

- The Health Code mobile application was launched in late November 2021, adding a “travel log” function to improve the efficiency of epidemiological surveys. By the end of 2022, about 1.057 million people had registered for the Health Code mobile app, and 480 million applications for the Macao Health Code through the app were processed;
- Carrying out nucleic acid testing and cooperating with third-party institutions to gradually improve testing capacity. By the end of 2022, a total of 35.64 million samples had been tested;
- In April 2022, the anti-pandemic Chinese medicine team was established. During the “618” pandemic, for the first time, a combination of Chinese and Western medicine was used to treat more than 1,350 infected persons (about 74% of all infected persons) who agreed to this treatment and more than 110 persons accompanying them; in total about 1,500 persons were provided with traditional Chinese medicines including Lianhua Qingwen capsules and Huoxiang Zhengqi soft capsules/oral liquid. Among 408 infected persons who were foreign nationals, 268 were treated with traditional Chinese medicine, representing 67 percent of this total.

A New Horizon for Macao-Hengqin Integration, with Comprehensive Developments in Full Swing



Over a year since its establishment, the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin (Cooperation Zone) has got off to a good start with the support of the Central People’s Government. Operating within the new system of mutual discussions, joint construction, joint administration, and shared benefits, Guangdong and Macao have joined hands to foster the construction of the Cooperation Zone with the “general theme” – focusing on industrial development, integration of people’s livelihoods, and alignment of rules and regulations, with significant milestones achieved

in Macao-Hengqin integrated development.

With the solid start of the Cooperation Zone development, Guangdong and Macao have jointly coordinated the phased implementation of various objectives.

As the construction of a new system for the integrated development of Macao and Hengqin gained speed, an effective alignment of the two regions' systems became integral to both the long-term development of the Cooperation Zone and the adequate diversification of Macao's economy. The Cooperation Zone has set up a task force on policy research and alignment of rules and regulations, and has maintained close communications with related state authorities, to foster the implementation of key facilitative policies under the Master Plan for the Development of the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin.

The preferential policies on business income tax and personal income tax ("Double 15 percent" tax incentives) proposed in the Master Plan for the Development of the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin comprise the first batch of tax policies implemented after the establishment of the Cooperation Zone, which are also key to attracting enterprises and talents. The master plan specifies that a reduced business income tax rate of 15 percent will be levied on eligible industrial enterprises in the Cooperation Zone, and for high-end and scarce talents working in the zone, the portion of personal income tax exceeding 15 percent of their tax burden will be exempted.

The implementation of the "Double 15 percent" tax incentives in 2022 has greatly enhanced the aspirations and confidence of market players, especially enterprises with funding from Macao, as they participate in the development of the Cooperation Zone; and has attracted high-end and scarce talents from home and abroad to the Cooperation Zone.

The master plan states the need to provide more convenience for Macao residents in terms of entrepreneurship, employment, education and livelihoods in the Cooperation Zone; along with fostering the orderly integration of public services in the Cooperation Zone with those in Macao, and the establishment of a new, open and high-quality social system that is integrated with Macao.

Since the establishment of the Cooperation Zone, Guangdong and Macao have implemented a single application process for business registrations in the Cooperation Zone and Macao, facilitated by cross-border services. Both Guangdong and Macao have set up service points in Macao and the Cooperation Zone, to provide business registration services for local investors, through which investors from Macao and mainland China can register businesses in the Cooperation Zone and Macao without leaving their home city.

In order to implement the relevant requirements of the Master Plan and further facilitate travel by Macao residents to and from Hengqin, the executive committee of the Cooperation Zone, in consultation with the Secretariat for Security of the MSAR Government, fully relaxed the quota for Macao's non-commercial light vehicles (with nine seats or less) entering or exiting Hengqin. This came into effect on 22 August 2022, cancelling the quota limit of 10,000.

By 15 September 2022, construction of the "second-tier" customs surveillance zones at Hengqin Bridge, the Hengqin Tunnel, the Shenjing Passage and the Hengqin Pier in the Cooperation Zone was completed. The successful completion of this project will facilitate the efficient, convenient and safe flow of various resources between the Cooperation Zone and Macao, which will in turn help drive the integration and greater opening up of Macao and Hengqin, and introduce new impetus

for Macao to better integrate into the overall development of the country and enrich the realisation of “One country, two systems”.

The Hengqin Extension of the Macao Light Rapid Transit (LRT) is a major project for the benefit of people’s livelihoods in Macao. The successful hole-through of the cross-harbour tunnel of the Macao LRT Hengqin Extension project on 25 November signified a breakthrough in the construction of Macao’s first cross-harbour tunnel by shield tunnelling. As an important link between Macao and the Cooperation Zone in Hengqin, the LRT Hengqin Line extension will create a comfortable and convenient cross-border travel environment for residents of the two places, and lay the foundation for the incorporation of Macao into the “one-hour living circle” of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area.

During the plenary meeting of the Legislative Assembly on 16 November 2022, in replying to enquiries on the Policy Address for the Fiscal Year 2023, Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng stated that since the establishment of the Cooperation Zone over a year ago, “eight significant growths” had been achieved – mainly in numbers of Macao invested enterprises, brick-and-mortar businesses, high-end manufacturing, and technology research and development enterprises; overall tax revenue; the population of Macao citizens; number of Macao motor vehicles with single licences; number of Macao residents benefiting from medical services in Hengqin; and number of Macao students studying in the Cooperation Zone.

According to 2022 figures, the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the Cooperation Zone reached 46.179 billion patacas during the year, with overall tax revenue of 35.389 billion patacas, representing a year-on-year increase of 13.2 percent. In addition, the number of enterprises with investments from Macao increased significantly – by 1,114, or 15.02 percent, since the establishment of the Cooperation Zone; there were 6,909 Macao residents living and working in the Cooperation Zone, 766 of whom had registered for employment in the Cooperation Zone, representing a year-on-year increase of 58.6 percent.

Since the establishment of the Cooperation Zone more than a year ago, nascent industries contributing to Macao’s adequate economic diversification have flourished. Statistics show that the value added of the financial services industry in the Cooperation Zone reached 16.4 billion yuan in 2022, representing growth of 8.1 percent from the previous year, and accounting for 35.5 percent of the region’s GDP – demonstrating that the modern financial services industry has assumed a major role in the industrial development of the Cooperation Zone.

There are currently about 700 financial services enterprises in the Cooperation Zone, covering sub-sectors such as banking and insurance, financial leasing, wealth management and many others. The overall financial services sector is relatively diverse and can meet the financial service needs of various enterprises. By the end of 2022, there were 22 Qualified Foreign Limited Partner system (QFLP) management enterprises in the Cooperation Zone, 13 of which were Macao-funded. The Cross-boundary Wealth Management Connect Scheme has been operating smoothly, with the number of banks participating in the pilot scheme increasing to nine. As of the end of September 2022, the total amount of cross-border Reminbi settlement in the region exceeded 221.6 billion yuan, representing an increase of nearly 29 percent over the same period last year.

Regarding the promotion of technology industries: making integrated circuits is one of the

key industries in the Cooperation Zone, and the integrated circuit industry in Hengqin has been growing rapidly. The Guangdong-Macao Integrated Circuit (IC) Design Industrial Park in Hengqin has opened, with an occupancy rate of nearly 40 percent. Also, Traditional Chinese Medicine and Macao branded industries have seen steady development. With the improved management of the Traditional Chinese Medicine Science and Technology Industrial Park for Cooperation Between Guangdong and Macao (GMTCM Park), 229 enterprises were registered in the park, 59 of which were Macao enterprises, demonstrating the agglomeration effect of the industry.

Over the past year, since the establishment of the Cooperation Zone, the new neighbourhood for Macao residents to live and work in has a new look. China's first one-stop social security counter for Guangdong and Macao has become operational, offering Macao residents free access to 14 essential public health services, including medical check-ups for the elderly and treatment for chronic diseases. Macao students in the Cooperation Zone can enjoy Macao's education subsidies. The special cooperation between Guangdong and Macao on "One Examination, Multiple Accreditations" for vocational skills has officially commenced.

The Macao New Neighbourhood in Hengqin is an integrated community with housing, education, healthcare and social services. The topping out of the project's first tower was completed at the end of September 2022, with 4,000 residential units scheduled for sale in 2023. The overall planning and design of the project aim to create a living environment akin to Macao, providing Macao citizens with more convenience for studying, employment, entrepreneurship and livelihoods in Hengqin.

Optimising Municipal Facilities and Building a Green, Liveable Environment

