AUSTCHAM
HONG KONG
A MEMBER OF AUSTCHAM GREATER CHINA

11 August 2026

Dear Members,

This week, AustCham submitted its formal **Response to the First Five-Year Plan consultation and the Chief Executive's 2026 Policy Address**. It is one of the Chamber's most comprehensive pieces of policy work in recent years, with 42 recommendations across nine themes, from capital markets and critical minerals to talent, AI, the Northern Metropolis, and urban renewal.

I would like to thank our Board, committees and members who contributed to this substantive work. Your insights, examples and practical experience have been central to shaping a submission that reflects the priorities of international business in Hong Kong.

Why it matters: decisions made over the next twelve to twenty-four months will shape Hong Kong's competitiveness for years to come. This is not simply another consultation. It is a chance to define where Hong Kong can lead, where it needs to adapt, and how government and business can work together to strengthen the city's role as an international centre for investment, talent, innovation, and trade.

The scale of the consultation reinforces that point. The Chief Executive has said the Government has received around 13,800 public submissions for the Five-Year Plan and about 8,500 for the Policy Address, with September the target month for unveiling the blueprint. AustCham's role in that wider conversation is to make sure the views and experience of international business are heard.

Our submission is grounded in a simple view: Hong Kong's competitive advantage is strongest when government and business are working in the same direction. The city has a rare combination of strengths: a common-law system, deep capital markets, access to the Chinese Mainland, international connectivity, and sophisticated professional services. But these strengths are not self-sustaining, and other cities are competing hard for the same capital, companies, and people.

What we recommend: a practical agenda to strengthen Hong Kong's offer to business and investors over the next five years, informed by members who use Hong Kong as a regional headquarters, a place to raise capital, structure investment, resolve disputes, and connect with markets across Asia-Pacific.

Three priorities sit at the centre of the submission. First, Hong Kong should position itself as Asia's leading place to list and finance critical minerals projects. Second, Hong Kong and Australia should make structured progress toward a comprehensive double taxation agreement. Third, more should be done to help long-term investors, including Australian superannuation funds, allocate capital through Hong Kong.

These priorities go directly to Hong Kong's role as an international financial centre, but the submission is deliberately broader than finance. A competitive financial centre also depends on whether businesses can hire talent, families can settle, graduates can build careers, companies can turn new ideas into products and services, and investors can assess opportunities with confidence.

Over the next two weeks, I will unpack the major themes of our submission and what they mean for members. For this week, I would ask one question: which of the nine themes matters most to your business, and where can AustCham's advocacy make the greatest difference?

If you have a view, please email austcham@austcham.com.hk. The submission has been made, but the advocacy process is only beginning, and practical examples from members will be critical to what comes next.

Read AustCham's full 2026 Response to the First Five-Year Plan Consultation and Chief Executive's Policy Address Submission.

Warm regards,
Mary Simpson, AustCham Hong Kong Chief Executive