

For immediate release

The Hong Kong Institute of Bankers welcomes the 2021 – 22 Budget

Encouraging financial talent to explore opportunities in the Greater Bay Area

Expanding the scope of the “Continuing Education Fund”

24 February 2021, Hong Kong – The Hong Kong Institute of Bankers (HKIB) welcomes the 2021 – 22 Budget delivered today by the Hong Kong SAR Government Financial Secretary Paul Chan, in particular the initiatives that focus on supporting employment, investing in education, talent development, and seizing the opportunities in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (“Greater Bay Area”).

The Budget Speech highlighted how the Greater Bay Area has developed into an international innovation and technology hub and therefore the two-way mobility of talent will support Hong Kong’s growth.

Carrie Leung, Chief Executive Officer of the HKIB, said, “We are glad to see the Government’s continued commitment to encourage local young people to seek employment in the Greater Bay Area. This will foster talent mobility between Hong Kong and the other cities in the Area and it will encourage greater demand for cross-border financial knowledge and professional banking qualifications. The industry is committed to stimulating the development of innovative financial services and diversified products in the Greater Bay Area, and the Institute will continue to drive the agenda to support the mutual recognition of cross-border qualifications, and provide more professional training and courses that supports businesses across borders.”

Leung continued, “According to the Budget, the Government also plans to expand the scope of the Continuing Education Fund to include online courses. This initiative was developed in response to advances in technology and changes in the way people learn to ensure continuous learning can take place across a range of platforms. The Institute has implemented FLEX Learning, an online training arrangement, since 2020 and we look forward to seeing more banking practitioners leveraging the Fund to enrol in online courses.”

The HKIB also welcomes the Government’s efforts to strengthen Hong Kong’s status as an international financial centre. In particular, the initiatives to promote green and sustainable financing services and innovative technologies, as well as its commitment to enhance the city’s status as an asset and wealth management centre and a hub for family offices. The Institute looks forward to hearing further details on the development of these focus areas and it will provide the required training and talent development to support.

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Notes to editors:

About The Hong Kong Institute of Bankers

The Hong Kong Institute of Bankers (HKIB) has been serving the local banking community in the provision of professional training and certification services since 1963. HKIB is the first not-for-profit institution in Hong Kong to issue banking qualifications and was appointed by the Education Bureau as a Professional Qualifications Assessment Agency in August 2020. With an objective to maintain and further develop the territory's status as an international financial centre, the Institute works with the support of banks, regulators, financial institutions, academic institutions and various professional bodies to provide local banking practitioners with professional training and development opportunities. In view of the changing landscape of the banking and financial services industry in Hong Kong and mainland China, as well as on a global scale, the importance of continuing to enhance the standards of professional development has gained increased attention. The HKIB endeavours to provide and enhance its training and development products in order to equip its members with essential knowledge and skills that meet the industry's needs.

Official website: <https://www.hkib.org/>

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