

What they say



Guangdong province has a transparent government and a massive consumer market, and

provides an area for research and development, high technology, and highly qualified talent. This offers American companies a bright future. Superhighways, high-speed rail and a high-speed light rail network connect all of the cities and bring itself to the level where we can actually invest in those areas and not feel as if we are in the countryside or in remote areas, simply because we can manufacture and ship our goods and services around China and other parts of the world. Remote areas of Guangdong provide the lowest cost centers and we are constantly looking at new areas where we can invest.

Harley Seyedin, president of the American Chamber of Commerce in South China



Many international companies are now looking at Guangdong, as there is a lot of interest in all the

economic transformation happening here, such as reducing costs for companies and attracting new technologies. The establishment of the China Portuguese International Trade and Investment Cooperation Center in Guangzhou represents another essential move for PorCham to expand business cooperation in Guangdong and the GBA.

Dario Silva, chairman of the Board of PorCham Greater China and chairman of the China Portuguese International Trade and Investment Cooperation Center



Japanese-funded companies can become a model of high-quality development in Guangdong

and continue to contribute to the economic development of the province. Guangdong has a number of influential startups, which Japanese enterprises are interested in working with. Factory automation, farm automation and autonomous driving are our focus areas. We believe that more Japanese companies will come here to invest in the service industry. We also wish local governments could fur-

ther convey the charm of the consumer market of the GBA. **Okada Eiji, director-general of Japan External Trade Organization Guangzhou (South China)**



The Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area boasts a sound investment environment and

the most advanced high-tech facilities in China, which are very conducive to manufacturing development. Guangdong has witnessed a rapid development of the high-tech industry over the past few years. Thanks to the active support of local governments and the concerted efforts of companies, we can see that high-quality development in the province has made great strides.

Lee Jei-youn, president of the Huizhou Korean Chamber of Commerce and Industry



Guangdong has provided diverse communication platforms facilitating interaction among

enterprises, sparking new business opportunities, and fostering collaboration. AGC, as a comprehensive material producer, is actively exploring new materials for emerging industries such as electronics, biopharmaceuticals and chemicals. AGC is committed to localized talent development. Efforts are directed toward cultivating local leadership and gradually integrating Japanese expertise with the capabilities of the local workforce.

Zhang Haibin, chairman of AGC Display (Shenzhen) Inc



The province has stepped up efforts to promote the high-quality development of the manufacturing

industry since it prioritized the real economy as the foundation and the manufacturing industry as the pillar. TUV has been taking this opportunity to serve its clients and help boost the high-quality development of the manufacturing industry so as to bring more quality made-in-China products to the world stage.

Tina Jiang, managing director at TUV Rheinland (Guangdong)

GD TODAY



The Guangdong Provincial High-quality Development Conference is held in Shenzhen, Guangdong province, on Sunday. SHI LEI / FOR CHINA DAILY

High-quality growth a key focus for province

Conference sets out plans to boost economy by riding wave of science and innovation

By YUAN SHENGGAO



Guangdong province will continue to push forward high-quality development with the real economy and manufacturing industries as the foundation and technological innovation as the main driver, said a senior official.

Huang Kunming, secretary of the Guangdong Provincial Committee of the Communist Party of China, made the remarks at the Guangdong Provincial High-quality Development Conference on Sunday.

A major economy and manufacturing hub in South China, Guangdong has abundant resources and strengths in scientific and technological innovation, Huang said, adding that it shoulders significant missions and responsibilities in high-quality development.

The province has formed a consensus that high-quality development is fundamental for Guangdong to achieve modernization and high-quality development is essentially driven by innovation, he said.

Huang emphasized that Guangdong must seize the opportunity brought by a wave of technological revolution and cultivate new productive forces to build mutually beneficial relationships between industries and technologies. "We should regard talent as treasure and work with enterprises together."

More efforts and support are needed to channel innovation resources into excellent companies and help them make technological breakthroughs, enhance competitiveness and advance industrial

quality development.

The province's financial system should provide full-cycle financial services for startups and high-tech enterprises through venture capital, credit, insurance, leasing and others, attendees said at the "empowering industrial innovation with finance" subforum.

The concepts of financial services need to be changed, while the risk-sharing mechanism should be optimized, they added.

Action plans for five "future industries" that include emerging intelligent equipment, emerging materials and emerging electronic information were released at the forum themed on innovation-driven development strategies.

Guangdong is to establish an emerging industry system, with a focus on those expected to thrive and grow into 100-billion-yuan industries, local officials said.

Forum participants also discussed how to build an industrial sci-tech innovation center with global influence and offered their solutions for talent training and the integrated development of industries and science and technology.

Another highlight was the subforum focusing on Guangdong's "100 counties, 1,000 towns and 10,000 villages" program. Launched at the end of 2022, it aims to promote rural vitalization and foster coordinated development between urban and rural areas.

Forum attendees encouraged enterprises to join in the program and called for more financial services to counties, towns and villages.

Also, contracts for 12 projects of the program were signed at the forum, with a total investment of 11 billion yuan and donations of 172 million yuan.

Technological transformation stressed by local officials

By WANG JINHUI

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Guangdong province is revving up efforts to integrate industry and technology, enhance self-reliance in sci-tech, accelerate the construction of a modern industrial system and shape new dynamics and advantages in development, said local officials at the Guangdong Provincial High-quality Development Conference held in Shenzhen on Sunday.

During the conference, there was an exhibition showcasing the achievements of the industry-technology integration, covering areas such as new drugs and medical devices, marine technology, scientific instruments, artificial intelligence and chips, materials, new energy storage, modern agriculture, and equipment.

"The 5.0T MRI imaging system has the characteristics of a large imaging field, high resolution and fast speed," said Li Ye, a researcher for the Imaging Center of the Shenzhen Institute of Advanced Technology at the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

"The higher the magnetic resonance imaging field strength, the higher the resolution. It's like going from taking photos to shooting movies," Li said.

Another "first" on exhibition was the intelligent three-dimensional desktop color ultrasound R9 developed by Mindray Medical International. This is also the first high-end desktop color ultrasound R9 produced domestically.

31 joint laboratories

featuring Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao cooperation have settled in Guangdong province

13+ trillion yuan

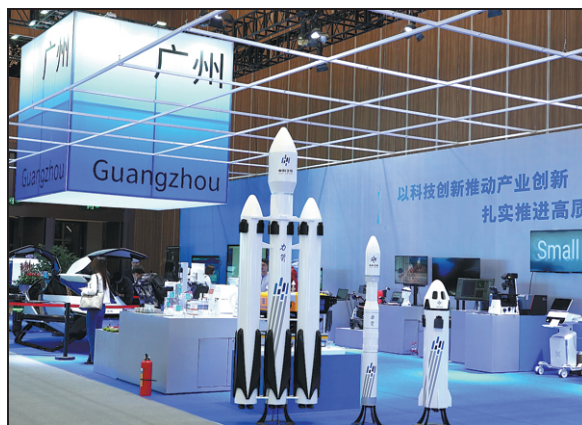
GDP achieved by Guangdong in 2023

Guangdong is bolstering innovation-led growth in enterprises, industries and development, and striving to open up a "closed loop" for the transformation of sci-tech achievements.

At the end of 2023, the first domestically developed high-energy nonelastic neutron spectrometer was unveiled in Dongguan, Guangdong province.

This "neutron microscope", jointly constructed by Sun Yat-sen University and the China Spallation Neutron Source Science Center, is expected to lay the foundation for the development of new materials.

In early January, the Guangdong Provincial Department of Science and Technology awarded certificates to the third batch of 11 Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao joint laboratories. With the addition of the first and second batches totaling 20, Guangdong now has 31 Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao joint laboratories, boosting the con-



Guangzhou showcases its technological and industrial expertise at an exhibition during the Guangdong Provincial High-quality Development Conference. DENG YINGHENG / FOR CHINA DAILY

vergence of innovative resources.

In his speech at the Guangdong Provincial High-quality Development Conference, Huang Kunming, secretary of the Guangdong Provincial Committee of the Communist Party of China, emphasized the importance of technological innovation.

Guangdong's GDP exceeded 13 trillion yuan (\$1.8 trillion) in 2023, ranking it first in the country — a position it has held for 35 years.

With its industrial foundation, the province is leading the manufacturing industry in China. It has more than 71,000 large-scale industrial enterprises; 75,000 high-tech enterprises and 1,500

specialized and new "little giant" enterprises, all ranking first in the country.

Its regional innovation comprehensive capability has ranked first in the country for seven years and the number of Guangdong's research and development personnel; valid invention patents; high-value invention patents; valid registered trademarks and international patent applications filed via the Patent Cooperation Treaty all rank first nationally.

In recent years, Guangdong has focused on the construction of an innovation chain covering "basic research, technological innovation, achievement transformation,

GD Today briefly

Bay Area achieves progress in five years

Together with the Hong Kong and Macao special administrative regions, Guangdong province has made great efforts to develop the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area into an internationally first-class area and a world-class city cluster over the past five years. In 2023, the Bay Area's GDP is projected to surpass 13.6 trillion yuan (\$1.89 trillion), reaching a new level of overall economic development. The GDP of Guangzhou and Shenzhen exceeded 3 trillion yuan respectively, and that of Dongguan and Foshan 1 trillion yuan. The Bay Area's population increased from about 70 million to more than 86 million. Twenty-five companies in the Bay Area also made their way onto the 2023 Fortune Global 500 list, an increase of five compared to 2018.

76m visitors received during Spring Festival

Guangdong received 76.07 million tourists during the just-concluded eight-day Spring Festival holiday, up 68.4 percent year-on-year. The province raked in 69.36 billion yuan (\$9.64 billion) in tourism consumption, marking a 160.8 percent year-on-year increase. During the holiday that ran from Feb 10 to Saturday, more than 500 activities were held in more than 260 A-level tourist attractions, provincial-level and above tourist resorts and leisure streets. Additionally, more than 4,600 cultural events took place in cultural centers. During the period, 23.37 million visitors flocked to 4A-rated and above scenic areas throughout Guangdong, an increase of 40.1 percent from 2023.

Guangdong to build airport hub for delta

A new airport, which will serve as a hub of the Pearl River Delta, will begin construction this year in Guangdong province. The airport is initially planned to be located at the junction of Genghe township, Foshan's Gaoming district, and Jiaotang township of Zhaoqing's Gaoyao district, under the recommendation of the Civil Aviation Administration of China. With a planned investment of more than 50 billion yuan (\$6.95 billion), it is expected to have two long-distance parallel runways and a third runway reserved for the long term. By 2035, the Bay Area is expected to have seven airports with 17 runways, serving 420 million passengers and handling more than 20 million metric tons of cargo annually.

Overseas e-commerce warehouses booming

Thanks to the incentives for promoting the development of overseas warehouses for cross-border e-commerce, Guangdong has developed more than 1,000 overseas warehouses, covering an area of nearly 6 million square meters, and serving more than 100,000 enterprises. Innovations such as the world's first cross-border sea-air transportation and direct-to-airport model have been initiated, along with cases such as "overseas warehouse plus overseas livestreaming" and "overseas warehouse plus used car exports".

New customs move to start in Hengqin

The Guangdong-Macao In-depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin will begin to implement closed customs control in the "second-tier" zone as of March. It aims to assist the movement of people, goods, capital and information between Macao and Hengqin. The area between Hengqin and the Macao Special Administrative Region is considered the "first-tier" zone, while the area between Hengqin and other areas within the Chinese mainland is considered the "second-tier" zone. Trade conducted through the first tier will generally be tax-free and have simplified customs declaration procedures. Most goods transported through the second tier will be subject to tariffs and import duties. Certain items, however, may be eligible for an added-value tax exemption.



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