Message from the Chairman

I am pleased to share a number of encouraging developments for the Deposit Protection Scheme (DPS) in 2025. Following the increase in the protection limit from HK$500,000 to HK$800,000 in October 2024, the total value of deposits covered by the Scheme rose by 35%. By October 2025, that figure had climbed a further 5%, pushing the total amount protected to a record HK$3.6 trillion. Today, the vast majority of depositors (92.5%) enjoy full protection on their deposit balances, a level of coverage that places Hong Kong firmly in line with international standards.

One of our key tasks at the Hong Kong Deposit Protection Board (the Board) is ensuring that public awareness and understanding of the DPS remain as high as possible. This was boosted when, from 1 January 2025, all Scheme members were required to display the DPS Membership Sign on their electronic banking platforms, in addition to showing it at their physical branches. With many depositors now using online banking frequently, this move ensures that online users are assured of the DPS membership status of their banks.

In 2025 and the first quarter of 2026, the Board continued its vigorous efforts to keep the DPS firmly in the public eye and ensure that the public fully understood its function. Our ongoing television commercials remain important ways of getting the DPS message across, and we further tapped into the potential of the Board's social media platforms on Facebook, Instagram, WeChat and YouTube. Two new video series designed to raise awareness of the DPS were launched via these channels: "DPS Scoop" and "DPS Champion's Challenge". Adopting a light-hearted approach in highlighting key features of the DPS, the videos garnered over eight million views between them. We also looked for opportunities to engage directly with individual members of the public through various public relations campaigns. One of these campaigns, titled "DPS Promotional Wagon", took a mobile unit packed with fun interactive games to high-traffic areas of Causeway Bay, Mong Kok, Kwun Tong and Tsuen Wan, capturing the interest of many passers-by. A second campaign, "DPS Fun Day" at Times Square in Causeway Bay, featured savings-related games as well as playful interactions with Ah Po, one of the DPS ambassadors. The

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Board also continued its work in conjunction with non-governmental organisations and educational institutions in reaching out to important target groups, including the elderly, students and low-income families.

The Board's annual flagship survey, "Hongkongers' Sense of Security in Savings", reached its eighth edition in 2025. As usual, the survey drew much public and media attention for what it revealed about the financial security of locals, generating over 260 media articles. The findings showed that, for the first time, respondents' average monthly savings had broken the HK$10,000 mark. The record high average of HK$10,100 for the year represented a 3% growth over 2024's HK$9,800. Significantly, the most common form of Hongkongers' savings was bank deposits – a reminder of why the DPS has such an important role to play.

Another boost for the DPS was our annual opinion survey, which indicated that public awareness of the Scheme remained strong at 80%. Meanwhile, public confidence in the DPS actually grew to a record high of 86.7%, further reinforcing the effectiveness of the Board's efforts as Hong Kong's "Guardian of Deposits".

The Board undertakes payout rehearsals every two years and drills annually, as part of its continuous efforts to check that various payout parties are well-prepared if there were to be a bank failure, and that the payout systems are working efficiently. In the final quarter of 2025, we conducted a full-scale payout rehearsal in response to a simulated bank failure that involved extensive engagement from members of the Board, the management team and payout agents. Designed to be rigorous and challenging, the payout rehearsal proved successful in meeting the payout target of seven days, thus providing important reassurance of the resilience and reliability of the Board's payout operations.

A major payout drill planned for the year ahead will focus on the use of the Faster Payment System for disbursing compensation in the unlikely event of a bank failure, an arrangement that is designed to make disbursement even faster and easier. This will be undertaken in collaboration with the banking sector and payout agents. Alongside this exercise, drills with other payout agents, such as printing firms and call centres, will also be conducted to ensure these functions run smoothly during any payout event.

I am personally very much looking forward to September 2026 and the special highlight it brings: the 20th anniversary of the DPS. This is a significant milestone for the DPS, marking two decades of deposit protection and, with it, greater financial security for the public. The Board is busy planning a range of promotional campaigns to celebrate the occasion — an ideal opportunity to further raise awareness of the Scheme and the vital work of the Board. Alongside the campaigns, we plan to launch a revamped website that will be easier for the public to use and navigate, making our key DPS messages more accessible than ever.

As always, the progress we have made over the past year in strengthening the DPS and helping maintain public confidence in Hong Kong's banking system has been the result of collaborative efforts by a wide range of stakeholders, including the Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau, Hong Kong Monetary Authority and Scheme members. I would like to record here my special thanks to all Board members for their shared expertise, steadfast support and unwavering dedication. I also wish to extend my particular appreciation to three members who retired during 2025 after six years of dedicated service: Mr Lawrence Chan, Professor Chan Kwun-hung and Professor Matthew Lee.

I am confident that, with the firm backing of our stakeholders, the DPS will continue to serve as an integral part of Hong Kong's financial safety net and contribute meaningfully to overall financial stability.

Ms Connie Lau Yin-hing, SBS, JP
Chairman
Hong Kong Deposit Protection Board