For immediate release

The Hong Kong Institute of Bankers Welcomes the 2026–27 Budget

Proactively responding to the "AI+" and financial innovation policies
Supporting related professional training and talent development

25 February 2026, Hong Kong – The Hong Kong Institute of Bankers (HKIB) welcomes and fully supports the measures announced today by Hong Kong's Financial Secretary, Paul CHAN, in the 2026–27 Budget (the Budget) to enhance the city's status as an international financial centre and a hub for high-calibre talent, while promoting the application of artificial intelligence (AI) in the banking industry.

The Budget introduces initiatives to accelerate "AI for industries" and to deepen its integration across various sectors, while encouraging its wider application to achieve the target of adoption and utilisation by all. The Government will establish a 'Committee on AI+ and Industry Development Strategy' to formulate strategies and create favourable conditions for AI to empower the transformation and development of industries. The Government will invite public organisations to organise courses on the application of AI in collaboration with technology enterprises and tertiary institutions. HKIB will continue to work closely with banks and industry partners to strengthen practitioners' professional competencies in areas such as AI, data analytics, and fintech applications, supporting the long-term development of the industry.

Carrie LEUNG, Chief Executive Officer of HKIB, said: "HKIB welcomes and supports the Budget's focus on the 'International Financial Centre' and 'AI+'. In particular, the second cohort of the sandbox by the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) and Cyberport has commenced trials focusing on 'AI vs. AI' strategies, fully demonstrating Hong Kong's banking industry's determination and forward-looking vision to promote secure and responsible AI adoption. As the only professional body in Hong Kong offering banking professional qualifications equivalent to a Master's degree, HKIB has always proactively responded to the professional skills needs arising from digital transformation in the banking and financial sector. We have developed and continue to provide a wide range of courses and professional certifications covering AI, fintech, and risk management, helping practitioners master the application of emerging technologies and enhance the overall professionalism of the industry."

Leung added: "HKIB will continue to study initiatives in the Budget related to the development of the local banking and financial markets, such as the internationalisation of Renminbi (RMB) advancement, AI training, and digital asset development. In line with market trends, we will continue to refine and introduce relevant training programmes and professional qualifications for the industry, ensuring that talent development aligns with the direction of the industry's growth trajectory. HKIB will also continue to review the curricula of the 'Certified Banker' and 'Enhanced Competency Framework' to ensure they remain up to date, foster the growth of Hong Kong's banking talent pool, and contribute to building a competitive and forward-looking financial ecosystem."

Furthermore, HKIB is pleased to note that the Budget has introduced various talent-nurturing measures to further drive innovation across the industry. The Government also continues to attract talent from the Chinese mainland and overseas through initiatives including the Top Talent Pass Scheme, while expanding its network of partners to support incoming professionals and their families as they settle in Hong Kong, thereby further enriching the city's financial talent pool. With policy support and collective industry efforts, Hong Kong will further consolidate its position as an international financial centre and a hub for high-calibre talent, injecting fresh impetus into the sustainable development of the banking industry.

Ends

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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 learning and certification hub, HKIB is the only professional body in the city to offer banking professional qualifications comparable to a Master's degree. HKIB serves as an advocate for capacity building and is committed to cultivating a competent, ethical, and future-ready workforce to strengthen Hong Kong's advantages as an international financial centre. Through creating a common qualification benchmark, fostering knowledge exchange, promoting professional networking and enhancing talent development, HKIB supports local talent and the next generation of professionals, contributing to the long-term stability and effectiveness of the banking industry.

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