

## Integrating with national development and undertaking mission for the Greater Bay Area



The Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (“Greater Bay Area”) is a major integral part of overall national strategic development in the new era, a crucial step in the new implementation of the reform and opening-up policy, and an innovation in actions propelling the execution of “One country, two systems”. The development of Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area will deepen cooperation, leverage complementary advantages, foster synergies and win-win benefits, and promote mutual prosperity of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao.

The Government fully understands Macao’s role in the reform and opening up of the country in this new era. As we “fully leverage Macao’s advantages according to the country’s requirements”, the Government is determined to fully participate in the deepened implementation of national reform and opening-up strategy, with an innovative mindset and pioneering ambition.

### Outline Development Plan brings Greater Bay Area project to the next level

The Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (“outline development plan”) was officially announced on 18 February 2019, setting out the strategic positioning, development objectives, spatial layout and every

other aspect of the Greater Bay Area. According to the outline development plan, the Greater Bay Area will develop into not only an energetic world-class city cluster, an international innovation and technology hub, a strong pillar supporting the Belt and Road Initiative, a demonstration zone for comprehensive cooperation between mainland China, Hong Kong and Macao, but also a quality region for living, working and travelling, making itself an exemplar of high-quality development.

Macao is already positioned as “One Centre, One Platform” in China’s 12th Five-year Plan and 13th Five-Year Plan. The outline development plan adds one more aspect to Macao’s positioning: “A base for international multi-cultural exchanges and cooperation with an emphasis on Chinese culture”. In an article signed by Chief Executive Chui Sai On titled “Integrate with national development and take on Macao’s new-era mission”, the positioning of Macao in the development of the Greater Bay Area is said to reveal the positioning of Macao in the strategic development of the country. It is, on one hand, a kind of recognition, expectation and historical opportunity; and on the other hand, a duty and a challenge.

As pointed out by Chui Sai On, “The outline development plan, as the strategic regional development approach of the country, entrusts Macao with the tasks of ‘acting as a base for exchanges and cooperation among diverse cultures’ and ‘taking forward the transmission and development of the fine traditions of Chinese culture, emphasising Chinese culture as the mainstream’, having paid due recognition to Macao’s advantages with respect to its political system, its unique historical status, and its rich history and culture. In other words, Macao is expected to undertake even more responsibilities and tasks.

“Within the overarching strategy and context of national development, the future development of Macao will be oriented towards its defined positioning and tasks,” wrote Chui Sai On, who added, “No matter whether as a Centre, or a Platform, or a Base, Macao is positioned between China and the world. On one hand, this demonstrates the historical status and internationalisation of Macao; and on the other hand, it signifies the important mission of Macao in the interactions between China and the world.”

## **Fostering alignment to demonstrate the advantages of Macao**

On 1 July 2017, President Xi Jinping witnessed in Hong Kong the signing of the Framework Agreement on Deepening Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Cooperation in the Development of the Greater Bay Area between the National Development and Reform Commission and the three municipal governments, laying down the objectives and principles of the Greater Bay Area development, and outlining three major areas of cooperation.

2018 was a crucial year for the National 13th Five-Year Plan, and marked an

important period when the execution of Macao's first Five-Year Plan entered its medium term. To ensure consistent implementation of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area strategy and the Framework Agreement on Deepening Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Cooperation in the Development of the Greater Bay Area, the Government joined hands with representatives of ministries of the Central People's Government and local governments to seek breakthroughs in administrative policies with an open and innovative mindset, jointly pushing ahead with the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area.

At the Guangdong-Macao Cooperation Joint Conference held in early January 2018, both governments set out major areas for cooperation, including alignment regarding implementation of the seven major cooperative projects defined in the framework agreement on the Greater Bay Area, thereby joining both regions even more closely through the Greater Bay Area development. To better integrate Macao into the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, and to consistently implement the Framework Agreement on Cooperation Between Guangdong and Macao, the Guangdong-Macau Development Cooperation Fund ("Guangdong-Macao Fund") signing ceremony was held in Guangzhou on 4 May.

The establishment of the Guangdong-Macao Fund was the first accomplishment of innovative financial cooperation between the two regions under the Framework Agreement on Cooperation Between Guangdong and Macao, essentially providing for the cooperative participation of Macao and Guangdong in the Greater Bay Area development. The fund will significantly contribute to infrastructure interconnection, the building of major platforms, the growth of nascent industries, and the building of a quality living area which is favourable for living, work and tourism within the Greater Bay Area, further unifying the development of Macao and Guangdong.

During late June to early July, Chief Executive Chui Sai On led a government delegation to visit nine mainland China cities within the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area: Zhuhai, Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Zhongshan, Jiangmen, Zhaoqing, Foshan, Huizhou and Dongguan. Building on long-standing good relationships and the Framework Agreement on Deepening Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Cooperation in the Development of the Greater Bay Area, the visits helped to further promote close cooperation between Macao and its Greater Bay Area sister cities, and facilitated discussions about cooperation in areas including urban industries, economy and commerce, transportation and youth development, making the best preparations for planning the Greater Bay Area.

As pointed out by Chief Executive Chui Sai On in his report to the Vice Premier of the State Council, Mr Han Zheng, on the Macao projects that are underway for the development of Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, Macao is committed to the Greater Bay Area development to integrate into the country's master development plan, upholding the essence of the 19th National Congress of

the Communist Party of China. To this end, Macao attached special importance to local developments, launched abundant preliminary studies and preparations, taking the initiative to foster organic integration among Macao's five-year plan, annual administrative policies and the development of the Greater Bay Area.

As recent developments reveal, the adequate economic diversification of the Macao SAR has been limited by factors including inadequacies in talented people and land resources. Now, the Greater Bay Area brings Macao valuable new opportunities to foster the next phase of adequate economic diversification, thereby creating more new opportunities for various social sectors.

## **Five-year plan modified to align with Greater Bay Area development**

In 2018, the Central People's Government set up the leading group for development of Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, and Chief Executive Chui Sai On, as one of the members, took part in the first plenary meeting held on 15 August. The leading group confirmed the Central People's Government's support for the building of an international technology and innovation centre in the Greater Bay Area, as well as enhanced cooperation among Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao in technology and innovation.

Chief Executive Chui Sai On said the Macao SAR will fully support the overall national development plan, actively demonstrate its unique advantages in the building of the Greater Bay Area with a focus on the establishment of new mechanisms, modify Macao's five-year plan by adding new content complementing the Greater Bay Area development, and better support the Greater Bay Area with innovative policies and pilot projects.

On 1 September, the Macao SAR Government Policy Research Office and the mainland China affairs task force that was formed under the Chief Executive's Office merged to form the Policy Research and Regional Development Bureau. In line with the unified plan of the leading group for development of Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, the Committee for Development of the World Centre for Tourism and Leisure led by the Chief Executive held its annual plenary meeting on 20 September, mainly to compile the addendum to Macao's five-year development plan by adding new content complementing the Greater Bay Area development, covering five major areas:

1. Promoting adequate economic diversification of the Macao SAR;
2. Participating in the technological innovation of the Greater Bay Area;

3. Supporting the employment, entrepreneurship and innovation of young people coming to the Greater Bay Area;
4. Fostering infrastructure interconnections in the Greater Bay Area, and
5. Improving measures for the convenience of Macao citizens working and living in the Greater Bay Area.

## Setting up the Working Committee for the Development of Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area

In November, the Chief Executive signed an executive order to set up the Working Committee for the Development of Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area to undertake duties including: overall design and planning of MSAR's participation in the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area over short, medium and long terms; pushing ahead with related studies and policymaking; devising annual work schedules and scrutinising their implementation; setting out the approach and guidelines for planned activities; and further improving the building of mechanisms. The Working Committee reports to and is chaired by the Chief Executive.



On 6 December, the Chief Executive, on behalf of the Government, signed the Arrangements for Supporting Macao's Full Participation in Belt and Road Construction together with the National Development and Reform Commission. Focusing on financial cooperation, economic and trade exchange, people-to-people bonds, and the

building of Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, the arrangement serves to allow Macao to demonstrate its unique advantages, enhance its competitiveness, foster the growth of new strengths, and explore new development opportunities through supporting and participating in Belt and Road construction. Such further self-development has major significance for Macao, which can contribute even more value to the country's reform and opening up as well as further integrate into the country's master development plan.

## **Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge opens to facilitate close integration with Greater Bay Area**

The opening ceremony of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge was held in Zhuhai, Guangdong, in the morning on 23 October. The General Secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, President of the People's Republic of China and Chairman of the Central Military Commission, Xi Jinping, attended the ceremony to announce the official opening of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge followed by an on-site visit. The first massive sea-crossing transportation infrastructure jointly built by Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao under the principle of "One country, two systems", the inauguration of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge marks a major milestone for the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area.

With the support of related ministries and the Guangdong provincial government, the construction of the Macao border crossing management area of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge together with the networking links and various preparatory works were essentially completed in December 2017. With the approval of the State Council, they were officially delivered to the MSAR at 0:00 a.m. on 15 March 2018, thereby coming under the jurisdiction of the Macao SAR.

The Macao border crossing management area on the artificial island for the Zhuhai/Macao boundary crossing facilities is a major component of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge. The Zhuhai-Macao Passenger Clearance Building employs an innovative clearance mechanism of "joint inspections for one-stop border crossing". The opening of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge and Zhuhai-Macao passenger clearance facilities are strong examples of regional cooperation under the principle of "One country, two systems", signifying the vast potential for effective development of Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area cities in future.

The opening of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge also marks an acceleration in Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao integration, directly benefiting Macao in the economy, conventions and exhibitions, and trade and commerce.

According to the Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao

Greater Bay Area, Macao will further demonstrate its advantages as a world tourism and leisure centre and a commercial and trade services platform between China and Portuguese-speaking countries, fostering the growth of nascent industries and expediting adequate economic diversification. Given the varied industrial orientation and positioning of Greater Bay Area cities, it is necessary for Macao to fully utilise its unique advantages, follow the strategy of positioned cooperation and complimentary development, and make the best use of policy benefits and the momentum of innovation to make Greater Bay Area cities the bases for its adequate economic diversification, thereby opening up vast development potential for Macao.

## Enhancing crisis management capacity to build a safer city



Building a city favourable for living, commuting and tourism is one of the major tasks in the MSAR Government's Five-Year Development Plan. While commencing various construction projects and enhancing living and commuting conditions, the Government attaches great importance to building a safer city, to protect the lives and property of Macao people.

Since Typhoon Hato hit Macao on 23 August 2017, the Government has continued to review and improve its mechanism for responding to major disasters and their aftermath, as well as promoting and implementing policies on weather disaster prevention and mitigation. The security related departments followed recommendations