(Translation)

Dr Hon Hoey Simon LEE's motion on "Expeditiously kick-starting the construction of a carbon inclusive market"

Wording of the Motion

That as Hong Kong is a leading international financial centre and a regional green finance hub, coupled with the fact that our country is the world's largest carbon market, the SAR Government began to lay the groundwork for the development of the carbon market as early as 2018, and has already identified the global voluntary carbon market as the launching pad and decided to continue to serve as a financial bridge connecting the Mainland and international carbon markets, promote the development of innovative carbon derivatives, and thereby contribute to the decarbonization targets of Hong Kong, the country, as well as the world; however, to date, Hong Kong has not yet established a unified, effective and highly active carbon trading market or carbon inclusive mechanism; globally, many countries and regions have already formulated guiding documents and regulations on carbon trading markets or carbon inclusive mechanisms, or established unified carbon compliance markets, or imposed carbon taxes on high-emission enterprises, or set up regional carbon inclusive markets/regional voluntary emission reduction markets, where government-accredited third-party organizations issue carbon credits to enterprises and individuals for their carbon reduction practices, and these credits are circulated and consumed on an official platform to promote and monitor local green development; therefore, there is an urgent need for Hong Kong to put in place an effective market tool to monitor the effectiveness of emission reductions by enterprises, encourage voluntary emission reduction initiatives among the public, and invigorate the carbon trading market through policy guidance as well as incentive and punitive measures; in this connection, this Council urges the SAR Government to expeditiously formulate policies on the carbon inclusive market and kick-start the construction of the platform.