New Year wishes for HK

3. Breakthroughs on livelihood issues
The new government needs to do more to address livelihood issues that have mired our society in recent years, particularly on housing, poverty, social security, and last but not least, our environment. Our great city and its citizens deserve better.

4. Diversify our economy
As Bill Clinton said famously in 1992: “It’s the economy, stupid!” Our economy is stagnating, resulting in a sour mood among those who feel they are being left behind. We need to diversify and instil an element of dynamism to our economy.

5. Leverage our advantages
Hong Kong enjoys a luxury of advantages that other cities can only look at with envy. Our rule of law, low tax, freedom of speech, free flow of information, excellent infrastructure, talent pool, globally recognized universities, are all strengths that make our city so competitive.

6. A bigger push in innovation and technology
Many countries are pulling their weight behind innovation and technology now and we must not lose out. I wish the new government would double down on funding fundamental research at universities, provide additional support for knowledge transfer and entrepreneurship, and relax regulations to attract talents and funding, with a vision of making Hong Kong into an innovation and technology hub of Asia.

7. Forge complementarity with China
The mainland is our partner and a big part of our future. With courage, a big heart, and a cooler head, we can put aside our differences and forge a win-win situation with our neighbor while maintaining Hong Kong’s unique culture.

8. Accelerate our infrastructure
Let’s accelerate Hong Kong’s long-awaited cultural and infrastructure projects (without more cost overrun). Projects such as West Kowloon, harborfront renovation, the high speed rail, the Hong Kong-Macau-Zhuhai Bridge, and our airport third runway are long overdue.

How about an MTR extension to HKUST?

9. Trust and inspire youth
As senior citizens, we need to have more confidence and trust in our youth. We should no longer limit them to the road of the knowns and certainties; we need to cultivate their creativity, and support their striking out on their own. They are our future. Inspire them that their future can be bright, that they can have many paths to follow, rather than just established professional careers such as doctors, lawyers, accountants, etc.

10. Higher heights for our universities
Our universities are the hidden gems of Hong Kong. They are perhaps underestimated or worse blamed for trouble to society. We nurture the future leaders of society, and we should stand ready to further strengthen our contribution to society.

From a relative backwater in international higher education 25 years ago, Hong Kong now ranks with London as the city with the most top-100 ranked universities in the world. Let’s double down and Invest in Hong Kong’s winner!