

## Seventh Plenary of Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation Joint Conference

### List of achievements

Areas of co-operation	Major achievements in 2003/04
Economics and trade, investment promotion and protection of intellectual property	<p>(1) Hyperlinks between the CEPA website of Hong Kong's Trade and Industry Department and the various government investment information websites totalling 40 in Guangdong were established early last year. So far, the websites have attracted over 650,000 visitors.</p> <p>(2) Both sides have jointly organised trade and investment seminars, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) the first seminar on Guangdong/Hong Kong trade and economic co-operation held in September last year;</li> <li>(ii) an expo on CEPA business opportunities for small and medium enterprises held in Hong Kong last December to promote the mountainous parts and the cities in eastern and western Guangdong;</li> <li>(iii) the "Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao Investment and Promotion Fair", co-organised with Macao in Zhuhai under the auspices of the World Economic Development Declaration Conference last November;</li> <li>(iv) the "CEPA Week" held in Guangzhou in February this year;</li> <li>(v) a logistics fairs in March;</li> <li>(vi) a forum on how to start a business in Guangdong Province under CEPA, which was co-organised with the Economic and Trade Commission of Guangdong Province, held in Hong Kong on July 8.</li> </ul> <p>(3) The Guangdong cities proactively provide "one-stop" services to Hong Kong companies in the 18 service sectors opened up under CEPA to help them start business in the Mainland. "One-stop" enquiry services have been established in Guangzhou, Shenzhen and Dongguan. The Commerce and Industry Administration Board of Guangdong Province has also set up a special counter for registration under CEPA.</p> <p>(4) Since the implementation of CEPA until the end of June, the Guangdong Province has registered 726 individually-owned enterprises applied by Hong Kong and Macao residents (of which 649 are Hong Kong residents), with the total capital amounting to RMB 25 million (of which 90% comes from Hong Kong's individually-owned enterprises).</p>

	<p>(5) The professional services sector has seized the opportunities under CEPA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) The Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors and the China Institute of Real Estate Appraisers signed an agreement on mutual recognition of professional qualification in November last year;</li> <li>(ii) The Hong Kong Institute of Planners and the Urban Planning Society of China signed a memorandum on promoting co-operation of the planning sectors on both sides in February this year. The areas of co-operation cover academic research, professional activities, design and consultation, professional training and the facilitation of communication between professionals of both places;</li> <li>(iii) The Hong Kong Institute of Architects and the National Administration Board of Architectural Registration also signed Mainland and Hong Kong Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualification in Architecture in Beijing. The first batch of architects received mutually recognised qualifications totalled 205; and</li> <li>(iv) Both sides have completed the study on linking up the websites of Guangdong lawyers and Hong Kong lawyers and will endeavour to enlist consent of the judicial authorities on both sides to establish hyperlinks. The lawyers' associations of both sides are discussing the details on the establishment of an information centre under the Guangdong lawyers association to provide information and legal services on the industry in both places.</li> </ul> <p>(6) The Chief Secretary for Administration led nearly 100 Hong Kong enterprises to visit Zhanjiang and Yangjiang in western Guangdong, and Shaoguan and Qingyuan in northern Guangdong, in April and June respectively to explore opportunities on tourism, logistics and business development for Hong Kong and the cities concerned. Among the Hong Kong delegates, 60% of the enterprises were from the servicing sector including logistics, banking, financial services, infrastructure and real estate, as well as tourism.</p> <p>(7) Both sides co-hosted the Greater Pearl River Delta (PRD) (HK/Guangdong) On-line Investment Seminar in the middle of this year.</p> <p>(8) Both sides actively encouraged those Guangdong enterprises with a competitive edge, in particular private enterprises with solid potential, to invest, list and raise funds in Hong Kong and embark on joint ventures with Hong Kong's service industry.</p> <p>(9) Hong Kong and various Guangdong cities organised joint investment promotion activities in Japan, Korea, the United States and Europe.</p>
--	--

	<p>(10) A series of joint activities on protection of intellectual property were organised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) An introductory briefing on copyright protection by Hong Kong Customs in Guangzhou on April 15;</li> <li>(ii) The 2004 Dongguan Seminar on Intellectual Property and the Development of Small and Medium Enterprises, co-organised with the Guangdong Provincial Intellectual Property Office, the Dongguan City Intellectual Property Bureau and the Hong Kong Trade Development Council in Dongguan on May 25;</li> <li>(iii) the feasibility study on introducing the industry on administration of intellectual property, with both sides endeavouring to complete the study within this year.</li> </ul>
Tourism	<p>(11) A mechanism has been set up to cope with passenger flow during peak periods and holidays, with a view to providing fast and convenient clearance service, and to safeguard visitor interests.</p> <p>(12) In addition to Guangdong cities, Beijing and Shanghai, the “individual visit scheme” was extended to nine other cities in Fujian, Jiangsu and Zhejiang from July 1. As at the end of July, more than 2.6 million Mainland visitors arrived in Hong Kong, contributing over HK\$15 billion in consumer spending.</p> <p>(13) A series of international promotional activities were launched to promote the Greater PRD as a tourist destination with multiple stops. They include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Jointly taking part in an Asia-Pacific tourism and conference expo in Melbourne in February, with the tourism bureaux of Guangdong Province and Macao;</li> <li>(ii) Jointly participating in an international tourism expo in Berlin in March with the tourism bureaux of Guangdong Province and Macao;</li> <li>(iii) Joint promotion in International Travel Expo Malaysia in Kuala Lumpur in June with the Shenzhen tourism authority;</li> <li>(iv) Taking part in the upcoming world travel expo in Japan in September, by Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao;</li> <li>(v) Continuing with the second-phase development of a joint electronic platform of tourism information for Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao, with a view to developing a fast link in 2004.</li> </ul>
Boundary control	<p>(14) The frequency of Guangzhou-Hong Kong through-train service increased from 8 pairs daily last year to 12 pairs at present.</p> <p>(15) Commence cross-boundary ferry services from the PRD to the Hong Kong International Airport for the benefit</p>

	<p>of transit passengers through Hong Kong. The first stage of the services covers Fuyong and Shekou of Shenzhen, and Taiping of Dongguan.</p> <p>(16) From October 8, 2003, drivers of private cars and official vehicles on permits for using the control points of Man Kam To and Sha Tau Kok were allowed to use Lok Ma Chau control point between midnight and 6.30am.</p> <p>(17) A notification mechanism has been set up to ensure effective communication and handling of contingencies at control points for both sides.</p> <p>(18) The Customs authorities of both sides jointly implemented the unified road cargo manifests and the first seminar on control point clearance co-operation organised.</p> <p>(19) Construction of the boundary crossing facilities at the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Corridor and working out implementation plans for the colocation of immigration and customs facilities.</p> <p>(20) Started construction of the new cross-boundary bridge at Lok Ma Chau/Huanggang control point.</p> <p>(21) Commencement of the construction of new cross-boundary bridge at Sha Tau Kok control point.</p> <p>(22) Completion of the installation of air-conditioning system at the Lowu cross-boundary footbridge at the end of the year.</p> <p>(23) Construction of the passenger bridge at Huanggang-Lok Ma Chau.</p>
Prevention of infectious diseases	<p>(24) Guangdong and Hong Kong have set up an enhanced information exchange and notification mechanism for infectious diseases with close follow-up action.</p> <p>(25) The Guangdong/Hong Kong/Macao infectious diseases information exchange and analysis system was completed in May this year.</p>
Infrastructure	<p>(26) Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge: In accordance with the State Council's approval, the governments of Guangdong Province, Hong Kong SAR and Macao SAR set up the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Advance</p>

	<p>Work Co-ordination Group in August last year to start preparatory work for the project. The Co-ordination Group has reached consensus on the arrangements for the feasibility study of the bridge, which was to conduct the preliminary feasibility study and the feasibility study simultaneously. A design institute was commissioned in February this year to carry out the study. The Co-ordination Group also set up an office in Guangzhou in March to take forward the preliminary works. The Co-ordination Group's target is to complete the study by the end of the year and to apply to the Central Government for creation of project item.</p> <p>(27) Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link: The Joint Expert Group reviewed the second-phase study of the project and exchanged views on their latest thinking on the Express Rail Link. Based on these latest thinking, the Technical Group is conducting more in-depth studies on various issues, including the route link between the Mainland section and the Hong Kong section, major technical standards, estimation of passenger flow and financial benefits. The results of the studies will be reported to the Joint Expert Group.</p> <p>(28) Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Corridor: According to the agreement of both governments, the Shenzhen side handed over the interface pier area to the Hong Kong side on June 28.</p>
Education	<p>(29) As the relevant authorities on both sides have relaxed immigration control and simplified recruitment procedures, Mainland students may now enter Hong Kong to study in their "private" capacity, and can be directly recruited by Hong Kong's higher education institutions on the Mainland without having to go through other agencies. Hong Kong's higher education institutions and students from Guangdong Province have benefited.</p> <p>The Memorandum of Understanding on mutual recognition of degree awards signed between the Education and Manpower Bureau and the Ministry of Education in July 2004 will facilitate the exchange of people and co-operation between higher education institutions in both places.</p> <p>(30) The Education and Manpower Bureau (EMB) visited the Occupational Skill Testing Authority of Guangdong in January to understand more about the implementation of the National Vocational Qualification Certificate System and vocational skill assessments.</p> <p>(31) The University Grants Committee organised a visit to Guangdong in February to explore first hand the room and opportunities for co-operation between the two sides on educational front.</p>

	<p>(32) At EMB's invitation, the Education Department of the Guangdong Province has selected 15 primary and secondary language teachers and researchers to participate in a one-year Collaborative Teaching Project and educational researches.</p> <p>(33) The annual Beijing-Hong Kong Curriculum Experts Sharing Session was held in Hong Kong in late March, in which representatives from the Education Department of Guangdong also attended.</p>
Technology	<p>(34) Guangdong and Hong Kong co-hosted two PRD software industry forums.</p> <p>(35) The HKSARG's Innovation and Technology Commission and the Department of Science and Technology of Guangdong Province jointly organised the Guangdong/Hong Kong technology co-operation forum in late July to introduce Hong Kong's new strategy on innovation and technology development. During the forum, Hong Kong universities and research institutes presented their research projects to PRD enterprises and started talks on technology transfer to match the latter's technology demand.</p>
Environmental protection	<p>(36) Both sides jointly drew up a "Regional Air Quality Management Plan" in December 2003. Among other things, the plan set out enhanced air pollution control measures for implementation by the two governments to meet emissions reduction targets.</p> <p>(37) The "Regional Air Quality Monitoring Network" was a major component of the "Regional Air Quality Management Plan". Hong Kong is working with the Guangdong's Environmental Protection Bureau on the arrangements for data exchange and announcements, so that the network can commence operation as scheduled by the end of this year.</p> <p>(38) The fundamental data collection for the study on regional water quality was completed in March.</p> <p>(39) The working agenda for the first review of the Deep Bay (Shenzhen Bay) Water Pollution Control Joint Implementation Programme was drawn up early this year and a working group was formed to follow up on the implementation.</p>
Culture and sports	<p>(40) The Fourth Greater PRD Cultural Co-operation Meeting was held in late February.</p>

	<p>(41) A Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao information web was launched in late April.</p> <p>(42) Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao hosted promotional activities in May to echo the “International Museum Day”. Museums and cultural institutions from Guangdong and Macao participated in the activities of the "International Museum Day 2004, Hong Kong" while local museums and cultural institutions also took part in the activities held in Guangzhou.</p> <p>(43) Young musicians from Guangdong and Macao attended the "2004 Hong Kong Youth Music Camp" in Hong Kong between July 25 and August 8.</p> <p>(44) Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao will co-host the International Sporting Goods Fair in Guangzhou in September 2004.</p> <p>(45) Roving golf competition to be staged in Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao in October and November.</p>
Study on development strategy	<p>(46) The draft study on coordinated development among PRD cities and Hong Kong has been finished.</p> <p>(47) The study “ Hong Kong and the Western PRD: Co-operative Development from a Cross-boundary Perspective” has been completed and submitted to the Development and Reform Commission of Guangdong Province as reference for its study on developing the Pearl River West.</p>
Others	<p>(48) On the works of Tonggu Waterway, relevant Shenzhen agencies expect that the environmental impact assessment report can be completed in September 2004 and submitted to the Environmental Protection Department for approval in accordance with the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance.</p> <p>(49) The formation of the “Expert Group on Hong Kong /Guangdong Town Planning and Development” was confirmed at the Seventh Meeting of Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation Joint Conference.</p>