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(Team "WantE-residency" - Champion)

Participating in the Hong Kong Economic Policy Challenge 2025 was a transformative journey. Our team, WantE-residency, tackled this year's theme—economic diversification—by proposing a dual-policy framework: Green Tourism REITs and a Tech Talent Scheme. We identified Hong Kong's over-reliance on traditional sectors (e.g., finance, tourism) and systemic barriers like high land costs and talent outflow. Our solution leveraged blockchain for tokenized REITs to fund eco-tourism infrastructure (e.g., MacLehose Trail) while advocating for Singapore-style talent visas to attract Web3 and biotech innovators.

The competition sharpened our ability to merge data-driven analysis (e.g., GDP trends, visitor spending) with pragmatic policy design. Crafting the pitch taught us to balance innovation with feasibility, addressing judges' queries on implementation risks and stakeholder alignment. HKEPC's rigorous judging criteria deepened our appreciation for interdisciplinary collaboration, especially in bridging economics, tech, and sustainability. I am grateful for the platform to contribute actionable ideas for Hong Kong's future.

I learned about this contest through emails from CUHK's economic department.