

# National Geography Series: Foshan Field Study Learning and Teaching Resources (City and Industrial Development)

## Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area



Map reference: 中華人民共和國自然資源部審圖號 GS(2019)4342 號  
(Date of reference: 2 December 2024)

Edited by Personal, Social and Humanities Education Section,  
Curriculum Development Institute, Education Bureau  
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## I. Objectives:

- Understand the development and changes of the industry of Foshan;
- Understand the urban development of Foshan City and how it becomes a livable city;
- Learn to conduct fieldwork using fieldwork skills such as observation, evaluation, investigation and counting; and
- Experience our country's transformation in order to cultivate patriotism.

## II. Suggested itinerary:

| Date                  | Time      | Itinerary  |
|-----------------------|-----------|--|
| Day 1                 | Morning   | Meet at Hong Kong West Kowloon Station, take the high-speed rail to Guangzhou South Station, and then take the bullet train from Guangzhou South to Foshan |
|                       |           | <b><u>Energy technology industry</u></b><br>➤ Visits Foshan Nanhai Hydrogen Energy Centre  |
|                       |           | Lunch  |
|                       | Afternoon | <b><u>Sustainable industrial development</u></b><br>➤ Visit Pearl River Delta Craftsman Spirit Exhibition Hall   |
|                       |           | <b><u>High-tech industry</u></b><br>Visit Hantian Science and Technology City  |
|                       |           | <b><u>Sustainable urban development</u></b><br>➤ Visit Lingnan Tiandi  |
| Accommodation: Foshan |           |  |
| Day 2                 | Morning   | <b><u>Revitalisation of an old industrial area</u></b><br>➤ Guangdong Shiwan Ceramic Museum and 1506 Creative City   |
|                       |           | Lunch  |
|                       | Afternoon | <b><u>Sustainable urban development</u></b><br>➤ Visit Foshan City Exhibition Hall   |
|                       | Evening   | To Guangzhou South Railway Station, take the high-speed rail back to Hong Kong West Kowloon Station  |



## Basic information of Foshan

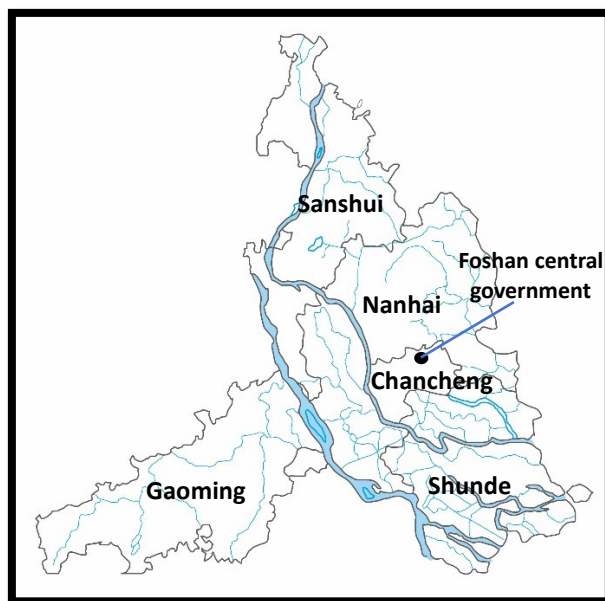
### 1. Geographical location and overview of Foshan

Foshan is located in the south-central part of Guangdong Province, in the hinterland of the Zhujiang Delta. It borders Guangzhou to the east, Zhaoqing to the west, Zhuhai to the south, and Qingyuan to the north, and is adjacent to Hong Kong and Macao. It has a very advantageous geographical location. Foshan is now a prefecture-level city under the jurisdiction of Guangdong Province. Together with Guangzhou, it forms one of the three poles of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. It governs five administrative districts: Chancheng, Nanhai, Shunde, Gaoming and Sanshui. It is a national civilised city, a national historical and cultural city, a national comprehensive reform pilot city for manufacturing transformation and upgrading, a national innovative city, a national ecological demonstration zone, a national forest city, and a national sanitary city.



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**Figure 1: Location of cities in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area**



**Figure 2: Administrative divisions in Foshan**

## 2. Basic information of Foshan (2024)

|                                      |  |       |
|--------------------------------------|--|-------|
| Area                                 | 3,798km <sup>2</sup>   |       |
| Population                           | 9,615,400  |       |
| Gross Domestic Product (GDP)         | 1,336.2 billion RMB  |       |
| GDP per capita                       | 138,000 RMB  |       |
| Industrial structure<br>( % of GDP ) | Primary industry<br>(agriculture, forestry, animal husbandry, fishery) | 1.7%  |
|                                      | Secondary Industry (industries and construction)                       | 56.6% |
|                                      | Tertiary industry (service industry)                                   | 41.7% |

Note: the above figures are based on the Statistical Communiqué of Foshan on the 2023 National Economic and Social Development

Source: Website of Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area <https://www.bayarea.gov.hk/en/about/foshan.html>

### 3. Development focus

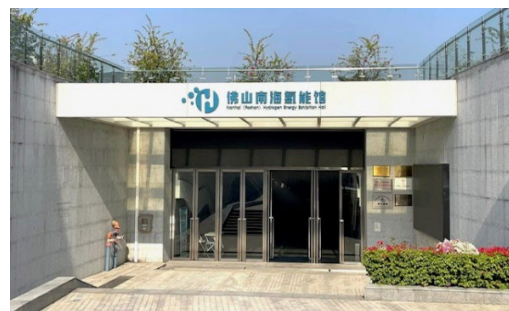
Under the planning of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, the development foci of Foshan are as the following:

- Located at the hinterland of the Greater Bay Area, forming a metropolis circle together with Guangzhou. Foshan is an important part of the Greater Bay Area and the Pearl River-Xi River economic belt.
- A national base for advanced manufacturing and Guangdong's key manufacturing centre. One of the hometowns of Lingnan culture. Known as the "land of fish and rice" and famous for pottery, Chinese opera, martial arts, yarns, Chinese medicines, folk arts, and so forth.
- In recent years, it has promoted the transformation and upgrading of manufacturing industry and ranked the first for investments in industrial technology transformation in the Guangdong Province for four consecutive years.
- Actively pooling resources in the Greater Bay Area, expediting the building of a hometown for young people of Guangdong, and enhancing Foshan enterprises' competitiveness in international competition.

## 4. Introduction to fieldwork sites

### 4.1 Foshan Nanhai Hydrogen Energy Centre

Foshan Nanhai Hydrogen Energy Centre was officially completed and opened on October 26, 2019. It is a well-known science education base in Nanhai. The base is located in Xianhu Tourist Resort, Danzao Town, Nanhai District, the core area of Xianhu Hydrogen Valley, and Foshan Nanhai Hydrogen Energy Centre, covering an area of about 4,000 m<sup>2</sup>.



The Centre has seven exhibition areas: Guided Tour Area, Exploration·Hydrogen World, Condensation·Hydrogen Power, Intelligent Drive·Hydrogen Industry, Clean·Enjoy Hydrogen Life, Vertical·Hydrogen Future, and Rhythm·Hydrogen Life. In the exhibition hall, the overall ideas and strategic positioning of Nanhai's hydrogen energy development are presented through the playing of videos, sandbox models and interactive electronic equipment. At the same time, mature research and development results are displayed with product models. There is also an interactive area to provide visitors with the knowledge on the application of hydrogen energy in different fields, and the achievements made by our country in developing new energy.

### 4.2 Pearl River Delta Craftsman Spirit Exhibition Hall

The Pearl River Delta Craftsman Spirit Exhibition Hall was jointly built by the Nanhai District People's Government and the Southern Media Group. It is located in the Guangdong Financial High-tech Zone, Nanhai District, Foshan City. The total area of the exhibition hall is nearly 20,000 m<sup>2</sup>, with a main exhibition area of 6,800 m<sup>2</sup>. It is the first portal for displaying the innovative development of the



manufacturing industry in the Zhujiang Delta, the largest industrial exhibition hall in Guangdong, and the first urban living room in the country with the theme of craftsmanship.

The presentation of the exhibition hall focuses on the processes of industrial development and craftsmanship spirit of Pearl River Delta over the past century. It demonstrates how a modern economic system is established in Zhujiang Delta. It has also highlighted the path and direction of building Foshan to be a national innovative manufacturing centre.



#### 4.3 Hantian Science and Technology City

Hantian Science and Technology City is located at Guicheng Street, Nanhai District. It is the leading project of Guangdong's urban industrial base. It was launched in 2006 and was jointly developed by public assets, collective funds and social funds in a market-oriented manner. It intensively upgraded the old factories in Beiyue, Pingxi and other villages, positioned it as an urban industry, and focused on developing leading industries such as electronic technology, environmental services, intelligent manufacturing technology, cultural creativity, and modern services. It has been successively rated as the Nanhai Digital Innovation Base, Foshan City's Advanced Demonstration Site for Old, Dilapidated and Urban Areas Renovation, and Guangdong Province's Key Cultivation Zone for High-tech Industries.



With the development of the Internet of Things and cloud computing, the big data industry is also pursued and popularised. As the core demonstration industrial park of Nanhai District's independent technological innovation centre, Hantian Science and Technology City has listed the development of big data as one of the key areas for development. More than 20 big data companies, including the leading company China Unicom Nanhai Branch, Kingdee Software (China) Co. Ltd., Foshan Branch, Foshan Inspur Information Technology Co., Ltd., Genpact (Foshan) Information Technology Service Co. Ltd., Guangdong Cornett Environmental Technology Co. Ltd., and Guangdong Jinfu Information Technology Co. Ltd., set up there.

#### 4.4 Lingnan Tiandi

Lingnan Tiandi is located in Zumiao Street, Chancheng District, Foshan City. It is a historical and cultural block with the most concentrated, largest and best-preserved cultural relics and historical sites in the central urban area. It is listed in the fifth batch of national key heritage perservation units. After revitalisation, Lingnan Tiandi has retained its original historical features and architecture. Arcades, blue bricks and stone roads are preserved. At the same time, modern techniques have been used to inject new elements into these historical buildings with typical Lingnan style, closely combining fashion with tradition. Today, many business are set up at Lingnan Tiandi and is one of the most bustling places in Foshan.



#### 4.5 Guangdong Shiwan Ceramic Museum

Guangdong Shiwan Ceramics Museum is the first museum using ceramic industry and culture as its main theme. It is now a level 2 national museum. Approved by the Guangdong Provincial Department of Culture, it was funded and built by the Shiwan Town Sub-district Office, covers an area of about 5,600 m<sup>2</sup>, and was officially opened to the public on October 18, 2004.



In the Guangdong Shiwan Ceramics Museum, there are two display areas: dynamic area and static area. The dynamic display area preserves two wood-fired ancient dragon kilns, the Nanfeng Ancient Kiln and the Gaozao Ancient Kiln. Nanfeng Ancient Kiln was built in the Zhengde period, Ming Dynasty. It has been in production from generation to generation for 500 years. It is known as "a lively antiquity and an immovable national treasure."

The static display area is mainly based on the basic display "Shiwan Ceramic History and Culture Exhibition", which is divided into five parts: "Ceramic Collection", "Formation of Pottery", "Evolution of Kiln", "Twenty-four Jobs of Shiwan Ceramic Industry" and "Shiwan Ceramic Sculpture".

Guangdong Shiwan Ceramics Museum pursues humanity in its display design, with unique curation techniques, combining traditional and modern styles. It has not adopted the conventional design pattern and boldly uses a variety of materials such as wood, stone, bamboo, and rattan to express the ruggedness and simplicity of pottery, giving the visitors a strong visual impact.

#### 4.6 1506 Creative City

The 1506 Creative City is composed of eight dilapidated factories, including the Jianguo Factory, the Jiantao Factory, the Electric Furnace Factory, 800 old houses, the Nanfeng Ancient Kiln with a 500-year-old dragon kiln, and Shiwan Park. It covers an area of 1,000 acres and has a construction area of more than 800,000 m<sup>2</sup>. The Nanfeng Ancient Kiln area is a cultural pedestrian street with pottery culture as its theme. It is a national 4A-level tourist attraction.





Foshan Creative Industry Park integrates culture, commerce, tourism, sports, education and innovation with trading of cultural and art works as the main feature. Since its establishment, the park has successfully held more than 800 large-scale events, including the first China Ceramic Culture Festival, the China-Japan-Korea Ceramics Exchange Exhibition, the ASEAN Intangible Cultural Heritage Exhibition, and the China Creative Spring Festival. So far, it has attracted more than 300 companies and more than 300 cultural and creative shops, and nearly 10,000 people have settled in the park.

#### 4.7 Foshan City Exhibition Hall

Foshan City Exhibition Hall is located in the west wing of the Fang Tower, with a construction area of about 20,000 m<sup>2</sup> and a total exhibition area of about 11,000 m<sup>2</sup>. Besides using models to illustrate the development concepts and overall town planning of Foshan, the Exhibition Hall has set up the Foshan Old Town Housing and Culture Exhibition Hall as well as Foshan Construction Culture Exhibition Hall. They make use of the ancient building structures and the historical maps and photos to demonstrate the special features, history and culture of construction of Foshan buildings. The exhibition hall makes full use of modern display technologies and utilises modern audio-visual technologies such as three-dimensional restoration, theatrical model shows, flying theatres and panoramic sound theatres to present a complex urban exhibition hall. It is a multi-functional museum, integrating science education, humanities, curation, tourism, leisure and business.





## Overview of the industrial development in Foshan

Foshan promotes the development of manufacturing industries and has built a sound industrial system, ranking fourth in the country in terms of industrial scale in 2024. The products were exported to more than 100 countries and regions, and more than 80% of the products were related to the life of household. “Where there is a home, there are Foshan-made products” is well-known around the world. The following are some of the main characteristics of Foshan’s manufacturing industries:

### 1. Diversified types of industry

Foshan has a sound and robust manufacturing system which boosts the strong traditional industries such as machinery and equipment, household appliances, ceramic building materials, metal processing and products, textiles and clothing, electronic information, food and beverages, fine chemicals and pharmaceuticals, and household products manufacturing. In addition, emerging industries such as optoelectronics, environmental protection, new materials, new medicines, and new-energy vehicles are flourishing.

### 2. Agglomeration and specialisation of industrial clusters

Foshan has 2 trillion-level industrial clusters and 10 100-billion-level industrial clusters for equipment manufacturing and a wide range of items closely related to household life (pan-home furnishing). Foshan is leading the way in building an advanced equipment industrial belt on the west bank of the Zhujiang and a Guangdong vehicle fuel cell demonstration and application city cluster. The hydrogen energy industry cluster in Nanhai District and the robot manufacturing industry cluster in Shunde District were selected as national small and medium-sized enterprise special industry clusters. In 2024, there were 26 national specialty industrial bases, forming an economic pattern of “One Town, One Main Product”, with over 90% of the local factories produced the main product of that town.

### 3. Enhancing traditional industry

Foshan government strengthens the coordinated development of industries based on its unique industrial clusters (such as home appliances in Ronggui and Beijiao; furniture in Lecong and Longjiang; ceramics in Shiwan and Nanzhuang; aluminum products in Dali; flowers in Chencun; textiles in Xiqiao, etc.). It promotes the interaction and mutual promotion of traditional industries such as home appliances, aluminum products, ceramics, furniture, food and beverages, gold and jewelry, textiles and clothing.

#### **4. Creating a “Made in China” quality benchmark**

Foshan is recognized as the capital of Chinese brands. It ranks the first among prefecture-level cities in our country in the number of Chinese well-known trademarks and is a demonstrative zone for famous brand creation. In terms of the number of “pioneers” in corporate standards, it also ranks the first nationwide. In 2022, 90 companies in the city were the top 500 manufacturing industries in Guangdong.

#### **5. Development of strategic emerging industries**

Foshan government has been promoting the development of strategic emerging industries, including new-energy vehicles, high-end equipment manufacturing, industrial robots, new energy, new materials, energy conservation and environmental protection, new energy storage, pharmacy and health industries. It is developing future industries such as green hydrogen energy, circular economy, display equipment, and gene therapy.

In 2020, the "Implementation Plan of Foshan on Promoting High-Quality Development of the Manufacturing Industry" stated that Foshan should actively develop new generation information technology, high-end equipment manufacturing, biomedicine, new energy and new-energy vehicles, new materials and other industries. Science and technology innovation platforms such as Sanlong Bay high-end innovation cluster (三龍灣高端創新集聚區科創平台) should be established. Foshan continues to comprehensively promote the development of "one district, one park, one city" science and technology innovation (佛山國家高新區、佛山人才創新燈塔產業園、三龍灣科技城). In terms of innovation and entrepreneurship, Foshan has built a total of 121 technology business incubators and 92 maker spaces. In recent years, high-tech enterprises, such as FAW-Volkswagen (一汽大眾), Beiqi Foton Motor (北汽福田), China Sun Pharmaceutical Machinery (千山藥機), have set up the plants in Foshan. In 2021, 7,100 high-tech enterprises were in operation.

In order to enhance technological innovation capabilities, Foshan supported a number of laboratories/innovation centers such as the National Technology Innovation Center, the National Energy Key Laboratory, the National Intelligent Design and CNC Technology Innovation Center (Foshan), Guangdong Zhongke Semiconductor Micro-Nano Manufacturing Technology Research Institute, etc. To attract the innovation teams and talents settling in Foshan, the government tries to optimize the talent policy.

## **6. Acceleration of digital transformation of manufacturing industry**

Since 2015, Foshan has vigorously promoted high-quality development and digital transformation of the manufacturing industry. It has set up a special development fund and industrial internet has developed rapidly. More than 5,800 industrial enterprises above designated size, accounting for nearly 60% of the total, have implemented digital transformation.

## **7. Reconstruction and optimisation the industrial spatial pattern**

Foshan has delineated a red line for industrial land use since 2021. The scale of industrial land use has been adjusted from 350 square kilometers to 450 square kilometers. It has planned to build large-scale industrial parks and the layout of “10 Innovation-led Manufacturing Parks” is also under planning. To facilitate efficient linkage of industrial regions, the industrial land use pattern in form of “strong central core, east-west belts and north-south circles” (中部強核、東西兩帶、南北兩圈) is established. In terms of industrial land, Foshan focuses on "industrial transformation" by renovation of old industrial parks, accelerating the large-scale renovation projects such as the Guangdong High-end Intelligent Manufacturing Industrial Park, designing new operation and management model and improving the supporting services of the park. The government makes good use of idle factories and guides advantageous enterprises in the local industrial chain and small, medium and micro enterprises to settle up their plants there.

## **8. In-depth integrated development of "manufacturing + service"**

“Top Ten Modern Service Industry Clusters” are under planning to provide service support to the high-end development of manufacturing industry in Foshan. In order to attract and nurture industrial technological services, the Sino-German Industrial Service Zone was established in Foshan as a high-end international co-operation zone for all Guangdong industries. The Zone now plays a leading role in country-level cooperation between China and Germany and has a particular focus on developing Foshan’s high-end technology services so as to facilitate and strengthen the cooperation with the high-tech sectors of the European partner. As of March 2021, there were 47 cities in the Sino-German Industry City Alliance, of which 27 were in China and 20 in Germany.

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Fieldwork skills: Observation, photo-taking, recording

**1. Checkpoint 1: New energy development – Visit Foshan Nanhai Hydrogen Energy Centre**

Pay attention to the docent's explanation, read the display boards and answer the following questions.

a. How can hydrogen energy be used?

|  |
|--|
|  |
|--|

b. Our country is actively developing hydrogen energy. What are the effects to the environment?

|  |
|--|
|  |
|--|

c. What are the locational advantages of Foshan Nanhai in developing this new energy?

|  |
|--|
|  |
|--|

**2. Checkpoint 2: History and changes of industrial development in Zhujiang Delta - Visit Pearl River Delta Craftsman Spirit Exhibition Hall**

Pay attention to the docent's explanation, read the display boards and answer the following questions.

- a. Describe the changes in the main characteristics of industry in the Zhujiang Delta region according to the following time period.

Before 1978

1978-2000

After 2000

- b. Using a flow chart to outline the process of industrial development in Foshan.

- c. List two products of which the greatest amount is produced in Foshan.

3. **Checkpoint 3: High-tech industry - Visit Hantian Science and Technology City**

Fieldwork skills: Observation, photo-taking, recording,  
survey, evaluation

a. List the types of industries found in the park.

b. What are the common characteristics of these industries?

c. Based on your observation and the docent's explanation, what are the location advantages of this area that attract the establishment of Hantian Science and Technology City here?

The park of Hantian Science and Technology City is divided into two industrial areas and one living area, with a total land area of about 330 acres, a total planned construction area of 520,000 square meters, and complete living facilities such as employee dormitories, bus stations, and convenience stores. Currently, 520,000 square meters of buildings have been built. The design concept of the park includes:

1. Urban industrial community
2. Complete property supporting facilities
3. Have powerful business intelligence resources
4. Sound living facilities, including catering, public spaces, and office facilities



- d. Do you think the park can achieve its design concept? Based on your observation, do you agree with the descriptions of the assessment items below? List evidence to support your idea. (You can also add more items in the table below.)

| Assessment items                       | <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: right;">Totally agree</div> <div style="flex-grow: 1; text-align: center;"> </div> <div style="text-align: left;">Totally disagree</div> </div> |   |   |   |   | Evidence |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|----------|
|  | 5   | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |          |
| Good office facilities                 |   |   |   |   |   |          |
| Good environment                       |   |   |   |   |   |          |
| Enough public space                    |   |   |   |   |   |          |
| Good intelligent supporting facilities |   |   |   |   |   |          |
| Enough catering facilities             |   |   |   |   |   |          |
| Enough entertainment facilities        |   |   |   |   |   |          |
|  |   |   |   |   |   |          |
|  |   |   |   |   |   |          |

Total marks: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Conclusion: \_\_\_\_\_

- e. Do you think the development of Hantian Technology City is in line with the principle of sustainable development? Explain your answer.



## **Urban development**

Foshan is a prefecture-level city under the jurisdiction of Guangdong Province. It borders Guangzhou to the east and is adjacent to Shenzhen, Hong Kong and Macao. It is the economic and trade centre and comprehensive transportation hub in the western side of the Zhujiang Delta region. Together with Guangzhou, it forms one of the three poles of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. It governs five districts: Chancheng, Nanhai, Shunde, Gaoming and Sanshui, with a permanent population of 9.55 million in 2024. It is a national civilised city, a national historical and cultural city, a national comprehensive reform pilot city for manufacturing transformation and upgrading, a national innovation-driven city, one of China's top ten smart cities, a national outstanding tourist city, a national demonstration zone for ecological civilization, a national forest city, a national sanitary city and an excellent example of human settlements in the United Nations.

### **1. A national historical and cultural city**

Foshan is one of the birthplaces and prosperous places of Lingnan Guangfu culture. It is also one of the "Four Commercial Centres" (四大聚) and "Four Famous Towns" (四大名鎮) in our country.

Traditional culture includes Cantonese opera, kung fu, dragon boat, dragon and lion dance, ceramics, paper-cutting, food, ancestral temples, etc. There are 15 national and 56 provincial intangible cultural heritage items, which together form the rich culture of Foshan.

### **2. Innovative cities facing the world**

Foshan is a national innovative city. It strives to develop new productive forces according to local conditions and actively builds a collaborative innovation system of "talent introduction + technology research and development + achievement transformation + industrial application", using technological innovation to spawn new industries, new models, and new drivers, and boost the synergy of industry and technology. In 2023, the total social research & development investment was expected to account for 3% of the regional GDP, becoming an important force in building an international science and technology innovation centre in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. It is the first batch of national intellectual property protection demonstration cities, the first batch of national intellectual property protection centre, and the only Application Centre for Scientific and Technological Advances in Universities in Guangdong.



### 3. Western gateway of Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area

Based on its geographical characteristics of connecting the east and west in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, Foshan has deepened its regional cooperation with Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Hong Kong and Macao, promoted the coordinated development of both sides of the Zhujiang estuary, strengthened its leading role in western Guangdong and southwest regions, and played a key supporting role in the in-depth development of the Greater Bay Area. To enhance its development, Foshan government carries out the following policies:

- Construction of a four-in-one comprehensive transportation system of "land, water, air, and railway" to strengthen the driving role of the region

➤ Rail transport:

| Types                | Built<br>(sections) | Planning to build /<br>Built recently (section) | Planned routes<br>(section) |
|----------------------|---------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| Metro                | 4                   | 4   | 9                           |
| Intercity<br>railway | 2                   | 3   | 2                           |
| National<br>railways | 5                   | 6   | 1                           |

- Port: Xijiang, Beijiang and their tributaries run through the entire territory of Foshan. There are currently 94 ports and terminals, 115 navigation channels, and a navigation mileage of 1,006 kilometers.
  - Road transport: 553 kilometers of expressways have been completed and opened to traffic, and a total of 137 "dead-end roads" have been opened in the past five years, making it basically accessible to all cities in the Greater Bay Area within 2 hours.
  - Aviation hub: With the existing 4C-class Foshan Shadi Airport and a new 4-F class airport under construction, it will form an international aviation hub together with Guangzhou Baiyun Airport.
- Integration of Guangzhou and Foshan:
    - Guangzhou and Foshan launched urban integration in 2009 and have in-depth integration in urban planning, infrastructure, industrial economy, ecological environment, social services and people's livelihood. It has become a model of domestic regional integration and cooperation.
    - The two cities have the first intercity metro in China, the Guangfo Line. The first phase of Foshan Metro Line 2 and the west extension of Shunde Section of Guangzhou Metro

Line 7 are now open for operation. 18 subway interconnection channels are planned and constructed, and more than 100 intercity bus lines have been opened.

- Regional cooperation and development:
  - Foshan vigorously promotes the cooperative development of "Shenzhen Innovation + Foshan Industry". It continues to deepen cooperation and exchanges with Hong Kong and Macao, connects and supports the construction of major platforms such as Hengqin, Qianhai, Nansha, and Hetao, and builds high-standard cooperation platforms such as the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Collaborative Development Cooperation Zone.
  - To actively promote pan-Zhujiang Delta regional cooperation, the Collaboration Pilot Zone (Guangdong Park) of the Guangdong-Guangzhou-Guizhou-Yunnan-Sichuan High-speed Railway Economic Belt was founded in Foshan.
- Expanding the all-round opening-up to the world:
  - Foshan is one of China's earliest commodity export bases after the reform and opening-up.
  - In recent years, it has actively participated in the construction of the "Belt and Road Initiative" and has been approved to build the Foshan Comprehensive Bonded Zone, the National Cross-border E-commerce Comprehensive Pilot Zone, the Market Procurement Trade Model Pilot, and the construction of the China (Guangdong) Free Trade Pilot Zone Linkage Development Zone. It has attracted more than 10,000 foreign-invested companies to settle here, including 71 of the world's top 500 companies.

#### **4. A high-quality modern cultural city**

Foshan continues to strengthen urban planning and construction management, comprehensively promote rural revitalisation, vigorously promote the optimization and reshaping of urban and rural space, and strive to create a green and beautiful Foshan with "half of the city is full of mountains and rivers and greenery in the whole city" (「半城山水滿城綠」), and provide high-quality production and living ecological space for citizens and tourists.

- Foshan has carried out in-depth urban upgrading, urban governance and other action plans in recent years and vigorously promoted the "Ten Practical Things" to improve urban quality. The environment "on both sides of rivers, along roads and under viaducts" has been significantly improved, changing the face of the city.
- Foshan is one of the first cities in our country to explore and promote the transformation of the "three olds" (三舊) (old towns, old factories, and old villages) and has completed transformation projects of 97,000 acres. It has taken the lead in transforming village-level

industrial parks in the province, demolishing 165,000 acres of village-level industrial parks and accelerating the relocation of dilapidated, inefficient and highly polluting industrial parks.

- Foshan has carried out in-depth construction of beautiful villages. All administrative villages in the city have met the standard of clean and tidy villages, and many villages (communities) have won honours such as China's Beautiful Leisure Village and National Rural Governance Demonstration Village. Foshan has 13 national and provincial modern agricultural industrial parks, 5 agricultural products with geographical indications, and 18 products on the National Famous, Special and Excellent New Agricultural Products List. Its total fishery output and output per mu are at the forefront of the province.
- Foshan is a national demonstration zone for ecological civilization and a national forest city. It has 4,270 hectares of green space, 1,726 kilometers of green lanes 34 parks of more than 1,000 acres, and a forest coverage rate of 21.3%.
- In 2024, the proportion of days with good air quality in Foshan was 92%, and the water quality of all 14 national and provincial assessment sections met the standards.
- Foshan is rich in tourism resources. It has two 5A-level tourist attractions e.g. Xiqiao Mountain and Changlu Tourism Expo Park, 16 4A-level tourist attractions such as the Ancestral Temple Museum and Qinghui Garden, and 22 3A-level tourist attractions, such as Fengjian Water Town, Foshan Creative Industry Park, and Shunde Happy Coast PLUS Scenic Area. Guangdong Romance Park Scenic Area has become the new “top line” of cultural tourism in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. Foshan is one of the first batches of national cultural and tourism consumption pilot cities and one of the top ten cities for night-time economy. Holistic approach is adopted to integrate tourism with culture industries. Thus, comprehensive growth is recorded in “tourism + gastronomy”, “tourism + sports events”, study tours, rural tourism and red tourism.

## **5. Government policies to support better lives of people**

Foshan vigorously implements the "Ten Major Projects for People's Life", such as reducing the cost of raising children, improving basic education, increasing residents' income, providing health care for the elderly, and enhancing safety in the city. It implements grassroot social governance models. It aims at building a smart and safe city with better social services and living environment.

### **Reference:**

1. 佛山市人民政府 – 城市概況

<https://www.foshan.gov.cn/zjfs/fsgl/csgk/index.html>

## **Integration of Guangzhou and Foshan**

Guangzhou-Foshan integration is a measure of regional integration of Guangzhou and Foshan, two large cities in Guangdong Province, to form the Guangzhou Metropolitan Area.

In March 2009, the mayors of Guangzhou and Foshan jointly signed the "Cooperation Agreement on the Integration Construction of Guangzhou and Foshan" and four docking agreements between the two cities on urban planning, transportation infrastructure, industrial cooperation, and environmental protection, which marked the official launch of Guangzhou-Foshan Integration. The significance of the integration of Guangzhou and Foshan is to promote economic and cultural exchanges between Guangzhou and Foshan. As the core area of the Zhujiang Delta urban agglomeration, Guangzhou and Foshan have highly complementary industries, cultural connections, and intensive personnel exchanges. The combination of the two will boost the synergy of regional development.

Guangzhou and Foshan are located in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, at the estuary of the Zhujiang. The total area of the two cities is 11,232 square kilometers. As of the end of 2023, the total resident population reached 28.44 million people, and the total regional GDP was 4.36 billion RMB. Guangzhou and Foshan are both large industrial cities, ranking ninth and fourth in the country, respectively. In 2023, the total industrial output value above designated size will reach 7.25 billion RMB.

### **1. Creating world-class industrial clusters and innovation clusters**

Guangzhou and Foshan have made certain achievements in industrial synergy. In particular, according to the "China Private Economy Top 100 Industrial Clusters Research Report 2024" released by the China Private Economy Research Association and other institutions, 12 industrial clusters, including Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Foshan, and Dongguan are on the top 100, ranking among the top three in the country in total. In terms of scientific and technological innovation cooperation, Guangzhou and Foshan are both located in the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Science and Technology Innovation Corridor, and the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) pre-released the "2024 Global Innovation Index (GII)", the Shenzhen-Hong Kong-Guangzhou cluster ranks second in the global science and technology innovation cluster.

### **2. The industries of the two places are complementary**

The manufacturing industries in Guangzhou are mainly basic industry and heavy industry, forming a new generation of electronic information, green petrochemicals, automobile manufacturing, biomedicine and other pillar industries. The manufacturing industry in Foshan is mainly light industry, forming a pan-home furnishing, automobile and new energy, food and beverage and other advantageous industries. The manufacturing industries of the two cities are complementary to each other.

### 3. Consistent policies

The governments of Guangzhou and Foshan have formulated a series of policies and measures in transportation infrastructure construction, coordinated industrial development, and ecological environment protection to provide policy support for the integration of Guangzhou and Foshan.

### 4. Interconnection of Infrastructure

Transportation integration continues to accelerate, making distances closer. According to the plan, two more rapid intercity rail lines will be built between Guangzhou and Foshan, connecting Guangzhou city centre and regional passenger transport hubs. Among them, the Guangzhou-Foshan Express Line 1 runs from Foshan Xincheng District to Guangzhou East Railway Station, connecting the central urban area of Guangzhou-Foshan and Guangzhou Railway Station, and uses Guangzhou Metro Line 3 to connect with Baiyun Airport quickly. The east extension section of Foshan Metro Line 2 and Guangzhou Metro Line 7 runs from Foshan Xincheng District to Guangzhou South Railway Station. In the future, the full opening of the Guangzhou-Foshan Ring Line will allow half-hour interconnection between Foshan New Town, Baiyun Airport and Guangzhou South Railway Station. The future plan also proposes to improve major hub functions and convenient connectivity between hubs, accelerate the construction of the Zhujiang Delta hub (Guangzhou New Airport), and strengthen the connection between Foshan and the main hub of South China Highway in Guangzhou. The road connection between cities will reserve river-crossing channels for planned roads in the two cities and accelerate the implementation of projects such as the Guangfo Bridge System Project and Chenxiang Bridge to improve commuting between key junction areas of Guangzhou and Foshan such as the Jinshazhou area and the central city.

#### References:

《廣佛全域同城化「十四五」發展規劃》印發 到 2025 年廣佛地區生產總值將達 5 萬億元

[https://www.gd.gov.cn/gdywdt/dsdt/content/post\\_3996535.html](https://www.gd.gov.cn/gdywdt/dsdt/content/post_3996535.html)

广佛同城 VS 沪苏同城：「最同城」的样板带来哪些启示

<https://m.yicai.com/news/102324802.html>



## **Urban renewal in Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area**

### **1. Definition of urban renewal**

The concept of urban renewal originated from the West, and Mainland academics have basically reached consensus on its definition:

Use a comprehensive and holistic concept and behavior to solve various urban problems; be committed to making long-term and sustainable improvements in the economic, social, and physical environment and other aspects of the changing urban areas.

### **2. Aims of urban renewal**

- Continue to enhance urban vitality;
- Achieve sustainable urban development;
- Promote the upgrading of industrial structure, form a new driving force for economic growth;
- Revitalize the city's historical and cultural foundation, promote value inheritance;
- Promote the improvement of urban ecology and humanistic environment; and
- Improve the utilisation efficiency of inefficient resources.

### **3. Focus of Urban Renewal – “Three districts and one village”**

The “14th Five-Year Plan” has pointed out the need to “accelerate urban renewal, transform and upgrade the functions of existing areas such as old communities, old factory areas, old districts and villages-in-the-city.” The key areas of urban renewal are “three districts and one village”. The “three districts” refer to old communities, old factory areas and old districts, and “one village” refers to the villages-in-the-city.

- Old communities refer to the living environment and urban vitality of areas built before 2000. The environment of the old residential areas or communities are mainly improved by minor rehabilitation and sometimes by comprehensive redevelopment.
- Old factory areas are classified as the development zones. The renewal of these areas is based on development zones and enterprises, with the main goal of improving land use efficiency and promoting industrial transformation and ultimately achieving industrial and urban land use integration. The renewal method of the development zone is adapted to local conditions and can be either a comprehensive redevelopment or a minor rehabilitation.
- Old districts generally refer to the historical and cultural districts, which are key carriers for inheriting Chinese cultural heritage and promoting Chinese culture. The main task of renewing old districts is to protect and restore historical and cultural buildings and historical neighbourhoods. The renewal method is minor rehabilitation, and it cannot be demolished and rebuilt.
- Village-in-the-city is a typical area that needs thorough urban renewal to solve the urban problems and enable a holistic development of the city centre. Due to the poor quality of buildings, Due to poor building structure, congested space and lack of public facilities, urban

villages should be under comprehensive urban redevelopment.

Reference: 前瞻產業研究院（2022）中國城市更新發展前瞻報告

#### 4. Types of urban renewal

| Types                   | Redevelopment   | Organic Rehabilitation   | Comprehensive Remediation  |
|-------------------------|---|--|--|
| Major characteristics   | Complete redevelopment, preservation of limited valuable sites, extensive development | Improvement of basic facilities, carrying out renovation to improve environment, limited demolition of buildings | Only renovation is carried out to improve the quality of living environment. No demolition of building |
| Land use rights/purpose | Total change after the redevelopment  | Change or no change before and after renewal   | No change before and after renewal   |
| Typical cases           | Demolition of old industrial areas  | Renewal of old industrial areas, old commercial areas, historical and cultural districts, etc.                   | Renovation of old residential areas, ecological restoration, environmental improvement, etc.           |

Reference: 前瞻產業研究院（2022）中國城市更新發展前瞻報告

## Fieldwork activities for city



Fieldwork skills: Observation, photo-taking, recording, survey and evaluation

### 1. Foshan is a city suitable for living and traveling

One of Foshan's positioning is to become a city that is livable, business-friendly and tourist-friendly. Since "suitability for business" is more difficult to assess during the fieldwork, this fieldwork will only assess whether it is a "livable and tourist-friendly" city.

Based on your observations in Foshan over these two days, rate the following items to assess whether Foshan is a livable and tourist-friendly city. (You can also add more evaluation criteria in the table below.)

| Evaluation criteria                        | 5 marks  | 3 marks  | 1mark   | Total marks |
|--|--|--|---|-------------|
| <b>Town planning</b>                       | Well-organised planning and clear land use zoning                            | Well-organised planning with land use zoning                       | Planning is disorganised and land use is not zoned.       |             |
| <b>Appearance of residential buildings</b> | Multi-storeys, novel and neat design   | Multi-storeys, ordinary design                                     | Less than 10 floors, old-style design                     |             |
| <b>Conditions in the streets</b>           | Very wide and straight (more than two lanes), with very good road conditions | Wide and straight (only two lanes), good to average road condition | Narrow and winding, poor road condition                   |             |
| <b>Accessibility</b>                       | There are many public transportation options                                 | There are some public transportation options                       | Lack of public transportation options                     |             |
| <b>Degree of greenery</b>                  | The streets and open areas are full of plants.                               | Plants grow along some streets and in open areas                   | There are few plants along the streets and in open areas. |             |

|                                      |   |  |   |  |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|---|--|
| <b>Open space</b>                    | Large quantity and large area                       | Moderate quantity and large area   | Small quantity and small area                       |  |
| <b>Tourist spots</b>                 | Tourist attractions are diverse and very attractive | There are a number of different types of tourist attractions and they are quite attractive | Tourist attractions are monotonous and unattractive |  |
| <b>Tourism supporting facilities</b> | Adequate supporting facilities                      | Some supporting facilities   | Lack of supporting facilities                       |  |
|                                      |   |  |   |  |
|                                      |   |  |   |  |

Total marks: \_\_\_\_\_

Conclusion:

In addition to the data collected during this fieldwork, suggest and explain other information and data required for further investigating “whether Foshan is a livable and tourist-friendly city”.

## 2. Project on urban renewal and sustainable development – Lingnan Tiandi and 1506 Creative City

Fieldwork skills: observation, photo-taking, recording,  
evaluation

Choose either Lingnan Tiandi or 1506 Creative City as the fieldwork site, answer the following questions.

Time for fieldwork: \_\_\_\_\_

a. What kind of urban renewal strategy has been adopted in this area?

|  |
|--|
|  |
|--|

b. Observe the environment, land use, types of shops, building appearance and surrounding facilities in this area. Assess whether the urban renewal strategy used here can achieve sustainable development?

|  | Environmental aspect | Economic aspect | Social aspect |
|--|----------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Evidence for achieving sustainable development     |                      |                 |               |
| Evidence for not achieving sustainable development |                      |                 |               |



Conclusion:

- c. In addition to the data collected during this fieldwork, suggest and explain other information and data required for further investigating “whether the urban renewal strategies at this fieldwork site can achieve sustainable development”.