

Memorandum of Understanding Between

**The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the
People's Republic of China**

And

**The Skåne Regional Council of the Kingdom of Sweden, together with
universities in southern Sweden**

on Cooperation in the Fields of Innovation Policies and Innovative Solutions

The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China (HKSAR), and the Skåne Regional Council of the Kingdom of Sweden, together with the universities in southern Sweden (Lärosäten Syd, as set out in Annex 1), hereinafter referred to as the "Participants",

DESIRING to develop and strengthen cooperation in the fields of innovation capacity, innovative solutions to cope with global societal challenges, and sustainable development between the HKSAR and the Skåne Regional Council of the Kingdom of Sweden,

RECOGNIZING the challenges of stimulating innovation and economic growth are of mutual concern to the Participants,

CONSIDERING the mutual interest in making progress in innovative solutions for the future sustainable development of society and the resulting advantages for the Participants,

RELATING TO already ongoing cooperation between various bodies of the two regions,

EXPRESSING their desire to encourage and promote their cooperation in the fields of innovation policies and innovative solutions for the sustainable development of both regions on the basis of equality and mutual benefit,

Have reached the following understanding:

1. SCOPE OF COOPERATION

- 1.1 In accordance with the present Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), the Participants will explore possible bilateral cooperative activities which may include the forms listed in subparagraphs (a) to (e) below. Such cooperative activities will be conducted in close cooperation with universities, science parks, business organisations, cities, private companies and non-governmental organisations (hereinafter to be called "cooperating organisations"). Existing agreements between universities in Skåne and Hong Kong can be used, as well as existing agreements between cities in Skåne and Hong Kong – leading example being the Hong Kong, China – Malmö, Sweden "Sustainability Charter" signed between the City of Malmö, Sweden and the Environment Bureau of the Government of the HKSAR on 16 September 2011.

- (a) joint projects on innovation on a broad basis, referring mainly to the themes under paragraph 2 in this MoU;
- (b) promotion, fostering and development of cooperation and exchange between "cooperating organisations" in both regions;
- (c) exchange of experts and scientists as well as students;
- (d) exchange of information and documentation in the context of the cooperative activities; and
- (e) joint workshops, conferences, symposia within the scope of the cooperation.

1.2 Each Participant and cooperating organisation will bear its own costs for the participation in the activities set out in paragraph 1.1 of this MoU.

2. AREAS OF COOPERATION

2.1 Cooperation pursuant to this MoU will be carried out mainly in the field of innovation policies and innovative solutions covering the following themes, details of which are set out in Annex 2.

- (a) Smart Sustainable Cities;
- (b) Personal Health;
- (c) Smart Materials;
- (d) Life Science;
- (e) Food Sciences; and
- (f) Design.

3. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY PROTECTION

3.1 It will be the responsibility of the cooperating organisations to safeguard their own interests in the cooperative activities supported under this MoU.

3.2 Each cooperating organisation is solely responsible for all its acts and omissions.

3.3 With respect to any design, work, invention or discovery made or conceived in the course of the execution of cooperative activities under this MoU, the Participants agree that agreements on intellectual property rights, if any, will be negotiated directly between the cooperating organisations of the cooperative activities under this MoU.

4. COMING INTO EFFECT, TERMINATION AND DISPUTE SETTLEMENT

4.1 This MoU will come into effect on the date of signature of the Participants.

4.2 The participation of each Participant and cooperating organisation in the cooperative activities under this MoU will be subject to the availability of funds, resources and personnel and will be conducted in accordance with the laws and regulations of each Participant.

4.3 This MoU will have effect for 5 years and will remain in effect until any of the Participants terminates it. Any Participant may terminate this MoU by written notification to the other Participants. The MoU will cease to be in effect six months after the date of such notification. Such termination will not affect the implementation of activities which are ongoing at the date of the termination of this MoU.

- 4.4 This MoU may be amended, in writing, at any time by mutual written consent of the Participants.
- 4.5 The amendment or termination of this MoU will not affect the validity of arrangements and contracts already concluded between the Participants before the amendment or termination.
- 4.6 This MoU does not commit the Participants to any financial obligations and will not create any binding obligations under domestic or international law. It will not affect any rights or obligations in relation to the Participants under other agreements or arrangements.
- 4.7 Any dispute concerning the interpretation or application of this MoU will be resolved by consultations or negotiations between the Participants.

SIGNED in Hong Kong this 22th day of August, 2014 in three identical originals, in the English language

Mr. Gregory So
Secretary for Commerce and Economic
Development

For the
Government of the Hong Kong Special
Administrative Region of the People's
Republic of China

Ms. Annika Annerby Jansson
President of the Regional Council

For the
Skåne Regional Council of the Kingdom of
Sweden

Dr. Associate Professor Sanimir Resic
Vice-Chancellor, Kristianstad University

For the
Lärosäten Syd,
Universities in southern Sweden

Annex 1:

Lärosäten Syd: The universities of southern Sweden

- Lund University
- Malmö University
- Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences
- Kristianstad University
- Blekinge Institute of Technology

Annex 2:

Areas of cooperation

a) Smart Sustainable Cities

The overall ambition is to jointly develop a better understanding of smart sustainable city's needs in terms of environmental protection. The Participants target at sustainability from environmental perspectives such as air quality, energy efficiency, waste management and nature conservation, and the development of "green" technology. A continuous cooperation allows joint projects/applications within the field. In this regard, the already existing cooperation between the City of Malmö, Sweden and the Environment Bureau of the Government of the HKSAR should constitute the main basis.

b) Personal Health

The health care sector is facing several challenges in the future, e.g. a growing population of elderly people foreseen to be in need of more health care. In this perspective it will be important to build up preventive health measures. The individual is also expected to take active part in the health care opened by the introduction of new technological solutions. The aim is to contribute to the development of new products, services, business models and system solutions.

c) Smart Materials

The overall goal and ambition would be to co-create processes to battle the global challenges through the use of the European Spallation Source (ESS) and MAX IV, and to foster strong collaborative environments that jointly can use the results from the research facilities in Skåne. The ultimate goal would be to co-create the basis for products and services that provide support to excellent research and business development on the global market. The cooperation would also consist of practical co-owned projects to develop modern ecosystems for innovation. [MAX IV is a synchrotron facility under construction, owned by the Lund University, while the ESS (neutron spallation to be operational in 2019) is a European project with around 20 countries involved and co-financing.]

d) Life Science

To strengthen relationships for the benefit of universities, research institutes and other players involved in research and development activities, including private companies. Areas of collaboration could be to facilitate exchanges for research and development and/or commercial purposes as well as exploring opportunities for collaboration on funded research programmes.

e) Food Sciences

The Participants should encourage further links between food science researchers at universities and companies for mutual benefit. Such links could then be further strengthened in connection with EU food science projects.

f) Design

Not only physical design of material products, but the concept of design should be seen in a much broader sense, including also for instance social interaction, user interface with technical devices, and development within media and communication. In all of these fields, both the HKSAR and Skåne are in the forefront globally and could mutually benefit from a closer collaboration and joint projects. One important step could be a Swedish partnership in the 2014 Hong Kong Business of Design Week.