

**Cocktail Reception for Hong Kong Delegation
at Geneva International Exhibition of Inventions**

(13 March 2026)

Welcome Remarks by DBL

Distinguished Guests, Friends from Hong Kong, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good afternoon. It is my pleasure to join all of you here in Geneva to celebrate the remarkable achievements of Hong Kong's innovation and technology community.

2. First and foremost, I would like to express my congratulations to the organiser of the Geneva International Exhibition of Inventions for delivering a successful and distinguished annual event. Geneva Inventions offers a valuable platform for innovators to connect, exchange ideas, and explore meaningful collaboration.

3. My deep appreciation also goes to the Hong Kong delegation for their outstanding achievements at Geneva Inventions. At last year's 50th edition, the Hong Kong team won about 300 prizes. In particular, the Grand Awards were presented to projects by our Electrical and Mechanical Services Department and Hong Kong Police Force. These achievements not only recognise Hong Kong's strengths in scientific research, but also highlight our strong I&T capabilities. This year, we are pleased to once again be represented by a strong delegation from Hong Kong.

4. Hong Kong is moving full speed ahead in building a world-class innovation and technology ecosystem. Our **Hong Kong I&T Development Blueprint** sets out clear strategies to develop Hong Kong into an international I&T centre. We are focusing on strategically important industries: life and

health technology, AI and robotics, as well as advanced manufacturing and new energy.

5. To accelerate this development, we are strengthening our ecosystem from upstream R&D, through commercialisation, to downstream industrial growth. Key initiatives include the **Research, Academic and Industry Sectors One-plus Scheme**, which supports the translation of research outcomes; the **New Industrialisation Acceleration Scheme**; and the **I&T Industry-Oriented Fund**. Together, these initiatives represent a combined investment of about 3 billion Swiss francs (US\$3.9 billion) to drive I&T development in Hong Kong.

6. Hong Kong is also deepening international collaboration through our **InnoHK** platform, which has partnered with world-renowned universities and institutes to establish some 30 research laboratories. We are also further strengthening cross-boundary collaboration through the **Hong Kong Park of the Hetao Shenzhen–Hong Kong Science and Technology Innovation Cooperation Zone**, which opened in December last year. As recently announced in the 2026-27 Budget, we have earmarked about 1 billion Swiss francs (HK\$ 10 billion) to accelerate the Park’s development. To create a comprehensive industrial ecosystem, we will also establish a dedicated company this year with an initial capital of about 1 billion Swiss francs (HK\$10 billion) to take forward the development of the **San Tin Technopole**, located adjacent to the Shenzhen I&T zone. Hong Kong remains an ideal base for companies and talent looking to connect with the Chinese Mainland and the wider Asian region.

7. Our progress is recognised internationally. Hong Kong ranked third globally in the “Technology” factor and fourth overall in the World Digital Competitiveness Ranking 2025. The Shenzhen-Hong Kong-Guangzhou innovation cluster ranked first worldwide in the Global Innovation Index 2025 Ranking of World’s Top 100 Innovation Clusters, published by the World Intellectual Property Organization. With a strong talent pool,

competitive tax regime, and superior infrastructure, the city offers a thriving ecosystem for international tech innovators and companies to scale. We warmly invite you to visit Hong Kong and explore opportunities for collaboration in R&D, talent exchange, start-up development and investment.

8. Before I close, I would like to thank Professor Young for his efforts in coordinating Hong Kong's participating in this esteemed event. May I wish you all the best of success here in Geneva, and I look forward to the outstanding results of the Hong Kong delegation at this year's Geneva Inventions. Thank you.

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