

CHINA

Golden: Opportunities, backed by preferential policies, beckon new generation

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Wong King-hei, a postgraduate student majoring in geophysics at the University of Science and Technology of China in Hefei, Anhui province, said the mainland's vast territory means there are plenty of geological phenomena to study. "In this field, the mainland's research system is in the same echelon as Europe," Wong said.

Leung Chun-ying, vice-chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and a former chief executive of Hong Kong, said the mainland is now seeing rapid economic growth, and young adults from Hong Kong should seize the opportunities available.

"The motherland is so big, I hope more Hong Kong young adults can go and have a look," Leung told a conference in the city earlier this year.

"If Hong Kong people could visit the mainland and see its many modern factories, they would be more interested in starting businesses or taking jobs there," Leung said.

Zhang Guangnan, a professor at Sun Yat-sen University's Institute of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao Development Studies, said the Pearl River Delta cities adjacent to Hong Kong and Macao, which have similar cultural characteristics, are traditionally the priority choices for young adults from the two cities.

But with the advancement of cooperation and exchanges driven by infrastructure connectivity, more young people

from the cities have chosen to start businesses in inland areas, where special projects have been introduced to draw talent and investment from Hong Kong and Macao, Zhang said.

Liu Jiangning, a researcher at the Research Institute of Globalization and China's Modernization at the University of International Business and Economics, said the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area — an important strategic cluster for the country — has now become one of China's most dynamic, innovative and open areas.

"The Greater Bay Area has advanced manufacturing industries and service industries," she said. "And it has introduced a series of preferential policies to attract talent from Hong Kong and Macao in recent years."

Many cities in Guangdong have offered loans for entrepreneurs, as well as living allowances to young adults from Hong Kong and Macao.

The Greater Bay Area includes nine Guangdong cities, plus Hong Kong and Macao. It generated GDP of about 11.5 trillion yuan (\$1.8 trillion) last year, more than 10 percent of the country's total, Liu said, adding that the prosperous Pearl River Delta has more than 300 distinct industrial clusters that are providing myriad entrepreneurial opportunities.

Xin Wen in Beijing, Zhu Lixin in Hefei and Yang Jun in Guiyang contributed to this story.

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Student from HK explores Chinese culture in Shandong

By ZHAO RUIXUE in Jinan zhaoruixue@chinadaily.com.cn

When 20-year-old Chong Yee-lam of Hong Kong climbed Taishan Mountain in Shandong province for the first time, she stood at the summit for long time, gazing into the distance.

Part of a poem about the mountain came to mind: "At the top, you can see all mountains in a single glance."

Chong said, "I knew the poem before climbing the mountain, but it was the moment when I reached the top and stood there, marveling at the grandeur, that I knew what it meant."

She added that the poem lingered in her mind for days after she returned to school.

Because of her interest in Chinese history and culture, Chong chose cultural heritage and museology as her major at Shandong University after graduating in 2019 from senior middle school in Hong Kong.

"I learned that Shandong has rich historical and cultural resources. In addition, the archaeology department at Shandong University has a good reputation," she said.

Now in her junior year at SDU, Chong has been learning about the rich cultural heritage of Shandong, the home of Confucius. Over the past three years, Chong has visited several cities in Shandong, including Qufu, Qingdao and Dongying.

"Field studies provide a deep and comprehensive understanding of culture," she said.

Last month, Chong visited Dongying, where she was impressed by the Sun Tzu Cultural Park and the Yellow River Delta National Nature Reserve.

"The Art of War by Sun Tzu is well-known throughout the world," she said. "I learned of his life and works at the park and later learned the values he espoused, such as prudence in waging war."

At the Yellow River Delta reserve, she felt a sense of tranquility. "It's probably because of the environment," she said.

"The wild animals are not disturbed by human activity."

On campus, Chong has classes to get hands-on experience with traditional Chinese culture, such as flower arranging and conducting tea ceremonies. She is especially impressed by the procedure for making books the way the ancients did.

"It's not easy to make a book," she said. "We need to go through many steps and sew pages together with needles. That's one reason the ancients cherished books so much."

Although it was the first time she had left home to live in a city for an extended period, Chong adjusted without difficulty.

"Before coming to Shandong, I visited several cities — Wuhan, Chongqing, Beijing — which helped me understand the culture, habits, customs and people on the Chinese mainland," she said, noting the warm atmosphere she has found.

"When I go to a fruit shop, I am frequently greeted by the woman who is the boss. She remembers me."

When she gets homesick, she makes video calls to family members. And she's on the lookout for Hong Kong food. She found something close, a local snack called *tianmo*, a kind of porridge.

"Judging from its name, I thought it would be sweet, but it turned out to be salty, which suits my taste," she said.

In a year, Chong will graduate from the university. She hopes an opportunity will arise to stay on the mainland to work.

"The Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area has been creating more opportunities for young people," Chong said.

"I believe that if we take advantage of these opportunities, we will be able to realize our dreams in the future."

◀ CHONG YEE-LAM student, Shandong

"Before coming to Shandong, I visited several cities — Wuhan, Chongqing, Beijing — which helped me understand the culture, habits, customs and people on the mainland."

▲ SHAWN KWOK medical cosmetology, Guangxi

"I also want to tell my stories to more Hong Kong youths, making them aware of opportunities on the Chinese mainland and encouraging them to look for development opportunities here."

▶ HAO JINLONG textile technology, Guangdong

"For every employee recruited, the company gets a rent subsidy for 20 square meters of office space (from the entrepreneurship valley)."

◀ WONG KING-HEI postgraduate, Anhui

"The mainland is so vast that it provides many geological phenomena to study. China is now among the leading countries for geophysics studies."

▲ CHAN YEUK-CHING law, Liaoning

"Before I came here, I was afraid of being alone. But I found that people are warmhearted. They taught me to speak Mandarin and took me to enjoy local food. I made new friends and quickly adapted to local life."

▲ ANNIE LEUNG agri-tech, Guizhou

"What impressed me deeply was that I met a lot of people helping with poverty alleviation here. They are entrepreneurs like me, and also doctors and teachers. Some are public servants from coastal cities, such as Guangzhou."

▲ WALDO WONG fitness, Guangdong

"I made the right decision when I opened a physical fitness stretching center in Guangzhou, Guangdong province, more than eight years ago."

▶ QIN YANG student, Hubei

"I majored in public health and preventive medicine. I hope I can combine my personal development with social development and find a suitable position on the mainland."

▶ LAM CHI-U finance, Ningxia

"My family members and friends advised me to return to Macao. However, I didn't want to leave my girlfriend and decided to go back with her to her hometown, Yinchuan."

EDUCATION

More students from Hong Kong and Macao choose to study on the mainland.

23,200

Number of students from Hong Kong and Macao who studied at universities and research institutions on the Chinese mainland in July 2020.

Help from central government

In September, the central government launched eight measures to attract young adults from Hong Kong and Macao to work in the Greater Bay Area, including:

Hong Kong Youth Internship Scheme
10,000 internship opportunities in five years

Hong Kong Youth Exchange Program
to provide 20,000 exchange opportunities to the mainland in five years

"Thousands of Schools, Thousands of Posts"
special action for Hong Kong graduates to provide 10,000 job opportunities in five years

JOB CONNECTIONS

The central government has introduced policies to encourage young adults from Hong Kong and Macao to start businesses and work on the mainland.

10,000 internship opportunities

20,000 exchange opportunities

10,000 job opportunities

ADMISSIONS

The Ministry of Education launched an admission process for Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education students at mainland universities.

371,380

Hong Kong residents live in 31 provinces, regions and cities on the mainland. +136,551 from 2010

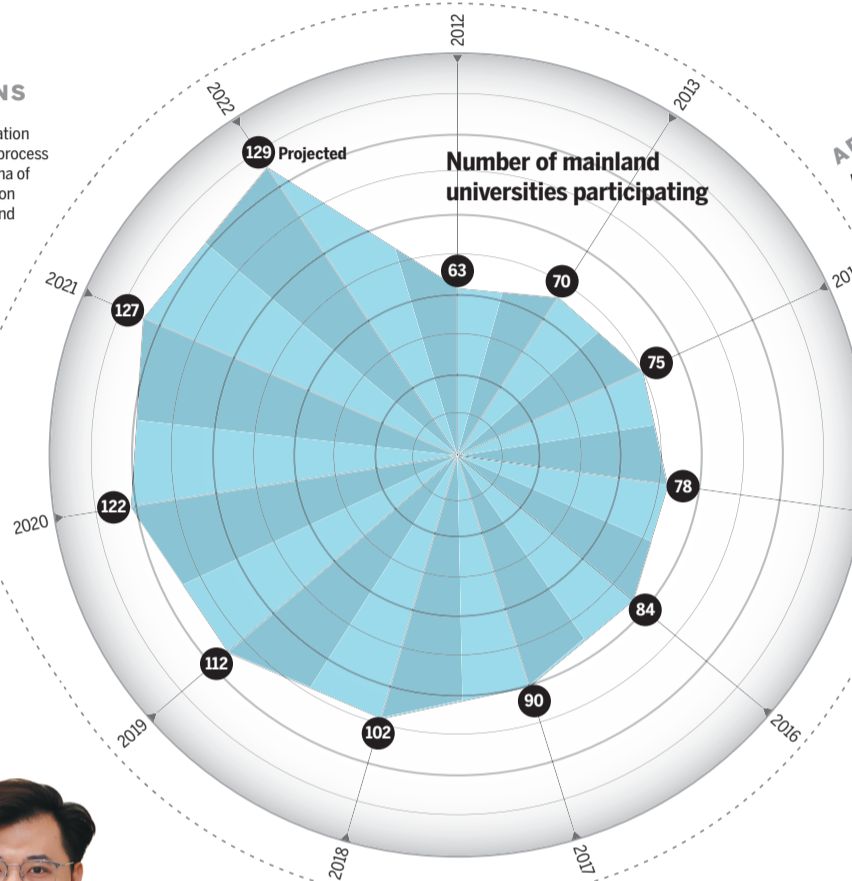
Rise of 58%

55,732

Macao residents live in 31 provinces, regions and cities on the mainland. +34,531 from 2010

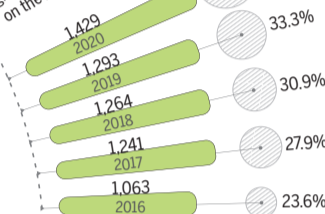
Rise of 162%

Number of mainland universities participating



AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

An increasing number of Macao high school graduates are continuing their studies on the mainland.



TRADE

The mainland maintains close economic, trade and personnel exchanges with Hong Kong and Macao.

■ Over the past 10 years, the mainland has been Hong Kong's largest export destination and import supplier.

■ The Industry and Trade Department of the Hong Kong SAR reports bilateral trade from January to October as \$555 billion (+27.8% year-on-year).

From Macao to mainland: A young life in progress

By HU DONGMEI in Yinchuan and ZHOU HUIYING

Though far from home, Macao native Lam Chi-u, 26, has found a happy life with his wife in Yinchuan, Ningxia Hui autonomous region, and he's determined to move his career forward.

In 2013, after graduating from high school in Macao, Lam was admitted to the University of International Business and Economics in Beijing, based on his excellent performance in the screening process.

"At first my family didn't support my decision to continue studying in Beijing," he said. "They worried about the long distance from them and the differences between the Chinese mainland and Macao."

But he explained the advantages of universities on the mainland in securing future success. And he promised to take care of himself. Eventually, they relented.

"In my childhood, I often visited Zhuhai, Guangdong province, with my mother for shopping," he said, adding that the markets were untidy and made a poor impression at that time. But things were different in Beijing and elsewhere.

"I was surprised by the rapid development of cities on the mainland," he said. "The streets, subways, buildings and living conditions of the people had a different feeling."

Living with three roommates from different parts of the mainland, Lam started his university life.

His first major difficulty in his first year was that all the teachers spoke in Mandarin, which made it hard to follow the lectures.

"I thank my roommates," he said. "They often helped me review lectures after class. Gradually, I learned to keep up."

To adjust his thinking and actively blend into the new environment, Lam participated in various campus activities — the student union, basketball and track — which helped him meet new friends.

Through basketball, Lam met a woman, also a freshman, Zhou Yang, who would become part of his life. Over a two-year span, their love grew.

"When we came to the last year of undergraduate study, we encouraged each other to study hard," Lam said. Both were admitted to master's degree programs at their alma mater in 2017.

Before graduation in 2019, they faced the typical pressure of finding jobs.

"My family members and friends advised me to return to Macao," he said. "However, I didn't want to leave my girlfriend and decided to go back with her to her hometown, Yinchuan."

Lam currently works as a product manager in the investment banking department of China Everbright Bank in the city, mainly helping clients issue bonds or finance mergers and acquisitions.

"I have many opportunities and can quickly improve my professional skills by studying the core business of commercial banks," he said. "The bank also provides a good platform for future development."

In October 2019, Lam bought his own apartment in Yinchuan. And he married Zhou Yang. "Ningxia people are warm and hospitable," he said. "I can really feel the warmth, kindness, enthusiasm and sincerity of my wife and her parents."

In Yinchuan, Lam has also experienced warmth from the governments of Yinchuan and the region.

"Local governments often organize themed activities for the youth from Hong Kong and Macao and send gifts during major festivals," he said. "With the rapid development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, I believe there will be more development space for young adults from Hong Kong and Macao, providing them with more development opportunities on the mainland."

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