

BDC 6/2025

**Minutes of the 86th Meeting of the Business Development Committee
of the Hong Kong Productivity Council
held at 3:00p.m. on Tuesday, 4 March 2025 in
Boardroom, 2nd Floor, HKPC Building,
78 Tat Chee Avenue, Yau Yat Chuen, Kowloon**

Present: Chairman – Mr. Bryant Chan Wan-sing

Members – Prof. Samuel Au Kwok-wai*
Mr. Mohamed D. Butt, MH
Prof. Viveca Chan E-nam*
Prof. Jia Jiaya*
Mr. Anthony Lam Sai-ho
Prof. Matthew Lee Kwok-on*
Mr. Indiana Wong Man-chung*
(Assistant Commissioner for Innovation and
Technology (Funding Schemes), representing
Mr. Ivan Lee, JP, Commissioner for
Innovation and Technology)
Mr. Emil Yu Chen-on, BBS, JP

In Attendance from Innovation and Technology Commission:

Ms. Milly Au Yeung Shan* Senior Manager (Innovation and
Technology Fund)
Mr. Jacky Chow Chi-hang* Manager (Innovation and Technology Fund)

In Attendance from HKPC:

Dr. Lawrence Cheung* Chief Technology Officer
Mr. Edmond Lai Chief Digital Officer
Ms. Vivian Lin Chief Operating Officer
Mr. Yonghai Du Chief Innovation Officer
Mr. Brian Wong Chief People and Culture Officer
Mr. Ray Ko Chief Financial Officer
Ms. Gillian Luk Head, Council Secretariat
Ms. Olivia Poon Manager, Council Secretariat

*attendance via Microsoft Teams application

Mode of Meeting

The Chairman said that the meeting was held in person with 5 Members joining via Microsoft Teams. He thanked Members for attending the meeting.

Welcome to New Members

The Chairman welcomed Prof. Samuel Au Kwok-wai and Prof. Jia Jiaya who attended the meeting for the first time. He also welcomed Mr. Yonghai Du and Mr. Ray Ko, who joined the meeting in the capacity of Chief Innovation Officer and Chief Financial Officer, respectively.

Vote of Appreciation

The Chairman suggested, and Members agreed, to record a vote of appreciation to Ms. Clara Chan Yuen-shan for her contribution during her tenure as Member of the Business Development Committee (BDC).

Declaration of Interest

The Chairman reminded Members to declare interest should they observe any direct/pecuniary interest in any matter to be discussed at the meeting. He said that the meeting minutes would record the decision made on the declarations raised, about whether the declaring member could remain in the meeting or withdraw, speak on the matter under discussion and/or vote on the matter. In the event that the Chairperson was the declaring member, the decision would rest with the Committee by majority vote.

I. Confirmation of Minutes (BDC 23/2024 Revised)

1. The Revised Draft Minutes of the 85th BDC meeting held on 12 November 2024 had been circulated to Members and there were no further requests for amendments. The Minutes of the meeting were taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

II. Matter Arising

(A) Paper Circulation Since Last Meeting

2. reported that Members endorsed by circulation .

III. Arrangement for Hong Kong Industrial Artificial Intelligence & Robotics Centre (FLAIR) upon Cessation of InnoHK Funding (BDC 2/2025)

3. Invited by the Chairman, reported the KPI performance and achievements of FLAIR since setting up in 2019 and starting operation in 2020. He said that FLAIR had achieved all the 8 Key Performance Indicator targets adopted for its 5-year operation period (paragraphs 4-7 of the paper). In preparation for the cessation of InnoHK funding on 30 April 2025, a transition plan had been formulated and execution was on track (paragraphs 8-15 of the paper).

5. Members noted the arrangement for FLAIR to operate after the cessation of InnoHK funding on 30 April 2025.

IV. 2025/26 Annual Plan and 2024/25 Annual Report of Automotive Platforms and Application Systems R&D Centre (BDC 3/2025)

Report on APAS

8. Members received a presentation by on the 2025/26 Annual Plan and 2024/25 Annual Report of the Automotive Platforms and Application Systems R&D Centre (APAS) for submission to the Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC).

11. Members noted the 2025/26 Annual Plan and 2024/25 Annual Report of APAS.

V. Report on Proposals for Government Funding Schemes (April 2024 – January 2025) (BDC 4/2025)

12. Members noted the report by _____ that between April 2024 and January 2025, 33 proposals with HKPC's involvement were approved for \$58.1M under Government funding schemes as follows:

- (a) Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF): 21 approved projects for \$34.6M; and
- (b) Trade and Industrial Organisation Support Fund (TSF): 12 approved projects for \$23.5M.

VI. Final Performance Review of Completed Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF) Projects (BDC 5/2025)

13. Members noted the final performance review of 4 completed ITF projects, as follows:

- (a) STEM Education in Cultivating Hong Kong Aerospace Talents through Space Station Design and Build;
- (b) Hong Kong Tech Challenge Game 2024;
- (c) R&D of In-Vehicle Road Surface Condition Detection System based on AI Sensor Fusion; and
- (d) Trial: 16-Tonne Full-Electric Truck with Hook Lift for Solid Waste Collection.

VII. Any Other Business

(A) Measures in 2025/26 Budget of Government

14. Invited by the Chairman, _____ said that many measures in the Government's 2025/26 Budget (the Budget) announced on 26 February 2025 were related to HKPC's work. In particular, measures to upgrade industries, nurture talents, support SMEs and go global were anticipated to generate service opportunities for HKPC. The Management would look

into initiatives to complement the Government's policies and provide updates to Members at appropriate junctures.

15. The Executive Director's Goals and Objectives for 2025/26 being developed to cascade the corporate imperatives to all staff would take into account the measures in the Budget, as well as the Chief Executive's 2024 Policy Address delivered on 16 October 2024. Consideration would also be given to the spirit of the Two Sessions held in March 2025, industry views collected during the Hong Kong Industry Network Clusters (HK-INC)s consultation sessions and staff input to align with the national development and the actual situation in Hong Kong.

(B) Key Performance Indicators

Performance for 2024/25

16. Invited by the Chairman, took Members through the Key Performance Indicators (KPI) performance from April 2024 to January 2025.

Programme Area Distribution of Integrated Learning Courses Commenced in April – December 2024

19. Members noted the update by the that, during April – December 2024, HKPC commenced 480 fee-charging integrated learning courses. Their distribution by 4 programme areas surpassed all the estimates set.

(C) Go-global (助企業出海)

20. Members received a presentation by on a strategy being pursued by HKPC to support Hong Kong SMEs and Mainland enterprises to explore business opportunities overseas, leveraging Hong Kong as a gateway to international markets. said that the strategy covered 3 major aspects of work:

- (a) connecting with national-level Mainland authorities and partners (工信部, 科技部, 信通院, 中小企業中心) and relevant departments (科技司, 國際司). As a start, HKPC would support 工信部 to organise a high-level training programme in July 2025 for top-tier Mainland enterprises;
- (b) creating an ecosystem through strategic partnership with organisations like 中關村京港澳青年創新創業中心, 長三角國家技術創新中心

and 粵港澳大灣區國家技術創新中心. The partnership would provide the platform for HKPC to promote Hong Kong to the 3 centres' affiliated enterprises which pursued high quality development and aspired to go global. The 3 centres would also team up with HKPC to establish a joint exhibition centre named "The Cradle" (出海服務中心²) in HKPC to showcase global expansion opportunities. An opening ceremony for the centre was scheduled on 11 April 2025. The opportunity would be taken to announce the alliance with the 3 centres and hold a high-level forum named 「企業出海發展論壇」. In addition, HKPC would look to tap the Mainland client base of Big 4 accounting firms to promote Hong Kong as the first-choice hub for new industrialisation. In assisting businesses in developing new markets, HKPC would actively work with the Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises (OASES), InvestHK and Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC); and

- (c) reaching out by organising meet-ups and visits throughout 2024/25 and in the year ahead to facilitate exchanges with consulates general and trade associations in ASEAN, APAC, Belt and Road countries and Europe to explore opportunities for Hong Kong and Mainland enterprises. A number of study missions had also been held to ASEAN countries like Vietnam, Malaysia and Indonesia.

21. then reported a series of 2025 GBA-INC (Industry Network Cluster) consultation sessions being held in an effort to reach out to more Hong Kong and local enterprises in the Greater Bay Area (GBA). said that 4 sessions were held in Dongguan, Zhongshan, Zhuhai, and Jiangmen on 19-20 February 2025, all of which were jointly arranged with local authorities. Coming up, 4 more sessions would be held in Foshan, Zhaoqing, Guangzhou and Huizhou on 5-6 March 2025. On the day of the session held in Dongguan, HKPC joined the launch of a “莞港Tech100+賦能計劃”, funded by the Dongguan Science and Technology Bureau (東莞市科技局) and supported by Dongguan WFOE, for the traditional industries to carry out transformation projects. HKPC would look for opportunities to replicate the programme in other GBA cities, based on its expertise accumulated over the years in implementing platform upgrading programmes for local governments.

² Previously named 創科聯合展館 which was subsequently changed to 出海服務中心 in the presentation to the Council at its 158th meeting held on 20 March 2025.

(D) Update on Establishment of Technology and Innovation Support Centre (TISC)

22. Invited by the Chairman, briefed Members on the progress in establishing a Technology and Innovation Support Centre (TISC)³ in HKPC to provide intellectual property and patent information and services, thereby contributing to developing Hong Kong into a regional IP trading centre. The targets to serve were local start-ups and SMEs, as well as companies interested to invest in Hong Kong.

(E) Digital Economy

25. Members received a presentation by on an overview of the digital economy development in the Mainland from 2016 to 2023.

26. said that HKPC would support the work of the Digital Policy Office to increase public understanding of the digital economy for Hong Kong to integrate into the national development agenda.

(H) Revamp of Corporate Commercial Research and Development (CRD) Fund

33. Invited by the Chairman, informed Members that the Corporate Commercial Research and Development (CRD) Fund to support in-house R&D projects would undergo a revamp. said that a new mechanism would be in place from April 2025 to use CRD projects as a means to engage Mainland and international technology partners and develop new impactful technologies for Hong Kong. Under the new mechanism, the CRD Fund would support larger-scale projects to develop deep tech technologies and conduct pioneering research, with a view to creating greater impact and building a foundation to support future service development.

35. Members noted the update.

(I) Appointment of Mentor for ITF Project

36. Members agreed to appoint as the mentor of a new ITF project commenced in January 2025, namely “Study Key Technologies of Computational Modeling of Structures of RNA Aptamers with Accelerated Deep Learning Framework”.

³ Centre’s name to be confirmed

(J) Attendance Record

37. Members noted their attendance record for 2024 as circulated together with the meeting agenda and papers by email on 25 February 2025 and shown at the meeting. The Chairman reminded Members to try their best to attend future meetings.

VIII. Date of Next Meeting

38. Members noted that the next meeting would tentatively be held on 8 July 2025 at 3:00 pm.

39. There being no other business, the meeting was closed at 4:20 pm.