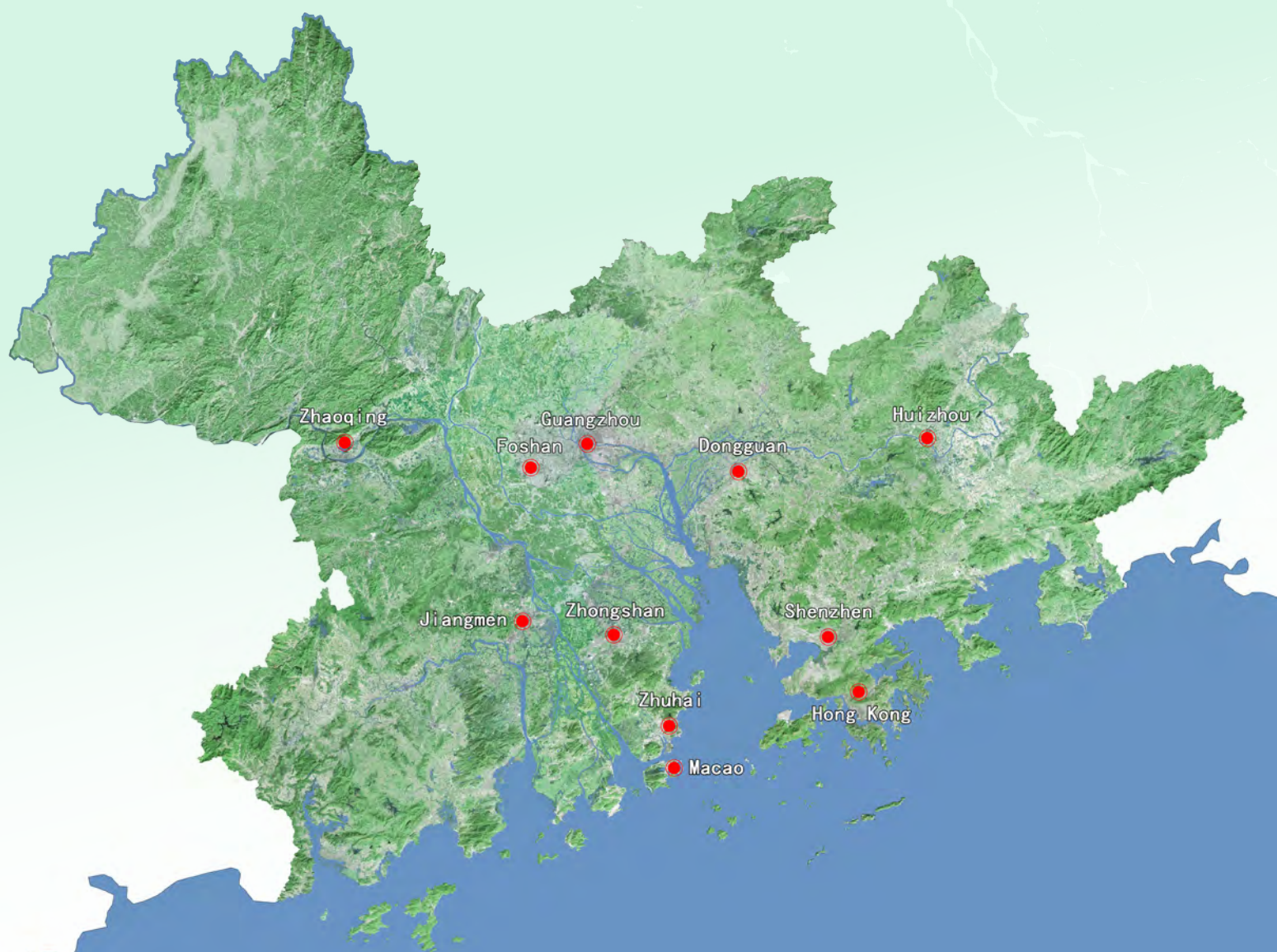


Green Quality Living in Greater Pearl River Delta



**Regional Cooperation Plan on
Building a Quality Living Area
Consultation Document Summary**

Preface



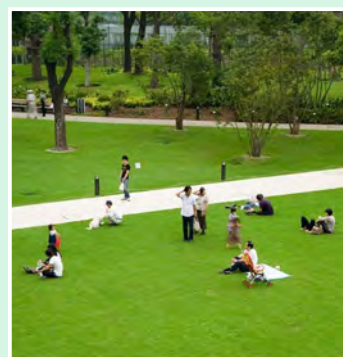
The governments of Guangdong Province, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and the Macao Special Administrative Region are jointly compiling a "Regional Cooperation Plan on Building a Quality Living Area" (hereinafter referred to as "the Plan") to facilitate the implementation of the "Outline of the Plan for the Reform and Development of the Pearl River Delta (2008-2020)". This is a pioneering initiative which will set the scene for the cooperation of the three sides in transforming the Greater Pearl River Delta (Greater PRD) region into a model city cluster of green and quality living.

Underpinned by the principle of "One Country, Two Systems" and the fact that the long term development of the three places is closely connected, the Plan will embrace the concept of "sustainable development", and aim at enhancing the communities' quality of life. The Plan will seek to address regional and cross-boundary issues from the perspectives of the people in the region and by taking an integrated development and long term views in approaching future challenges. It will also set out the direction for strengthening regional cooperation among Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao in the five areas of environment and ecology, low-carbon development, culture and social development, spatial planning, and transportation systems, with emphasis on coordination, consensus building and practicability.

The consultation document has been prepared taking into account views and comments received at various study missions, visits, seminars, and expert group meetings.

This paper summarizes the cooperation ideas proposed in the consultation document. We would like to seek views and suggestions from members of the public in Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao. We hope this summary will also facilitate the public to gain better understanding and participate in the compilation process for the Plan.

Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao are governed under different administrative and legal systems. Under "One Country, Two Systems", the three sides will respect each others' differences, and put forward cooperation proposals taking account of their respective administrative, legal, and social systems. In addition, the three sides will seek to further strengthen tripartite or bilateral cooperation with a view to making contributions to building a quality living area in the Greater PRD region.



Our Situation

——Why we need to pursue the Regional Cooperation Plan on Building a Quality Living Area?



Riding on its strategic location at the Pearl River Estuary, the Greater PRD region has long been an important hub for cultural and economic exchanges between the East and the West. In the past three decades, this region has achieved remarkable economic development by capitalizing on the strengths and synergies of the major players in the region. Notwithstanding this, the region also faces various challenges. Over the past years we have each put in substantial resources for planning studies, development policies and economic development. The three places have now reached a considerable level of development, and the three governments realize that it is now high time to place more emphasis on meeting the needs of the communities in improving their quality of life and providing convenient cross-boundary facilities. There is therefore a compelling case for the three sides to compile a regional cooperation plan based on consensus and mutual respect. This will facilitate the drawing up of relevant cooperation strategies and initiatives. The regional cooperation plan would help direct resources in restructuring economic development and putting more focus on the areas of environmental and social development with a view to improving quality of life and strengthening the attractiveness and competitiveness of the region, and driving the Greater PRD towards a sustainable future.



The need to examine the current situation and overcome the challenges of development



Tackling the common problems encountered in regional development calls for regional cooperation beyond administrative boundaries. All cities, towns, and villages in the Greater PRD region are closely connected and interrelated. This is the starting point in drawing up the Plan.

- ▶ The ever-increasing population, industrial development and traffic flow have posed serious challenges to regional air and water quality, resulting in regional environmental problems.
- ▶ At the same time, people in the Greater PRD region look for improvement in public services and urban management, as well as greater convenience to live and work across the region.
- ▶ Regarding the common problems arising from the process of urbanization, such as inefficient use of land resources, traffic jams and air pollution caused by excessive reliance on automobiles, etc., the solutions may lie in coordinating development at the regional level.

The need to change the mode of economic development



A key focus of the Plan is to showcase the Greater PRD as an exemplar of restructuring the mode of economic development and continuous enhancement of community well being.

- ▶ The impact of the global financial turmoil still prevails. Depletion of energy resources, pressure on the environment, unbalanced economic development and keen competition from other regions within and outside the country are amongst the challenges facing the region.
- ▶ Restructuring the mode of economic development is one of the core elements of the national development strategy, and special attention is given to addressing the issues of resources utilization, environmental problems as well as improving people's livelihood.
- ▶ As a pioneer, the Greater PRD shall take the lead in moving along the pathway of sustainable economic development, underpinned by comprehensive social improvement, sustainable resources utilization, and continual enhancement in the quality of the environment and ecology.




The need to embrace global competition

Regional development has a preeminent role to play in respect of economic, social and environmental development in the 21st century. Quality of life is an important consideration in drawing global talents, which has gradually become the core factor for measuring the competitiveness of a region.

- ▶ Improving and upgrading the quality of life has become an area of international concern, and is also the fundamental goal of economic growth and social development.
- ▶ In recent years, the metropolitan and city planning work carried out by New York, London, Paris, Chicago, Vancouver, Singapore, etc. generally regarded improving the quality of life as a core development goal and an important part of their planning.
- ▶ The Greater PRD is gifted with natural resources such as pleasant weather, sunshine, seashores, and forest, etc. as well as a solid economic foundation. Setting the attainment of quality living as the new goal for regional development would be beneficial to maintaining the competitive advantage of the region amidst stiff global competition.

The Planning Vision

——Quality Living



The Plan will seek to provide a clean, comfortable, convenient, efficient, and people-oriented quality living environment which is appealing and capable of meeting the aspirations of the community. People from all walks of life, be they workers in skyscrapers, rural villagers or entrepreneurs, should all stand to benefit from a healthy living environment that provides ample room for long-term development.



Greater PRD would become a world-class city cluster of green and quality living

The Plan will be compiled based on the consensus reached by the three sides, and will suggest cooperation initiatives in the areas of environment and ecology, low-carbon development, culture and social living, spatial planning, and transportation systems with a view to achieving the following:

- ▶ an ecological system and natural environment which are clean and safe;
- ▶ low-carbon and sustainable economic development which can fulfill the needs of the residents in terms of employment and consumption;
- ▶ comprehensive and convenient public services, and adequate livelihood security;
- ▶ well planned spatial development and pleasant living environment; and
- ▶ green, highly efficient, and people-oriented transportation systems with smooth and convenient cross-boundary connections.

An aerial photograph of a rowing team in a long, narrow boat on a body of water. The boat is yellow and has a pointed bow and stern. Several rowers are visible, wearing green and white shirts, and using long oars. The water is dark green with ripples and small waves. The text 'Moving Towards Quality Living' is overlaid in large white letters, and 'Cooperation Directions' is overlaid in smaller white letters below it.

Moving Towards Quality Living

—Cooperation Directions

The people and cities of the three places are increasingly connected with the regional environment, and are more susceptible to each others' influences and impacts. It is therefore necessary to adopt a wider perspective in taking forward regional planning in order to resolve regional problems. Built on the existing cooperation mechanisms, the Plan will propose five major cooperation themes to progressively achieve the goal of transforming the region into a "quality living area".

The Five Major Cooperation Areas

1. Effectively protecting natural resources and the environment

- ▶ implement measures to reduce any possible adverse impacts on the environment and ecology arising from economic development;
- ▶ establish regional natural resources databases to safeguard the regional ecological system;
- ▶ take effective measures to mitigate prominent regional environmental problems and improve regional environmental quality; and
- ▶ increase public resources for environmental protection.



2. Speeding up the transformation of the mode of economic development

- ▶ promote transformation and upgrading of the economic structure; provide impetus to drive the region to become a knowledge-based and service-oriented economy;
- ▶ improve the energy and resources utilization patterns of the trades and industries; develop low-carbon and circular economy; and
- ▶ enhance the quality of urbanization in the PRD region; facilitate a progressive change towards a regional economy driven by domestic demand.



3. Improving the provision of public services and addressing livelihood issues in the region

- ▶ provide essential public services in a fair manner in the PRD region so as to progressively achieve the standard of a moderately developed country;
- ▶ introduce new concepts to the social management system for PRD region; gradually enhance the population structure;
- ▶ encourage social services providers to operate across boundaries as well as accelerate the development of these services at regional level; and
- ▶ improve the quality of life for people living across boundaries and enhance the convenience of cross-boundary movements.

4. Changing the mode of spatial development

- ▶ make better use of land supply to promote changes in the pattern of economic development in the PRD region;
- ▶ establish a land protection system to avoid damages on the natural and cultural resources caused by urbanization; extend and improve the regional greenway network;
- ▶ encourage public transport-led development; and
- ▶ strengthen coordination on regional planning; actively explore cooperation opportunities in cross-boundary spatial development.



5. Development of convenient, green and people-oriented transportation services

- ▶ develop a public transport dominated system in the region, with intra-city and intercity rail networks as the backbone;
- ▶ encourage the use of public transport; increase its share relative to other modes of passenger transport;
- ▶ develop regional green transportation; increase the usage and degree of comfort of non-motorized transport, where appropriate (e.g. walking and cycling); and
- ▶ facilitate and enhance the convenience and efficiency of cross-boundary movement of people and goods within the Greater PRD region.

Let's Move On

——Join Hands to Act Now!

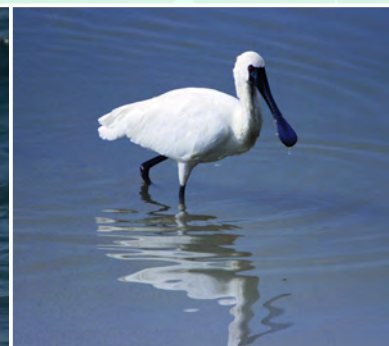


"A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step". Based on the proposed cooperation directions for the five major areas, the Plan will propose initial cooperation initiatives in each area focusing on those more pressing and well founded issues.

Improving the environmental and ecological quality of the Greater PRD region, strengthening the foundation for realizing the vision of quality living area

The Plan will focus on preserving regional ecosystems and nature conservation; taking concerted actions to prevent and tackle regional air pollution; and improving water environment at the Pearl River Estuary. Initial cooperation proposals include:

- ▶ making full use of the river and stream networks, natural and artificial green spaces, etc. to set up ecological corridors in the Greater PRD region;
- ▶ embarking on ecological conservation collaboration with priority given to the Shenzhen Wutong Shan National Forest Park — Robin's Nest in Hong Kong, Futian National Nature Reserve in Shenzhen — the Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site in Hong Kong, Cotai, Coloane-Taipa Ecology Reserve in Macao — Hengqin Island, and the Pearl River Estuary Chinese White Dolphin Nature Reserve;
- ▶ enhancing regional water quality management and water pollution control; strengthening cooperation in improving the quality of adjoining waters (including Deep Bay, Mirs Bay and Pearl River Estuary, etc.);
- ▶ strengthening coordination with provinces in Xijiang river basin; exploring the feasibility of setting up a long-term water resource and water environment coordination management mechanism among the six provinces (regions) in the Pearl River basin as well as Hong Kong and Macao;



- ▶ pursuing joint management of regional air quality and emission reduction targets based on the Pearl River Delta Regional Air Quality Management Plan (2002-2010); undertaking a joint study on the arrangements for reducing emissions of air pollutants in Hong Kong and the PRD region for 2011 – 2020; facilitating the formulation of regional emission reduction measures in the three places;
- ▶ progressively adopting fuel and emission standards for motor vehicles and vessels which are more advanced than other places in the Mainland;
- ▶ undertaking proactive measures to reduce emissions of major air pollutants in Hong Kong and the PRD region to a level lower than in 2010, with a view to realizing continual improvement in regional air quality;
- ▶ enhancing the regional air quality monitoring network in respect of the number and location of monitoring stations and pollutants under monitoring; further developing the air monitoring data sharing mechanism; and
- ▶ exploring opportunities for controlling air pollutant emissions from vessels in the Greater PRD waters.

Promoting low-carbon development in the Greater PRD region, enhancing regional competitiveness

The Plan will seek to transform the Greater PRD region into a national "low-carbon development exemplary area" by implementing regional cooperation initiatives to address climate change. Initial cooperation proposals include:

- ▶ promoting low-carbon city development at major cities (such as Hong Kong, Macao, Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Zhuhai, Dongguan);
- ▶ promoting cleaner production; exploring the possibility of setting up a Guangdong-Macao cleaner production cooperation mechanism in light of the current Guangdong-Hong Kong "Cleaner Production Partnership Programme"; opening up the market on cleaner production technology and consultancy services in the PRD region to Hong Kong and Macao service providers; and progressively establishing a Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao joint public platform on cleaner production services;



- ▶ accelerating the pace of economic transformation; promoting restructuring and upgrading of trades and industries; and progressively building up a low-carbon economy;
- ▶ enhancing buildings energy efficiency such as drawing up and promoting green building standards; encouraging existing building owners to carry out green and energy conservation improvement projects;
- ▶ exploring new modes for cross-boundary cooperation in recycling of reusable materials through implementation of pilot projects, subject to compliance with national legislations and environmental standards;
- ▶ improving energy structures, including cooperation in research, development and wider use of new energy, renewable energy and clean energy. The three sides to draw up measures to facilitate development in the above areas; providing more support for the new and renewable energy industries; promoting the wider use of new energy vehicles and associated products; increasing investment in regional clean energy infrastructure; formulating development standards for these infrastructure in the region;
- ▶ promoting the development of Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) projects in the Greater PRD region with a view to reducing greenhouse gas emissions; and
- ▶ strengthening scientific and technological research on low-carbon development; advocating low-carbon consumption and lifestyle.

Taking forward cooperation in culture and livelihood issues in the Greater PRD region; enriching the functions of the quality living area

The Plan will focus on cooperation in four major fields: cultural exchange, education cooperation, social welfare cooperation, and food safety. Initial cooperation proposals include:

- ▶ drawing on their respective advantages and characteristics, transforming the PRD region into a cultural center of Southern China, Hong Kong as an international cultural metropolis, and Macao as a global centre for leisure and cultural tourism; and establishing a pluralistic regional cultural system;
- ▶ jointly developing a regional market for cultural activities and events; promoting exchange and sharing of cultural resources such as libraries; strengthening exchange and cooperation among relevant departments; promoting regional cultural exchange; strengthening cooperation in creative industries of the three places; developing and improving the institutional environment for related products and enterprises;



- ▶ for basic education, providing safe and convenient cross-boundary transportation to school children; promoting the development and provision of school classes for Hong Kong and Macao children residing in Shenzhen; for vocational education, exploring new ways to jointly set up vocational training schools and technical schools by the three sides; for higher education, exploring the feasibility of setting up an information portal with a view to enhancing the standard of cross-boundary research collaborations among universities, research institutions and enterprises of the three places;
- ▶ facilitating provision of society-wide old aged benefits in Guangdong; encouraging and facilitating the social service providers of Hong Kong and Macao to operate elderly homes and welfare institutions for disabled persons in the PRD region; and
- ▶ raising the overall standards of food safety for the region; improving the food tracing mechanism; improving food safety notification and coordinated investigation mechanisms among the three sides; jointly enhancing capacity in food safety risk management and emergency response; strengthening the exchange on food safety standards.

Taking forward coordinated spatial development in the Greater PRD region, and promoting cross-boundary cooperation in spatial development

From the viewpoint of spatial planning, the key concerns facing the PRD region is a sprawl of towns and industries; and for people in Hong Kong and Macao, they are faced with limited living and development space. Therefore, the Plan will focus on transforming the mode of spatial development in PRD and strengthening cross-boundary cooperation in spatial development. Initial cooperation proposals include:

- ▶ establishing a land protection system to preserve regional historic cultural heritage sites; consolidating regional ecological resources; enhancing regional planning for green space system; and promoting the establishment of regional greenways;
- ▶ defining the boundary for urban growth in the PRD region; promoting the setting up of low-carbon residential areas; enhancing their supporting facilities and services; improving the spatial layout for industrial development and raising their design standards;
- ▶ encouraging regional urban and industrial areas to develop along major public transport corridors such as intercity and urban rails, etc., especially in areas around transportation hubs; and progressively implementing a rail-based public transport-oriented development model;



- ▶ constructing new functional zones including Nansha New District in Guangzhou, Qianhai in Shenzhen, and Hengqin New District in Zhuhai, etc., and exploring their potential as pioneer quality living areas;
- ▶ continuously taking forward priority cross-boundary development cooperation projects, such as the Lok Ma Chau Loop Area, Hong Kong/Shenzhen Cooperation on Modern Service Industries in Qianhai of Shenzhen, Zhuhai-Macao Cross-border Industrial Zone, and the University of Macao Hengqin campus in Zhuhai;
- ▶ jointly taking forward the development of the Bay Area of Pearl River Estuary into a quality living area, making it a functional core, a traffic hub, ecological focal point, and a diversified cultural fusion zone of the region;
- ▶ undertaking studies on the coordinated spatial development along regional rails and greenways; and
- ▶ on the basis of respecting the different systems of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao, proactively exploring the feasibility and suitable cooperation arrangements for developing joint innovative zones, modern services zones, tourism cooperation zones, and also habitation zones.

Facilitating development of green transport and convenient boundary crossing in the Greater PRD region, and building a green travelling environment

The development of green transport and provision of convenient cross-boundary facilities would further enhance cross-boundary passengers' movement, extend citizens' living spaces, as well as improve the regional environment within the Greater PRD. The Plan will emphasize optimizing regional transportation systems, promoting energy conservation and emission reductions in the transportation sector, facilitating connectivity of transportation systems, provision of cross-boundary transportation services within the region, and stepping up the construction of green transportation systems. Initial cooperation proposals include:

- ▶ developing diversified public transportation systems, with intercity rails as the backbone; adopting measures to give priority to public transportation; encouraging non-motorized traffic where appropriate; guiding and controlling the proper use of private cars;
- ▶ strengthening the coordination of transportation development and facility planning at the three places; facilitating the integration of railway networks in Hong Kong and Macao with the PRD intercity railway network, and their connection with the national railway network;



- ▶ developing green transport, and promoting vehicles using new energy;
- ▶ jointly promoting energy conservation and emission reductions in the transportation sector taking account of the different circumstances of the three places;
- ▶ underpinned by the "One Country, Two Systems" principle, and taking into account the capacity of the boundary crossing facilities as well as the traffic capacities in Hong Kong and Macao, exploring the progressive relaxation of boundary crossing restrictions for the people in the Greater PRD region, particularly in respect of further enhancing the boundary-clearance facilitation between Guangdong and Macao; and
- ▶ studying and exploring innovative and effective modes of immigration/customs clearance under the principle of "One Country, Two Systems" and without affecting the position of separate immigration/customs territories of the three sides.

The Way Forward

Under the principle of "One Country, Two Systems", the three sides have different political and economic systems and social circumstances. Therefore, the initiatives to be recommended in the Plan mainly set out broad principles and directions. The three governments would take them into consideration when drawing up their respective plans. In considering these proposals, the three sides should take into account their respective systems and social circumstances to map out their own action plans for taking forward the overall goals and cooperation directions of the Plan.

Next Steps

The three sides will take into account the public views collected from this consultation for carrying out further studies. As regards the future implementation of the measures and initiatives to be proposed under the Plan, the respective departments or policy bureaux of the three sides will proceed in accordance with established procedures, including the relevant consultation and approval processes. They will also continue to pursue effective coordination on all the relevant issues.

We hope the Plan will herald a new epoch of "transformation and cooperation". By implementing the Plan, we intend to realize:

- ▶ cleaner air and water environment, which are the core elements of quality living in the region;
- ▶ spatial development which is guided by a system of public transport based mainly on railway development;
- ▶ enhanced protection of the most precious natural and cultural heritage in our region, and better preservation of our ecological system;
- ▶ a fundamental change in the regional economic development structure with gradual transformation to a more advanced low-carbon and green economy;
- ▶ overall improvement in the level of public services, and convenient inter-regional movement without compromising living quality;
- ▶ more colorful and diversified cultural development and exchanges; and
- ▶ better cooperation among Guangdong, Hong Kong, and Macao at different levels covering a broad spectrum of issues.



Respond to this Consultation Document



This paper is a summary of the consultation document and encapsulates the main points of the consultation document, which can be downloaded from the following website <http://www.gprd-qla.com>. The cooperation proposals stated in the consultation document will have long-term implications for our environment and economy. We sincerely invite your invaluable comments on these cooperation proposals. Your views will help further enhance the cooperation proposals set out in the Plan.

Please forward your comments to the leading bureaux of the three sides by mail, e-mail or fax on or before 30 November 2011:

Guangdong Province Housing and Urban-Rural Development Department

Address:	Building number 5, 305 Dongfeng Road, Guangzhou, (Post code: 510031)
E-mail:	gdcdup@public.guangzhou.gd.cn
Fax:	(86) (020) 8337 3570

Environment Protection Department, the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

Address:	33rd Floor, Revenue Tower, 5 Gloucester Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong
E-mail:	qla_consultation@epd.gov.hk
Fax:	(852) 2838 2155

The Secretariat for Transport and Public Works / Environmental Protection Bureau, the Government of the Macao Special Administrative Region

Address:	Alameda Dr. Carlos d' Assumpção, N° 393-437, Edif. Dynasty Plaza, 10º andar, Macau
E-mail:	info@dspa.gov.mo
Fax:	(853) 2872 5129

Please note that the governments of the three sides will, either during private or public discussion or in any subsequent report, refer to and attribute views submitted in response to the consultation document. Any request to treat all or part of a response in confidence will be respected, but if no such request is made, it will be assumed that the response is not intended to be confidential.

