

**Public Policy Research Funding Scheme
Indicative Research Areas**

Code

I. Themes and Research Areas Aligning with Government Policy Priorities and Research Needs

1. Development Opportunities from the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA) under the National 14th Five-Year Plan **S1**

- 1a. Strategic development and collaboration plan in specific economic sectors with another Mainland municipality (or a number of Mainland municipalities) in the GBA which has (have) unique potential for significant development and in which Hong Kong businesses have expertise to offer*
- 1b. Hong Kong's strengths as a regional intellectual property (IP) trading centre and strategies to establish Hong Kong's leading position and contribute to national development*
- 1c. Development potential and strategies of the Hong Kong cultural and creative industries leveraging GBA development opportunities*
- 1d. Medium term effect of the Government's measures to help Hong Kong young people understand and seize opportunities of GBA development and enhancement measures*
- 1e. Systematic study to better understand Hong Kong residents in the Mainland municipalities in GBA, such as residents' size and distribution, needs and considerations for the move*

2. Achieving Carbon Neutrality by 2050 **S2**

- 2a. Strategies for enhancing awareness and participation of young people and minorities in climate actions*
- 2b. Strategies for mobilising the business community to develop and implement decarbonisation plans for different sectors*

3. Hydrogen Economy **S3**

- 3a. *Hong Kong's priority areas for using hydrogen to meet local needs, in particular technological advancements and infrastructure requirements for wider application of hydrogen energy*
- 3b. *Policies that can facilitate the use of hydrogen in Hong Kong; and medium to long term social and economic impact of using hydrogen in Hong Kong*
- 3c. *Leveraging the use of hydrogen to develop new business opportunities and strengthen cooperation with neighbouring regions*

4. Sustainable Development of Elderly Care Services with an Ageing Population **S4**

- 4a. *Improving the financial sustainability of subsidised elderly services*
 - *assess the impact of maintaining existing practice in providing subsidised elderly services on recurrent expenditure in the next 20 years*
 - *make recommendations on funding and/or fee-charging model of various elderly services and set out relevant implementation details together with assessment of potential impact on demand for subsidised services, the Government's finances, stakeholder responses, challenges faced and mitigation measures*
 - *propose strategies to change the current balance of subsidised to non-subsidised services, and assess the feasibility and effectiveness in quantifiable terms of developing a silver economy to cater for the demand of elderly services*
- 4b. *Improving the manpower sustainability of the elderly service sector*
 - *project the manpower required for manpower sustainability, impact on Hong Kong's labour market and the corresponding manpower expenditure in the next 20 years on the assumption that existing policies (such as funding and fee-charging models, professional qualification and/or entry requirement of concerned staff, labour policy, etc.) remain unchanged*

- *identify ways to enhance sustainability of manpower and recommend implementation options that should consider impact on Hong Kong's overall manpower resources and economy, responses of key stakeholders, challenges faced and the corresponding mitigation measures*

4c. *Encouraging elderly persons to retire in the Mainland municipalities of the GBA*

- *identify key factors affecting Hong Kong elderly's choice of place to retire*
- *investigate the situation and service needs of Hong Kong elderly living in GBA cities*
- *examine cross-border retirement policies and measures in Hong Kong and Mainland policies/measures targeting Hong Kong elderly*
- *understand real and perceived difficulties faced by elderly persons who retire across the border and make recommendations on how to encourage more elderly persons to retire in GBA cities with assessment on impact on the number of Hong Kong elderly choosing to retire in the GBA*
- *project the number and demographic characteristics of Hong Kong elderly choosing to retire in GBA in future together with the impact of cross-border retirement on government expenditure, development of the elderly service industry in Hong Kong and the overall economy of Hong Kong*

5. Healthcare Innovations

S5

5a. *Innovative healthcare services delivery models, including enhanced medical-social collaboration and sustainable healthcare financing*

5b. *Enhancing development of primary healthcare in Hong Kong*

5c. *Strategies to make use of health technology/ informatics/ innovations to improve Hong Kong's preparedness and capacity to respond to infectious disease outbreak, including anti-epidemic measures, the ability to meet the surge capacity in laboratory testing and to provide continuity of care by public hospitals amidst the capacity challenges, etc.*

5d. *Developing Hong Kong into a health and medical innovation hub*

6. **Education**

S6

(i) Healthy and Happy Schooling

6a. *Promoting healthy and happy schooling/building better schools and teachers, covering studies that investigate topics such as the well-being and level of contentment/happiness of students and teachers towards their school life and enhancement measures; and factors that affect students' physical, mental, emotional and social fitness and enhancement measures*

6b. *Impact of community engagement/volunteering service and uniformed group on students' values, sense of responsibilities, citizenship, and sense of belonging towards Hong Kong*

6c. *Good practices on parent education and parent-school co-operation to promote the well-being and happiness of students and teachers*

(ii) Mode of Learning and Teaching under the New Technological Age

6d. *Knowledge generation/boundaries of learning, teaching and schooling covering studies on topics such as the role and positioning of schools and teachers in the age of wider utilization of education technology (EdTech), and strategies and measures on use and promotion of AI in education while ensuring its ethical and equitable use*

6e. *Qualities and competencies necessary for students to keep up with the pace and wide application of EdTech*

6f. *Pedagogical goals of schools and educators in response to the future needs of youths*

(iii) Sustainable and Balanced Ladder of Talent Development and Training

6g. *Overseas practice and experience of other regions/countries (e.g. Finland, Australia and Singapore) on lifelong learning*

6h. *Development of micro-credentials and a holistic ladder of sustainable development & training of talents*

6i. *Strategies and measures on the use and promotion of AI in education to leverage its potential in education at all levels while ensuring its ethical and equitable use*

- 6j. *Benchmarking of youths' skill sets in literacy, numeracy, digital and global competency with that necessary for current and future local, national and international development*
- 6k. *Exploring the development of post-secondary institutes focusing on technical and professional programme and relevant research and development to support the rapid development of the Innovation and Technology (I&T) industry, thereby supporting Hong Kong to upkeep its role as an international I&T hub*
- 6l. *Factors affecting decisions on lifelong education and a holistic ladder of balanced development and training of talents, covering studies that investigate topics such as whether gender, family ethnicities and socio-economic background are determining factors, and implications on the talent pool as a whole; and difference in skill levels of people by gender, family, socio-economic background and their faced challenges with a recommended holistic plan to facilitate people of different age to engage in lifelong education*

II. Other Major Themes and Research Areas

Co-operation with the Mainland

1. Harnessing the Opportunities and Meeting the Challenges Arising from the Implementation of the National Five-Year Plan **C1**

- 1a. Complementing the National “Dual Circulation” Strategy*
- 1b. Advancement of Hong Kong’s Comparative Strengths: International Financial, Transportation and Trade Centres, and Centre for International Legal and Dispute Resolution Services*
- 1c. Creating New Edge for Hong Kong: International Innovation and Technology Hub, International Aviation Hub, Centre for International Cultural Exchange, and Regional Intellectual Property (IP) Trading Centre*

2. Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA) **C2**

- 2a. Hong Kong Linking Up the GBA and the ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations)*
- 2b. Co-operation with GBA Airports and/or Cities to Entrench Hong Kong’s Leading Position in Air Cargo*
- 2c. Hong Kong’s Roles and Contributions to Make the GBA a World-leading Innovation Hub in China*
- 2d. Connectivity and Flow of People, Goods, Capital and Information in the GBA*
- 2e. Hong Kong – Macao collaboration*

3. Belt and Road Initiative **C3**

Land and Housing

4. Land and Housing Supply **C4**

- 4a. Supply of Housing Land and Residential Premises*
- 4b. Optimal Utilisation of Agricultural Land in the New Territories*
- 4c. Feasible Proposal on Tackling Partitioned Room/Subdivided Unit Problem by Using Transitional Housing*
- 4d. Balance between Land Development and Conservation*

- 4e. *Expediting Development Process to Quicken Housing Delivery*
- 4f. *Tackling Ageing Buildings and Facilitating Urban Transformation*
- 4g. *Increasing Land Supply to Meet Future Economic Growth and/or Social Needs*
- 4h. *Balance between Liveability and Housing Production in Town Planning and Management*
- 4i. *Future Demand for Commercial/Office Floorspace and a Preferred Office Land Development Strategy in Hong Kong under the New Normal*

Economic Development

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| 5. | Regional Co-operation and Development | C5 |
| 5a. | <i>Opportunities for Hong Kong under the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership</i> | |
| 5b. | <i>Economic Relationship and Prospects between Hong Kong and ASEAN Countries</i> | |
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| 6. | Diversification of Hong Kong's Economic Base | C6 |
| 6a. | <i>Recycling Industry</i> | |
| 6b. | <i>Re-industrialisation</i> | |
| 6c. | <i>Industry Positioning/Key Drivers for Sustainable Growth of Another Core Business District in Kowloon East</i> | |
| 6d. | <i>Innovation and Technology Development</i> | |
| 6e. | <i>Creative Industries - Promoting the Use of Cultural IP</i> | |
| 6f. | <i>Effectiveness of the Industrial Building Revitalisation Scheme in Kowloon East</i> | |
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| 7. | City Branding | C7 |
| 7a. | <i>Promoting Hong Kong and Rebuilding Local and Overseas Confidence</i> | |
| 7b. | <i>Arts and Culture, Sports and Major Events</i> | |
| 7c. | <i>Domestic and International Tourism</i> | |
| 7d. | <i>Heritage Conservation</i> | |

Livelihood Issues

8. Poverty and Inequality **C8**

- 8a. *Strategies to Tackle Poverty and Inequality*
- 8b. *Social Mobility and Inter-generational Poverty*
- 8c. *Inequalities Among New Immigrants/Ethnic Minorities*

9. Ageing Population **C9**

- 9a. *Old-age Income Security*
- 9b. *Economic and Social Participation of Elderly People*
- 9c. *Promoting Intergenerational Support and Solidarity*
- 9d. *Ageing in Place: Policies and Practices*
- 9e. *Dying in Place: Policies and Practices*
- 9f. *Building Age-friendly Living Environments*
- 9g. *Silver-hair Market*
- 9h. *Active and Healthy Aging Policies*
- 9i. *Green Burial*
- 9j. *Family Carers*
- 9k. *Portability of Social Welfare Benefits*

10. Labour and Employment **C10**

- 10a. *Statutory Minimum Wage*
- 10b. *Female Participation in the Workforce*
- 10c. *Elderly Participation in the Workforce*
- 10d. *Retirement Protection and Progressive Retirement Practices*
- 10e. *Skills for the Future and Local Workforce Transformation*
- 10f. *Occupational Safety and Health*
- 10g. *Conditions of Work (Remote Working and Flexible Working Arrangements, etc.)*
- 10h. *Immigration and Emigration: Nature, Impacts, Problems to Individuals, Families and Society; and Prospects of Talents and Professionals Attraction and Retention*
- 10i. *Long-term Unemployment and Underemployment*

11.	Family Policies and Children’s Welfare	C11
11a.	<i>Fostering a Supportive Environment for Forming and Raising Families (e.g. Access to Affordable and Quality Childcare, Family-friendly Employment Practices, Gender Equality in Families, etc.)</i>	
11b.	<i>Impact of Housing, Childcare Services, Long Working Hours and Other Factors on Fertility Rate</i>	
11c.	<i>Family and Family Related Issues</i>	
11d.	<i>Children’s Rights, Wellbeing and Child Protection</i>	
12.	Building an Inclusive Society	C12
12a.	<i>Social Inclusion of New Immigrants and Ethnic Minorities</i>	
12b.	<i>People with Disabilities</i>	
12c.	<i>Students with Special Education Needs</i>	
13.	Health	C13
13a.	<i>Long Term Care Financing</i>	
13b.	<i>Medical-Social Collaboration</i>	
13c.	<i>Biotechnology Development and Bioethics</i>	
13d.	<i>Public Support and Participation for Control of Communicable Diseases</i>	
13e.	<i>Telehealth and Telemedicine</i>	
13f.	<i>Development of Chinese Medicine</i>	
14.	Transport	C14
<u>Innovation and Technology</u>		
15.	Information and Technology in Education	C15
16.	Technology, Innovation and Creativity	C16
16a.	<i>Policies to Support Digital Transformation: Digital Currency, Robotics Process Automation, Blockchain, AI, etc.</i>	
16b.	<i>Environmental, Social and Corporate Governance (ESG)</i>	

- 16c. *Entrepreneurship and Innovation*
16d. *Supporting Emerging Industries: Policies Change and Evolution*

17. Technology in Transport **C17**

- 17a. *Application of Information Communication and Technology (ICT) in Tackling Traffic and Transport Problems in Urban Areas*
17b. *Application of ICT in Enhancing Connectivity and Walkability in Urban Areas*

Education and Youth Development

18. Education **C18**

- 18a. *National Education*
18b. *STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, Mathematics) Education*
18c. *Media Literacy Education*
18d. *Vocational and Professional Education and Training*
18e. *Developing Hong Kong as a Regional Education Hub*

19. Youth Development **C19**

- 19a. *Effective Youth Development Programme and Evaluation*
19b. *Building Multiple Education and Employment Pathways*
19c. *Youth Entrepreneurship*
19d. *Youth Engagement in Community and Public Affairs*

Environmental Protection

20. Air Quality **C20**

- 20a. *Air Quality Monitoring*
20b. *New Energy Vehicles*

21. Waste Management **C21**

- 21a. *Resources Recovery*

22.	Green Building	C22
23.	Ecological Conservation	C23
23a.	<i>Promoting Conservation of Private Land with High Ecological Value</i>	
23b.	<i>Engaging the Non-governmental Sector (in particular Business Sector) in Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity</i>	
24.	Water Quality	C24
25.	Climate Change and Energy	C25
26.	Sustainable Consumption and Green Living	C26
27.	Countryside Conservation	C27
27a.	<i>Collaboration with Other Municipalities in the GBA to Support Cultural, Green/Ecological, Historical and Heritage Conservation and Eco-recreation Development</i>	
<u>Political Development and Governance</u>		
28.	Governance, Administration and Public Engagement	C28
29.	Social Media in Governance	C29
Research Areas Other Than Above		C30