

(Translation)

Motion on
“Actively implementing complementary policies
for the Outline of the Plan for the Reform and
Development of the Pearl River Delta”
moved by Hon WONG Ting-kwong
at the Legislative Council meeting
of Wednesday, 4 March 2009

Motion as amended by Dr Hon Samson TAM Wai-ho and Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-vee

That, as Hong Kong is being struck by the financial tsunami, the need for new economic restructuring has become more imminent, this Council urges the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region to expeditiously redefine the role and positioning of Hong Kong and formulate corresponding complementary policies for the Outline of the Plan for the Reform and Development of the Pearl River Delta (2008-2020) promulgated earlier by the Central Government, so as to facilitate Hong Kong’s closer co-operation with Guangdong Province and the Macao Special Administrative Region and promote Hong Kong’s economic and social development; such policies include:

- (a) expediting the planning and construction of the Hong Kong Section of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (‘HZMB’) as well as the related connecting infrastructure works for HZMB, and at the same time actively studying the development of a bridgehead economy at the landing point of HZMB in Hong Kong and the implementation of ‘free flow of vehicles’ between Guangdong and Hong Kong, so as to fully utilize HZMB;
- (b) expediting transport connection works between the airports in Guangdong and Hong Kong, and expeditiously implementing the proposal to construct a high-speed rail link connecting the airports in Hong Kong and Shenzhen;
- (c) actively discussing with the Government of Guangdong Province to clearly delineate the roles and division of work between the ports and terminals in Guangdong and those in Hong Kong, so that a new setting will be formed in the Pearl River Delta Region (‘PRDR’) under which there is a clear demarcation of work among the ports, complementarity of edge and co-development;
- (d) in line with the general requirement for a ‘Digital Pearl River Delta’, facilitating the sharing of online resources and interconnection and mutual access among the networks in Guangdong and Hong Kong, and jointly promoting co-operation of the two places in developing digital creative industries;

- (e) strengthening co-operation among the exhibition and convention industries in PRDR, and capitalizing on Hong Kong's edge to turn the territory into a capital of international exhibitions and sales;
- (f) strengthening co-operation between Guangdong and Hong Kong in improving the overall water quality in PRDR and reducing the overall volume of water pollution, and at the same time establishing a sound system for the monitoring and prevention of air pollution, as well as striving to solve the problem of atmospheric haze;
- (g) helping higher education institutions and education providers in Hong Kong to run education institutions independently in PRDR;
- (h) deepening the implementation of the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement by expediting mutual recognition of professional qualifications in Guangdong and Hong Kong as well as lowering the thresholds of practice in PRDR for Hong Kong professionals, so as to foster the expansion of Hong Kong's service industries into PRDR;
- (i) formulating focused facilitating measures to provide convenience for PRDR residents to invest in Hong Kong's stock market, and enhancing efforts in Guangdong Province to provide information on and publicize Hong Kong stocks, so as to prepare for launching the through train scheme for Guangdong's and Hong Kong's stock markets;
- (j) strengthening various services for Hong Kong residents working and residing in PRDR, and actively considering enhancing the functions of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government's Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong;
- (k) strengthening tourism co-operation among Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao, and assisting Hong Kong's tourism enterprises in operating in PRDR; and
- (l) considering setting up a Guangdong/Hong Kong/Macao Leaders' Conference to strengthen co-operation among the three places;
- (m) strengthening co-operation between Guangdong and Hong Kong in areas such as water, air and climatic change to improve the overall environmental quality in PRDR, including formulating a set of standardized air quality objectives for both places, setting the emission reduction targets beyond 2010 for PRDR, etc; and
- (n) taking all effective measures to expeditiously co-operate with Shenzhen to develop the Lok Ma Chau Loop, and strengthening co-operation with Shenzhen in the development of higher education, new and high technology as well as cultural and creative industries, so as to facilitate Hong Kong's restructuring towards a knowledge-based economy, broaden Hong Kong's economic structure and complement the North East New Territories New Development Areas.