

Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area

On 18 February, 2019, the country promulgated the “Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area”, which marked the official opening of the construction of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Greater Bay Area). The development of the Greater Bay Area is an important component of the country's overall development strategy in the new era, and is a critical step in new reform and opening up, and a great measure to realize the grand blueprint of the country in the new era and national rejuvenation. In addition, the development of the Greater Bay Area will further take forward the practice of “One Country, Two Systems”, support the integration of Hong Kong and Macao into the development of the country, enhance the well-being of Hong Kong and Macao compatriots and maintain the long-term prosperity and stability of Hong Kong and Macao.

The Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, located in the southeast coast of China, consisting of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, the Macao Special Administrative Region, as well as the municipalities of Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Zhuhai, Foshan, Huizhou, Dongguan, Zhongshan, Jiangmen and Zhaoqing in Guangdong Province, covering a total area of 56,000 square kilometres with a combined population of approximately 70 million at the end of 2017 and a total of 1.6 trillion US dollars of GDP in 2018. With the characteristics of distinctive geographical advantages, robust economic strength, high concentration of key factors of innovation, advanced level of internationalization and solid cooperation foundations, the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area is one of the most open and economically vibrant regions in China, playing a significant strategic role in the overall development of the country. In particular, the two Special Administrative Regions of Hong Kong and Macao play a special and irreplaceable role in the development of the Greater Bay Area.

In the “12th Five-Year Plan” and the “13th Five-Year Plan”, the country has already proposed the positioning of Macao as a major destination for international leisure and tourism and a service platform for trade and cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking countries. The “Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area” has further clarified Macao's development orientation as “One Centre” and “One Platform”, and also has entrusted Macao with four new tasks and missions: (1) to identify Macao as one of the four core cities in the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, giving full play to the function of “core engines” for the development; (2) to entrust Macao with the mission of developing into a base for exchange and cooperation where Chinese culture is the mainstream coexisting with diverse cultures; (3) to take Macao as a crucial supporting point in the development of the “Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong-Macao” innovation and technology corridor; (4) to leverage the leading roles of Macao-Zhuhai pole, so deepening the cooperation between Macao and Zhuhai. The above positioning and missions are not only the high trust and expectations of the country concerning Macao, but also the golden opportunity for Macao's development.

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