# **C** VISION CHINA

# BAY AREA AT CENTER OF NATION'S GOALS FOR CLIMATE CHANGE, ECONOMY

Officials and experts gather on online forum to promote bright future as special zone moves forward with plan

# HK's Lam pledges close cooperation with cities

### Bv KATHY ZHANG in Hong Kong ang@chinadailuhk.com

Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam Cheng Yuet-ngor vowed the special administrative region will work with other cities in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area to meet national carbon neutrality goals as the world confronts climate change and global

"Hong Kong hopes to strengthen communication and cooperation with other cities in the Greater Bay Area in building low-carbon communities, developing carbon reduction technologies and personnel training in order to jointly contribute to the country's carbon neutrality target," Lam said.

Hong Kong's top official made her remarks on Wednesday at the GBA Development Forum (Guangzhou) & Vision China. The event which was organized by China Daily and the information office of the

Region to

By HOU LIQIANG

Erik Solhein

Wednesday.

world, he said.

continued.

Greater Bay Area is expected to play a

significant role in the climate-friend

ly shift in China and further afield, a

Erik Solheim, former executive

director of the UN Environment

Programme, made the remarks at

the opening ceremony for the GBA

Development Forum (Guang-

zhou) & Vision China event, or

A number of countries have taken

Late last year, for example, the

People's Bank of China announced

that it would start a new carbon

emissions reduction facility to low

er the interest rate for the develop

ment of renewable resources and

projects and enhance energy effi

In the United States, President

Joe Biden has made several pro-

posals related to green infra

structure to Congress, and in

India, Prime Minister Narendra

Modi is investing heavily in solar

and green hydrogen, Solheim

really at the forefront of these

shifts," he said, citing the rapid

increase of electric vehicles as an

example. Shenzhen has 16,000 electric bus-

es and 20,000 electric taxis. There

are more electric buses in the

metropolis today than in the entire

The Bay Area is also home to some

of the most dynamic companies in

the world, including Tencent, Hua-

wei and DJI, which are "driving new

"I also encourage the Greater Bay

Area to take an interest in the fair

transition for China. because Guang-

dong will surely benefit greatly from

the green shift," he said. "It will create

millions of new jobs, a better envi-

ronment, and the city will contribute

to the great global cause of fighting

Solheim also noted an opportunity

for the GBA to play a role in the glob

al green shift, following China's

announcement that it would stop

building new coal-fired power pro

jects overseas last September.

climate change."

world outside China, he said.

tech and the green economy".

"But the Greater Bay Area is

concrete action to create a greener

former United Nations official said

play big role

in green shift

As home to

some of the

prominent

high-tech

companies

driving the

world's green

economy, the

Guangdong

Hong Kong

Маса

### Guangzhou invited around 20 officials and experts from different backgrounds from the Chinese mainland and the

Carrie Lam Hong Kong Cheng Yuet-ngoi and Macao SARs to share their insights on sustainable devel-

By ZHENG CAIXIONG

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Guangzhou, capital of Guang

pate actively in the creation of

dong province, plans to partici-

the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Ma-

cao Greater Bay Area in the

According to Guo Yonghang,

the city's acting mayor, the

southern metropolis will pro-

mote exchange and coopera

tion with the Hong Kong and

Macao special administrative

regions and other cities in the

GBA to accelerate the realiza-

tion of the area's ambitious

Guo made his remarks during

a video speech at the opening

ceremony of the GBA Develop

ment Forum (Guangzhou) &

As a key driver of the GBA and

transportation hub for the

southern region, Guangzhou

recently unveiled an action plan

Kong and Macao start business-

Vision China on Wednesday.

in Guangzhou

years to co

blueprint.

opment in the GBA. Addressing the forum by video, Lam said that promoting ecological civilization is one of the major tasks underlined in the GBA's blueprint. The Central government earlier

announced that it will make every effort to achieve carbon neutrality by 2060, while the Hong Kong SAR ernment set a goal to become carbon neutral by 2050

To that end, the city will press municipal ahead with local and cross-border cooperation to help the GBA go green and the country become eco friendly. In addition, Hong Kong hopes to take advantage of its status as a global financial center to boost the development of its green bond market. Lam noted.

In October, the Shenzhen gov ernment issued bonds worth 5 billion yuan (\$785.5 million), including select green bonds, in Hong Kong. It was the first time that a mainland municipal govern ment had issued bonds outside the mainland market.

Lam said she's looking forward to seeing more cross-border cooperation in terms of green finance and economic development. "We will actively explore coopera

es, find employment and study

and live in the city, which is less

than an hour from each SAR by

A commercial center and trad-

ing port for well over a thousand

talent from around the world to

support sustainable economic

cultural heritage and a large pop-

ulation of more than 16 million. It

offers myriad opportunities for

voung entrepreneurs, businesses

and job-seekers from Hong Kong

Despite the impact of the pan

demic over the past two years,

the GBA has been developing

"Infrastructure connectivity

rapidly, the acting mayor said.

and cooperation in new and

high-tech innovation and

between industrial chains have

also been strengthened," he said

The Guangzhou-Shenzhen

Hong Kong high-speed railway

has begun operations, the new

Hong Kong University of Sci-

zhou) campus will soon be

and Macao.

to help young people from Hong ence and Technology (Guang-

years, and now eager to attract

high-speed train, Guo said.

tion with different provincial and municipal governments on the Chi mainland in issuing green bonds and other green finance-related business opportunities," she added.

municipality's advantages

Acting mayor outlines

Looking back on the past few years, Lam said that the GBA has already achieved a great deal, have ing established cross-border infrastructure, policies and exchanges and improved communication between public and private sectors since Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao signed a framework agree ment on deepening cooperation in

July 2017. Lam revealed that Hong Kong is working closely with Shenzhen to further optimize cross-border land transportation and facilities in a bid to build a "one-hour living circle" in the GBA.

The two cities have also established a task force on cross-boundarv railway infrastructure to plan for the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Express Railway

Lam also said she hopes Guangdong and the SARs develop deeper through other activities including the 15th National Games the three will co-host in 2025.



### finished, and the international headquarters and manufacturing site for Guangzhou Pharmaceutical Holdings has begun operations in Macao.

"All these projects demonstrate a solid foundation of growth, Guangzhou has a rich cooperation, and the broad prospects for development tween Guangzhou, Hong Kong and Macao," Guo said.

The GBA is comprised of nine cities in Guangdong - Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Zhuhai, Fo shan, Dongguan, Zhongshan, ou, Jiangmen and Zhao qing – plus the Hong Kong and Macao SARs.

The area generated GDP of about 11.5 trillion yuan (\$1.8 trillion) in 2020, more than 10 percent of the national total, and with advanced rail and highway networks linking the major cities of Guangdong to Hong Kong and Macao, travel between them has been reduced to a matter of

# Focusing on connectivity seen as key to development

tion. His insights were the result of innovation and reform pilot

## By ZHANG YUE

The Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area will work to fully introduce innovation, coordination, eco-friendliness, openness and sharing as development strategies, as well as more effective in ity to realize high-quality growth, an expert said.

In a speech given at the virtual opportunities via the connection fessional qualifications and Vision China event on Wednes- of facilities and systems. day, Zhang Xiaoqiang, executive vice-chairman and CEO of the tation of connectivity in the GBA has extended to eight professions rules will be formulated and standing of each other's sys-China Center for International project has helped improve the of great public interest, includ- applied to all three cities. He add- tems," he said.

By XU WEI

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For Nat-

han Willi-

ams, a video

producer at

dong-Hong

Kong-Ma-

stands out

Nathan Williams Bay Area

the GBA is a template for highquality development and key to high-level national opening-up efforts.

> development needs "Better new concepts," he said. Referring to "connected shar-

ing", Zhang said the concept demonstrates the idea of coordimotion of shared development

The comprehensive implemen-

Reporter recounts journey of discovery

qing and Guangzhou in Guang-

Vision China event, Williams

first-class bay area" for its dis-

In a speech broadcast at the said.

tinctive geographical advanta- overcome challenges.

dong province.

China Daily, hailed the region as "a vibrant

cao Greater ges and solid foundations of

cooperation.

Economic Exchanges, noted that level of market integration in the ing physicians, teachers and three regions, he said, adding tourist guides. that notable efforts have also been made to advance the opening of the service industry to

Hong Kong and Macao Companies based in the two Zhang said. "Consequently, the special administrative regions Greater Bay Area is able to inte will be treated like those on the mainland in terms of investment layout, benefiting from the nated, open growth and the pro- and law, accounting and con- opportunities created by the struction. The integration of pro- mainland's development." industrial standards is also accel- expects that more creative inteerating, as mutual recognition grated policies, measures and

The 35-year-old Briton began

his journey in Zhuhai, where he

support was helping businesses

"It is effective connectivity that ensures the development of Hong Kong and Macao and the improvement of people's lives,' grate into China's developmen

Going forward. Zhang said he

ing a base for modern marine

industries. He noted that other goals of the Greater Bay Area include targeting the most advanced techa 12-day tour of the area last year, measures. You can see this in its nologies and industries in the which took him to Zhuhai, Zhao- law firms, manufacturing and world, strengthening the develtransport sectors, and its food opment of innovation platforms and beverage industries," he and vigorously developing new technologies, industries and

business models. He found an example of this at the Guang- and internationally competitive looked into how government XPeng Motors, one of China's market. leading electric vehicle startups. After a visit to the company's He explored one-stop tax-ser- assembly factory in Zhaoging of people passionate about makvice centers, where people are and test-driving one of its cars, "The Greater Bay Area has led through the steps needed to Williams concluded that the for its robust economic strength, implemented an intense, inno- open a business, and how the company's decision to invest in high concentration of innovation vation-driven development GBA is widening the scope of the the GBA has already reaped diviand top-level internationaliza- strategy, with comprehensive blue economy by jointly develop- dends.



ed that the area will focus on the develop ment terms rules

three regions enhance

rules and the mutual under-

Hong Kong and Macao Youth

There, he spoke to clinical psy chologist Fabia Cheung, She told Williams that her decision to move her business to Guangzhou had paid off as the city's geo graphical location meant that she had clients from all over the GBA, giving her access to a wider

"When you see so much activity and the wide-eyed excitement ing their business a success, you see the benefit afforded to people who want to build a future in the Greater Bay Area – it's truly inspiring," Williams said.

# Macao encouraged to bolster relationship with neighbors

By ZHENG CAIXIONG in Guangzhou

hengcaixiong@c Macao should advance cooperation with other cities in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area to help build an eco-friendly region, said Sio Chi Wai, chairman of the Macao Development Strategy

Research Center. "Guangdong province and Macao have been cooperating on environmental issues since the 1990s ... but we menting a Portuguese-speaking platstill need to solve some problems," he said. "Specifically, there are still systematic discrepancies among the GBA

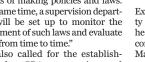
These are caused by the fact that Guangdong province and the Hong cooperation and facilitate the inter-Kong and Macao special administrative regions each have their own legal systems, he explained during a video tries," Sio said. speech at the GBA Development Forum (Guangzhou) & Vision China event. "As a result, we can see that some laws are only applicable in a specific egion." He said a better cooperation mecha-

nism is in the works to address this problem. "This will improve efficiency in terms of making policies and laws. At the same time, a supervision department will be set up to monitor the enforcement of such laws and evaluate

results from time to time." Sio also called for the establishment of a GBA cooperation and green development.

Sio Chi Wai

nations.



speaking countries and European countries to the GBA." The chairman also spoke about the ways Guangzhou's commodities market could benefit from green efforts. Exchange, we can promote the liquidity of green commodities and futures, he said, adding that as one of the four

Macao should play a strong role in



greater connectivity in and mechanism among the market integration, fully unleas

Zhang Xiaoqiang

the GBA's potential and promote high-quality growth. "Close attention should be paid to connectivity in terms of

In Guangzhou, the last stop of his journey, he visited the Tianhe

Association Headquarters.

boost its development by imple form that will enable it to better communicate with Lusophone

"We especially need to introduce car-

# SONG CHEN / CHINA DAILY

green development fund to leverage the area's existing advantages, as it contributes greatly to the national economy

"With this fund, we can label promote green accreditation. provide incentives to the manufacturing industry and support the adoption of green smart solutions." he said. Meanwhile, Macao is looking to

"Through the platform, we will be able to strengthen international connectivity of energy infrastructure with Portuguese-speaking coun

bon credit markets and green industries from Portugal, Portuguese-

"Through the Guangzhou Futures core cities of the Greater Bay Area.



New mainland campus to help

push cross-disciplinary learning

### Lionel M. Ni

The campus will open its doors in September in Guangzhou's Nansha district.

The Ministry of Education and the Guangdong provincial government have issued a plan for advancing higher education cooperation in the Greater Bay Area, with the aim of making it the home of a number of the world's lead ing universities by 2035.

"We will create an innova tive academic framework to facilitate cross-disciplinary education," Ni said.

According to Ni, the HKUST campuses in Guangzhou and Hong Kong will complement each other without duplicating academic programs, giving faculty and students access to multi ple disciplines and allowing them to explore new from tiers in cross-disciplinary research and discover new solutions to global problems.

To create a rich experience, students at the HKUST Guangzhou campus will b required to participate in cross-disciplinary research methodology and core design-thinking courses in the form of project-based earning.

"We will accelerate innovation in knowledge transfer as we are all aware of the effectiveness of collaboration across industry, academia and research," the professor said

Citing DJI, a pioneer in the field of unmanned aerial vehicle technology, Ni said there has been a rapid growth in the number of established iesses funded or incubated by HKUST professors, students and alumni

Founded in 2006 by Frank Wang Tao, a Chinese main land alumnus of the HKUST DJI has become one of the world's leading drone manu facturers, with a 70 percent share of the global civilian drone market.

"The opening of the HKUST Guangzhou campus will be a leap forward in our development blueprint for the Greater Bay Area," he said

# More efforts needed to improve city cluster's international profile

By CHENG YU nenguu@chinadailu.com.cr

By QIU QUANLIN in Guangzhou

By providing entrepre

neurs with new technologies

to help grow their busines

es, The Hong Kong Universi-

ty of Science and Technology

(Guangzhou) will become a

powerful engine driving the

development of the Guang-

dong-Hong Kong-Macao

Greater Bay Area through

innovation, according to a

"The Guangzhou campus

is well placed to push the

frontiers of cutting-edge

technologies, expand the

application of emerging

ndustries and devise new

business models," said pro-

fessor Lionel M. Ni, who is

also president designate of

During a video speech at

Forum (Guangzhou) &

Vision China event, Ni said

the HKUST Guangzhou cam-

pus is expected to become a

cradle for forward-looking

talent and creative industry

leaders with knowledge to

future technologies,

and

share, who are able to adapt

emerging industries

social change

GBA Development

the Guangzhou branch.

senior professor at the uni

versity

uanlin@chinadaily.com.cn

Guangdong-Hong The Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area will become a vibrant world-class city cluster with an improved value chain, environment and record of innovation, but effort should be made to attract more talen and increase the area's global recognition, said a local investment official from Guangzhou. Guangdong

province, on Wednesday. "The Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area has become one of the nost vibrant and possibly the fastest developing areas in the world. When I moved here, some said that the rapid development would soon be over, but the truth is, I have witnessed tremendous change since then," said Peter Helis, chief advisor of the Guangzhou Huangpu District.

As reflected in one of the slogans — "From Made in Guangdong to Created in Wednesday



### **Peter Helis**

Guangdong" – Helis said that recognition of the area's decision to move up the value chain has altered the development of its compa-

"They created their own brands and higher-quality products, and invested more into better locally made products. This in turn led to more investment into research and development," he said.

Helis made his remarks during the GBA Development Forum (Guangzhou) & Vision China event on

"The drive gained such momentum that the Greater Bay Area now not only accounts for half of China's annual patent registrations but is also internationally recognized as an innovation powerhouse," he said.

"Efforts have also been made to improve the environment. I have become a stargazer, telling my friends which planets they can see in the night skies. I'm also a bird-watcher and am glad that just two weeks ago, China also passed a new law to protect its wetlands," Helis added.

He suggested more efforts should be made to raise global recognition of the GBA as a world-class city cluster and megapolis.

Also, more cycling lanes, running tracks and hiking paths would make fantastic additions to the already picturesque area.

"It is also in urgent need of global talent, especially Chinese overseas returnees, to

# Connections critical cog in economic drive

### **By FAN FEIFEI**

The Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area will play an important role in driving scientific and technological innovation and attracting foreign investment, as well as inject new impetus into China's economic growth, speakers said during a seminar on "Connectivity for Shared Prosperity" at the GBA Development Forum (Guangzhou) & Vision China event.

The GBA, which already plays an important role in supporting national economic development, is looking to play an even bigger role through deeper involvement in the Belt and Road Initiative, said Yin Xiaopeng, dean of the Research Institute for Global Value Chains at the University of International Business and Economics.

Klaus Zenkel, vice-president of the European Chamber and chairman of the South China Board, said, "The GBA is one of the most business-friendly places in China, as demonstrated by the fact that Guangdong is drawing in big investments." Zenkel said that European businesses leaders are confident in their operations in Guangdong, and European ousinesses hope to work closely with the province on high-tech during the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-25) period

"The GBA is one of China's most important undertakings and will not only help usher China into an innovation and technology-driven future, but will also be a catalyst in the growth and prosperity of Asia Pacific and contribute to world development," said Harley Seyedin, president of the American Chamber of Commerce in South China

"We would like to help American companies invest in the GBA, and use the expertise that American companies have gained in the development of other bay areas, to help the proper and sustainable growth of the GBA," he added.

Lo Chung-mau, chief executive of the University of Hong Kong-Shenzhen Hospital, said the hospital has made significant progress in implementing cross-border nealthcare initiatives in accordance with comprehensive authorized reform measures, which have greatly facilitated connec tivity in the GBA

"We will continue the exploration of cross-border medical services, enhance our research and teaching capability, and promote the integration and homogenization of healthcare in the Greater Bay Area," he

Winfried Engelbrecht-Bresges, CEO of the Hong Kong Jockev Club, said that the Conghua Racecourse, which was opened three years ago by the club in Guangzhou is an excellent example of collaboration within the GBA. "It definitely has a great deal more to contribute to the development of a world-class equine industry in the GBA," he said.

A massive domestic market and a com plete industrial chain present a huge opportunity for the GBA, said Shen Mingnao, dean of Great Bay Area Institute increase livability," he added. (Guangdong, Hong Kong, Macac

# Experts hail potential for part in low-carbon growth

### By HOU LIQIANG ouliqiang@chinadaily.com.cr

The Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area's advantages in terms of innovation and advanced manufacturing present great potential during the world's green transition. Once that potential is unleashed, the city cluster could play an exemplary role in global low-carbon development, experts said. They made the remarks at a

seminar entitled "Low-Carbon Sustainable Development", held virtually on the sidelines of the GBA Development Forum (Guangzhou) & Vision China

event on Wednesday. Referring to the area as highly internationalized with advantages in innovation and advanced manufacturing, Adhi Kawidas-

tra, consul of economic affairs for Indonesia in Guangzhou, highlighted the significant progress the Bay Area has made in the development of electric vehicles.

"In China, the GBA has been a dominant EV market," he said. Statistics show that Guangdong is China's largest producer and consumer market for EVs, he

added. There are more than a quarter of a million EVs alone registered on provincial roads, about oneeighth of the national total, let alone in other parts of the area.

The success of the EV industry, a viable eco-friendly solution contributing to national economic development, is proof that growth can be achieved without hindering wealth or employment, he said.

Fu Zhengping, associate dean Macao to improve policy coordiof the Institute of Guangdong, nation and technology and per-Hong Kong and Macao Development Studies at Sun Yat-sen University, described a very promising situation for low-carbon transition in the Bay Area.

"There has been marked progress in the green transition of Guangdong's mode of economic development," he said. In 2020 the advanced manu-

facturing sector made up 56 percent of value added for largescale industrial enterprises, he said.

The share of non-fossil energy in the province's primary energy consumption was 29 percent, up 4.4 percent from 2015.

Noting space for future coopercalled for joint efforts from Guangdong, Hong Kong and sonnel exchanges to promote the development of an ecological civilization in the area.

Liang Mingvi, director of the Urban Ecological and Environmental Research Center at the South China Institute of Environmental Science, also called on the three to establish a fund that could help address differences in their fiscal systems.

The discrepancies might hinder cross-regional environmental projects, he said.

Liu Jichen, founder and CEO of Clear Plate, an app that rewards people for reducing food waste, also called for the establishment of a working mechanism to faciliation on green development, Fu tate cooperation on turning the Bay Area into a green financial center.