

# 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 14 trillion in 2023.

## **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 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 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 Investment Corporation Limited manages the GBA Investment Fund, which will focus on investment opportunities in the GBA.
- 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) is also setting up more "GoGBA Business Support Centres" in all nine Mainland GBA cities, 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 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 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 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.
- 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.
- The **Pan-Greater Bay Area Inward Investment Liaison Group** has been established to enable InvestHK and its counterparts in GBA cities to develop joint inward investment propositions to enhance synergy.

#### ➤ **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.
- 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 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, supporting Hong Kong-invested enterprises registered in pilot cities in the GBA to choose Hong Kong or Macao law as the governing law for their contracts; and Hong Kong-invested enterprises registered in the nine Mainland municipalities in the GBA to choose Hong Kong or Macao as the seat of arbitration. 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 four 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 Department of Justice promotes the establishment of a dedicated platform for GBA lawyers and a GBA legal information platform, seeking to facilitate legal professional exchanges and training as well as the sharing and obtaining of the relevant information.
- **The GBA Mediation Platform** established under the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Legal Departments Joint Conference promulgated the GBA Mediator Accreditation Standards, GBA Mediator Code of Conduct Best Practice and GBA Cross-Boundary Dispute Mediation Model Rules, facilitating the interface of the mediation mechanisms in the GBA. In March 2024, the three places promulgated their own local accreditation rules according to the GBA Mediator Accreditation Standards. A consolidated GBA Mediator Panel will be established and jointly announced within 2024.
- 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 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 "Mainland-Hong Kong Joint Funding Scheme" was launched in April 2019 to encourage research and development co-operation between Hong Kong and the Mainland (including Mainland cities in the GBA). 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 September 2021, the Ministry of Science and Technology (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 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.
- In 2024, the National Natural Science Foundation of China merged the "Excellent Young Scientists Fund (Hong Kong and Macao)" into the "Excellent Young Scientists Fund" and opened the "National Science Fund for Distinguished Young Scholars" to young scholars in 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 November 2024, more than 410 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 Bureau of Shenzhen Municipality were supported by the Innovation and Technology Fund, involving funding of around \$1.09 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” 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 Development Outline will set out innovative policies to facilitate the flow of personnel, materials, capital and data between the two parks, making the co-operation zone a crucial source of new quality productive forces for our country.
- 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. Starting from November 1, 2024, all sectors may adopt the facilitation measure for cross-boundary data flow.
- 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 and medical devices used in HK public hospitals 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. In future, the HKSARG will continue to closely communicate with the relevant Mainland authorities, so that more eligible Hong Kong-registered drugs and medical devices used in Hong Kong can be used in designated healthcare institutions in the GBA, and gradually extend the arrangement to cover more designated healthcare institutions in the GBA to meet the needs of more patients in the Mainland.
- The Hospital Authority launched the healthcare talent exchange programmes, covering professions like doctors, nurses and Chinese medicine practitioners, etc, with a view to enhancing exchange of professional knowledge and experiences with healthcare counterparts in provinces/regions and municipalities in the Mainland including the GBA.
- 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.
- The Elderly Health Care Voucher GBA Pilot Scheme was rolled out in 2024. Between June and September, the coverage of the Elderly Health Care Vouchers has been extended from two service points originally to nine in four GBA cities, offering Hong Kong eligible elderly persons more convenience and flexibility. The HKSARG is preparing for the extension of the Pilot Scheme to cover all of the nine GBA Mainland cities
- The new eHealth App functions of "Cross-boundary Health Record" and "Personal Folder" were launched at the University of Hong Kong-Shenzhen Hospital and the seven medical institutions under the Pilot Scheme in 2024, to enhance the continuity of medical care for Hong Kong citizens

through facilitating their secure use of electronic health records across the boundary. The HKSARG will continue to expand the sharing of cross-boundary medical records via the eHealth platform.

- 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) announced in the Chief Executive’s 2023 Policy Address to be established in the Hong Kong Park officially opened on the same day with the Greater Bay Area International Clinical Trials Center (Bay Trial) in the Shenzhen Park on November 21, 2024. The establishment of “one institute, one center” marked the first benchmark for co-ordinated development under “one zone, two parks” of the HTCZ. The Chief Executive’s 2024 Policy Address further announced that the GBAICTI and the Bay Trial will jointly establish the GBA Clinical Trial Collaboration Platform with a population base of over 86 million in the GBA to extend the R&D network and expedite clinical trials.
- The one-year Pilot Scheme for Direct Cross-boundary Ambulance Transfer in the Greater Bay Area was officially launched on November 30, 2024. There will be direct cross-boundary ambulance transfer of patients from designated hospitals in Shenzhen and Macao to designated public hospitals in Hong Kong. Subject to the effectiveness and operational experience of the Pilot Scheme, governments of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao will consider arrangements for expanding the Scheme.

➤ **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 46,000 km national high-speed rail network. It connects to a total of 93 destinations in the Mainland, with over 208 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 taking forward 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, jointly developing the “GBA on the Rail”. Both sides agreed to jointly set up the Office for Implementing Cross-boundary Railway Projects to take forward the planning and design of the next stage of the two projects.
- **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. 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.

- **Automated car parks on the HKP Island of the HZMB** will be completed in phases from end-2024, enabling vehicles from Guangdong and Macao to travel via the HZMB without requiring immigration clearance for the vehicles and allowing visitors to fly out from HKIA or visit Hong Kong.
- AAHK will continue to develop the **sea-air intermodal cargo transshipment mode** between the HKIA and the GBA by setting up the **HKIA Dongguan 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 through the reverse process. The initial stage **of first-phase construction for the permanent facility for the HKIA Dongguan Logistics Park in Dongguan** will be completed by end of 2025, with the cargo-handling capacity progressively reaching one million tonnes per annum. Advance planning will be made for the Phase 2 development, 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 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 also helps strengthen the positions of Hong Kong as an international cultural metropolis and tourism hub.
- **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** and the **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. In order 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; and the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department and the Shenzhen Customs also 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.

(Revision date: February 13, 2025)

---

**FEBRUARY 2025**