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## WEEKLY UPDATE

Dear Members and Friends,

Last week I attended a briefing with the Chief Executive, Chief Secretary and Financial Secretary on the Chief Executive's Policy Address. The CE outlined the key tenants that guided the preparation of the Address - to uphold "One Country, Two Systems", strengthen the economy and improve people's livelihoods - as well as an analysis of his views on the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats to Hong Kong's prosperous development. Hong Kong's distinct advantage as an international city was one of three Strengths highlighted and framing the briefing (the other two being "one country, two systems", and development of the eight centres outlined in the 14<sup>th</sup> 5 year plan). This special role for Hong Kong – and its placement front and center of the government's central policy message - provides a clear message about how the city views its internationalism. Indeed, when talking of other initiatives throughout the Address, there was an emphasis on how different actions would strengthen Hong Kong's international role. These included talent related initiatives, such as the establishment of a Talent Support Center, the International Legal Talent Training Academy, International Academy Against Corruption, expanding the coverage of universities under the Top Talent Pass Scheme, relaxation of visa policies for talent from regional Asian