CSGKC aims for world-class status

By CHEN HONG
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Big investment continues to pour into the China-Singapore Guangzhou Knowledge City, an iconic collaboration project between the two nations, while a group of top-notch companies have also started to operate there.

Located in northeastern Guangzhou, in South China’s Guangdong province, CSGKC was officially devoted to the status of a State-level bilateral project just one year ago in accordance with a framework agreement signed by the Chinese and Singaporean governments. The upgrade brought it closer to its ambition of becoming a world-class knowledge city.

On Oct 13, the administrative committee of CSGKC, Capital—and one of the Asia’s largest diversified real estate groups based in Singapore— and the State-owned Knowledge City (Guangzhou) Investment Group signed a cooperative agreement to build a pilot zone for international scientific and innovation collaboration in CSGKC.

The pilot zone is expected to introduce 10 billion yuan ($1.5 billion) in the next five to 10 years to develop the infrastructures of bio-technologies, intelligent manufacturing, new-generation information technology, new materials and new energy, financial services, digital innovation and headquarters economy according to the agreement.

The joint project will also bring the advanced experience of Singapore to the fields of intellectual property rights, education, research and development and financial innovation and accelerate the construction of smart city for a better business environment.

On Sept 27, the local government held a ceremony to collectively kick off the construction of 10 key projects of CSGKC—which has an accumulative investment of about 5.2 billion yuan—to build a headquarters economic belt surrounding the Jiling Lake at the center of CSGKC.

The projects span commercial compounds, innovation platforms, universities, eco-communities, high-end manufacturing parks, international bio-medicine and new energy, new materials and smart chips. Besides the flow-in fund, the local government also said in late September that 31 key projects with a total investment of 65.5 billion yuan in CSGKC had been completed and put into production from the beginning of this year.

"It is amazing that it took just 18 months from the commencement of construction to trial production."

Liu Jun, senior vice-president of CSGKC

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As a national pilot zone for international property applications and protection, CSGKC is providing comprehensive services to protect the achievements of companies and facilitate their patent applications.

According to the official statistics, more than 300 IPR-related organizations, including the joint examination and cooperation center of National Intellectual Property Administration and IP protection center, were set up in CSGKC to provide one-stop services for the companies.

"The Bay Area cities can forge partnership in digitalization and the Bay Area cities are complementary with Singapore in terms of smart cities, venture capital and industrial incubation," Feng Bo, senior vice-president of Huawei Technologies.

He said Singapore is still leading the cities in the Greater Bay Area in globalized professionals and their experiences.

Cooperation key for deepening China-Singapore relations in long term

By CHEN HONG

Cooperation in intellectual property, talent training, professional services exchanges and smart city planning can strengthen the link between China and Singapore in building cooperative projects, said experts and entrepreneurs from both countries.

They made the remarks at the seventh China-Singapore Knowledge Forum Monday in Guangzhou, capital of South China’s Guangdong province, to tap into opportunities arising from Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. The experts suggested consolidating resources and advantages.

The governments of China and Singapore have jointly developed a knowledge city with a planned area of 72 square kilometers, in northeastern Guangzhou, from development began in 2010, and the knowledge city is a place where talent, technologies, funding and talent meet.

Lee Yi Shyan, chairman of Business China, a Singaporean non-governmental non-profit organization that promotes bilateral relations with China, advised the China-Singapore Guangzhou Knowledge City to increase its technological input, accelerate commercialization of technological achievements and encourage cooperation among the scientific research institutions, scholars and enterprises to create new value added.

As a former minister of Singapore, Lee noted the importance of IP protection and a sound legal regime for IP.

Lei said such a program can also contribute to talent reservation for both countries.

Pointing out that CSGKC has attached much importance to innovation, Polly Ho, vice president of the National University of Singapore, reiterated that innovation must be safeguarded by a world-leading system of IP protection, which can nurture the world-leading innovation environment in return.

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