

**Opening of HONG KONG CINEMA IN MOTION Section
at 16th Five Flavours Asian Film Festival in Warsaw, Poland
(16 November 2022)**

Speech by DBL

[to be translated into Polish by interpreter]

Dear Jakub, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good evening, and welcome to the screening of the opening film of the *Hong Kong Cinema in Motion* section. It is a true honour and pleasure for the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Berlin to be sponsoring the 16th edition of the Five Flavours Asian Film Festival. As some of you are aware, this year is the 25th Anniversary of the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. This adds an additional celebratory note to our sponsorship this year.

2. With its unique heritage, Hong Kong has all along been a true melting pot for different cultures from both the East and the West. To consolidate our status as an international cultural exchange hub, our Chief Executive, Mr John Lee, announced in his inaugural Policy Address last month a series of bold initiatives to support the development of a cultural and creative ecosystem that is vibrant and sustainable. Among other things, we will set up a dedicated Culture Commission to formulate a blueprint to guide the sector's development, significantly expand our arts and cultural facilities, as well as establish a fund for staging international arts and cultural events in Hong Kong.

3. As part of our efforts to showcase Hong Kong's soft power, our office is proud to be presenting eight Hong Kong productions at the Film Festival this year. Our opening film, *Septet: The Story of Hong Kong*, pulls together seven of Hong Kong's best known filmmakers, each presenting a short story that encapsulates a part of Hong Kong's unique history as well as their personal feelings to their hometown.

4. Before we dive in, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Festival organiser for the great collaboration over the years. We are very grateful for the *Hong Kong Cinema in Motion* section, which provides an excellent platform to showcase Hong Kong's rich cinematographic traditions to the wider European audience. With a century of history in filmmaking and being one of the most dynamic film industries in present times, Hong Kong's film industry has a lot to offer. I sincerely look forward to our continued cooperation in the years to come. Meanwhile, I would also count on all of you for your continued support for Hong Kong's films, and I also hope to see you again, either in Hong Kong or at one of our future events in Poland!

5. Thank you once again for joining us for this journey to Hong Kong through films. Please sit back and enjoy!

– Ends –

(~ 440 words; ~4 minutes)