



1

## International I&T hub to be built in Northern Metropolis, enhancing Hong Kong-Shenzhen integrated development

In her latest Policy Address, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Chief Executive Carrie Lam proposed to transform northern Hong Kong into a metropolis covering about 300 square kilometres. Upon full development, it will be home to some 2.5 million people and offer 650,000 jobs, including 150,000 in the innovation and technology (I&T) sector.

The Northern Metropolis will feature an international I&T hub. The Hong Kong-Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Park and the areas around Lok Ma Chau/San Tin will be consolidated to form the San Tin Technopole, where land for I&T-related uses is estimated to increase to about 240 hectares. This, together with the Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Zone, will form the Shenzhen-Hong Kong I&T Co-operation Zone of approximately 540 hectares, combining the strengths of both Hong Kong and Shenzhen to pool local and non-local talents, enhancing the integrated development of Hong Kong and Shenzhen. ([Hong Kong SAR Government](#))

2

## Guangdong unveils free trade zone blueprint under Five-year Plan

The Guangdong provincial government has announced plans for the China (Guangdong) Pilot Free Trade Zone under the Chinese 14th Five-year Plan, which will see the zone become a high-quality international connection hub supporting Mainland China's opening-up. Covering Guangzhou's Nansha area, Shenzhen's Qianhai-Shekou area and Zhuhai's Hengqin area, the zone will see the development of a modern international trade centre, a high-quality consumption centre for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, an international aviation hub, and a pilot showcase for the opening-up and innovation of the mainland's financial sector.

Among other recommendations, the plan proposes deepening financial cooperation between Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao, and supports their financial institutions in setting up operations in all three places to provide more convenient financial services for their residents. The plan also supports Hong Kong- and Macao-based private equity funds in participating in financing innovation enterprises in the zone. Additionally, it encourages innovation enterprises that meet relevant requirements to seek financing or initial public offerings in Hong Kong and Macao. ([Nanfang Daily](#))

3

“Industrial Map of Guangzhou City” released, revealing focus on strategic new sectors

“The Industrial Map of Guangzhou City”, recently unveiled by the Guangzhou Development and Reform Commission, shows that more than 90 square kilometres of land will be available for industrial development in the city in the next three to five years. Huadu, Nansha and Panyu areas will receive the largest allotments, together making up 60% of the city’s total. By industry category, strategic new sectors will take the largest share, accounting for about half of the aggregate. The land will be dedicated to the development of five major industries: new-generation information technology, new-energy vehicles and smart connected vehicles, smart equipment and high-end equipment, biomedicine, as well as new energy and new materials. ([Nanfang Daily](#))

4

Shenzhen-Hong Kong-Guangzhou ranked world’s No. 2 innovation cluster

China is ranked 12th for innovation in the Global Innovation Index 2021 report compiled by the World Intellectual Property Organization, up two spots from last year and as the only middle-income economy in the top 30 this year. Among the top 100 science and technology clusters worldwide, Shenzhen-Hong Kong-Guangzhou retained its second place, trailing only Tokyo-Yokohama. Beijing and Shanghai rank third and eighth respectively. Of the top 100 clusters, China accounts for 19, second only to the United States with 24. The report also points to a better performance of China in innovation outputs. ([Xinhua News Agency](#))

## 5

Fortune Global 500 companies invest in Guangdong, with Hong Kong as main investment channel

By December 2020, 350 of Fortune Global 500 companies had invested in 2,416 enterprises in Guangdong province with accumulated registered capital exceeding US\$180.7 billion, making the province the third-largest Mainland Chinese destination for such investments, after only Beijing and Shanghai. This is according to a special report on Fortune Global 500 companies' investments in Guangdong released at the 2021 Annual Conference on Multinational Corporations Investment in Guangdong.

The report said Hong Kong was the leading source of offshore funds invested by Fortune Global 500 companies in Guangdong. More than 80% of offshore funds for such investments were derived from Asia, of which Hong Kong accounted for 60%. ([newsgd.com](http://news.gd.com))

## 6

Guangdong resumes processing applications for Hong Kong business trips

In Guangdong province, the Entry-Exit Administration of the People's Republic of China has resumed processing endorsement applications by Mainland Chinese residents for making business trips to Hong Kong. Since 11 October, employees of Guangdong enterprises and businesspeople based in the province intending to travel to Hong Kong for business purposes have been able to apply for official endorsement by producing relevant proof documents to local entry-exit authorities. However, the service is not available to residents who are from medium- or high-pandemic-risk areas or have been in these places anytime in the 14 days before the application.

Successful applicants shall travel to the city under the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government's "Come2hk" scheme. Non-Hong Kong residents who have not stayed in places other than Hong Kong, Guangdong or Macao in the 14 days prior to the day of arrival in Hong Kong can apply for entering the city via the online booking system for the scheme, which has a daily quota of 2,000 arrivals.

Successful Come2hk scheme applicants with valid documents for visiting Hong Kong and proof of a valid negative nucleic acid test result, who enter the city through the Shenzhen Bay Control Point or Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Hong Kong Port, will be exempted from the city's compulsory quarantine requirements. ([Entry-Exit Administration of the People's Republic of China](http://www.mca.gov.cn))

The Chinese Central Government has launched eight measures covering such areas as study, employment, entrepreneurship and internships to help Hong Kong's young people capture opportunities in Mainland China.

The initiatives include providing, in five years: 10,000 internships for Hong Kong youths aged 18 or above who are studying at a Hong Kong tertiary education institution, have graduated from one less than two years ago, or are studying at a mainland university; 20,000 mainland exchange opportunities for Hong Kong youths aged 14 to 35; 10,000 jobs for Hong Kong youths; and support for no less than 120 entrepreneurship projects initiated by young people in Hong Kong or Macao. Other measures include opening the China Telecom Scholarship, national youth technology competitions, as well as prestigious award schemes such as "National Upgrading and Good Youth" and the "Zhong Nanshan Youth Science and Technology Innovation Award" to Hong Kong youth. A youth service centre will also be set up in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. ([China News Service](#))