

Strengthen Hong Kong's Position as an International Financial Centre (IFC)

84%



support the government to prioritise resources in strengthening Hong Kong's position as an IFC

67%



expect the government to sign more agreements and deals on deepening cooperation in strategic industries with overseas markets

Recommendations

- Reducing the stamp duty on stock transactions. Options for reducing the rate include aligning Hong Kong's rate with mainland China (being 0.05 per cent on the seller only)
- Trading hours extended by 1.5 hours
- Reducing the market capitalisation threshold for eligible stocks to be accepted for Southbound trading under Stock Connect
- Signing more cooperation agreements with overseas Exchanges and organising more IPO seminars and workshops in the mainland

Tax Incentives to Attract Companies & Investments and Reboot the Property Market

71%



believed that the government should put more effort to maintain a low and simple tax system to strengthen Hong Kong's position as an IFC

55%



stated that enhancing tax incentives could help to attract companies and investments

Recommendations

- Providing eligible Capital Investment Entrant Scheme (CIES) applicants with the same Buyers Stamp Duty rate as local residents for their first property purchase
- Expanding permissible assets under CIES to include immovable properties (minimum threshold: HK\$20 million)
- Reducing 15% ad valorem stamp duty for the second residential property transactions
- Enhancing the Hong Kong-Mainland China double tax agreement (DTA)

Other Key Areas

Innovation & Technology	Talent
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extending the Open API framework beyond the banking sector • Developing a cybersecurity roadmap • Providing regulatory clarity for digital assets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting flexible work arrangements • Increasing maternity leave and paternity leave
Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG)	Enhance Regional Collaboration
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing a standardised ESG grading/scoring system for banks and institutions through incentives to assist them evaluate companies' ESG performance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhancing innovation and technology cooperation in the Hetao Shenzhen-Hong Kong Science and Technology Innovation Cooperation Zone, while also fostering financial cooperation in Qianhai