

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(1)1308/10-11(04)

Ref: CB1/PL/DEV

Panel on Development

Meeting on 22 February 2011

**Background brief on the
Study on the Action Plan for the Bay Area of the Pearl River Estuary**

Purpose

This paper sets out the background of the Study on the Action Plan for the Bay Area of the Pearl River Estuary ("Study on Bay Area Action Plan").

Background

The Framework Agreement on Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation

2. In January 2009, the National Development and Reform Commission promulgated the Outline of the Plan for the Reform and Development of the Pearl River Delta ("the Outline Plan") elevating the development of the Pearl River Delta region to the strategic level of national development, and specifying Hong Kong/Guangdong co-operation as a national policy. One of the most important tasks in deepening Hong Kong/Guangdong co-operation would be the joint formulation of the Framework Agreement on Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation ("the Framework Agreement") as an official agreement between the two governments. The Framework Agreement would translate the Outline Plan's macro policies into concrete measures and serve as an agenda for Hong Kong-Guangdong co-operation. The two governments signed the Framework Agreement on 7 April 2010.

3. The Framework Agreement consists of the main text and the list of annual major initiatives. The main text contains 11 chapters covering a wide range of topics, viz. the preamble, cross-boundary infrastructural facilities, modern service industries, manufacturing industries and innovation and technology, business environment, quality living area, education and talent, major co-operation areas, regional co-operation plans, as well as mechanisms and arrangements. The list of annual major initiatives sets out specific measures for the two sides to implement the Framework Agreement during the year. The policies, measures and items set out in the Framework Agreement will be implemented jointly or respectively by Hong Kong and Guangdong depending on the circumstances. Hong Kong and Guangdong have put forth specific policies, measures, and major initiatives in various areas.

Study on Bay Area Action Plan

4. The Administration briefed the Panel on Development ("the Panel") on the four development-related initiatives under the Framework Agreement at the meeting on 25 May 2010, namely --

- (a) Development of Lok Ma Chau Loop;
- (b) Study on Bay Area Action Plan;
- (c) Development of Liantang/Heung Yuen Wai Boundary Control Point; and
- (d) Supply of Dongjiang water.

5. At the Panel meeting on 25 May 2010, members took note of the Administration's report on initiatives under the Framework Agreement. The focus of the discussion, however, was placed on Lok Ma Chau Loop, development of closed area and New Territories North and supply of Dongjiang water.

6. According to the information paper provided by the Administration for the Panel meeting on 25 May 2010, the Study on Bay Area Action Plan is one of the major policy initiatives coordinated by the Development Bureau under the Framework Agreement which was jointly commissioned by the Hong Kong, Guangdong and Macao governments in April 2010. The main objectives of the study were to develop the Bay Area into a liveable region and to enhance the living environment of the residents in Guangdong, Hong Kong

and Macao. The study was to explore feasible options to develop the Bay Area into a sustainable and liveable region, so as to enhance the development of the Greater Pearl River Delta into the most vibrant and globally competitive city-region in the Asian-Pacific region. The study was to make recommendation on aspects such as the functional organisation, land uses, development of marine areas, conservation and utilization of coastal areas and implementation mechanism; provide guidance and co-ordination amongst them; and provide key action guidelines for specific areas in developing a liveable Bay Area. The Administration anticipated that the study would be completed within 2010 and planned to seek comments from different sectors of the community on the recommendations of the study.

Latest development

7. According to a press release issued by the Government on 14 January 2011, the Hong Kong, Guangdong and Macao governments concurrently launched the public consultation for the Study on Bay Area Action Plan on the date which would last till 10 February 2011. On 29 January 2011, the Planning Department held a public consultation forum for the Study on the Bay Area Action Plan in Hong Kong which was attended by over 100 participants including government officials, experts, academics from the three sides, as well as members of the public¹.

8. Given the scale of the Bay Area Action Plan and the huge impact the project may have on regional economy and environment, some Panel members expressed concerns about the Administration's way of conducting the public consultation, the short consultation period and the absence of consultation of the Panel. They have written to the Panel Chairman requesting for inclusion of the subject for discussion at the Panel meeting.

9. In response to rising public concerns, the Administration issued press releases on 8 and 9 February 2011² stating that it would continue to listen to

¹ Please see press releases of the Government issued on 14 and 29 January 2011 at: <http://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/201101/14/P201101140236.htm> and <http://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/201101/29/P201101290157.htm>

² Please see press releases of the Government issued on 8 and 9 February 2011 at: <http://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/201102/08/P201102080208.htm> and http://www.devb.gov.hk/en/publications_and_press_releases/press/index_id_6433.html

public views and hold briefing sessions and discussion forums in the next two months, as well as considered all opinions in order to refine the study proposals.

10. The Administration will brief the Panel on the subject on 22 February 2011.

11. A list of relevant papers with their hyperlinks is in the **Appendix**.

Council Business Division 1
Legislative Council Secretariat
18 February 2011

Study on Bay Area Action Plan

List of relevant papers

Council/Committee	Date of meeting	Paper
Panel on Development	25 May 2010	<p>Administration's paper on "Development Related Issues under the Framework Agreement on Hong Kong/Guangdong (LC Paper No. CB(1)1919/09-10(09)) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr09-10/english/panels/dev/papers/dev0525cb1-1919-9-e.pdf</p> <p>Background brief on "Development-related issues under the Framework Agreement on Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation" LC Paper No. CB(1)1919/09-10(10)) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr09-10/english/panels/dev/papers/dev0525cb1-1919-10-e.pdf</p> <p>Minutes of meeting (LC Paper No. CB(1)2602/09-10) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr09-10/english/panels/dev/minutes/dev20100525.pdf</p>

Press releases issued by the Administration —

Date	Details of press release
14 January 2011	<p>Public consultation launched for "Study on Action Plan for the Bay Area of the Pearl River Estuary" http://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/201101/14/P201101140236.htm</p>

Date	Details of press release
29 January 2011	Public consultation forum for "Study on Action Plan for the Bay Area of the Pearl River Estuary" http://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/201101/29/P201101290157.htm
8 February 2011	Planning Department welcomes public views on "Study on Action Plan for the Bay Area of the Pearl River Estuary" http://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/201102/08/P201102080208.htm
9 February 2011	Public views welcome on conceptual study for Bay Area of the Pearl River Estuary http://www.devb.gov.hk/en/publications_and_press_releases/press/index_id_6433.html