

Eighth Plenary of Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation Joint Conference Progress Report

Areas of co-operation	Major achievements in 2004/05
Promotion of Pan-Pearl River Delta Regional Co-operation	The Expert Group on the Promotion of Pan-Pearl River Delta Regional Co-operation was set up in January this year. Two meetings have been convened to exchange views on the second Pan-Pearl River Delta Regional Co-operation and Development Forum, the hosting of Pan-PRD Regional Co-operation Financial Services Forum in Hong Kong next year, and proposals relating to Pan-PRD Hengqin Economic Co-operation Zone etc.
Economic, Trade and Investment Promotion	<p>(1) The two sides have jointly organised trade and investment seminars on different aspects as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) "Hong Kong Investment Environment Seminar" was held in Hong Kong last August; ii) A seminar on "How Hong Kong investors could enter Mainland's distribution market" was held in Guangzhou in August 2005; iii) A seminar to promote the mountainous regions and the cities in eastern and western Guangdong held in Hong Kong last November; iv) Invest Hong Kong has organised and taken part in 10 seminars in Guangzhou from January to September this year. These seminars aimed at introducing investment environment in Hong Kong and the department's "One Stop Service" to enterprises and government officials in the Mainland.

	<p>v) A Hong Kong Investment Seminar was held in Shenzhen last December, with over 100 senior executives from Guangdong enterprises attending. The seminar aimed to enhance their understanding of the investment environment in Hong Kong and how to make use of Hong Kong as a platform for their business to go overseas;</p> <p>vi) A CEO forum cum Seminar on Hong Kong Services was held in Guangzhou this January;</p> <p>vii) Guangdong-Hong Kong Logistics Cooperation Summit Conference and Hong Kong Logistics Expo in Guangzhou was held this March; and</p> <p>viii) A delegation of 21 cities' government representatives led by Mr Tang Bingquan, Executive Vice-Governor of Guangdong Provincial People's Government, joined the Business Fair for Guangdong-Hong Kong Economic, Technology and Trade Co-operation in Hong Kong in July 2005.</p> <p>(2) Complaints centres to deal with complaints lodged by foreign investors have been set up at different regional and district levels of Guangdong Province.</p> <p>(3) The then Chief Secretary for Administration, Mr Donald Tsang, led about 85 delegates to visit Shantou and Meizhou to explore business opportunities and further co-operation in December 2004. The delegation included manufacturers, service providers and representatives from business associations and foreign organisations in Hong Kong.</p> <p>(4) The Guangdong province has established a webpage (www/gddoftec.gov.cb/sq) to promote business opportunities, comparative advantages and investment environment in the mountainous regions and the cities in eastern and western Guangdong.</p>
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- (5) The Guangdong Province has provided the HKSAR government with statistics on investment of Hong Kong enterprises in 21 cities of the province and the number of individually owned stores, set up by Hong Kong citizens under CEPA. Both sides have also exchanged lists of contact points for newly-added service sectors under CEPA II.
- (6) Four Hong Kong candidates have passed the national Judicial Examination held last September. The Ministry of Justice held a ceremony to present the "Qualification Certificates for Law Professions" in Shenzhen on 3 April this year. The examination venue will be moved to Hong Kong next year.
- (7) A seminar cum press conference on Invest Hong Kong's "One-Stop Service" held in Shenzhen this February.
- (8) Two officials from Shenzhen Municipal Judicial Bureau attended a two-week exchange programme in Hong Kong this January.
- (9) The study on the impact of the first phase of CEPA on the Hong Kong economy was completed in April 2005. Results of the study, apart from releasing to the public, have been reported to the Legislative Council and copied to the Guangdong government.
- (10) Environment, Transport and Works Bureau have sent two trainees each specializing in architecture and civil engineering to receive short-term training in related Shenzhen government units and enterprises. The four trainees completed the course in July 2005.
- (11) On professional services, the webpage of the Law Society of Hong Kong and the Hong Kong Bar Association have been hyper-linked with the homepage of the Guangdong Lawyers Association in mid-2004 and December 2004 respectively. The Law Society of Hong Kong and the Guangdong Lawyers Association signed a memorandum this July to establish a "legal information centre". Both sides have

	agreed to build a platform for legal consultation to provide consultations for enterprises and individuals engaging in investment and other activities in the two places.
Support Guangdong Enterprises to List in Hong Kong	Hong Kong Exchange and Clearing Limited has explained listing in Hong Kong to Guangdong provincial officials and entrepreneurs in various occasions, including Study Class on Capital Market for Senior Government Officials, Seminar for Guangdong Enterprises Seeking Listing in Hong Kong and Seminar on Investment and Capital Formation in Hong Kong for Guangdong Enterprises.
Guangdong/Hong Kong Innovation and Technology Cooperation	<p>(1) Last year, the Guangdong and the HKSAR governments jointly launched the “Guangdong/Hong Kong Technology Cooperation Funding Scheme” and supported 67 research and development (R&D) projects with a total of funding of about HK\$300 million.</p> <p>(2) In view of the positive response, the two sides continue to launch the scheme this year and have reserved \$520 million to support collaborative R&D projects. A total of 395 applications were received and assessment is underway.</p> <p>(3) With a view to facilitating technology exchange and cooperation between research institutions and industries in the two places, the Guangdong and the HKSAR governments have jointly organized a number of technology seminars and forum, including:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">i) Four seminars on “radio frequency identification technologies”, “automotive parts and accessory systems”, “critical precision manufacturing equipment” and “new energy and energy-saving related technologies” were held in Shenzhen on 17 September 2004.</p>

	<p>ii) The Second “Forum on PRD Software Industry” was held in Zhuhai in December 2004.</p> <p>iii) A technology exchange forum covering the topics of “automotive parts and accessory systems”, “consumer electronics, communications technology and embedded software” and “logistics and supply chain management enabling technologies” was organized, in association with the PRD Council of the Federation of Hong Kong Industries, in Hong Kong in January this year.</p> <p>iv) Two seminars on “information and communications technology” and “medical biotechnology and medical device” were held in Dongguan and Guangzhou on July 26 and July 27 this year respectively.</p>
Joint Efforts to Promote Greater Pearl River Delta	<p>Hong Kong, Guangdong Province and a number of cities including Shenzhen, Zhuhai and Dongguan have jointly organised seminars overseas including Stockholm, Marseilles ,Mumbai and New Dehli to promote the investment environment. Last October, the Chief Executive and the Governor of the People’s Republic of Guangdong Province led a delegation to London for the “Hong Kong and Guangdong Investment Seminar 2004”. The seminar attracted over 1,200 participants.</p>
Co-operation in Tourism	<p>(1) A map and a CD were produced last September to promote tourist spots and related information such as routes and transport in Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao.</p> <p>(2) Guangdong, Macao and Hong Kong have joined hands in various activities to promote “multiple tourist itineraries” in the Pearl River Delta Region. They include:</p>

	<p>i) an expo in India this February;</p> <p>ii) Guangzhou International Travel Fair this March;</p> <p>iii) an Expo in Berlin this March;</p> <p>iv) International Travel Expo – ITE held in Hong Kong this June;</p> <p>v) Pan-PRD Regional Co-operation and Development Forum in Chengdu this July; and</p> <p>vi) World Travel Expo in Tokyo, Japan in this September</p> <p>(3) The Pan-PRD region took part in the American Society of Travel Agents Congress held in Hong Kong in September 2004.</p> <p>(4) Tourism websites of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao were hyperlinked to each other at the end of 2004.</p>
Urban Planning and Development Co-operation	<p>(1) The Guangdong and HKSAR governments exchanged the information on city planning and transport infrastructure in the past year.</p> <p>(2) The two governments have reached consensus on study direction and work programme of the "Planning Study on Coordinated Development of the Great PRD Township". It is expected the study will start at the end of this year.</p> <p>(3) The two governments agreed on the preliminary proposal and working direction of the Guangdong/Hong Kong Planning Information Hub. It is expected that the work on the information technology part of the Hub will start in 2006.</p>

Co-operation at Control Points	<p>(1) Both sides would pursue vigorously the construction of the boundary crossing facilities at the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Corridor and map out implementation plans for the colocation arrangement for immigration and custom clearance.</p> <p>(2) Guangdong and Hong Kong Governments have issued 60 additional quotas for cross boundary coaches operating via Lok Ma Chau, in view of the opening of Hong Kong Disneyland. The coach services have already commenced operation.</p> <p>(3) The three boundary bridge projects at the Lok Ma Chau / Huanggang, Lo Wu and Sha Tau Kok were completed in January 2005. They have increased the handling capacity of the bridges and improved the environment for cross-boundary travelers.</p> <p>(4) Construction of the boundary footbridge at Huanggang-Lok Ma Chau has been smooth.</p> <p>(5) A number of initiatives have been committed on the Sea-Air Link service, including a new route to Zhongshan, improvement in tax-refund arrangement and a pilot scheme to provide check-in service at Shekou. full-scale in the near future.</p> <p>(6) With the formal launch of the use of unified cargo manifest between Hong Kong and the Mainland, the "4-up-4-down" rule applicable to cross-boundary freight vehicles was relaxed from January 1, 2005. The driver, tractor, trailer and container no longer need to be tied together for crossing the boundary.</p> <p>(7) From September 28, 2005 onwards, the "one-truck-one-driver" requirement will be relaxed. Every cross-boundary freight vehicle may engage one assigned driver and one back-up driver. The back-up drivers engaged by the same Hong Kong-Guangdong joint venture transport service enterprise may drive any cross-boundary freight vehicle operated by that enterprise. Also, with effect from today, the validity period of joint venture contract of cross-boundary freight</p>
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	vehicles will be extended from three years to six years.
Co-operation in Education	<p>(1) Senior professors from the eight University Grant Committee-funded institutions organised a two-month visit last September to Beijing and Guangdong to explore co-operation opportunities and learn more about development of higher education in mainland, and particularly the Pan PRD region.</p> <p>(2) Hong Kong Institute of Education provided a three-week English Language teaching course to 40 English teachers from Guangdong from January to February 2005.</p> <p>(3) In 2004/05, the Education and Manpower Bureau have aligned 33 primary and secondary schools with their counterparts in Guangzhou as “sister schools”.</p> <p>(4) From this July to August, the South China Normal University has offered a three-week training course to 25 and 15 Putonghua teachers from primary and secondary schools respectively.</p> <p>(5) In 2004/05, principals and senior/middle level management from 41 schools have attended a training course organised by the South China Normal University.</p> <p>(6) A total of 15 expert primary/ secondary language teachers and research officers were nominated by the Education Department of Guangdong to take part in the Collaborative and Exchange Project in local schools focusing on the teaching of Chinese language and Putonghua. The project commenced in September 2004 and the new group of experts has arrived in Hong Kong at the end of August 2005.</p>
Civil Servants Exchange	(1) Six officials from Guangdong Provincial Government units such as trade, finance, environmental protection and city planning came to Hong Kong in late June this year for exchange. The second batch of 5 officials will come to Hong

	<p>Kong in October this year.</p> <p>(2) Four officers from the Highways Department, Transport Department, Electrical and Mechanical Services Department and Finance Secretary's Office have started their attachment to relevant departments of the Guangdong Provincial Government since August this year. Five more officers will start their attachment in the near future.</p>
Coordination of Major Cross-boundary Infrastructural Projects	<p><u>(1) Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge:</u> Agreement was reached on the alignment and landing points of the Bridge in April this year. It will land in Northwest Lantau near San Shek Wan headland on the east and in Gongbei/A Perola on the west. The governments of Guangdong Province, Hong Kong SAR and Macao SAR have also substantially completed the feasibility study for the Bridge. The Co-ordination Group set up jointly by the three governments is now deliberating the findings of the study with a view to seeking the Central Government's approval for formally establishing the project.</p> <p><u>(2) Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link:</u> The governments of the Mainland and Hong Kong SAR have reached consensus on the route and major technical standards. The Mainland side will commence construction works for the Guangzhou to Longhua section by end 2005 with the remaining section from Longhua to the boundary to tie in with the Hong Kong section. For the Hong Kong section, the use of West Rail as well as the proposed Northern Link and Kowloon Southern Link to form the Hong Kong section is now being studied. The report submitted by KCRC is under consideration.</p> <p><u>(3) Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Corridor (HK-SWC):</u> Construction of the Hong Kong section of HK-SWC is more than 80% completed. According to the current progress, it is expected that the works will be completed by end 2005.</p>

Sustainable Development and Environmental Protection	<p>(1) The PRD regional air quality monitoring network has already passed the acceptance test in July this year. Both sides will begin reporting to the public the Regional Air Quality Index for the PRD on a daily basis by the end of this year.</p> <p>(2) The first review of the Deep Bay (Shenzhen Bay) Water Pollution Control Joint Implementation Programme commenced in October 2004. At the moment, both sides are undertaking detailed surveys to identify the major sources of pollution and to collate water quality related information. The information and data collected will be used in the next phase of work to assess the environmental carrying capacity of Deep Bay. It is expected that the review study will be completed by end 2006.</p> <p>(3) The development and calibration work for the Pearl River Delta Water Quality Model is in progress. The project is scheduled for completion in early 2006.</p>
Notification System for Infectious Diseases between Guangdong Province and Hong Kong	<p>Both sides will continue to strengthen cooperation in the following areas:</p> <p>(1) enhance the notification system for infectious diseases;</p> <p>(2) strengthen exchange, training and visit of professionals in infectious diseases;</p> <p>(3) foster scientific research in infectious diseases, for example, AIDS, influenza and dengue fever;</p> <p>(4) promote the development of a co-operation mechanism for public health emergencies;</p> <p>(5) strengthen collaboration on the prevention of influenza pandemic and enhancement of preparedness and capability against it.</p>

Culture and Sports Co-operation	<p><u>Culture:</u></p> <p>(1) Library catalogue links and broadcast searching of bibliographic catalogues were already established among libraries in Guangdong, Macao and Hong Kong.</p> <p>(2) "The Cantonese Opera Day" was organised in Hong Kong, Macao and Guangdong in November last year.</p> <p>(3) "Exhibition to Commemorate the 100th Birthday of Chao Shao-an" was held in Guangzhou earlier this year and is now showing in Hong Kong.</p> <p>(4) "International Museum Day" was organised in May this year. Guangdong province and Hong Kong sent their respective museum units to visit each other in Hong Kong and Guangzhou.</p> <p>(5) Guangdong, Macao and Hong Kong are conducting a survey on consumers' behaviour relating to performing arts events.</p> <p><u>Sports:</u></p> <p>(1) Guangdong, Macao and Hong Kong jointly organised an international sports equipment and products expo in September last year.</p> <p>(2) A Greater Pearl River Delta region motor car race was organised in June this year, with Guangdong province as the starting point and Hong Kong as the finishing point.</p>
Protection of Intellectual Property	<p>(1) The Guangdong/Hong Kong Expert Group on the Protection of Intellectual Property Rights has completed a study on the "Intellectual Property Professional Support Services in Guangdong and Hong Kong".</p>

(2) The "No Fakes" Pledge Scheme has been launched in different cities in the Guangdong Province, such as Guangzhou, Dongguan, Shenzhen and Shantou. At present, 130 companies have joined the scheme. Guangdong and Hong Kong have jointly prepared promotional materials, including a jointly-sponsored Announcement of Public Interest on TV which was simultaneously broadcast in Guangdong and Hong Kong in December 2004.

(3) A joint study on the "The relationship between company registration and trademark registration in Guangdong and Hong Kong and its current situation" was commenced.

(4) With the help of the existing liaison channels of the Customs authorities on both sides, a coordination and handling mechanism for cross-border intellectual property cases has been preliminarily established.

(5) Training and exchange programmes on intellectual property for those who are working in the government in Guangdong and Hong Kong have been conducted.

(6) Two seminars on the "Protection of Intellectual Property Rights and Development of SMEs" were held in Shaoguan and Shunde respectively in November and December 2004. In addition, seminars and a training course on intellectual property were held in Huizhou, Jiangmen and Shenzhen in June 2005.

(7) Through promotion and education, the enterprises in Guangdong and Hong Kong were encouraged to register their intellectual property rights in Hong Kong, and Guangdong respectively.

(8) The contents of the "Intellectual Property Database for Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao" have been continuously enriched to disseminate useful information on intellectual property to the public.

Exchange of Work Experiences on Anti-dumping	In order to facilitate further exchange of information and work experiences on anti-dumping between the Guangdong and Hong Kong sides, the Department of Foreign Trade and Economic Co-operation of Guangdong Province and the Trade and Industry Department signed on September 7 this year a co-operation agreement on the exchange of information on anti-dumping cases.
Co-operation in Business Sector	The Chinese Council of Promotion of International Trade (Guangdong Sub-Council) and the Greater Pearl River Delta Business Council have commenced cooperation and co-organised two seminars in the past year. One was targeted at Guangdong investors interested in establishing business in Hong Kong, and the other at Hong Kong professionals intending to set up practice in Guangdong Province. The seminars provided participants with information on the business environment and relevant procedures in setting up business in both Hong Kong and Guangdong.
Co-operation in food safety	The two governments agreed to exchange advance information on significant food safety measures and policies introduced by either side. They also reached initial consensus on exploring to set up a notification system at a day-to-day operational level. Under this system, both governments will designate officers to make enquiries and notify the other side of issues related to inspection and quarantine of animals and plants and food safety in the two places. Both sides plan to organise meetings on a regular basis or on a needs basis for exchange of views and experience on major incidents and policies related to food safety.

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