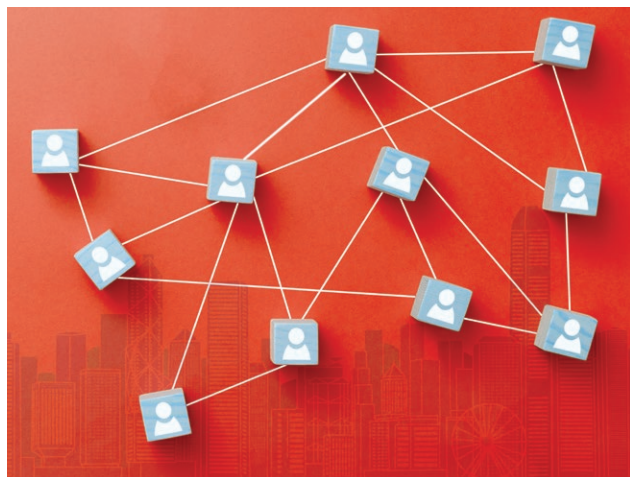


# Better Integration into the GBA

The Government should make a proactive effort to boost Hong Kong's role in the development of the Greater Bay Area



## 更好融入大灣區發展

政府應積極加強香港在大灣區發展的角色

香港是粵港澳大灣區一分子，亦是國際金融、貿易、航運中心及中外文化藝術匯聚的大都會，應發揮好既有優勢，成為內地企業「走出去」、把外資「引進來」的重要大門。

行政長官李家超早前率領立法會訪問團到深圳、佛山、東莞及廣州四個大灣區城市考察，並與當地領導交流會面。期間，我們亦到訪多家創科龍頭企業及機械人公司，觀摩內地科技的發展及應用；又參觀了深圳南頭古城及佛山嶺南新天地等景點，了解大灣區城市面貌，以及如何讓歷史文化藝術與商業結合。

訪問團結束後，有意見認為大灣區發展迅速，香港應借鏡學習。事實上，在「一國兩制」下，香港沿用普通法制度，奉行簡單低稅制，加上有世界級的專業服務與國際市場接軌，內地尤其是大灣區的企業若要「走出去」，香港是首選服務平台。

同樣，外資要進入大灣區以至內地市場，香港亦是他們熟悉而可靠的超級聯繫人。我過去亦一直促請政府向中央爭取向在港工作的外籍人士發放「大灣區外籍人才通行證」，把更多人才及外資企業「引進來」。

融入大灣區發展是國家多年來對香港的期望。國家發展和改革委員會在 2009 年公布的《珠江三角洲地區改革發展規劃綱要》已包括現時大灣區九個城市，當中肯定了香港作為金融中心的地位，並鼓勵珠三角地區與港澳共同編制區域合作規劃。不過，政府過去在推動兩地合作方面力度不足，以致未有顯著成果。

2019 年，國家正式發布《粵港澳大灣區發展規劃綱要》，標誌着大灣區建設邁上新台階。隨着疫情過去，香港全面通關，特區政府應提出更多措施，更積極主動促進大灣區發展，進一步融入國家發展大局。

Besides being a part of the Greater Bay Area, Hong Kong is also an international financial, trading and shipping centre and an art and cultural hub where East meets West. As such, we should leverage our strengths to serve as an important gateway for Mainland companies to go global, and for foreign enterprises to gain access to China.

Chief Executive John Lee recently led a delegation of LegCo members to four cities in the GBA, Shenzhen, Foshan, Dongguan and Guangzhou. We called on local government leaders, toured leading I&T enterprises as well as robotics companies to learn more about technology developments and applications in the Mainland. We also visited tourist attractions, such as Shenzhen's Nantou Ancient Town and Lingnan Tiandi in Foshan, which provided a glimpse into these cityscapes as well as a better understanding of how historical, cultural and artistic elements can be integrated into business development.

On our return, some members suggested that we should learn from the experiences of the GBA, a region that has seen rapid development in recent years. In fact, under the principle of One Country, Two Systems, Hong Kong has the advantages of being a common law jurisdiction with a simple and low tax regime, and offers world-class professional services and a strong connection with the international market. Our city is also the preferred service platform for Mainland businesses – especially those in the GBA – looking to go global.

At the same time, Hong Kong is a well-known and reliable super-

connector for foreign companies to enter the GBA and the wider Mainland market. To help the country bring in more overseas talent and investment, I have been urging the Government to seek support from the Central Government to issue foreigners working in Hong Kong a work pass for foreign talent in the GBA.

Hong Kong's integration into the development of the GBA has long been the hope of the country. Back in 2009, the Framework for Development and Reform Planning for Pearl River Delta Region – published by the National Development and Reform Commission – already covered the GBA's nine Mainland cities. The Framework also reaffirmed Hong Kong's status as a financial hub, and encouraged the PRD region to pursue regional cooperation planning with Hong Kong and Macao. However, due to restrained efforts on the part of the authorities to promote cross-border cooperation, no significant progress has been made so far.

In 2019, the Central Government announced the Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, which marked a new milestone in the development of the GBA. Now that the pandemic is behind us and Hong Kong has fully reopened to the world, the HKSAR Government should introduce more measures to actively promote GBA growth and further integrate Hong Kong into the nation's overall development.

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