

Annex

Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation Agreement Signing Ceremony

Hong Kong and Guangdong (August 2) signed six co-operation agreements today.
They are:

- * Co-operation Agreement on enhancing CEPA implementation for jointly promoting the service industry in Hong Kong and Guangdong
- * Agreement on co-operation to promote energy efficiency, cleaner production and comprehensive utilisation of resources to enterprises in Hong Kong and Guangdong.
- * Hong Kong-Guangdong Social Welfare Co-operation Arrangement
- * Agreement on the application of inspection and quarantine seals to the means of transport for freshwater fish supplied to Hong Kong
- * 2007-2008 Agreement on Guangdong/Hong Kong Co-operation in the Protection of Intellectual Property Rights
- * Arrangement on Strengthening Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation in Informatisation

Following is the gist of the six co-operation agreements:

Co-operation Agreement on enhancing CEPA implementation for jointly promoting the service industry in Hong Kong and Guangdong¹

* Both sides to promote and enhance co-operation in the service industry through interactive exchanges of the trade. Guangdong's relevant provincial authorities will ensure, under the guidance and coordination of the relevant national authorities, the implementation of pilot liberalisation measures in Guangdong introduced under the Supplement IV to the CEPA .

¹ Signed by the Environment Bureau of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) and the Economic and Trade Commission of Guangdong Province.

* Both sides will step up co-operation in the high-end service industry to raise the overall standard of the service industry.

* To increase the level of co-operation in the productive service industry, with emphasis on strengthening the co-operation in logistics, financial services, convention and exhibition services, and distribution services to create more opportunities for co-operation.

* To take forward consultative services in a practical manner by directly providing various targeted regulatory consultative services to Hong Kong investors and professionals.

* To promote co-operation between Hong Kong and Guangdong in the financial area.

* To cooperate in various brand building activities organised by Guangdong or jointly organised by the two sides.

Agreement on co-operation to promote energy efficiency, cleaner production and comprehensive utilisation of resources to enterprises in Hong Kong and Guangdong²

* Both sides will strengthen the co-operation in promotion of energy efficiency, cleaner production and comprehensive utilisation of resources.

* Both sides will cooperate to implement programmes and projects to promote and assist business and industrial enterprises in Hong Kong and Guangdong to put energy efficiency, cleaner production and comprehensive utilisation of resources into practice.

* To create an environment conducive to providers of technologies and services to develop and put into practices the relevant technologies in a bid to enhance regional co-operation so as to jointly promote sustainable development in Hong Kong and Guangdong.

² Signed by the Environment Bureau of HKSAR and the Economic & Trade Commission of Guangdong Province

* To support jointly the environmental initiatives of the industrial and business sectors in Hong Kong and Guangdong.

* The two sides to enhance communication and exchange of information in respect of the related policies and regulations, technical standards and their application, statistics, etc, .

* To enhance communication, exchange of information and sharing of experience through exchange programmes for officials on both sides.

Hong Kong-Guangdong Social Welfare Co-operation Arrangement³

* Setting up an Expert Group on Social Welfare Co-operation under the Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation Joint Conference (expert group).

* Enhancing the understanding between the Governments of the HKSAR and Guangdong on social welfare issues and policies in both places, and strengthening co-operation in social welfare issues of mutual concern.

* Items of co-operation are as follows:

- Following up on the introduction of new measures under the Supplement IV to the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA) to allow Hong Kong service providers to operate elderly service agencies in the form of wholly-owned private non-government enterprises to provide elderly services in Guangdong Province on a pilot basis.

- Promoting experience sharing, training and co-operation in social welfare issues between the Governments of both places.

- Undertaking studies on the current welfare situation of Hong Kong and Guangdong, the challenges being faced by both places and the way forward for future co-operation.

Agreement on the application of inspection and quarantine seals to the means of transport

³ Signed by the Labour and Welfare Bureau of HKSAR and the Department of Civil Affairs of Guangdong Province.

for freshwater fish supplied to Hong Kong⁴

* The agreement stipulated the implementation of the system of applying inspection and quarantine seals to the means of transport for freshwater fish supplied to Hong Kong from areas under the jurisdiction of the Guangdong Entry-Exit Inspection and Quarantine Bureau (GDCIQ). The arrangement aimed to strengthen the management of the transportation of freshwater fish supplied to Hong Kong and to safeguard food safety.

* Quarantine seals will be applied prior to departure to the means of transport (both vehicles and vessels), carrying freshwater fish supplied to Hong Kong from areas under the jurisdiction of GDCIQ . GDCIQ will be responsible for the sealing, inspection and management of the arrangement. The seal number and quantity will be specified on the Animal Health Certificate accompanying the consignment.

* The arrangement of applying seals to the means of transport for freshwater fish supplied to Hong Kong from areas under the jurisdiction of GDCIQ is recognised by the Food and Health Bureau of the HKSAR Government.

2007-2008 Agreement on Guangdong/Hong Kong Co-operation in the Protection of Intellectual Property Rights⁵

* Both sides agreed to step up co-operation to protect intellectual property rights.

* To foster existing mid and long term co-operation projects, to perfect the co-operation mechanism of the Guangdong/Hong Kong Expert Group on the Protection of Intellectual Property Rights. The specific co-operation items are as follows:

- Strengthening the communication and exchange between both sides.

⁴Signed by the Food and Health Bureau of HKSAR and Guangdong Entry-Exit Inspection and Quarantine Bureau

⁵Signed by the Guangdong/Hong Kong Expert Group on the Protection of Intellectual Property Rights (that is, the Intellectual Property Department of HKSAR and the Intellectual Property Office of Guangdong Province)

- Further perfecting the coordination mechanism for cross-boundary intellectual property-related cases, and continuing in reinforcing enforcement co-operation.
- Taking forward the mechanism for promoting innovation by small and medium enterprises in Hong Kong and Guangdong, continue to organise roving ‘Seminar on Intellectual Property and the Development of Small and Medium Enterprises’ in Guangdong Province.
- Continuing to take forward the training and exchange programme for civil servants of intellectual property authorities.
- Continuing to develop the joint information platform on intellectual property rights for Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao.
- ‘No Fakes’ Pledge Scheme will be intensively promoted in Hong Kong and Guangdong; the Scheme will be promoted in more regions of Guangdong.
- Continuing to kick-start the joint focus study on intellectual property rights in Hong Kong and Guangdong, and to conduct exchange and co-operation in promotion and education relating to intellectual property rights.
- * To enhance the promotion of intellectual property rights in Hong Kong and Guangdong, and jointly produce and disseminate an announcement of public interest on intellectual property.
- * To facilitate applicants of Hong Kong and Guangdong to apply for intellectual property registration in Guangdong and Hong Kong respectively.
- * To kick-off exchange activities on intellectual property rights management for tertiary institutions and science and technology institutes in the two regions.
- * To organise Hong Kong/Guangdong forum on creative industries and intellectual property rights.
- * To co-organise seminars on intellectual asset management in Hong Kong and Guangdong.

* To complete the research study on creative industries in Guangdong and Hong Kong.

* To take forward the exchange between intellectual property-related non-government organisations in Hong Kong and Guangdong.

* To strengthen the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games-related intellectual property rights management work.

* To strengthen the existing coordination mechanism for cross-border intellectual property-related cases, to enhance the effectiveness of enforcement co-operation of both sides, to set up a system for effective communication and co-operation.

Arrangement on Strengthening Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation in Informatisation⁶

* Both sides agreed to strengthening the Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation in Informatisation

* Taking forward the co-operation in the software industry between Hong Kong and Guangdong.

* Promoting the use of RFID technology in transportation, logistic, customs clearance and inspection and quarantine.

* Enhancing co-operation in radio spectrum management.

* Fostering co-operation in the development of information technology professionals in Hong Kong and Guangdong.

* Promoting the cross-recognition of digital certificates of Hong Kong and Guangdong, facilitating the development of e-commerce in both places.

* Reinforcing experience sharing on information technology standardization between

⁶Signed by the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer of HKSAR and the Department of Information Industry of Guangdong Province

Hong Kong and Guangdong.

* Promoting digital entertainment co-operation in Hong Kong and Guangdong.
Supporting the training of personnel, co-operating and sharing and resource sharing in the industry.

* Promoting experience sharing and co-operation in next generation internet application among tertiary institutions and the information technology sectors in Hong Kong and Guangdong.

* Promoting co-operation of Hong Kong and Guangdong wireless and mobile technology service sectors.

* Promoting and developing trial schemes for resource sharing in information technology infrastructure and support platform as well as taking forward co-operation between science and technology parks and industrial bases in Hong Kong and Guangdong.

* Strengthening exchange and co-operation on the development of the information technology services sectors in Hong Kong and Guangdong.

* Enhancing information sharing and promoting the establishment of information sharing platform between Hong Kong and Guangdong.

Note: If you have any enquiries regarding the above agreement contents, please contact the relevant bureaux/departments.

ENDS/Thursday, August 2, 2007

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