

NORTHERN METROPOLIS

A Vision for a Liveable & Resilient City





A LIVEABLE & RESILIENT NORTHERN METROPOLIS

In the 2021 Policy Address, the Hong Kong Government announced the Northern Metropolis Development Strategy that will provide Hong Kong with a new economic engine, meet the housing shortage, and provide closer integration with Shenzhen, the Greater Bay Area (GBA), and the Mainland over the next 15 years.

Hong Kong's recent social unrest and global COVID-19 pandemic have revealed deep fragilities in the city's economic model. While the Government's infrastructure development plans for the region have the potential to address and alleviate some of the quality-of-life challenges within dense urban districts, there is great opportunity to formulate innovative policies to realise a vision for a liveable and resilient city in the Northern Metropolis (NM).

Through cross-sector stakeholder and community engagement led by the future leaders of the city, participants on the Hong Kong Young Leaders Programme developed a set of policy recommendations that offers innovative ideas to support the development of the NM. They focused on creating equitable economic growth, improving quality of life, and ensuring societal resilience in the region via **four key pillars**.

4 KEY PILLARS



Creating a Model for Inclusive Housing



Developing a Low Carbon Zone



Building a Robust I&T Ecosystem



Cultivating Eco-cultural Tourism

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

To guide policymaking in the NM:



All residents should have access to affordable housing that is reasonably sized and inclusively designed



All residents should have reliable access to basic services such as energy, water, sanitation, transportation, and the internet



There should be high-quality comprehensive healthcare facilities that are convenient, inclusive, and affordable in the region



There should be a diverse range of employment opportunities available in the vicinity of where people live



All residents should have access to quality education (academic, vocational, continuing) that is geared towards gainful employment



All residents should have easy access to natural and biodiverse spaces



There should be a good mix of continuous walkable trails, well-designed bike lanes, and well-connected road networks for daily commuting and recreation purposes



The region should actively preserve and celebrate the unique ecological and cultural value of the Northern Metropolis



The region should enable people to maintain low carbon lifestyles, minimising their energy and waste consumption and promoting material circularity



Urban spaces should be designed to provide easy access to tailored community services and public spaces for leisure, recreation, and social activities close to where people live





There should be close social, economic, and environmental integration with cities in the GBA to advance all Guiding Principles

KEY POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS


CREATING A MODEL FOR INCLUSIVE HOUSING

1 New Affordable Housing Model

-  Increase the proportion of public housing in the NM from 45% to 80% by 2035
-  Increase the home ownership rate among young adults (20–35-year-olds) from 8% in 2022 to 65% by 2035



- 1.1** Launch a Development for Affordable and Suitable Housing (DASH) scheme
- 1.2** Pilot a Young Adult Life-Cycle Housing scheme (YALC)

2 Quality Homes

-  100% of new homes in the NM to be compliant with the new Inclusive Home Quality Standard

- 2.1** Establish an inclusive home quality standard

3 Inclusive Community Design

-  Implement the Community Donut model for inclusive community design in the NM at 5 NDAs by 2035
-  Provide 1 District Community Primary Care & Support Centre per MTR station/transport node in the NM by 2035




- 3.1** Implement a new model for inclusive community planning design: The Community Donut
- 3.2** Establish district Community Primary Care and Support centres

Aligned Guiding Principles





DEVELOPING A LOW CARBON ZONE

1 Decarbonising Buildings

-  Reduce embodied carbon emissions by 75% in all new building construction by 2040
-  100% of new & retrofitted buildings should integrate energy efficient systems by 2025
-  Reduce electricity consumption in all commercial buildings and institutions by 30% by 2040


- 1.1** Mandate the use of recycled content and low carbon materials in new building construction
- 1.2** Implement centralised energy efficient systems
- 1.3** Install Building Energy Management Systems in all commercial buildings & institutions

2 Low Carbon Transportation

-  Reduce carbon emissions from transport by 80% by 2040
-  25% of total trips should be made by bike or on foot by 2040

- 2.1** Pilot low carbon transport infrastructure at the NM
- 2.2** Implement Selective Electronic Road Pricing
- 2.3** Establish a Work-near-Home Scheme
- 2.4** Designate ecological corridors at the regional, district & neighborhood level
- 2.5** Establish shared space zones in areas of high cultural value

3 Pioneering Material Circularity

-  Increase recovery rate of MSW to 40% by 2030 & 70% by 2040

- 3.1** Pilot strict waste separation & collection at the NM
- 3.2** Stimulate a circular material economy in the GBA



Aligned Guiding Principles





KEY POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

BUILDING A ROBUST I&T ECOSYSTEM



1 Fostering Local Technology Talent

-  All primary & secondary schools to implement STEM curriculum under a new STEM Education Framework by 2026
-  Increase Tertiary enrolment in Sciences and Engineering & Technology by 30% by 2025

2 Strengthening I&T support & Tech Transfer

-  Achieve a success rate of 80% or above for all schemes that support I&T activities such as business development, R&D, hiring, & their related funding by 2024
-  Double the commercialisation output of universities including patents, spin-offs, and income by 2027

3 NM & GBA Integration

-  Set up a GBA Integration Composite Index by 2023
-  Increase GBA Integration Index score by 30% by 2027

1.1 Launch the Standard STEM Education Framework & STEM Resource Hub

1.2 Establish a STEM Direct Admission Scheme

1.3 Pilot STEM@Community Education Centres

2.1 Form a new I&T Facilitation Office under the new ITIB

2.2 Build the NM Technology Transfer Nexus

2.3 Create a CUHK NM campus

3.1 Create a measurement tool to assess the level of integration with the GBA

3.2 Facilitate the flow of talent, technology, goods, and capital


3.3 Launch a GBA Support Centre

Aligned Guiding Principles





CULTIVATING ECO-CULTURAL TOURISM


1 Diversifying Tourism

-  25% of total revenue from the tourism industry to come from eco-cultural tourism by 2030

2 Active Conservation

-  Map 100% of the eco-cultural assets in the NM by 2025
-  Restore 20% of degraded agricultural/aquacultural land by 2030

3 Supporting Rural Businesses

-  Grow rural businesses by 30% by 2030

1.1 Establish a dedicated office under the new Culture, Sports and Tourism Bureau (CSTB) to develop eco-cultural tourism in the NM

2.1 Map the Ecological and Cultural Assets in the NM

2.2 Promote cross-border active conservation, rewilding and regenerative design

3.1 Improve quality and access to basic services and infrastructure

3.2 Establish a one-stop resource centre for rural businesses

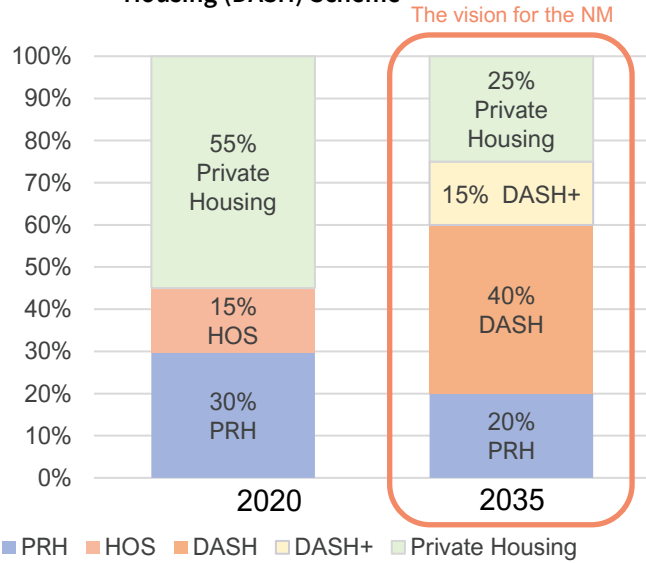
Aligned Guiding Principles



KEY POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS: Report Sneak Peek

CREATING A MODEL FOR INCLUSIVE HOUSING

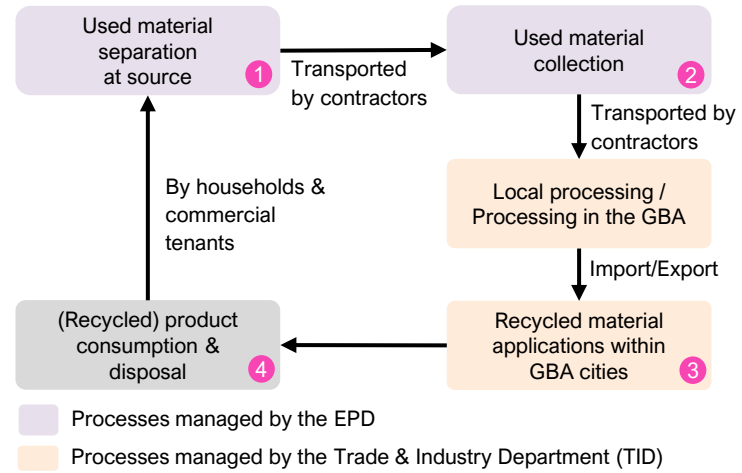
POLICY 1.1 Launch a Development for Affordable & Suitable Housing (DASH) Scheme



This pilot scheme would promote home ownership by increasing the proportion of public to private housing, creating new types of public housing to meet the needs of the sandwich class and providing new avenues for young adults to participate in housing schemes. DASH would provide those earning above the income threshold for PRH to purchase quality homes at cost, while a higher-tier DASH+ scheme would provide flats at cost +30% margin.

DEVELOPING A LOW CARBON ZONE

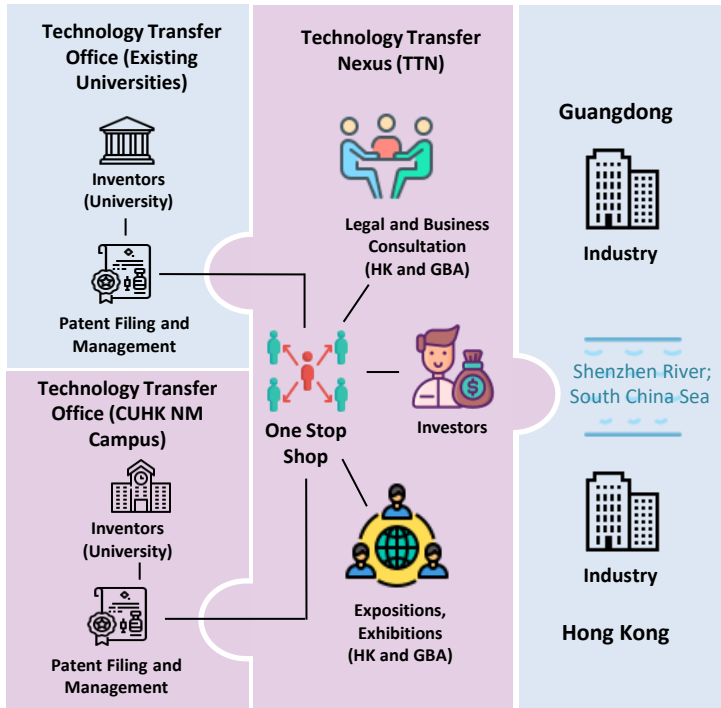
POLICY 3.2 Stimulate a circular economy in the GBA



- Such as food waste, paper, plastic etc.
- Used Material Collection at EPD Green@Community centres
- Leverages the GBA's manufacturing capabilities through a material exchange platform set up by the EPD & TID
- A consumption subsidy should be provided to businesses to incentivise use of recycled material

BUILDING A ROBUST I&T ECOSYSTEM

Policy 2.2 Build the Northern Metropolis Technology Transfer Nexus

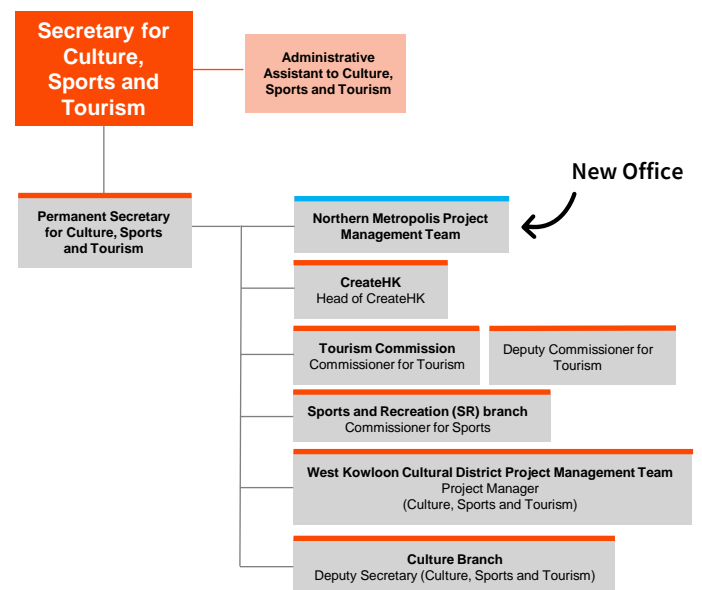


Universities are equipped with Technology Transfer Officers that help inventors disclose and patent their findings. However, they generally do not have the capability to connect researchers with industry and investors, nor the ability to offer meaningful support in commercialisation. It is suggested that the NM be home to a new "Technology Transfer Nexus" under ITIB's oversight to facilitate industry and local universities to collaborate on commercialising university research.

CULTIVATING ECO-CULTURAL TOURISM

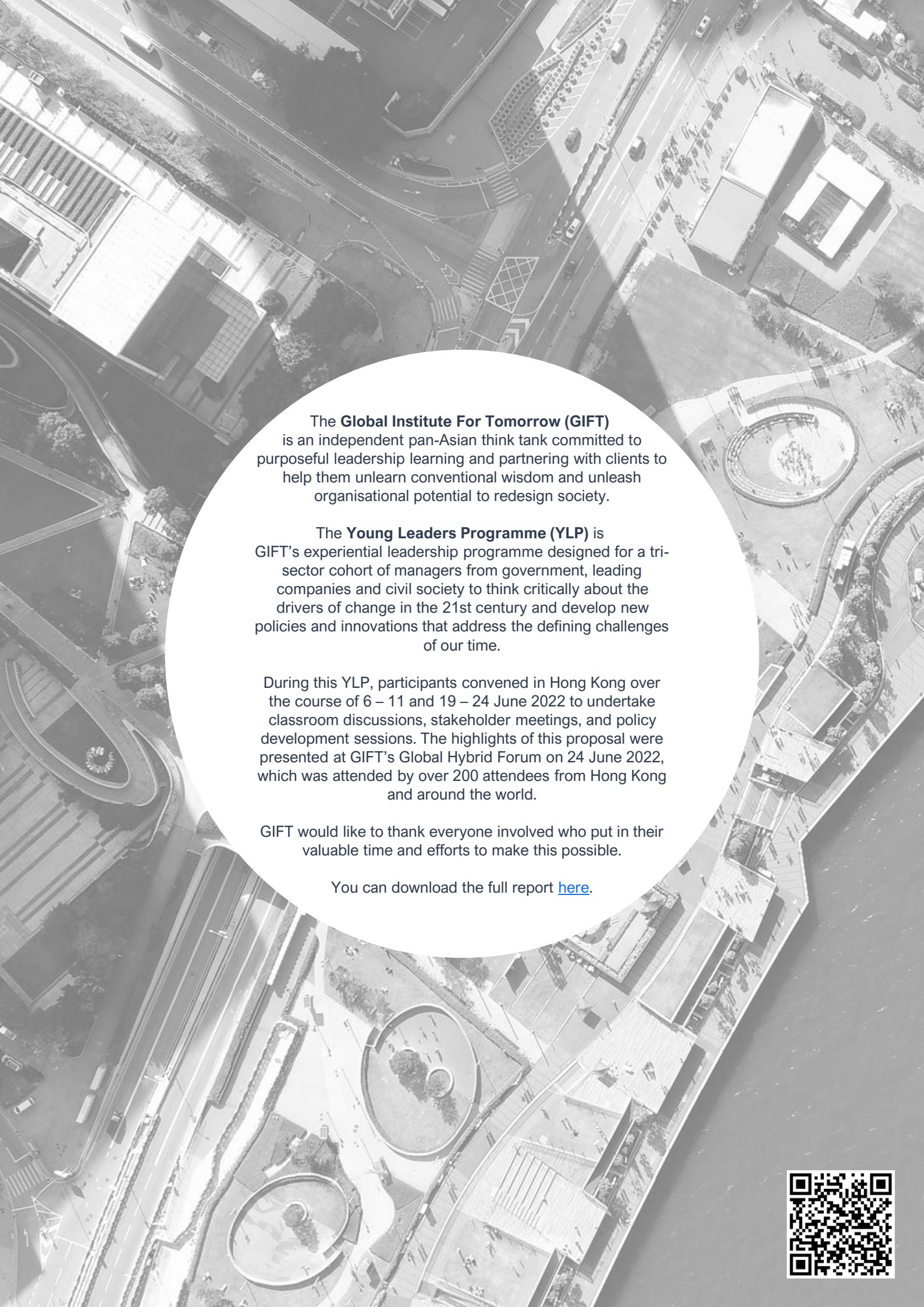
Policy 1.1 Establish a dedicated office under the new CSTB to develop eco-cultural tourism in the NM

Similar to the development scale and unique character of the West Kowloon Cultural District, the NM presents ample opportunity for the development of a region-specific tourism strategy. A **Northern Metropolis Project Management Team office** should be set up under CSTB to enable rapid resource mobilisation.



The following are the proposed objectives for the Office:

- Launch and facilitate the development of the eco-cultural tourism industry in the NM
- Attract international as well as local visitors to the region
- Promote responsible tourism
- Collaborate with the GBA to co-manage shared ecological and cultural resources and enhance regional tourism



The **Global Institute For Tomorrow (GIFT)** is an independent pan-Asian think tank committed to purposeful leadership learning and partnering with clients to help them unlearn conventional wisdom and unleash organisational potential to redesign society.

The **Young Leaders Programme (YLP)** is GIFT's experiential leadership programme designed for a tri-sector cohort of managers from government, leading companies and civil society to think critically about the drivers of change in the 21st century and develop new policies and innovations that address the defining challenges of our time.

During this YLP, participants convened in Hong Kong over the course of 6 – 11 and 19 – 24 June 2022 to undertake classroom discussions, stakeholder meetings, and policy development sessions. The highlights of this proposal were presented at GIFT's Global Hybrid Forum on 24 June 2022, which was attended by over 200 attendees from Hong Kong and around the world.

GIFT would like to thank everyone involved who put in their valuable time and efforts to make this possible.

You can download the full report [here](#).



Tomorrow Matters.

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