

For immediate release

## **The Hong Kong Institute of Bankers Welcomes the “2024 Policy Address”**

**16 October 2024, Hong Kong** – The Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region John LEE delivered the “2024 Policy Address” (Policy Address) today, and announced a series of new initiatives to build Hong Kong into an international hub for high-calibre talent as well as to maintain and strengthen its advantages to further enhance the city’s role as an international financial centre. The Hong Kong Institute of Bankers (HKIB) welcomes and is committed to supporting these initiatives.

**Carrie LEUNG, Chief Executive Officer of the HKIB**, said “The Institute is pleased to see that the Policy Address has once again focused on 'international financial centre' and 'nurturing talent' to address the talent shortage. As stated in the Policy Address, there will be a projected shortage of around 180,000 workers across different sectors in the next five years. The banking and financial services industry could be among those impacted. The government will set up a Committee on Education, Technology and Talents to formulate policies to attract and cultivate talent, as well as foster technology development. This will also help train diversified talent and support them in pursuing their career development in Hong Kong, thus further maintaining, strengthening and expanding a professional talent pool to enhance the city's advantage as an international financial centre and benefit the banking and financial services industries.”

LEUNG continued, “To promote Hong Kong as an international hub for high-calibre talent, The Institute will also step up our existing support and coordination work for financial talent coming to Hong Kong, including assisting them in obtaining local professional qualifications and organising industry exchange activities to help them better adapt to the local workplace.”

To maintain Hong Kong’s status as an international financial centre, The Institute is also closely following the relevant measures underway to drive the development of the local banking industry and financial markets. These measures include the continuous enhancement of the mutual market access regime, facilitating the internationalisation of RMB, strengthening the city’s green finance ecosystem and its growing status as an international asset and wealth management centre. Based on the relevant developments and priorities, HKIB will provide the appropriate training courses and professional qualification certifications for the industry, and review the existing structure of the Certified Banker and Enhanced Competency Framework programmes to better support the sustainable development of the industry and its competitiveness.

HKIB will also support the government's overall talent strategy and work closely with the industry and regulators to strengthen professional qualification training and Hong Kong's leading position in the global financial market.

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**For further enquiries, please contact:**

**Paradigm Consulting**

Lauren HUI (852) 2251 9990

[hkib@paradigmconsulting.com.hk](mailto:hkib@paradigmconsulting.com.hk)

**Notes to editors:**

**About The Hong Kong Institute of Bankers**

Established in 1963, The Hong Kong Institute of Bankers (“HKIB”) is the first not-for-profit organisation that provides training and certification services to the banking community in Hong Kong. It is also the first professional body in the territory to offer banking qualifications equivalent to a Master’s degree level. For six decades, HKIB has been helping practitioners and young graduates to equip themselves with the essential banking skills and knowledge, playing a critical role in the banking industry’s talent and professional development.

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