



7

**Take Forward
the Northern Metropolis as
Growth Engine and
Deepen GBA Collaboration**



Background

The development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA) is a key national strategy devised and driven by President Xi Jinping personally. It also works to implement “One Country, Two Systems”. The 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China’s Third Plenary Session highlighted the GBA’s development in advancing China’s modernisation. With our Country’s strong support, Hong Kong will continue to capitalise on its status as a GBA core city, thanks to its renowned professional services, international talent pool and world-class basic research capabilities. In this role, Hong Kong will lead GBA development, expanding opportunities for its economy across sectors and contributing to the high-quality development of our Country.

Last year, the Government unveiled the Northern Metropolis Action Agenda, under which it will rise as a new engine for Hong Kong’s economic growth. We will continue to adopt an “industry-driven and infrastructure-led” approach, interacting with the planning of Shenzhen and other GBA cities and building the Northern Metropolis as a major hub for Hong Kong’s integration into the overall development of our Country.

The Hetao Shenzhen-Hong Kong Science and Technology Innovation Co-operation Zone, located at the convergence of the Northern Metropolis and the Guangzhou-Shenzhen innovation and technology corridor, will also drive GBA development, serving as an I&T hub connecting the Mainland and the international community. We will continue to make good use of its “one zone, two parks” design. Through the recently established Steering Committee on the Hong Kong-Shenzhen I&T Park in the Loop, we will develop new mechanisms and foster policy innovations to enable the flow of personnel, materials, capital and data between the two parks, expanding their ability to promote I&T development in both Hong Kong and Shenzhen.

7

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Take Forward the Development of Northern Metropolis

- Commence the site formation works of San Tin Technopole and the Second Phase of Yuen Long South New Development Area by end-2024 and mid-2025 respectively. (DEVB)
- Announce in 2025 the result of the consultancy study on the development plan of the industries for the new innovation and technology (I&T) land in the San Tin Technopole. (ITIB)
- Announce the preliminary development proposals of Ngau Tam Mei, New Territories North New Town and Ma Tso Lung by end-2024. (DEVB)
- Introduce the “large-scale land disposal” approach for the development of the Northern Metropolis; start to invite expressions of interest by end-2024 on three pilot sites identified, each of 10-20 hectares. (DEVB)
- Explore the approach of identifying pilot industry park in a New Development Area and granting land to a company established and led by the Government. The company will, in accordance with the Government’s industrial policies, be responsible for formulating the development and operation strategies and day-to-day management for the park, attracting businesses and investment, etc.. Suggestions will be announced in the first quarter of 2025. (DEVB)

- Commence the rezoning procedures for Sandy Ridge in the North District within 2024, with the I&T site used for data centres and related purposes expanded to 10 hectares. (DEVB, ITIB)
- Commence in 2025 the construction works of a gallery to showcase major development projects. (DEVB)

Promoting the Development of the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Park in the Loop

- Formulate and take forward through the Steering Committee on the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Park in the Loop chaired by the Chief Executive the overall strategy, planning and layout of the development of the Hong Kong Park. (ITIB)
- Complete the construction of the first three buildings of Batch 1 of the Hong Kong- Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Park in phases starting from the end of 2024, with the remaining five buildings to be completed gradually in the coming five years. (ITIB)

- Promulgate the Development Outline for the Hong Kong Park of the Hetao Shenzhen-Hong Kong Science and Technology Innovation Co-operation Zone within 2024 to promote its development under four major directions, namely building a world-class industry-academia-research platform, establishing an internationally competitive research and development (R&D) transformation and pilot production base for industries, creating a hub for pooling global I&T resources, as well as cultivating a testing ground for institutional and policy innovations. (ITIB)
- Explore the trial implementation of the new innovative facilitation measures tailor-made for the Co-operation Zone in the Loop, such as facilitating efficient cross-boundary travel of designated personnel of the respective Parks in Hong Kong and Shenzhen, using low-altitude unmanned aerial vehicles to enable cross-boundary movement of materials, and exploring facilitation arrangements for cross-boundary fund transfers by Mainland enterprises setting up their businesses in the Hong Kong Park. (ITIB and relevant bureaux)

Deepening Co-operation in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area

Integrating into national development

- The Steering Group on Integration into National Development, chaired by the Chief Executive, will continue to holistically co-ordinate and supervise the various initiatives on integration into the overall national development from a high-level perspective, including proactively dovetailing with major national strategies, such as the 14th Five-Year Plan, development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA) and high-quality development of the Belt and Road (B&R) Initiative, as well as fostering the all-round co-operation between the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) and Mainland provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions to promote the high-quality development of the Country and the HKSAR. (CMAB and relevant bureaux)
- Continue to deepen the co-operation with various Mainland provinces and municipalities by launching more initiatives on the existing co-operation platforms, and exploring the development of more new co-operation platforms to further leverage on Hong Kong's distinctive advantages. (CMAB and relevant bureaux)

Pressing ahead with development of the GBA

- Continue to utilise the Guangdong-Hong Kong and Hong Kong-Shenzhen co-operation task forces as platforms to strengthen connectivity and high-quality co-operation on various fronts amongst GBA cities. (CMAB and relevant bureaux)

- Maintain close contact with the Central Authorities, Guangdong Province and Macao SAR and continue to take forward the development of the GBA; and support different sectors to take advantage of the development opportunities brought about by the various co-operation platforms such as Qianhai, Nansha and the Loop. (CMAB and relevant bureaux)
- Continue to step up overseas promotion of Hong Kong's key opportunities brought about by the development of the GBA through duty visits of senior officials as well as international connections of overseas Economic and Trade Offices and other partner organisations. (CMAB and relevant bureaux)
- The Hong Kong Investment Corporation Limited continues to explore opportunities for co-operation in the GBA with the relevant institutions or corporations in the Mainland, and co-invest in projects with potentials in the GBA, as well as those with social and economic benefits in light of market development. (FSO)

Talent flow and co-operation in the construction sector

- Continue to foster mutual recognition of professional qualifications for construction professionals between Hong Kong and the Mainland, and actively provide access for the related professionals to the "Professional Title" assessment of the Mainland, with a view to assisting them to better enter the Mainland market and integrate into national development. (DEVB)
- Collaborate with the Guangdong Province and Macao SAR to formulate the GBA Standards concerning the level of skills of skilled workers and technicians in the construction sector, and take forward the "One Examination, Multiple Certification" arrangement so that those who pass the examinations adopting the GBA Standards can concurrently obtain vocational skill certificates issued by the three places. The objective is to increase the quality of training of the construction sector of the entire GBA and nurture talents. (DEVB)

Promoting data flow

- Collaborate with the Guangdong Provincial Government to advance the work on the "Digital Bay Area" in an orderly manner, thereby developing the GBA into a world-class, liveable and internationally competitive city cluster. (ITIB)
- Continue to proactively extend the facilitation measure on the "Standard Contract for Cross-boundary Flow of Personal Information Within the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Mainland, Hong Kong)" to all sectors, so as to promote more cross-boundary services that benefit the public and business while facilitating data flow in the GBA. (ITIB)

Scaling up medical collaboration in the GBA

- Extend the Elderly Health Care Voucher Greater Bay Area Pilot Scheme to all nine cities in the GBA. (HHB)
- Continue to expand and deepen cross-boundary health records sharing via eHealth to support citizens to use various cross-boundary medical services. (HHB)
- Explore enabling cross-boundary use of data, bio-samples and drugs and medical devices through the GBA Clinical Trial Collaboration Platform and the Real-World Study and Application Centre in the Hetao Shenzhen-Hong Kong Science and Technology Innovation Co-operation Zone to accelerate the development of the pharmaceutical industry for medical innovation. (HHB)
- Strengthen collaboration to develop specialist training of international standard with the objective to expand the specialist talent pool in the region. (HHB)

Strengthening legal co-operation with the Mainland and the GBA

- Implement in Hong Kong the improved arrangement for mutual service of judicial documents in civil and commercial proceedings between the Mainland and Hong Kong with a view to increasing possible modes of service and enhancing efficiency. (DoJ)
- Strive for the establishment of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Legal Information Platform to collate legal and dispute resolution services information of the GBA. (DoJ)
- Strive for the establishment of a dedicated platform for GBA lawyers to facilitate professional exchange and training of GBA lawyers. (DoJ)

Nurturing talents and expanding the development potential and opportunities for the youth

- Enhance the GBA Youth Employment Scheme by relaxing the eligibility requirements to allow young people aged 29 or below with sub-degree or higher qualifications to join the scheme, raising the limit of monthly allowance granted to enterprises to \$12,000, and exploring a reciprocal arrangement to allow Mainland young people to work in Hong Kong. (LWB)

- Take forward the Funding Scheme for Experiential Programmes at Innovation and Entrepreneurial Bases to encourage young people to explore entrepreneurial opportunities in the enormous Mainland market. (HYAB)
- Launch a new round of the Funding Scheme for Youth Entrepreneurship in the GBA to provide capital subsidy and comprehensive support services to Hong Kong young people interested in starting their businesses locally and in Mainland cities of the GBA. (HYAB)
- Through the member organisations of the Alliance of Hong Kong Youth Innovation and Entrepreneurial Bases in the GBA, provide youth entrepreneurs with more comprehensive support, facilitate their network expansion and enhance their competitiveness. (HYAB)