

HK unveils maiden 5-year plan, charts roadmap for high-quality development

HONG KONG—The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) yesterday unveiled its first five-year plan for economic and social development (2026-2030), a milestone as it enters a new phase of becoming more prosperous.

The plan will help build a more open, inclusive, liberal, prosperous and safer Hong Kong, said HKSAR Chief Executive John Lee Ka-chiu.

Unveiling the blueprint, Lee said the 2026-2030 period is five crucial years for Hong Kong to seize the opportunity to enhance social well-being and build a better home for all.

Comprising seven parts and 28 chapters, the plan sets out a total of 105 indicators spanning a wide range of areas. Key objectives include achieving new breakthroughs in

economic development, boosting international competitiveness and influence, as well as significantly improving public well-being.

According to the plan, Hong Kong's real GDP growth rate is projected to remain within a reasonable range during

In hydropowered Bhutan, solar starts to rise

Sara Hussein

THIMPHU, Bhutan – Engineer Rinzin Galley stands on a platform overlooking a former military shooting range on the edge of Bhutan’s capital Thimphu, now home to a gleaming field of solar panels.

With abundant waterways, Bhutan has long relied on hydroelectric power to meet its electricity needs and stay carbon negative – absorbing more planet-warming gases than it emits.

But demand is growing, and in winter, when rivers run low before the mountain melt arrives, Bhutan already relies on imported Indian electricity.

Climate change is also threatening the future of the glaciers that feed those rivers, adding impetus to a push for energy diversification.

“Solar projects are booming,” said Rinzin, senior engineer at Norion Renewable Energy.

The company’s biggest project to date is the Dechencholing solar farm on former military

