

For information

**Legislative Council
Panel on Commerce and Industry**

**The Work of Expert Groups under
Hong Kong Guangdong Cooperation Joint Conference**

PURPOSE

At the meeting of LegCo Panel on Commerce and Industry held on 10 November 2003, the Administration undertook to provide information on the work and the ongoing projects and activities of the 15 expert groups under the Hong Kong Guangdong Cooperation Joint Conference (Joint Conference). This paper briefs Members on their work.

SCOPE OF WORK OF EXPERT GROUPS

2. Starting from the Sixth Plenary of the Joint Conference, the meeting is to be chaired by the heads of the two administrations, i.e. the Chief Executive and the Governor of Guangdong. The Executive Vice-Governor of Guangdong and the Chief Secretary for Administration (CS) will be responsible for steering and taking forward the agreed cooperation initiatives. To achieve Hong Kong Guangdong cooperation, both sides agreed that 15 expert groups should be set up under the Joint Conference to oversee cooperation programmes. The major responsibilities of the 15 expert groups are as follows:

(1) Expert Group on Tourism

3. The group is responsible for capitalizing on the strengths of the tourism industry in the Greater Pearl River Delta (GPRD) region by promoting the idea of multi-destination itineraries to overseas travellers. Both sides will be committed to ensure the smooth implementation of Individual Visit Scheme and the introduction of measures to cope with the surge of mainland tourists during the National Day holidays. They will also actively participate in the Hong Kong International Travel Expo and jointly

promote the Pearl River Delta (PRD) as a tourist destination in Japan, Korea, Britain and Germany. Moreover, they will make continuous efforts in developing the Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao tourism information platform and stepping up cooperation.

(II) Expert Group on Co-operation in Control Points

4. The group is responsible for further strengthening the cooperation between the control points on both sides with a view to enhancing their operational efficiency, capability and standard of service. It is tasked to streamline clearance procedures, employ new technology where appropriate, shorten clearance time and expedite the development of various control point-related infrastructure. In the short term, both sides will seek to increase the frequency of the Hong Kong-Guangzhou through train services and expand the coverage of the passenger ferry services between the PRD and Hong Kong International Airport as early as possible (the first ferry routes to Guangdong Province, including Fuyong and Shekou in Shenzhen as well as Dongguan, have been operational since 29 September 2003). In the medium and longer term, efforts will be made to improve the infrastructure in control points. We will strive to complete soonest possible the installation of air-conditioning system at the Lo Wu cross-boundary footbridge, the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Corridor, the new cross-boundary bridges at Lok Ma Chau (LMC) and Sha Tau Kok Control Points, and the Huanggang-LMC passenger footbridge. Completion of these projects will enhance the handling capacity of our control points.

(III) Expert Group on Coordinating Hong Kong Guangdong Cross Boundary Major Infrastructural Projects

5. The group will coordinate and promote cooperation in the development of major cross boundary infrastructural projects in Hong Kong and Guangdong. Both sides will take active step to conduct feasibility studies on major projects such as the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge and the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link, and endeavour to complete them as early as possible.

(IV) Expert Group on Exchange and Notification Mechanism on Infectious Diseases

6. The group seeks to improve the exchange and notification

mechanism between Hong Kong and Guangdong in order to provide an effective communication and exchange channel for the notification of existing and other infectious diseases. One focal point in this cooperation is to safeguard public health and forestall any economic losses inflicted by possible outbreak of infectious diseases. Both sides have strengthened the notification mechanism in early September and will work closely to follow up on the matter.

(V) Expert Group on Implementation of CEPA

7. The expert group is set up to exploit opportunities made available by CEPA to enhance cooperation with the Guangdong Province, in particular the PRD. The expert group will facilitate Hong Kong companies and individuals to set up businesses in Guangdong by disseminating business information on all or specific sectors through channels such as hyperlinks on web pages, exchanges between corresponding government departments and seminars. It will also provide mainland enterprises with information on the general investment environment in Hong Kong and specific sectors through seminars co-organized with relevant mainland government departments and agencies as well as trade associations. The expert group will take the initiative to visit enterprises in key mainland cities to find out if they are interested in “going out” and the difficulties they encountered in the process, and to provide assistance where appropriate. It will also receive mainland private enterprises on familiarisation trips to Hong Kong and give them a better understanding of the local business environment and opportunities available.

(VI) Expert Group on the Protection of Intellectual Property Rights

8. Hong Kong and Guangdong share the common goals of promoting economic development through protection of intellectual property rights (IPR); enhancing exchanges and cooperation in matters related to IPR on all fronts to safeguard economic benefits; and coordinating the efforts of Hong Kong/Mainland institutions in terms of the promotion, training, exchanges and cooperation regarding IPR. Cooperation programmes on this front include co-hosting of the Seminar on Intellectual Property and Development for Small and Medium Enterprises, holding regular meetings between the two Customs authorities to coordinate enforcement issues, etc. The prospects of developing IPR management as a new service industry in Guangdong and Hong Kong will also be examined.

(VII) Expert Group on Cooperation in Innovation and Technology

9. The group is responsible for promoting closer cooperation between Hong Kong and Guangdong in supporting the development and upgrading of industries in both places. It also seeks to facilitate the application of creativity, design and technology to their industries ; and plays an active role in the development of knowledge-based, high value-added industries in both places. Cooperation in research and development (R&D) will be strengthened through activities like study missions, seminars and regular forums to promote the commercialisation of R&D and the further development of relevant industries.

(VIII) Expert Group on Promoting “Greater Pearl River Delta”

10. The group is responsible for promoting the GPRD region to foreign enterprises, with the combined strengths of Hong Kong and the PRD, as an ideal destination of foreign investment. Specific programmes include stepping up efforts in overseas promotion through holding annual joint overseas seminars to promote the investment environment of GPRD, for example, the joint investment promotion held in Japan and Korea in October 2003, to publicize the advantages of Hong Kong and Guangdong in attracting foreign investment, and the opportunities under CEPA.

(IX) Expert Group on the Hong Kong Guangdong Economic Cooperation Seminar

11. The expert group successfully held the Hong Kong Guangdong Economic Cooperation Seminar on 25 September 2003 for the purpose of beefing up communication between the governments and business communities in Hong Kong and Guangdong, and further expanding the scope of mutual cooperation. The departments concerned are following up on matters concerning investment in Guangdong raised in the seminar.

(X) Expert Group on Expanding the Hong Kong Guangdong Economic Cooperation Hinterland

12. The group is formed to encourage Hong Kong businessmen to invest in the mountain region as well as the eastern and western regions in Guangdong by jointly formulating the promotional strategies in indentifying the priority cities and industries to be promoted, enhancing exchange of information, and organizing study missions to visit the hinterland.

(XI) Joint Working Group on Sustainable Development and Environmental Protection

13. The group is tasked to protect the overall environment of the GPRD region through enhanced cooperation in cross-boundary environmental issues. Cooperation initiatives include endeavouring to reduce emissions of major air pollutants in the PRD to an agreed level by 2010, explore the feasibility of introducing a pilot emissions trading scheme among power plants in Hong Kong and Guangdong, engage in exchanges and cooperation in marine resources, afforestation and ecological conservation, monitor the water quality of Dongjiang, protect the environment of Mirs Bay and Deep Bay as well as hold regular discussion sessions to exchange views on town planning and other related infrastructural developments in Hong Kong and Guangdong.

(XII) Expert Group on Co-operation in Education

14. The group aims at enhancing educational co-operation in various aspects, with a view to facilitating exchange of information and the professional development of education workers in both places. To this end, communication will be strengthened to allow better exchanges of information and experience. Expert meetings will be held in future to draw on, and share experience from the latest development in curriculum reform and the work on opening up more learning opportunities. The University Grants Committee will also organize a delegation to Guangzhou to study the planning and operation of the University Town. Local universities will be left to make their own decisions as to whether they should set up new campus there.

(XIII) Expert Group on Co-operation in Culture and Sports

15. The group is responsible for promoting cooperation in culture and sports. On the cultural front, Hong Kong, Guangdong and Macao will cooperate to help achieve complementary development, share resources, improve efficiency, reduce cost, create new brand names, groom more talents, exchange information and promote art and cultural activities. This will help elevate the cultural level of the GPRD, thereby boosting the cultural and economic developments of the whole region. An Agreement on Greater Pearl River Delta Cultural Cooperation, which sets out the common goals and areas in cultural cooperation, was already signed by Hong Kong, Guangdong

and Macao. The three cities will hold meetings from time to time to discuss matters concerning cultural cooperation. They have also set up working groups to follow up on issues such as exchange of performing artists and cultural information; joint organization of international events; development of museum network; excavation, preservation and promotion of cultural relics; networking of digital library services and promotion of Cantonese opera.

16. As for sports cooperation, Hong Kong and Guangdong have set the sights on enhanced training for athletes and higher sporting level through sharing of information on sports and resources and complementary development. The ultimate aim is to hold sports events on a grand scale and achieve excellent sports management in order to expedite exchanges and boost economic development of the two places. Specific cooperation programmes encompass sharing sports data; training promising young athletes and promoting sports culture; drawing on Mainland expertise to help elevate the general sporting level of Hong Kong; and working actively with Guangdong in the development and study of quality management for leisure, yacht and fitness clubs.

(XIV) Expert Group on Tonggu Waterway

17. The group will lend full support to the relevant institutions in Shenzhen to facilitate an early completion of the related statutory procedures and compliance with the relevant requirements.

(XV) Expert Group on Information Exchange

18. The group is responsible for collecting and exchanging information for initial planning of major infrastructural projects and long-term regional developments in both places, and keeping each other informed of any relevant seminars in order to facilitate arrangements for participation.

19. Major cooperation projects of the above 15 expert groups are listed in the Annex.

**Hong Kong Guangdong Cooperation Coordination Unit
December 2003**

Major Cooperation Projects of Expert Groups under Hong Kong Guangdong Cooperation Joint Conference

Expert Group on Tourism

- Notification mechanism for Individual Visit Scheme*
- Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao theatrical night*
- International Travel Expo Hong Kong*
- Trade familiarisations in Japan and Korea to promote tourism*
- World Travel Market in London
- International Tourism Bourse in Berlin, Germany
- Phase II of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao Tourism Information Platform development project

Expert Group on Co-operation in Control Points

- Passenger ferry services linking up the PRD and Hong Kong International Airport*
- Installation of air-conditioning system at the Lo Wu cross-boundary footbridge
- New cross-boundary bridge for Lok Ma Chau and Huanggang
- New cross-boundary bridge at Sha Tau Kok Control Point
- Control Point for the Hong Kong- Shenzhen Western Corridor
- Huanggang-Lok Ma Chau passenger footbridge
- Allowing private cars with Closed Road Permit for Man Kam To and/or Sha Tau Kok Control Points to access Huanggang/Lok Ma Chau Control Point after midnight*
- Notification mechanism on emergency at control points in Hong Kong and Guangdong
- Increasing the frequency of through-train service between Hong Kong

and Guangzhou to 12 daily from each direction

- Enhancement of clearance technology and sharing of information of the control points
- Consideration of 24 hour clearance at new control points

Expert Group on Coordinating Hong Kong Guangdong Cross Boundary Major Infrastructural Projects

- Hong Kong - Shenzhen Western Corridor
- Advance work of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge
- Study on the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link
- Cooperation of airports in the PRD

Expert Group on Exchange and Notification Mechanism on Infectious Diseases

- Establishment of an exchange and notification mechanism on infectious diseases*

Expert Group on Implementation of CEPA

- Forging a closer tie between the relevant departments in Hong Kong and Guangdong to assist Guangdong enterprises in making investment in Hong Kong. This includes dissemination of information in Guangdong on a wider scope about ways to apply for setting up businesses in Hong Kong, streamlining of application procedures and speeding up the vetting process
- Dissemination of more information about regulations and tendering on the construction industry and related engineering services by linking up the information website of Guangdong with that of the Environment, Transport and Works Bureau
- Seeking support and assistance from Guangdong Provincial Government

in streamlining the application procedures for Hong Kong businessmen engaged in the construction industry and related engineering services to set up companies in the province, exercising flexibility in handling such applications, and providing ‘one-stop’ service to speed up the vetting process

- Strengthening the exchange and training of professionals engaged in the construction industry and related engineering services in Hong Kong and Guangdong
- Exploring cooperation opportunities for Hong Kong and Guangdong enterprises and organizing seminars for the construction industry and related engineering services
- Stepping up exchanges between associations of the legal profession and relevant government departments in the two places
- Promoting investments from Hong Kong enterprises in the export/import trade and distribution services in Guangdong
- Assisting Hong Kong permanent residents with Chinese nationality to set up privately-owned retail businesses in Guangdong
- Enhancing cooperation and exchange between the distribution and foreign trade services in both places
- Implementing the preferential measures accorded to the logistics, freight forwarding agency, storage and warehousing, and transport services under CEPA; and working out details for implementation
- Working out implementation details of “through train” service between Hong Kong and Guangdong

Expert Group on the Protection of Intellectual Property Rights

- Coordinating the law enforcement efforts to protect intellectual property rights (IPR) through the half-yearly meetings between the Customs authorities in Hong Kong and Guangdong*

- Holding in Shenzhen the Seminar on Intellectual Property and Development for Small and Medium Enterprises*
- Sharing publicity materials between the Hong Kong Intellectual Property Department and the Guangdong Provincial Intellectual Property Office, such as online educational games*
- Holding in Hong Kong the first meeting of the Expert Group on the Protection of Intellectual Property Rights*
- A two-month study to explore the feasibility of developing IPR management in Guangdong and Hong Kong
- The Hong Kong Customs and Excise Department sharing experience in enforcement, forensic examination and CD production control with the IPR enforcement agency in Guangdong
- Setting up online Intellectual Property Database for Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao
- Hong Kong Customs to conduct briefings on enforcement practice and experience in the protection of intellectual property rights
- To co-organize a seminar entitled " Branding into the Mainland Market" with the Hong Kong Trade Development Council in a Guangdong city

Expert Group on Co-operation in Innovation and Technology

- Facilitating the development of software industry in Hong Kong and Guangdong
- Holding technology and industry match-making and cooperation forums in Hong Kong and Guangdong
- Fostering cooperation between the R&D institutions in Hong Kong and Guangdong

Expert Group on Promoting “Greater Pearl River Delta”

- Organizing investment promotional activities in Japan and Korea*
- Promoting the GPRD in the World Economic Development Declaration Conference held in Zhuhai*
- Holding Seminars on Investment Environment in the GPRD in overseas countries
- Linking up respective websites and creating a dedicated web page featuring the investment environment of the GPRD
- Producing promotional materials on the GPRD

Expert Group on the Hong Kong Guangdong Economic Co-operation Seminar

- The Hong Kong Guangdong Economic Co-operation Seminar*
- Regular activities to promote economic cooperation
- Updating with the Guangdong side information about the operating environment of Guangdong businesses in Hong Kong
- Follow-up on matters related to seminars and other activities held

Expert Group on Expanding the Hong Kong Guangdong Economic Co-operation Hinterland

- Jointly work out the priority cities and industry sectors to be promoted*
- Establishment of an information exchange system at the websites of both sides in disseminating information of the investment opportunities in the mountain, eastern and western regions
- "Online Promotion" will be conducted for the mountain region as well as the eastern and western regions in Guangdong jointly
- Study missions from Hong Kong to be organized to visit the hinterland

Joint Working Group on Sustainable Development and Environmental Protection

- Taking measures to reduce, on a best endeavour basis, emissions of major air pollutants in the PRD to an agreed level by 2010
- Exploring the feasibility of introducing a pilot emissions trading scheme among power plants in Hong Kong and Guangdong
- Setting up a regional air quality monitoring network of 16 monitoring stations and a joint data centre for sharing real-time data and verified data collected from those stations
- Cooperation in the re-stocking of fish and shrimp fry
- Deployment and monitoring of artificial reefs
- Commissioning the Forestry Bureau of the Guangdong Province to conduct a research project on the prevention and control of *Mikania micrantha* in Hong Kong
- Training courses on the identification of endangered species
- Development of a PRD Water Quality Model
- Mirs Bay Water Quality Regional Control Strategy Joint Study
- Deep Bay (Shenzhen Bay) Water Pollution Control Joint Implementation Programme
- Exchange of findings of environmental impact assessments for major projects, especially cross-boundary development projects that may affect the environment of Mirs Bay and Deep Bay (Shenzhen Bay) in Hong Kong and Guangdong
- Monitoring the water quality along the Dongjiang mainstream and Dongshen water supply system
- Sharing views regularly on the overall planning of Hong Kong and Guangdong, particularly regarding Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Zhuhai and other PRD cities, and exchanging information on specific development projects

Expert Group on Co-operation in Education

- Inviting representatives from Guangdong to participate in the annual Expert Meeting on Curriculum Reform of Basic Education co-hosted with the Ministry of Education
- Taking part in the teaching programmes of the Guangzhou University Town
- Streamlining procedures of granting Mainland students admission into Hong Kong universities
- Forums for heads of secondary schools and universities
- Mutual recognition of the degrees and qualifications conferred by tertiary institutions
- Sharing of electronic library resources of tertiary institutions
- Joint scientific and technological researches between tertiary institutions
- Co-operation in running schools (set up primary and secondary schools as well as tertiary institutions offering Hong Kong curriculums in Guangdong)
- Training and exchange programmes for teachers

Expert Group on Cooperation in Culture and Sports

- Convening the Greater Pearl River Delta cultural cooperation meetings*
- Setting up working groups to follow up on specific cultural cooperation programmes (including exchange and training programmes for performing artists; joint organization of international events; exchange of cultural information; development of museum network; excavation, preservation and promotion of cultural relics; networking of digital library services; and promotion of Cantonese opera) and proposing new cooperation initiatives (in cultural information exchange; museum network development; excavation, preservation and promotion of

cultural relics; and networking of digital library services etc)

- Sports cooperation programmes proposed by Hong Kong (including exchange of sports information; competitions for young athletes; promotion of less popular sports; exhorting participation in sports events; holding high level sports competitions; drawing on mainland expertise to raise the sporting level of Hong Kong; and quality management)

Expert Group on Tonggu Waterway

- Environmental impact assessment on Tonggu waterway
- Further coordination of the organization of the works, pilotage of vessels as well as dredging and maintenance of the waterway within Hong Kong waters

Expert Group on Information Exchange

- Exchange of information on infrastructure and long-term regional developments in Hong Kong and Guangdong

** Denotes completed projects*