

## Hong Kong – A Gateway to Greater Bay Area Opportunities

Similar to the Tokyo Bay Area, the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Greater Bay Area) pools the strengths of dynamic neighbouring cities to drive economic growth collectively through closer integration and policy co-ordination.



Covering nine major cities in Guangdong Province plus the Special Administrative Regions of Hong Kong and Macao, the Greater Bay Area spans about 56,100 square kilometres and has a total population of over 71 million people. It generates GDP of about US\$1.6 trillion – about the same as the economy of Australia.

Harnessing the strengths of the 11 cities in the Greater Bay Area in manufacturing, technology, tourism and finance, will bring significant opportunities for business.

These opportunities came into sharper focus last month when the Central Government introduced eight policy measures to take forward the development of the Greater Bay Area. They include tax relief incentives from municipal governments to non-mainland

high-end talents and talents in short supply. There are also measures to boost cross-boundary commerce by improving the flow of people and goods within the Greater Bay Area.

### **Hong Kong's Unique Advantages**

Hong Kong has a key role to play in the Greater Bay Area, which in turn will strengthen the city's position as a global business and financial centre as well as a hub for innovation and technology and professional services.



*Hong Kong serves as an international gateway to the Greater Bay Area*

Under “one country, two systems”, Hong Kong enjoys the dual advantages of being part of China, while maintaining a high degree of autonomy as a Special Administrative Region.

With its own financial and legal systems, Hong Kong enjoys the free flow of capital, goods and information. The rule of law, a common law system, an independent judiciary and a strong anti-corruption regime provide peace of mind to entrepreneurs from Japan and elsewhere to pursue their business dreams and goals.

Japan is the largest source of foreign companies doing business in Hong Kong. The total number of Mainland and overseas companies operating in the city increased to 8,754 last year, a rise of 6.4 per cent compared to the previous year, according to a survey by the Government's Census and Statistics Department. The survey also found that 1,393 Japanese companies operate in the city, including 244 regional headquarters.

On the financial front, Hong Kong ranks alongside New York and London in the latest Global Financial Centres Index. Last year, the city led the world again in terms of IPO

funds raised (US\$36.6 billion). Hong Kong also serves as a fund management and insurance centre and is the world's leading offshore Renminbi business hub. The city will continue to serve as the premier platform for foreign investment in China, and for Chinese investment going global.

### **Hong Kong's Role in the Greater Bay Area**

The Central Government fully supports Hong Kong leveraging its “one country, two systems” advantages to support the development of the Greater Bay Area.

The Central Government's “Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area” (Outline Development Plan) supports Hong Kong's efforts to consolidate its position as an international finance, transport, maritime, trade, aviation and arbitration hub, in tandem with the development of high-end and high-value-added financial, commercial, trading, logistics and professional services.



*The 55km Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge opened last year*

The Outline Development Plan also backs Hong Kong's efforts to boost its innovation and technology capabilities and provide fertile ground for businesses to launch and grow.

Japan is well-known for its outstanding achievements in innovation and technology. At the same time, Hong Kong possesses sound scientific research capabilities, outstanding technology talents and world-class universities. These advantages will complement the development of the Greater Bay Area as an international research and technology hub.

Hong Kong welcomes renowned technology enterprises and education institutions in Japan to establish a presence in Hong Kong to jointly seize the opportunities brought by the development of the Greater Bay Area.

Last month, a high-level delegation from the Japan Science and Technology Agency visited Hong Kong to learn more about the potential for collaboration with local universities as well as Cyberport and Hong Kong Science Park.

By 2035, the Greater Bay Area is expected to be a sophisticated and prosperous economic zone, ideal for living, working and travelling. Hong Kong's close business links with Japan make the city an effective springboard for Japanese enterprises to explore the opportunities emerging from the Greater Bay Area and beyond.

