

Introduction

Guangdong-Macao In-Depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqinn

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The Macao Special Administrative Region (MSAR) Government welcomes the promulgation on September 5, 2021 by the Central Government of the Master Plan of the Development of the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin.

The Master Plan showcases the Central Government's support over Macao's economic diversification and is a major initiative to enrich further the practice of the "One country, two systems" principle. The MSAR Government will spare no effort in realising the significant opportunities created under the Master Plan, in a bid to give fresh impetus for Macao's long-term development.

The Master Plan specifies its goal for the Cooperation Zone in Hengqin is to assist Macao's adequate economic diversification, complement with four strategic positioning, and four major tasks. Promulgation of the Master Plan marks a new stage between Guangdong and Macao for of mutual discussion, joint construction, joint administration and shared benefits.

On 20 December 2019, President Xi Jinping made an important speech when he was in Macao for events marking the 20th anniversary of Macao's return to the motherland and the inauguration of the fifth-term MSAR Government. The speech paved a clear direction for the collaboration between Macao, Guangdong and Zhuhai regarding the development of Hengqin. At the ceremony, President Xi said it was particularly important for Zhuhai and Macao to jointly develop Hengqin, in order for Macao to expand space for long-term development and create new impetus for development.

Developing the Cooperation Zone in Hengqin is a paramount step to advance the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Greater Bay Area), and a significant move to enrich the implementation of the "One country, two systems"

principle. The Cooperation Zone earmarks fresh strategic development for comprehensive deepening reform and for high-level opening up economy. These efforts boost driving forces for Macao's long-term development, providing Macao with new space, new opportunities to enhance its people's welfare and livelihood, while ensuring Macao's long-term prosperity and stability and facilitating the city's closer integration with overall national development.

(Source: Government Information Bureau)