

Economic and Urban Development in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA)

I. Overview

The Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA) comprises the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, the Macao Special Administrative Region, and nine cities in Guangdong Province—Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Zhuhai, Foshan, Huizhou, Dongguan, Zhongshan, Jiangmen, and Zhaoqing (collectively referred to as the “Nine Zhujiang Delta Cities”). Covering a total area of 56,000 square kilometers and home to approximately 87 million people by the end of 2024, the GBA is one of China’s most open and economically dynamic regions. It holds significant strategic importance in the country’s overall development, serving a critical role in advancing the “One Country, Two Systems” framework, deepening cooperation between the Mainland and the two SARs, and enhancing integration into the global economy.



Map reference: 中華人民共和國自然資源部審圖號 GS(2019)4342 號
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II. **Current State and Foundations of Economic Development**

A. **Economic Strength and Industrial System**

As of 2024, the total economic output of the GBA reached approximately RMB 14 trillion, placing the region at the forefront of national economic development. Hong Kong and Macao boast highly developed service sectors, while the nine Zhujiang Delta cities have established a modern industrial system dominated by strategic emerging industries, advanced manufacturing, and modern services, resulting in robust industrial clustering and strong complementary advantages across the region.

B. **Development Foundation and Geographical Advantages**

Located at the forefront of our country's coastal opening-up, the GBA serves as a vital gateway for our country's participation in global competition. The region enjoys excellent transportation infrastructure, featuring a world-class cluster of ports and aviation hubs, and a progressively integrated, modernised transportation network. It also holds a strategic position in the implementation of the Belt and Road Initiative.

C. **Innovation Resources and Technological Foundations**

The GBA possesses strong capabilities in science and technology research and development, with numerous world-class universities and research institutions. It is a major hub for scientific and technological innovation in both our country and globally, offering a solid foundation for building an international innovation and technology center.

D. **Level of Internationalisation and Open Business Environment**

Hong Kong and Macao offer a highly internationalised and rule-of-law-based business environment. The Zhujiang Delta cities play a leading role in our country's reform and opening-up, making the GBA one of the most open and market-oriented regions in our country.

E. **Cooperation Foundation and Development Potential**

The three regions of Guangdong, Hong Kong, and Macao share cultural roots and close social ties, with long-standing and close cooperation. Collaboration continues to deepen across areas such as infrastructure, investment, education, and ecology, laying a solid foundation for further regional integration and high-quality development.

III. Urban Development and Spatial Layout

The GBA adheres to a spatial development strategy of “core city leadership, corridor support, and peripheral integration,” promoting rational division of labor and complementary functions among large, medium, and small cities in the region. This approach aims to enhance regional coordination and overall competitiveness, gradually shaping a scientifically structured, resource-efficient, and modernised urban development framework.

A. A Networked Spatial Pattern Driven by Core Cities and Supported by Development Corridors

By leveraging the joint strengths of core city clusters—Hong Kong–Shenzhen, Guangzhou–Foshan, and Macao–Zhuhai—the GBA has cultivated key engines of economic and innovation development. Deepened cooperation between Hong Kong and Shenzhen, and between Macao and Zhuhai, as well as the accelerated integration of Guangzhou and Foshan, have collectively enhanced the strength of city clusters and elevated the GBA’s global presence and influence.

Relying on high-speed railways, intercity rail, and expressways, the GBA is constructing efficient regional economic development corridors. Major infrastructure projects such as the Hong Kong–Zhuhai–Macao Bridge, the Shenzhen–Zhongshan Corridor, and the Shenzhen–Maoming Railway strengthen the coordinated development of the western and eastern banks of Zhujiang, improving intercity connectivity and development complementarity.

B. Optimisation and Enhancement of the City Cluster and Settlement System

1. Strengthening the Functions of Core Cities

The Outline Development Plan supports Hong Kong, Macao, Guangzhou, and Shenzhen in continuing to leverage their respective strengths and serving as the main engines of regional development:

- Hong Kong will consolidate its roles as an international financial, shipping, and trade center, promote high value-added services and innovation and technology, and develop into a globally influential metropolis.
- Macao will focus on building a world-class tourism and leisure hub and a platform for China-Portuguese-speaking countries business cooperation, while promoting cultural diversity and moderate economic diversification.
- Guangzhou will enhance its role as a national central city, strengthening its commercial, transport, scientific, and educational functions to become an international metropolis.

- Shenzhen will continue to lead as a national innovation-driven city, fostering scientific and technological innovation and modern manufacturing, positioning itself as a world-class hub of innovation and creativity.

2. Building Key Node Cities

Cities such as Zhuhai, Foshan, Huizhou, Dongguan, Zhongshan, Jiangmen, and Zhaoqing will continue deepening reform, leveraging their comparative advantages, and strengthening interactive collaboration with core cities to become competitive regional hubs. These cities will help drive coordinated development with surrounding small and medium-sized cities and towns.

3. Developing Characteristic Towns and Smart Towns

Building on the numerous characteristic towns in the Zhujiang Delta, the GBA will promote the upgrading of municipal infrastructure and the development of specialised industries, while preserving traditional culture. The goal is to establish “smart towns” that integrate intelligent technologies and institutional innovation, nurturing new growth engines for regional development. Reform of the administrative systems in large towns will also be advanced to improve governance efficiency and development capacity.

C. Advancing Integrated Urban–Rural Development

The Outline Plan identifies integrated urban–rural development as a key objective in optimising spatial layout. This includes establishing mechanisms for urban–rural integration, improving the quality and level of urbanisation, and fostering coordinated development. The strategy emphasises functional zoning and compact development, urban renewal, and the improvement of infrastructure in urban villages and small rural settlements. The goal is to enhance the quality of living environments and to build a livable urban–rural system with distinct Lingnan characteristics.

IV. Driving Innovation and Technological Advancement: Strategic Directions for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area

The Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA) is committed to establishing itself as an internationally influential center for science and technology innovation. By leveraging the complementary advantages of the three regions in technology, talent, and institutional frameworks, the GBA aims to build a

collaborative regional innovation system, enhance the commercialisation of scientific research, and accelerate the formation of an innovation-led development model.

A. Developing an International Innovation and Technology Hub

- Regional collaborative innovation
 - Deepen technological cooperation among Guangdong, Hong Kong, and Macao so as to integrate into the national innovation system.
 - Establish the “Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong-Macao” innovation corridor to promote cross-border flow of resources such as talent, capital, and technology.
 - Enhance the innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem, supporting international cooperation and industry-academia-research integration.
- Innovation carrier construction
 - Develop major scientific facilities and platforms to advance fundamental research.
 - Establish industrial technology innovation centers, high-tech zones, and military-civilian integration demonstration zones.
 - Support key projects such as the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Park.
- Optimising the innovation environment
 - Reform institutional mechanisms to facilitate talent and resource mobility and establish joint innovation funds.
 - Promote technology transfer by building incubation bases and a diversified investment and financing system.
 - Strengthen intellectual property protection and promote Hong Kong as a regional IP trading hub.

B. Expediting Infrastructural Connectivity

1. Building a Modern Comprehensive Transportation System

- Enhance Port Cluster Competitiveness
 - strengthen Hong Kong’s role as an international shipping hub
 - develop high-end maritime services, boost Guangzhou and Shenzhen’s port capabilities so as to form a complementary and mutually beneficial port cluster with Hong Kong, and
 - improve inland waterway and intermodal transport networks.

- Develop a World-Class Airport Cluster
 - reinforce Hong Kong's aviation hub status, enhance Guangzhou and Shenzhen's international competitiveness, and strengthen Macao and Zhuhai's airport functions;
 - support airport expansions, multimodal transport, and aviation financing;
 - optimise airspace management; and
 - promote general aviation and airport economic zones.
- Improve External Transport Corridors
 - Enhance land transport links from the GBA to neighboring provinces and ASEAN countries through railway and highway projects, with Guangzhou and Shenzhen as hubs.
- Build a Rapid Transit Network
 - Develop a high-speed rail, intercity rail, and highway network to achieve 1-hour connectivity among major GBA cities.
 - Advance projects like the Shenzhen-Zhongshan Link, and
 - optimise customs clearance at new ports like Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge.
- Elevate Transport Services
 - integrate railways into airports for seamless transfers,
 - promote "one-ticket" and "one-card" services, and
 - develop intelligent transport and multimodal logistics systems.

2. Upgrading Information Infrastructure

- Developing Next-Generation Information Networks
 - Upgrade to IPv6, expand international bandwidth, achieve full wireless broadband coverage in the Zhujiang Delta, and ensure universal fiber-optic access.
 - Build ultra-high-definition digital home networks.
- Establishing a Smart City Cluster
 - promote smart city pilots;
 - develop unified public platforms and intelligent sensing networks for smart transport, energy, and municipal services;

- enhance electronic payment interoperability and reduce communication costs.
- Strengthening Cybersecurity
 - protect critical information systems, promote advanced secure communication technologies, and establish a comprehensive cybersecurity defense system.

3. Building an Energy Security System

- Optimising Energy Supply Structure
 - advance energy supply-side reforms;
 - prioritise green and low-carbon energy, accelerate the use of natural gas and renewable energy, and reduce coal consumption to increase clean energy share.
- Strengthen Energy Storage and Transport
 - enhance main power grids and oil/gas pipelines, build large-scale petroleum, LNG, and coal reserve bases to ensure stable energy supply for Hong Kong and Macao.

4. Enhancing Water Resource Security

- Improving Water Infrastructure
 - prioritise water conservation;
 - implement strict water resource management; and
 - advance projects like the Zhujiang Delta water allocation and Macao's fourth water supply pipeline to ensure safe water supply.
- Strengthening Disaster Prevention Systems
 - reinforce sea dikes, riverbank management, and urban drainage systems;
 - improve flood and typhoon defenses;
 - address reservoir safety risks; and
 - enhance disaster monitoring and emergency response capabilities.

C. Building a globally competitive modern industrial system

1. Accelerating Advanced Manufacturing Development

- Strengthening Core Competitiveness
 - enhance the Zhujiang Delta's manufacturing innovation ecosystem to

- support China's goal of becoming a manufacturing powerhouse;
 - promote deep integration of the internet, big data, AI, and the real economy to drive manufacturing transformation;
 - strengthen industrial collaboration; and
 - build a globally competitive advanced manufacturing base.
 - Optimising Industrial Layout
 - develop the west bank of the Zhujiang, led by Zhuhai and Foshan, into an advanced equipment manufacturing belt, and the east bank, centered on Shenzhen and Dongguan, into world-class clusters for electronics and information industries;
 - leverage the innovation and headquarters strengths of Hong Kong, Macao, Guangzhou, and Shenzhen, alongside the comprehensive industrial chains in Zhuhai, Foshan, Huizhou, Dongguan, Zhongshan, Jiangmen, and Zhaoqing, to enhance GBA industrial coordination; and
 - support Dongguan's industrial upgrading, Foshan's manufacturing reform pilot, and Hong Kong's exploration of "re-industrialization."
 - Restructuring Manufacturing
 - advance intelligent manufacturing, focusing on robotics, high-precision equipment, and smart integrated systems;
 - foster leading enterprises in system integration and key component development;
 - extend manufacturing to high-value segments like R&D, design, branding, and remanufacturing;
 - accelerate green transformation, promote green products and supply chains, and expand the remanufacturing sector.
2. Fostering Strategic Emerging Industries
- Developing Robust Industrial Clusters
 - leverage the R&D strengths of Hong Kong, Macao, Guangzhou, and Shenzhen, combined with national-level zones and high-tech parks, to create competitive strategic emerging industry clusters;
 - drive new economic momentum through industries like next-generation IT, biotechnology, high-end equipment, and new materials.
 - Focusing on Key Sectors
 - promote growth in 5G, mobile internet, biopharmaceuticals, advanced

medical equipment, gene testing, smart robotics, 3D printing, and Beidou satellite applications;

- implement major projects in information technology, marine engineering, and high-performance integrated circuits;
- cultivate renewable energy, energy-saving technologies, and new energy vehicles, forming clusters centered on R&D and headquarters;
- support digital and sharing economies to drive economic and social transformation.

3. Accelerating Modern Service Industry Development

- Building an International Financial Hub
 - reinforce the role of Hong Kong as a global financial center and a financing platform for the Belt and Road Initiative;
 - support Guangzhou in developing a modern financial service system and regional trading centers, Shenzhen in advancing capital market development and financial openness, and Macao in establishing a financial service platform for Chinese-Portuguese-speaking countries, including RMB clearing center;
 - explore the development of a Macao-Zhuhai cross-border financial cooperation zone.
- Promoting Distinctive Financial Sectors
 - consolidate Hong Kong's position as an international financial center;
 - support Guangzhou in building a regional trading market, Shenzhen in developing its capital market, Macau in building a financial services platform for Portuguese-speaking countries; and
 - explore cross-border financial cooperation between Macau and Zhuhai.
- Advancing Financial Market Connectivity
 - expand cross-border RMB usage, promote cross-border lending, forex trading, and the sales of financial product;
 - enhance channels for mutual investment in financial products between Hong Kong, Macao, and the Mainland;
 - improve mechanisms like “Shanghai-Hong Kong Connect,” “Shenzhen-Hong Kong Connect,” and “Bond Connect”;
 - support cross-border insurance and reinsurance, establish financial regulatory coordination, and strengthen anti-money laundering and

systemic risk prevention.

- Developing a Modern Service System
 - focus on professional and high-value services, including logistics, tourism, cultural creativity, HR services, and exhibitions;
 - foster third-party and cold-chain logistics, industrial design, and cultural cooperation;
 - support Hong Kong as a global exhibition hub and Macao as a food distribution center for Portuguese-speaking countries;
 - deepen CEPA implementation to promote professional services like accounting, legal, and intellectual property.

4. Vigorously Developing the Marine Economy

- Building a Modern Marine Industry Base
 - strengthen GBA collaboration to optimise marine spatial planning and develop marine fisheries, transportation, biopharmaceuticals, engineering equipment, and services;
 - enhance marine observation, monitoring, and disaster prevention capabilities.
- Promoting Regional Marine Development
 - support Hong Kong's marine innovation, Macao's marine tourism and technology, and Shenzhen's ambition to become a global marine center;
 - leveraging Hong Kong's strengths in high-value maritime and financial service, marine development bonds, investment funds and financial cooperation are developed to support marine industries

D. Taking forward ecological conservation

1. Establishing an Ecological Protection Barrier

- Ecosystem Protection and Restoration
 - implement major ecosystem protection and restoration projects, develop ecological corridors and biodiversity conservation networks to enhance ecosystem quality and stability;
 - strictly enforce ecological redlines and regulate natural ecological spaces.
- Coastal and Wetland Conservation

- strengthen coastline monitoring and protection, promote the “Blue Bay” initiative, safeguard mangroves, and establish marine protected areas;
- enhance cross-border wetland protection cooperation in the GBA to preserve natural ecological functions.

2. Strengthening Environmental Conservation and Governance

- Water Environment Management
 - deepen cooperation on Zhujiang Estuary water resources and pollution control, regulate discharge outlets, and implement total pollutant control to ensure compliance of water quality;
 - implement pollution control measures in heavily polluted rivers and urban black-odor water bodies and build a green ecological water network.
 - Air Pollution Control
 - implement regional joint prevention and control, promote clean shipping policies, and reduce ozone and PM2.5 through multi-pollutant synergy
 - ensure air quality compliance across the nine Zhujiang Delta cities.
 - Soil and Waste Management
 - enhance soil remediation technology collaboration;
 - clean up contaminated farmland, and control the disposal of agricultural waste;
 - strengthen hazardous waste treatment and cross-border regulation to improve waste reduction and recycling.
 - Institutional Frameworks
 - establish an environmental “blacklist” system, environmental credit evaluations, mandatory disclosure, and stringent penalties to solve the long-term environmental issues.
- ## 3. Innovating Green and Low-Carbon Development Models
- Low-Carbon Development
 - promote low-carbon pilots and near-zero carbon emission zones, accelerate low-carbon technology R&D and establish a green development demonstration zone.

- Green Industrial Transformation
 - advance intelligent and green manufacturing, adopt advanced energy-saving and eco-friendly technologies, build a clean, low-carbon, and efficient energy system, and promote clean production.
- Recycle Economy and Green Lifestyles
 - implement resource conservation and recycle utilization;
 - enforce the responsibility of producers for waste recovery;
 - integrate environmental technologies with big data and IoT;
 - promote green lifestyles, develop urban greenways, encourage low-carbon travel, and
 - advance carbon credit systems and GBA carbon label mutual recognition.

E. Developing a quality living circle for living, working and travelling

1. Creating an Education and Talent Hub
 - Education Cooperation
 - promote joint university programs, co-establish competitive disciplines and laboratories, and leverage the GBA University Alliance for credit recognition, student exchanges, and research commercialisation;
 - build an international education demonstration zone, introduce the setting up of world-renowned universities, and encourage collaboration of vocational education, including the establishment of specialised vocational parks and a Macao-based Chinese Portuguese bilingual talent training base;
 - support Hong Kong and Macao youth studying in the Mainland, mutual recognition of teacher qualification, and equal education access for children of cross-regional workers.
 - Talent Hub
 - adopt Hong Kong and Macao's best practices to implement open talent attraction policies, establish a GBA talent cooperation demonstration zone, and pilot programs for tech immigration and enterprise setup by foreign innovators;
 - develop a national HR service industrial park, build up a talent shortage list, and streamline permanent residency channels;

- enhance international talent training, mutual recognition of professional qualifications, and flexible talent mobility mechanisms.

2. Co-Building a Cultural Area

- Cultural Spirit

- promote Chinese cultural heritage, protect Lingnan cultural assets, and jointly host cultural heritage exhibitions to enhance cultural soft power;
- foster integrity and probity, building a positive social environment.

- Cultural Prosperity

- strengthen public cultural services and creative industries, support the development of publishing, broadcasting, film, and music industries, and facilitate exchanges among art troupes, academies, and museums;
- support major cultural projects in Hong Kong, such as the Hong Kong Palace Museum, and reinforce Hong Kong's role as a creative capital;
- promote Shenzhen's fashion culture, develop a GBA culinary hub, and boost regional and international sports events.

- Youth and International Exchange

- implement youth cultural programs like the GBA Youth Cultural Journey to foster integration;
- enhance patriotic education and study-tour cooperation;
- promote Guangzhou and Macao as platforms for global cultural exchange, leveraging Lingnan and overseas Chinese cultural resources.

3. Development of tourism

- Leverage Hong Kong's international transport hub status to build diverse tourism products, optimise the 144-hour visa-free transit policy, and create a world-class tourism destination;
- support Hong Kong and Macao as tourism hubs;
- develop multi-stop high-speed rail tours, cruise and yacht tourism, and enhance coastal tourism infrastructure, including a GBA coastal scenic highway and themed towns.

4. Expanding Employment and Entrepreneurship Opportunities

- Enhance public employment services, expand opportunities for eligible Hong Kong and Macao citizens to hold mainland public sector

positions or apply for civil service roles.

- Establish entrepreneurship pilot zones in Qianhai, Nansha, and Hengqin, and support youth entrepreneurship bases with subsidies and internship programs to integrate Hong Kong and Macao youth into mainland development.

5. Shaping a Healthy Area

- Healthcare Co-operation

- facilitate Hong Kong and Macao healthcare providers in setting up facilities in the Zhujiang Delta, advance Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) standardisation and internationalisation, and support the Macao-Guangdong TCM industrial park;
- promote medical talent exchanges, cross-border patient transfers, and emergency medical response mechanisms.

- Food Safety

- enhance food traceability and regulatory digitalization;
- strengthen GBA food safety cooperation;
- establish emergency response and information-sharing mechanisms, and
- develop green agricultural product bases.

6. Promoting Social Security and Governance Cooperation

- Social Security

- Hong Kong and Macao residents in Guangdong could enjoy equal access to education, healthcare, housing, and pensions;
- explore the transferability of cross-border social insurance and foster elderly care cooperation, establish regional health and elderly care demonstration bases.

- Social Governance

- advance lawful administration and anti-corruption collaboration;
- enhance community services for Hong Kong and Macao residents;
- strengthen judicial cooperation, and establish joint crime prevention and emergency response mechanisms to address cross-border challenges.

F. Strengthening cooperation and jointly participating in the Belt and Road Initiative

1. Creating a Globally Competitive Business Environment

- Institutional Alignment
 - leverage Hong Kong and Macao's open platforms to align the nine Zhujiang Delta cities with international investment and trade rules;
 - minimise administrative intervention, strengthen market regulation, and foster a stable, fair, transparent, and predictable business environment.
- Reform Initiatives
 - advance "Streamline Administration, Delegate Power, and Improve Services" reforms, refine pre-establishment national treatment with negative list for foreign investment, and enhance post-establishment oversight;
 - promote GBA judicial cooperation, establish an international arbitration center, and develop diverse dispute resolution mechanisms.
- Service Efficiency
 - implement "Internet + Government Services," integrate fragmented information systems to eliminate data silos, and empower industry associations to set standards and expand markets;
 - accelerate social credit system development with incentives for compliance and penalties for violations.

2. Enhancing Market Integration

- Facilitation of investment
 - implement CEPA agreements to expand openness in finance, education, legal, and other sectors for Hong Kong and Macao;
 - lower entry barriers, and
 - provide one-stop services to ensure national treatment for professionals and enterprises.
- Facilitation of trade
 - Simplify the procedures for international trade, promote information sharing, mutual recognition of regulations, and enforce cooperation

among customs agencies;

- support Nansha's global product traceability center and
- standardisation of service trade and mutual recognition of professional qualification.

- Mobility of People and Goods

- enhance convenience for Hong Kong and Macao residents' mainland travel permits,
- optimise visa policies for business and research,
- improve customs clearance with self-service channels, and
- formulate vehicle passage policies to boost logistics.

3. Jointly Expanding Global Openness

- Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) Support Hub

- strengthen GBA collaboration to participate in BRI through infrastructure, trade, and cultural exchanges;
- reinforce Hong Kong's role as a global RMB hub,
- support Macao's cooperation with Silk Road Fund and The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), and host BRI-themed forums and expos.

- International Economic Cooperation

- leverage Hong Kong and Macao's global networks to attract advanced manufacturing, services, and multinational headquarters;
- foster global R&D centers and strengthen port cooperation to build industrial parks;
- support Hong Kong and Macao's participation in free trade agreements and international organizations as "China Hong Kong" and "China Macao".

- Global Market Expansion

- encourage GBA enterprises to undertake joint greenfield investments, mergers, and industrial park development;
- expand international service networks in finance, legal, and design, support mainland enterprises' capital operations in Hong Kong, and
- leverage Macao's Portuguese-speaking country platform to access global markets.

G. Jointly developing Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao cooperation platforms

1. Enhancing the Functions of Shenzhen Qianhai Hong Kong-Shenzhen Modern Service Industry Cooperation Zone

- Development Engine
 - revise Qianhai's development plan to expand its scope and establish an open, innovative industrial system, advancing toward the high end of global value chains.
- Financial and Trade Innovation
 - promote financial openness, expand offshore account functions, explore capital account convertibility, and develop a commodity trading platform and international shipping service center;
 - foster green finance and fintech.
- Legal and Cultural Cooperation
 - utilise special zone legislative authority to build a legal framework for an open economy, deepen Hong Kong-Shenzhen judicial cooperation, and
 - establish an international legal service center and cultural creative base.
- International City
 - establish a port, adopt Hong Kong's best practices to create a green, smart, and ecological urban area, and introduce high-end education, healthcare, and international financial institutions.

2. Building Guangzhou Nansha as a Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Comprehensive Cooperation Demonstration Zone

- Global Openness Gateway
 - leverage national new area and advantages of free trade zone to develop a hub for international shipping, finance, and technological innovation
 - optimise urban layout and create a "30-minute transportation circle".
- Innovation Demonstration Zone
 - foster joint Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao technological innovation to build a South China hub for technology commercialization;
 - promote emerging business models and establish Guangdong-Hong

Kong and Guangdong-Macao industrial cooperation parks.

- Financial Services Platform
 - develop distinctive financial sectors like shipping finance, tech finance, and leasing;
 - explore establishing a GBA international commercial bank to facilitate cross-border capital flows.
 - High-Quality Living Circle
 - build an international city with Lingnan and marine cultural characteristics, create an international talent zone, and enhance social services.
3. Advancing Zhuhai Hengqin as a Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Deep Cooperation Demonstration Zone
- Tourism and Industrial Cooperation
 - support the goal of Macao of becoming a world tourism and leisure center by developing Hengqin as an international leisure tourism island;
 - build Guangdong-Macao logistics and TCM technology industrial parks, and an information port.
 - Livelihood
 - develop integrated livelihood projects;
 - explore extending Macao's healthcare and social security systems to Hengqin, and establish Macao-affiliated schools and a medical fund.
 - Global Openness
 - collaborate with Macao to build a China-Latin America trade platform;
 - develop cross-border e-commerce, facilitate Portuguese-speaking countries' product access to the mainland, and explore delegating visa issuance authority to Hengqin.
4. Developing Distinctive Cooperation Platforms
- Diverse Cooperation Parks
 - encourage the nine Zhujiang Delta cities to collaborate with Hong Kong and Macao in building cooperative parks to expand economic

collaboration and achieve mutual benefits.

- Specific Platform
 - Develop the Lok Ma Chau Loop Hong Kong-Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Park, Jiangmen Daguang Bay Economic Zone, Macao-Zhongshan cooperation, Dongguan Binhai Bay emerging industry base, and Foshan Nanhai high-end service cooperation platform to promote connectivity in technology, industry, talent, and markets.

V. **Challenges and Opportunities**

A. Opportunities

1. Globalisation and Technological Revolution:

The new wave of technological revolution and the advancement of the Belt and Road Initiative offer the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA) expanded opportunities for international cooperation and integration into global innovation networks.

2. National Policy Support:

Ongoing supply-side structural reforms and the national innovation-driven development strategy continue to inject new momentum into the GBA, providing strong policy backing for high-quality regional development.

B. Challenges

1. Economic Uncertainties:

Rising global protectionism and increasing volatility in international markets pose structural imbalances in supply and demand, creating uncertainty for the regional economy.

2. Institutional Differences:

Under the “One Country, Two Systems” framework, disparities in legal systems, regulatory frameworks, and levels of market integration between Hong Kong, Macao, and the Mainland need further coordination and alignment to enhance seamless connectivity.

3. Regional Disparities:

Levels of development remains uneven across the GBA. Some areas still experience homogenized competition and inefficient allocation of resources,

which hinder balanced growth.

4. Environmental Pressures:

Increasing constraints on the supply of natural resources and energy, along with mounting ecological stress, pose significant challenges to the region's sustainable development.

Reference:

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