

**For discussion
on 20 April 2026**

Legislative Council Panel on Constitutional Affairs

**Latest developments of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao
Greater Bay Area: Deepening co-operation in the Guangdong-
Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area
and fostering co-ordinated regional development**

Purpose

This paper briefs Members on the latest developments in the work of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government in deepening co-operation in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Greater Bay Area) and fostering co-ordinated regional development.

Development of the Greater Bay Area

2. The development of the Greater Bay Area is a key national strategy personally devised, personally planned and personally driven by President Xi Jinping. It serves as a vital pillar in promoting regional integration and high-quality development of the country. Consolidating and enhancing the role of the Greater Bay Area as an engine for high-quality development is also one of the strategic directions to enhance regional economic layout and foster co-ordinated regional development, as set out in the National 15th Five-Year Plan.

3. The HKSAR Government attaches great importance to promoting the development of the Greater Bay Area. Shortly upon the establishment of the current-term Government, the Steering Group on Integration into National Development (Steering Group) was promptly set up. Chaired by the Chief Executive himself with three Secretaries of Departments as deputies, the Steering Group takes forward and steers from the top level on the various work on Hong Kong's integration into the overall national development and dovetailing with key national strategies such as the development of the Greater Bay Area.

4. With the strong support of the Central Authorities, Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao have been working

collaboratively, and policy measures to foster connectivity within the Greater Bay Area have been introduced one after another. The ensuing paragraphs set out the latest developments of the work of various bureaux/departments of the HKSAR Government under their respective policy portfolios, highlighting the work of the HKSAR Government in deepening co-operation in the Greater Bay Area.

I. Innovation and technology (I&T) co-operation and synergistic development of industries

Hetao Hong Kong Park

5. The Hetao Shenzhen-Hong Kong Science and Technology Innovation Co-operation Zone (Hetao) is one of the major co-operation platforms in the Greater Bay Area. It is jointly established by the Hong Kong Park and the Shenzhen Park under the vision of “one river, two banks” and “one zone, two parks”. The Hong Kong Park was officially opened in December 2025, and has attracted over 70 enterprises and institutions from overseas, Mainland and Hong Kong to establish a presence. To accelerate the development of the Park, it was announced in the 2026-27 Budget that the HKSAR Government will seek approval from the Legislative Council to inject an additional \$10 billion into the Park Company for its implementation of various collaborative projects with the industry.

6. The HKSAR Government will also strive for early trial implementation of policy measures to facilitate the cross-boundary flow of innovation elements, thereby promoting the coordinated development and high-level connection between the two Parks. In particular, the HKSAR Government has joined hands with Shenzhen to prepare specific implementation proposals in respect of the cross-boundary flow of biosamples and data between the two Parks, and is consulting closely with the relevant Mainland authorities in a bid to put in place groundbreaking policy measures.

7. As a natural extension of the Loop, the new I&T land in the San Tin area can integrate with the comprehensive industry supply chains in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area. It can also take up the transformation and industrialisation of research outcomes derived from the Hetao Hong Kong Park, creating a comprehensive industrial ecosystem. To press ahead with the development of the San Tin Technopole, it was announced in the 2026-27 Budget that

the HKSAR Government will establish a dedicated company in 2026 and inject \$10 billion as initial capital to take forward the development, while leveraging market resources to accelerate progress.

Synergistic development of I&T industries

8. In terms of consolidating our strengths in scientific research and attracting international I&T talent, the InnoHK Research Clusters, as a major I&T initiative of the HKSAR Government, has successfully built collaboration with more than 30 world-renowned universities and research institutes, such as the Chinese Academy of Sciences' Guangzhou Institutes of Biomedicine and Health and the University of Macau.

9. Meanwhile, the HKSAR Government is also committed to promoting the full integration between technological innovation and industrial innovation. Among other things, the HKSAR Government launched the \$10 billion Research, Academic and Industry Sectors One-plus Scheme in October 2023 to fund, on a matching basis, research teams from universities which have good potential to transform and commercialise their R&D outcomes. The Research, Academic and Industry Sectors One-plus Scheme welcomes universities and research teams to solicit support¹ from various sectors. In fact, some applications have already attracted participation from enterprises and institutions both locally and outside Hong Kong, including those in the Greater Bay Area.

10. To dovetail with the national strategy of developing “patient capital”, the HKSAR Government sets up the \$10 billion Innovation and Technology Industry-Oriented Fund to give play to the guiding and leveraging roles of HKSAR Government funding, so as to channel more social capital to invest in I&T industries² and support the development of emerging and future industries of strategic importance. Professional fund managers to be selected by the HKSAR Government will be responsible for operating and managing the sub-funds in accordance with market principles, which include selecting suitable projects covering those in the Greater Bay Area for investment.

¹ Industry can support projects through capital investment, sponsorship, and in-kind contributions.

² Innovation and Technology Industry-Oriented Fund covers five thematic areas, which include life and health technology; AI and robotics; semi-conductors and smart devices; digitalisation, upgrading and transformation; and future and sustainable development.

Development of the Northern Metropolis

11. The Northern Metropolis (NM), a strategic development area in Hong Kong, covers a land area and planned population accounting for about one-third of Hong Kong's totals. It represents a substantial source of economic value and development potential, creating many jobs and boosting productivity. The NM is planned with an "industry-driven" approach and will provide more than 3 000 hectares of new development land. This will overcome the perennial bottleneck of land shortage for industry development experienced in the past and drive the development of innovation and technology and other industries, creating about half a million new job opportunities. Leveraging its proximity to Shenzhen, the development of the NM can also better capitalise on the complementary strengths of the Mainland and Hong Kong, enabling us to participate in the development of the Greater Bay Area in a more in-depth manner, thereby to better integrate into and serve the overall national development. The National 15th Five-Year Plan just approved by the country also explicitly requires accelerating the NM development. The HKSAR Government will continue to maintain close liaison with the Shenzhen side on matters relating to NM development through the Task Force for Collaboration on the NM Development Strategy. Both sides will conduct joint discussions on matters related to cross-boundary development and construction.

II. Infrastructural connectivity

Development of rail transit

12. The Hong Kong Section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link (XRL) was commissioned in 2018, and connects to the currently over 50 000 km long national high speed rail network. It offers cross-boundary travellers a new, convenient and comfortable railway travel option. Starting from January 2026, the XRL West Kowloon Station is directly connected to 110 destinations in the Mainland, with at least 212 trains operating daily. The XRL is a key component of the "one-hour living circle" in the Greater Bay Area, and consolidates Hong Kong's position as a regional transport hub.

13. To further enhance the connectivity of the Greater Bay

Area's infrastructure, the HKSAR Government and the Shenzhen authorities have continued to jointly take forward two cross-boundary railway projects, namely the Northern Link (NOL) Spur Line and the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Rail Link (Hung Shui Kiu - Qianhai), through the Task Force for Hong Kong-Shenzhen Co-operation on Cross-Boundary Railway Infrastructure. These two projects are expected to be put into service in 2034 and 2035 respectively to provide direct railway services to Huanggang Port, Shenzhen Bay Port and Qianhai, comprehensively integrating the metro networks of Hong Kong and Shenzhen. The NOL Eastern Extension and Northeast New Territories Line under planning are also contemplated to connect Man Kam To and Heung Yuen Wai Control Points in future. Once these railway lines commence operation, the number of land boundary control points with railway coverage in the NM will increase significantly from the current two boundary control points to six, which is expected to more effectively divert passenger flow at the various boundary control points and promote further integrated development of the Greater Bay Area.

Aviation collaboration

14. With regard to aviation, the HKSAR Government and the Airport Authority Hong Kong (AAHK) is committed to developing the intermodal transport networks so as to enhance the convenience for the transport of passengers and goods in the Greater Bay Area to and from all parts of the world via Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA). As for passenger services, the AAHK will set up more city terminals at strategic locations in the Greater Bay Area, and further enhance the “Fly-Via-Zhuhai-HK” direct passenger service to deepen collaboration between Zhuhai Airport and HKIA.

15. As for air cargo, the AAHK is working with Dongguan to press ahead with the innovative development of the sea-air intermodal cargo transshipment mode, so that Mainland export cargo can arrive at HKIA seamlessly for direct transshipment to overseas destinations through Hong Kong's international aviation network, and the reverse process can also be applied to import cargo. The AAHK is completing the Phase 1 development of the permanent facilities of HKIA Dongguan Logistics Park (HKIALP) in stages, with the target of commencing commercial business trial operation on 1 April 2027 and full operation on 1 June 2027, gradually bringing its cargo handling capacity to one million tonnes per annum. The AAHK has also commenced the preliminary study for Phase 2

development of HKIALP for the introduction of more facilities to support high-value logistics, cross-boundary e-commerce and express parcel services.

Complementary development of maritime and port

16. On the maritime front, the National 15th Five-Year Plan and the “Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area” clearly support the development of a world-class port cluster in the Greater Bay Area. Under this framework, Hong Kong will leverage its strengths as a free port and its international connectivity to pursue complementary development with other ports in the Greater Bay Area, contributing to the high-quality development of the Greater Bay Area and the country as a whole. Among all, in May 2023, the Transport and Logistics Bureau signed a memorandum of understanding with the Guangzhou Port Authority to establish a formal communication and collaboration mechanism for port and maritime affairs. On the other hand, we are also exploring enhancing port cooperation with Huizhou and hence interconnectivity within the Greater Bay Area. We are committed to serve as the “super connector” for Greater Bay Area maritime development, strengthening collaboration with fellow ports in the Greater Bay Area, and enhancing the overall competitiveness of the Hong Kong Port and the entire Greater Bay Area port cluster. Beyond port collaboration, digital transformation is also a key focus. The HKSAR Government officially rolled out the Port Community System (PCS) in January 2026. Through collaboration with the Guangdong E-Port, we have launched the value-added functions of “One-Data-Multiple-Declarations” and pre-submission for ocean manifests, thereby facilitating cross-boundary trade. Going forward, we will continue to explore connecting the PCS with other Greater Bay Area ports to strengthen the competitiveness of the overall port cluster through digitalisation.

III. “Soft connectivity” of rules and mechanisms

Cross-boundary alignment of legal mechanisms and rules

17. On the promotion of the development of Greater Bay Area Commercial Mediation and Arbitration Platform front, the Department of Justice (DoJ) has been actively working with the legal departments of Guangdong Province and the Macao Special

Administrative Region (Macao SAR) to promote the interface of mechanisms and regulatory frameworks for arbitration and mediation among the three places. These efforts include the formulation of various Greater Bay Area standards such as best practices, which serve as reference benchmarks for the legal institutions and legal sectors in the three places to be adopted according to their actual circumstances and operational needs.

18. Regarding arbitration services, the legal departments of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao officially promulgated and implemented the Working Guidelines on the Panel of Greater Bay Area Arbitrators in July 2025. Following their respective nomination exercises, the Greater Bay Area Arbitrator Panel comprising 143 arbitrators from the three places was released on 30 December 2025. The legal departments of the three places have also agreed to jointly explore pathways to promoting the establishment of Greater Bay Area arbitration model rules, and to further examine and discuss specific details to work out a set of unified and effective standards for arbitral proceedings to be conducted in the Greater Bay Area, thereby enhancing the co-ordination and efficiency of the arbitration regimes of the three places.

19. As for mediation services, the Greater Bay Area Legal Departments Joint Conference has endorsed and promulgated the Greater Bay Area Mediator Accreditation Standards, the Greater Bay Area Mediator Code of Conduct Best Practice and the Greater Bay Area Cross-Boundary Disputes Mediation Model Rules respectively. The legal departments of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao released on 30 December 2025 the updated Greater Bay Area Mediator Panel 2025, which comprises 233 mediators from the three places.

20. Looking ahead, the DoJ will further advance the establishment of a platform for Greater Bay Area commercial mediation and arbitration. By sharing professional resources and fostering mutual capacity development, the platform advocates the adoption of the Mediator Panel and the Arbitrator Panel as well as a wider adoption of Greater Bay Area standards jointly developed by the three places across various Greater Bay Area cities, including the Greater Bay Area Cross-boundary Disputes Mediation Model Rules and the Greater Bay Area Mediator Code of Conduct Best Practice, so as to strengthen the interface of regulatory frameworks and

promote the “soft connectivity” of non-litigation dispute resolution mechanisms within the Greater Bay Area, reducing the costs for businesses in resolving cross-boundary disputes and facilitating the in-depth talent integration between Hong Kong and the Mainland.

21. As for the Greater Bay Area Legal Professional Examination (Greater Bay Area Examination), eligible Hong Kong solicitors and barristers who have passed the Greater Bay Area Examination and obtained the Lawyer’s License (Greater Bay Area) can provide legal services in the nine Mainland municipalities in the Greater Bay Area on certain civil and commercial matters, including litigation and non-litigation matters, to which the Mainland laws apply. As at the end of December 2025, over 630 Hong Kong and Macao legal practitioners have obtained the Lawyer’s License (Greater Bay Area). The DoJ will continue to maintain communication with the legal sector and work closely with the relevant Mainland authorities to strive for the scheme of Greater Bay Area lawyers to be regularised.

Convenient cross-boundary flow of data

22. The HKSAR Government and the Cyberspace Administration of China entered into the “Memorandum of Understanding on Facilitating Cross-boundary Data Flow within the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area” in June 2023, and jointly announced the facilitation measure on the “Standard Contract for the Cross-boundary Flow of Personal Information within the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Mainland, Hong Kong)” (the Greater Bay Area Standard Contract) in December 2023, to facilitate and streamline the arrangements on cross-boundary flow of personal information from the Mainland cities in the Greater Bay Area to Hong Kong. Currently, all industries in Hong Kong can take part in the facilitation measure and voluntarily adopt the Greater Bay Area Standard Contract.

23. To facilitate the provision of cross-boundary public services in the Greater Bay Area, the HKSAR Government launched the Cross-boundary Public Services (CBPS) thematic website³ in November 2023 to enable residents and enterprises in the Greater Bay Area to conveniently access Hong Kong public services online anytime. We have also set up Hong Kong CBPS self-service kiosks

³ The CBPS thematic website provides a total of 83 public services and related information from 14 bureaux/departments and related organisations.

and “iAM Smart” self-registration kiosks progressively in the government service centres in the nine Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area and Macao, enabling users to access Hong Kong public services and register for “iAM Smart+” without the need for in-person travel to Hong Kong.

Measures to facilitate the flow of cross-boundary vehicles

24. With the successful implementation of “Northbound Travel for Hong Kong Vehicles” (the Northbound scheme) since July 2023, the usage of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge (HZMB) has continued to rise. A total of more than 140 000 Hong Kong private cars have participated in the scheme. Travel booking to Guangdong is not required on Tuesdays and Wednesdays (except public holidays and the day before), making the trip more convenient. Building on this, as a reciprocal arrangement for the Northbound scheme, “Southbound Travel for Guangdong Vehicles” (the Southbound scheme) has been implemented since end of 2025, opening up a new mode of travel for Mainland residents to Hong Kong. The Southbound scheme has been operating smoothly since its launch. As of end of February 2026, approximately 3 500 applications had been approved for entry into urban area, with approximately 2 500 trips booked; and the “Park & Fly” service of the automated carpark at the HZMB Hong Kong Port had approximately 3 000 bookings. The HKSAR Government is accumulating implementation experience and closely monitoring the progress. We are working with Guangdong authorities to continuously review and discuss plans to increase the quota in an orderly manner, and planning to gradually expand from the current four cities in Guangdong Province to other Guangdong cities after six months of implementation, with a view to taking forward the Southbound scheme in a prudent and manageable manner.

25. To deepen interconnectivity within the Greater Bay Area and encourage transport connection among Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao, as the HKSAR Government has mentioned in the Transport Strategy Blueprint promulgated earlier, the Transport Department is actively exploring the feasibility of mutual recognition of commercial vehicle driving licences among the three places, and will further discuss the relevant details with the other two administrations, with a view to striving to implement the relevant arrangements in 2027.

Measure to facilitate port clearance

26. The HKSAR Government has been proactively enhancing the clearance capacity of boundary control points (BCPs). In planning for the redevelopment of existing BCPs and the development of new BCPs in the future, the HKSAR Government will actively explore the adoption of new clearance mode to enhance passenger clearance efficiency, including implementing the “collaborative inspection and joint clearance” mode in new land BCP projects.

27. “Collaborative inspection and joint clearance” mode will be adopted at the Huanggang Port and the Sha Tau Kok Control Point upon redevelopment, with a view to further enhancing passenger clearance experience and efficiency. Under this clearance mode, the Hong Kong and Shenzhen governments will set up automated channels/counters side by side within their respective jurisdiction at the boundary line inside the port. When using the automated channels, passengers will only need to queue up once for document inspection and identity verification to pass through the immigration facilities of both sides to complete respective immigration procedures.

Qualification recognition of construction and engineering services

28. In line with the national strategy of high-quality development of the Greater Bay Area, the Development Bureau (DEVB), in collaboration with relevant Mainland authorities, implemented the Greater Bay Area Registration System in 2021 and established the “Professional Title” evaluation mechanism applicable to Hong Kong’s construction related professionals in 2023. The above measures facilitate Hong Kong’s construction and engineering related enterprises and professionals to provide services in the Greater Bay Area. In addition, authorities of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao collaborated in the promulgation of the Greater Bay Area standards for two trades of skilled construction workers (i.e. painters and bricklayers) and the first position for construction technicians (i.e. civil engineering supervisors), and took forward the “One Examination, Multiple Certification” arrangement in 2025. Taking into account the implementation experience and specific circumstances of respective trades and positions, Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao will progressively extend the

above arrangement to other major construction trades and positions, and plan to promulgate the Greater Bay Area standards for two new trades of skilled construction workers and one new technician position in 2026, with a view to enhancing the quality of the construction industry training and cultivate talent within the Greater Bay Area. The DEVB will continue to explore further measures with Mainland authorities to deepen integration and cooperation in the Greater Bay Area.

IV. Enhancing the level of market integration

Mutual market access of capital

29. The National 15th Five-Year Plan supports Hong Kong in consolidating and enhancing its status as an international financial centre. Under the new development pattern of “dual circulation”, we continue to make good use of Hong Kong's connectivity with the Mainland and international market and leverage the enormous opportunities presented by the development of the Greater Bay Area, with a view to promoting the development of the financial industry in Hong Kong and contributing to the economic development and opening up of our country.

30. The cities within the Greater Bay Area have close ties in terms of geographical proximity and social interactions, and the demand for financial services arising from the cross-boundary economic activities of citizens and enterprises is growing steadily. Mutual access between the financial markets of the two places has continued to expand in recent years. The average daily trading volume of the Shenzhen-Hong Kong Stock Connect has risen significantly from approximately RMB 2 billion when it was launched in 2016 to over RMB 180 billion, serving as a fine testament to the cooperation between Shenzhen and Hong Kong. Since the launch of the Cross-boundary Wealth Management Connect 2.0 in the Greater Bay Area, there has been a significant increase in the number of investors and the volume of cross-boundary remittances, reaching over 170 000 people and more than RMB 130 billion respectively, providing the Greater Bay Area investors with a formal and convenient channel for cross-boundary investment. We will continue to engage in active discussions with the Mainland to expand the range and scope of products under the mutual market access regime in a gradual and orderly manner.

31. In terms of offshore Renminbi business development, Hong Kong's bond issuance platform serves as a bridge between international markets and the funding needs of local governments in the Mainland, particularly those in the Greater Bay Area. Since 2021, the Shenzhen Municipal People's Government, the Guangdong Provincial People's Government and the Hainan Provincial People's Government have successively issued Mainland local government offshore Renminbi bonds in Hong Kong, with a cumulative total of RMB 56.5 billion as of February 2026. We will continue to encourage more local governments in the Mainland (including the Greater Bay Area) to issue offshore RMB bonds in Hong Kong.

32. Concrete progress has been made on various cross-boundary financial measures designed to benefit the public and facilitate business. For example, the launch of Payment Connect in June 2025—which connects the Mainland's Internet Banking Payment System (IBPS) with Hong Kong's Faster Payment System (FPS)—provides residents in both places, particularly those in the Greater Bay Area, with secure, efficient and convenient real-time cross-boundary payment services; the pilots for Cross-boundary Credit Referencing (CBRC) initiative in the Greater Bay Area was regularised in October 2025, facilitating Hong Kong banks in approving loans for Mainland residents and enterprises in Hong Kong, whilst we continue to explore the expansion of this service to more financial and non-financial sectors (such as healthcare and education) to benefit the public; and residents of Hong Kong and Macao may remit Renminbi or foreign currency from outside Mainland to pay for property purchases in the Greater Bay Area.

Development of Greater Bay Area Standards

33. To grasp the development opportunities brought about by the Greater Bay Area, the governments of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao are dedicated to developing Greater Bay Area Standards (GBA Standards) of various products and services for relevant trades to adopt on a voluntary basis, with a view to improving product and service quality, promoting the interconnectivity and integrated development of the three places, as well as deepening Hong Kong's economic and trade exchanges and co-operation with the Mainland and Macao. The Trade and Industry Department is responsible for co-ordinating the participation of relevant government bureaux and departments in the work on GBA Standards, and publicises information related to GBA Standards to encourage the trade to

actively participate in the development and adoption of GBA Standards. As of end-March 2026, a total of 270 GBA Standards have been developed and promulgated, covering various fields, including food quality and safety, Cantonese cuisine, prepared dishes, transportation, mechanical and electrical products, as well as medical care, nursing care, education, e-sports and “Environmental, Social and Governance”, etc. The governments of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao will further promote the development of GBA Standards in accordance with the established mechanism.

Facilitating the flow of goods

34. The HKSAR Government strives to assist Hong Kong’s enterprises in entering the Mainland market through the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA), seeking more room for development for the trade on the Mainland and, at the same time, strengthening the economic and trade relations between the two places and fostering trade and investment facilitation. Since the signing of CEPA in 2003, the Mainland and Hong Kong have continuously enriched and updated the contents of CEPA, gradually opening up the Mainland market to Hong Kong businesses. Under the CEPA Agreement on Trade in Goods, all products made in Hong Kong and meeting the CEPA rules of origin can enjoy the preference of zero tariff upon importation into the Mainland. By end-February 2026, the cumulative tariff savings for goods cleared with the Mainland Customs under this arrangement amounted to more than RMB 10.7 billion. The preference of zero tariff under CEPA has enhanced the competitiveness of Hong Kong products in the Mainland market, encouraging local manufacturers to develop Hong Kong brands and high value-added products, and providing Mainland customers with more choices.

35. To facilitate the flow of goods between Hong Kong and the Mainland (including different municipalities in the Greater Bay Area), the Hong Kong Customs and Excise Department (C&ED) and the Mainland Customs have jointly implemented the Single E-Lock Scheme, which makes use of electronic lock and satellite-based tracking system to ensure that goods are not interfered during transportation, thereby reducing the need for duplicate inspections on the same shipment by customs authorities of both sides. Currently, the number of clearance points under the Single E-Lock Scheme has increased to 100, including 71 in Guangdong province (among which 63 are within the Greater Bay Area), four in Hunan

province, seven in Fujian province, one in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, four in Macao and 13 in Hong Kong, providing the trade with over 1 000 routes. C&ED and the Mainland Customs will continue to collaborate in taking forward initiatives to enhance efficiency in customs clearance.

V. Building the Greater Bay Area into a quality living circle

Cross-boundary medical co-operation

36. The HKSAR Government has been following the principles of “complementarity and mutual benefits” to enhance the medical collaboration with various Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area and innovate breakthroughs in the alignment of each other’s rules and mechanisms, so as to promote the overall enhancement of the medical professional standards within the Greater Bay Area and provide more options of healthcare services for Hong Kong residents who choose to develop and reside in the Mainland. Specific examples include –

- (i) In 2024, the HKSAR Government launched the Elderly Health Care Voucher Greater Bay Area Pilot Scheme to extend the coverage of Elderly Health Care Vouchers (EHCVs) to seven integrated medical / dental institutions in the Greater Bay Area. In 2025, the HKSAR Government extended the said Pilot Scheme to include 12 additional medical institutions to cover all the nine Mainland cities in the Greater Bay Area. Together with the two service points operated by the University of Hong Kong-Shenzhen Hospital (HKU-SZH), eligible elderly persons can opt for a total of 21 service points in the Mainland cities in the Greater Bay Area to use their EHCVs, offering more convenience and flexibility, as well as choices of medical treatment.
- (ii) Since July 2024, the HKSAR Government has progressively launched the “Cross-boundary Health Record” and “Personal Folder” functions of the eHealth mobile application at the HKU-SZH and 19 medical institutions under the Elderly Health Care Voucher Greater Bay Area Pilot Scheme. We have extended the “Cross-boundary Health Record” function, which was previously limited to elderly persons eligible for Elderly

Health Care Voucher, to all Hong Kong residents since 24 December 2025. Besides, we have upgraded the “Personal Folder” function, enabling citizens to authorise three designated medical institutions in the Greater Bay Area to deposit their high-resolution radiology images and reports directly into their “Personal Folder” in eHealth since 27 January 2026, thereby facilitating citizens to use their electronic health records across the boundary more conveniently and securely.

- (iii) The overall operation of the Pilot Scheme for Direct Cross-boundary Ambulance Transfer in the Greater Bay Area has been smooth since its launch on 30 November 2024. From 9 November 2025 onwards, apart from Shenzhen and Macao, the said Pilot Scheme has also been extended to designated hospitals in Zhuhai and Nansha. As at early April 2026, 25 patients have been successfully transferred from the designated sending hospitals in Shenzhen, Zhuhai, Nansha, and Macao to public hospitals in Hong Kong for treatment in a point-to-point mode. Since 27 March 2026, the HKSAR Government further extended the said Pilot Scheme to two-way transfer arrangements in collaboration with the governments of Shenzhen, Zhuhai and Macao SAR. The government departments of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao will continue to review the effectiveness and operational experiences of the existing transfer arrangements, with the medical needs, safety and interests of patients as the prime concerns, as well as to continuously optimise the arrangements of cross-boundary ambulance transfer.
- (iv) The HKSAR Government launched the Pilot Scheme for Supporting Patients of Hospital Authority in the Greater Bay Area (the Pilot Scheme) on 10 May 2023, with a view to enabling eligible patients of the Hospital Authority (HA), i.e. patients with scheduled follow-up appointments at designated HA Specialist Out-patient Clinics or Family Medicine Clinics of the HA, to choose to receive subsidised consultation services at the designated collaborating healthcare institution in the Greater Bay Area. The Pilot Scheme is currently

applicable to the HKU-SZH. As at end of March 2026, more than 6 000 patients have joined the Pilot Scheme, with cumulative attendances over 26 000. The HKSAR Government has extended the said Pilot Scheme for one year to 31 March 2027. The HKSAR Government and the HA will evaluate the effectiveness and scope of services of the said Pilot Scheme each year and make necessary adjustments in a timely manner.

- (v) Since the launch of the “measure of using Hong Kong registered drugs and medical devices used in Hong Kong public hospitals in the Greater Bay Area” (the Measure), 66 drugs and 87 medical devices have been allowed by the relevant approving authority to be used in 71 designated healthcare institutions through the Measure. The HKSAR Government will continue to closely communicate with the relevant Mainland authorities on the Measure, and on the progress of Hong Kong in reforming the approval mechanism for drugs and medical devices and developing into an international health and medical innovation hub.
- (vi) Hospital accreditation experts from Hong Kong and the Mainland have collaborated to develop the “China's International Hospital Accreditation Standards (2021 Edition)” (the “Standards”) based on the national Tier III Class A hospital accreditation standards. The “Standards” integrate both international and national requirements and has become the first hospital accreditation system in the country to receive accreditations from the International Society for Quality in Health Care (ISQua) in February 2022. With the active promotion of the HKSAR Government, five public hospitals under the HA have either been successfully accredited under the “Standards” or adopting it for accreditation. The HA is planning to extend the accreditation programme to cover one major acute hospital in each public hospital cluster by 2026-27. Furthermore, the Shenzhen Hospital Accreditation Research Center, which formulated the “Standards”, established its first office outside the Chinese Mainland in Hong Kong in 2024, utilising Hong Kong as a gateway to demonstrate and promote the “Standards” to the

international community, thereby promoting the going global of national hospital accreditation standards.

Cross-boundary education co-operation

37. Hong Kong is leveraging the golden reputation of its higher education and its strengths in internationalisation to cultivate talent for the country's development. At present, Hong Kong Baptist University, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, and City University of Hong Kong have established campuses in Zhuhai, Shenzhen, Guangzhou and Dongguan respectively, offering a range of undergraduate and postgraduate programs. Among them, Beijing Normal–Hong Kong Baptist University (BNBU), CityUHK (Dongguan) and HKUST (Guangzhou) are actively advancing the construction of their Phase II campuses. The Phase II projects of BNBU and CityUHK (Dongguan) are expected to be completed and commence operations in 2027, with HKUST (Guangzhou) Phase II following in 2030.

38. Furthermore, the Sister School Scheme has become an important platform for facilitating exchanges between schools in Hong Kong and the Mainland since its implementation in 2004. As of March 2026, there are about 1 830 Guangdong–Hong Kong sister school pairs, accounting for nearly half of the sister school pairs formed. Among them, the Greater Bay Area has the most sister schools, with a total of 1 700 pairs. Under the Sister School Scheme, schools in the two places conduct mutual visits and exchange activities at school management, teacher and student levels with the use of school-based resources to suit individual schools' development goals, with a view to promoting friendship with their sister schools' counterparts, broadening their horizons, deepening their understanding of the Greater Bay Area and enhancing their sense of national identity. Besides, the Education Bureau has launched the Guangdong-Hong Kong Sister Kindergarten Exchange Programme since the 2023/24 school year, with a focus on fostering professional exchanges and collaboration between teachers from the two places, and enhancing the quality of kindergarten education. In the 2025/26 school year, the beneficiary kindergartens from Guangdong and Hong Kong have increased to 300 altogether.

Cross-boundary elderly care

39. The HKSAR Government continues to implement various

measures, including the provisions of subsidised residential care services and cross-border portable cash assistance, to offer more facilitation and service options for Hong Kong elderly persons to retire on the Mainland.

40. The Residential Care Services Scheme in Guangdong (GDRCS Scheme) subsidises frail HK elderly persons who wish to retire on the Mainland to reside in residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) participating in the Scheme. As at February 2026, the number of RCHEs participating in the GDRCS Scheme increased to 26, fully covering all nine Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area and providing subsidised residential care services to 1 048 Hong Kong elderly persons. The HKSAR Government will continue to increase the number of RCHEs under the Scheme.

41. To ease the concerns of elderly participants of the GDRCS Scheme over medical expenses in Guangdong, the HKSAR Government has, since April 2025, subsidised the elderly persons concerned to subscribe to the local Basic Medical Insurance for Urban and Rural Residents and/or Commercial Medical Insurance, and launched the Pilot Medical Subsidy Arrangement (Pilot Arrangement) since late December of the same year. The two-year Pilot Arrangement shares part of the medical expenses that elderly participants of the GDRCS Scheme need to bear on their own under the National Basic Medical Insurance Policy, with annual ceilings of RMB10,000 per head for outpatient services and RMB30,000 per head for inpatient services. Up to February 2026, 192 medical subsidy applications had been approved, involving around RMB 270,000.

42. The HKSAR Government launched a three-year Pilot Scheme for Elderly Recipients of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) to Reside in Residential Care Homes in Guangdong (Pilot Scheme) in October 2025 to subsidise elderly recipients of CSSA who choose to retire in Guangdong Province to reside in RCHEs under the GDRCS Scheme. With a total of 1 000 quotas, each elderly participant will receive a monthly subsidy of HK\$5,000. As at early March 2026, the Social Welfare Department had received approximately 900 enquiries and 16 applications under the Pilot Scheme, and approved 10 applications.

43. Furthermore, eligible Hong Kong elderly persons currently

retiring in Guangdong and Fujian Provinces can apply for portable cash assistance, including the CSSA payment under the Portable CSSA Scheme, and the Old Age Living Allowance and Old Age Allowance of the Guangdong Scheme and Fujian Scheme under the Social Security Allowance Scheme. To enhance the facilitation for the relevant elderly, the HKSAR Government will refine the disbursement arrangements for portable cash assistance in mid-2026, so that Hong Kong elderly recipients retiring in Guangdong and Fujian Provinces may opt to receive government cash assistance directly through their accounts with designated Mainland banks.

Promotion of the development of youth and women

44. The Home and Youth Affairs Bureau (HYAB) has been actively promoting young people to participate in exchange and internship in the Greater Bay Area through the “HYAB Funding Scheme for Youth Exchange in the Mainland” and “Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Hong Kong Youth Internship Scheme” etc. These programmes enable young people to experience and understand the country’s history, culture and latest development opportunities, and strengthen their national identity.

45. On promoting youth innovation and entrepreneurship, HYAB encourages young people to seize the opportunities brought by the Greater Bay Area development and consider starting and developing their businesses in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area. The Hong Kong and Guangdong governments established the Alliance of Hong Kong Youth Innovation and Entrepreneurial Bases in the Greater Bay Area in December 2023, which has now brought together 70 member organisations from various sectors across the Greater Bay Area to provide more comprehensive support to young entrepreneurs. In addition, HYAB provides start-up capital and support services for youth start-up teams through the “HYAB Funding Scheme for Youth Entrepreneurship in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area”, and launches the “HYAB Funding Scheme for Experimental Programmes at Innovation and Entrepreneurial Bases” to support young people in exploring entrepreneurial opportunities in the enormous Mainland market (including the Greater Bay Area).

46. On women’s development, through the Greater Bay Area Exchange Programme under the Women Empowerment Fund, the HYAB provides funding for women’s groups and non-governmental

organisations to organise exchange activities in cities of the Greater Bay Area for local women. These activities enable women to broaden their horizons, deepen their understanding of national development, and exchange views with women in these cities. Since its launch in June 2023, the Women Empowerment Fund has approved nearly 140 projects under the Greater Bay Area Exchange Programme.

Looking Forward

47. Anchoring on the new strategic position put forward by President Xi, the HKSAR Government will continue to strengthen liaison with relevant Central Ministries and Commissions, the Guangdong Provincial Government and the Macao SAR Government based on the spirits of pragmatism and mutual benefits. We will work together with Guangdong and Macao to develop the Greater Bay Area into a strategic fulcrum of the country's new development pattern, a demonstration zone of high-quality development, and a pioneer of Chinese modernisation.

48. The HKSAR Government will also actively align with the major development directions set out in the National 15th Five-Year Plan and the development of relevant platforms, continue to deepen the alignment of rules and mechanisms amongst the cities of the Greater Bay Area, and facilitate the convenient cross-boundary flow of innovation elements, so as to better integrate into and serve the overall national development. We will also seek more policy breakthroughs that benefit Hong Kong and its people and foster the integrated development of the Greater Bay Area, thereby pursuing better development for Hong Kong and contributing to the country's high-level opening up and high-quality development at the same time.

49. Members are invited to note the content of this paper.

Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Department of Justice
Commerce and Economic Development Bureau
Development Bureau
Education Bureau
Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau
Health Bureau

Home and Youth Affairs Bureau
Innovation, Technology and Industry Bureau
Labour and Welfare Bureau
Security Bureau
Transport and Logistics Bureau
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