

# Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area

## **Overview**

The Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA) is a vibrant city cluster that comprises the Special Administrative Regions (SAR) of Hong Kong and Macao, as well as nine municipalities in Guangdong (Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Zhuhai, Foshan, Huizhou, Dongguan, Zhongshan, Jiangmen and Zhaoqing). With a population of over 87 million, the GBA represents a vibrant economic force, recording a GDP of over RMB 14.5 trillion in 2024.

## **Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Outline Development Plan)**

The State Council promulgated the Outline Development Plan on February 18, 2019. The Plan covers the period up to 2022 in the immediate term, extending to 2035 in the long term.

Key strategies include:

- Spatial layout: Building on the four core cities of Hong Kong, Macao, Guangzhou and Shenzhen as core engines for regional development, leveraging the core cities' comparative advantages in striving for excellence and achievements, and strengthening the radiating effect in leading the development of nearby regions.
- Policy measures:
  - Develop an I&T hub.
  - Expedite infrastructural connectivity.
  - Build a globally competitive modern industrial system.
  - Take forward ecological conservation.
  - Develop a quality living circle for living, for working and travelling.
  - Strengthen co-operation and jointly participate in the Belt and Road Initiative.
  - Jointly develop Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao co-operation platforms.
- Outline Development Plan:
  - Support Hong Kong in consolidating and enhancing our status as international finance, transportation and trade centres as well as an international aviation hub.
  - Develop I&T industries.
  - Establish Hong Kong as the centre for international legal and dispute resolution services in the Asia-Pacific region, and a regional intellectual property (IP) trading centre.

## **GBA Opportunities**

- Hong Kong can make use of the GBA as the best entry point to focus on Mainland opportunities and better integrate into the overall development of the country, enabling Hong Kong to proactively become a "participant" in domestic circulation and a "facilitator" of international circulation in the "dual circulation" development strategy, generating continuous impetus to Hong Kong's economy.
- Through economic, social and livelihood opportunities brought to Hong Kong by the GBA development, the choices of living and career developments for Hong Kong people could be expanded.
- Plays to Hong Kong's fundamental strengths under the "one country, two systems" principle, including international connections, trusted common law system, world-class professional services and free flows of capital, information and talent.
- Commissioning of cross-boundary key infrastructure, like the Hong Kong Section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link, the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (HZMB) and the Liantang/Heung Yuen Wai Boundary Control Point, promotes cross-boundary business activities and creates a "one hour living circle" in the GBA.
- The Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA) is the most liberal Free Trade Agreement of the Mainland that accords tariff-free treatment to all products made in Hong Kong and meeting the CEPA rules of origin upon importation into the Mainland and basically liberalises trade in services. Hong Kong investments and investors enjoy investment protection and

facilitation in the Mainland and both sides have agreed to enhance economic and technical co-operation in 22 areas.

- As a distinctive strategic investment platform that bridges the market, industry and resources, the Hong Kong Investment Corporation Limited (HKIC) manages the "Hong Kong Growth Portfolio", "Greater Bay Area Investment Fund (GBAIF)", "Strategic Tech Fund", and "Co-Investment Fund". The GBAIF focuses on investment opportunities within the Greater Bay Area, channelling and deploying capital to support the cross-border development of high-growth technology enterprises, driving the integration across technology, markets, and supply chains. The GBAIF actively connects capital with industries, not only enabling innovation and technology enterprises to integrate R&D, manufacturing, and market resources within the Greater Bay Area, but also promoting the two-way flow of innovation factors and industrial collaboration to catalyse the upgrade of Hong Kong's industrial structure, attract high-end talent, and reinforce Hong Kong's status as an international financial and innovation hub.
- Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong has set up a dedicated promotion centre to support the development of Hong Kong people and enterprises in the GBA. The Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC) has set up "GoGBA Business Support Centres" in all nine Mainland cities in the GBA and Macao, and organise business missions, training, etc. in various Mainland provinces and municipalities.

### **Hong Kong's role**

Under "one country, two systems", Hong Kong enjoys the dual advantages of being part of China, while maintaining its global outlook and institutional advantages. Hong Kong professional services are excellent and world-class.

- **Financial services:** Hong Kong is an international financial centre and the world's leading offshore RMB business hub. There is a full range of globally benchmarked services such as banking, financing, investment, insurance, asset and wealth management and offshore RMB businesses.
- **Legal services:** Being the only common law jurisdiction within China, with strong rule of law and independent judicial power, Hong Kong acts as a "deal maker" and "dispute resolver" and provides top quality legal and dispute resolution services in the GBA as the centre for international legal and dispute resolution services in the Asia-Pacific region. Arbitral awards made in Hong Kong are enforceable in over 170 Contracting States to the New York Convention. This is complemented by respective arrangements for reciprocal enforcement with Chinese Mainland and Macao.
- **Business services:** Hong Kong has a full range of mature business services, including expertise in marketing, accountancy, project management and risk management, logistics, supply chain management and maritime (such as ship finance, marine insurance and maritime legal and arbitration) services.
- **I&T:** With top-notch tertiary institutions and outstanding scientific research achievements, a robust IP protection regime, advanced financial infrastructure, free flow of information and a vibrant business environment, Hong Kong is well placed to become an international I&T hub.
- **Creative services:** Hong Kong's creative services, including film, design and digital entertainment, attract attention from markets around the world.

### **High-Level Collaboration**

- Framework Agreement on Deepening Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Cooperation in the Development of the Greater Bay Area was signed by the governments of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao and the National Development and Reform Commission on July 1, 2017.
- The Central Government has set up the high-level Leading Group for the Development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area to co-ordinate and steer the development of the GBA.
- A Steering Group on Integration into National Development, established by the Chief Executive, will lead the HKSAR Government and all sectors of the community to take a more proactive role in promoting the integrated development of Hong Kong and the Mainland, particularly the Mainland cities of the GBA.
- To strengthen the promotion and co-ordination work of the HKSAR Government (HKSARG) on the development of the GBA, the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau established the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office and appointed the Commissioner for the Development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area in

November 2020.

## **Cross-boundary Co-operation**

### ➤ **Finance:**

- **Cross-boundary Wealth Management Connect (WMC)** in the GBA was launched in September 2021, enabling residents of Hong Kong, Macao and nine cities in Guangdong Province to carry out cross-boundary investment in eligible wealth management products in the GBA. "WMC 2.0" commenced in February 2024 and implemented a series of enhancement measures.
- In September 2022, the Qianhai Authority of Shenzhen Municipality and the Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau jointly announced 18 Measures for Supporting the Linked Development of Shenzhen and Hong Kong Venture Capital Investments in Qianhai to promote joint development of private equity markets in both places.
- To facilitate drivers travelling between Guangdong and Hong Kong, the "Unilateral Recognition" policy for cross-boundary motor insurance was implemented in July 2023 in tandem with "Northbound Travel for Hong Kong Vehicles". The HKSARG has been working closely with the relevant Chinese Mainland authorities to actively take forward the provision of appropriate after-sales support for GBA residents who are holders of Hong Kong policies.
- In November 2023, the People's Bank of China, the Hong Kong Monetary Authority and the Monetary Authority of Macao signed a Memorandum of Understanding to further facilitate the pilot trials of cross-boundary fintech initiatives, and strengthen the synergy of fintech supervisory co-operation across the three regions.
- In May 2024, the Shenzhen-Hong Kong cross-boundary data validation platform was pilot launched. It was then linked-up with the HKMA's Commercial Data Interchange in April 2025, providing an innovative way for banks to validate different types of cross-boundary data, and has assisted the validation work required for bank account opening, remittances, and lending. The HKMA will continue to work with relevant authorities to explore enhancements to the platform.
- In 2024, the HKMA and the People's Bank of China signed the Memorandum of Understanding on Cross-Boundary Credit Referencing Pilots to enable transfers of credit reference information across the boundary on a pilot basis, thereby facilitating cross-boundary financing for enterprises and individuals. In October 2025, the HKMA and the People's Bank of China agreed to regularise the pilot arrangement, supporting the industry in introducing market-driven solutions with a view to facilitating Hong Kong and Mainland banks' credit assessment of cross-boundary loan applications by residents and enterprises from the other place.
- Continuously enhance Payment Connect, to expand use cases for remittance related to livelihood.
- Work with exchanges in the GBA to develop commodity trading, carbon trading and other businesses. The HKEX, a controlling shareholder of the Qianhai Mercantile Exchange, will continue to strengthen mutual co-operation for the development of the offshore spot soybean market. Core Climate, the carbon marketplace of HKEX, will collaborate with pilot carbon markets in the GBA to explore cross-boundary trade settlements on a trial basis.
- HKEX signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in September 2025 with Guangzhou Emissions Exchange, Shenzhen Green Exchange and Macao International Carbon Emission Exchange to co-operate in accelerating the carbon markets and green finance ecosystem development across the Greater Bay Area.

### ➤ **Legal:**

- In April 2024, the Department of Justice of the HKSARG released the [Action Plan on the Construction of Rule of Law in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area](#), setting forth the guiding principle, development direction and specific policy measures on building the rule of law in the GBA in the future. The Department has been proactively taking forward the initiatives set out in the Action Plan, achieving progress.
- Under the CEPA framework, partnership associations between Hong Kong and Mainland law firms have been set up in the Guangdong Province with Hong Kong lawyers seconded or employed there. Hong Kong legal practitioners may also be retained as legal consultants by Mainland law firms in the GBA.
- The CEPA Amendment Agreement on Trade in Services signed in October 2024 introduced the measures of "allowing Hong Kong-invested enterprises to adopt Hong Kong law" and "allowing Hong Kong-invested enterprises to choose for arbitration to be seated in Hong Kong" as facilitation measures for Hong Kong investors. Starting from February 2025, Hong Kong-invested enterprises registered in pilot cities in the GBA (i.e. Shenzhen and Zhuhai) may choose

Hong Kong law as the governing law for their contracts; and Hong Kong-invested enterprises registered in the nine Mainland municipalities in the GBA may choose Hong Kong as the seat of arbitration. Mainland enterprises with investment from natural persons, enterprises, or other organisations of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, regardless of the proportion of such investment, are all eligible to benefit from such measures. These measures enhance flexibility and convenience for Hong Kong-invested enterprises, facilitating their further investments and business development in the Mainland.

- The GBA Legal Professional Examination has been held five times. In September 2023, the Standing Committee of the 14th National People's Congress adopted the "Decision to Extend the Period of Authorisation for the State Council to Conduct the Pilot Scheme in the Nine Mainland Municipalities in the GBA for Hong Kong Legal Practitioners and Macao Practising Lawyers to Obtain Mainland Legal Practice Qualifications and to Practise as Lawyers" to extend the period of the pilot scheme conducted by the State Council for three years until October 2026. Hong Kong and Macao legal practitioners who have passed the examination and obtained a Lawyer's License (GBA) may provide legal services in the nine Mainland municipalities in the GBA on specified civil and commercial matters (including litigation and non-litigation matters) to which Mainland laws apply.
- The GBA Lawyers Organization was launched on December 5, 2025, to provide liaison services and organise activities to support GBA lawyers better contribute to the development of the GBA.
- The Department of Justice promotes the establishment of a GBA legal information platform, seeking to facilitate legal professional exchanges and training as well as the sharing and obtaining of the relevant information.
- Interface of regulatory framework in the GBA has prominent progress – the GBA Mediator Accreditation Standards, GBA Mediator Code of Conduct Best Practice and GBA Cross-Boundary Dispute Mediation Model Rules are in place. Based on the standards agreed by the three places, the legal departments of Guangdong Province, Hong Kong SAR and Macao SAR promulgated the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Arbitrator Panel and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Mediator Panel 2025 in December 2025, to consolidate talents in dispute resolution in the GBA. The three sides will establish a GBA commercial mediation and arbitration platform, bringing together mediation and arbitration institutions in the GBA to jointly promote and adopt the relevant GBA standards, collectively enhancing the efficiency of dispute resolution in the region.
- The Arrangement on Reciprocal Recognition and Enforcement of Judgments in Civil and Commercial Matters between the Courts of the Mainland and of the HKSAR signed in January 2019 with the Mainland came into force on January 29, 2024, establishing a legal mechanism with greater clarity and certainty for reciprocal recognition and enforcement of judgments in a wider range of civil and commercial matters.
- The Arrangement Concerning Mutual Assistance in Court-ordered Interim Measures in Aid of Arbitral Proceedings by the Courts of the Mainland and of the HKSAR was signed in April 2019. Hong Kong becomes the first jurisdiction outside the Mainland, and currently the only common law jurisdiction, where, as a seat of arbitration, parties to arbitral proceedings administered by qualified arbitral institutions would be able to apply to the Mainland courts for interim measures.
- The Department of Justice and the Supreme People's Court signed the Record of Meeting on Mutual Recognition of and Assistance to Bankruptcy (Insolvency) Proceedings between the courts of the Mainland and of the HKSAR in May 2021. It establishes a framework for co-operation whereby a Hong Kong liquidator or provisional liquidator may apply to the relevant Mainland court at a pilot area for recognition and assistance. Shenzhen is one of the pilot areas, while a Mainland bankruptcy administrator may continue to apply to the Hong Kong court for recognition and assistance in accordance with the existing common law principles of Hong Kong.

➤ **I&T:**

- The Central Ministries and Commissions implemented a series of science and technology policies benefitting Hong Kong, including opening up a number of national-level science and technology programmes to Hong Kong, such as certain special projects under the "National Key Research and Development (R&D) Programme" and the "National Science and Technology Major Project", the "Young Scientists Fund (Categories A, B and C)" and the "Science Fund for Creative Research Groups (Category B)" under the National Natural Science Foundation of China, and encouraging Hong Kong R&D personnel and experts to join the national member societies of the China Association for Science and Technology, the National Science and Technology Expert Database and the Award Assessment Expert Database, etc.
- In March 2023, the HKSARG and the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) signed the "Arrangement between the Mainland and Hong Kong on Expediting the Development of Hong

Kong into an International Innovation and Technology Centre", which marks a new page of scientific and technological collaboration between the Mainland and Hong Kong.

- To promote high-quality I&T co-operation and take forward the development of international I&T centre in the GBA in all fields and across the entire I&T chain, the HKSARG signed the "Co-operation Agreement on Technology and Innovation Exchange between Guangdong and Hong Kong" with the Guangdong Provincial Government and the "Arrangement on Comprehensive Promotion of Hong Kong/Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Co-operation" with the Shenzhen Municipal Government in March 2023. In the same month, Hong Kong and Guangdong governments also entered into the "Co-operation Agreement between Guangdong and the HKSAR on Co-developing a Smart City Cluster" to step up mutual exchanges, expediting the development of digital economy and smart city, and jointly promoting the development of a Guangdong-Hong Kong smart city cluster.
- The "Mainland-Hong Kong Technology Cooperation Funding Scheme" (MHKTCFS) implemented by the HKSARG and MOST, the Department of Science and Technology of Guangdong Province and the Science, Technology and Innovation Bureau of Shenzhen Municipality aims to encourage R&D co-operation between Hong Kong and the Mainland (including Mainland cities in the GBA). As of January 2026, 140 projects jointly funded by Mainland-Hong Kong under the MHKTCFS were supported by the Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF), involving funding of around \$270 million; more than 470 projects jointly funded by Guangdong-Hong Kong and Shenzhen-Hong Kong under the MHKTCFS were supported by the ITF, involving funding of around \$1.17 billion.
- The Hong Kong Park of the Hetao Shenzhen-Hong Kong Science and Technology Innovation Co-operation Zone (the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Park) has officially opened in December 2025. Three buildings from the first batch of Phase 1 development have been completed. The first batch of tenants from life and health technology, AI, data science and other pillar industries began moving in in 2025. The remaining five buildings will be completed gradually from 2027 onwards. The Hong Kong and Shenzhen governments are actively advancing policy measures to facilitate the efficient flow of personnel, data, materials (such as biological samples), and capital between the two parks to demonstrate the unique advantages of the Hetao Co-operation Zone under the "one river, two banks" and "one zone, two parks".
- Hong Kong and Shenzhen governments signed the "Co-operation Arrangement on the Establishment of 'One Zone, Two Parks' in the Shenzhen-Hong Kong Innovation and Technology Co-operation Zone at the Lok Ma Chau Loop" in September 2021. Among others, the Shenzhen Branch of the Hong Kong Science Park commissioned in 2023 in the Futian Bonded Zone, allowing institutions and enterprises interested in grasping the GBA opportunities to move in before the commissioning of the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Park. At the same time, to attract talents and enterprises to develop in the Co-operation Zone, the governments of both sides have launched joint policy to implement measures conducive to the flow of talent, scientific research resources and business development, etc.
- In August 2023, the Central Government promulgated the "Development Plan for Shenzhen Park of Hetao Shenzhen-Hong Kong Science and Technology Innovation Co-operation Zone", setting out the development positioning of the Shenzhen Park.
- In November 2024, the HKSARG promulgated the Development Outline for the Hong Kong Park of the Hetao Shenzhen-Hong Kong Science and Technology Innovation Co-operation Zone, outlining the vision and mission of the development of the Hong Kong Park in the Loop, the historical background and basis of the Loop development, major development directions, strategy and target, and the facilitation measures to promote the flow of cross-boundary elements between Hong Kong Park and Shenzhen Park, setting out a clear development plan for the Hong Kong Park.
- A Steering Committee on the Hong Kong-Shenzhen I&T Park in the Loop, chaired by the Chief Executive, formulates the overall strategy, planning and layout for the development of the Hong Kong Park.
- The Government promulgated the Conceptual Outline of the Development Plan for the Innovation and Technology Industry in the San Tin Technopole in November 2025. The Conceptual Outline provides a top-level design for the 210 hectares of new I&T land in the San Tin Technopole in terms of development vision, objectives, positioning and strategy. As a natural extension of the Loop, the new I&T land in the San Tin area can integrate with the comprehensive industry supply chains in the Mainland cities of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. It can also take up the transformation and industrialisation of research outcomes derived from the Hong Kong Park.

- In June 2023, the Innovation, Technology and Industry Bureau and the Cyberspace Administration of China signed the "Memorandum of Understanding on Facilitating Cross-boundary Data Flow Within the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area". In December 2023, both sides jointly announced the pilot arrangement on the voluntary adoption of the consent-based facilitation measure on "Standard Contract for the Cross-boundary Flow of Personal Information Within the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Mainland, Hong Kong)" which facilitates and streamlines the arrangements for cross-boundary flow of personal information from the Mainland cities in the GBA to Hong Kong. Starting from November 1, 2024, the facilitation measure was regularised and extended to all sectors.
- In September 2024, the Innovation, Technology and Industry Bureau and the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology signed the "Co-operation Agreement on the Development of New Quality Productive Forces and the Promotion of New Industrialisation". The agreement aims to support Hong Kong in developing new quality productive forces and promoting new industrialisation according to local conditions. Moreover, it strengthens exchanges between the two sides in the fields of industry and information technology, and promotes co-operation and joint development in industries where both places have clear advantages.
- In February 2023, the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau and the Authority of Qianhai Shenzhen-Hong Kong Modern Service Industry Cooperation Zone of Shenzhen Municipality jointly promulgated the 16 Cooperation Measures for the Development of the Qianhai Shenzhen-Hong Kong Intellectual Property and Innovation Hub, with a view to advancing the development of IP in Hong Kong and Shenzhen, fostering cross-boundary IP and innovation, exchange and co-operation, and promoting the development of Hong Kong into a regional IP trading centre.

➤ **Healthcare:**

- The National Medical Products Administration announced the Work Plan for Regulatory Innovation and Development of Pharmaceutical and Medical Device in the GBA in November 2020, allowing designated healthcare institutions operating in the GBA to use Hong Kong-registered drugs and medical devices used in Hong Kong public hospitals subject to the approval of Guangdong Province. The policy of using HK registered drugs with urgent clinical use, and medical devices used in HK public hospitals with urgent clinical use in Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area facilitates the medical needs of Hong Kong people working and living in the GBA, and elevates the standard of medical services in the region. The policy is also of great significance to Hong Kong and Mainland enterprises go global, and will help Hong Kong to become an important platform for the country to attract foreign investment and assist Mainland enterprises to venture into the international arena.
- The Hospital Authority launched healthcare talent exchange programmes, covering professions like doctors, nurses and Chinese medicine practitioners, etc., to enhance exchange of professional knowledge and experiences with healthcare counterparts in provinces/regions and municipalities in the Mainland including the GBA and fostering mutual professional enhancement, thereby, in the longer term, establishing a regional healthcare talent pool.
- The first Chinese medicine hospital of Hong Kong commenced services in phases in December 2025. The Chinese Medicine Hospital of Hong Kong signed strategic collaboration agreements with Guangdong Provincial Hospital of Chinese Medicine and Macao's Kiang Wu Hospital in 2024 and 2025 respectively, promoting the development of Chinese medicine services, talent nurturing, and research, among other aspects. These collaborations include arranging for elite GBA Chinese medicine expert teams to participate in the hospital's clinical training and research.
- The permanent premises of the Government Chinese Medicines Testing Institute (GCMTI) under the Department of Health has commenced phased operations since December 2025. The GCMTI has signed co-operative agreements with multiple institutions related to Chinese Medicines (CMs) testing in the Mainland (including GBA) to jointly promote and share resources and technologies related to CMs testing and specimens. The GCMTI will further deepen co-operation with these institutions in the field of CMs quality. At the same time, the GCMTI will also continuously organise GBA conference on testing of CMs to promote the dissemination and application of the latest CMs testing technologies.
- Selected pilot sites of public Chinese medicine healthcare institutions in Guangzhou, Shenzhen and Zhuhai started to recruit Hong Kong Chinese medicine practitioners in 2021 on contract terms, which enables Hong Kong Chinese medicine practitioners to further their practice within the national healthcare system, thereby promoting exchanges in Chinese medicine.
- Following the streamlining of approval procedures for Hong Kong-registered traditional proprietary Chinese medicines (pCms) for external use to be registered and sold in the GBA since 2021, the scope of the relevant policy was extended to cover pCms for oral use in January

2025. By October of the same year, the first Hong Kong-registered pCm for oral use has been approved for sale on the Mainland through streamlined procedures. This measure further facilitates Hong Kong pCm manufacturers to expand the Mainland markets, and creates favourable conditions for Hong Kong pCms to go global in the long run.

- The Elderly Health Care Voucher GBA Pilot Scheme (Pilot Scheme) was rolled out in 2024 to extend by phases the coverage of the Elderly Health Care Vouchers (EHCVs) to seven integrated medical/dental institutions in the GBA, covering Guangzhou, Zhongshan, Dongguan and Shenzhen. In May 2025, it was announced to extend the Pilot Scheme to include 12 additional medical institutions to cover all the nine Mainland cities in the GBA and the goal was fully achieved in August of the same year. Together with the two existing service points operated by the University of Hong Kong-Shenzhen Hospital (HKU-SZH), eligible Hong Kong elderly persons can use their EHCVs at a total of 21 service points in the GBA.
- Since 2024, the eHealth App functions of "Cross-boundary Health Record" and "Personal Folder" have been gradually rolled out at a total of 20 medical institutions, namely the HKU-SZH and all medical institutions under the Pilot Scheme, to enable Hong Kong citizens to securely use their electronic health records (eHRs) outside Hong Kong, thereby enhancing continuity of care. Previously limited to eligible elderly recipients of the EHCVs, the "Cross-boundary Health Record" function has been extended to all eHealth users in Hong Kong starting from December 2025. The upgraded "Personal Folder" function was also launched in January 2026 for citizens to authorise three designated medical institutions outside Hong Kong to directly deposit high-resolution radiology reports and images, which are often challenging to upload themselves, into their personal eHealth accounts. This enables citizens to store and utilise eHRs from healthcare services received outside Hong Kong in a more convenient and secure manner.
- The Development Plan for Shenzhen Park of Hetao Shenzhen-Hong Kong Science and Technology Innovation Co-operation Zone (HTCZ) promulgated by the State Council in August 2023 announced the co-ordinated development of the Hong Kong Park and the Shenzhen Park under the "one zone, two parks" model and indicated clear support to promote innovation and application of advanced biomedical technology. The Greater Bay Area International Clinical Trial Institute (GBAICTI) was officially opened on November 21, 2024, in the Hong Kong Park. The Greater Bay Area International Clinical Trials Center of the Shenzhen Municipality was also officially opened in the Shenzhen Park on the same day. The establishment of "one institute, one center" marked the first benchmark for co-ordinated development under "one zone, two parks" of the HTCZ.
- The GBAICTI officially established the Real-World Study and Application Centre (RWSAC) and simultaneously launched the GBA Clinical Trial Collaboration Platform on December 22, 2025. The RWSAC will integrate real-world data generated under the special measure of using Hong Kong-registered drugs and medical devices used in Hong Kong public hospitals in the GBA, with a view to supporting registration applications for innovative drugs and medical devices in Hong Kong, the Mainland and overseas, thereby accelerating product research and development (R&D), approval and market launch. The GBA Clinical Trial Collaboration Platform is a unified service portal jointly established by the "one institute, one center", aiming to integrate GBA clinical trial resources and provide a one-stop service entry point for global biomedical enterprises, R&D institutions and researchers, with a view to enabling pharmaceutical companies to conduct trials simultaneously in Hong Kong and Shenzhen. The Chief Executive's 2025 Policy Address announced that the first batch of representative regional collaborative clinical trial projects will be launched through the GBA Clinical Trial Collaboration Platform within 2026 to enhance Hong Kong's clinical trial capability.
- The Pilot Scheme for Direct Cross-boundary Ambulance Transfer in the Greater Bay Area (Pilot Scheme) was launched on November 30, 2024. The first phase of the Pilot Scheme starts by arranging cross-boundary ambulance transfer of patients from designated sending hospitals in Shenzhen and Macao to designated public hospitals in Hong Kong. Starting from November 9, 2025, the Pilot Scheme has been extended to Zhuhai and Nansha, offering patients a safer, more timely and convenient transfer arrangements. The HKSARG will maintain close co-operation with governments of Guangdong and Macao and press ahead with the objective of extending the cross-boundary ambulance transfer arrangements to two-way transfers as set out in The Chief Executive's 2025 Policy Address.

➤ **Elderly care:**

- Expand and enhance the Residential Care Services Scheme in Guangdong (GDRCS Scheme), offering an additional option for eligible frail elderly persons to receive subsidised residential care services. The number of Guangdong residential care homes for the elderly (RCHes) participating in this Scheme has increased to 26 since February 2026, fully covering the nine

Mainland cities of the GBA. Providing Social and Care Support Services since May 2025 to assist elderly participants in adapting to living in Guangdong, and to offer local assessment service for Hong Kong elderly persons residing in the Mainland cities of the GBA. Launched the two-year Pilot Medical Subsidy Arrangement in December 2025 to share part of the medical expenses that elderly participants need to bear on their own under the National Basic Medical Insurance Policy. The annual subsidy ceiling is RMB10,000 per person for outpatient services and RMB30,000 per person for inpatient services.

- Implement various portable cash assistance measures to disburse to Hong Kong elderly persons who opt to retire in Guangdong and Fujian Provinces Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA), Old Age Allowance or Old Age Living Allowance.
- Launched the three-year Pilot Scheme for Elderly Recipients of CSSA to Reside in Residential Care Homes in Guangdong in October 2025 to subsidise elderly CSSA recipients opting to retire in Guangdong to reside in RCHes under the GDRCS Scheme, thereby affording them an additional option for retirement and improving their quality of life.
- Improve the cross-border disbursement arrangements for portable cash assistance in mid-2026, so that Hong Kong elderly recipients retiring in Guangdong and Fujian Provinces may opt to receive government assistance directly through their accounts with designated Mainland banks.

➤ **Transport:**

- **"Northbound Travel for Hong Kong Vehicles"** has been implemented since July 2023, facilitating Hong Kong residents to self-drive to Guangdong via HZMB for business, visiting families or sight-seeing on a short-term basis. The governments of Guangdong and Hong Kong will draw on the implementation experience of the scheme and proactively study the extension of the scheme to a Hong Kong/Shenzhen land-based boundary control point, so that Hong Kong private cars can travel to both the eastern and western parts of Guangdong. "Southbound Travel for Guangdong Vehicles" has been implemented since November 2025. Since then, eligible and approved private cars from Guangdong and Macao may park at the automated carparks on the artificial island at the Hong Kong Port via the HZMB, after which the drivers and passengers may transfer to a flight via Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA). The part concerning the entry into the urban area under the scheme has also been implemented since December 2025, opening up a new mode of travel for Guangdong visitors. Approved Guangdong vehicles may enter Hong Kong directly via the HZMB and drive to the urban area without obtaining a regular quota.
- The **Hong Kong Section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link** commenced services in September 2018, connecting Hong Kong to the 48,000 km national high-speed rail network. It connects to a total of 110 destinations in the Mainland, with at least 212 daily trips. In August 2023, the **"Same-day Flexi-trip Arrangement"** was launched for passengers travelling between Hong Kong West Kowloon Station and Futian Station to enhance flexibility for passengers' trip arrangement, and was extended to Shenzhenbei Station in March 2024. In addition, in January 2024, **"20-ride Ticket"** and **"30-day Ticket"** were introduced for train trips between Hong Kong West Kowloon Station and 10 Mainland destinations to allow frequent travellers to enjoy discounted fares, further promoting the "one-hour living circle" in the GBA.
- To further enhance the connectivity of the Greater Bay Area's infrastructure, the governments of Hong Kong and Shenzhen are pressing ahead with two cross-boundary railway projects, namely the **Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Rail Link (Hung Shui Kiu - Qianhai)** and the **Northern Link Spur Line**, through the Task Force for Hong Kong-Shenzhen Co-operation on Cross Boundary Railway Infrastructure to jointly develop the "GBA on the Rail".
- **SkyPier Terminal** commenced operations in August 2023, while the **"Fly-Via-Zhuhai-HK"** direct passenger transport service was launched in December 2023 to allow Mainland and international passengers to travel between the Mainland and the world via HKIA under an "air-land-air" mode. The Airport Authority Hong Kong (AAHK) is promoting the "Fly-Via-Zhuhai-HK" service to more cities in the Mainland with which Hong Kong does not have direct flights. Starting in October 2025, the HKSARG expanded exemptions from the Air Passenger Departure Tax to include passengers travelling to Hong Kong for transit by sea or land.
- **Automated car parks on the HKP Island of the HZMB** officially started providing "Park & Fly" service on November 2025, offering 1,800 parking spaces, enabling vehicles from Guangdong and Macao to travel via the HZMB without requiring immigration clearance for the vehicles, while allowing visitors to fly out from HKIA. The "Park & Visit" car park will be launched in 2026, providing convenience for travellers from Guangdong and Macao to park their vehicles before entering Hong Kong, so as to access the Airport City facilities and travel around.

- AAHK will continue to develop the **sea-air intermodal cargo transshipment mode** between HKIA and the GBA by setting up the upstream **HKIA Dongguan Logistics Park (HKIALP)** in Dongguan, to facilitate seamless transportation of export cargo from the Chinese Mainland to HKIA for transshipment to overseas destinations. Similarly, international cargo can also be imported into the Chinese Mainland through the reverse process. The **first-phase permanent facility for the HKIALP** will be completed in stages in 2026, with an aim to put HKIALP Phase 1 into operation in the first half of 2027, with the cargo-handling capacity progressively reaching one million tonnes per annum. Advance planning for the Phase 2 development has also been launched as scheduled by the end of 2025, introducing more high value-added logistics, cross-boundary e-commerce and courier service facilities.
- **The arrangement for Hong Kong-Macao cross-boundary goods vehicles using the HZMB** was implemented in August 2023 where goods vehicles of Hong Kong and Macao can transport goods between the two places via the HZMB.
- Rationalise the land boundary control points (BCPs) between Hong Kong and Shenzhen by adjusting the functions of some of these land BCPs to progressively implement the "**East in East out, West in West out**" planning strategy for cross-boundary goods traffic.
- **Culture and Tourism:** The Ministry of Culture and Tourism, the Office of the Leading Group for the Development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, and the People's Government of Guangdong Province jointly promulgated the Culture and Tourism Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (the Plan) in 2020. The Plan sets out the directions for the overall cultural and tourism development of the GBA and guides the development of the GBA into a cultural and leisure bay area with international influence. It also helps strengthen the positions of Hong Kong as the East-meets-West centre for international cultural exchanges and a world class premier tourism destination.
- **Creative:** Sponsor Hong Kong creative sectors to organise exhibitions, promotional activities in other GBA cities, and co-organise projects with their counterparts in the GBA through the **CreateSmart Initiative** and the **Film Development Fund** to promote cross-boundary exchanges and collaboration among creative industries.
- **Commerce:**
  - Launched a ["GoGBA one-stop platform"](#) via the HKTDC to provide multi-faceted support for Hong Kong enterprises, including market information and related government policies on the GBA, business enquiry service, training, networking as well as promotion, and matching opportunities.
  - The **Pan-Greater Bay Area Inward Investment Liaison Group** has been established to enable InvestHK and its counterparts in GBA cities to promote GBA's latest policy measures and developments to foreign enterprises through jointly organising conferences around the globe, and conduct meetings to enhance collaboration and synergy.
- **Education:** Support and assist Hong Kong higher education institutions in providing joint education services in the GBA Mainland cities.
- **Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship:** Launched the **GBA Youth Employment Scheme**, the **Home and Youth Affairs Bureau (HYAB) Funding Scheme for Experiential Programmes at Innovation and Entrepreneurial Bases** and the **HYAB Funding Scheme for Youth Entrepreneurship in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao GBA** to enhance the career development opportunities for young people in the GBA. The **Alliance of Hong Kong Youth Innovation and Entrepreneurial Bases in the Greater Bay Area** was established in December 2023 to provide a one-stop information, publicity and exchange platform to support Hong Kong youth entrepreneurs in the GBA.
- **Equine Industry:** The HKSARG and the People's Government of Guangdong Province established the Guangdong-Hong Kong Equine Industry Cooperation Task Force in 2021, with the Hong Kong Jockey Club as an expert member, to jointly promote the development of the equine sports and related industries in the GBA, in alignment with the accelerated national transformation and upgrading of the equine industry. To further enhance co-operation and exchange between the Mainland and Hong Kong in respect of the equine industry, the Environment and Ecology Bureau and the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China signed the Memorandum of Understanding on Supporting the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Equine Industry Development in 2024. Also, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department and the Shenzhen Customs signed the Co-operation Arrangement on Strengthening Quarantine Clearance for Horse Racing in the same year.
- **Professional Services:**

- In December 2023, the Central Government promulgated the Overall Development Plan for the Qianhai Shenzhen-Hong Kong Modern Service Industry Co-operation Zone (the Zone). The Qianhai Plan activated in September 2021, significantly increased the size of the Zone from 14.92 square kilometres to 120.56 square kilometres.
- The Zone announced nine Hong Kong-related facilitation measures in June 2022 covering areas such as youth innovation and entrepreneurship, technology development, financial services, legal services and medical services. These measures will provide support to Hong Kong people and enterprises developing in Qianhai and bring greater convenience to young people of Hong Kong and Macao seeking to develop their careers in Shenzhen.
- The Department of Housing and Urban-Rural Development of Guangdong Province promulgated "Interim Guidelines for the Management of Hong Kong Engineering Construction Consultant Enterprises and Professionals Starting Business and Practising in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Cities" (Interim Guidelines) which allow consultant firms on the two government lists, as well as professionals registered with relevant registration boards in Hong Kong, to be able to directly provide services in the nine Mainland cities of the GBA by obtaining equivalent qualifications in the Mainland through a registration system. The Interim Guidelines, which took effect on January 1, 2021, cover four professional sectors: architecture, engineering, surveying and landscape architecture.
- The "Management for Registration of Hong Kong and Macao Planning Professional Enterprises Starting Businesses in Guangdong Province" and "Matters Concerning Planning Professionals Registered in Hong Kong and Macao Practising in Guangdong Province", promulgated by the Department of Natural Resources of Guangdong Province, took effect from September 1 and February 19, 2021 respectively. The relevant measures allow Hong Kong planning professional enterprises as well as professionals registered with the Planners Registration Board in Hong Kong to directly provide services in Guangdong Province including the nine Mainland cities of the GBA after registration. Similar measures have also been promulgated in Qianhai and Hengqin.

### **Policy Measures by the Central Government**

Since July 1, 2017, measures were introduced by the Central Government to facilitate Hong Kong people's development in the GBA. Major facilitation policies and measures include:

- Mainland higher education institutions must accord equal treatment to Hong Kong and Macao students in admission, nurturing, management and support.
- Remove the requirement for people from Hong Kong and Macao to apply for employment permits to work in the Mainland.
- Allow Hong Kong and Macao people working in the Mainland to join the Housing Provident Fund.

On August 15, 2018: the Central Government introduced a resident permit to facilitate Hong Kong people's development in the GBA.

On March 1, 2019: eight measures were announced:

- The method for calculating "183 days" for paying individual income tax in the Mainland.
- Provide tax relief by municipal governments to non-Mainland (including Hong Kong) high-end talent and talent in short supply.
- Support the open recruitment of Hong Kong and Macao residents by public institutions in the GBA.
- Encourage innovation and entrepreneurship in the nine Mainland cities of the GBA by the youth of Hong Kong and Macao.
- Support higher education institutions and scientific research institutes from Hong Kong and Macao to participate in projects under Guangdong technology programmes.
- Introduce immigration facilitation reform pilot schemes in the GBA.
- Facilitate vehicles from Hong Kong and Macao entering and exiting Mainland ports.
- Expand the implementation scope of the connection with Speedy Customs Clearance between Customs administrations.

On November 6, 2019: 16 measures were announced:

### **Policies and measures benefiting members of the public**

- Facilitate property purchases by Hong Kong residents in the Mainland cities of the GBA.
- Support the use of mobile electronic payment by Hong Kong residents in the Mainland.

- Pilot scheme for Hong Kong residents to open Mainland personal bank accounts in the GBA remotely by attestation.
- Ensure that the children of Hong Kong and Macao residents enjoy the same education as those of Mainland residents.
- Explore the establishment of a cross-boundary wealth management scheme.
- Facilitate non-Chinese Hong Kong permanent residents to travel to and from the Mainland cities in the GBA.
- Permit the use of Hong Kong-registered drugs and common medical devices in designated Hong Kong-owned healthcare institutions in the GBA.

#### **Policies and measures supporting professional services**

- Measures on partnership associations by Hong Kong and Mainland law firms, legal consultants and special examinations.
- Further extend the scope of mutual recognition of qualifications for construction professionals.
- Expand the scope of liberalisation measures for construction professionals from Hong Kong and Macao to practice in the Mainland.
- Preferential treatment on insurance regulation.
- Remove the requirement on years of operating experience for Hong Kong service suppliers to provide insurance loss adjusting services in the Mainland.
- Support bond market development in Hong Kong and Macao (catastrophe bonds).

#### **Policies and measures supporting I&T development**

- Support the development of the Shenzhen-Hong Kong Innovation and Technology Co-operation Zone.
- Facilitate customs clearance of imported animal-derived biomaterials.
- Relax the limitation on exporting Mainland human genetic resources to Hong Kong and Macao.

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