



**Legislative Council of the  
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region**

**Report on the duty visit to the  
Greater Bay Area**

**21 to 24 April 2023**



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## Chapter 1: Introduction

### **Purpose**

1.1 At the invitation of the Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (“Chief Executive”), Members of the Legislative Council of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (“LegCo”) conducted a four-day duty visit to four cities in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (“GBA”), namely Shenzhen, Dongguan, Foshan and Guangzhou, from 21 to 24 April 2023. This report presents the highlights of the duty visit and observations of Members.

### **Background and objectives of the visit**

1.2 GBA is one of the most open and economically vibrant regions in the country. In the Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area and the 14th Five-Year Plan promulgated in February 2019 and March 2021 respectively, the country has clearly expressed its support for enhancing cooperation among Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao to create synergy in developing GBA by leveraging their complementary advantages, and developing an international renowned bay area that is desirable for living, working and travelling.

1.3 With the full resumption of normal travel between Hong Kong and the Mainland, the Chief Executive invited LegCo Members to visit the Mainland cities of GBA to observe first-hand the latest developments and opportunities in GBA, and to enhance communication and understanding with Mainland officials and share experiences with them, so that all parties can jointly promote the high quality development of GBA, and enable Hong Kong to better integrate into the overall development of the country while at the same time exploring new opportunities for Hong Kong’s development.

1.4 At its meeting on 31 March 2023, the LegCo House Committee endorsed the proposal for LegCo Members to accept the Chief Executive’s invitation to conduct a duty visit to the Mainland cities of GBA.

### **Membership of the Delegation**

1.5 The GBA trip was the first joint duty visit to the Mainland by Members of the current-term LegCo and the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (“HKSAR”). The Chief Executive, Mr John LEE Ka-chiu was the Leader of the Delegation; the Chief Secretary for Administration, Mr CHAN Kwok-ki, and the President of LegCo, Hon Andrew LEUNG Kwan-yuen, were the Deputy Leaders of the Delegation.



Members of the Delegation pose for a group photo

1.6 The Delegation was organized into two groups: the Red Group and the Purple Group. A total of 83 Members participated in the visit. The membership list of the two groups is appended below:

**Duty visit to GBA**  
**Members participating in the visit (by group)**

Red Group (Dongguan)	Purple Group (Foshan)
1. Hon Andrew LEUNG Kwan-yuen, GBM, GBS, JP (President of LegCo)	1. Hon Starry LEE Wai-king, GBS, JP (Chairman of the House Committee)
2. Hon CHAN Kin-por, GBS, JP	2. Hon MA Fung-kuok, GBS, JP (Deputy Chairman of the House Committee)
3. Hon Michael TIEN Puk-sun, BBS, JP	3. Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, GBM, GBS, JP
4. Hon KWOK Wai-keung, JP	4. Hon Jeffrey LAM Kin-fung, GBM, GBS, JP
5. Ir Dr Hon LO Wai-kuok, GBS, MH, JP	5. Hon CHAN Hak-kan, SBS, JP
6. Hon Jimmy NG Wing-ka, BBS, JP	6. Prof Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun, SBS, JP
7. Hon SHIU Ka-fai, JP	7. Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-yeet, GBM, GBS, JP
8. Hon YUNG Hoi-yan, JP	8. Hon Paul TSE Wai-chun, JP
9. Hon CHAN Chun-ying, JP	9. Hon Steven HO Chun-yin, BBS, JP
10. Hon LAU Kwok-fan, MH, JP	10. Hon Frankie YICK Chi-ming, GBS, JP
11. Hon Doreen KONG Yuk-foon	11. Hon CHAN Han-pan, BBS, JP
12. Hon CHU Kwok-keung	12. Hon Elizabeth QUAT, SBS, JP
13. Hon Stanley LI Sai-wing, MH, JP	13. Hon Martin LIAO Cheung-kong, GBS, JP
14. Hon Dominic LEE Tsz-king	14. Dr Hon Junius HO Kwan-yiu, BBS, JP
15. Ir Hon LEE Chun-keung, JP	15. Hon Holden CHOW Ho-ding, JP
16. Dr Hon David LAM Tzit-yuen	16. Hon LUK Chung-hung, JP
17. Hon LAM So-wai	17. Hon Kenneth LAU Ip-keung, SBS, MH, JP
18. Hon LAM San-keung, JP	18. Hon Vincent CHENG Wing-shun, MH, JP
19. Hon YIU Pak-leung, MH, JP	19. Hon Tony TSE Wai-chuen, BBS, JP
20. Dr Hon Wendy HONG Wen	20. Dr Hon Hoey Simon LEE, MH, JP
21. Hon LEUNG Man-kwong, MH	21. Hon Robert LEE Wai-wang
22. Hon Edward LEUNG Hei	22. Hon Stanley NG Chau-pei, SBS, JP
23. Hon Kenneth LEUNG Yuk-wai, JP	23. Dr Hon Johnny NG Kit-chong, MH, JP
24. Hon CHAN Yuet-ming, MH	24. Hon CHAU Siu-chung
25. Hon Rock CHEN Chung-nin, SBS, JP	25. Dr Hon CHOW Man-kong
26. Hon CHAN Yung, BBS, JP	26. Hon LAM Chun-sing
27. Hon Sunny TAN	27. Hon Andrew LAM Siu-lo, SBS, JP
28. Hon Judy CHAN Kapui, MH, JP	28. Hon Duncan CHIU
29. Hon Joephy CHAN Wing-yan	29. Hon Dennis LEUNG Tsz-wing, MH
30. Ir Hon Gary ZHANG Xinyu	30. Hon CHAN Pui-leung
31. Hon Lillian KWOK Ling-lai	31. Ir Hon CHAN Siu-hung, JP
32. Hon Benson LUK Hon-man	32. Hon CHAN Hoi-yan
33. Hon Kingsley WONG Kwok, BBS, JP	33. Hon CHAN Hok-fung, MH, JP
34. Hon YANG Wing-kit	34. Hon Edmund WONG Chun-sek
35. Revd Canon Hon Peter Douglas KOON Ho-ming, BBS, JP	35. Hon LAI Tung-kuok, GBS, IDSM, JP
36. Hon TANG Fei, MH	36. Prof Hon LAU Chi-pang, BBS, JP
37. Hon TANG Ka-piu, BBS, JP	37. Dr Hon SO Cheung-wing, SBS, JP
38. Hon Kenneth FOK Kai-kong, JP	38. Hon YIM Kong
39. Dr Hon NGAN Man-yu	39. Hon Adrian Pedro HO King-hong
40. Hon Carmen KAN Wai-mun	40. Hon SHANG Hailong
41. Dr Hon TAN Yueheng, JP	41. Prof Hon CHAN Wing-kwong
42. Prof Hon William WONG Kam-fai, MH	

**A total of 83 Members**

1.7 The HKSAR Government officials participating in the Delegation included the Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs, Mr Erick TSANG Kwok-wai; the Secretary for Environment and Ecology, Mr TSE Chin-wan; the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Mr Algernon YAU; the Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry, Professor SUN Dong; and the Director of the Chief Executive's Office, Ms Carol YIP. The Delegation was also accompanied by the Secretary General of the LegCo Secretariat, Mr Kenneth CHEN, and the Deputy Secretary General, Ms Dora WAI.

## Visit programme

1.8 The visit was conducted from 21 to 24 April 2023. Departing in the afternoon of 21 April, the Delegation embarked on a four-day visit to four cities in GBA, namely Shenzhen, Dongguan, Foshan and Guangzhou. During the visit, the Delegation met with leaders of Guangdong Province and various municipalities, while also touring different facilities, enterprises and projects related to innovation and technology (“I&T”), environmental protection, youth development, arts and culture, etc. These activities provided insights for the Delegation on the latest developments and opportunities in the Mainland cities of GBA.

1.9 After arriving in Shenzhen, the Delegation was divided into two groups for the following days. The Red Group made stops in Dongguan, while the Purple Group visited Foshan. On the fourth day, the two groups visited Guangzhou together. The Red Group was led by the President of LegCo, Hon Andrew LEUNG Kwan-yuen; the Chief Secretary for Administration, Mr CHAN Kwok-ki, led the Purple Group. During the trip, the Chief Executive, as the Leader of the Delegation, took turns to participate in the visits of the two groups. The detailed visit programme is listed below:

21 April 2023 (Friday)		
Group/ City	Red Group	Purple Group
Time	Shenzhen	Shenzhen
Afternoon	Travel from Hong Kong to Shenzhen	
Evening	Dinner with leaders of the Shenzhen Municipal Government	

<b>22 April 2023 (Saturday)</b>		
<b>Group/ City Time</b>	<b>Red Group</b>	<b>Purple Group</b>
	<b>Shenzhen/Dongguan</b>	<b>Shenzhen/Foshan</b>
Morning	Headquarters of BYD Company Limited	
Afternoon	Dajiang Innovations Technology Company Limited	Tencent
	Qianhai Shenzhen-Hong Kong Youth Innovation and Entrepreneur Hub	Nantou Ancient Town
	Travel from Shenzhen to Dongguan	Travel from Shenzhen to Foshan
Evening	Dinner with leaders of the Dongguan Municipal Government	Working dinner

<b>23 April 2023 (Sunday)</b>		
<b>Group/ City Time</b>	<b>Red Group</b>	<b>Purple Group</b>
	<b>Dongguan</b>	<b>Foshan</b>
Morning	Dongguan Hong Kong International Airport Logistics Park (Dongguan Logistics Park)	Guangdong Bright Dream Robotics Co. Ltd.
	Huawei Ox Horn Campus	Foshan Lingnan Tiandi
Noon	Luncheon with Hong Kong businessmen in Dongguan	Working lunch
Afternoon	Modern Dental Technology (Dongguan) Company Limited	Ancient Nanfeng Kiln
	Huayang Lake National Wetland Park	Foshan “City Brain” system
	Jianyuzhou Cultural and Creative Park	KUKA Robotics Guangdong Company Limited
Evening	Working dinner	Dinner with leaders of the Foshan Municipal Government



<b>24 April 2023 (Monday)</b>		
<b>Group/ City Time</b>	<b>Red Group</b>	<b>Purple Group</b>
	<b>Guangzhou</b>	<b>Guangzhou</b>
<b>Morning</b>	Travel from Dongguan to Guangzhou	Travel from Foshan to Guangzhou
	Lijiao Sewage Treatment Plant	
<b>Noon</b>	Luncheon with leaders of the Guangzhou Municipal Government	
<b>Afternoon</b>	Meeting with leaders of the Guangdong Provincial Government	
	Return to Hong Kong by high-speed train	

## Chapter 2: Visit to Shenzhen

### Overview

2.1 According to the Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, the four central cities of Shenzhen, Guangzhou, Hong Kong, and Macao will serve as the core engines of regional development, leveraging their comparative advantages, including innovation, research and development (“R&D”) capacities and a high concentration of enterprises headquarters, to strengthen their radiating effect and lead the development of nearby regions.

2.2 Shenzhen has a land area of 1 997 square kilometers. At the end of 2021, its permanent population stood at 17.68 million people. Shenzhen has four pillar industries: high-new technology, modern logistics, financial services and cultural and creative industries. The city is an important high-tech R&D and manufacturing base, and ranked as the world’s fourth largest container port in 2021. Shenzhen’s gross domestic product (“GDP”) increased by 3.3% to RMB 3.24 trillion in 2022.

2.3 “Locally-driven innovation” is the key development direction of Shenzhen. In 2020, Shenzhen’s R&D expenditure amounted to 5.5% of its GDP, which is higher than the national average of 2.4%. It is also seen as a global pioneer in terms of its innovation capabilities in several high-tech sectors, including 4G technology, DNA sequencing, metamaterials and 3D displays.

2.4 The main programme of the Delegation in Shenzhen included visits to the headquarters of BYD Company Limited and its intelligent rail transit system “SkyShuttle”, Dajiang Innovations Technology Company Limited (“DJI”), the Qianhai Shenzhen-Hong Kong Youth Innovation and Entrepreneur Hub, Tencent Holdings Limited (“Tencent”) and the Nantou Ancient Town.

2.5 During its stay in Shenzhen, the Delegation had a dinner with leaders of the Shenzhen Municipal Government and received a briefing from the leaders on the overall development of Shenzhen, including that of the economy and I&T.

## **Dinner with leaders of the Shenzhen Municipal Government**

2.6 The Delegation travelled from Hong Kong to Shenzhen in the afternoon of 21 April, and attended a dinner hosted by the Secretary of the Shenzhen Municipal Committee of the Communist Party of China (“CPC”), Mr MENG Fanli, and the Mayor of the Shenzhen Municipal Government, Mr QIN Weizhong. They briefed the Delegation about Shenzhen’s overall development and objectives. Both sides exchanged views on matters relating to the ways in which Shenzhen and Hong Kong could cooperate, as well as how to facilitate Hong Kong in actively seeking new opportunities in GBA and in better integrating into the overall development of the country. Members of the Delegation also availed themselves of the opportunity to exchange views with Shenzhen officials to enhance their understanding of Shenzhen’s development.



Delegation members and leaders of the Shenzhen Municipal Government pose for a group photo before the dinner

2.7 During the dinner, Mr MENG Fanli introduced the overall situation and development directions of Shenzhen. He said that Hong Kong people were an important force in the development of Shenzhen and had contributed to the building of Shenzhen in various areas. When talking about the relationship between Shenzhen and Hong Kong, the Chief Executive described the two places as “brothers having a strong bond and a lot in common”, and expressed the desire to strengthen regional cooperation and promote the joint development of GBA. The President of LegCo, Hon Andrew LEUNG Kwan-yuen, also pointed out that in light of the rapid development of Shenzhen, Hong Kong should learn from Shenzhen’s successful experience, explore an optimized improved version of “twin city” mode of cooperation and work together to develop an I&T hub in GBA through the “strong collaboration” approach to contribute to the needs of the country.



During the dinner with leaders of the Shenzhen Municipal Government, the President of LegCo in his speech expresses his gratitude for the leaders of Shenzhen for their briefing on the latest development of the city and extends his appreciation for their hospitality

## **Headquarters of BYD Company Limited and intelligent rail transit system “SkyShuttle” (雲巴)**

2.8 The first activity of the Delegation on 22 April was to visit the headquarters of BYD Company Limited (“BYD”) in Shenzhen where the Delegation experienced the intelligent rail transit system SkyShuttle developed by BYD. Founded in 1995 and headquartered in Shenzhen, BYD is dually listed in Hong Kong and Shenzhen, and is one of the world’s top 500 companies with businesses spanning four industries, namely automobiles, rail transportation, new energy and electronics.

2.9 Accompanied by Member of the Standing Committee of the Shenzhen Municipal Committee of CPC, Mr ZENG Pai, and the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer (“CEO”) of BYD, Mr WANG Chuanfu, the Delegation visited BYD’s facilities where Members were shown the company’s achievements in various areas such as new energy technologies, electric vehicles (“EVs”), and smart driving system. When introducing BYD’s battery technology to Members, the company’s representative demonstrated the reaction of a BYD-developed “Blade Battery” when punctured by a sharp object while in operation, using a nail penetration test. Members were informed that even under such extreme conditions, “Blade Batteries” would not self-combust or explode, and they were safer than ternary batteries. The BYD representative also introduced to the Delegation the company’s pure EV model that was being used as taxis in Shenzhen and is the only electric taxi model currently in use in Hong Kong.

2.10 After visiting BYD’s headquarters, the Delegation took a ride on the SkyShuttle and experienced its operation first-hand. The Delegation notes that designed with purely electrical energy storage, SkyShuttle runs on a dedicated elevated guideway using rubber tyres and can accommodate more than 500 passengers. SkyShuttle has certain merits such as having a small turning radius, strong climbing ability, requiring less space for track construction. Members point out that there has been rising public aspiration for new public transport systems in Hong Kong in recent years. The experience gained during the visit could help government officials and Members better understand the merits and demerits of different potential options. This understanding would be useful for them to make informed decisions regarding Hong Kong’s future transport system.



The Chief Executive and the President of LegCo pose for a group photo with the Chairman and CEO of BYD, Mr WANG Chuanfu (fourth right) at BYD's headquarters



The Delegation tours BYD's headquarters



The Delegation experiences first-hand the operation of SkyShuttle, a new energy rail transit system developed by BYD

## **Dajiang Innovations Technology Company Limited**

2.11 The Delegation was divided into two groups in the afternoon of the same day, with the Chief Executive and the President of LegCo leading some of the Members to visit DJI. Accompanied by Member of the Standing Committee of the Shenzhen Municipal Committee of the CPC, Mr ZENG Pai, and the President of DJI, Mr Roger LUO, the Delegation received a briefing from the representatives of DJI on the applications of camera drones as well as handheld image devices, and observed a demonstration of camera drones to gain an overview of Shenzhen's smart city development.

2.12 The Delegation notes that, established in 2006, DJI is a world-leading manufacturer of commercial and recreational unmanned aerial vehicles for aerial photography and videography. The founder of the company, Mr Frank WANG, was born in Hangzhou and graduated from the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology in 2006.

2.13 During the visit, the Delegation was impressed by DJI's remarkable achievements and success in becoming a dominant enterprise in the market despite its relatively short history of establishment. DJI's success underscores the importance of holding on to one's convictions at all times. The Delegation understands that DJI places heavy emphasis on researching industrial trends and understanding customers' needs, enabling them to anticipate changes in the market. This approach ensures that DJI's products align with market needs and can even drive market demands. The Delegation also notes that DJI excels in thorough concept implementation and actively fosters a corporate culture that upholds consistent standards and goals.

2.14 The Delegation notes DJI's recent efforts in applying drone technology to modern agriculture have brought about reforms and progress to the agricultural industry. Technological support for agriculture has increased the productivity of farmers in developing countries and made contributions to the world. Members consider DJI's founder's experience of having studied at a university in Hong Kong and established DJI while pursuing his postgraduate studies, and his subsequent development of drones that have a wide range of applications, a successful I&T story jointly engendered by Hong Kong and the Mainland.





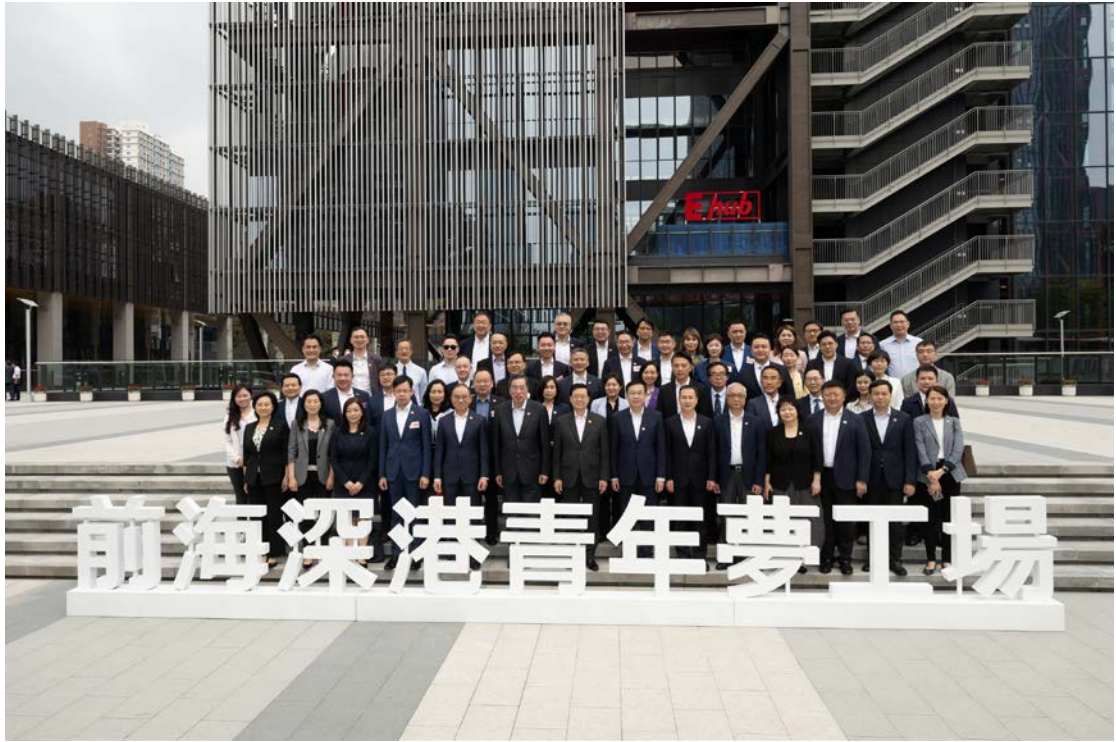
The Delegation receives a briefing from the representative of DJI on the applications of camera drones and handheld image devices

## **Qianhai Shenzhen-Hong Kong Youth Innovation and Entrepreneur Hub**

2.15 After leaving DJI in Shenzhen, the Delegation proceeded to the Qianhai Shenzhen-Hong Kong Youth Innovation and Entrepreneur Hub (“E Hub”) which is also located in Nanshan District. E Hub was jointly set up in 2014 by the Qianhai Authority, the Shenzhen Youth Federation and the Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups, with the aim of becoming the “first stop” for young people of Hong Kong seeking to develop their careers in the Mainland. As at the end of 2022, E Hub had incubated a total of 631 start-ups, of which 355 were from Hong Kong.

2.16 The Delegation, accompanied by the Deputy Executive Director-general of the Qianhai Authority, Mr HUANG Xiaopeng, visited E Hub. The Delegation learns that E Hub provides one-stop support services for entrepreneurial teams, including concessionary office rent, seed money and financial support, as well as access to venture capital to assist enterprises in financing. The Delegation observes that E Hub has quite comprehensive environmental planning and supporting facilities, and Hong Kong young people coming to work in Qianhai are even able to rent spacious talent housing at affordable rents. In addition, E Hub occupies a prime location and is only 10 minutes or so away from the Shenzhen Bay Port. Meanwhile, the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Rail Link, which connects Hong Kong’s Hung Shui Kiu and Shenzhen’s Qianhai, is at the research stage. Upon completion, it will greatly enhance the connectivity between the two places and help attract more Hong Kong young people to seek development opportunities in Qianhai.

2.17 After receiving a briefing from the representatives of E Hub, the Delegation engaged in discussions with more than 30 young people from Hong Kong who were working or starting their own businesses at E Hub. They shared with Members about their current situations and progress. The Delegation notes that the entrepreneurial teams formed by young people of Hong Kong have excellent potential and entrepreneurial ideas, and their businesses cover a wide range of innovative and creative areas, including R&D of smart products, safety management for high-risk persons, smart home, insect bioconversion, digital agricultural services, art design, etc. There are also some Hong Kong young people operating coffee shops and providing recruitment service at E Hub.



The Delegation visits the Qianhai Shenzhen-Hong Kong Youth Innovation and Entrepreneur Hub



The Delegation receives a briefing from the representative of E Hub



The Delegation exchanges views with Hong Kong youths who are working or starting their own businesses at E Hub

## Tencent

2.18 To gain insights into the business development of internet and technology companies, the Chief Secretary for Administration cum Deputy Delegation Leader led part of the Delegation to visit Tencent's headquarters in Shenzhen. Founded in 1998, Tencent is a world-leading internet and technology company. Its businesses include publication of e-games and other digital content, and provision of a range of enterprise services such as cloud computing, advertising and FinTech. Tencent was listed on the Stock Exchange of Hong Kong in 2004.

2.19 Accompanied by Member of the Standing Committee and Head of the United Front Work Department of the CPC Shenzhen Municipal Committee, Mr WANG Qiang, and Vice President of Public Affairs of Tencent, Mr LI Tsz Shu, the Delegation received a briefing from the representatives of Tencent on its services and products in the areas of social media, artificial intelligence ("AI") technology and e-games, and how these technologies are being applied in different areas.



The Delegation visits Tencent

2.20 The Delegation is greatly inspired by the visit to Tencent. Members particularly appreciate that Tencent remains committed to its vision and mission of “value for users, tech for good”, adheres to the user-oriented business philosophy and incorporates social responsibility into its products and services. The Delegation notes that Tencent provides its TEA technology free of charge to the public service sector, among others, to help solve the noise-reduction problem in cochlear implants, improve the listening experience of individuals with hearing impairment and build a barrier-free information environment. Members appreciate and support Tencent’s continuous efforts to enhance the well-being of individuals through technology. They believe that Hong Kong should exert greater efforts to promote digital inclusion in the development of the digital economy, ensuring that the general public can experience the positive impact and benefits brought about by the application of technology.



The Delegation learns about the functions of the data centre set up by Tencent in the Mainland through the exhibition model

2.21 The Delegation learns that Tencent utilizes advanced technologies such as big data and AI to provide enterprises with comprehensive digital solutions. At the same time, the company actively promotes technological innovation and cultural continuity, helps various industries to upgrade, and promotes the sustainable development of the society. Members consider that Tencent’s digital industry technologies

can contribute to the promotion of cultural development, facilitate heritage restoration and conservation, and help develop Art Tech in Hong Kong.



The Delegation receives a briefing from the representative of Tencent on its social media services and products

2.22 The Delegation then engaged in discussions with young people from Hong Kong working at Tencent under the Greater Bay Area Youth Employment Scheme. Members were impressed by their remarkable vitality and self-confidence. Members are of the view that the HKSAR Government should encourage enterprises to support Hong Kong young people working in the Mainland cities of GBA, both to facilitate their career development and to foster talent exchange between Hong Kong and GBA.

## Nantou Ancient Town

2.23 The Delegation later visited the Nantou Ancient Town. Covering an area of about 385 000 square metres, the Nantou Ancient Town is the largest historical and heritage tourist attraction in Shenzhen. The ancient town, featuring a “six vertical and one horizontal” street and lane pattern, contains more than 1 000 buildings. Among them, there are one key cultural relic protection unit in Guangdong Province, five municipal-level cultural relic protection units in Shenzhen, 10 protected buildings, and 34 historical buildings. The town was listed as a Historical and Cultural Site of Shenzhen back in 1988, and has been known as the “historical and cultural root of Shenzhen and Hong Kong”. It was also listed as one of the “Ten Characteristic Cultural Streets of Shenzhen” in 2018.



The Delegation visits the Nantou Ancient Town

2.24 During the visit, the Delegation was briefed by the person-in-charge of the Nantou Ancient Town on the various cultural relic protection units inside the town, including the Nantou Ancient City Wall, Dongguan Hall, and Xinguogong Wen Tianxiang Ancestral Hall. Members have gained an in-depth understanding of the history of the Nantou Ancient Town as the administrative centre, the coastal defence fort and the hub of maritime transport and external trade of the Lingnan coastal area in the past dynasties, as well as the revitalization projects carried out for the ancient



town in recent years, including the introduction of diverse and emerging industries such as cultural and commercial businesses, creative offices, specialty restaurants and popular music.

2.25 Members consider that the experience of revitalizing the Nantou Ancient Town into a commercial shopping district should serve as a useful reference for Hong Kong. Members suggest that the Administration should assist the relevant sectors in making good use of Hong Kong's rich built heritage resources to develop more cultural and heritage tourism products, so as to preserve the heritage value of the buildings concerned while at the same time putting them to good use, thereby bringing such historical buildings into suitable modern use.



The Delegation receives a briefing from the representatives of the Nantou Ancient Town

## Chapter 3: Visit to Dongguan

### Overview

3.1 Dongguan is located on the east bank of the Pearl River and in the south-central part of Guangdong Province. Covering a land area of 2 460 square kilometers, it had a permanent population of 10.54 million people at the end of 2021 and a GDP of RMB 1.12 trillion in 2022. Dongguan's economy is driven by export-oriented manufacturing. Its five-pillar industries are electronic communications; electrical machinery and equipment; textiles, garments, headwear and footwear; food and beverages processing; and paper manufacturing and paper products. In 2021, the total imports and exports between Dongguan and Hong Kong reached RMB 170.3 billion, of which exports to Hong Kong amounted to RMB 168.7 billion, accounting for 17.7% of the city's total export.

3.2 As stated in the Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, Dongguan should develop a globally influential and competitive cluster of world-class high-end manufacturing industries, such as electronic communications; promote the transformation and upgrading of traditional industries; press ahead with the development of the Hong Kong-Macao youth innovation and entrepreneurial base in the Dongguan Eco-industrial Park at Songshan Lake; and collaborate with Hong Kong in the development of the Dongguan Binhaiwan New District, forming a cluster of headquarters of high-end manufacturing industries, developing modern service industries, and establishing an R&D base for strategic emerging industries.

3.3 Under Dongguan's 14th Five-Year Plan, five emerging sectors have been prioritized for future development, which include software and information services, new materials, new energy, biomedicine and high-end medical equipment, and semiconductors and integrated circuits.

3.4 The Chief Executive and the President of LegCo led part of the Delegation to visit Dongguan. The Delegation's programme in Dongguan included visits to Dongguan Hong Kong International Airport Centre (Dongguan Logistics Park), Huawei Ox Horn Campus, Modern Dental Technology (Dongguan) Company Limited, Huayang Lake National Wetland Park, and Jianyuzhou Cultural and Creative Park ("Cultural and Creative Park"). During its stay in Dongguan, the Delegation attended a dinner with leaders of the Dongguan Municipal Government and a luncheon with Hong Kong businessmen in Dongguan.

## **Dongguan Hong Kong International Airport Centre (Dongguan Logistics Park)**

3.5 To gain a deeper understanding of the development of GBA’s logistics industry, the Delegation, accompanied by leading officials including the Mayor of the Dongguan Municipal Government, Mr LYU Chengxi, and Member of the Standing Committee and Head of the United Front Work Department of the CPC Dongguan Municipal Committee, Mr CHEN Zhiwei, visited the pilot scheme facility for the Dongguan Hong Kong International Airport Centre (“Airport Centre”) and exchanged views with the Secretary of the CPC Committee and Chairman of Dongguan Port Group, Mr WAN Hui, the Chief Executive Officer of the Airport Authority Hong Kong (“AAHK”), Mr Fred LAM, and other representatives of the Airport Centre in the morning of 23 April 2023.



Members of the Delegation receive a briefing from the Chief Executive Officer of the Airport Authority Hong Kong, Mr Fred LAM, on the operation and development of Dongguan Hong Kong International Airport Centre

3.6 The Delegation notes that to deepen collaboration among Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao, the Dongguan Government and AAHK signed in July 2020 a Memorandum of Understanding on the cooperation in the development of the Airport Centre project. Under the 2020 Work Plan of the Framework Agreement on Hong Kong/Guangdong Cooperation jointly promulgated by the governments of Guangdong

Province and HKSAR, the Airport Centre project was included in the key tasks of the Guangdong Provincial Government in taking forward the construction of GBA. In February 2023, the Dongguan Municipal Government and AAHK signed the Cooperation Framework Agreement on the Airport Centre project. Subsequently, the customs supervision operation site at the Airport Centre has formally commenced operation with the approval of relevant Mainland authorities. AAHK's target is to complete the development of the permanent facilities of the Airport Centre by the end of 2025.

3.7 The Delegation observed the cargo handling model under the pilot scheme of the Airport Centre. The Centre adopts the world's first "sea-air intermodal cargo transshipment" mode with direct access to the airside, which is a novel model that allows advanced cross-boundary security screening of export cargoes. Under the model, operations including export consolidation, cargo security screening, palletization as well as tallying and unloading of import cargoes at the Hong Kong International Airport ("HKIA")'s cargo terminal are transferred to the Dongguan Port Comprehensive Bonded Zone. At the Airport Centre, advanced automated facilities are adopted for efficient and accurate operation, and overhead logistics corridors are used for connecting the facilities in the park to facilitate safe and high-speed cargo flow. The Centre is equipped with a national Class A real-time positioning control system for real-time monitoring of freight information, with instant alerts issued in case of deviated cargo movement. The Centre also has a dedicated fleet of enclosed vehicles to ensure safety of transportation.

3.8 The Delegation observes that transportation cost and time can be reduced under the intermodal mode, as security screening of export cargoes from the Mainland can be completed in advance at the Airport Centre (i.e. by extending the upstream security screening at HKIA to Dongguan), and the cargoes can then be transported seamlessly in compliance with Hong Kong's air cargo security regulations to the airside cargo pier of HKIA for direct air transshipment to overseas destinations using Hong Kong's international aviation network without the need to undergo further security screening. Similarly, international cargo can also be imported into the Mainland using the reverse process.

3.9 Members hope that Hong Kong could seize the opportunities brought about by the Airport Centre to enhance the function of HKIA as an international air cargo gateway, and at the same time further enhance the connectivity between Hong Kong and the GBA cities through the intermodal transport (by integrating air, sea and land transport), and strengthen the key role played by Hong Kong in the logistics chain of GBA.



The Delegation receives a briefing from the Chief Executive Officer of the Airport Authority Hong Kong on the operation and development of Dongguan Hong Kong International Airport Centre



Delegation members pose for a photo at Dongguan Hong Kong International Airport Centre

## Huawei Ox Horn Campus

3.10 Accompanied by the Secretary of the CPC Dongguan Municipal Committee, Mr XIAO Yafei, and Chairman of the Supervisory Board of Huawei Technologies Co., Ltd. (“Huawei”), Mr GUO Ping, the Delegation then visited Huawei Ox Horn Campus. Founded in 1987, Huawei is a leading global provider of information and communications technology infrastructure and smart devices.

3.11 During the visit, the Delegation learned about Huawei’s latest developments and technological R&D outcomes, and exchanged views with Huawei’s representatives on topics such as the digital economy and I&T. The Delegation then took a tour of the Campus, which is a semi-open cultural tourism spot, by electric tram.



The Chief Executive, the President of LegCo and Secretary of the CPC Dongguan Municipal Committee, Mr XIAO Yafei, (third left), take a tram to tour Huawei Ox Horn Campus

3.12 The Delegation notes that Huawei Ox Horn Campus, located at Xiliubeipo Village, Songshan Lake in Dongguan, serves as Huawei’s Dongguan headquarters, which was built at a cost of RMB 10 billion with an area of about 127 hectares. The Campus includes four research plots

which are divided into 12 zones for R&D, offices, tests laboratory and staff canteens, etc. These zones are connected by rail-bound electric trams and feature European-style architecture.



Delegation members take a tram to tour Huawei Ox Horn Campus



The Delegation visits the library at Huawei Ox Horn Campus



3.13 The Delegation is particularly impressed by Huawei's development in talent training and scientific research, as well as Huawei's development strategies and corporate culture, which it finds very inspiring.

3.14 The Delegation notes that Huawei believes that Hong Kong plays a tripartite role as a talent pool, R&D base and bridge to the world. The company is optimistic about the prospect of solar energy development in Hong Kong, and considers that Hong Kong is well-positioned in the development of big data industry. Members suggest that the HKSAR Government should promote the development of the big data industry, push ahead with the popularization of solar energy, and consider inviting Huawei to establish Huawei University in Hong Kong to leverage Hong Kong's role as a pool of international talent.

3.15 During the visit, Members pointed out that there was still room for Hong Kong to improve the standard of I&T industries, such as AI. Huawei has offered assistance to Hong Kong in terms of industry, academia and research, providing a valuable platform and opportunities for nurturing Hong Kong's young I&T talent. Members hope that the HKSAR Government will allocate more land and provide ancillary facilities to support the development of innovation enterprises and attract top-notch enterprises such as Huawei to establish a presence in Hong Kong.

## Luncheon with Hong Kong businessmen in Dongguan

3.16 On 23 April 2023, the Delegation attended a luncheon arranged by Hong Kong businessmen in Dongguan, during which Mr Stephen LIN, President of Dongguan City Association of Enterprises with Foreign Investment, and representatives of Hong Kong businessmen in Dongguan, gave a briefing on the investment environment, preferential policies and the latest developments of logistics, innovation and entrepreneurship in Dongguan. They then exchanged views and shared with the Delegation the experience of Hong Kong enterprises that had successfully established a presence in Dongguan. The visit and exchange have enhanced the understanding of Hong Kong businessmen in GBA of the determination of the HKSAR Government and various sectors towards the development of GBA, and strengthened their confidence in pursuing development in GBA. Members also hope that Hong Kong businessmen in Dongguan will continue to play the bridging role and restructure and upgrade their operations, with a view to contributing to the development of GBA and promoting Hong Kong's integration into the national development.



The Delegation attends a luncheon with Hong Kong businessmen in Dongguan to learn about the business environment and development opportunities in GBA



The President of LegCo delivers a speech at the luncheon with Hong Kong businessmen in Dongguan

## Modern Dental Technology (Dongguan) Company Limited

3.17 After the luncheon with Hong Kong businessmen in Dongguan, the Delegation, accompanied by leading officials of the Dongguan Municipal Government and Dr Ronald Yik-long CHAN, Chairman of the Board of Modern Dental Group, visited Modern Dental Technology (Dongguan) Company Limited (“Modern Dental”). The Delegation notes that Modern Dental Group, which is a listed enterprise on the Main Board in Hong Kong, is the world’s leading and largest producer and supplier of prostheses and other dental devices, providing a wide range of custom-made dental products and related services to overseas and domestic customers. Its customer base is mainly composed of dentists, dental clinics, hospitals, distributors, etc.



The Delegation receives a briefing from the representative of Modern Dental Technology (Dongguan) Company Limited on the business operation and technological development of the company



The Delegation tours the factory facilities of Modern Dental Technology (Dongguan) Company Limited



The Delegation receives a briefing from the personnel of Modern Dental Technology (Dongguan) Company Limited on its custom-made dental products and related technologies

3.18 The Delegation toured the factory facilities of Modern Dental, including the integration of computer-aided design/computer-aided manufacturing technology into manual and digitalized production processes, and the stringent quality control of products. The company's quality assurance procedures are carried out by experienced dental technicians and managerial teams at each production site.

3.19 The Delegation notes that Modern Dental prioritizes environmental protection across its production processes, waste management practices, sales operations and work environment. On the production side, as solid and liquid wastes, such as waste ceramic blocks and gypsum residues, are generated in the production process, the company has installed a recycling facility in the factory to collect and recycle various types of wastes, with a view to reducing environmental footprint. On the sales side, Modern Dental will recycle and sterilize the packaging boxes of prostheses for reuse, thereby reducing the generation of additional solid waste and mitigating environmental footprint. On work environment, the Group's offices are retrofitted with mercury-free LED lighting to save energy, reduce greenhouse gases and mitigate environmental pollution.

3.20 The Delegation acknowledges that Modern Dental actively fulfils its social responsibility for sustainable development and contributes to the community in five major areas. These areas include dentistry and the environment, dentistry and employees, dentistry and the community, dentistry and quality, as well as dentistry and corporate management. Modern Dental's practices serve as a valuable reference to various industries/enterprises in Hong Kong. They demonstrate how organizations can fulfil their social responsibility for sustainable development while pursuing advancements in R&D or healthcare technologies.

3.21 Noting that all "Grade 3A" hospitals in the Mainland cities of GBA provide outpatient dental services, which include routine dental treatments and advanced treatments that align with international standards, Members are of the view that the HKSAR Government may consider extending the scope of usage of the Elderly Health Care Vouchers to cover dentists in the entire GBA, so as to enable elderly people of Hong Kong to access dental services in the Mainland and shorten the waiting time for public dental outpatient services in Hong Kong. In the long term, Hong Kong can collaborate closer with GBA in healthcare and related fields and complement each other with their strengths.

## Huayang Lake National Wetland Park

3.22 The Delegation then visited Huayang Lake National Wetland Park and took a boat tour to learn about Dongguan’s experience in wetland conservation, and in taking forward ecological conservation of the country and tackling water pollution.



The Delegation visits Huayang Lake National Wetland Park to learn about the experience in taking forward ecological conservation of the country and tackling water pollution

3.23 The Delegation notes that, guided by the “coordinated development of Shuixiang area”, Dongguan has fully pursued comprehensive remediation for the environment of Huayang Lake under the approach of “sewage interception, desilting, source revitalization, embankment regulation and restoration”, and systematically carried out wetland water pollution control, restoration of damaged wetlands and remodelling of wetland culture, thereby turning the originally polluted area into a national wetland park, which has become a model for the development of a wetland ecological protection system and the construction of a green aquatic ecological network.



The Delegation takes a boat tour on the lake of Huayang Lake National Wetland Park

3.24 The wetland water pollution control at Huayang Lake includes implementing source control and sewage interception (tackling enterprises that are small, poorly managed and heavily polluted around Huayang Lake at Guanting and addressing privately set discharge outlets at the surrounding river courses); taking forward territory-wide rainwater and sewage diversion (laying a pipeline network spanning 246 kilometres around the water system); enhancing sewage treatment capacity (constructing three upgraded sewage pumping stations, one sewage treatment plant, six decentralized sewage treatment stations, etc.); clearing and repairing (demolishing 223 livestock farms); desilting and dredging (dredging and desilting 1.65 million cubic metres of silted river channels around Huayang Lake, transforming some 1 000 acres of wetlands of river beaches, and connecting Huayang Lake's 3000-acre water system). The aim is to guarantee the ecological flow of Huayang Lake and fundamentally improve the water quality.

3.25 The Delegation also notes that the construction process of Huayang Lake National Wetland Park involves extensive ecological restoration, which has enabled 603 species of flora and fauna (e.g. egrets, grapsids and other birds) and aquatic animals to return to their lake habitats to breed. Moreover, leveraging the construction of a 10 000-mile provincial greenway, Dongguan has driven the completion of an aquatic



greenway stretching 35 kilometres, along which various scenic projects have been completed. These scenic projects include an aquatic forest park, an illuminated dancing fountain and a lakeside green track, where exquisite ancient pagodas and temples blend with vibrant contemporary scenic facilities.

3.26 The Delegation understands that the area around Huayang Lake used to be an industrial area with serious problems of industrial effluent and environmental pollution. It is only through the Dongguan Government's vigorous efforts to tackle pollution at source and restore the wetlands that such a national wetland park can be developed. This facility not only conserves the ecology and protects the environment of the area, but also provides a place of leisure and recreation for residents in Dongguan. This successful example proves that development and conservation can coexist, and may serve as reference for Hong Kong in planning for the future development of the fish ponds on the western part of the Northern Metropolis into wetland parks to promote the building of an ecological civilization.

## **Jianyuzhou Cultural and Creative Park**

3.27 Located on the east side of Dongjiang Avenue and the west side of Houjie Waterway in Guancheng, Jianyuzhou is among the most distinctive industrial relics in Dongguan. The Jianyuzhou project covers a total site area of 95 234 square metres. The existing old buildings are mainly workshops, offices, dormitories, etc., of which six buildings have been included in Dongguan's list of historic buildings, and 33 buildings have been classified as Class I and II conservation buildings with high value for revitalization. Dongshi Group, a state-owned enterprise of the city which was awarded the level 1.5 development right of the Jianyuzhou project in March 2019, made a total investment of about RMB 500 million to carry out the transformation of Jianyuzhou. The Cultural and Creative Park, opened in December 2020, is mainly positioned to cater to new media, industrial design as well as sports science and education. The transformation and revitalization project of Jianyuzhou's industrial relics is a demonstration project of Dongguan's three-year Urban Quality Improvement Plan.

3.28 Accompanied by the Chairman of the Board of Dongshi Group, Mr LIU Bo, and President of Dongshi Group, Mr PENG Guangshun, the Delegation visited the Cultural and Creative Park. On the day of the visit, the Delegation observed that apart from preserving the overall appearance of the industrial relics, the Cultural and Creative Park had also incorporated modern architectural and artistic elements, making it a renowned cultural attraction in Dongguan. Apart from boutique shops and stalls, several food trucks were parked in the Cultural and Creative Park selling a variety of snacks and beverages for customers to enjoy on the lawn while taking in the picturesque view of the river. The Delegation then visited a unique coffee shop in the park well-liked by Internet influencers, which was formerly the boiler house of a feed mill. Members consider that in revitalizing historic buildings, Hong Kong should draw reference from the successful experience of Jianyuzhou and create unique cultural, creative and tourism landmarks that showcase the characteristics and style of the historic buildings concerned, while providing incentives for entrepreneurs to set up food trucks or operate market stalls nearby.



The Delegation visits Jianyuzhou Cultural and Creative Park



The Delegation learns about the operation of food trucks in the park



The Delegation visits a unique coffee shop in the park

## Dinner with leaders of the Dongguan Municipal Government

3.29 On 22 April 2023, the Delegation attended a dinner arranged by leaders of the Dongguan Municipal Government, and exchanged views with leaders including the Secretary of the CPC Dongguan Municipal Committee, Mr XIAO Yafei, and Mayor of the Dongguan Municipal Government, Mr LYU Chengxi, on the development of Dongguan and Hong Kong, as well as Hong Kong's exploration of the development opportunities in GBA by leveraging Dongguan's advanced manufacturing and technology industries.



Members of the Delegation and leaders of the Dongguan Municipal Government pose for a photo before the dinner

## Chapter 4: Visit to Foshan

### Overview

4.1 Foshan is located on the west bank of the Pearl River in the south-central part of Guangdong Province, adjoining Guangzhou on the east. The city extends across an area of 3 798 square kilometers. As of the end of 2021, its permanent population stood at 9.61 million. In 2022, Foshan's GDP reached RMB 1.27 trillion, an increase of 2.1%, ranking after Guangzhou and Shenzhen in Guangdong in terms of the scale of the economy.

4.2 Foshan's economy is manufacturing-based, including industries in which Foshan has an edge, such as machinery equipment, household appliances, ceramic building materials, metal processing and metal products, textiles and garments, electronic information, food and beverages, fine chemicals and pharmaceuticals, household goods, etc., as well as emerging industries including optoelectronics, environmental protection, new materials, new medicines, and new energy vehicles. Also known as the "land of fish and rice", Foshan is currently developing modern agriculture, with a focus on horticulture, aquaculture, and animal husbandry.

4.3 As stated in the Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, Foshan should leverage the leading role of the strong combination of Guangzhou-Foshan to expedite the integrated development of Guangzhou and Foshan; develop an industrial belt for advanced equipment manufacturing on the west bank of the Pearl River spearheaded by Foshan, etc., and launch pilot projects for integrated reform in manufacturing transformation and upgrading; promote the characteristic culinary culture of Shunde; develop offshore trade cooperation with Hong Kong; and promote cooperation in high-end services among Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao in the Nanhai District.

4.4 The main programme of the Delegation in Foshan included visits to Guangdong Bright Dream Robotics Company Limited ("BDR"), the city's iconic historic heritage revitalization project at Lingnan Tiandi, the national 4A-level tourist attraction—Ancient Nanfeng Kiln, the Foshan "City Brain" system, and KUKA Robotics Guangdong Company Limited. During its stay in Foshan, the Delegation attended a dinner arranged by

leaders of the Foshan Municipal Government where Members received a briefing from and exchange views with the leading officials on the situation of Foshan.

### **Guangdong Bright Dream Robotics Company Limited**

4.5 The Chief Secretary for Administration cum Deputy Leader of the Delegation led some Members to visit Foshan. The Delegation visited BDR in the morning of 23 April 2023. Accompanied by the Mayor of the Foshan Municipal Government, Mr BAI Tao, and other leading officials, as well as the founder of Country Garden Holdings Company Limited, Mr YANG Guoqiang, the Delegation observed BDR's development in the R&D, production and application of construction robots, as well as the establishment of a systematic R&D system.

4.6 Founded in 2018, BDR is an intelligent construction solutions provider focusing on the R&D, production and application of construction robots, Building Information Modelling digitization, new building industrialization and other products. It is also engaged in the development and implementation of innovative approaches to construction project management. BDR is a member of the Country Garden Group.



The Delegation watches an introductory video at BDR



The Delegation observes how robots prepare food and learns about the technological application of robots



Delegation members and Mr YANG Guoqiang (third left), founder of the Country Garden Group, share food prepared by robots



4.7 The Delegation was highly impressed by the efficiency of BDR's construction robots. BDR has developed new construction robots that can replace manual labour for a range of construction tasks, including surveying, wall sanding, interior spraying, wall tiling and wallpapering, floor leveling, cleaning, concrete grinding and façade beautification, thereby reducing construction costs and accelerating the construction process.

4.8 The Delegation then visited the robot-run restaurant in the park to experience its intelligent catering services. Members observe that meticulous attention to detail in the instructions given to the robots, from ingredient preparation to food delivery, has helped enhance the quality of customers' dining experience.

4.9 Members of the Delegation point out that with the rapid development of robotics technology in the Mainland, the HKSAR Government should consider introducing the use of intelligent construction solutions and construction robots for tasks such as façade work and other high-risk tasks performed by construction workers. This will help reduce industrial accidents, safeguard the lives of workers and alleviate the manpower shortage in the construction industry. The use of automation technology will also help address the issues of labour shortage and ageing workforce in Hong Kong. Members further suggest that the HKSAR Government should make reference to and adopt more national technical standards in the application of robotics technology.

## **Foshan Lingnan Tiandi**

4.10 Following the visit to BDR, the Delegation proceeded to Lingnan Tiandi, which is an iconic historic heritage revitalization project of Foshan. The project is developed by a private company from Hong Kong under the auspices of the Foshan Municipal Government and the Chancheng District Government. It occupies an area of 65 hectares, with Zumiao Temple and the compound of historic buildings in Donghuali as the main development axle. It was refurbished under a “like-for-like” approach, with 22 historic buildings retaining the features of Lingnan architecture. Besides preservation of one of the Mainland’s most intact compounds of historic buildings, elements of modern commerce have been incorporated into the project. The area as a whole has been developed into an integrated district for tourism, leisure, commercial and cultural use.

4.11 Guided by the persons-in-charge of Lingnan Tiandi, the Delegation toured along Zumiao Street and walked through the Wine Club, Li Zong Sheng Ancestral Shop, Wong Cheung Wah U-I Oil Ancestral Shop, as well as exhibition galleries such as the Kan’s Villa and the Longtang Poetry Society, etc. During the tour, the Delegation was briefed on the heritage conservation and old town renewal in Lingnan Tiandi. Members appreciate the full dedication and fruitful achievements of the Foshan Municipal Government in revitalizing and conserving the historic building cluster in collaboration with various sectors. The Delegation considers that the Foshan government has struck a balance between heritage conservation and economic development needs. Members are of the view that in undertaking the revitalization of historic buildings, Hong Kong can make reference to the practice of the Foshan Municipal Government and turn the historic buildings into tourism attractions for local and overseas visitors as well as utilize them for commercially viable economic activities, which will not only create employment opportunities but also increase the economic value of the historic buildings.



The Delegation visits Lingnan Tiandi



The Delegation receives a briefing from the representative of Lingnan Tiandi

## **Ancient Nanfeng Kiln**

4.12 The Delegation then visited the Ancient Nanfeng Kiln, a national 4A-level tourist attraction built during the reign of Emperor Zhengde (1506-1521) of the Ming Dynasty. It is recognized by the Guinness World Records as “the oldest and best-preserved firewood and dragon kiln in the world” along with the Gaozao Kiln, and is known as a “living relic” and an “immovable national treasure”. Since their construction, the kilns have continuously produced pottery, mostly for domestic use and exported to Southeast Asia throughout the Qing Dynasty and the Republican period, making Foshan an important stop on the Maritime Silk Road. In June 2001, the kilns were designated as one of the major sites that requires protection because of their historical and cultural value at the national level. In December 2019, the kilns were listed in the third batch of national industrial heritage.

4.13 Members note that the Foshan Municipal Government has transformed the Ancient Nanfeng Kiln into an international mecca of ceramic arts with unique Lingnan cultural characteristics through the integration of intangible cultural heritage (“ICH”), creative culture, pottery and ceramic culture, and cultural and creative industries such as pottery making. In addition, the Ancient Nanfeng Kiln houses ancient dwellings and pottery studios built during the Ming and Qing dynasties, which currently serves as a platform for exhibiting ICH items such as kiln firing, throwing, miniature carving and paper-cutting, and an incubator for cultural and creative merchandises to promote and preserve ICH. Members are of the view that the HKSAR Government should draw reference from the Foshan Municipal Government’s practices in promoting and preserving ICH, and create an enabling environment for traditional handicrafts (such as paper crafting techniques and sewing techniques of cheongsam and traditional wedding costumes) listed in the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Hong Kong to thrive in the market, and provide opportunities for the exhibition and promotion of such traditional handicrafts through its publicity activities.



The Delegation visits the Ancient Nanfeng Kiln



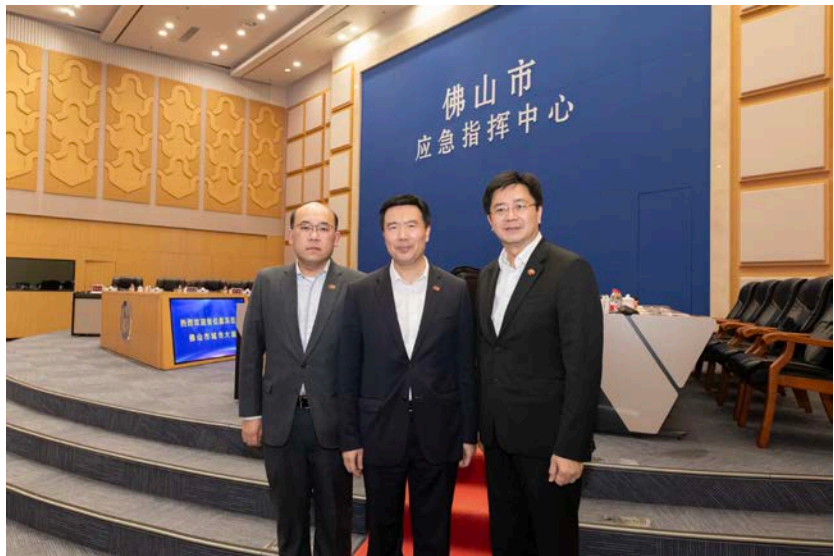
The Delegation watches a performance of paper-cutting

## **Foshan “city brain” system**

4.14 In the afternoon of 23 April 2023, the Chief Executive travelled from Dongguan to Foshan and joined the Delegation members to visit the Foshan emergency management centre, also known as the Foshan “city brain” system centre, where they received a briefing on the application of smart city management to learn about Foshan’s experience in building a smart city and enhancing city management.

4.15 Accompanied by the Vice Chairman of the Guangdong Provincial Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference and the Secretary of the CPC Foshan Municipal Committee, Mr ZHENG Ke, the Delegation received a briefing from Member of the Standing Committee and Secretary-General of the CPC Foshan Municipal Committee, Mr GE Chengshu, on the development history of Foshan. The Delegation notes that Foshan has flourished since the Yuan Dynasty due to the development of waterway transport, and its ceramics industry, which has been passed down to the present day, has made the city’s iron smelting technology second to none in the country. Foshan’s city safety operation monitoring centre provides real-time monitoring, comprehensive display, forecasting and early warning, risk analysis, hotline services, and hazard inspection for the Foshan’s city safety. If necessary, it can be turned into an emergency command centre for the purposes of information reporting, integrated assessment and judgment, auxiliary decision-making, resource coordination, and command and control.

4.16 Members observe that the smart early warning function of the Foshan “city brain” system can effectively help prevent various crises in the city at a reasonable cost. The Foshan “city brain” system has successfully created a smart and safe Foshan, providing more convenient services to the public. Members are of the view that Hong Kong can make reference to Foshan’s successful experience in developing its “city brain” and consider setting up a city command centre to collect and utilize various data to improve city management, with a view to building a safer and more secure smart city.



The Delegation learns about Foshan's development in terms of the application of smart city management

## **KUKA Robotics Guangdong Company Limited**

4.17 The Chief Executive and members of the Delegation then visited KUKA Robotics Guangdong Company Limited. Accompanied by the leading officials of the Foshan Municipal Government and the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Midea Group, Mr FANG Hongbo, they received a briefing on the operation of the industrial robot manufacturing industry, as well as the application of robots and automated systems in various industries such as logistics, food production, medicine and transport automation.

4.18 The Delegation visited the KUKA China Shunde manufacturing plant in the Midea-KUKA Intelligent Manufacturing Science and Technology Park, where the staff displayed casting moulds and various kinds of highly sophisticated robots used in different industries. The Delegation is impressed by the scale of the KUKA robotic manufacturing centre, where the production of a robot can be completed in just half an hour. Moreover, KUKA Robotics' surgical robotic arms have been successfully applied in numerous clinical surgeries, particularly excelling in brain surgeries.



The Delegation visits KUKA Robotics Guangdong Company Limited and receives a briefing on the industrial robot manufacturing industry





Delegation members pose for a photo at KUKA

4.19 The Chief Executive said that Foshan's experience in applying smart city management and developing the intelligent industrial robot manufacturing industry complements Hong Kong's positioning as an international I&T centre. It will be conducive to the two cities' joint creation of a smart city and I&T hub in GBA.

4.20 Members are of the view that Hong Kong and Foshan have significant potential for cooperation in the area of innovation and technology. As Foshan has well-developed industrial and production chains while Hong Kong has expertise in upstream R&D, further cooperation between Hong Kong and Foshan, e.g. in establishing more collaborative R&D platforms, will facilitate complementarity of advantages and transfer of R&D products into production.

### **Dinner with leaders of the Foshan Municipal Government**

4.21 In the evening, the Delegation, led by the Chief Executive, attended a dinner hosted by the Vice Chairman of the Guangdong Provincial Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and the Secretary of the CPC Foshan Municipal Committee, Mr ZHENG Ke, and the Mayor of the Foshan Municipal Government, Mr BAI Tao, where the Delegation exchanged views with the leaders of the People's Government of Foshan Municipality. Mr ZHENG Ke expressed his warm welcome to the Delegation and his heartfelt thanks to the HKSAR Government, LegCo and various sectors of the community for their long-term strong support for the development of Foshan. Both sides agreed that Hong Kong and Foshan have ample room for cooperation, and that the two places can continue to complement each other's strengths, deepen mutually beneficial cooperation in different fields, and jointly make more contributions to the development of GBA.

## Chapter 5: Visit to Guangzhou

### Overview

5.1 Located in the south-central part of Guangdong Province and the northern part of GBA, Guangzhou is the provincial capital of Guangdong Province, serving as the political, economic, technological, educational and cultural centre of the province. Guangzhou is the most populous city in the Guangdong Province, with a permanent population of 18.81 million at the end of 2021 (an increase of 0.4% from the end of 2020).

5.2 In 2022, Guangzhou's GDP increased by 1.0% to RMB 2.88 trillion. Although Guangzhou's economy is service industry-oriented, its high-tech industries are experiencing rapid growth. The high-end electronic information manufacturing industry, biomedicine industry and high-performance medical device industry show the most prominent growth. Automobiles, electronics and petrochemicals are the three pillars of the city's advanced manufacturing industry.

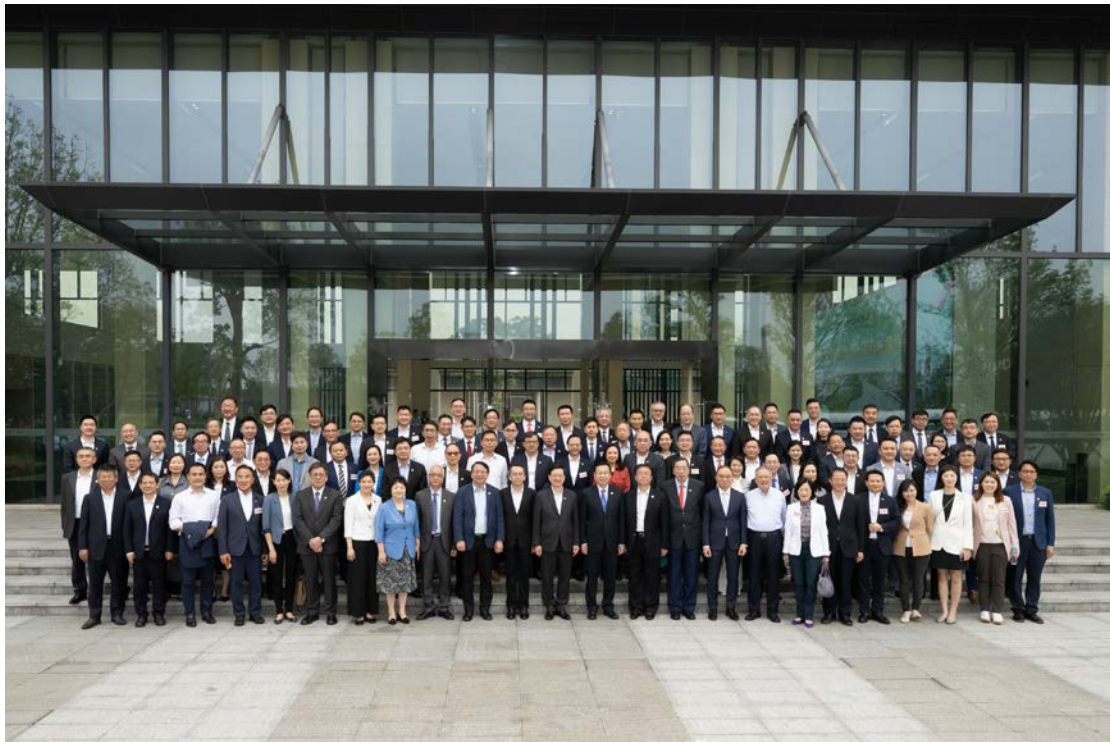
5.3 As stated in the Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, Guangzhou should comprehensively strengthen its functions as an international commerce and industry centre and integrated transport hub; enhance its function as a technological, educational and cultural centre, and develop into a global metropolis; push forward the development of the "Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong-Macao" innovation and technology corridor; increase its overall capacity of international shipping services, and form a complementary and mutually beneficial system of port, shipping, logistics and ancillary services with Hong Kong; and enhance the competitiveness of its airport as an international hub and pursue differential development and positive interaction of the airports in GBA.

5.4 The Delegation's main itinerary in Guangzhou was a visit to the Lijiao Sewage Treatment Plant in the south of Guangzhou's new central axis. The plant serves as an exemplar of sewage treatment by underground ecological water purification plants in China; it is also a city landmark of Green Guangzhou.

5.5 During its stay in Guangzhou, the Delegation attended a luncheon hosted by leaders of the Guangzhou Municipal Government and met with leaders of the Guangdong Provincial Government.

## Lijiao Sewage Treatment Plant

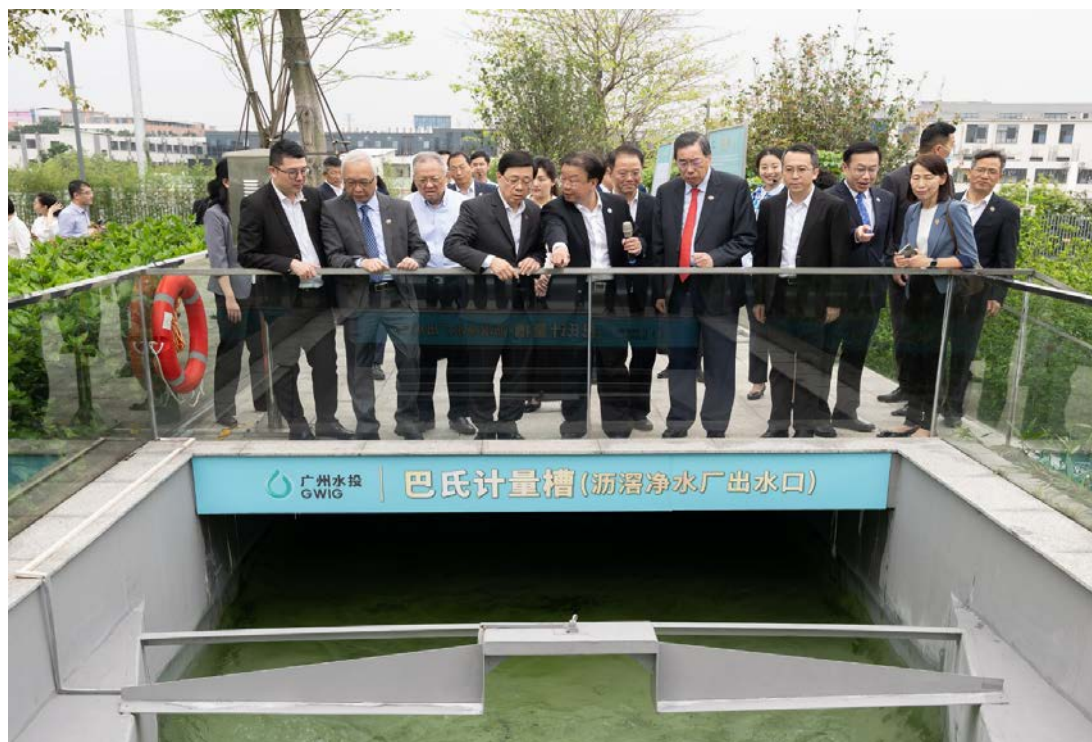
5.6 In the morning of 24 April 2023, the last day of the visit programme, the Red Group and Purple Group of the Delegation arrived in Guangzhou from Dongguan and Foshan respectively. Accompanied by the Vice Mayor of Guangzhou, Mr JIANG Zhitao, and the President of Guangzhou Water Investment Group Company Limited, Mr FAN Ruiwei, the Delegation visited the Lijiao Sewage Treatment Plant. The Lijiao Sewage Treatment Plant is developed in three phases: Phases I and II are traditional above-ground sewage treatment plants completed in 2004 and 2010 respectively; Phase III is an underground sewage treatment plant completed in 2020. In 2022, the annual sewage treatment capacity of the Plant reached 263 million tonnes.



The Delegation poses for a group photo at the Lijiao Sewage Treatment Plant

5.7 The Delegation notes that the sewage treatment facilities of an underground ecological water purification plant are, on average, located 17 metres underground, and with their fully enclosed operation, the impact of odour, noise, etc. can be minimized. The Lijiao Sewage Treatment Plant uses advanced technology to improve the effluent quality and its environmental objectives are higher than the national level. In addition to receiving a briefing from the representatives of the Lijiao Sewage Treatment Plant on the sewage treatment process, the Delegation also visited ecological and environmental protection facilities such as the park

on the ground and the waterfall at the outfall of the Plant.



The Delegation observes the sewage treatment process and effluent quality of the Lijiao Sewage Treatment Plant

5.8 The Delegation also notes that the architecture of the Lijiao Sewage Treatment Plant, which is adjacent to Guangzhou Haizhu National Wetland Park, is in harmony with the natural environment of the surrounding areas; and the effluent discharged from the Plant is utilized for ecological water replenishment in rivers, contributing to the enhancement of hydrodynamics and the restoration of aquatic ecology. Members are of the view that Hong Kong can make reference to the design concept of “plant underground, park above ground” adopted by the Lijiao Sewage Treatment Plant when constructing or refurbishing sewage treatment facilities.



The Delegation visits the park on the ground of the Lijiao Sewage Treatment Plant



The Delegation poses for a group photo at the Lijiao Sewage Treatment Plant

## Luncheon with leaders of the Guangzhou Municipal Government

5.9 At noon, the Delegation, led by the Chief Executive, attended a luncheon hosted by the Secretary of the CPC Guangzhou Municipal Committee, Mr LIN Keqing, and the Mayor of the Guangzhou Municipal Government, Mr GUO Yonghang, and received a briefing by the Head of Nansha District, Guangzhou, Mr WU Yang, on the development of Nansha and cooperation between Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao.

5.10 Mr LIN Keqing expressed his gratitude to the HKSAR Government, LegCo and various sectors of Hong Kong for their long-term support for Guangzhou-Hong Kong cooperation. He indicated that he would promote the development of GBA, deepen the cooperation between Guangzhou and Hong Kong, and support Hong Kong's better integration into the overall development of the country. He also looked forward to continuing harnessing the unique strengths of Hong Kong to optimize the planning and development of Nansha, so as to spearhead high-quality development and jointly push forward the development of a first-class international bay area and a world-class city cluster.



The President of LegCo delivers a speech at a luncheon attended by the Delegation and leaders of the Guangzhou Municipal Government

## Meeting with leaders of the Guangdong Provincial Government

5.11 As the last leg of the visit, the Delegation, led by the Chief Executive, met with the Secretary of the CPC Guangdong Provincial Committee, Mr HUANG Kunming, and the Deputy Secretary of the CPC Guangdong Provincial Committee and the Governor of Guangdong Province, Mr WANG Weizhong. The two sides discussed how to collaborate to promote the development of GBA and deepen holistic exchanges and cooperation between Guangdong and Hong Kong. The Deputy Director of the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council, Mr WANG Linggui, also attended the meeting.

5.12 At the meeting, Mr HUANG Kunming, on behalf of the CPC Guangdong Provincial Committee and the Provincial Government, welcomed the Delegation to Guangdong Province, and congratulated the new-term HKSAR Government and LegCo for uniting all sectors of Hong Kong to steadfastly implement the principle of “one country, two systems”, and making new progress in preserving the long-lasting peace, security, stability and prosperity of Hong Kong through a series of effective measures. He also thanked the HKSAR Government and LegCo for their strong support for the economic reform and opening-up as well as modernization of Guangdong over the years. Mr HUANG Kunming briefly introduced the economic and social development of Guangdong. The two sides agreed that Guangdong and Hong Kong should seize the opportunities arising from the GBA development and further deepen the cooperation and exchanges between the two places.

5.13 After the meeting with the leaders of the Guangdong Provincial Government, the Delegation returned to Hong Kong by high-speed train.



## Chapter 6: Observations and conclusions

6.1 The four-day visit to GBA marks the first joint visit to the Mainland by the current term of the HKSAR Government and LegCo, and it is also the highest-level and largest-scale joint duty visit of the executive authorities and the legislature, fully demonstrating the positive interaction between the executive and the legislature of HKSAR. During the four-day visit, officials of the HKSAR Government and Members of LegCo visited various projects, facilities and enterprises in I&T, environmental protection, youth development, arts and culture, etc. and met with leaders of Guangdong Province and various municipalities. Members consider the visit very enriching, fruitful and meaningful. Members' observations in respect of individual areas are set out below.

### **Development of innovation and technology**

6.2 Members note the rapid development of I&T in several GBA cities in recent years, with a number of enterprises such as BYD, Tencent, Huawei and DJI having made remarkable achievements within a short period. These experiences are worthy of reference by Hong Kong. Members are of the view that with five of the top 100 universities in the world, Hong Kong is well placed to develop innovation and technology, and there is ample room for cooperation with the Mainland industries. Members hope that the Administration will continue to deepen its cooperation with other GBA cities to facilitate the transformation and realization of R&D outcomes, foster development of Hong Kong's I&T ecosystem, and pool the I&T strengths of GBA to jointly build a world-class I&T centre in the bay area.

6.3 Members observe that Mainland cities have made extensive use of technologies such as big data and AI to enhance the efficiency in managing urban environment, traffic, law and order, etc. Members consider that if a facility similar to the Foshan "city brain" is to be set up in Hong Kong, the Administration should identify any limitations in existing legislation on data utilization and sharing. The Administration should also promote the consolidation, sharing, development, utilization and interchange of data among government bureaux/departments, while at the same time addressing public concerns about privacy protection.

6.4 Members consider the technology development and application of Guangdong Bright Dream Robotics Company Limited and KUKA Robotics Guangdong Company Limited very inspiring. Members suggest that the HKSAR Government should learn from the experience of GBA in introducing intelligent construction solutions and construction robots for various high-risk jobs to reduce industrial accidents and enhance efficiency, and at the same time address the issues of manpower shortage and an ageing workforce in the relevant industries, with a view to injecting new energy into Hong Kong's industrial development.

6.5 Members learn that the application of high-new technologies can help promote the high value-added development of the logistics industry, which is an important pillar of Hong Kong's economic growth. Members observe that the Dongguan Hong Kong International Airport Centre project has achieved substantial reduction in logistics costs and cargo handling time through the interconnection and sharing of logistics information between Guangdong and Hong Kong, along with the use of high-new technologies. Members also point out that the Dongguan Hong Kong International Airport Centre demonstrates that the adoption of an intermodal transport mode in GBA that combines air, sea and land transport services, is promising, and that the dedicated sea-air intermodal cargo pier and ancillary transshipment facilities at HKIA's third runway, as well as the pioneering sea and air compatible containers, are all conducive to the long-term development of the Airport Centre. Members hope that Hong Kong can seize the opportunities brought by the Airport Centre and promote its pivotal role in the logistics chain of GBA. They call on the HKSAR Government to continue supporting AAHK in exploring more mutually beneficial options for cooperation with the Mainland authorities in order to further enhance Hong Kong's status as an international shipping centre and international aviation hub.

### **Environmental protection**

6.6 Members call on the HKSAR Government to make reference to the intelligent transport systems in the Mainland (e.g. the SkyShuttle developed by BYD Company Limited or the suspended monorail trains used in other Mainland cities), and actively explore the feasibility of developing a green and smart mass transit system with a lightweight body design, so as to realize the policy objectives of green transport and carbon neutrality. Some Members are of the view that as green and smart mass transit systems are already quite popular in the Mainland, they can be introduced into Kowloon East and Kai Tak districts which are good pilot

points for such mass transit systems. Not only can this address public transport needs, it can also help reduce transport infrastructure costs, traffic flow and pollution, while developing Hong Kong into a green, livable and smart city. The Administration should support public transport operators more and actively promote exchanges and cooperation between technology enterprises, including green technology enterprises, in Hong Kong and the Mainland. This will help accelerate Hong Kong's development in new energy transport and implementation of the various measures put forth in the Hong Kong Roadmap on Popularization of Electric Vehicles.

6.7 Members are of the view that the HKSAR Government should learn from the successful experience of the Dongguan Municipal Government in developing the Huayang Lake area into a national wetland park, and develop the fish ponds on the west of the Northern Metropolis into a wetland park by actively controlling and intercepting pollutants at source, continuously improving the water quality and restoring the ecological environment, so as to promote the construction of an ecological civilization and enhance environmental protection and conservation along with land development. The Administration should also strengthen cooperation among Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao in ecological and environmental protection, such as jointly protecting the Deep Bay Wetland and developing an ecological corridor between Hong Kong and Shenzhen.

6.8 Members suggest that Hong Kong should make reference to the sewage treatment technology adopted for the Lijiao Sewage Treatment Plant and build an underground plant to mitigate the odour generated from sewage treatment facilities and minimize the impact on nearby residents. This underground design can also make better use of Hong Kong's precious land than an above-ground design, thus freeing up space for housing development or other infrastructures. Hong Kong can also make reference to the way by which the Lijiao Sewage Treatment Plant makes use of information technologies such as cloud computing and big data to further improve the intelligence of its sewage treatment facilities, and to ensure that such facilities are safe, reliable and effective in purifying wastewater.

## **Youth development**

6.9 Members appreciate the rapid development of the Mainland cities and the passion of young people in pursuing their dreams. Members believe that the Qianhai Shenzhen-Hong Kong Youth Innovation and Entrepreneur Hub aptly demonstrates how GBA provides Hong Kong's

young people with immense opportunities for development. These opportunities encompass various aspects, including reduced costs, access to talent, accommodation, customer flow, and venture capital. This creates favorable conditions for young people to fully leverage their strengths within GBA. In addition, young start-ups are provided with a lot of support. Members consider that the HKSAR Government should provide more entrepreneurial support to Hong Kong young people to help them pursue their careers and dreams, and encourage them to set their sights on GBA and make the best use of the important opportunities GBA will bring to their personal and career development.

6.10 Members consider that the HKSAR Government should actively follow up with the Mainland authorities on the arrangements for enhancing the mutual recognition of professional and skill-based qualifications between Guangdong and Hong Kong, and provide more tax concessions to Hong Kong residents pursuing career development in the Mainland, including considering enhancing the arrangements for individual income tax by implementing the measure of “Hong Kong taxation for Hong Kong people”, which is based on the tax base in Hong Kong. At the same time, more facilitation measures should be introduced to encourage Hong Kong young talent to pursue development in the Mainland. Members also consider that the HKSAR Government should deepen Hong Kong young people’s understanding of the innovation and entrepreneurship bases that the Mainland offers to young people and the relevant policies. The Government should, at the same time, create additional opportunities for young people in Hong Kong to engage in exchanges, internships and practical learning experiences in the Mainland. These would help broaden young people’s horizons and guide them in building a correct view of the country’s overall development, so that they may harness the vast opportunities brought about by the country’s development and play a part in the grand scheme of the national development.

6.11 Furthermore, Members look forward to the forthcoming establishment of the “Alliance of Hong Kong Youth Innovative and Entrepreneurial Bases in the Greater Bay Area” by the HKSAR Government. It is expected that organizations from Guangdong and Hong Kong will be invited to join the Alliance to set up a one-stop information, publicity and exchange platform for supporting Hong Kong young people who are starting up businesses in GBA. These organizations may include capable innovation and entrepreneurship bases with proven track records, universities, non-governmental organizations, scientific research institutes, professional bodies, and venture funds.

## **Arts and culture**

6.12 Members suggest that the HKSAR Government should draw reference from the successful experiences of the revitalization of historic buildings in Nantou Ancient Town in Shenzhen, Lingnan Tiandi in Foshan and Jianyuzhou Cultural and Creative Park in Dongguan, and adopt the “like-for-like” approach to preserve the appearance of the historic buildings, while at the same time incorporating modernized functions as well as art and pop culture elements, with a view to creating attractive cultural, creative and tourism landmarks with Hong Kong characteristics. It should also endeavour to develop more cultural and heritage tourism products, preserve heritage value and make use of culture and history to promote tourism, thereby boosting the economy and supporting conservation work. Besides, Members consider that the HKSAR Government should make reference to the practice of the Mainland, and provide facilitation measures and space for entrepreneurs to operate food trucks and market stalls at cultural, creative and tourism landmarks, so as to boost employment, consumption, and cultural and creative development.

6.13 Members suggest that the Hong Kong Tourism Board work with other cities in GBA to build a GBA tourism brand for the Mainland and international markets and jointly promote the “multi-destination” itineraries of GBA, such as cultural and creative tourism, cultural and historical tourism, green tourism and culinary tourism, as well as actively explore the organization and promotion of different mega events under a common theme.

6.14 On the promotion and transmission of ICH, Members consider that the HKSAR Government should create an enabling environment for traditional handicrafts listed in the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Hong Kong to thrive in the market, and make reference to the experience of the integration of Foshan’s Ancient Nanfeng Kiln with ICH project, and provide opportunities for the exhibition and promotion of traditional handicrafts as well as space for their survival in the market.

## **Development opportunities arising from the development of the Greater Bay Area**

6.15 Members consider that the various visit activities and meetings with provincial and municipal leaders during the trip have enabled Members to have a better understanding of the current state of development

and the future development direction of the Mainland cities in GBA. Members find the visit particularly fruitful, as it has also enabled Members to identify the potentials for complementary and synergistic cooperation between Hong Kong and the Mainland cities of GBA in innovation and technology as well as other areas.

6.16 Members point out that under the “one country, two systems” principle, Hong Kong has the distinctive advantages of enjoying the strong support of the country while being closely connected to the world. Furthermore, the Mainland cities in GBA are marked by their innovativeness and vibrancy, and they are equipped with well-developed and high-quality industrial chains. Hong Kong should foster its linkages and cooperation with various provinces and municipalities, particularly the Mainland cities in GBA, to achieve complementarity of advantages. Hong Kong should also harness its positioning as Asia’s world city, and publicize to the international community the golden opportunities for development in GBA, to help GBA attract top talent from around the world, and facilitate the high quality development of the cities in GBA. Members look forward to the continued efforts of the HKSAR Government in promoting interaction and cooperation between Hong Kong and the Mainland in various areas, as well as enhancing the understanding of the public, the business and professional sectors and young people about our country.



## Acknowledgements

The successful completion of this substantial duty visit would not have been possible without the generous assistance of the receiving provincial and municipal governments in the Mainland. Apart from the warm hospitality and detailed briefings on the development policies and situation of GBA, the Mainland authorities also arranged for the Delegation to visit various facilities, enterprises and projects in areas including innovation and technology, environmental protection, youth development, arts and culture, making the duty visit greatly rewarding for the Delegation. Members would like to express their heartfelt thanks to the relevant government departments and receiving units in the Mainland.

Furthermore, Members would like to express their sincere thanks to the Chief Executive, Mr John LEE Ka-chiu, the Chief Secretary for Administration, Mr CHAN Kwok-ki, the Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs, Mr Erick TSANG Kwok-wai, the Secretary for Environment and Ecology, Mr TSE Chin-wan, the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Mr Algernon YAU, and the Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry, Professor SUN Dong for joining Members on the duty visit to enhance exchanges. Members also thank the officials of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong for their assistance in organizing the visit programme and providing logistical support.