



The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China

## The Chief Executive's 2017 Policy Address

繁體 | 简体 A A A

Search

[Policy Address](#) [Speech](#) [Policy Agenda](#) [Highlights](#) [Webcast](#) [Press Releases](#) [Videos](#) [Other Publications](#) [Archives](#) [Contact Us](#) [Sitemap](#)

### Policy Address

#### III. Diversified Economy

##### Construction and Related Professional Services Sectors

111. For the Hong Kong construction sector, the Belt and Road Initiative has brought visions while the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area initiative has generated concrete opportunities and made it easier to achieve results.

112. The Mainland and Hong Kong signed an Agreement on Economic and Technical Co-operation under the Closer Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) on 28 June 2017, which expressly supports Hong Kong's participation in the development of pilot Free Trade Zones. The Government will capitalise on the new opportunities and continue to assist the construction and related professional services sectors in their business development in the Mainland. The Government will also deepen the co-operation with Qianhai, Hengqin and Nansha in accordance with the Agreement signed in June 2017. We will continue to discuss with the Mainland various issues such as mutual recognition of professional qualifications, rationalisation of the work of "professionals" and "practitioners", and promote the "Hong Kong management model" already adopted in Qianhai to other Free Trade Zones.

113. The construction industry has been facing the challenges of high construction costs and labour shortage in recent years. Hence, the Government is proactively promoting the adoption of technology and innovative construction methods to improve productivity and cost-effectiveness. For instance, the Government is assisting the industry in establishing large-scale and highly automated steel reinforcing bar prefabrication plants for the production of prefabricated steel reinforcement components for use in construction projects. We will also adopt [Building Information Modelling technology](#) in the design and construction of major government capital works projects that are scheduled to start in 2018, and promote the use of this technology in private construction projects. Besides, the new Construction Innovation and Technology Application Centre of the Construction Industry Council will be in operation by the end of this year to provide the latest information on local and overseas construction technologies and to support their adoption by small and medium enterprises.

- Policy Address
- Policy Agenda
- Highlights
- Webcast
- Press Releases
- TV Announcements
- Other Publicity Items
- Archives
- Contact Us
- Sitemap



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2017 Policy Address

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### Technology Application and Innovation

130. Building Information Modelling technology allows construction professionals to carry out design and construction works in a virtual environment, which helps avoid changes in the construction process as far as possible, reduce risks and render clarity to project costs in various stages. The Government will actively seek to require consultants and contractors to use this modelling technology when undertaking design of major government capital works projects from next year onwards.

131. The Construction Industry Council will set up an innovation and technology application centre to provide a platform for introducing innovative technologies into the industry to enhance productivity. The centre will commence operation in the second half of this year.

[Contents](#) | [Next](#)