

response mechanism and enhance public safety” in the Policy Address for the Fiscal Year 2018, to prioritise people’s lives, properties and public safety, enhance disaster prevention and mitigation capability, propose short-, medium- and long-term measures for disaster prevention and mitigation, and announce the commencement of formulation of a ten-year plan for disaster prevention and mitigation (2019-2028) during 2018.

According to the Policy Address, short-term measures include: commence formulation of emergency response action plans in all departments; establish a department focused on civil protection and emergency response coordination, including integrated civil protection drills, emergency response actions by the entire community and protection centres; perfect the laws and regulations on risk management and emergency responses, focusing on the revision of the by-laws and standards for meteorological warnings; and improve flood prevention and drainage infrastructure at the Inner Harbour, to improve the emergency response abilities of the facilities for water and electricity supplies and communications.

Medium-to-long-term measures include: enhance safe operating capacity of the city by prioritising infrastructure development in new urban planning, including the planning of underground pipeline networks and wind-resistant designs for buildings; make use of big data to establish a crisis information management system to foster disaster information sharing and establish a unified information dissemination platform; and establish a professional and efficient emergency rescue team, and improve the professional training of meteorological staff.

Always upholding the principle of serving the public, the Government is implementing disaster prevention and mitigation work in an orderly manner, amending the Civil Protection Law, and formulating a 10-year plan for disaster prevention and mitigation (2019-2028). Major tasks have commenced, including the establishment of a new command system for the management of public emergencies. The Government will also strive to initiate the establishment of an insurance system to cover losses from major disasters, an overall emergency response plan, construction of fundamental major infrastructure, and promotion of safety awareness. The Government will continue dedicating its utmost efforts to overall disaster prevention and enhancing mitigation capability; prioritising people’s lives, properties and public safety; and investing more resources to facilitate development of a long-term disaster prevention and mitigation mechanism with short-, medium- and long-term measures.



PLA Macao Garrison joins hand with the MSAR Government and Macao people in disaster relief

MSAR Adopts Top-down Design to Enhance Coordination Ability

In 2017, in designing and executing its plans for the MSAR, the Government remained steadfast in aligning with the country’s overall development strategy and aiming for Macao’s ultimate prosperity and stability. The Government gradually implemented various measures under Macao’s first Five-Year Development Plan, speeded up economic development, constantly improved the people’s livelihoods and integrated the MSAR into the country’s overall development. Consolidated analyses by the Government and third parties revealed that the effective implementation of plans was over 80 percent in 2016.



With the practical development of Macao as a world tourism and leisure centre and as an economic and trading service platform between China and Portuguese-speaking countries in mind, the Government continued to uphold the “One country” principle and make the best use of “two systems” to allow Macao to fully demonstrate its unique strengths. Through top-down design, the Government constantly enhanced its coordinating and organising abilities, systematically linking up the implementation of Macao’s Five-Year Plan, the establishment of “one centre and one platform”, support for the “Belt and Road” initiative, and the participation in the major cooperative projects in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. Hence, synergies were realised, allowing Macao to keep pace with the world and the country, promoting the long-term prosperity and stability of the city, and benefiting the people of Macao.

Leveraging Macao’s strengths to serve the country’s needs

The “Belt and Road” initiative is a strategy of high significance for the country. In Macao’s Five-Year Development Plan, the Government confirmed its participation in the “Belt and Road” initiative as its development strategy. To encourage Macao’s participation in and support for the country’s “Belt and Road” development, the Government made a series of plans in 2017 in terms of infrastructure building, deepened regional cooperation and connecting places with potential that can be unleashed.

In March, the *Macao SAR Gazette* published an Executive Order to establish the Working Committee for the Development of “Belt and Road” Initiative chaired by the Chief Executive. At the first plenary meeting of the working committee, on 2 May, Chief Executive Chui Sai On

demanded that members of the committee lead by example and build a correct understanding and a broad consensus regarding the “Belt and Road” initiative between government departments and all sectors of society. They should build good relations between the Central People’s Government and Macao, among all government departments, and between the Government and social groups, fostering a culture of joint liaisons, joint establishment and mutual sharing. Through contributing to the country’s development, it is the committee’s objective to enhance quality and foster a stronger sense of benefit among Macao people.

In addition, Chief Executive Chui Sai On led delegations to Fuzhou and Guangzhou in February, to meet with senior leaders of Fujian and Guangdong, and discussed the development of the “Belt and Road”. In the first year of cooperation between Fujian and Macao, work will focus on the preparations for investment in trade and cultural exchanges. Meanwhile, both Guangdong and Macao will strive to foster an organic integration in the building of “Belt and Road”, Macao’s “One Centre, One Platform” and Guangdong’s “Three ways of positioning and two firsts” – creating even stronger relations between Guangdong and Macao through participation in the “Belt and Road” initiative.

On 14 May, a government delegation led by Chief Executive Chui Sai On was invited to attend the opening ceremony of the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation held in Beijing. On 8 June, an international seminar on the “Belt and Road” initiative and Macao’s development was held in Macao, where ex-senior politicians from China, Portugal, Thailand and Brazil, local and overseas business figures, leaders of overseas Chinese communities; and relevant experts and academics from mainland China, Hong Kong and around the world exchanged their views on the “Belt and Road” vision and the opportunities arising from Macao’s participation in and support for the “Belt and Road” initiative.

To enhance the understanding among all sectors of society regarding the significance of Macao’s participation in and support for the “Belt and Road” initiative, and to encourage active participation, the Government held a photo exhibition on Macao’s “Belt and Road” participation and support. This was held in five venues in Macao from late June to the end of July. The photo exhibition reached out to the communities, showcasing and introducing the key highlights of the country’s “Belt and Road” initiative, the relationship between “Belt and Road” and Macao, and how various sectors of Macao society could participate in or support the “Belt and Road” initiative, with a full array of visuals and text.

Positioned to leverage its own advantages in order to complement the country’s development strategies, Macao will actively participate in and support the “Belt and Road” initiative, leveraging the advantages arising from the principle of “One country, two systems”, its geographical advantage and the people networks enjoyed by returned overseas Chinese and their families. It will implement policies to attract investment, manage resources, drive market forces, and coordinate and liaise to establish “Belt and Road” platforms that interconnect countries and regions. It will encourage and drive participation from all sectors of society, especially young people, professionals and SMEs, to unleash creativity, seize opportunities, and perform their best in this “Belt and Road” initiative.

Seizing Bay Area opportunities and enhancing self-development

The work report of the Central People’s Government released on 5 March stated that a plan for the development of Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area metropolis would be formulated to deepen cooperation between mainland China, Hong Kong and Macao, indicating that the building of the Greater Bay Area has officially become a national strategy. On 1 July –

witnessed by President Xi Jinping – the Chief Executive of the Hong Kong SAR, Ms Carrie Lam, Chief Executive Chui Sai On, the Director of the National Development and Reform Commission, Mr He Lifeng, and the Governor of Guangdong province, Mr Ma Xingrui, signed the “Framework Agreement on Deepening Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Cooperation in the Development of the Greater Bay Area” in Hong Kong, jointly building the Greater Bay Area into a more dynamic economic zone, a high-quality living area for living, employment and tourism, and a demonstration zone for deep cooperation between mainland China, Hong Kong and Macao, forming the world’s premier bay area and a world-class metropolis.

As regards tourism cooperation, the tourism departments of nine cities – Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Zhuhai, Foshan, Huizhou, Dongguan, Zhongshan, Jiangmen and Zhaoqing, together with their counterparts in the two special administrative regions of Hong Kong and Macao – in December established the Tourism Federation of Cities in Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. It is hoped that through integrating resources, image promotion and joint marketing, mutual interaction and cooperation will be promoted among member cities, leading to the building of world-class tourism destinations.

To complement the demonstration of Macao’s strength in building the Greater Bay Area, and to enhance self-development, the Government, building on preliminary works, drafted initial suggestions regarding the development plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area metropolis. At the same time, to promote active participation by various sectors of society, on 13 June the Government launched an opinion survey on the development plan, with a view to listening to the opinions of the general public as well as the professional views of experts, thereby learning from the people and forming a social consensus. On 16 June, the Government organised a seminar on the development plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area metropolis, drawing together about 300 members of society to listen to an introduction to the development plan by Government representatives, and to freely express their opinions regarding the plan.

The opinion survey ended on 28 June. It received opinions and suggestions from representatives of over 120 community groups or organisations who came to the Policy Research Office, and 126 submissions from the general public delivered via letters, website posts, emails or by phone. All these survey participants played their role in offering advice regarding Macao’s participation in the building of the Greater Bay Area.

In participating in building the Greater Bay Area, the Government will focus on demonstrating its own unique advantages, and foster mutual cooperation and complementarities with other cities by adopting three major approaches:

Firstly, strengthening Macao’s function as a world tourism and leisure centre by building itself into a tourism education training base to serve both the Greater Bay Area and the world, and joining hands within the Greater Bay Area to shape leisure destinations with advantages;

Secondly, continuing to demonstrate Macao’s function as an economic and trading service platform between China and Portuguese-speaking countries, by exploring new opportunities together with various cities in the Greater Bay Area in the areas of Sino-Portuguese financial, economic and trade cooperation;

Thirdly, exploring the feasibility of building an exchange and cooperation base that is centred on Chinese culture and embraces multiple cultures, taking advantage of Macao’s history of cultural exchanges between the East and West for over 400 years, with a view to building a Greater Bay

Area cultural hub that can help to carry forward Chinese culture.

Building a smart city to benefit people's well-being

Constructing a smart city is an important development approach of Macao, and is a strategic initiative of the Government in seeking economic development and improving the people's well-being. The objectives of smart city construction are clearly set out in the MSAR's Five-Year Development Plan and the policy addresses in the past two years. The Government, through increased coordination and liaisons, gathered the efforts of government departments, experts and academics and community and industry groups to jointly accelerate the building of Macao into a smart city, and relevant initiatives have been implemented. In 2017, a series of action plans were carried out.

On 17 February, a special smart city committee under the Science and Technology Committee held its first meeting to discuss and confirm its annual action plans. Members of the committee included experts, academics, and representatives from science and technology groups and from the Government, who were tasked with promoting academic research on smart cities, along with industrial development and publicity. In December, the committee completed two study reports – Turning Macau into a smart city: a study in strategic development, and Feasibility study of smart mobility for the development of Macao into a smart city – which together serve as a high-level design for the smart city of Macao, and as an important reference for the pertinent pilot programme.

On the other hand, in its first plenary meeting on 28 July, the Committee for Development of the World Centre for Tourism and Leisure chaired by the Chief Executive set up a task force focusing on the development of a smart city for the MSAR. This task force serves as a high-level cross-department liaison unit within the government. It comprises representatives from various government departments, who are to roll out the implementation of smart city construction under the Five-Year Plan of the MSAR and provide relevant recommendations.

Upon confirming the objectives of developing a smart city, the Government drew reference from the experiences of other highly-developed regions, and after thorough study and discussion, on 4 August signed the Framework Agreement of Strategic Cooperation on Smart City Development with Alibaba Group, with a view to harnessing cloud computing and big data to gradually build Macao into a smart city that is led by digital technology to offer its people smart services. The agreement will be implemented in two phases that cover tourism, talent training, transportation management, medical services, urban management and services, environmental protection, customs clearance, and economic forecasts.

The smart city construction by the Government will always have the wellbeing of the people at heart, with a vision of building a city that is good for living and on par with the development of its neighbouring regions. It is also expected that public administration can be improved via the use of technology, thereby raising the service standards and effectiveness of the Government, and better responding to the needs of its people.

