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Report of the Subcommittee on Promoting Development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area

Purpose

This paper reports on the deliberations of the Subcommittee on Promoting Development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (“GBA”)¹ (“the Subcommittee”).

Background

2. GBA is one of the most open and economically vibrant regions in the country. The development of GBA is a national strategy personally devised, personally planned and personally driven by President Xi Jinping. It is a key development strategy in the country’s reform and opening up in the new era, as well as a further step in enriching the practice of “one country, two systems”.

3. The Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (“Outline Development Plan for GBA”), promulgated by the Central Government in February 2019, clearly states that the objectives of the development of GBA are to, through further deepening cooperation amongst Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao, take forward the synergistic economic development of GBA, leverage the complementary advantages of the three places, and develop an international first-class bay area ideal for living, working and travelling. The Outline Development Plan for GBA also points out that Hong Kong is one of the four core cities of GBA, and together with Macao, Guangzhou and Shenzhen, serves as core engines

¹ GBA comprises the two Special Administrative Regions of Hong Kong and Macao, and the nine municipalities of Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Zhuhai, Foshan, Huizhou, Dongguan, Zhongshan, Jiangmen and Zhaoqing in Guangdong Province.

for regional development. These core cities will continue to leverage their comparative advantages in striving for excellence and achievements, and to strengthen the radiating effect in leading the development of nearby regions. The Outline of the 14th Five-Year Plan for National Economic and Social Development of the People's Republic of China and the Long-Range Objectives Through the Year 2035 ("the 14th Five-Year Plan"), which was approved by the National People's Congress on 11 March 2021, acknowledges Hong Kong's significant functions and positioning.² Not only does the Central Government continue to support efforts in strengthening and enhancing Hong Kong's status as international financial, transportation and trade centres, and in developing Hong Kong as an international legal and dispute resolution hub in Asia-Pacific, but it also recognizes and supports Hong Kong's capability and competitive edge in developing as an international innovation and technology ("I&T") hub, an international aviation hub, an East-meets-West centre for international cultural exchange, as well as a regional intellectual property trading centre.

4. The Leading Group for the Development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area ("Leading Group") is a top-level institution of the Central Authorities for taking forward and strengthening coordination efforts for the development of GBA. After the two meetings of the Leading Group in 2019, 24 key policy measures were announced. The Administration has advised that the 24 key policy measures announced by the Leading Group cover a wide range of issues, among which the vast majority have been implemented, bringing greater development opportunities in the Mainland cities of GBA to different sectors in Hong Kong. The progress of implementation of the 24 key policy measures as at August 2022 is set out item by item in LC Paper No. CB(4)733/2022(02).

5. The Chief Executive has mentioned in the 2022 Policy Address that to better implement national strategies including the 14th Five-Year Plan, development of GBA and high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, etc., as well as to strengthen cooperation with Mainland provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region ("HKSAR") Government will establish the "Steering Group on Integration into National Development" ("Steering Group"). The Steering Group is chaired by the Chief Executive with the Chief Secretary for Administration, the Financial Secretary and the Secretary for Justice as deputies, and comprises all Secretaries of Departments, Directors of Bureaux and responsible officers of relevant departments. It will coordinate, take forward and provide steer for initiatives across bureaux and departments on

² Contents relating to Hong Kong can be found in its chapter 31 on proactively and progressively taking forward the development of GBA, and chapter 61 on maintaining the long-term prosperity and stability of Hong Kong and Macao.

integration into the overall national development from a strategic and macro perspective, as well as enhance communications with Mainland authorities.

The Subcommittee

6. The Subcommittee was appointed by the House Committee on 8 April 2022 to review and follow up on issues relating to promoting the development of GBA. The Subcommittee held its first meeting on 13 May 2022. Hon YUNG Hoi-yan and Hon Kingsley WONG are the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Subcommittee respectively. The terms of reference and membership list of the Subcommittee are set out in **Appendices 1 and 2** respectively.

7. The Subcommittee held a total of eight meetings to discuss and review the progress of Hong Kong's participation in taking forward the development of GBA. The Subcommittee also posted a notice on the Legislative Council ("LegCo") website to invite the public to give written views on the related issues. A list of organizations and individuals which/who have given views to the Subcommittee is in **Appendix 3**.

Declaration of interests

8. The relevant declarations of interests made by Members at the meetings are in **Appendix 4**.

Deliberations of the Subcommittee

9. The Subcommittee has held focused discussions with various bureaux/departments on the progress of Hong Kong's participation in taking forward the development of GBA through thematic meetings in various areas, including legal services, portable welfare benefits, elderly services, healthcare services, arts and culture, sports, tourism, financial services, transport and logistics, I&T, commerce and trade, education, talent cooperation and employment support.

10. All LegCo Members were invited to attend the meetings of the Subcommittee. During its deliberations, the Subcommittee has reviewed the various policies and measures formulated by the HKSAR Government to promote the development of GBA. Members support the policies and measures and urge the HKSAR Government to proactively formulate more innovative policies that precisely dovetail with the national development strategies, take forward the relevant work with enhanced speed, efficiency

and quantity, and continuously improve the details, so as to foster a greater flow of people, goods, capital and information within GBA and strengthen the cooperation mechanisms between Hong Kong and the Mainland cities of GBA, thereby creating diversified pathways for Hong Kong people and injecting impetus to the growth of Hong Kong.

11. The Subcommittee also urges the HKSAR Government to capitalize on Hong Kong's unique advantages presented by "one country, two systems" and the 14th Five-Year Plan to step up publicity efforts by actively promoting the development of GBA to the rest of the world, and telling good stories of China and Hong Kong on the international stage, so that overseas people can have a more comprehensive understanding of the opportunities and advantages of GBA; and to leverage on Hong Kong's pivotal role under the "what the country needs, what Hong Kong is good at" strategy and become a better "participant" in domestic circulation and "facilitator" in international circulation, so as to contribute to the development of the country. The major concerns and recommendations of the Subcommittee are set out in the ensuing paragraphs.

Measures to facilitate Hong Kong residents to live and pursue development in the Greater Bay Area

Portable welfare benefits and elderly services

12. The Subcommittee has discussed how the HKSAR Government should follow up on "enhancing the portability of Hong Kong's social security programmes for the elderly" and "creating an environment favourable for Hong Kong and Macao residents to retire in Guangdong" as mentioned in the Outline Development Plan for GBA in order to assist elderly people who choose to retire in the Mainland cities of GBA. The Subcommittee notes that the Administration currently implements a non-contributory multi-tiered social security system, including the Social Security Allowance ("SSA") Scheme (e.g. the Old Age Allowance ("OAA") and Old Age Living Allowance ("OALA")) and the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance ("CSSA") Scheme, to provide suitable assistance for the needy elderly. Thereof, OAA, OALA and CSSA are portable to Guangdong, which includes all Mainland cities of GBA. The Administration launched the Portable CSSA Scheme in 1997 to support elderly CSSA recipients who choose to settle in Guangdong, and the Guangdong Scheme in 2013 to provide OAA to eligible Hong Kong elderly persons choosing to reside in Guangdong without the need to return to Hong Kong each year. The Guangdong Scheme was extended to cover OALA in 2020.

13. Members have suggested that the Administration should encourage more eligible elderly persons to apply for the Guangdong Scheme and the

Portable CSSA Scheme, and relax or lift the restrictions on the eligibility criteria for the SSA Scheme, including the requirement that the applicant must have resided in Hong Kong continuously for at least one year immediately before the date of application, and authorize more Mainland agents to assist Hong Kong residents on the Mainland who, due to the epidemic, cannot return to Hong Kong in processing their applications. Members have also suggested that the Administration should extend the portability arrangements for OAA and OALA to other provinces by making reference to the Guangdong and Fujian Schemes.

14. As the Mainland cities of GBA have already used technology and electronic platforms to enhance elderly care services, some Members are concerned about the measures to facilitate Hong Kong elderly people to “age in place” on the Mainland, such as assisting them in applying for various services and concessions provided locally to the elderly. Members generally consider that the Administration can introduce the measures for access to portable welfare benefits and “ageing in place” for early and pilot implementation in the Mainland cities of GBA and gradually extend them to other Mainland cities, so as to complement and promote the development of the “big health” industry of the country in the long run.

15. The Administration has advised that the LegCo Panel on Welfare Services will be consulted on the proposed relaxation of the absence limit under the pre-application one-year continuous residence requirement of the SSA Scheme. A special arrangement has been implemented under the epidemic to exempt eligible elderly persons who have already resided in Guangdong from the requirement of having resided in Hong Kong for at least one year. The Administration will continue to explore measures to assist Hong Kong elderly people to “age in place” on the Mainland. Hong Kong residents on the Mainland who need assistance in matters relating to elderly care in GBA can also approach the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong (“GDETO”) or the Shenzhen Liaison Unit of the HKSAR Government for assistance.

Residential care services on the Mainland

16. The Subcommittee notes that the Government has regularized the provision of residential care services in Guangdong (“RCS Scheme in Guangdong”) in 2020 by purchasing residential care services from two residential care homes for the elderly (“RCHEs”) operated by Hong Kong non-governmental organizations (“NGOs”) and located in Shenzhen and Zhaoqing respectively, with a view to providing an option for Hong Kong elderly persons who are waitlisting for subsidized care-and-attention places to move into these RCHEs. From 2014 to August 2022, a total of 282

Hong Kong elderly persons participated in the scheme, of which 248 elders were admitted to the RCHE in Shenzhen and 34 to the RCHE in Zhaoqing.

17. Members generally consider that as the cost of residential care places on the Mainland is lower than that in Hong Kong, subsidizing Hong Kong elderly persons to retire in the Mainland cities of GBA can alleviate the problems arising from the ageing population of Hong Kong on the one hand, and reduce government expenditure on subsidized care-and-attention places on the other, while at the same time improving the quality of life of the elderly. Members have expressed grave concern about the current number of Hong Kong elderly persons participating in the RCS Scheme in Guangdong and the number of RCHEs available, and urged the Administration to study in detail the reasons for and solutions to the low participation in the scheme and provide incentives to encourage more people to participate in the scheme to avoid wastage of resources. Members have also called on the Administration to step up publicity to boost the confidence of elderly people in retiring on the Mainland, and develop publicity strategies tailored for different elderly groups.

18. The Administration has explained that the RCS Scheme in Guangdong aims to provide an additional option for eligible elderly persons who apply for or are on the Central Waiting List for subsidized care-and-attention places. Currently, eligible elderly persons who opt for places in RCHEs under the scheme are not required to pay any fees and can be admitted immediately. In contrast, the waiting time for local residential care places for eligible elderly persons is long, and some fees still have to be paid after admission. It is understood that elderly persons are generally not keen to reside in RCHEs on the Mainland mainly because of the impact of the epidemic, a disparity in medical services between the two places and the travel distance. Besides, since RCS Scheme in Guangdong adopts the “money-following-the-user” principle, the Government does not have to pay any fees to RCHEs if no elderly person is admitted. The Administration will step up its explanatory work, and the NGOs operating the RCHEs will also adjust their strategies in response to market needs to attract elderly people to move in.

19. Members have urged the Administration to extend the RCS Scheme in Guangdong to other Mainland cities of GBA with a view to creating a trend of retiring in the Mainland cities of GBA among Hong Kong elderly, and to actively assist Hong Kong’s elderly services sector in gaining a foothold in GBA. Some Members are of the view that the current practice of purchasing residential care services only from the two Hong Kong NGOs operating RCHEs on the Mainland is inadequate to meet the demand. Members have suggested that the Administration can make reference to the practice of the Macao SAR Government and purchase services directly from

private RCHEs on the Mainland that meet national standards to provide more options for Hong Kong elderly. Some Members have suggested that the Administration may consider building large-scale elderly communities for Hong Kong residents on the Mainland and provide them with more comprehensive supporting facilities.

20. The Administration has advised that the HKSAR Government hopes to attract operators with a good track record in the provision of subsidized residential care services in Hong Kong to actively consider establishing RCHEs on the Mainland so as to provide more options for Hong Kong elderly persons who wish to retire in the Mainland cities of GBA. The HKSAR Government is working on the details of the extended scheme, and will report the progress to the LegCo Panel on Welfare Services and brief the RCHE sector on the details of the scheme in due course. The Administration has also indicated that while it has no objection to examining the feasibility of cooperating with other RCHEs on the Mainland, cooperation with Hong Kong organizations with good service records can assure the quality of services provided to the elderly.

21. Some Members point out that under the existing regulation, people whose parents are living on the Mainland are not entitled to claim dependent parent allowance in Hong Kong. Such regulation may have discouraged people from participating in the RCS Scheme in Guangdong. Members have also suggested that a buffer period should be introduced to allow the elderly people not to surrender their public rental housing (“PRH”) units during such interim period, so that they can return to live in Hong Kong in case they cannot adapt to the life on the Mainland. The Administration has advised that elderly persons who choose to join the scheme cannot retain their existing PRH units. Nevertheless, the Administration will issue a letter of assurance to these elderly persons to enable them to be re-allocated with a PRH unit more quickly in the event of their return to Hong Kong for good in future. For elderly persons who require residential care services after returning to Hong Kong, arrangements can also be made for their admission to a category EA1 home in Hong Kong while waiting for public housing.

Provision of support for chronic disease patients of the Hospital Authority (“HA”) residing in Guangdong Province

22. The Subcommittee notes that to address the medical needs of chronic disease patients of HA residing in Guangdong Province who were unable to return to Hong Kong for scheduled medical consultations amid the epidemic, the Administration commissioned the University of Hong Kong-Shenzhen Hospital (“HKU-SZH”) to provide follow-up consultation services for these patients during the epidemic (“the Special Support Scheme”). Members have proposed to regularize the scheme, increase the amount of subsidy, and

extend the coverage of the scheme to specialist surgeries in HKU-SZH. In view of the relatively long waiting time of HA patients in Hong Kong for specialist surgeries, Members have also suggested subsidizing these patients to undergo surgeries in HKU-SZH, so as to ease pressure on local healthcare systems.

23. The Administration has advised that it will explore further extending the Special Support Scheme. At present, the scheme only covers designated outpatient services at HKU-SZH, and the subsidy provided under the scheme is comparable to the annual voucher amount provided for the payment of outpatient services under the Elderly Health Care Voucher (“HCV”) Scheme. As to Members’ suggestion of subsidizing HA patients to undergo surgeries in HKU-SZH, HA has advised that it can explore the relevant suggestions and the detailed arrangements, including pre- and post-operation care and financial arrangements.

24. Members note that under the Special Support Scheme, HA can, with the patients’ consent, transmit part of their medical records stored on the Electronic Health Record Sharing (“eHealth”) System in Hong Kong to HKU-SZH in the form of “data packets”. Members have enquired whether this arrangement can be extended to other Mainland medical institutions so as to enable individuals’ medical records to follow them wherever they go for healthcare. The Administration has advised that the two-way sharing of electronic medical records requires the consideration of data security issues and involves extensive logistical and administrative arrangements. In addition, even for the same type of medical devices under the measure of allowing designated healthcare institutions operating in GBA to use Hong Kong-registered drugs with urgent clinical use and medical devices used in Hong Kong public hospitals with urgent clinical use (“the Measure”)³, the requirements and format of relevant medical reports are different in the two places. Further detailed study is therefore required for the implementation of two-way sharing of medical records.

25. Members have suggested that the governments of the two places may consider formulating policies to allow cross-boundary medical consultation and drug prescription through online means. The Administration has explained that to protect patients’ well-being, the nation has clear guidelines stipulating that telehealth services can only be provided by medical

³ In November 2020, the Central Government promulgated the Work Plan for Regulatory Innovation and Development of Pharmaceutical and Medical Device in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, which allows designated healthcare institutions in the Mainland cities of GBA to use Hong Kong-registered drugs with urgent clinical use and medical devices used in Hong Kong public hospitals with urgent clinical use, upon the approval of the Government of Guangdong Province.

institutions of a larger scale and should only be used for treating non-new cases. The Administration needs to study in more detail the introduction of cross-border online consultation in view of the different regulatory policies on online consultation in Hong Kong and the Mainland, as well as other cross-border restrictions. However, the Administration will continue to aim to foster the provision of integrated medical and elderly care services in the future, so as to facilitate Hong Kong people retiring in the Mainland cities of GBA to access healthcare services in nearby locations.

Scope of application of health care vouchers

26. The Subcommittee considers that medical service provision is one of the important considerations of Hong Kong people in choosing to reside in Mainland cities. Members have expressed concern that at present, HCVs can only be used to pay for the fees of outpatient services provided by designated clinics/departments of the HKU-SZH, and suggested that the Administration should extend the scope of application of HCVs to cover hospitals that are classified as “Grade 3A” (i.e. top-tier hospitals on the Mainland) and Hong Kong-funded healthcare institutions in Guangdong Province, and allow the voucher amount to be used to reimburse medical consultation fees or medical expenses of Hong Kong residents on the Mainland.

27. The Administration has explained that the use of HCVs at HKU-SZH currently is based on the consideration that HKU-SZH adopts the “Hong Kong management model”, which can ensure that the hospital meets a certain standard in terms of healthcare service quality and use of resources. Although “Grade 3A” hospitals offer a good assurance of healthcare quality, their operation mode and management are different from those in Hong Kong. As such, these hospitals may not be able to align with the standards adopted in Hong Kong. The Administration will sum up its experience gained in the HCV Scheme at HKU-SZH to consider the feasibility to further extend the scope of application of HCVs to cover other Mainland medical institutions with healthcare service quality and clinical governance structure similar to HKU-SZH. To ensure that Hong Kong people residing on the Mainland can obtain the local medical protection as appropriate, the Administration has proposed that they may take out medical insurance under the national medical insurance programmes (“medical insurance”)⁴ in

⁴ The Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security and the National Healthcare Security Administration have implemented the “Interim Measures on the Participation in Social Insurance by Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan Residents in the Mainland” since 1 January 2020. Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan residents who are employed in the Mainland, as well as non-employed Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan residents and university students living on the Mainland may be included in the scope of the national social insurance scheme.

accordance with the requirements of the respective provinces or municipalities.

28. Members have suggested that the Administration should, by drawing reference from the practice of the Macao SAR Government of using Hengqin, Zhuhai as a trial point to subsidize Macao residents living therein to purchase medical insurance, extend the scope of application of HCVs to cover the purchase of medical insurance in the Mainland cities of GBA. This can not only help Hong Kong people living on the Mainland to optimize the use of healthcare resources locally, but also reduce the healthcare burden of Hong Kong. The Administration has undertaken to actively consider this suggestion.

Flow of healthcare professionals and access of drugs and medical devices

29. The Subcommittee notes that HA and the Health Commission of Guangdong Province have maintained exchanges and training collaboration over the years. During the fifth wave of the COVID-19 outbreak in Hong Kong, the Mainland medical support team came to Hong Kong to support the fight against the epidemic, which not only effectively enhanced the admission and treatment capacity of HA's Treatment Center for COVID-19, but also laid a good foundation for further professional exchanges and collaboration between the healthcare professionals of the two places. Riding on the successful collaboration experience between the medical teams of the two places, the Administration and HA are actively discussing and implementing relevant arrangements with relevant Mainland authorities on the deepening of exchange and collaboration plans in different disciplines, including doctors, nurses, Chinese medicine practitioners and allied health professionals. The Administration and HA will announce the details of the plans in due course.

30. The Subcommittee notes that as at early September 2022, 20 drugs and 13 medical devices were allowed to be used under the Measure in five hospitals in GBA⁵ as approved by the Health Commission of Guangdong Province. Members have urged the HKSAR Government to play an active role in facilitating the relevant work of the Mainland authorities, so as to expand the coverage of eligible Hong Kong drugs and medical devices to be used in healthcare institutions in GBA to meet the needs of more Hong Kong patients on the Mainland.

31. Given the high cost of pharmaceutical products for treating rare diseases, some Members have enquired whether it is possible for Hong Kong

⁵ Namely HKU-SZH, the Modern Hospital Guangzhou, the Guangzhou United Family Hospital, the C-MER (Zhuhai) Dennis Lam Eye Hospital and the Zhongshan Chenxinghai Hospital.

patients with rare diseases to be included in the mechanism of the Mainland for the bulk procurement of drugs in order to achieve cost reduction. The Administration has responded that to implement this proposal, the issue of different procurement systems of the two places will need to be resolved first. At present, the Measure only applies to drugs approved for sale in Hong Kong but not yet registered on the Mainland, and does not include pharmaceutical products for rare diseases registered in both places.

32. In view of the fact that some Hong Kong people often seek medical treatment from Chinese medicine hospitals on the Mainland, Members have suggested that the Administration may consider allowing the sale in Hong Kong of other Mainland-registered medicines commonly used by Hong Kong people. The Administration has explained that the registration requirements for proprietary Chinese medicines (“pCms”) in Hong Kong are not particularly stringent. Given the relatively small sales market in Hong Kong, Mainland pCm manufacturers may not be interested in registering in Hong Kong.

33. Considering that it may be more difficult for drugs developed on the Mainland to be registered in European countries and the United States, Members have enquired whether the registration requirements for drugs jointly developed by the Mainland and Hong Kong can be relaxed so that only the approval of the National Medical Products Administration is needed for successful registration of these drugs in Hong Kong. The Administration has responded that in order to protect patients’ safety, Hong Kong currently adopts a “secondary evaluation” approach for vetting and approving applications for registration of new drugs. Applicants are required to obtain approval for registration from at least two drug regulatory authorities of 32 countries before they can apply for registration in Hong Kong. The Administration is actively considering the inclusion of the National Medical Products Administration in the current list of drug regulatory authorities.

Facilitation of immigration procedures

34. The Subcommittee considers that the early completion of various major cross-boundary infrastructure projects will be beneficial to the long-term development of Hong Kong. Among them, the Hong Kong section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link, the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (“HZMB”) and the Liantang/Heung Yuen Wai boundary Control Point (“BCP”), which were completed successively in the past few years, help facilitate Hong Kong’s integration into the “one-hour living circle” in GBA. While Members are pleased to note the gradual resumption of normal travel between Hong Kong and the Mainland starting from January 2023, they consider that apart from hardware facilities at BCPs, the Administration should ensure that the immigration procedures and

customs clearance arrangements keep pace with the times, and different facilitation measures for customs clearance are implemented in a timely manner to enhance the efficiency of passenger immigration clearance and cargo clearance.

35. The Administration has advised that it will continue to monitor the situation of quarantine-free travel closely and make appropriate deployment arrangements. When enhancing existing BCPs or developing new BCPs, the HKSAR Government will aim to adopt co-location arrangement and explore efficient and innovative clearance mode with the Shenzhen Municipal Government, including the use of collaborative inspection and joint clearance mode, to facilitate passenger clearance and enhance clearance efficiency.

Quota-free scheme for Hong Kong private cars travelling to Guangdong via the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (the “Northbound Travel for Hong Kong Vehicles” scheme)

36. The Subcommittee welcomes the HKSAR Government’s full commitment to take forward the “Northbound Travel for Hong Kong Vehicles” scheme (“the Scheme”), which will allow eligible Hong Kong private cars to travel between Hong Kong and Guangdong via HZMB without the need to obtain a regular quota. The Scheme will facilitate Hong Kong residents to drive to Guangdong for business, visiting families or sight-seeing on a short-term basis. As regards the vehicle examination requirements, Members note that private cars participating in the Scheme will be required to complete the vehicle examination procedures at a vehicle examination company in Yuen Long and there is no need to go to the Mainland for vehicle examination. Members are concerned that the company concerned has, since the outbreak of the epidemic, accumulated a large backlog of vehicle examination work and may not be able to cope with the additional demand for vehicle examination arising from the Scheme. In addition, some Members are concerned that apart from cross-boundary private cars, a large number of cross-boundary coaches need to be scheduled for inspection and maintenance before they can obtain a valid certificate of vehicle examination for procurement of motor vehicle insurance (“motor insurance”) on the Mainland. Members suggest that the Administration should discuss with the Mainland government departments to work out a plan to expedite the completion of vehicle examination work, as well as strive for the Mainland authorities’ relaxation of the requirement for Hong Kong cross-boundary vehicles to have two separate motor insurance policies in Hong Kong and on the Mainland, and explore the introduction of motor insurance products covering the two places.

37. The Administration has advised that it is working with the Guangdong Provincial Government on the details of the Scheme and will announce the detailed arrangements as soon as possible. As regards the vehicle examination requirements, the Administration has been maintaining communication with the relevant Mainland authorities and the aforesaid vehicle examination company to explore the feasibility of increasing the quota of vehicle examinations. In the long run, the Administration hopes to achieve interoperability of vehicle examination certificates and motor insurance between the two places. As this will involve the consideration of the governments of the two places and their respective laws, regulations and policies, the HKSAR Government will convey the views of Members to the relevant Mainland authorities. In addition, to dovetail with the launch of the “Northbound Travel for Hong Kong Vehicles”, the Administration will also implement the “unilateral recognition” policy for cross-boundary motor insurance so that owners of Hong Kong private cars travelling to the Guangdong Province via HZMB can arrange the necessary insurance coverage for driving on the Mainland more conveniently. On the other hand, the Administration has been maintaining communication with the Mainland authorities on issues relating to the cross-boundary coach trade, so as to expedite the arrangement for vehicle examination and the application procedures for Mainland licences.

*Greater Bay Area Youth Employment Scheme and Top Talent Pass Scheme (“TTPS”)*⁶

38. The Subcommittee welcomes the launch of the GBA Youth Employment Scheme, as well as its regularization and the implementation of enhancement measures, by the HKSAR Government. Participating enterprises must have business in both Hong Kong and the Mainland cities of GBA. The HKSAR Government will pay a monthly allowance of HK\$10,000 to the enterprises for each graduate employed for a maximum period of 18 months. As at the end of February 2023, 568 young people have successfully completed the 18-month employment period, among which 391 have been offered continued employment by their employers.

39. Some Members have pointed out that there are still job vacancies under the GBA Youth Employment Scheme according to media reports. To

⁶ The Chief Executive announced the launch of TPSS for a period of two years in the 2022 Policy Address. Eligible talents include individuals whose annual salary reached HK\$2.5 million or above in the past year, and individuals graduated from the world’s top 100 universities with at least three years of work experience over the past five years. These two categories of talents will be issued a two-year pass for exploring opportunities in Hong Kong and are not subject to any quota. Individuals who graduated from the world’s top 100 universities in the past five years and have yet to fulfil the work experience requirement will also be eligible, subject to an annual quota of 10 000.

optimize the use of resources, they have enquired whether the Administration will consider lowering the entry requirements to allow more young people in Hong Kong to participate in the scheme. The Administration has advised that whether vacancies under the scheme can be filled is subject to various factors, including the requirements and expectations of enterprises and applicants, the knowledge and skills possessed by the applicants, and the overall employment market situation. The Administration will closely monitor the implementation of and conduct evaluation on the scheme, as well as take full account of the views of stakeholders in mapping out the way forward for it.

40. In response to Members' enquiry about the career paths of young people who have completed the GBA Youth Employment Scheme, the Administration has advised that some Hong Kong young people may not stay in Mainland cities for career development in view of the wage gap between the Mainland and Hong Kong after the allowance period ends. Nevertheless, the scheme still provides Hong Kong young people with invaluable life and work experience, and young people with working experience in both places are valuable human resources for Hong Kong employers. With the regularization of the scheme, the Administration has commissioned two organizations to support the employed young people, follow up on their employment situation during and after completion of the scheme, as well as assist young people who have completed the scheme in forming an organization for continuous liaison. Some Members are of the view that as Hong Kong is currently in dire demand for talents, the return of young people who have completed the scheme to Hong Kong for work will also be in line with the concept of mutual flow and linkage of talent pools in GBA.

41. The Subcommittee notes that the Guangdong Provincial Government has launched a series of measures to attract young people from Hong Kong and Macao to work there, including the announcement in April 2023 that 4 279 government jobs in the public institution open recruitment of college graduates are available for application by Hong Kong and Macao residents, and the Guangdong Province Internship Programme for Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan Students jointly implemented by various departments of the Guangdong Provincial Government. Members have suggested that the HKSAR Government should complement the implementation of these measures and, by drawing reference from the relevant practice, establish a cross-departmental information platform on youth employment services. The Administration has advised that GDETO will introduce various job opportunities to students studying in Mainland universities through briefing sessions and various social media platforms. The Administration will also explore with the Guangdong Provincial Government the collaboration of the Guangdong Province Internship Programme and the GBA Youth Employment Scheme.

42. The Subcommittee welcomes the launch of TTPS and suggests that more Mainland university graduates should be attracted to work in Hong Kong and join the civil service. The Administration has advised that it keeps reviewing and making timely enhancement to TTPS, including the addition of a requirement for applicants to declare whether they have any criminal convictions. The Administration plans to conduct a mid-term review of TTPS in the latter half of 2023 and actively consider the inclusion of more outstanding schools, such as key institutions on the Mainland, in the existing list of educational institutions. The Administration is also exploring the possibility of allowing the institutions run by Hong Kong higher education institutions in the Mainland cities of GBA to join the Joint Institutions Job Information System in Hong Kong, so that their students can also access the database of job vacancies in Hong Kong.

Education and youth entrepreneurship

43. The Subcommittee welcomes the increase in the number of Hong Kong students studying in Mainland universities in recent years, and notes that since the introduction of the Scheme for Admission of Hong Kong Students to Mainland Higher Education Institutions by the Ministry of Education in 2012 and up to the 2022/2023 school year, more than 38 000 Hong Kong students have enrolled directly in some Mainland institutions using their Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination (“HKDSE”) results through the scheme. Given that a number of Hong Kong’s higher education institutions have been taking forward or planning for education collaboration projects in the Mainland cities of GBA, Members suggest that arrangements can be made for students of Hong Kong higher education institutions to attend short-term programmes or serve as exchange students in the Mainland branches of these institutions. The Administration has advised that the campuses of Hong Kong higher education institutions in Hong Kong and GBA cities have maintained close cooperation, and more Hong Kong students may be admitted to their campuses in the Mainland cities of GBA in future.

44. There is a suggestion that the number of schools for children of Hong Kong people and other schools run by Hong Kong school sponsoring bodies in the Mainland cities of GBA should be increased, and more Hong Kong teachers be encouraged to take up employment at such schools. The Administration has advised that in response to the demand for education services of the children of Hong Kong people in GBA, the Education Bureau (“EDB”) supports school sponsoring bodies to set up schools offering Hong Kong curriculum in the Mainland cities of GBA. It will also assist individual schools recognized by the relevant authorities on the Mainland in applying to become HKDSE “Participating Schools”, and examination centres, where

conditions permit. Before setting up a school for children of Hong Kong people, the school sponsoring body needs to consider various factors, including location, teacher qualifications, financial commitments and stability of student sources, so as to ensure the sustainability of the school.

45. The Subcommittee notes that there are currently around 840 publicly-funded local primary and secondary schools with over 2 300 sister school pairs established with their Mainland counterparts, among which about 1 100 sister school pairs are formed with schools in the Mainland cities of GBA. There is a suggestion that the Administration should step up efforts in supporting the Sister School Scheme. The Administration has advised that through the Sister School Scheme, schools in Hong Kong and on the Mainland conduct exchanges at school management, teacher and student levels, such as physical visits conducted by schools in the two places. The Government provides a grant (which is set at about \$160,000 per school for the 2022/2023 school year) for publicly-funded schools in Hong Kong every year to subsidize them to organize various physical and online exchanges. In addition, the Administration also organizes inter-school activities and competitions for sister schools in the two places to participate by forming teams, whereby students can enhance friendship with their sister schools' counterparts.

46. Members note that starting from the 2020/2021 school year, EDB has included Mainland study tours, which last for three to four days, in the core training for newly-joined teachers and as training requirement for promoted teachers. Members are concerned about whether there are sufficient study tours to meet the demand. The Administration has advised that the study tours aim at enabling teachers to experience first-hand the development of the country and strengthening their abilities to nurture the sense of national identity amongst their students. The Administration will ensure that there are sufficient study tours for teachers to meet the training requirements.

47. The Subcommittee notes that with the support of the HKSAR Government and the Shenzhen Municipal Government, the Vocational Training Council ("VTC") has established close collaboration with the Shenzhen Polytechnic ("SZPT"). Members suggest that the Administration should support VTC to organize more internship and exchange programmes in collaboration with SZPT for local vocational and professional education and training ("VPET") students and to explore the feasibility of mutual recognition of VPET qualifications between Hong Kong and Shenzhen. The Administration has expressed support for the two places to continue to explore collaboration in VPET, and pointed out that VTC and SZPT have jointly organized a series of locally-accredited higher diploma and dual award programmes and will apply to the Ministry of Education for relevant accreditation. In addition, VTC has set up its first Mainland operation centre

in Shenzhen in March 2023, which will not only draw reference from the successful cases of VPET development in Mainland cities, but also help VTC students grasp the development opportunities in GBA.

48. Some Members suggest that the Administration should provide more recognized qualifications for local industries (e.g. chefs) to help Hong Kong young people with a technical skill set to secure employment or start businesses in the Mainland cities of GBA. The Administration has advised that there is currently a Recognition of Prior Learning mechanism under Hong Kong's Qualification Framework ("QF") to recognize work experiences and competencies acquired by trade practitioners at the workplace. The Government has also explored with the Mainland authorities the possibility of collaboration in QF.

Measures to support professional sectors

Legal services development

49. The Subcommittee is concerned about how the HKSAR Government can leverage the distinct advantage of Hong Kong's legal system under the "one country, two systems" principle and strive for more liberalization measures for legal services in GBA for the Hong Kong legal and dispute resolution services sector. The issues discussed include the initiatives for wholly-owned Hong Kong enterprises ("WOKEs") to adopt Hong Kong law and choose Hong Kong as the seat of arbitration. The former allows Hong Kong-invested enterprises registered in the Qianhai Cooperation Zone to agree on the choice of applicable law in their civil and commercial contracts and the relevant terms would not be considered invalid despite the absence of any "foreign-related elements". The latter allows Hong Kong-invested enterprises registered in the Pilot Free Trade Zones of the Mainland to refer commercial disputes to arbitration seated outside Mainland China and the relevant arbitration agreement shall not be considered as invalid due to the absence of any "foreign-related elements". Some Members are of the view that in the absence of any "foreign-related elements", Hong Kong-invested enterprises in Qianhai, being Mainland legal persons, may not find Hong Kong law more appealing than Mainland law.

50. The Administration has advised that some Hong Kong-invested enterprises in the Mainland are more familiar with Hong Kong law and the initiative to allow "WOKEs to adopt Hong Kong law" provides an alternative to Mainland law for such enterprises. The Administration will continue to seek the support of the Central Government for the extension of the initiative from Qianhai to Shenzhen and the entire GBA. Members suggest that the Administration may consider conducting a survey through GDETO in order to gauge the implementation effectiveness of the initiative

to allow “WOKEs to adopt Hong Kong law” and the views of users for further refinement of the measure.

51. The Subcommittee notes that eligible Hong Kong solicitors and barristers are allowed to provide legal services in the nine Mainland municipalities in GBA on specified civil and commercial legal matters to which the Mainland laws apply upon passing the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Legal Professional Examination (“the GBA LP Examination”) and obtaining a lawyer’s practice certificate. Members have urged the Administration to encourage more qualified Hong Kong legal practitioners to sit for the GBA LP Examination in order to create better synergy with the extension of the initiative to allow “WOKEs to adopt Hong Kong law”. In addition, the HKSAR Government should provide more explanations to let the legal profession understand the operation and merits of the initiative to allow “WOKEs to adopt Hong Kong law”, and actively promote the strengths of Hong Kong lawyers with Mainland qualifications. Some Members are worried that Hong Kong is lagging behind the Mainland in the application of LawTech, which may hinder the development of legal services in both places. The Administration has advised that it is aware of the industry’s concern and will continue to explore measures to facilitate the relevant procedures.

52. Some Members consider that one of the reasons why some Hong Kong citizens currently have reservations about living or pursuing development in the Mainland cities of GBA is that they are worried about the difficulties of seeking assistance when they encounter legal problems there. The Administration has responded that at present, apart from the personal related services provided by its Immigration Unit, GDETO also provides legal advisory service to Hong Kong residents in need.

Transport and logistics development

53. Some Members have expressed concern on how the Administration will enhance the productivity and competitiveness of Hong Kong’s logistics industry in the face of keen competition from other cities. The Administration has advised that the logistics industry in Hong Kong has faced operational difficulties under the epidemic in recent years. However, the implementation of the “point-to-point” cross-boundary goods vehicle (“CBGV”) transport mode between Guangdong and Hong Kong has resumed in December 2022, and the various CBGV management measures implemented during the COVID-19 epidemic period have been cancelled by the Mainland authorities on 8 January 2023, enabling cross-boundary land transport of goods between Hong Kong and Guangdong to resume normal operation. The gradual improvement of the cross-boundary land transport of goods between Guangdong and Hong Kong can help Hong Kong resume its

transshipment business. The Administration will continue to encourage the logistics industry to enhance efficiency and productivity through the application of technology and automation. On the development of “smart port”, the Administration is working with the industry to strengthen the competitiveness of Hong Kong ports by setting up a port community system to facilitate the flow and sharing of data among operators and other stakeholders. In addition, the Administration expects to join hands with the industry to formulate an action plan on logistics development within this year, which will devise strategies and measures to be adopted by various stakeholders in the short, medium and long term, with a view to reinforcing the existing edges of Hong Kong’s logistics industry.

54. Expressing concern that the values of Hong Kong’s imports and exports of goods have both recorded relatively large decreases recently, some Members consider that the Administration should collaborate with the Mainland parties to achieve complementarity of advantages among container ports in Hong Kong and other cities in GBA. The Administration has advised that the three large container ports in GBA (i.e. Shenzhen, Guangzhou and Hong Kong) have a large combined throughput and a basic division of work. The increased collaboration among the three container ports will help enhance the overall international competitiveness of the GBA port cluster. Hong Kong has the air freight advantages such as a comprehensive flight network and efficient customs clearance for handling high-value air cargos (including cold chain goods and pharmaceuticals) which have more stringent requirements on time, temperature, safety, reliability, and so forth. Hong Kong’s logistics providers can further provide customized value-added services to customers such as packaging and quality control.

55. The Subcommittee welcome the Airport Authority Hong Kong (“AAHK”)’s efforts to develop “sea-air cargo transshipment” between the Hong Kong International Airport (“HKIA”) and Dongguan. An HKIA Logistics Park will be set up in Dongguan so that export cargo from the Mainland can go through security screening, palletisation and cargo acceptance in advance there, and then be transported seamlessly by sea to Hong Kong for direct transshipment to overseas destinations through HKIA’s aviation network, without repeating the screening procedures.

56. Welcoming the HKSAR Government’s active efforts to follow up with the Guangdong Provincial Government and Zhuhai Municipal Government on the acquisition of equity of Zhuhai Airport by AAHK, Members consider that this plan will facilitate Hong Kong’s cooperation with Zhuhai in building a high-end aviation industrial cluster, and at the same time strengthen Hong Kong’s advantage as an international aviation hub. Members also welcome the launch of the GBA Youth Aviation Industry

Internship Programme in the first half of 2023 by the Hong Kong International Aviation Academy in collaboration with Mainland aviation training institutions, under which young people from Hong Kong and the Mainland will be posted to other airports in GBA and the Hong Kong International Airport respectively for internship with 450 places to be provided in the first year. Members have suggested that the Administration should draw reference from the practice of the aviation industry and launch a GBA internship programme for the maritime industry to nurture local maritime talents.

Arts and cultural exchanges, sports activities and tourism development

57. The 14th Five-Year Plan states the support for Hong Kong to develop into an East-meets-West centre for international cultural exchange. It is also stated in the “Culture and Tourism Development Plan for Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area” (“the CTD Plan”), jointly promulgated by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, the Leading Group for the Development of GBA and the Government of Guangdong Province in December 2020, the guiding directions of supporting Hong Kong to develop into a more competitive international cultural exchange hub. In order to enhance arts and culture collaboration in GBA, the Subcommittee has suggested that the Administration should actively support arts groups from the Mainland cities of GBA in giving performances and conducting exchanges in Hong Kong, and provide resources to support Hong Kong’s art groups to perform or participate in other cultural exchange activities in GBA to showcase Hong Kong’s arts and culture, while providing new opportunities to Hong Kong’s artists and art groups. Some Members have suggested setting up a one-stop information platform on arts and culture in GBA to consolidate information on different funded arts projects, performance venues and exchange activities in GBA to facilitate search and retrieval of relevant information by Hong Kong’s artists and art groups.

58. Members note that the Administration will roll out a new programme to sponsor graduates who aspire to pursue a career in the arts and cultural sector to undertake internships in the West Kowloon Cultural District (“WKCD”) and local arts groups. Apart from local internship opportunities, Members have suggested that the Administration can make reference to the existing GBA Youth Employment Scheme and launch a GBA cultural internship scheme, so that graduates can also choose to undertake internships in the Mainland cities of GBA.

59. The Administration has advised that it has regularly invited different Mainland arts groups to perform in Hong Kong or had exchanges with them through organizing activities such as “Hong Kong Week”. In the future, it will take into consideration the GBA development and the promotion of

talent exchanges with other places when planning different facilities. It will also consider the establishment of a GBA cultural internship scheme and a one-stop information platform on arts and culture in GBA as suggested by Members.

60. Considering that there will be ample cooperation opportunities in arts and culture in GBA in future, Members have commented that the current lack of a systematic identification and certification mechanism for practitioners in the performing arts industry in Hong Kong has made it difficult for practitioners to apply for government resources. The Administration has advised that it will discuss the relevant issues with the performing arts industry, and that such certification mechanism is usually industry-led and then recognized by the Administration.

61. In response to Members' enquiry about the specific plans in place to support the development of the arts and cultural industry chain, the Administration has advised that the Culture Commission, which is led by the Secretary for Culture, Sports and Tourism, will examine how to assist the arts and cultural sector in tapping GBA opportunities, and make recommendations on the strategies to develop Hong Kong into an East-meets-West centre for international cultural exchange, including the four-direction approach of providing venues and facilities, strengthening cultural exchange and cooperation, leveraging on technology, and nurturing talents. The Administration has also indicated that arts and culture projects with more commercial elements will be more easily developed into industries. However, some arts and culture projects are constrained by the numbers of performance venues and audiences and hence require government subsidies to meet the cost requirements. The Administration will continue to support the development of various types of arts and culture projects through various measures.

62. Some Members have suggested that the Administration should make reference to the publicity strategies of large-scale projects, especially the promotions or live broadcasts through social media or electronic media, and step up the promotion of Hong Kong's major sports events and athletes to the Mainland people, with a view to drawing more Mainland people's attention and even attracting them to come to Hong Kong for the National Games to be co-hosted by Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao in 2025 after the completion of the Kai Tak Sports Park.

63. The Administration has advised that the Culture, Sports and Tourism Bureau will disseminate information to GBA and other Mainland and overseas cities through the Hong Kong Tourism Board, the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices overseas and other relevant organizations. At the same time, the Administration will consider organizing other activities

to attract tourists before and after major sports events and has relaxed the eligibility criteria under the “M” Mark System⁶, with a view to attracting more major sports events to Hong Kong. Regarding the progress of preparatory work for the National Games, the Administration has advised that while the General Administration of Sport of China and the Governments of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao have exchanged preliminary views, the division of work on the events is yet to be finalized at this stage. Discussions between the HKSAR Government and the Guangdong Provincial Government and the Macao SAR Government on the details of cooperation are under way, and a series of publicity activities will be arranged in due course.

64. Members welcome the CTD Plan’s support for Hong Kong’s roles as an international tourism hub and a core demonstration zone for multi-destination tourism. Noting that the Ministry of Culture and Tourism has held regular meetings with the government units in Hong Kong and other GBA cities since 2021 to take forward the CTD Plan, Members have suggested that the Administration should communicate closely with the tourism trade to accurately implement the directions set down at the meetings. The Administration has advised that as it regards the GBA cities as important partners in promoting Hong Kong’s tourism, arts and culture, it will maintain close and regular communication with these cities. It will also continue to capitalize on the advantage of connectivity with the Mainland through cross-boundary infrastructure to attract overseas and high value-added visitors to embark on GBA multi-destination journeys via Hong Kong.

65. Some Members have expressed concern about the current manpower shortage in the tourism industry and called on the Administration to conduct studies and planning to help the tourism industry prepare for a full return to normalcy in future. Some Members have suggested setting up a GBA training centre for the tourism industry to facilitate talent flow and alleviate the manpower shortage in the local tourism industry. The Administration has advised that it has provided support to tourism industry practitioners through disbursement of subsidies under several rounds of the Anti-epidemic Fund. The Government also launched, through the Travel Industry Authority, a training subsidy scheme with a view to attracting more new blood to the industry.

⁶ The “M” Mark System was launched in 2004 to support the staging of more major international sports events in Hong Kong. Major international sports events meeting the assessment criteria will be granted “M” Mark status and funding support by the Major Sports Events Committee.

Financial services development

66. With the support from the Central People's Government, the Cross-boundary Wealth Management Connect Scheme in the GBA ("WMC") was formally launched in September 2021, providing GBA residents with a formal, direct and convenient channel for cross-boundary investment in diversified wealth management products. The Subcommittee has suggested that the Administration should make timely enhancements to WMC, including increasing the number of participating financial institutions, expanding the scope of products that can be invested and improving sales arrangements. The Administration has responded that WMC is a cross-boundary investment arrangement specifically designed for retail investors and is a major policy breakthrough in the mutual access between the Mainland and Hong Kong financial markets in recent years. As WMC involves different regulatory frameworks for Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao, it has to be implemented in a prudent manner. The Administration will continue to maintain close liaison with the Mainland regulatory authorities and various stakeholders with a view to gradually enhancing WMC in the light of actual operational experience and market feedback.

67. Members welcome the launch of the data infrastructure "Commercial Data Interchange" ("CDI") by the Hong Kong Monetary Authority ("HKMA"). The data infrastructure will allow banks, with the consent of enterprises, to obtain trade and operational data of the enterprises concerned from public and private data providers, so as to digitize and streamline a wide range of financial processes, such as Know-Your-Customer, credit assessment, loan approval and risk management. Members have suggested that the scope of CDI should be extended to include more data from organizations and government departments. Members have also suggested that more similar data exchange platforms should be launched to tie in with the development of mutual market access schemes between capital markets, such as WMC. The Administration has advised that HKMA will continue to explore ways to enhance the data infrastructure. On the other hand, the Administration is developing the Consented Data Exchange Gateway ("CDEG"). With CDEG, members of the public may opt for authorizing the exchange of their personal data among relevant government departments by means of data interchange through the systems. It is planned that CDEG will be connected to CDI in the future to allow financial institutions to obtain relevant data after receipt of their clients' authorization, thereby enhancing the efficiency of providing financial service.

68. Members have expressed concern that under the impact of the epidemic, Mainland bank accounts maintained by some members of the Hong Kong public have become dormant or have been suspended for various reasons, and that some Hong Kong residents cannot reactivate their bank

accounts by visiting the bank branches on the Mainland in person due to the epidemic. It has been pointed out by some Members that the difficulty encountered by Hong Kong residents in opening bank accounts in the Mainland cities of GBA due to the impact of the epidemic is one of the factors limiting the implementation effectiveness of WMC. Members have suggested increasing the number and expanding the scope of services of the pilot banks which provide attestation service in Hong Kong for Hong Kong residents to open Mainland personal bank accounts in GBA. The Administration has responded that HKMA has proactively encouraged banks in Hong Kong and the Mainland to work together to assist Hong Kong residents who are unable to return to the Mainland due to the epidemic to reactivate their dormant or suspended Mainland bank accounts in Hong Kong. While the Mainland regulatory authorities have expanded the scope of pilot banks in Hong Kong, the Mainland authorities adopt a relatively prudent attitude towards cross-boundary account opening. HKMA and the Mainland financial regulatory authorities will monitor the progress of the relevant pilot business and expand the scope of pilot banks as and when appropriate.

69. Members have pointed out that the existing daily remittance limit of Renminbi (“RMB”) 80,000 per person from Hong Kong to the Mainland has caused considerable inconvenience to Hong Kong people who need to make large remittances. Members have suggested that the HKSAR Government should coordinate with related Mainland organizations to gradually relax the restrictions on Hong Kong Dollar (“HKD”)-denominated remittances, which will be conducive to cross-boundary capital flows and can also avoid the need for members of the public to rely on improper channels to obtain remittance service. Some Members have suggested that the Administration should further explore ways to facilitate Hong Kong residents to conduct Mainland banking business, such as enabling the Hong Kong branch of a bank to make withdrawals of time deposits from the Mainland branch of the same bank on behalf of its customers. The Administration has agreed with the view that the development of financial services should facilitate people and businesses. As Members’ views involve cross-boundary capital flows and cross-boundary operation of Mainland bank accounts, the Administration will relay Members’ views to the Mainland regulatory bodies in due course.

70. Members opine that the Administration should contribute to the internationalization of RMB by vigorously promoting the launch of more RMB-denominated investment tools in the market. The Administration has advised that apart from the existing offshore RMB local government bonds issued in Hong Kong, it is promoting HKD-RMB dual counter securities and mutual access between the interest rate swap markets of the two places, with a view to facilitating RMB internationalization. The Administration will

continue to promote the launch of more RMB-denominated investment tools and the provision of stable and highly efficient treasury services, such as foreign exchange, exchange rate risk and interest rate risk management tools, in the market, with a view to facilitating RMB internationalization on various fronts.

71. Members have suggested that the Administration should provide talent training programmes for practitioners in financial services sectors and study the feasibility of mutual recognition of licences for practitioners in the financial sector. Members have also opined that the Administration should consider promoting the concept of GBA work permits so that talents can move across the boundary within the “one-hour living circle” in GBA without having to change their place of residence. The Administration has advised that it has been providing various types of training for practitioners in the financial sector, and different professional fields have their own arrangements. It will continue to explore with the relevant Mainland authorities possible measures to facilitate the two-way flow of talents between Hong Kong and Mainland cities.

Development of insurance and accounting industries

72. The Subcommittee is pleased to note that to promote mutual access of the insurance markets in GBA, the HKSAR Government, together with the Insurance Authority, are working with the relevant Mainland authorities to coordinate implementation details for the early establishment of after-sales service centres by Hong Kong insurance industry in places such as Nansha and Qianhai, with a view to providing GBA residents who are holders of Hong Kong policies with comprehensive support in different areas including enquiries, claims and renewal of policies.

73. Some Members consider that as there is a huge demand for wealth and asset management services among GBA residents, and hence there is considerable development potential for different types of Hong Kong insurance products in GBA, the Administration should make active promotion of the strengths of the Hong Kong’s insurance industry to relevant Mainland authorities, with a view to fostering the implementation of more mutually beneficial proposals, such as the Cross-boundary Insurance Connect Scheme. The Administration has advised that it will, by drawing on the experience of the implementation of WMC and the establishment of insurance after-sales service centres, further explore with the Mainland authorities feasible ways of connecting insurance markets in the Mainland, and maintain close communication with the Hong Kong insurance industry in this regard.

74. On Members' concern about the development opportunities in GBA for Hong Kong's accounting profession, the Administration has advised that it has launched various measures to facilitate the provision of professional services by Hong Kong accountants in the Mainland under the framework of the Agreement on Trade in Services of the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement ("CEPA"). For example, at present, Hong Kong accountants who meet specific qualification requirements can be exempted from four papers of the Mainland's certified public accountant ("CPA") examination. On that basis, it is now pursuing with the Mainland measures that may further facilitate Hong Kong accountants' practice in GBA, including exploring with the Qianhai Authority the proposal to allow Hong Kong practising CPAs without Chinese CPA practising qualifications to become partners of accounting firms in Qianhai and engage in specific business or perform certain managerial functions, as well as including Hong Kong practising CPAs in Qianhai's policies for high-end talent. Meanwhile, the Administration has also sponsored Hong Kong accountants' participation in programmes for nurturing GBA accounting talents launched by accounting professional bodies of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao.

Investment promotion

75. The Subcommittee notes that to encourage enterprises to develop business in Hong Kong or via Hong Kong, and seize the opportunities brought about by the 14th Five-Year Plan and the development of GBA, the HKSAR Government will step up efforts in the relevant investment promotion work and leverage on Hong Kong's advantages as an international financial, shipping, and trading centre. Some Members have suggested that the Administration can enhance the promotion of the successful cases of foreign capital investment in Shenzhen and Hong Kong in its investment promotion work to boost the confidence of potential investors. This can also create synergy with the first batch of 20 typical cases of regulatory interface and mechanism connectivity in GBA as announced by the Guangdong Provincial Government in April 2023.

76. The Administration concurs and advises that the HKSAR Government has invited Mainland enterprises, state-owned enterprises, foreign enterprises in Hong Kong, and foreign chambers of commerce, etc., to join its promotion activities to attract enterprises and investment on the Mainland and overseas so as to enhance foreign investors' understanding of the development of GBA. In addition, InvestHK set up a GBA Business Development Team in 2021 to develop a dedicated webpage on GBA and publish a handbook of investment in GBA which provides an analysis of business opportunities in GBA and sets out relevant successful cases.

77. Members are concerned that aside from the promotion work, whether the Administration has provided other complementary services or taken

follow-up actions to attract enterprises and investment. The Administration has explained that the various promotional activities aim to create a platform to connect worldwide investors and project owners. In view of this, investment and business matching elements have been included. However, it is a commercial decision for both sides to decide whether they will implement the collaborative projects afterwards.

Professional services and trade

78. The Subcommittee notes that the relevant Mainland authorities has promulgated a registration system in the nine Mainland cities of GBA in 2021, which allows eligible Hong Kong enterprises and professionals in five disciplines, namely engineering, architecture, surveying, planning and landscape architecture, to acquire equivalent qualifications on the Mainland through a simple registration process, thereby facilitating them to provide direct services in the nine Mainland cities of GBA. Members have suggested that the Administration should seek the support of the Mainland authorities in also allowing other professional services industries in Hong Kong to use a similar registration system so that they can provide services in the Mainland cities of GBA. Members have also pointed out that although professionals from various sectors in Hong Kong intend to pursue development in the Mainland cities of GBA, it is not easy for them to enter the GBA market, especially when they encounter problems, they may find it difficult to seek local assistance.

79. The Administration has advised that it will review the registration system and its implementation with the relevant Mainland authorities in a timely manner, and will discuss the feasibility of extending such arrangement to other disciplines. Moreover, the Administration has provided an additional funding to the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (“HKTDTC”) for taking forward the Support Scheme for Pursuing Development in the Mainland in collaboration with relevant Mainland organizations, in order to facilitate Hong Kong people and entrepreneurs in different Mainland cities to learn the latest policy initiatives on the Mainland, as well as market opportunities in various places and industries.

80. Some Members consider that at present, while the Administration focuses more on providing support and matching services for Hong Kong entrepreneurs in popular Mainland cities of GBA, the support provided for Hong Kong entrepreneurs pursuing development in less popular cities (e.g. Zhaoqing) was insufficient. The Administration have pointed out that HKTDTC launched the “GoGBA” one-stop platform in 2021 to provide important economic and trade information about the cities of GBA for SMEs. HKTDTC also has plans to set up “GoGBA Business Support Centres” in those Mainland cities of GBA without any of such centres in the coming one

to two years. Moreover, the Administration will partner with HKTDC and continue to organize business delegations and visit the nine Mainland cities of GBA with Hong Kong entrepreneurs.

81. Some Members have considered that currently the flow of capital between the Mainland and Hong Kong are still subject to certain restrictions, which also makes it one of the factors contributing to the restrictions on cross-border trade and trade in goods. The Administration has advised that the HKSAR Government will seek certain pilot liberalization and cooperation measures from the Mainland through CEPA for Hong Kong entrepreneurs in various fields including finance.

GBA standards and intellectual property

82. The Subcommittee notes that the Guangdong Administration for Market Regulation (“GAMR”), with the support and cooperation of the HKSAR Government and the Macao SAR Government, is working to develop high quality GBA standards for different products and commercial services for voluntary adoption by enterprises, and has announced two batches of items proposed for inclusion in the List of GBA Standards, with an aim to promote the harmonization of rules in relevant sectors in the region and build the “GBA Standards” brand. Some Members consider that it will be conducive to the market development of Hong Kong enterprises if more projects adopt the standards already available in Hong Kong and suitable for implementation in GBA as “GBA standards”. The Administration has advised that GAMR has earlier consulted the industry on the two batches of items proposed for inclusion in the List of GBA Standards, and Hong Kong industry representatives have also participated in the GBA Certification Alliance, which was established in September 2022.

83. On the development of Hong Kong as a regional intellectual property (“IP”) trading centre, the Administration has advised that it will implement a series of measures in the short, medium and long term. These include amendments to the Copyright Ordinance to strengthen copyright protection in the digital environment; preparations for the implementation of the international trademark registration system under the Protocol Relating to the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks; enhancement of the capability of examination officers for the local original grant patent system⁷; provision of IP training to practitioners in different

⁷ The original grant patent system was launched in 2019 to provide an alternative path to the existing “re-registration” route for patent applicants to seek standard patent protection directly in Hong Kong with a maximum term of 20 years. Under the “re-registration” route, a patent applicant is required to first file an application at one of the three designated patent offices outside Hong Kong, to be followed by an application to the Intellectual Property Department for re-registration, before he/she can obtain a standard patent by re-registration in Hong Kong.

industries; and optimization of HKTDC's Asia IP Exchange portal. The Administration will also continue to explore with the Mainland authorities feasible measures to facilitate cross-boundary applications for various IP registrations. The Intellectual Property Department will also continue to work with different cities in the Guangdong Province under different cooperation frameworks and promote the high quality IP professional services provided by Hong Kong so as to support enterprises in the region to develop their IP trading and commercialization businesses in GBA and overseas.

Innovation and technology

84. Members have urged the Administration to expedite the construction of the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Park ("HSITP") in the Lok Ma Chau Loop and the work on attracting enterprises and investment, and to restore the sites in the Lok Ma Chau Loop which have been used for the emergency hospital and isolation facilities to I&T development purposes as soon as possible. Some other Members have proposed that some of the isolation facilities should be retained for the conduct of clinical trials of Mainland-made drugs, so as to promote the use of Mainland-made drugs in Hong Kong. The Administration has advised that the first three buildings to be built under the Batch 1 development of HSITP are expected to be completed in phases from the end of 2024 onwards as scheduled. Meanwhile, the Administration is reviewing the future development of HSITP, and will make reference to the operation modes of industrial parks on the Mainland and overseas so as to explore ways to accelerate the construction process. The Administration is also assessing the future arrangements for the community isolation and treatment facilities in the hope to release the site in the Lok Ma Chau Loop for its original purposes of I&T development as soon as possible.

85. Members welcome the Administration's enhanced efforts to support the development of more technology-based industries to facilitate the development of "new industrialization" in Hong Kong, in particular to support the development of advanced manufacturing industries of strategic importance, such as the new energy vehicles industry and semiconductor chips industry. Some Members consider that hydrogen vehicles have potential for development and the HKSAR Government should invest more resources in supporting research and development ("R&D") and collaborate with the Guangdong Provincial Government, which has started to develop hydrogen vehicles. The Administration has advised that it will explore the application of new energy in transportation and power generation, with a view to introducing new energy to Hong Kong when the technology is relatively mature.

86. Some Members have pointed out that at present, local STEAM activities may have tended to focus on information technology. It is necessary to enrich elements in integration of industry, academia and research, as well as business incubation and cultivation. In the process of policy formulation, the Administration can draw reference from the practices of Mainland cities and collaborate with relevant organizations. The Administration has advised that there is already a series of activities and programmes organized by various organizations to promote I&T development. The Administration will strengthen collaboration with the Mainland cities of GBA to nurture start-ups and support technology enterprises to attract foreign investment and go global.

87. Given that the development of the financial services industry in Hong Kong is more mature than that of other cities in GBA, some Members consider that Hong Kong can leverage on this advantage to diversify its venture financing channels. This will attract more overseas capital and start-ups with potential to set up business in Hong Kong. Some Members have also pointed out that in addition to attracting overseas capital to invest in local I&T projects, it will be more attractive to enterprises if the Government is willing to allocate funds for joint investment. The Administration has concurred and pointed out that the HKSAR Government has established the GBA Investment Fund and the Co-Investment Fund. The latter aims at attracting enterprises to set up operations in Hong Kong by co-investing in their operations. The Administration will consider co-investing in enterprises or individual projects, taking into account their potential to drive industry development and employment opportunities in Hong Kong.

88. Members note that the Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited (“HKEX”) will introduce a new Chapter 18C of the Listing Rules for five specialist technology industries to facilitate the listing in Hong Kong of specialist technology enterprises that have yet to meet the profit and trading record requirements to meet their fundraising needs. However, there are views that the threshold on the minimum expected market capitalization of companies at the time of listing as proposed by HKEX is too high when compared to the financial market thresholds in other regions. The Administration has responded that HKEX will carefully consider market feedback to work out the relevant details and launch the listing regime for specialist technology companies within 2023. Moreover, HKEX also plans to put forward specific reform proposals on GEM (formerly known as the Growth Enterprise Market) for formal consultation within 2023, after carefully considering the views of various market players on the financing needs of SMEs and start-ups.

89. Members have enquired about the Administration’s measures to support local I&T talents to develop their career/business in the Mainland

cities of GBA. The Administration has responded that the governments of Hong Kong and Shenzhen have rolled out a “Joint Policy Package” which covers a series of support policies on promoting the flow of talents for the development of I&T. The HKSAR Government will continue to explore with the relevant Mainland authorities measures to facilitate the smooth flow of people across the boundary, including facilitating expatriates living in Hong Kong to travel to other cities of GBA to participate in research activities and work.

90. Members have suggested that the Administration should step up efforts to attract key technology enterprises and talents from home and abroad, and provide top-notch I&T talents with comprehensive living support (e.g. accommodation and their children’s education). Some Members have expressed concern that it may be more difficult for TTPS launched by the Government to attract talents from middle-level positions. The Administration has advised that by attracting key enterprises to set up their operations in Hong Kong, not only top-notch research talents but also middle-level technology personnel of enterprises can be recruited. Aside from the existing Technology Talent Admission Scheme, the Government will review the Talent List in a timely manner and actively consider different complementary measures to attract and retain talents, including the construction of more talent apartments.

91. Some Members have commented that the sales market in Hong Kong is relatively less attractive to I&T enterprises and overseas talents. To enhance Hong Kong’s attractiveness, it is necessary to allow their R&D outcomes in Hong Kong to enter the huge market of the whole GBA or even the whole country. However, the existing patent registration systems and testing and certification systems in Hong Kong and the Mainland are not interoperable. The Administration has advised that it will communicate with the relevant Mainland authorities on the relevant issues to facilitate market expansion of enterprises in the two places. As regards patent registration, starting from January 2023, qualified invention patent applications of Hong Kong applicants may be submitted to the China National Intellectual Property Administration for prioritized examination through a pilot project.

92. Members consider that the Administration should learn from the mature development of smart government in Mainland cities and implement various measures to build and promote a smart government, with a view to achieving interoperability of e-government services between Hong Kong and other GBA cities. Some Members have expressed concern that Hong Kong may have lagged behind Mainland cities in the R&D of artificial intelligence (“AI”), and urged the Administration to put in extra efforts to support the R&D and application of AI.

93. The Administration has advised that Hong Kong has been developing AI technology for many years and has an edge in terms of R&D capability. However, Hong Kong has achieved relatively little commercialization in the field of AI in the past, and the Administration will strengthen the development in this particular area in the future. On the other hand, apart from launching a “Big Data Analytics Platform” in 2020 to assist government departments in implementing big data projects more effectively, the Administration has also implemented “e-government audit” to examine how departments can make wider use of advanced technologies, with a view to launching no less than 100 e-government projects by the end of 2025 to enhance the efficiency of government services. Meanwhile, the Administration has worked with the Guangdong Provincial Government to take forward the “cross-boundary government services” initiative in GBA, and identified the first batch of about 40 “cross-boundary government services” for use by Hong Kong residents. The Administration has also explored with the Government Services and Data Management Bureau of Guangdong Province the adoption of “iAM Smart” as one of the means for real-name identity authentication on the “Unified Identity Authentication Platform of Guangdong Province”.

Recommendations

94. The Subcommittee recommends that the HKSAR Government should:

Overall work

- (1) proactively formulate more innovative policies and measures that precisely dovetail with the national development strategies, set clear targets and key performance indicators, take forward the development of GBA with enhanced speed, efficiency and quantity, and continuously improve the details and monitor the implementation progress and effectiveness of the projects;
- (2) enhance the transparency of the work of the Steering Group on Integration into National Development, establish a platform to disseminate information about the implementation of various policy measures, and expand public participation;
- (3) make extensive use of the networks and resources of various sectors of society (including Mainland and Hong Kong community organizations, think tanks, and the industrial, commercial and professional sectors, etc.) to proactively encourage collaboration between the government and

community in the two places and joint participation in the development of GBA;

- (4) take a more proactive approach in liaising with the cooperation departments in GBA Mainland cities and other provinces and municipalities to strengthen the communication and cooperation mechanism between Hong Kong and the relevant Mainland departments;
- (5) step up efforts to actively promote the development of GBA to the rest of the world to enable overseas people to have a more comprehensive understanding of the opportunities and advantages of GBA and do a good job in attracting enterprises and investment to contribute to the high-quality development of GBA as a whole;

Facilitation measures beneficial to the public

Portable welfare benefits and elderly services

- (6) encourage more people to apply for the Guangdong Scheme and the Portable Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme and relax the eligibility criteria for them, and extend the relevant measures on portable welfare benefits and facilitating elders to “age in place” in GBA Mainland cities to other Mainland cities;
- (7) step up the publicity of the RCS Scheme in Guangdong, increase the number of RCHEs under the scheme, and provide various incentives to increase the desire of the elderly to be accommodated in these RCHEs, and at the same time actively assist Hong Kong’s elderly services sector in gaining a foothold in GBA;
- (8) consider purchasing services directly from private RCHEs on the Mainland that meet national standards to provide more options for Hong Kong elderly, and building elderly communities for Hong Kong residents on the Mainland with the provision of more comprehensive supporting facilities;

Healthcare services

- (9) regularize the Special Support Scheme for chronic disease patients of the Hospital Authority residing in Guangdong

Province, increase the amount of subsidy, and extend the scope of application of the scheme;

- (10) regularize and expand the exchange and collaboration plans between Hong Kong and Mainland medical professionals;
- (11) extend the scope of application of Hong Kong Elderly Health Care Vouchers to include the purchase of Mainland medical insurance;
- (12) subsidize HA patients in Hong Kong to undergo surgeries in HKU-SZH, so as to ease pressure on local healthcare systems;
- (13) study the feasibility of introducing cross-border online consultation and implementing two-way sharing of patients' medical records between the two places to enable individuals' medical records to follow them wherever they go for healthcare;
- (14) increase the number of Hong Kong drugs and medical devices that can be used in healthcare institutions in GBA under the Measure;
- (15) consider allowing Hong Kong patients with rare diseases to be included in the mechanism of the Mainland for the bulk procurement of drugs so as to reduce the cost of drugs;
- (16) consider allowing the registration and sale in Hong Kong of Mainland-registered medicines commonly used by Hong Kong people;
- (17) explore ways to facilitate the registration in Hong Kong and in European and American countries of drugs jointly developed by the Mainland and Hong Kong;

Facilitation of immigration procedures and the “Northbound Travel for Hong Kong Vehicles” scheme

- (18) ensure that the immigration procedures and customs clearance arrangements keep pace with the times and improve the efficiency of customs clearance so as to facilitate immigration clearance of residents and visitors of the two places;
- (19) expedite the implementation of the “Northbound Travel for Hong Kong Vehicles” scheme and discuss with the Mainland

authorities to resolve the bottleneck in vehicle examination arising from the scheme, as well as explore the introduction of motor insurance products covering the two places;

Youth development and education

- (20) comprehensively assist and encourage Hong Kong students and young people to go to the Mainland cities of GBA for exchanges, further studies, internships, employment and entrepreneurship, and provide appropriate supporting measures;
- (21) increase the quota of Mainland study tours for local teachers, strengthen the cultivation of national identity, and encourage more teachers to go to the Mainland for exchanges and internships;
- (22) study the establishment of a qualification accreditation mechanism for various local industries as well as the implementation of mutual recognition of VPET qualifications between the two places, so as to assist Hong Kong young people with a technical skill set in securing employment or starting up businesses in the Mainland cities of GBA;

Support for professional sectors

Legal services

- (23) capitalize on the opportunities brought by the unique characteristics of “one country, two systems and three jurisdictions” of GBA, and strengthen the legal exchanges and collaborations between Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao with a view to jointly promoting legal development in GBA;
- (24) strive for more liberalization measures on Mainland legal services for the legal profession, including promoting the initiative to allow “WOKEs to adopt Hong Kong law”;
- (25) consider conducting a survey through GDETO to gauge the implementation effectiveness of the initiative to allow “WOKEs to adopt Hong Kong law” and the views of users for further refinement of the measure;
- (26) encourage more qualified Hong Kong legal practitioners to sit for the GBA LP Examination and promote in the GBA

Mainland cities the strengths of Hong Kong lawyers with Mainland qualifications;

- (27) study measures to facilitate the development of legal services in the two places, including encouraging the legal profession in Hong Kong to make greater use of LawTech;
- (28) provide more comprehensive legal assistance to Hong Kong people living in the Mainland cities of GBA;

Transport and logistics

- (29) formulate policy measures to enhance the productivity and competitiveness of Hong Kong's logistics industry and strengthen its collaboration with container ports in the Mainland cities of GBA, so as to achieve complementarity of advantages, jointly build the GBA port cluster, and enhance overall international competitiveness;
- (30) consolidate Hong Kong's status as an international aviation hub and shipping centre, actively follow up on AAHK's acquisition of equity of Zhuhai Airport, and set up an HKIA Logistics Park in Dongguan;
- (31) draw reference from the GBA Youth Aviation Industry Internship Programme and launch a similar internship programme for the maritime industry to nurture local maritime talents;

Arts and culture, sports and tourism

- (32) facilitate arts groups from the Mainland cities of GBA to come to Hong Kong for performances and exchanges, and provide resources to support Hong Kong's arts groups to perform or conduct cultural exchange activities in GBA, so as to provide new opportunities for Hong Kong artists and art groups;
- (33) set up a one-stop information platform on arts and culture in GBA to consolidate information on different funded arts projects, performance venues and exchange activities in GBA, so as to facilitate Hong Kong artists and arts groups;
- (34) launch a GBA cultural internship scheme to provide graduates who aspire to pursue a career in the arts and cultural sector with the option to take up internship in the Mainland cities of GBA;

- (35) assist the local performing arts industry in developing an identification and certification mechanism for practitioners;
- (36) formulate strategies to promote the industrialization of arts and culture in Hong Kong;
- (37) step up the promotion of Hong Kong's major sports events and athletes to the Mainland people;
- (38) formulate strategic measures with the governments of various GBA cities to attract overseas high value-added visitors to embark on GBA multi-destination journeys via Hong Kong;
- (39) formulate measures to address the current manpower shortage in the local tourism industry, including providing training subsidies to attract more new blood to join the industry and setting up a GBA training centre for the tourism industry to promote the flow of talents;

Financial services

- (40) make timely enhancements to WMC, including increasing the categories of participating institutions, enriching the types of products that can be invested, and improving the sales arrangements;
- (41) expand the scope of CDI, including the inclusion of data from more organizations and government departments, and the launch of more similar data exchange platforms, so as to tie in with the development of mutual market access schemes between capital markets, such as WMC;
- (42) increase the number of the pilot banks which provide attestation service in Hong Kong for Hong Kong residents to open Mainland personal bank accounts in GBA, and expand the scope of the services;
- (43) coordinate with relevant Mainland organizations to relax the restrictions on HKD-denominated remittances in an orderly and progressive manner for the benefit of people and businesses;
- (44) provide more RMB-denominated investment channels, strengthen offshore RMB asset risk management business and enhance the relevant market infrastructure to facilitate the steady progress of RMB internationalization;

- (45) provide talent training programmes for participation by practitioners in the financial industry and study the feasibility of mutual recognition of licences for practitioners in the financial industry;
- (46) explore measures to facilitate the two-way flow of talents in the financial and other industries between Hong Kong and Mainland cities, including exploring the possibility of allowing talents to move freely in various cities under the “one-hour living circle” in GBA without the need to reside there;

Insurance and accounting services

- (47) expeditiously establish insurance after-sale service centres in places like Nansha and Qianhai, so as to provide consultation, claims and renewal services etc. to residents in GBA who hold Hong Kong insurance policies;
- (48) actively promote the strengths of the Hong Kong’s insurance industry to relevant Mainland authorities to foster the implementation of more mutually beneficial proposals, and launch the Cross-boundary Insurance Connect Scheme by summing up the experience of the interconnectivity between the Mainland and Hong Kong;
- (49) actively discuss with the Mainland authorities measures to further facilitate Hong Kong accountants to practise in the Mainland cities of GBA, including allowing Hong Kong practising CPAs to become partners of accounting firms in Qianhai as well as including Hong Kong practicing CPAs in Qianhai’s policies for high-end talent;

Investment promotion, professional services and trade

- (50) enhance the promotion of successful cases of foreign capital investment in Shenzhen and Hong Kong in its investment promotion work to boost the confidence of potential investors;
- (51) strive to allow other professional services industries in Hong Kong to adopt a registration system similar to that for the five disciplines, namely engineering, architecture, surveying, planning and landscape architecture, to enable them to provide services in the Mainland cities of GBA;

- (52) strengthen the support provided to Hong Kong residents and businessmen in the less popular Mainland cities of GBA;

Innovation and technology development

- (53) speed up the construction of HSITP in the Lok Ma Chau Loop and the work of attracting enterprises and investment, so as to complement the efforts to restore the relevant sites in the Lok Ma Chau Loop for I&T development ;
- (54) step up efforts to nurture more technology-based industries to facilitate the development of “new industrialization” in Hong Kong, in particular to support the development of advanced manufacturing industries of strategic importance,
- (55) draw reference from the practices of Mainland cities and collaborate with relevant organizations to strengthen the elements of integration of industry, academia and research, and business incubation and cultivation in the local STEAM education;
- (56) leverage Hong Kong’s role as an international financing platform to serve the I&T industries in GBA, so as to attract more overseas capital and start-ups with potential to set up business in Hong Kong;
- (57) make use of the co-investment model to attract enterprises from the Mainland and overseas to invest and set up operations in Hong Kong, thereby driving local industry development;
- (58) step up efforts to attract key technology enterprises and talents in various posts from home and abroad and provide talents with comprehensive living support, and at the same time introduce measures to support local I&T talents to pursue development in the Mainland cities of GBA;
- (59) explore ways to ameliorate the existing problems that the patent registrations in Hong Kong and the Mainland are not interoperable and the reports issued by testing and certification organizations in Hong Kong are not recognized by the Mainland, so as to facilitate enterprises in both places to expand their markets; and
- (60) expedite the development of smart government with a view to achieving interoperability of e-government services between Hong Kong and other GBA Mainland cities.

Way forward

95. The Subcommittee has completed its work and Members are invited to continue to follow up on the policies and measures for the development of GBA at the relevant Panels and the platform of LegCo.

Council Business Division 4
Legislative Council Secretariat
11 May 2023

Subcommittee on Promoting Development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area

Terms of reference

To review and oversee the implementation of various policies and issues relating to Hong Kong's participation in taking forward the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area ("GBA"), including studying facilitation measures for Hong Kong residents living in the Mainland, reviewing policies which will enable service industry practitioners, etc. to start up businesses and pursue development in GBA, as well as exploring adoption of strategies in the areas of economy, technology, judicial matters, financial services, education, exchanges and people-to-people ties, etc. to facilitate Hong Kong's participation in the development of GBA; and to make recommendations on how Hong Kong can better integrate into the overall development of our country through capitalizing on its own advantages.

**Subcommittee on Promoting Development of
the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area**

Membership list *

Chairman	Hon YUNG Hoi-yan, JP
Deputy Chairman	Hon Kingsley WONG Kwok, BBS, JP
Members	Hon Jeffrey LAM Kin-fung, GBS, JP Hon CHAN Kin-por, GBS, JP Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun, SBS, JP Hon MA Fung-kwok, GBS, JP Hon SHIU Ka-fai, JP Hon CHAN Chun-ying, JP Hon LAU Kwok-fan, MH, JP Hon Robert LEE Wai-wang Hon Andrew LAM Siu-lo, SBS, JP Hon Edward LEUNG Hei Hon CHAN Yuet-ming, MH Hon Maggie CHAN Man-ki, MH, JP Hon Joephy CHAN Wing-yan Dr Hon Kennedy WONG Ying-ho, BBS, JP Hon Edmund WONG Chun-sek Hon YANG Wing-kit Hon TANG Fei, MH (Total : 19 members)
Clerk	Ms Shirley CHAN
Legal Adviser	Miss Dorothy YUNG

* Changes in membership are set out in **Appendix 2A** ◦

**Subcommittee on Promoting Development of the Guangdong-
Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area**

Changes in membership

Member	Relevant date
Dr Hon Stephen WONG Yuen-shan	Up to 26 December 2022

**Subcommittee on Promoting Development of
the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area**

List of organization/individuals which/who have submitted written views to
the Subcommittee

1. Tak Kwu Ling District Rural Committee
2. 何子煜先生
3. On Kee Dry Seafood Co., Ltd.
4. Hong Kong Dried Seafood and Grocery Merchants Association Ltd.
5. Hong Kong Chinese Patent Medicine Manufacturers' Association Ltd.
6. 世界武醫文化促進會及灝翰集團
7. The Jewellers' and Goldsmiths' Association of Hong Kong Limited
8. Qianhai International Liaison Services
9. New People's Party
10. Junior Chamber International North District (Hong Kong) Limited
11. Vobile Group Limited
12. Greater Bay Area Young Talents Association
13. Hong Kong Social Service Professional Alliance of The Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area Ltd.
14. 香港城市大學法律學院公法與人權論壇大灣區關注組
15. In-heritage Philharmonic

Appendix 4

Subcommittee on Promoting Development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area

Members' declaration of interests at the meetings of the Subcommittee

Members	Relevant declaration of interests
Hon YUNG Hoi-yan (Chairman)	She has taken the inaugural Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Legal Professional Examination.
Hon Kingsley WONG Kwok (Deputy Chairman)	He is a member of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference Hainan Committee.
Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun	She has been invited to serve as a legal expert in Qianhai and had participated in arbitration and mediation work in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area.
Hon Robert LEE Wai-wang	He is engaged in the financial sector.
Hon Maggie CHAN Man-ki	She is a vehicle owner holding a cross-boundary vehicle licence.
Hon Kennedy WONG Ying-ho	He is a member of the Consultative Committee on Guangdong-Hong Kong Co-operation (Guangzhou Nansha).
Hon YANG Wing-kit	He is an alumnus of Pui Kiu Middle School and a teacher.
Hon Carmen KAN Wai-mun	She is a qualified lawyer on the Mainland and also an arbitrator of the China International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission and the South China International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission.