

**For immediate release**

## **The Hong Kong Institute of Bankers Welcomes the “2025 Policy Address”**

**17 September 2025, Hong Kong** – The Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, John LEE, delivered the “2025 Policy Address” (Policy Address) today, outlining a series of new initiatives aimed at further establishing Hong Kong as an international hub for high-calibre talent and strengthening its competitive advantages. These initiatives include enhancing the talent policies and reinforcing the efforts of Hong Kong Talent Engage (HKTE) to attract and support talent. The Hong Kong Institute of Bankers (HKIB) welcomes these measures and is committed to supporting their implementation.

**Carrie LEUNG, Chief Executive Officer of HKIB**, said, "The Institute is pleased with the talent development strategies set out in the Policy Address. Since the government launched the new talent admission policies, we've seen high-calibre professionals from various sectors, especially in innovation and technology (I&T) and the financial sectors, pursuing careers in Hong Kong. The city's position in the World Talent Ranking has leapt to fourth globally and first in the Asia-Pacific region. To maintain the city's competitiveness as an international financial centre, it is essential to continue expanding and strengthening the pool of local financial talent. Attracting high-calibre international talent will also inject new momentum into the banking and financial services industry, fostering the industry's sustainable growth."

In the areas of fintech and artificial intelligence (AI), the Policy Address announced plans to promote AI+ development, facilitating the widespread application and development of AI across different sectors, and advancing various fintech projects, including the Project Ensemble Sandbox for tokenisation adoption.

LEUNG added, "The government's focus on AI development aligns closely with the banking industry's priorities for talent development. According to the recent 'Capacity Building for Future Banking 2026-2030' study, jointly published by the Hong Kong Monetary Authority, The Hong Kong Association of Banks, and HKIB, 93% of surveyed banks consider 'AI Technological Skills' to be among the most essential skills for industry practitioners. The Institute will support the government in fostering talent development in these key areas, enhance training and support for financial professionals, and strengthen training in emerging fields such as AI and fintech. Our professional qualifications offer clearer mutual recognition for both local and overseas professionals and serve as a stepping stone for high-calibre individuals pursuing careers in Hong Kong. The Institute will continue to enhance its professional qualifications and certifications, and foster collaboration and exchanges through industry networking and topical events. These efforts will further contribute to the development of a holistic pool of talent in the local banking industry with expertise in AI and finance."

In response to these initiatives, the Institute will review and strengthen its existing training courses and professional certifications, particularly in emerging areas such as AI and fintech. HKIB will also regularly update the structure of the Certified Banker programmes and Enhanced Competency Framework to ensure their continued relevance.

Furthermore, the Institute has been reappointed by the Education Bureau as a Professional Qualifications Assessment Agency (PQAA), recognised under the Hong Kong Qualifications Framework until 31 July 2030. This reappointment is a strong affirmation of the Institute's professional standards and assessment strategies. Building on this achievement, the Institute will further expand and consolidate existing competency benchmarks, foster the professional development of banking practitioners, and provide robust support for talent to enhance the competitiveness of Hong Kong's financial and banking sectors.

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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 in Hong Kong dedicated to advancing banking excellence in the region. As a trusted training and certification hub, HKIB is the first professional body in the city to offer banking qualifications equivalent to a Master's degree level. HKIB serves as an advocate for capacity building and is committed to cultivating a future-ready workforce. Through knowledge exchange, networking, and talent development, HKIB supports local talent and the next generation of professionals, contributing to the long-term stability and effectiveness of the banking industry sector.

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