Public Submission for the Inaugural First Five-Year Plan for Economic and Social Development of the Hong Kong SAR (2026-2030)

From Green to Blue: Enhancing Hong Kong IFC's Role as a Blue Finance Center through Blue Tourism

由綠色金融邁向藍色金融：透過藍色旅遊提升香港金融樞紐地位

Project Team Leader

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1. Executive Summary

Currently, a diverse group of international blue finance instruments is deployed to support oceanic biodiversity and the blue economy (see Appendix 2) in Asia. In fact, Asian participation accounts for approximately half of the bond issues, indicating that there is a substantial need in the region for blue financing.

As a global financial hub and harbour city, Hong Kong is well-positioned to translate its green technology and finance expertise into guiding the blue economy. With Mainland China highlighting the significance of the blue economy and international cooperation within the 15th Five-Year Plan, Hong Kong has an opportunity to take the lead in the Greater Bay Area (GBA) to foster the blue finance function for China. Therefore, we recommend the following 5-year strategy with some short-term actions:

1. To establish a Hong Kong Blue Economy, ESG, Blue Tourism and Blue Finance Taskforce
2. To develop a preliminary Hong Kong Blue Finance Framework and support a blue data infrastructure with some blue finance demonstration products
3. To create talent and training programmes
4. To develop responsible blue tourism demonstration routes. For instance, launch a pilot Blue Economy Living Lab in selected aquaculture, coastal restoration and tourism sites
5. To use Hong Kong as a demonstration, standards-setting and financing platform for blue economy collaboration in the Greater Bay Area, ASEAN and Belt and Road markets

目前，亞洲已運用多種國際藍色金融工具，以支持海洋生物多樣性及藍色經濟（見附錄二）。事實上，亞洲市場的參與約佔相關債券發行量的一半，顯示亞洲地區對藍色融資有相當大的需求。

香港是全球金融中心及港口城市，具備良好條件將其在綠色科技及綠色金融方面的專業經驗，轉化為引領藍色經濟發展的能力。隨着國家在「十五五」規劃綱要中強調藍色經濟及國際合作的重要性，香港有機會在粵港澳大灣區率先發展藍色金融，融入及服務國家的相關發展。因此，我們建議推行以下五年規劃策略，並配合短期行動：

1. 成立香港藍色經濟、ESG、藍色旅遊及藍色金融專責小組
2. 制定初步的香港藍色金融框架，並支援藍色數據基礎設施建設，同時推出若干藍色金融示範產品
3. 制定人才培訓及專業發展計劃
4. 發展負責任的藍色旅遊示範路線。例如，在選定的水產養殖區、海岸復育區及旅遊景點推行「藍色經濟生活實驗室」試點
5. 以香港作為示範、標準制定及融資平台，推動大灣區、東盟及「一帶一路」市場之間的藍色經濟合作。