



擴展大灣區 經濟規模

過去十年，中國內地經歷了重大的發展和變革，已崛起成為全球第二大經濟體。近日閉幕的中共十九大為中國注入新動力，提出了新思想、新想法，為國家制定新方向，標誌著中國將進入另一個發展新時代。總商會高層代表團上月訪問北京期間，內地高官均表示有信心於2050年實現全面建成「社會主義現代化強國」的國家目標。

香港具備國際網絡、完善的法治及金融和專業服務知識，對達成此目標能扮演重要角色。雖然國家近年生產力飆升，惟香港企業對促進內地轉型的過程仍可發揮增值作用。

習近平主席在十九大報告中指出，香港需融入國家發展藍圖，尤其是粵港澳大灣區倡議，皆因大灣區對支持「一帶一路」的雄圖偉略起著補足的作用。我們拜會國家商務部時，得知國內企業單在2017年首三季已對「一帶一路」沿線64個國家投資了96億美元。此外，「一帶一路」沿線44個國家及地區亦已設立了75個境外經貿合作區，約3,400家中國企業在區內開展業務。

「一帶一路」對規模較小的港企而言或許過於艱鉅及遙遠，惟鄰近的大灣區發展絕對可為本地商界帶來龐大的機遇。大灣區的GDP總值約為1.3萬億美元，可媲美大東京區（GDP為1.8萬億美元）和紐約（GDP為1.7萬億美元）。

然而，大灣區的人口約6,700萬，遠比東京（4,400萬）和紐約（860萬）為多。該區佔地較廣，我們於訪京期間亦得悉，其發展方向旨在解決廢物管理、住房、長者護理和青年就業等重要議題，這正好為香港提供商機。隨著大灣區城市致力邁向其各自的目標，香港可充當一個研發和融資平台，與其他城市互補優勢，例如深圳的世界級創新科技及區內的高端製造潛力。

大灣區內城市的重新定位和合作水平之提高，應有助香港進一步發展成為國際資產管理中心及企業財資中心。然而，先決條件是要吸引大量內地企業（國有企業和私人公司）來港開設業務。大灣區規劃的成功也將取決於區內人才、資本和資訊的自由流通。

踏入2018年，我謹祝各會員新年進步、生意興隆！我向大家保證，總商會將在未來日子繼續全力協助會員深入了解香港可如何參與大灣區和「一帶一路」規劃。✿

Growing the GBA Pie

The Mainland's development has undergone remarkable changes and reforms in the past decade and emerged as the world's second largest economy.

New fuel has been added with the recently concluded 19th CPC National Congress, fostering new thinking, new ideas and charting new directions for the country. China is set to enter another new era of development. Senior Mainland officials that members met during the Chamber's high-level mission to Beijing last month were bullish on reaching the national goal of becoming a "great modern socialist country" by 2050.

Hong Kong has an important role to play in achieving this objective, given our international connections, rule of law and expertise in financial and professional services. While the Mainland's productivity has skyrocketed in recent years, Hong Kong businesses still have a value-added role to play in facilitating the restructuring processes.

In his report to the 19th CPC National Congress, President Xi Jinping spoke of the need for Hong Kong to be incorporated into the national development blueprint, especially in relation to the Greater Bay Area (GBA) initiative, which is expected to play a complementary role to support the colossal Belt and Road (OBOR) strategy. In our meeting with the Ministry of Commerce, we learned that in the first three quarters of 2017 alone, Mainland enterprises had invested US\$9.6 billion in 64 countries along the OBOR. In addition, 75 overseas economic and trade cooperation zones have been set up in 44 countries and regions along the Belt and Road, and about 3,400 Chinese companies have set up operations in the zones.

While the OBOR may sound too daunting for smaller Hong Kong companies for the time being, closer to home, the GBA development definitely offers tremendous opportunities for the local business community. With a combined GDP of approximately US\$1.3 trillion, the GBA is in the same rank as the Greater Tokyo Area (GDP US\$1.8 trillion) and New York (GDP US\$1.7 trillion).

However, the GBA has a far larger population of almost 67 million, compared to 44 million and 8.6 million in Tokyo and New York respectively. It also covers a far greater land mass. As we learned while in Beijing, the GBA is looking for solutions to crucial issues, such as waste management, housing, elderly care, and youngsters' career development. These provide opportunities for Hong Kong. As GBA cities strive to achieve their individual objectives, Hong Kong is the platform for R&D development and financing. This would complement, for example, Shenzhen's world leading innovative technologies and the region's high-end manufacturing capabilities.

The re-positioning of cities within the GBA and new level of cooperation should help Hong Kong's further development into an international asset management centre and corporate treasury hub. However, the prerequisite will be to create a critical mass of Mainland enterprises (both SOEs and private companies) locating in Hong Kong. The success of the GBA initiative will also rely on having a free flow of talent, capital and information across the region.

As we embark on 2018, may I wish all of you a happy and prosperous New Year, and assure you that your Chamber will be working hard in the months ahead to help members understand more about how Hong Kong can participate in the GBA and OBOR initiatives. ✿