

tourists to spend within the community, boosting the community’s consumption potential. Notably among these community-oriented promotions, the “Weekend Consumer Rewards in Northern District” saw a total of over 29.75 million patacas in e-commerce discounts reimbursed, boosting consumption in the Northern District by about 150 million patacas. The “Macao Spending Rewards” mega consumer promotion campaign recorded redemption of e-commerce discounts totalling around 227 million patacas, stimulating over 1.1 billion patacas in consumption across Macao.

Enhancing Hengqin-Macao In-depth Integration and Pursuing Joint Development via a Cooperation Platform Between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries

2024 marked the 25th anniversary of Macao’s return to the motherland, and was an important year for the Macao SAR regarding deepening appropriate economic diversification and integrating into the national development plan. In its role as the first new model of joint consultation, joint construction, joint management, and shared benefits between Guangdong and Macao under the “One country, two systems” principle, Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin (“Cooperation Zone”) implemented a two-tier management model in 2024, along with a series of policy measures, to achieve better connections and integration between Macao and the Cooperation Zone. Regarding the construction of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, the MSAR Government actively promoted the implementation of various policy measures concerning the economy and people’s livelihoods, to better enable Macao residents and enterprises to live, work, and conduct business in the Greater Bay Area.



Since the establishment of the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin in 2021, and with the strong support of the Central Government, the MSAR Government has regarded the high-quality completion of the first-phase development goals of the Cooperation Zone as an important political task. Together with Guangdong Province, we have worked hard and achieved significant progress. The operating entities and added value of Macao-funded enterprises have significantly increased, the proportion of the “four nascent industries” has continued to rise, the livelihood index related to Macao has significantly improved, and work on integrating Macao and Hengqin has accelerated.

Accelerating development of the “four nascent industries” and enhancing Hengqin-Macao economic linkages

During the year, the effectiveness of the interconnections between the “four nascent industries” was enhanced. The Government clearly defined the development positioning and industrial structure of the Guangdong-Macao Traditional Chinese Medicine Technology Industrial Park, with nine renowned traditional Chinese medicine enterprises recently established in the park; announced guidelines for management of the “Products inspected by Macao”, “Production supervised by Macao” or “Designed by Macao” accreditation; and launched the “Products inspected by Macao” accreditation logo. The Government also strengthened the cross-boundary cooperation mechanism between financial authorities in Macao and Hengqin, with the implementation of the Electronic Fence accounts (EF Accounts) in the Cooperation Zone, promoted the use of Macao’s Simple Pay integrated electronic payment platform in the Cooperation Zone, and actively facilitated collaboration between Macao’s insurance industry and the Hengqin Insurance Service Centre. Under the strategy of “R&D in Macao, Commercialisation in Hengqin”, several projects have been successfully implemented in Hengqin. To promote the flows of people and the development of tourism, the Government has launched the Macao-Hengqin Travel Stimulation Programme, and implemented a policy allowing tour groups from the Chinese mainland to take multiple trips between Hengqin and Macao.

According to the unified accounting results of the regional gross domestic product (GDP) of the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin, in 2024, the Cooperation Zone achieved a regional GDP of 53.848 billion yuan, representing a 5.3 percent year-on-year increase at constant prices. This includes an added value of 9.842 billion yuan by secondary industries, representing a year-on-year increase of 0.5 percent; the added value of the tertiary industries was 44.006 billion yuan, representing a 6.5 percent year-on-year increase.

In terms of industry-wide calculations, the “four nascent industries” have achieved significant growth: the added value of the electrical machinery and equipment manufacturing industry, the special equipment manufacturing industry, the computer, communication and other electronic equipment manufacturing industry, and the pharmaceutical manufacturing industry increased by 61.4 percent, 39.2 percent, 30.2 percent, and 13.4 percent year-on-year respectively. The information transmission, software and information technology service industry grew by 46.9 percent, and the accommodation and catering industry grew by 9.7 percent year-on-year.

By the end of 2024, there were 6,798 entities with significant funding from Macao (including 6,681 entirely Macao-funded enterprises) operating in the Cooperation Zone, representing a 12.9 percent year-on-year increase. Macao-funded operating entities accounted for 11.6 percent of all operating entities in the zone, 1.2 percentage points higher than the figure for the previous year.

On 1 March 2024, the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin officially implemented the two-tier management model together with closed-loop customs arrangement, becoming the first special customs supervision area on the mainland to implement such a policy. The policy, centred on “first-tier” relaxed administration and “second-tier” strict customs control, has significantly enhanced flows of goods and people. During the year to the

end of February 2025, more than 23.8 million people and over 2.54 million vehicles passed through the “first tier” Hengqin Port, representing year-on-year increases of 30.7 percent and 31.4 percent, respectively. Among them, Macao residents and vehicles with only Macao licences accounted for 5.46 million people and 1.68 million vehicles, respectively, comprising 23 percent of the total passenger flow and 66 percent of the total vehicle flow. The “second tier” channel saw an average of about 51,300 vehicles leaving the island daily, fully reflecting the convenience and effectiveness of the policy covering the two-tier management model together with closed-loop operations.

Measures implemented to boost convenience for people, facilitating entry to Hengqin by Macao citizens

While promoting economic interactions and exchanges, the MSAR Government continuously improves the livelihood-related work in the Cooperation Zone. The supporting facilities of the Macao New Neighbourhood project are continuously improved, including through opening the first school for Macao children in the mainland during autumn of 2024, the family community service centre and the elderly services centre becoming operational, and the health station being managed and operated according to the model adopted by Macao health centres. In addition, the pilot programme for dual-currency payment collection has been implemented by shops and businesses within the zone, allowing Macao citizens to more conveniently use Macao pataca mobile payment tools.

The Guangdong-Macao Social Insurance Window and the Personal Income Tax Preferential Assistance System for Macao Residents have been launched, further facilitating the handling of cross-boundary social security and tax affairs for residents.

To further safeguard the health of residents, the MSAR Government has extended the Macao Healthcare Subsidy Scheme to the Cooperation Zone. The first batch of 296 medications has been approved for use in designated medical institutions within the Cooperation Zone. Since the establishment of the Cooperation Zone, public medical institutions have provided medical services to over 25,000 Macao residents.

Actively participating in Greater Bay Area cooperation for better integration with the national development plan

In 2024, the MSAR Government continued participating in the construction of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, promoting the interconnection of electronic payments, cross-boundary insurance, and cross-boundary wealth management with Chinese mainland financial departments. Several Macao-funded banks opened branches in the Greater Bay Area. The Government also assisted Macao training institutions with registering as social training and accreditation organisations recognised by the Chinese mainland for certification of vocational skill levels. Also, during the year, the Government established a system for aligning civil and commercial rules in the Cooperation Zone with those in Macao, and continuously improved the diversified dispute resolution mechanism in the Greater Bay Area, promoting further integration of mediation and arbitration mechanisms among Guangdong, Hong Kong, and Macao.

To facilitate the flow of people between Hong Kong and Macao, the governments of both regions have optimised the convenience of entry and exit measures. The Macao One Account and entry-exit inspection systems were upgraded. A QR code clearance service is provided for residents of Hong Kong and Macao who have registered to use their regional self-service clearance channels.

According to the latest data released by the Statistics Bureau of the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin, on 10 December, the number of Macao residents employed and/or residing in the Cooperation Zone has reached 20,818, representing a year-on-year increase of 15.2 percent. This figure includes 5,132 employed people, representing a year-on-year increase of 4.9 percent, and the 16,539 people residing in the zone, representing a year-on-year increase of 19.1 percent.

The MSAR Government also deepened exchanges and cooperation with mainland provinces and cities through Guangdong-Macao, Fujian-Macao, and Shanghai-Macao cooperation mechanisms, as well as through special teams connecting with Hainan and Guangxi. Also, the Government continued supporting rural revitalisation work in Xiushui County, Jiangxi, to foster local economic and social development.

Fostering the development of a platform for cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking countries, and actively participating in the “Belt and Road” initiative

An important component of the platform for trade and economic cooperation services between China and Portuguese-speaking countries – the Sixth Ministerial Conference of the Forum for Economic and Trade Cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries, was held in 2024. The conference identified key areas and methods for future economic and trade cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking countries, further enhancing Macao’s role as a platform for cooperation in business services between China and Portuguese-speaking countries. The participating countries jointly signed the Strategic Plan for Economic and Trade Cooperation (2024-2027) and assisted several traditional Chinese medicine products with entry to Portuguese-speaking countries’ markets. Meanwhile, the Centre for Science and Technology Exchange and Cooperation Between China and Portuguese-Speaking Countries (CSTCP) officially commenced operation; to date, its two locations in Hengqin and Macao have attracted four projects. The centre aims to promote cooperation in scientific and technological innovation between China and Portuguese-speaking countries.

The MSAR Government actively participates in the “Belt and Road” initiative. So far, it has signed Agreements for Elimination of Double Taxation and Prevention of Tax Evasion and Avoidance with eight Portuguese-speaking countries, and countries along the “Belt and Road”. Through the International Infrastructure Investment and Construction Forum and various large-scale exhibitions, the Government has strengthened cooperation with countries and regions along the “Belt and Road” and established a “Belt and Road” themed pavilion to deepen related cooperation. The Government has additionally actively promoted the establishment of a friendship city relationship with Dili, East Timor, and officially signed a friendship city memorandum.