

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). The total population in the GBA is over 86 million. Collectively, the GBA represents a vibrant economic force with a GDP of over RMB 13 trillion in 2022.

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 and implement the Outline Development Plan
- 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

Outline of the 14th Five-Year Plan for National Economic and Social Development of the People's Republic of China and the Long-Range Objectives Through the Year 2035 (14th Five-Year Plan)

The 14th Five-Year Plan, formally approved by the National People's Congress on March 11, 2021, provides a blueprint and action agenda for national development, covering 2021-2025. Contents relating to Hong Kong can be found in chapter 61 on maintaining the long-term prosperity and stability of Hong Kong and Macao and chapter 31 on taking forward the development of the GBA actively and steadily.

Main points include:

- Maintain Hong Kong's long-term prosperity and stability.
- Enhance Hong Kong's competitiveness and advantages.
- Take forward the GBA development actively and steadily, and support Hong Kong better integrate into the overall development of the country.
- Deepen and widen mutual access between the financial markets of the Mainland and Hong Kong.
- Support the development of an international I&T hub in the GBA.
- Take forward the development of major Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao co-operation platforms including the Lok Ma Chau Loop.
- Strengthen co-operation between the Mainland and Hong Kong on different fronts.
- Facilitate young people in Hong Kong and Macao to study, work and start business in Mainland GBA cities.

- Establish a brand of quality exchanges among the young people of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao, etc.

Work focus of HKSAR Government

- Consolidate and enhance Hong Kong's status as an international financial, transportation and trade centre, and a centre for international legal and dispute resolution services in the Asia-Pacific region.
- Enhance, establish and develop Hong Kong's status as an international aviation and I&T hub, an East-meets-West Centre for International Cultural Exchange, and a regional IP trading centre.
- Strengthen infrastructural connectivity.
- Expand the development of Hong Kong's strong sectors.
- Foster youth innovation and entrepreneurship.
- Fully leverage Hong Kong's international connections and networks to promote the GBA overseas and attract capital and talent to the zone.

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 a unique free trade pact that accords tariff-free treatment to goods of Hong Kong 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.
- The Hong Kong Growth Portfolio, managed by the Hong Kong Investment Corporation, includes a \$5 billion GBA Investment Fund, which will focus on investment opportunities in the GBA.
- Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong will 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) is also setting up more "GoGBA Business Support Centres" to cover all nine Mainland cities in the GBA, 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:** With the common law system, strong rule of law and independent judicial power, Hong Kong can act as a "deal maker" and "dispute resolver" for enterprises and can provide top quality legal and dispute resolution services to 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 Mainland China 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 (Leading Group) chaired by Vice Premier Han Zheng to co-ordinate and steer the development of the GBA.
- A Steering Committee for the Development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area is chaired by the Chief Executive, with membership comprising all Secretaries of Departments and Directors of Bureaux.
- 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** 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 wealth management products distributed by banks in the GBA.
 - The People's Bank of China and the Hong Kong Monetary Authority signed a Memorandum of Understanding in October 2021 to provide a one-stop platform for financial institutions and technology companies to conduct pilot trials of cross-boundary Fintech initiatives concurrently in Hong Kong and Mainland GBA cities. The platform allows financial institutions and technology companies to get early feedback from regulators and users, expediting the launch of Fintech products and lowering development costs.
 - 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 is working to set up after-sales service centres in places such as Nansha and Qianhai to provide comprehensive support to GBA residents holding Hong Kong insurance policies.
 - Establish the **Pan-Greater Bay Area Inward Investment Liaison Group** to enable InvestHK and its counterparts in GBA cities to develop joint inward investment proposals to enhance synergy.
- **Legal:**
 - The Co-operative Arrangement on Legal Matters signed between the Department of Justice of the HKSARG and Shenzhen Municipal People's Government enhances mutual legal collaboration and exchanges. 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 have also been retained as legal consultants by Mainland law firms in the GBA.
 - The GBA Legal Professional Examination was held three times at examination venues in Hong Kong, Shenzhen and Zhuhai. 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”, which extended the period of the pilot scheme for three years until October 2026. Candidates passing the examination and obtaining a lawyer’s practice certificate (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 Regulations of the Qianhai Shenzhen–Hong Kong Modern Service Industry Cooperation Zone of the Shenzhen Special Economic Zone were amended and approved in August 2020 and implemented from October 2020. The Regulations allow Hong Kong, Macao, Taiwan and foreign enterprises registered in Qianhai Cooperation Zone, in the absence of any foreign-related elements, to agree on the choice of applicable law, including Hong Kong law, in their civil and commercial contracts. The promulgation of the Plan for Comprehensive Deepening Reform and Opening Up of the Qianhai Shenzhen-Hong Kong Modern Service Industry Cooperation Zone (Qianhai Plan) in September 2021 significantly expands the area of the Qianhai Cooperation Zone, which will enable more enterprises to benefit from allowing "Hong Kong-owned enterprises to adopt Hong Kong laws".
- In relation to 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, the relevant legislative work was completed and the Arrangement 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 Department of Justice and the High People’s Court of Guangdong Province signed a framework arrangement on exchange and mutual learning in legal aspects between Hong Kong and Guangdong in September 2019, under which the two sides agreed to encourage and facilitate courts in the Guangdong Province and relevant legal bodies in Hong Kong to launch projects on legal exchange and mutual learning and conduct relevant training.
- The Department of Justice of Guangdong Province, the Secretariat for Administration and Justice of the Macao SAR and the Department of Justice of the HKSARG have established a joint conference mechanism among the three legal departments to strengthen legal exchanges and collaborations between the three places with a view to jointly promoting legal development in the GBA.
- In 2022, the Department of Justice of the HKSARG established the **Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Task Force** mainly to advise on the promotion and utilisation of the unique strengths of "one country, two systems and three jurisdictions" of the GBA, focusing on strengthening mutual legal assistance between the GBA and Hong Kong, and facilitating the convergence of legal practices within the GBA, with a view to enhancing interactions among the people and businesses in the GBA.
- The promulgation of the GBA Mediator Accreditation Standards and the GBA Mediator Code of Conduct Best Practice by the **GBA Mediation Platform** in December 2021 will facilitate the use of Hong Kong’s mediation services for cross-boundary disputes within the GBA. The Greater Bay Area Cross-Boundary Disputes Mediation Model Rules was also promulgated on December 30, 2022, providing guidance to mediation institutions and mediators in the GBA for their voluntary adoption and further align the mediation mechanisms in the three places.
- 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 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.
- The HKSARG will explore with relevant authorities in the Mainland the implementation of 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", and strive for the wider use of Hong Kong laws in the entire GBA and Hong Kong as a place of arbitration

outside the Mainland. The exploration with Shenzhen also covers the enhancement of the implementation mechanism concerning co-operation in cross-boundary insolvency.

➤ **I&T:**

- In September 2018, the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) and the HKSARG signed the "Arrangement on Enhancing I&T Cooperation between the Mainland and Hong Kong" to enhance I&T co-operation and exchanges between Hong Kong and the Mainland. Both sides also signed a research funding agreement and, in April 2019, launched the "Mainland-Hong Kong Joint Funding Scheme" to encourage research and development co-operation. Designated universities and research institutions in Hong Kong may apply for certain Mainland science and technology funding schemes and use the funding in Hong Kong.
- In March 2023, the HKSARG and 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.
- As of December 2023, a total of 380 projects under the "Guangdong-Hong Kong Technology Cooperation Funding Scheme" implemented by the HKSARG, the Department of Science and Technology of Guangdong Province and the Science, Technology and Innovation Commission of the Shenzhen Municipality were supported by the Innovation and Technology Fund, involving funding of around \$1.03 billion.
- Hong Kong is developing the Lok Ma Chau Loop into the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Park (HSITP) in full swing, aiming to complete the first three buildings of the first phase from the end of 2024. Hong Kong is working with Shenzhen to jointly develop the Shenzhen-Hong Kong I&T Co-operation Zone (Co-operation Zone), comprising the HSITP and Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Zone (SZ I&T Zone), to realise "one zone, two parks" under "one country, two systems".
- 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" (the Co-operation Arrangement) in September 2021. Under the Co-operation Arrangement, the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation will kick start the establishment of the Shenzhen branch of Hong Kong Science Park in the SZ I&T Zone, allowing institutes and enterprises interested in starting business in the GBA to first establish presence in the Co-operation Zone. 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. The Shenzhen branch of Hong Kong Science Park was launched in September 2023.
- 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. The HKSARG will offer full support and continue to work with the Shenzhen Municipal Government to foster synergistic development of the Hong Kong Park and the Shenzhen Park, and explore innovative measures under the vision of "one river, two banks" and "one zone, two parks".
- In September 2021, MOST announced a series of new measures benefitting Hong Kong, including:
 - Opening up more national-level science and technology programmes to Hong Kong, allowing young academics in Hong Kong to apply for the "Young Scientists Fund" under the National Natural Science Foundation of China.
 - Welcoming people in Hong Kong's science and technology sector to participate in nationwide academic associations of the China Association for Science and Technology as well as be admitted to the National Science and Technology Expert Database and the

Award Assessment Expert Database.

- Enhancing the mechanism on shared use of large-scale instruments and equipment for R&D with Hong Kong.
- Deepening science and technology exchanges between people in the Mainland and Hong Kong.
- Supporting Hong Kong to participate in the setting up of a National Center of Technology Innovation.

- 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 and 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.
- 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:**

- Under the national policy of "using HK registered drugs and medical devices used in HK public hospitals in Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area" (the Policy), 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. It allows designated healthcare institutions operating in the GBA to use Hong Kong-registered drugs with urgent clinical use and medical devices used in Hong Kong public hospitals with urgent clinical use. The Policy facilitates the medical needs of Hong Kong people working and living in the GBA, upholds the benefits of the medical industry in the GBA, and elevates the standard of medical services in the region. Apart from being attractive to international pharmaceutical companies, 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. Through the complementarity of the Policy and the enhancement of the local approval regimes for drugs and medical devices, it is believed that benefits to patients in the GBA could be maximised, including providing them with more choices of medicines, reducing healthcare expenditure, and better catering to the needs of residents in the GBA. In future, the HKSARG will continue to closely collaborate and communicate with the relevant Mainland authorities, to expand the directory of drugs and medical devices as soon as possible, and gradually extend the arrangement to cover more designated healthcare institutions in the GBA to meet the needs of more patients in the Mainland.
- Allowing traditional proprietary Hong Kong-registered Chinese medicine (pCm) products for external use to be also registered and sold in the GBA through a streamlined approval process, enabling Hong Kong pCm manufacturers to expand their markets, and create favourable conditions for Hong Kong pCms to "go global" in the long run. The first batch of pCm products approved for sale in the Mainland under this measure was announced in December 2021.
- 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.

➤ **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.
- The **Hong Kong Section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link** commenced services in September 2018, connecting Hong Kong to the over 40,000 km

national high-speed rail network. It connects to a total of 73 destinations in the Mainland, with 188 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. In addition, **"20-ride Ticket"** and **"30-day Ticket"** were introduced in January 2024 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.

- The Task Force for Hong Kong-Shenzhen Co-operation on Cross-Boundary Railway Infrastructure is taking forward the **Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Rail Link (Hung Shui Kiu - Qianhai)** and the **Northern Link Spur Line**.
 - **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 Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA) under an "air-land-air" mode.
 - Develop **automated car parks** on the **HZMB Hong Kong Port Island** to allow self-driving visitors from Guangdong and Macao to drive to Hong Kong via the HZMB and fly out of the HKIA via SkyPier Terminal after parking, or enter Hong Kong after going through immigration clearance.
 - Set up an **airside intermodal cargo pier** at HKIA and an upstream **HKIA Logistics Park** in Dongguan, to facilitate seamless transportation of export cargo from the Mainland to the HKIA for transshipment to overseas destinations. Similarly, international cargo can also be imported into the Mainland
 - **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 Hong Kong-Shenzhen land boundary control points by adjusting the functions and extending operating hours of some of these land boundary control points to progressively implement the **"East in East out, West in West out"** planning strategy for cross-boundary goods transport.
- **Culture and Tourism:** The Culture and Tourism Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area sets out the directions for the overall cultural and tourism development of the GBA and guides the development of the GBA into an exchange hub for cultures of the East and the West and a world-class tourism destination. It helps Hong Kong to further develop into a centre for arts and cultural exchange between China and the rest of the world as set out in the 14th Five-Year Plan and helps strengthen the positions of Hong Kong as an international cultural metropolis and tourism hub as well as a core demonstration zone for multi-destination tourism.
- **Creative:** Sponsor Hong Kong creative sectors to organise exhibitions, promotional activities in other GBA cities or 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.
- **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 **Funding Scheme for Experiential Programmes at Innovation and Entrepreneurial Bases in the GBA** and the **Funding Scheme for Youth Entrepreneurship in the GBA** to enhance the career development opportunities for young people in the GBA. A total of 1,091 young people have been employed through **GBA Youth Employment Scheme**. 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, 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.

➤ **Professional Services:**

- The Central Government promulgated the Qianhai Plan on September 6, 2021. The area of the Qianhai Shenzhen-Hong Kong Modern Service Industry Cooperation Zone will be increased significantly from 14.92 square kilometres to 120.56 square kilometres. It also emphasises promoting high-level opening up in Qianhai, fostering innovative development of modern service industries, and accelerating the building of a system of modern services compatible with Hong Kong and international standards. 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.

First plenary meeting of the Leading Group on August 15, 2018: the Central Government introduced a resident permit to facilitate Hong Kong people's development in the GBA.

Second plenary meeting of the Leading Group 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 the Speedy Customs Clearance between Customs administrations.

Third plenary meeting of the Leading Group 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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