

Open panel discussion grabs media attention

GD TODAY

Reporters invited to Guangdong to see its scenery, changes, culture

By YUAN SHENGGAO

A panel discussion of the Guangdong delegation in Beijing during the country's ongoing second session of the 14th National People's Congress aroused much interest among domestic and foreign media on Thursday, which was the open day for the delegation.

A total of 225 reporters from 102 domestic and overseas media outlets covered the open panel discussion in which NPC deputies from Guangdong engaged in lively deliberations on this year's Government Work Report, reviewing plan reports, budget reports and drafts.

The reporters raised questions about Guangdong's high-quality development in rural areas, coordinated development between urban and rural areas, the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, and how Guangdong will further fortify its real economy and cement its foothold as China's export leader, as well as the high-quality growth of its marine economy, among other topics.



A total of 225 reporters from 102 domestic and overseas media outlets cover the Guangdong delegation's open panel discussion during the ongoing second session of the 14th National People's Congress on Thursday. WANG ZHUANGFEI / CHINA DAILY

Responding to a reporter's question, Huang Kunning, secretary of the Guangdong Provincial Committee of the Communist Party of China, said imbalanced development between urban and rural areas is a fact and a problem that Guangdong must face and solve; and the high-quality development project for Guangdong counties, towns and villages is the key to the issue.

With all the efforts for over a year,

the institutional mechanisms for the project have improved and a series of policies and measures have been formulated, he said, noting: "Initial progress has been made." He invited media friends from home and abroad to Guangdong.

"Guangdong is rich in delicious food and amazing scenery," he said, adding that media friends can taste the delicacies of Guangdong, experience the beauty of Lingnan as well

the stunning views of the Chinese white dolphins in Zhanjiang thanks to the province's efforts to protect its ecology.

Answering the question of a reporter from a Singaporean media outlet, Wang Weizhong, governor of Guangdong, said: "The added value of Guangdong's manufacturing industry accounts for 32.7 percent of the province's GDP, with its scale representing one-eighth of the nation's

total; and Guangdong has eight industrial clusters capable of yielding annual output value of at least 1 trillion yuan (\$138.94 billion) each."

For a long time, he said, Guangdong has been resolutely committed to participating in and promoting the global industry and value chains, actively supporting enterprises in their "going global" efforts and participation in the construction of the Belt and Road Initiative.

Zhang Hu, executive vice-governor of Guangdong, dwelled on the province's plan to further the development of the GBA, while Shenzhen Mayor Qin Weizhong and Zhanjiang Mayor Zeng Jinze respectively elaborated on Shenzhen's opening-up initiatives and Zhanjiang's endeavors to develop the marine economy.

Several Guangdong NPC deputies focused on the development of the marine economy during yesterday's event.

Among them, Ning Ling, who is also the vice-president of Guangdong Ocean University, said Guangdong's marine industry has achieved leapfrog development in recent years, and the province's economic aggregate of the marine economy has ranked first in the country for 29 consecutive years.

"In terms of land-sea linkage, Guangdong has formed an open highland to the sea with a focus on the pilot free trade zone areas of Nansha, Qianhai and Hengqin and the Shenzhen Park of the Hetao Shenzhen-Hong Kong Science and Technology Innovation Cooperation

Zone," said Ning, adding that the province has built an international seaport hub with global competitiveness centered on Guangzhou and Shenzhen ports.

"The combination of port systems in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area has covered 90 percent of the cities in the GBA," said Ning, who is also executive dean of the Guangdong Academy of Coastal Economic Belt Development.

Meanwhile the deputies suggested that the province expand investment in scientific innovation and research and development to cultivate more driving forces and new products and services to further strengthen the development of Guangdong's manufacturing industry.

Huang Zhihao, mayor of Zhuhai, said the advantage of Hong Kong and Macao lies in the service industry and its attractiveness to international talents, while the advantage of the Pearl River Delta lies in the manufacturing industry.

Huang proposed that the platform of the Guangdong-Macao In-Depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin be used to promote the deep integration of modern service industries in Hong Kong, Macao and Hengqin, with manufacturing industries in Pearl River Delta cities such as Zhuhai, Zhongshan and Jiangmen, and enable more production and manufacturing in the Pearl River Delta and R&D in Hengqin.

Xie Hongzhou with GDToday contributed to this story.

GBA cities forging closer ties to bolster mutual benefits

By WANG JINHUI

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Driving comprehensive cooperation between Guangdong province and the Hong Kong and Macao special administrative regions, the Guangdong-Macao In-Depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin, Guangdong province, began closed-loop operation on March 1, applying preferential tax and customs policies. It marked the region's high-level integration with Macao.

A "first-tier" customs-supervised zone has been set between Hengqin and Macao, while "second-tier" customs-supervised areas are being established between Hengqin and other areas within the Chinese mainland. Goods meeting the conditions and entering the cooperation zone through the "first tier" are exempt from import tariffs, import value-added tax and consumption tax. But items entering the Chinese mainland through the "second tier", if exceeding the 8,000 yuan (\$1,111) quota, will be subject to taxes.

Macao residents studying, working, starting businesses or living in the cooperation zone can bring in cooked meat, dairy products, vegetables, fruits and other items through the "first-tier" customs.

Wang Fujiang, director of the department of industrial planning at

the China Center for International Economic Exchanges, said the initiative will promote the efficient and convenient flow of logistics, people, funds and information between Hengqin and Macao; help the cooperation zone accelerate its construction as a new platform to promote Macao's moderately diversified economic development; a new space to assist the lives and employment of Macao residents; a new demonstration zone enriching the practice of "one country, two systems"; and a new highland for promoting the construction of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area.

On Jan 23, the Guangdong provincial government work report pro-

posed accelerating the construction of a world-class Bay Area. The closed-loop operation of the Guangdong-Macao In-Depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin is one of the measures to achieve this goal.

Others include the revision of regulations for the Shenzhen Qianhai Cooperation Zone; creating multiple industrial agglomeration areas; formulating and implementing a new overall development plan for Nansha; and the formulation of regulations for the Development Plan for Shenzhen Park's Hetao Shenzhen-Hong Kong Science and Technology Innovation Cooperation Zone.

The work report also pointed out that Guangdong aims to establish

itself as a strategic fulcrum for the country's new development pattern, build innovation highlands in industries such as 5G, integrated circuits, nanotechnology and biomedicine and a leader of the Chinese-style modernization.

This year marks the fifth anniversary of the release of the outline development plan for the Bay Area.

Currently, the Bay Area has eight industrial clusters with the value of each exceeding 1 trillion yuan, including next-generation electronic information, green petrochemicals, smart home appliances and automobiles, as well as emerging industries such as new energy vehicles, new energy storage and solar photovoltaics. The economic output of the Bay Area reached about 13.6 trillion yuan in 2023.

Gong Guoping, director of the Guangdong Provincial Department of Science and Technology, said that joining the ranks of the world's top sci-tech clusters relies on the ecosystem of "basic research, technological innovation, research results commercialization, sci-tech finance and talent support" in the Bay Area.

Zhu Wei, deputy director of the Guangdong Provincial Development and Reform Commission, said that over the past five years, the Bay Area has been catching up.

The Bay Area has initially built a cluster of major scientific and technological infrastructure supporting research in fields such as information, biology and materials.

The trend of industry-led and high-tech enterprises innovating together is becoming increasingly prominent in the Bay Area, Zhu said.



Representatives from Macao's tourism industry pose for a photo during their visit to the Guangdong-Macao In-Depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin, Guangdong province. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

GDToday briefly

350b yuan invested in transport network

Guangdong will invest more than 350 billion yuan (\$48.62 billion) in a network of roads, waterways and railways this year, according to the Guangdong Provincial Department of Transport. With a total investment of more than 230 billion yuan, the province will step up the expansion of 48 expressways, totaling approximately 1,927 kilometers. To build the "Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area on Rail" at an enhanced level, Guangdong will invest 120 billion yuan in railways including nine high-speed lines across the province. In 2023, the province invested 346.9 billion yuan in roads, waterways and railways, a year-on-year increase of 10.2 percent. The total mileage of expressways reached 11,481 km, ranking first for 10 consecutive years in China.

Dialogue among youths from across world

On March 2, the Dialogue on International Bay Area Youth Driving High-Quality Development was held in Guangzhou, capital of Guangdong province. The event witnessed the presence of nearly 400 representatives from diverse industries, including those from the Guangdong-Hong

Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area in China; Tokyo Bay Area in Japan; San Francisco Bay Area and New York Bay Area in the United States; as well as young talents from both domestic and international backgrounds. The event aimed to spark discussions on how young people in the GBA can contribute to significant initiatives, such as the "High-Quality Development Projects for Guangdong Counties, Towns and Villages" projects, talent development and industrial technological innovation. It also sought to promote the convergence of overseas high-level talents in industrial and technological innovation.

Food industry conference to be held in Foshan

The Second China International (Foshan) Premade Food Industry Conference is scheduled to take place in Shunde, Foshan, on March 15-17. During the event, China's first national premade food industry chain safety standard system will be revealed. Guangdong has established a working system for the high-quality development of the premade food industry, providing policy support and creating 11 provincial premade food industrial parks. The province has ranked first in the country for

three consecutive years in terms of its premade food industry development index.

Activities set to boost cross-border e-commerce

The Guangdong Provincial Department of Commerce launched a series of activities to foster the province's cross-border e-commerce and industrial belts in Shantou in eastern Guangdong on Feb 27. Nearly 600 representatives from local commerce bureaus in the east of the province, as well as SHEIN, Amazon, TikTok, JD, 1688, Tmall, Alibaba and other global leading cross-border e-commerce platforms and service providers, attended the activities. Nearly 50 exhibition booths were set up for cross-border e-commerce service providers to display products — such as textiles, garments and toys — and get in touch with their clients.

China's longest intl flight to be launched

China Southern Airlines is to operate the Shenzhen-Mexico City-Tijuana (stopover)-Shenzhen route, the country's longest international flight and the seventh-longest globally. The maiden flight is scheduled for April 17. From April 22 to Oct 26, the route will operate every Monday and

Thursday using either a Boeing 787-9 or A350 aircraft. The great circle distance from Shenzhen to Mexico City is 14,147 kilometers, longer than the 12,878 km flight from Guangzhou to New York.

Air taxi cuts Shenzhen-Zhuhai travel time

On Feb 27, the Prosperity eVTOL (electric Vertical Take-Off and Landing) aircraft simulated a family traveling from Shekou Cruise Home Port in Shenzhen to Jiuzhou Port Terminal in Zhuhai. The flight took just 20 minutes, compared with a car journey of two-and-a-half to three hours. It marked the first public demonstration of the world's first intercity, intersea eVTOL aircraft route, connecting the two core cities in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. The round trip is more than 100 kilometers.



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What they say

At this year's annual sessions of the National People's Congress and the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, NPC deputies and CPPCC National Committee members from Guangdong province put forward proposals for an accelerated transformation of productivity driven by technological innovation toward a new qualitative leap, consolidating the foundation of the real economy with the manufacturing industry as its pillar, and stepping up the high-quality construction of Guangdong into a province with manufacturing expertise, enhancing the "hard power" of the province's high-quality development.

The development of industries can create a favorable environment for the industrial application of technological innovation achievements, while technological innovation is also the inherent driving force for the formation of new quality productive forces and the high-quality development of industries. It is necessary to steadfastly promote technological innovation and industrial transformation and upgrading, take the development of China's new energy vehicles and intelligent connected vehicles as the main front for developing new quality productive forces, and thus further encourage the high-quality development of the automotive industry.

Feng Xingya, an NPC deputy and general manager of GAC Group

The high-quality development of the manufacturing industry relies on the continuous impetus of new quality productive forces. It is necessary to further encourage more enterprises to promote industrial innovation through technological innovation, continuously shaping new dynamics and advantages, and maintaining a leading position in the global manufacturing industry. Starting as a television manufacturer and transforming into a smart technology industry group, TCL has invested heavily in research and development, achieving a number of leading achievements in key technologies. I suggest driving development through innovation, and promoting the R&D of basic technologies and materials, in a bid to accelerate the industrial transformation and upgrading in the manufacturing industry, moving up the industry chain.

Li Dongsheng, an NPC deputy and TCL Electronics founder and chairman

Entrepreneurial achievements are created by a team of talents, and innovative talents are also crucial in the process of industrial development. It is important to value and leverage the strengths of industrial experts. Within the existing national expert database, we should establish a specific industrial expert think tank or increase the proportion of

industry experts in the current industry expert database, to make better use of the positive role of the industry in shaping innovation policies and allocating innovation resources.

Yuan Yuyu, an NPC deputy and chairman of Medprin Regenerative Medical Technologies

For manufacturing enterprises to move toward the mid-to-high end of the value chain, it is important to value building proprietary brands. On the one hand, manufacturing enterprises should make full use of policy advantages and actively engage in technological innovation and brand building. On the other hand, they should increase their investment in publicity for brand building, so as to enhance consumer awareness and trust in brand enterprises. Exploring cooperation with international institutions to jointly promote the globalization of brand certification will help more made-in-China products set sail and go global.

Li Jihui, an NPC deputy and general manager of Yangjiang Shibazi Group

Higher education institutions are the main force that drives innovation and creation. To promote mutual reinforcement of industry and technology, it is necessary to increase the commercialization of scientific and technological achievements by universities. It is suggested to establish a research project approval mechanism with the commercialization of research results as the goal, using the commercialization performance as an assessment indicator for project acceptance. Among other suggestions, an information service platform for the commercialization of scientific and technological achievements from universities should be established, a database and information sharing platform for sci-tech achievements should be built, and the integrated operation of intellectual property rights and technology transfer should be promoted.

Xiong Shuilong, a CPPCC National Committee member and deputy head of the Guangdong Provincial Committee of the Revolutionary Committee of the Chinese Kuomintang

The development of the manufacturing industry cannot do without the support of talent. Efforts should be made to improve the quality of vocational education, establish a coordinated network of vocational education teacher training platforms that include high-quality vocational colleges and industry-education integrated enterprises, and jointly carry out the training of vocational education faculty teams.

Luo Dan, a CPPCC National Committee member and vice-president of Shunde Polytechnic