



For immediate release

## **The Hong Kong Institute of Bankers welcomes the 2023 – 24 Budget Initiatives**

*Developing Hong Kong into a global green technology and finance centre*

*Supporting the Fintech internship scheme to provide cross border work experience to young people*

**22 February 2023, Hong Kong** – The Hong Kong Institute of Bankers (HKIB) welcomes and is committed to supporting the 2023 – 24 Budget delivered today by Hong Kong’s Financial Secretary, Paul CHAN, in particular, the initiatives focused on accelerating the city’s economic recovery and nurturing financial talents, to maintain Hong Kong’s status as an international financial centre.

The HKSAR government announced in its Budget that it will set up a Green Technology and Finance Development Committee, to invite representatives in areas including green technology, green finance and green standard certifications to help create an action plan for promoting the development of Hong Kong into an international green technology and financial centre. In addition, to further nurture Fintech talents, the government will roll out a Fintech internship scheme that will provide subsidies for participating post-secondary students in Hong Kong and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA). The purpose of the scheme is to encourage students to acquire practical work experience with Fintech enterprises in Hong Kong or other cities in the GBA, to help them develop an interest in pursuing a career in Fintech after graduation, and with a view to strengthening the local Fintech talent pool.

**Carrie LEUNG, Chief Executive Officer of the HKIB**, said “We welcome the Budget’s initiatives that focus on promoting the application and innovation of green finance. As the Financial Secretary mentioned in his speech, this will enable green projects to obtain funding flexibly through financial innovations in addition to traditional channels. The Institute looks forward to learning more about the government’s work in terms of green certification and alignment with international standards, talent development, as well as strengthening the collaborations with other cities in the GBA and other international markets, to further expand the scope of our training to support the local banking industry to capture the opportunities arising from our country’s dual carbon target strategies and further leverage our advantages as an international financial centre.”

Leung continued, “Fintech also remains as one of the development priorities of the local banking industry. While the practitioners’ skillset in this front may need to be further enhanced, the relevant elements have already been included in our training courses. We also plan to implement the cross-border professional qualifications mutual recognition agreement, and support the industry’s work for cross-border Fintech talent development and skills training through the Institute’s professional qualification courses including the Enhanced Competency Framework (ECF) and the Certified Banker.”

The Institute also welcomes the Budget’s initiatives related to attracting more family offices to Hong Kong, as well as providing dedicated trainings for wealth management talents. Moreover, the government plans to organise a number of events to showcase Hong Kong’s unique advantages and investment environment, including an international conference on banking supervision, the Central Bank Governors Meeting to be



organised in Hong Kong currently under discussion, as well as the Global Financial Leaders' Investment Summit which is set to return this year. The Institute believes such events will further strengthen the collaboration between local and international industry leaders.

\*\*\*ENDS\*\*\*

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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.

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