

# BELT AND ROAD HONG KONG 2025

#HONGKONG

#BELTANDROAD

#FUNCTIONALPLATFORM

#SUPERCONNECTOR

#SUPERVALUEADDER

一帶一路 · 香港

BELT AND ROAD INITIATIVE · HONG KONG

# HONG KONG'S COMPETITIVENESS

## Premier functional platform for Belt and Road (B&R) Initiative

Internationally aligned professional services:  
investment and financing, insurance,  
risk management, architectural and  
engineering design, legal, accounting and  
consultancy services, etc.

### No. 1 World's freest economy

Canada-based Fraser Institute:  
Economic Freedom of the World  
2024 Annual Report

### No. 3 Global Financial Centre Index

UK-based Z/Yen and China  
Development Institute from  
Shenzhen in March 2025

### 5 Global top 100 universities

QS World University Rankings 2026

### No. 3 World's most competitive economy 2025

↑ from no. 5 in 2022

2025 World Competitiveness  
Yearbook, International Institute for  
Management Development (IMD),  
Switzerland

### No. 2 Most preferred seat for arbitration in the world

2025 International Arbitration  
Survey conducted by Queen  
Mary University of London

# PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE EXCHANGES

**4 000+**  
B&R students

in UGC-funded programmes in Hong Kong (2024/25 academic year)

**150**  
annual quota  
of B&R  
Scholarship

for students from B&R regions every year

**~1 400**  
young people

participated in various youth internship and exchange programmes with B&R countries (2024/25 academic year)

**No. 4**  
World Talent  
Ranking 2025, IMD

↑ from no. 16 in 2023, ranking first in Asia

**No. 3**  
Muslim-friendly  
Destination

(non-Organisation of Islamic Cooperation), Global Muslim Travel Index (GMTI) 2025

**Nationals**  
from about **110**  
B&R countries

may visit Hong Kong visa-free for periods ranging from 7 to 180 days

**114** B&R countries

granted visa-free access or visa-on-arrival to HKSAR passport holders

# TRADE AND BUSINESS

**~US\$276.1** billion

Hong Kong trade with B&R countries and regions 2024

↑ **78%** vs 2013

**3.2x** that of Hong Kong's overall trade growth

**US\$133+** billion

(2023) Hong Kong's outward direct investment (ODI) position in B&R countries and regions

**3.6x** of 2013

**4x** that of Hong Kong's overall ODI growth

**~1 400**

**B&R companies**

in Hong Kong (2024)

↑ from 1 200 companies in 2023

**No. 1**  
**Air cargo**  
**throughput**

in the world in terms of volume for 14 times since 2010

**Hong Kong**  
**operates**  
**scheduled**  
**flights**

(passenger and cargo flights) to/from

**~60** B&R  
**destinations**

(as of 31st July 2025)

**100+**  
**B&R companies**  
**listed** in Hong Kong

(as of July 2025)

## Free Trade Agreements

with 21 economies, including

**14** B&R countries

## 24 Investment Agreements

with overseas economies, including

**~20** B&R economies

129 countries covered by Economic and Trade Offices, Hong Kong Trade Development Council and InvestHK overseas offices, including

**99** B&R countries

## Comprehensive Double Taxation Agreements/ Arrangements

with 54 tax jurisdictions, including

**38** B&R jurisdictions

## Authorized Economic Operator Mutual Recognition Arrangements

with 17 economies, including

**11** B&R economies

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# THE BELT AND ROAD INITIATIVE

The Belt and Road (B&R) Initiative is an important national development strategy announced in 2013 which aims to promote co-operation on all-round connectivity among B&R countries and regions in areas including policy co-ordination, infrastructure connectivity, unimpeded trade, financial integration, people-to-people bonds, as well as co-operation in new fields.





Policy co-ordination

Infrastructure connectivity

Unimpeded trade

Financial integration

People-to-people bonds

Co-operation in new fields

The year 2024 marked the beginning of a new golden decade for the joint pursuit of the Belt and Road Initiative. Under **“one country, two systems”**, Hong Kong plays a pivotal role in connecting the Mainland with the rest of the world. As an active participant, contributor and beneficiary of the Belt and Road Initiative, Hong Kong is fully aligned with the eight major steps taken by our country to support high-quality Belt and Road development, with focus on co-operation in new areas such as green development, digitalisation, innovation and health. Hong Kong leverages its unique advantage of having strong support of the Motherland while being closely connected with the world, giving full play to its role as a **“super connector”** and **“super value-adder”**, and capitalising its position as a functional platform for the Belt and Road Initiative.



## HONG KONG'S TOP-LEVEL SUPERVISION WORK

- In December 2017, the HKSAR Government signed the **“Arrangement between the National Development and Reform Commission and the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region for Advancing Hong Kong’s Full Participation in and Contribution to the Belt and Road Initiative”**



The Arrangement focuses on six key areas of finance and investment, infrastructure and maritime services, economic and trade facilitation, people-to-people bonds, taking forward the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development and enhancing collaboration in project interfacing and dispute resolution services. A **Joint Conference mechanism** has also been set up to serve as a platform of direct communication between the HKSAR Government and the Central Authorities for regular dialogues on the work priorities and proposals with respect to Hong Kong's participation in the B&R Initiative.



The Chief Executive, Mr John Lee, chaired the third meeting of the Steering Group on Integration into National Development.

- The Chief Executive established the **Steering Group on Integration into National Development** in 2022, under which the **Working Group on Belt and Road Development** chaired by the Secretary for Justice was set up to proactively take forward the high-quality development of co-operation in such areas as trade and commerce and professional services between Hong Kong and B&R countries.

## 6 Key Areas

Finance and investment

Economic and trade facilitation

Infrastructure and maritime services

People-to-people bonds





Taking forward the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development

Enhancing collaboration in project interfacing and dispute resolution services

Hong Kong's advantages closely align with the **eight major steps** our country takes to support the joint pursuit of high-quality B&R development:

1

Building a multidimensional B&R connectivity network



2

Supporting an open world economy



3

Carrying out practical co-operation



4

Promoting green development



# HONG KONG'S ADVANTAGES

# 5

Advancing scientific and technological innovation



# 6

Supporting people-to-people exchanges



# 7

Promoting integrity-based B&R co-operation



# 8

Strengthening institutional building for international B&R co-operation



# Building a multidimensional B&R connectivity network



## Aviation

- Hong Kong is in the heart of the Asia-Pacific region, and is within a **five-hour flight** from about **half of the world's population**.
- Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA) is named one of the world's top airports and has been the **world's busiest cargo airport in terms of total volume for 14 times since 2010**.
- The Three-Runway System of HKIA has an expected capacity to handle 120 million passengers and 10 million tonnes of cargo per annum in about next 10 years' time.
- As at the end of June 2025, we have signed 80 bilateral civil aviation agreements. Among these, 30 aviation partners have fully opened their flight capacities, enabling airlines to adjust their services in response to market demands at any time.
- Among the more than 150 countries along the B&R, Hong Kong has signed **Air Services Agreements or Air Services Transit Agreements with about 50** of them. Hong Kong operates scheduled flights (including passenger and cargo flights) to/from **33 B&R countries (approximately 60 destinations in total)**.

- Over the past two years, Hong Kong has expanded bilateral air services arrangements with a number of aviation partners, including B&R countries such as the United Arab Emirates, Myanmar, Luxembourg, Qatar, the Philippines, Türkiye and Egypt. Airlines have been encouraged to launch or increase flight services to support Hong Kong's overall development. Direct passenger flights launched in 2024 and 2025 included flights to Riyadh in Saudi Arabia, and Guilin, Zhangjiajie, Urumqi, Hailar, Yiwu and Changzhou in Mainland China.
- **The Hong Kong International Aviation Academy** is the second institution in the world to obtain dual certification from Airports Council International and International Civil Aviation Organization TRAINAIR PLUS Programme. The Academy has also launched Advanced Master Programmes in collaboration with the Ecole Nationale de l'Aviation Civile of France and provides aviation-related courses and training to students in the local and mainland aviation industries and countries along the B&R.





## Maritime Development

- Hong Kong is one of the world's busiest and most efficient ports, ranking 4<sup>th</sup> in the International Shipping Centre Development Index. The HKSAR Government will continue to build a high-end port brand through green transformation, digitalisation and smart transition.
- Hong Kong **has high-quality shipping registration services, ranking 4<sup>th</sup> globally** in terms of gross tonnage. The HKSAR Government will

enhance the existing tax concession measures for maritime service enterprises, and attract commodity trading enterprises to set up businesses in Hong Kong by offering a half-rate profits tax concession, thereby driving the development of the maritime services sector. The Government will also encourage maritime service enterprises from relevant B&R countries to establish a presence in Hong Kong or make use of maritime services provided by Hong Kong companies.



## Railway

- MTR Corporation established the **MTR Academy** to train talents in railway management and operation. To support the B&R Initiative, the MTR Academy promotes the export of Hong Kong's professional railway industrial skills and knowledge. In the first half of 2025, delegates from **10 B&R countries** participated in the Academy's training programmes.



- Hong Kong Maritime Week is a major annual event of the maritime and port industries in Hong Kong, bringing together maritime leaders home and abroad that reinforce Hong Kong's position as an international maritime centre. Hong Kong is listed by the Baltic and International Maritime Council (BIMCO) in the BIMCO Law and Arbitration Clause 2020 as one of the four designated arbitration venues in the standard contracts for the global maritime industry.



# Supporting an open world economy



2





From 2013 to 2024, Hong Kong's external trade with B&R countries and regions

↑ 78% to  
~US\$276.1 billion (2024)

\* excluding trade with Mainland China

In 2023, Hong Kong's outward direct investment position in B&R countries and regions was

US\$133+ billion  
3.6 times that of 2013



- Hong Kong is an international trading centre and ranks as the **world's freest economy** (Canada-based Fraser Institute: Economic Freedom of the World 2024 Annual Report).
- Hong Kong is home to around **1 400 B&R companies** in 2024 and Hong Kong's **outward direct investment to B&R countries** and regions in 2023 exceeded **US\$133 billion**.
- As a founding member of the World Trade Organization (WTO), Hong Kong is firmly committed to the rules-based multilateral trading system with the WTO at its core.
- Hong Kong has set up 16 offices/ liaison units in the Mainland and 14 overseas Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs). The HKSAR Government is actively following up with the governments of **Malaysia and Saudi Arabia on plans to set up ETOs**.
- InvestHK has also established new consultant offices in Cairo, Egypt in July 2024 and in Izmir, Türkiye in January 2025, with a view to attracting capital and enterprises from high-potential emerging markets such as the Middle East and North Africa. Together with the offices of InvestHK and the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC) worldwide, Hong Kong has set up offices in 68 cities around the world, covering 129 countries, **including 99 B&R countries** (as of 31<sup>st</sup> July 2025).
- Hong Kong has signed **nine free trade agreements** with 21 economies (including **14 B&R countries**), and a total of **24 investment agreements** with 33 overseas economies (including **about 20 B&R economies**).



- Hong Kong has signed Comprehensive Double Taxation Agreements/Arrangements with 54 tax jurisdictions, including **38 B&R jurisdictions**, helping investors better assess their potential tax liabilities from cross-border economic activities.
- Hong Kong has concluded Authorized Economic Operator Mutual Recognition Arrangements with 17 economies, including **11 B&R economies**, with up to 90% reduction inspection rate in customs clearance for cargoes imported into Hong Kong. In 2024, 13.9% of Hong Kong trade value was under such arrangements, up from 12.2% in 2023.
- The HKSAR Government established the HK\$200 million Professional Services Advancement Support Scheme (PASS) to provide financial support for non-profit-making projects aimed at increasing exchanges and co-operation of

Hong Kong's professional services with counterparts in external markets, promoting publicity activities, and enhancing the standards and external competitiveness of Hong Kong's professional services. The Government has also set aside HK\$50 million under PASS for the "Professionals Participation Subsidy Programme" to subsidise the participation of major professional bodies in relevant activities organised by the Government and HKTDC.

- The HKSAR Government provides financial support to small and medium enterprises through the Dedicated Fund on Branding, Upgrading and Domestic Sales (BUD Fund) to assist them in participating in export promotion activities as well as developing brands, upgrading and restructuring operations and promoting sales in the Mainland and overseas markets and enhancing their competitiveness.

# Carrying out practical co-operation



3





As the **premier functional platform** for the B&R Initiative, Hong Kong offers **internationally aligned professional services**, covering investment and financing, insurance, risk management, architectural and engineering design, legal, accounting and consultancy services, etc. to actively participate in and contribute to **signature infrastructure projects** or “small yet smart” livelihood programmes along the B&R.

## Premier Functional Platform

- **The Belt and Road Office** has organised promotional programmes and networking sessions, attended by more than 7 400 persons in 2024.
- **HKTDC**, through its **B&R Portal** as a one-stop platform, provides information on B&R markets and business opportunities.

## Finance

- Hong Kong is an international financial centre, **ranking third globally** and **first in Asia-Pacific** in the Global Financial Centres Index (published by UK-based Z/Yen and China Development Institute from Shenzhen in March 2025).
- **Hong Kong IPO market** remained active, with a total of 42 initial public offerings completed in the first half of 2025, raising over **HK\$107 billion**, which represents an increase of about 22% compared to the full-year total in 2024, **ranking first globally** so far.
- Hong Kong is the **world's largest offshore renminbi (RMB) business centre**, providing diversified RMB investment, financing and risk management products. Hong Kong has the world's deepest offshore **RMB liquidity pool** of around **RMB 1 trillion**, and **settles around 80% of the world's RMB offshore payments**.
- Importers and exporters in B&R economies can settle their trade in RMB through Hong Kong's payment system. Investors can also invest their RMB funds in "dim sum" bonds or a wide range of RMB-denominated financial products available in the Hong Kong market.
- Hong Kong is the world's **6<sup>th</sup> largest** and **Asia's 3<sup>rd</sup> largest** stock market by market capitalisation among exchanges as at end-May 2025 (US\$5.2 trillion). The Hong Kong stock market recorded an average daily turnover of about US\$30.8 billion in the first half of 2025.



- As one of Asia's **top asset management centres** and an international risk management centre, Hong Kong can meet the demand for wealth, insurance and risk management services generated by B&R projects.
- The HKSAR Government has successfully issued three **Islamic bonds** (Sukuk), demonstrating to B&R countries and to the world the diversity and viability of Hong Kong's bond market as a fund-raising platform for Islamic jurisdictions.
- The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) established the **Infrastructure Financing Facilitation Office (IFFO)** in 2016. It serves as an exchange platform to facilitate infrastructure investment and financing by organising training workshops, high-level seminars and investor roundtables for key stakeholders. So far, around **90** local, overseas and Mainland organisations have joined IFFO as its partners.



- HKMA expanded investments in B&R regions through the jointly established “**BNR HK Flagship Impact Fund**” with the **Silk Road Fund Company Limited**, with an **initial capital of US\$1 billion** or equivalent in RMB in the first phase.

- **HKMA** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Saudi Arabia’s Public Investment Fund** to anchor a joint **US\$1 billion fund** to invest in companies with Hong Kong nexus expanding to Saudi Arabia to drive localisation of key industries, including manufacturing, renewables, fintech and healthcare.

- The HKSAR Government is promoting the management of more global capital in Hong Kong, including facilitating new distribution channels for private equity funds through the **Hong Kong Stock Exchange**. At present, **over 100 B&R enterprises are listed in Hong Kong**.

- Hong Kong is dedicated to being an ideal destination for issuing insurance-linked securities (ILS). A regulatory regime and pilot grant scheme for ILS was announced in

2021 to assist enterprises in **managing weather and emerging risks in B&R projects** by issuing catastrophe bonds and other tools for transferring risks.

- The HKSAR Government supports and encourages enterprises to set up captive insurance companies in Hong Kong, enhancing enterprises’ comprehensive risk management capacities and improving their risk management systems, strategic planning and resource allocation for B&R business development.

## Legal

- On May 30, 2025, the **Signing Ceremony of the Convention on the Establishment of the International Organization for Mediation (IOMed)** was held in Hong Kong, with **33 countries** signing the Convention on site. The IOMed upon its establishment would be headquartered in Hong Kong.

- Hong Kong is an international legal and dispute resolution services centre in the region, and is ranked as the **No.1 most preferred seat of arbitration in the Asia-Pacific**

**region and the No.2 most preferred seat for arbitration in the world** (tied with Singapore) in the 2025 International Arbitration Survey conducted by Queen Mary University of London.

- **The Hong Kong International Legal Talents Training Academy** organises practical training courses, seminars, international exchange programmes, leveraging on Hong Kong's bilingual common law system and international status. The academy will offer more capacity building events to promote talent exchanges along the B&R.
- **AALCO Hong Kong Regional Arbitration Centre** has been recognised by our country as a case of significance for the implementation of the B&R Initiative in building a global community of shared future. The Centre provides solutions for multilateral disputes in B&R co-operation, promoting trade and investment in the Asian-African region.

## Intellectual Property

- Our unique advantage in IP development is a major reason why overseas enterprises choose to set up

international headquarters, IP management centres and R&D centres in Hong Kong. The HKSAR Government will strengthen the protection of the products of innovation and creativity yielded by R&D efforts, strengthen our position as a regional IP trading centre, as well as contributing to the country's strategies of building an IP powerhouse to serve the B&R markets. According to the World Competitiveness Yearbook 2025 published by the IMD, Hong Kong's ranking in the "Intellectual Property Rights" category has risen two places to **sixth globally**.

## Construction Sector

- Building Technology Research Institute issues certifications for building materials and products under the "Construction Materials Certification Scheme", which facilitates the adoption of high-quality or innovative Mainland materials and products in Hong Kong and the Greater Bay Area, and promotes their export to B&R countries via Hong Kong as a platform, supporting the alignment of the country's construction technologies and products with international markets.



## Missions relating to B&R (2024-2025)

### 2024 MAY



-  Belt and Road Office
-  Hungary and Kazakhstan
-  Around 70

-  Financial Secretary
-  Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
-  100+
-  Attended 8th FII and facilitated a series of collaborative projects

### 2025 MAY

-  Chief Executive
-  Qatar and Kuwait
-  50+
-  59 MoUs and co-operation agreements were concluded

-  Led by
-  Size of delegation
-  Destination
-  Achievement

### JUL

-  Chief Executive
-  Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam
-  30
-  55 MoUs were signed

### DEC

-  Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development
-  Urumqi, Xinjiang
-  Promoted Hong Kong's business opportunities

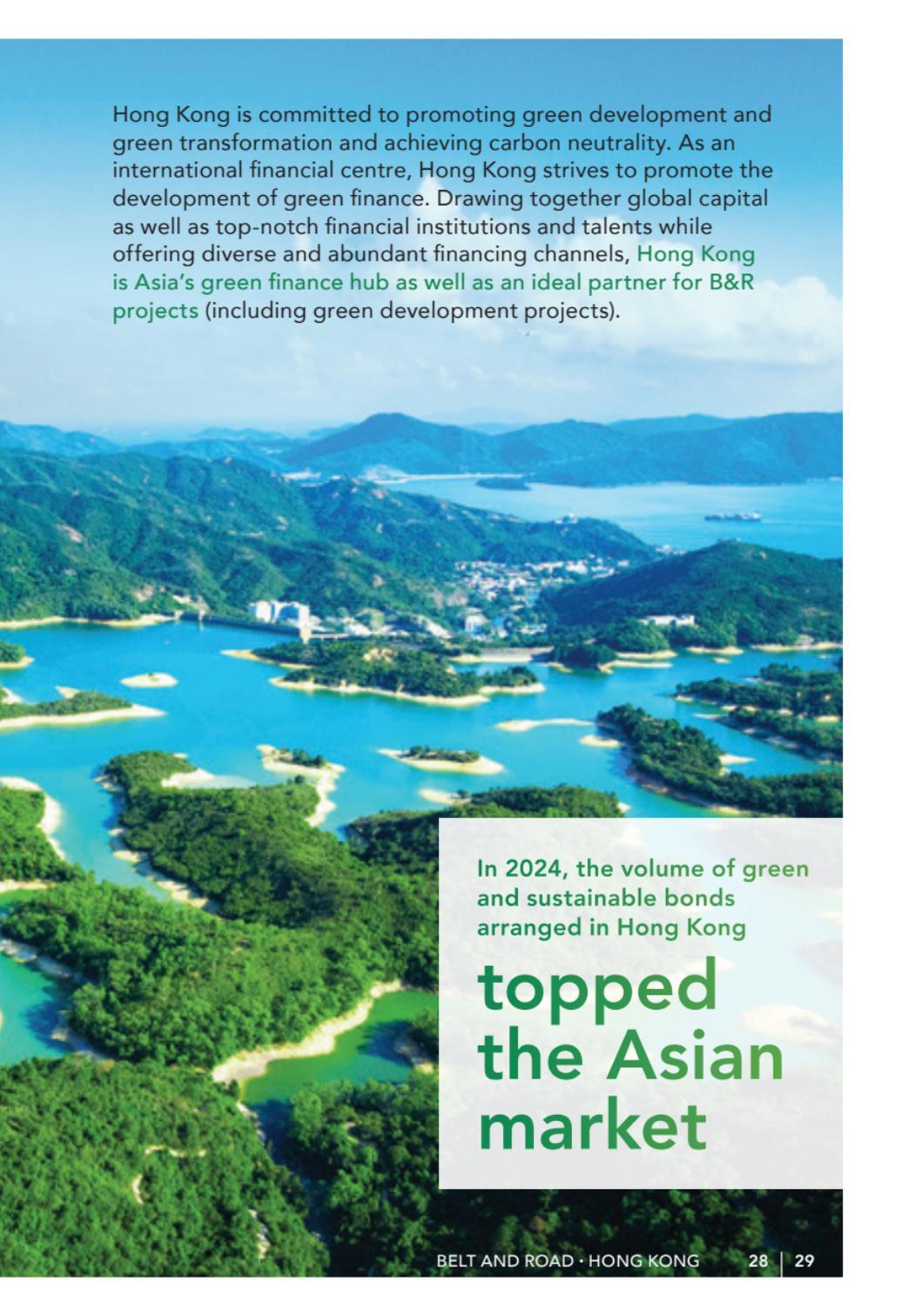
### JUN

-  Belt and Road Office
-  Indonesia and Malaysia
-  Around 20 MoUs were signed

# Promoting green development



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Hong Kong is committed to promoting green development and green transformation and achieving carbon neutrality. As an international financial centre, Hong Kong strives to promote the development of green finance. Drawing together global capital as well as top-notch financial institutions and talents while offering diverse and abundant financing channels, **Hong Kong is Asia's green finance hub as well as an ideal partner for B&R projects** (including green development projects).

In 2024, the volume of green and sustainable bonds arranged in Hong Kong

**topped  
the Asian  
market**

## Green Finance

- Corporations in the B&R countries and regions can make use of the international carbon marketplace **Core Climate** of the Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited to facilitate capital flow to green projects. Core Climate provides the market with **carbon credit projects** from **B&R countries and regions, primarily in Asia, Latin America and Africa.**
- **HKMA** and **HKEX** joined the Green Investment and Finance Partnership (the Partnership) initiated by the **BRI International Green Development Coalition (BRIGC)** as inaugural members in October 2023. In March 2024, HKMA's IFFO and BRIGC co-organised a seminar on Financing the Green Development of the Belt & Road Initiative, the first event of the Partnership held outside the Mainland.
- In June 2025, the **HKSAR Government** successfully issued **multi-tranche green bonds totalling around HK\$21 billion** equivalent and denominated in RMB, Euro and US dollars. Among which, the 20-year RMB green bonds, which were first introduced in July 2024, continued to receive strong support from

investors, with the issuance size doubled from the inaugural offering. In 2024, the volume of green and sustainable bonds arranged in Hong Kong topped **the Asian market**, capturing **around 45% of the regional total.**

## Environment and Ecology

- The HKSAR Government utilises the annual **Eco Expo Asia** as a platform to bring together international exhibitors and industry professionals to showcase cutting-edge green solutions. In the meantime, delegations from B&R countries and the Mainland are invited to participate in the Expo with a view to enhancing and strengthening connectivity with B&R countries and regions, and realising the goals of environmental protection and sustainable development. In the 19<sup>th</sup> Eco Expo Asia held in late October last year, high-level delegations from six B&R countries including Myanmar, Malaysia, Laos, Vietnam, Saudi Arabia and Brunei Darussalam took part in the event.





- The HKSAR Government is actively exploring the opportunity to entering into MoU pertaining to environmental protection with B&R countries. Sri Lanka, Singapore and New Zealand are some of the B&R countries which have signed MoUs on co-operation in environmental protection with the HKSAR Government.
- The Environment and Ecology Bureau and the Research Center for Eco-Environmental Sciences of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (Research Center) signed the **Cooperation Arrangement for Implementation of Ecological and Environmental Protection under the Belt and Road Initiative** in September 2023, which has leveraged the resources and connections of the Research Centre to further explore environmental exchanges and co-operation with other B&R countries.



## Meteorology

- **The Meteorological Training Centre for Belt and Road Countries (Training Centre) was established in December 2024.** Its first workshop took place in the same month with the theme of aviation meteorological science and service development, attracting over 90 participants from more than 45 countries.
- The Hong Kong Observatory and the China Meteorological Administration jointly promote the activities of the Training Centre, with the aim to enhance the capacity of meteorological personnel from B&R regions in responding to adverse weather and resisting natural disasters, and enhance meteorological co-operation and development.

# Advancing scientific and technological innovation



5

Based on IMD World Digital Competitiveness Ranking 2024, Hong Kong ranks

**3rd Asia-Pacific**  
**7th World**

Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation supports

**1 600+**  
technology companies

Cyberport gathers

**2 200+**  
community members and hosts one of the largest artificial intelligence supercomputing centres in Hong Kong





- The Innovation, Technology and Industry Bureau continues to promote innovation and technology (I&T) exchanges and co-operation among enterprises and organisations from the Mainland and overseas, including those from B&R countries and regions, with a view to advancing I&T development and deepening cross-sectoral collaboration in areas such as artificial intelligence, digital infrastructure, cross-boundary data flow and digital security.
- Three major organisations of I&T parks in Hong Kong (**Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation, Hong Kong Cyberport Management Company Limited and Hong Kong-Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Park Limited**) and the Hong Kong Productivity Council will continue to promote exchanges and co-operation between enterprises from the B&R countries and regions and Hong Kong through various channels.



Belt and Road Traditional  
Medicine Summit Forum

International Science, Technology and  
Innovation Forum of the Boao Forum for  
Asia 2025 Hong Kong Conference



- On the development of **Chinese Medicine (CM)**, Hong Kong will fully leverage its advantages in healthcare system, regulatory regime, standard-setting, clinical research, trade and other areas to develop Hong Kong into a bridgehead for the internationalisation of CM, and promote the expansion of the CM market to B&R countries.

- Regarding healthcare standards, two public hospitals in Hong Kong have already obtained accreditation under international accreditation standards developed based on national Tier 3A hospital accreditation standards. The research centre which formulated the standards has set up an office in Hong Kong to promote national standards to B&R countries.



# Supporting people-to-people exchanges

**114**

B&R countries  
granted visa-free  
access or visa-on-  
arrival to HKSAR  
passport holders

Nationals from about

**110** B&R

countries may visit  
Hong Kong visa-free  
for periods ranging  
from 7 to 180 days

6

Youths travelled between Hong Kong and B&R countries under Working Holiday Scheme by end-June 2025:



**4 000+**

students from B&R countries studied in Hong Kong's University Grants Committee-funded programmes in 2024/25 academic year

**680+**

students from 49 countries received B&R Scholarship to study full-time publicly-funded undergraduate or research postgraduate degrees in Hong Kong since 2016/17 academic year

**+50%**

annual quota of B&R Scholarship to 150 from the 2024/25 academic year

**No. 4**

World Talent Ranking 2025, IMD  
↑ from no.16 in 2023, ranking first in Asia



- Hong Kong is developing at full steam to be an **East-meets-West centre for international cultural exchange**, actively enhancing mutual learning amongst different civilisations and people-to-people exchanges.
- The **Asia+ Festival** is held annually from September to November, focusing on Asia and connecting with B&R countries and regions in Europe, Africa and the Americas, to showcase diverse and vibrant cultures.
- **The Hong Kong Palace Museum** collaborated with the **Museum of Islamic Art under Qatar Museums** to present a special exhibition “Wonders of Imperial Carpets: Masterpieces from the Museum of Islamic Art, Doha” from June to October 2025, marking Hong Kong’s first exhibition dedicated to Islamic art. Meanwhile, the special exhibition “I. M. Pei: Life is Architecture” curated by M+ is on a global tour with a stop at Qatar Museums in Doha in November 2025.
- The HKSAR Government, through the **CreateSmart Initiative**, supports the **co-production of television variety programmes** by local television stations and Asian (including B&R countries) production teams to promote the unique pop culture of Hong Kong to audiences of various places, enhancing the cultural soft power of Hong Kong and opening up relevant markets.
- The HKSAR Government is actively encouraging various sectors of the community to **enhance tourism-support measures for creating a friendly environment for visitors**, including providing information at the airport in Arabic and encouraging taxi fleets to provide fleet service information in Arabic; **compiling a list of restaurants offering halal food**; encouraging



more commercial establishments to provide appropriate facilities, such as worship facilities in hotels; and stepping up staff training to strengthen their knowledge on receiving visitors from different cultural backgrounds.

- In April 2025, the Secretary for Culture, Sports and Tourism and the Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTb) led a delegation of about 30 travel trade representatives from Hong Kong to Dubai to participate in the large-scale international travel fair, Arabian Travel Market (ATM), showcasing Hong Kong's tourism appeal to the travel trade and consumers in the Middle East. During ATM, HKTb also signed MoUs with major travel agents in the Middle East to step up promotion of Hong Kong tourism.

- The HKSAR Government continues to organise **various youth internship and exchange programmes with B&R countries**, including HYAB – United Nations Volunteer Internship Programme, HYAB Funding Scheme for International Youth Exchange, and HYAB Scheme on Corporate Summer Internship on the Mainland and Overseas. **About 1 400 young people** participated in these programmes in 2024/25.
- In the World Talent Ranking 2025 published by IMD, Hong Kong's ranking leapt markedly to fourth globally, marking the highest-ever ranking and ranking first in Asia.

# Promoting integrity-based B&R co-operation



7





**34** training and thematic programmes were organised for

**70+ B&R countries** by ICAC since HKIAAC's establishment in 2024



- Since the establishment of the **Hong Kong International Academy Against Corruption (HKIAAC)** in 2024, the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) **has organised 34 training and thematic programmes**, including for participants from over **70 B&R countries**, to strengthen the anti-graft capabilities of personnel from B&R countries and regions. Through sharing experience in combating and preventing corruption in infrastructure projects, the ICAC is contributing to building a clean Silk Road.
- The HKIAAC will proactively engage more B&R countries to explore co-operation, including providing tailor-made anti-corruption training and exchange programmes for their anti-graft and related agencies, signing memoranda of understanding, and conducting anti-corruption research.
- ICAC organised the 8<sup>th</sup> ICAC Symposium in May 2024 to exchange experiences in anti-corruption, gathering over 500 representatives of 180 organisations engaged in anti-corruption work across 60 jurisdictions (including over 40 B&R countries).



- ICAC has signed MoUs with anti-corruption authorities of several B&R countries since 2024, including Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Maldives, Saudi Arabia, South Africa and the United Arab Emirates to strengthen co-operation, exchanges and collaborative training in anti-corruption. ICAC will also continue to collaborate with international organisations and platforms, such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, to advance more anti-corruption co-operation initiatives that benefit B&R countries.



# Strengthening institutional building for international B&R co-operation



8



In 2024

~6 000

government and  
business leaders from

**70+ B&R**  
**countries** and  
regions participated in  
the Belt and Road Summit

# BELT AND ROAD SUMMIT

## 一帶一路高峰論壇



- Hong Kong will continue to proactively participate in the B&R Forum for International Cooperation organised by our country, contributing to telling good stories of our country.
- The HKSAR Government and HKTDC have been organising the **B&R Summit** annually since 2016, and the Summit has established itself as the largest and most important international commerce, business and investment platform for promoting B&R collaboration of Hong Kong, the Mainland and overseas enterprises.



- **The B&R Summit** has been recognised by our country as a case of significance for the implementation of the B&R Initiative in building a global community of shared future and was included as one of the deliverables of the Third B&R Forum for International Cooperation during the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the B&R Initiative.



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