot program to explore new modes of community-based elderly care services.

Ng also promoted mutual recognition of professional qualifications among elderly care workers of the mediated personal exchanges, Hengqin and Macao can also jointly build a training platform for elderly care professionals, contributing to the country's mounting elderly care needs, she added.

Hengqin also has the advantage expressed confidence that Hengqin will become an exemplary model of integrated development between Macao and Hengqin. Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. This also aligns with the nation's strategy of advancing coordinated regional development, as outlined last week by Premier Li Qiang in the Government Work Report delivered to the NPC, they said.

GreenTech Hub launched to fuel city's sustainability

By LI XIAOYUN in Hong Kong
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The Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corp announced on Tuesday the upgrade of its InnocentHub, a Chinese-themed GreenTech Hub, in the city's latest move to push forward with green development.

In collaboration with 16 financial and commercial institutions, universities, and industry support organizations, the facility will provide more than 200 resident green technology companies with support in talent training, testing and application scenarios, and business matching.

The move aims to rally support from the business and academic sectors for startups in the field of green technology, and solidify Hong Kong's position as a global leader in green tech and finance.

The development of the GreenTech Hub was unveiled by Financial Secretary Paul Chan Mo-po in the 2024 budget speech presented on Feb. 15, which outlined a number of support

measures in the finance, technology, shipping and aviation sectors to drive Hong Kong toward a greener future.

At the opening ceremony of the GreenTech Hub on Tuesday, Chan said the facility will focus on cross-sector and cross-border exchange platform on green policies, standards, know-how, business practices and opportunities.

Chan said Hong Kong's green tech ecosystem is "vibrant," noting that the city's incubators — the Hong Kong Science Park and the Cyberport — are home to about 300 startups specializing in energy-efficient materials, carbon capture, and electric vehicle infrastructure. Many of these companies have tapped into international markets, including the Middle East and Southeast Asia.

By integrating green technologies with Hong Kong's leading edge in green finance, "we're not just contributing to global green progress but also creating new impetus for Hong Kong's economic recovery," Chan said. GreenTech Hub's commercial

stone of this vision," he added.

The number of green technology startups in Hong Kong increased by 82 percent year-on-year in 2023, which HKSTP CEO Albert Wong Hak-keung said demonstrates the city's growth potential in the sector.

But he said technology alone is not enough, and collaboration is essential for a real impact. "The hub could help bridge the gaps between industry, academia, and research," he added.

The facility has designated a special area — the Green Space — to showcase the innovative green solutions of its resident companies.

Among them is Ligures Energy, a startup founded in 2020 and specializing in developing flow batteries for both stationary and mobile energy storage.

Co-founder and CEO Simon Wang Zengyue said the company's research findings have been commercialized with its integrated energy storage solutions providing for an electric vehicle charging station in Baolin district Shenzhen.

Wang said his company operates offices in both Hong Kong and Shenzhen. In light of the two cities' complementary strengths, the Hong Kong office mainly focuses on foundational research and development, while Shenzhen focuses on commercializing to promoting manufacturing.

"Hong Kong has the capabilities to incubate world-class technological innovations," Wang said, adding that its proximity to Guangdong province, which has a well-established manufacturing industry chain, Wang said.

During a forum at the opening ceremony, Uvo Sreeneewin, director of group strategy at CLP, one of Hong Kong's two power suppliers, also emphasized the importance of technology.

The share of renewable energy in electricity generation capacity worldwide has significantly increased over the past years, and it is the advancement of energy storage that has made this possible, he said.

Women's empowerment



Leading female entrepreneurs share their insights at the AloSt Louis during a panel meeting on Tuesday, highlighting the importance of empowering women in business and encouraging businesswomen to support each other. Speakers at the event included (from left) Anna Wong, co-founder and CEO of Female Entrepreneurs Worldwide, Asia's largest business platform for female founders and executives to learn and network and at the same time, event Diane Wang, founder and partner and CEO of DHGate and founder of the Inner Mountain Foundation; and Anina Ho, chief operating officer of ConBayJo and managing director of economic investment firm China Daily Hong Kong also was a co-organizer of the event. ANNA LAM / CHINA DAILY