

**GUANGDONG-HONG KONG-MACAU
GREATER BAY AREA (I):
DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

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Executive Summary

1. The Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area (GBA) makes up of city clusters in the Pearl River Delta area of southern China, including Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Foshan, Dongguan, Huizhou, Zhuhai, Zhongshan, Jiangmen and Zhaoqing, nine Guangdong cities, as well as Hong Kong and Macau, the two special administrative regions.
2. The concept of Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau GBA is not completely new since a similar idea has been floated several years ago. China's 13th Five-Year Plan 2016-2020 stated China's intention to develop the GBA, its first official endorsement in 2016.
3. The Chinese central government's plan for the GBA is to create a world-class city cluster rivalling other developed bay areas such as Greater Tokyo Bay Area and San Francisco Bay Area, and to address major structural challenges faced by Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macau by forging closer integration geographically, economically, socially and strategically among the three.
4. To cope with sluggish export demand and sustain domestic economic growth, China has to source new engines of growth by taking further "opening up" measures and opening new areas as economic development platforms.
5. The rapid pace of urbanisation and economic growth at home has led to a surge in demand for urban jobs, better infrastructure connectivity, housing, education and other public goods and services. The plan for developing the GBA is specifically tailored to meet this urbanisation demand at home.
6. It requires the cities within the GBA to forge closer economic cooperation and integration by eliminating various institutional and non-institutional barriers that hinder the free flow of people, capital, information and goods.

7. The Chinese government anticipates that the GBA initiative could help to integrate Hong Kong into the nation's development efforts and contain the growing influence of separatist movements.
8. For Macau, it needs to actively pursue close regional integration in order to adapt to the fast-moving external changes. Against this backdrop, Macau has been proactively participating in the GBA development since 2016.