

## **Part 5**

### **Development of Regional Co-operation**

#### **Introduction**

The HKSAR Government will actively integrate into and serve the overall national development, fully leverage Hong Kong's unique advantages of enjoying strong support from the Motherland and being closely connected with the world, elevate the level of regional co-operation, deepen the integrated development with the cities of the Greater Bay Area, deeply participate in high-quality co-operation under the Belt and Road Initiative, and continuously develop international exchanges and co-operation, so as to consolidate Hong Kong's role as an important window for the country's high-level opening up.

Hong Kong's Five-Year Plan should underscore regional co-operation as a key to driving high-quality development, institutional innovation and external connection. It should deepen the development of the Greater Bay Area as a strategic fulcrum of the country's new development paradigm, a demonstration zone of high-quality development, and a pioneer of Chinese modernisation, build a world-class city cluster to better integrate into and serve the overall national development, and enhance Hong Kong's functions and roles in the country's overall development and global co-operation network.

#### **Current Situation**

The development of the Greater Bay Area has entered a new phase with greater breadth and depth. As the most internationalised city in the Greater Bay Area, Hong Kong possesses distinct advantages in finance, I&T, maritime, aviation, trade, legal services, healthcare, and other high-end professional services. Hong Kong and the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area can complement each other in respect of manufacturing, technology transformation, logistics, market capacity, and industrial support. The potential for co-operation is immense.

In the National 15th Five-Year Plan period, Hong Kong will play a more active role as a two-way bridge, driving deep integration with other Greater Bay Area cities through industry development, jointly advancing the full-chain development of I&T, elevating the level of connectivity in infrastructure as well as rules and standards, and facilitating the efficient and convenient flow of people, goods, capital and information while forging closer people-to-people bonds. In addition, Hong Kong will make good use of major co-operation platforms such as Qianhai, Nansha, and Hetao, etc. to pursue further policy innovation and institutional breakthroughs, and further promote successful policies to other Mainland cities, so as to make greater contributions to the country's deepening of reform and expansion of high-level opening up.

At the same time, Hong Kong will continue to deeply participate in high-quality co-operation under the Belt and Road Initiative, leverage its strengths as international finance, maritime, and trade centres as well as international aviation hub, and in professional services, and expand collaboration in areas such as green development, digital economy, I&T, tourism and legal and dispute resolution services. Given the profound changes in the international state of affairs, Hong Kong needs to deepen international exchanges and further expand its global co-operation network, so as to better fulfil its important roles as a “super connector” and “super value-adder”.

## **Policy Directions and Key Proposals**

This document sets out the following preliminary and forward-looking policy directions for public discussion and refinement:

1. Deepen the development of the Greater Bay Area and build a world-class bay area
  - Strengthen co-operation in technological innovation and the synergised development of emerging industries, promote the transformation and cross-boundary applications of R&D outcomes, support the accelerated development of an international I&T centre in the Greater Bay Area, and promote complementarity, differential development as well as collaboration among industries.

- Advance “hard connectivity” in infrastructure, and strengthen collaboration with the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area in areas such as aviation, shipping, rail, and land transport, etc.
  - Advance “soft connectivity” in rules and standards, deepen the alignment of rules and mechanisms, facilitate cross-boundary vehicle transport, enhance the level of market integration, facilitate the efficient and convenient flow of people, goods, capital, and information, and strengthen the overall competitiveness of the Greater Bay Area.
  - Advance “connectivity of hearts” among residents of the three places, develop the Greater Bay Area into a quality living circle for living, working, and travelling, and foster youth development, co-operation in people’s livelihood, and cultural exchanges.
  - Leverage Hong Kong to promote the Greater Bay Area as an “international hub” for high-quality development of the country’s construction industry and water sector.
2. Advance the development of key co-operation platforms, and strengthen collaboration with other areas, provinces, municipalities, and autonomous regions in the Mainland
- Make good use of key co-operation platforms such as Qianhai, Nansha, and Hetao, etc. to drive institutional innovation, industry collaboration, and high-level opening up, so as to provide replicable and promotable experience for the country’s deepening of reform and expansion of opening up, while deepening co-operation with provinces and municipalities beyond the Greater Bay Area to foster synergised development for mutual benefits.
  - Support the Qianhai Shenzhen-Hong Kong Modern Service Industry Co-operation Zone as a platform for early and pilot implementation, strengthen co-operation between the two places in finance, construction, intellectual property, legal services, and youth innovation and entrepreneurship, so as to broaden the scope for Hong Kong’s professional services sectors to access the Mainland market; support Nansha in serving as a high-standard gateway for opening up, and deepen co-operation in maritime, I&T, education, and talent exchange; and accelerate the development of the Hetao Shenzhen-

Hong Kong Science and Technology Innovation Co-operation Zone, and build a platform for high-level R&D collaboration and outcome transformation.

3. Deeply participate in high-quality co-operation under the Belt and Road Initiative

- Leverage Hong Kong's strengths as international finance, maritime, and trade centres as well as international aviation hub and in professional services to establish Hong Kong as an important functional platform and an international collaboration hub for high-quality co-operation under the Belt and Road Initiative.
- Bring together capital, projects, talents, technology, standards and professional services to build Hong Kong into a co-operation hub for Belt and Road countries and enterprises, and facilitate Hong Kong and Mainland enterprises to "go global" and "bring in" international resources.
- Foster practical co-operation with Belt and Road countries in green development, digital economy, I&T, tourism, and other new areas.

4. Deepen international exchanges and co-operation, and expand global co-operation network

- Fully leverage Hong Kong's advantages under "One Country, Two Systems" and its status as an international city, deepen exchanges and co-operation with different regions and international organisations, and enhance Hong Kong's functions as an international connectivity hub and a platform for high-level opening up. Attract more international organisations, multilateral institutions, enterprises, and talents to pursue development in Hong Kong, and enhance Hong Kong's participation and influence in international affairs, international arbitration, professional standards, conventions and exhibitions, and global governance.
- Consolidate co-operation with traditional markets, and expand co-operation with the Association of the South Eastern Asian Nations, Middle East, Central Asia, and other key emerging markets in areas such as trade and commerce, finance, I&T, education, culture, and

professional services, so as to build a more extensive, diverse, and stable network of international partners.

- Serve as a bridge connecting with the Chinese Mainland and the world, and facilitate Chinese rules and standards to “go global”.

### **Matters for Consultation**

Members of the public may offer views on the aforementioned policy directions, viable policy tools, and the areas in which Hong Kong holds the greatest strengths or potential with regard to collaboration within the Greater Bay Area, high-quality co-operation under the Belt and Road Initiative, and the deepening of international exchanges and co-operation.