Innovation and Technology
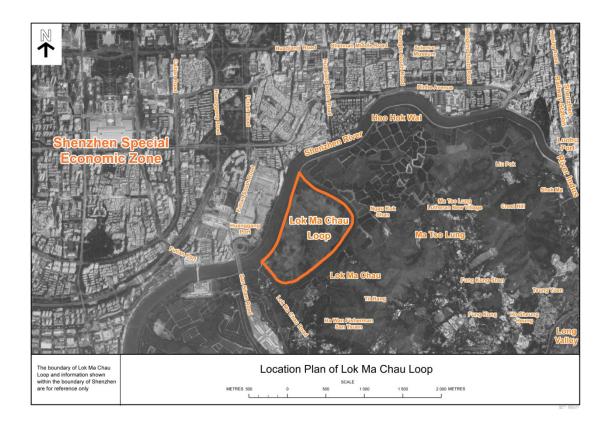
- Established the Innovation and Technology Bureau in November 2015, invested an additional $18 billion and further reserved $10 billion to promote innovation and technology (I&T) development on multiple fronts. They include driving "re-industrialisation", supporting start-ups, helping SMEs upgrade and transform, encouraging the use of technology in improving dailyliving, and nurturing talents. The I&T ecosystem has been significantly enhanced, with world-class research institutions, enterprises, venture capital funds establishing their presence in Hong Kong, and an increase in public awareness and interest on I&T.

- Promoting scientific research collaboration in key areas between Hong Kong and the Mainland. In July 2013, the Government and Ministry of Science and Technology completed the second round application for Partner State Key Laboratories (PSKLs). The number of PSKLs in Hong Kong increased from 12 to 16.

- In 2014, commenced the first round of application for Hong Kong Branches of Chinese National Engineering Research Centres (CNERCs), fully open to universities and R&D Centres in Hong Kong. The number of Hong Kong Branches of CNERCs increased from one to six.

- In 2014, completed a full review of the Innovation and Technology Fund, and a series of improvement measures were implemented in phases in 2014-15 to foster R&D investment by the private sector, commercialisation of R&D outcomes and application of R&D outcomes in public sector organisations, etc.

- In 2015, announced the establishment of the Advisory Committee on Innovation and Technology. The Committee reviewed the existing strategies, and drew up a set of specific recommendations with clear key performance indicators in the key areas critical for I&T development, including infrastructure, matching of capital and expertise, and nurturing of I&T talent.

- In 2015, announced the new Industrial Estate policy to promote smart production, attract high value-added technology industries and high value-added manufacturing processes.

- In 2016, announced multiple measures including the setting up of the $2 billion Midstream Research Programme for Universities, $2 billion Innovation and Technology Venture Fund, $500 million Innovation and Technology Fund for Better Living, and the Cyberport Macro Fund.

- In 2016, announced the introduction of the $500 million Technology Voucher Programme, enhancement of the R&D Cash Rebate Scheme, Internship Programme and Public Sector Trial Scheme (the first scheme enhanced with immediate effect), and supporting the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation (HKSTPC) in conducting the Science Park Expansion Programme Stage 1 and building an Advanced Manufacturing Centre and a Data Technology Hub in the Tseung Kwan O Industrial Estate, with a total estimated development cost of $12.6 billion.

- In 2016, owners of industrial buildings were allowed to apply to the Lands Department, with exemption of fee, for waiving the user restrictions in the lease to allow testing and calibration laboratories to operate in industrial buildings, helping the testing and certification industry to identify appropriate locations for operation.

- In 2016, extended the concessionary measures to encourage the development of data centres by conversion of old existing industrial buildings and lease modification of industrial lots, and streamlined the procedure for issuing waivers for change of use of industrial buildings to meet industry needs.

- In 2016, the three-phase development of the Science Park was completed, with the total gross floor area increased to 330 000 m^2.

- In 2016, the inaugural Internet Economy Summit was held to explore the development directions and strategies for the future internet economy and provide a platform for exchange in I&T trends.

- In 2016, doubled the quota of the Cyberport Incubation Programme. New clusters on Fintech and e-commerce were formed to cater for the latest developments in the industry and market, and a dedicated programme for Fintech was introduced. In August 2016, the Cyberport Macro Fund was established to help Cyberport start-ups in raising capital and promote the development of venture and angel investment in Hong Kong. In December 2016, the small-scale workstations and office space of SmartSpace were increased by 60%.

- In 2016, launched the "Wi-Fi Connected City" programme to expand the coverage of "Wi-Fi.HK" hotspots through various means, with the aim of reaching 34 000 hotspots by 2019.

- In 2016, commissioned a consultant to formulate a blueprint for developing Hong Kong into a smart city, making use of I&T to enhance city management and improve the people's quality of life, thereby supporting the sustainable development of Hong Kong. The consultancy study will be completed in mid-2017.

- In 2016, launched the $500 million Technology Voucher Programme to subsidise SMEs in using technological services and solutions to enhance their productivity, or to upgrade or transform their business processes.

- In 2016, extended the Internship Programme to cover incubatees and SME tenants of HKSTPC and Cyberport to subsidise enterprises in hiring local graduates as research interns.

- In 2016, extended the Public Sector Trial Scheme to cover incubatees of HKSTPC and Cyberport, providing subsidy of up to $1 million for the production of prototypes and samples and trial of R&D outcomes in public sector organisations.

- In 2016, launched the Midstream Research Programme for Universities to encourage universities to conduct more theme-based midstream research in key technology areas for further downstream research or product development.

- In 2016, a number of world leading R&D institutions came to Hong Kong one after another, including: launching of its first overseas Innovation Node in Hong Kong by the Massachusetts

Institute of Technology of the United States; setting up of its first overseas research facility in the Science Park by the Karolinska Institutet of Sweden; and the announcement of setting up of a "Guangzhou Hong Kong Stem Cell and Regenerative Medicine Research Centre" in the Science Park by the Guangzhou Institutes of Biomedicine and Health under the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

- In 2017, the ownership problem of the Lok Ma Chau Loop, which was overdue for 20 years, was resolved by signing the "Memorandum of Understanding on Jointly Developing the Lok Ma Chau Loop by Hong Kong and Shenzhen" with the Shenzhen Municipal People's Government. Both parties agreed to jointly develop the Lok Ma Chau Loop into a "Hong Kong-Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Park" by setting up a key base for scientific research with the inclusion of relevant higher education, cultural, creative facilities alongside other ancillary facilities.

Location Plan of Lok Ma Chau Loop

- In 2017, announced that support would be rendered to HKSTPC for building an InnoCell next to the Science Park to provide accommodation-cum-ancillary offices for rental to tenants and incubatees at the Science Park. The Hong Kong Productivity Council was also commissioned to set up an Inno Space to provide workspace and technical support to start-up entrepreneurs, secondary or university students and graduates, etc., in order to assist them in developing innovative ideas into industrial design, which may subsequently be translated into products through prototyping.

- In 2017, announced that Cyberport would be invited to explore the latest technology and product development of e-commerce, the Committee on Innovation, Technology and Re-industrialisation would be set up, and $10 billion would be set aside to support I&T development of Hong Kong.

- In 2017, launched the $500 million Innovation and Technology Fund for Better Living to subsidise projects that improve the people's daily living through application of I&T.

- In 2017, launched the $2 billion Innovation and Technology Venture Fund to co-invest with venture capital funds in I&T start-ups in Hong Kong on an approximately 1:2 matching ratio.

- Since 2012, award schemes and outreach programmes have been launched to encourage the elderly to use ICT, with over 5 000 senior citizens participating; 17 digital inclusion mobile applications for free use by groups of special needs have been funded, with over 105 000 total downloads.