

# Progress of Implementation of the Subsidy Scheme to Extend Fibre-based Networks to Villages in Remote Areas (“Scheme”)

Telecommunications Regulatory Affairs Advisory Committee

31 July 2024



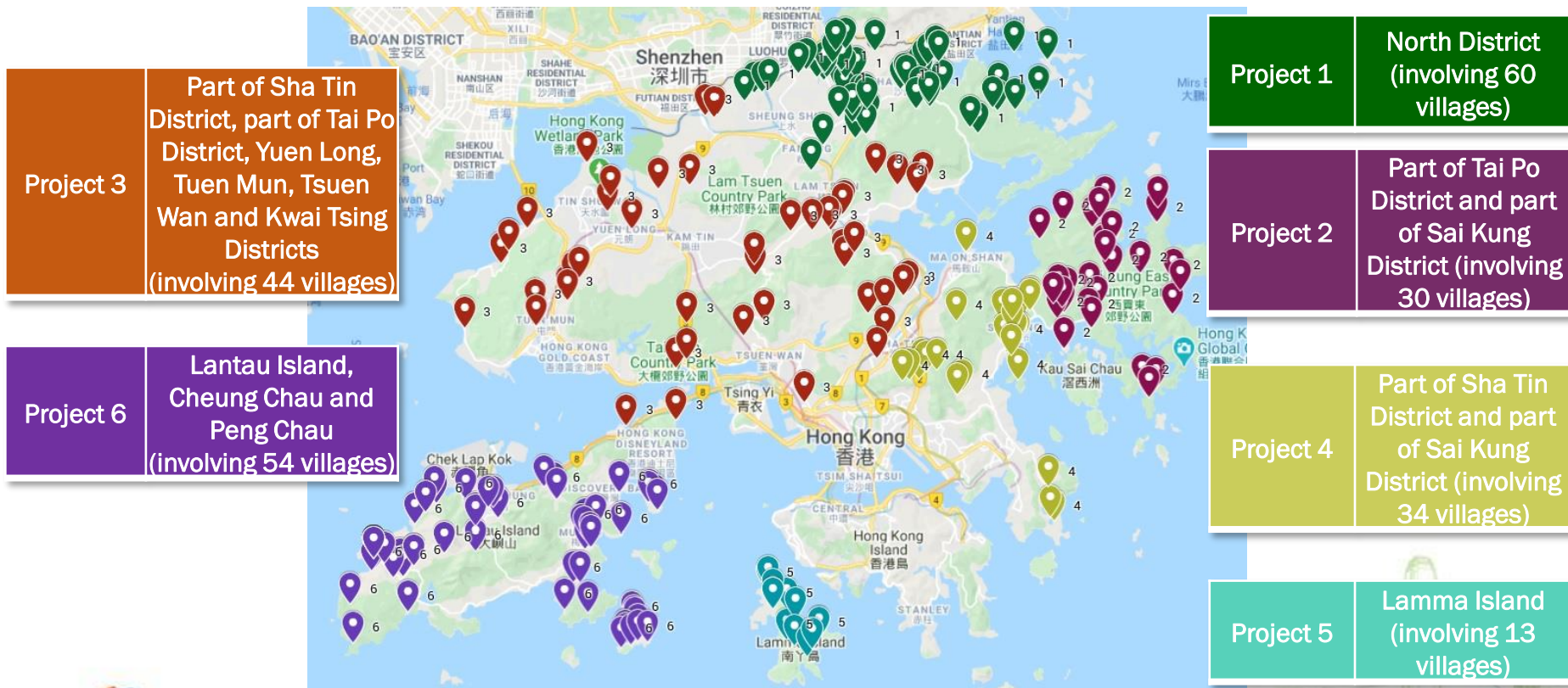
# The Scheme

- Launched by the Government in 2018 to provide fixed network operators (FNOs) with financial incentives for them to extend fibre-based networks to villages in remote areas
- Targets **remote villages** located far away from the existing fibre-based backbone networks of FNOs where villagers could then only subscribe to broadband services delivered over copper-based networks at a speed of 10 Mbps or below
- Covers **235 villages** across nine districts in the New Territories and outlying islands (namely North, Sai Kung, Tai Po, Sha Tin, Yuen Long, Tuen Mun, Tsuen Wan, Kwai Tsing and Islands), benefitting approximately **110,000 villagers** in total



# Six Projects under the Scheme

- The 235 villages are grouped under six projects based on their geographical distribution, and had been awarded to two FNOs through tender exercises



# Network Roll-out Progress (1)

- The subsidised fibre-based networks are extended to 235 villages in phases from 2021 to 2026
- In addition to building fibre-based lead-in connections to the villages, the selected FNOs have additionally committed to –
  - provide high-speed broadband services at a speed of 1000 Mbps or above to a majority of those villages
  - set up Wi-Fi hotspots in open space of the villages for the provision of free Wi-Fi services



# Network Roll-out Progress (2)

## Progress

- Completed installation of **three submarine fibre cables** connecting **Lamma Island, Cheung Chau** and **Peng Chau** in **May 2023**
- Already extended fibre-based networks to connect more than **180 villages**



## Benefits

- Provide high-speed broadband services to the villagers
- Enable provision of high-speed and innovative mobile services including **5G services** to the areas



- Completion of rollout of fibre-based networks by **2026** to all remaining villages
- The subsidised network facilities are required to be shared among other FNOs thereby offering more choices and facilitating market competition

# Benefits of the Scheme

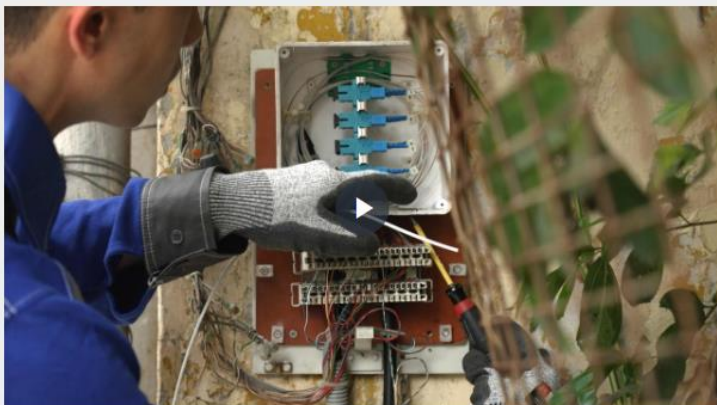
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## Seamless connectivity for villages

April 14, 2024

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- Information Services Department published a featured video titled “Seamless Connectivity” on news.gov.hk in April 2024.
- Showcasing the benefits of improved broadband services resulting from the new fibre-based networks built under the Scheme.

# Conclusion

- Residents of villages in remote areas can enjoy **faster and more reliable broadband services**
- Provide the necessary infrastructure for other telecommunications services, such as **5G and Wi-Fi services**
  - ▶ benefits all villagers and visitors
  - ▶ promotes **smart city development** of Hong Kong



# Thank you

