

Greater Bay Area Set to Take Off

「粵港澳大灣區」經濟騰飛

First designated as a national-level new area in 2009, Hengqin officially became part of the Guangdong Pilot Free Trade Zone in 2015. As a “super economic zone” it enjoys preferential national policies. To help members discover development and investment opportunities in Hengqin, as well as neighbouring Macao, the Chamber’s China Committee Chairman PC Yu led a 40-member delegation to visit the two cities on 16 and 17 March.

During the “Two Sessions” in Beijing in March, the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Plan was proposed in a government work report, which called for closer cooperation between the three places going forward.

Hengqin: an important hub in the Greater Bay Area

Despite the downward pressure on Mainland China’s economy, Hengqin’s GDP still maintained double-digit growth. At present, there are nearly 30,000 enterprises in Hengqin. After the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge opens, it will only take 30 minutes to drive from Hengqin to Hong Kong airport, while transit between the three places will be more convenient.

“The Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area is the world’s most populous and affluent bay area, with a total economic capacity of US\$1.7 trillion. As a major hub in the Greater Bay Area, Hengqin’s role will be crucial,” Liu Yang, Director of Guangdong Free Trade Zone Hengqin Area Investment Promotion Centre, told members.

Macao to build a diversified economy

As a small economy, Macao has one of the lowest tax rates in the region, and its economy is mainly driven by the tourism and services industries. In 2016, the total number of inbound visitors to Macao exceeded 30 million, which is nearly 15 times the number of visitors it received in 1999.

Jackson Chang, President of Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute, said, “Macao has two development positions, namely to develop into a world tourism and leisure centre, and to become a platform for trade and investment between Mainland China and Portuguese-speaking countries.” He added that Macao aims to diversify its economy by proactively developing its convention and exhibition, specialty finance and Chinese medicine sectors.

Mission leader PC Yu pointed out that Hengqin and Macao are both important parts of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. With those places having their own advantages, they can complement their strengths with those of Hong Kong for mutual cooperation and development.

Delegates also visited Novotown, a development project in Hengqin set up by the Lai Sun Group, as well as the University of Macau and the Macao Chamber of Commerce. They also toured Chimelong Ocean Kingdom in Zhuhai and Wynn Palace in Macao to get an up-close look at local tourism developments. ❁





珠海橫琴在2009年獲批為國家新區，2015年正式掛牌成為廣東自由貿易試驗區橫琴片區，享受多項國家優惠政策，可謂「特區中的特區」。3月16至17日，總商會中國委員會主席余鵬春率領考察團一行40人，到訪橫琴新區和澳門，了解當地的最新發展和投資機遇。

今年3月，中央兩會的政府工作報告提出「粵港澳大灣區」發展規劃，粵港澳三地的合作將愈趨緊密。

橫琴成大灣區重要節點

現時內地經濟正面臨下行壓力，然而橫琴的GDP卻保持雙位數增長，目前已有近三萬家企業落戶橫琴。港珠澳大橋通車後，橫琴至香港機場只需30分鐘車程，粵港澳三地的交流將更加便捷。

橫琴片區招商中心主任劉揚博士表示：「粵港澳大灣區是全世界人口最多、最富裕的灣區，經濟總量達1.7萬億美元。橫琴作為大灣區重要的支點，將發揮重要作用。」

澳門力促多元化經濟

澳門經濟規模不大，是區內稅率最低的地區之一。澳門的經濟主要由旅遊業和服務業帶動，2016年全年入境旅客總數超過三千萬人次，相較1999年增長近15倍。

澳門貿易投資促進局主席張祖榮指出：「澳門有兩個經濟發展的定位，第一是發展成為世界旅遊休閒中心，第二是成為中國與葡語國家的商貿投資平台。」他亦表示澳門希望能夠促進經濟的多元化，目前正積極發展會展業、特色金融業和中醫藥產業。

團長余鵬春表示橫琴和澳門都是粵港澳大灣區的重要部分，兩地各有優勢，能與香港互補合作，共同推動發展。

訪問團亦參觀了麗新集團在橫琴開發的創新方項目(Novotown)，拜訪了澳門大學、澳門中華總商會，並遊覽珠海長隆海洋王國及澳門永利皇宮，體驗當地的旅遊業發展。✿

