



30 June 2026

Dear Members,

Over the coming weeks, I will be focusing on key elements of the HKSAR Government's First Five-Year Plan and what they mean in practical terms for international business. I begin this week with innovation and technology, a priority that was underscored by Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry Professor Sun Dong's visit to Australia and New Zealand last week.

Across Sydney, Melbourne and Auckland, Professor Sun met with ministerial counterparts, universities, venture capital firms, research institutions, technology companies, and industry bodies. He delivered keynote addresses at the Australia-China Innovation Summit in Melbourne and the China Business Summit in Auckland and engaged directly with business leaders from across our region. The breadth of that programme reflects the level of intent behind Hong Kong's innovation agenda.

Throughout the visit, Professor Sun outlined developments under the Innovation and Technology Development Blueprint, including the InnoHK research platforms, funding schemes supporting advanced manufacturing, the Hetao Shenzhen-Hong Kong Science and Technology Co-operation Zone and the San Tin Technopole within the Northern Metropolis. The message was clear: Hong Kong is seeking to move from research capability to scaled commercial impact.

Hong Kong's universities and research institutions already possess global standing. The strategic question now is how effectively that research base translates into market-ready solutions, growth-stage enterprises, and regional expansion platforms. Commercialisation depends not only on funding, but on regulatory clarity, talent mobility, cross-boundary coordination, and access to growth capital.

The proximity to Shenzhen's innovation ecosystem remains a structural advantage. If aligned effectively, Hong Kong's capital markets, professional services depth and international standards can complement mainland production capability and technology supply chains in ways few other cities can replicate.

For AustCham members in technology, venture capital, education, professional services and advanced industry, this agenda has direct implications for partnership decisions, intellectual property strategy, headquarters functions, and long-term capital allocation. The operating environment that takes shape over the next two to three years will influence whether Hong Kong consolidates its role as a regional innovation hub or competes from the margins.

As we prepare our submission to the HKSAR Government on its First Five-Year Plan, your perspective on commercialisation pathways, cross-boundary operating conditions and investment confidence will be critical to ensuring our feedback reflects practical business realities.

Warm regards,
Mary Simpson, AustCham Hong Kong Chief Executive