

Hong Kong/Guangdong co-operation agreement signing ceremony 2009

Hong Kong and Guangdong signed eight co-operation agreements today (August 19), including the following initiatives:

- * Letter of Intent in Taking Forward Co-operation on Modern Service Industries between Hong Kong and Shenzhen in Qianhai
- * Agreement on Education Co-operation between Hong Kong and Guangdong
- * Co-operation Agreement on Implementing CEPA and Guangdong Pilot Measures
- * Co-operation Arrangement on Joint Research and Development of Pharmaceutical Products (Vaccine) between Guangdong and Hong Kong
- * Environmental Co-operation Agreement between Hong Kong SAR and Guangdong
- * Co-operation Arrangement on Advancing Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Express Line
- * Co-operation Agreement of the Expert Group on Hong Kong/Guangdong Financial Co-operation
- * 2009-2010 Agreement on Guangdong/Hong Kong Co-operation on Intellectual Property

A gist of the eight co-operation agreements is as follows:

Letter of Intent in Taking Forward Co-operation on Modern Service Industries between Hong Kong and Shenzhen in Qianhai¹

- On the basis of "One Country Two Systems", "the Outline of the Plan for the Reform and Development of the Pearl River Delta" and the existing CEPA arrangement, as well as under the framework of Hong Kong/Guangdong co-operation and Hong Kong/Shenzhen co-operation, both sides agree to study together the development of modern service industries in Qianhai. This will help enhance the industrial structure of the region, expedite the

¹ Signed by the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government and the Shenzhen Municipal Government

process of building up the structure of modern industries, while supporting Hong Kong service industries to develop in the region.

Agreement on Education Co-operation between Hong Kong and Guangdong²

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- Continuing to organise collaboration projects for teacher co-operation and training.
- Continuing to support the National Education Exchange Programme for Hong Kong teachers and students.
- Continuing to further deepen co-operation under the Sister School Scheme.
- Continuing to explore studying opportunities for Hong Kong children residing in the Mainland.
- Strengthening the collaboration in vocational education between Hong Kong and Guangdong.
- Enhancing organisation of joint programmes between higher education institutions in Hong Kong and Guangdong.
- Fostering collaboration in high level scientific research between Hong Kong and Guangdong.

Co-operation Agreement on Implementing CEPA and Guangdong Pilot Measures³

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- To expedite the promulgation of regulations and implementation details to ensure the Guangdong pilot measures under CEPA Supplement VI will be implemented with effect from October 2009 as scheduled.

² Signed by the Education Bureau of the HKSAR and the Department of Education of Guangdong Province

³ Signed by the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau of the HKSAR and the Economic and Trade Commission of Guangdong Province

- To step up promotion and publicity of CEPA Supplements V and VI and Guangdong pilot measures, including organising seminars for the trade to enhance their understanding of the measures and implementation arrangements.
- To step up implementation of CEPA and Guangdong pilot measures, monitor progress, and exchange data and information.
- To better facilitate the Hong Kong Service Suppliers in setting up business in Guangdong, by providing one-stop service, streamlining application procedures, publishing application guides, etc..
- To strengthen co-operation with major cities in Guangdong on CEPA implementation.
- To strive for an expanded scope of policy areas in which CEPA measures may be put to early and pilot implementation in Guangdong, so as to enhance the longer-term economic development of Hong Kong and Guangdong.

Co-operation Arrangement on Joint Research and Development of Pharmaceutical Products (Vaccine) between Guangdong and Hong Kong ⁴

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- The two sides agreed to make good use of the advantages of Hong Kong and the Guangdong province, to collaborate on research, development and production of pharmaceutical products (vaccine) to enhance the healthy development of the market of Guangdong and Hong Kong, and to enhance our preparedness for infectious diseases and relevant illnesses. The co-operation arrangements include the followings:
 - To encourage drug manufacturing companies in the two places and other manufacturing companies fulfilling GMP requirements to research, develop and manufacture relevant pharmaceutical products

⁴ Signed by the Food and Health Bureau of the HKSAR and the Guangdong Food and Drug Administration

(vaccine)

- To establish communication and co-operation mechanism to facilitate collaboration
- To enhance exchange and training of professions in the field of pharmaceutical products, and to facilitate co-operation between drug regulatory authorities
- To strengthen the monitoring and regulating of GMP production of pharmaceutical products (vaccine)
- To facilitate the flow and use of pharmaceutical products (vaccine) to enhance the development of the market of pharmaceutical products in Guangdong and Hong Kong

Environmental Co-operation Agreement between Hong Kong SAR and Guangdong⁵

- The two sides will jointly take forward the implementation of "The Outline of the Plan for the Reform and Development of the Pearl River Delta", and collaborate in transforming the Pearl River Delta (PRD) Region into a sustainable, green and quality living area.
- Key co-operation areas are as follows :
 - To continue to implement the control measures under the PRD Regional Air Quality Management Plan (2002-2010) and to undertake a joint study on the post-2010 arrangement for air pollutant emission reduction in the PRD. The two sides will strive to complete the study in 2010;
 - To jointly promote water quality protection at the Dongjiang, and commission an initial study on the Pearl River Estuary water quality management co-operation plan;
 - To enhance co-operation on resource recovery and

⁵ Signed by the Environment Bureau of the HKSAR and the Environmental Protection Bureau of Guangdong Province

reuse, both sides will jointly explore new co-operation model for the recycling and reuse of reusable materials;

- To promote exchanges and co-operation on forestry and nature conservation areas;
- To jointly launch the Hong Kong-Guangdong Cleaner Production Partners Recognition Scheme;
- To enhance exchanges and co-operation on the protection of marine fisheries resources; and
- To promote the development of environmental businesses, the two sides will explore co-operation on the joint organisation of environmental conferences and trade exhibitions.

Co-operation Arrangement on Advancing Hong Kong- Shenzhen Western Express Line⁶

- The Governments of Hong Kong and Shenzhen agreed to rename the "Hong Kong-Shenzhen Airport Rail Link" as the "Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Express Line (WEL)". The two parties would jointly foster closer co-operation on related studies, which would synchronise with the development of the western Hong Kong and Shenzhen, as well as the two airports, bringing the WEL's role as multi-function railway into full play. The two parties reached consensus on the following major principles:
 - The WEL would link up the western Hong Kong and Shenzhen, the Hong Kong International Airport and the Shenzhen International Airport. Through the intermediate station at the Qianhai transport hub and the spur line to northwest Hong Kong, the WEL would connect to the Hong Kong and Shenzhen's railway network.
 - The planning of the WEL would work in coordination of the industrial structure, and the planning and development strategies of western Hong Kong and

⁶ Signed by the Transport and Housing Bureau of the HKSAR and the Shenzhen Municipal Government

Shenzhen, as well as the two airports. The aims would be to support the two airports in developing inter-airport transit market and extend the catchment area; to promote the development in Qianhai and northwest New Territories; and to promote inter-modal transport mode in connection with the development of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge.

- The original Task Force on Airport Co-operation between Hong Kong and Shenzhen was renamed as the Task Force on WEL. Underpinned by an Expert Group, the Task Force will coordinate various issues and initiate studies in relation to the development of WEL.

Co-operation Agreement of the Expert Group on Hong Kong/Guangdong Financial Co-operation⁷

- Both sides agreed to establish a new expert group under the Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation Joint Conference to advance Hong Kong/Guangdong financial co-operation. With the principle of "beginning with quick-wins and adoption of a gradual and orderly approach", the expert group will study and advance co-operation items in various areas, including financial institutions, financial markets and businesses, and financial talents. This aims at promoting more convenient flow of financial resources in the region, so as to provide strong financial support to the economic development in Hong Kong and Guangdong as well as to gain experience for the country's financial liberalisation.
- The expert group is composed by government agencies, financial regulators and market operators of both sides. Trade bodies and financial institutions may be invited to join.

2009-2010 Agreement on Guangdong/Hong Kong Co-operation on

7 Signed by the Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau of the HKSAR and the Financial Affairs Service Office of People's Government of Guangdong Province

Intellectual Property⁸

- The two sides formulate this agreement with a view to actively promoting the all-round co-operation and development of Guangdong and Hong Kong. The major co-operation details are as follows:
 - To co-operate to raise the level of intellectual property development and protection in the region.
 - To organise "Guangdong/Hong Kong Seminar on Intellectual Property and Development of Small and Medium Enterprises - Use of Intellectual Property to Facilitate Restructuring and Upgrading of Enterprises" in Guangdong.
 - To take forward the implementation of the coordination mechanism for handling intellectual property cases in Guangdong and Hong Kong, to further enhance the intelligence/information exchange and sharing between the intellectual property enforcement authorities in Guangdong and Hong Kong and to promote enforcement co-operation of the two places.
 - To further kick-start the "No Fakes Pledge" Scheme for outreach to the third batch of pilot cities in Guangdong.
 - To kick-off focus exchange activities on intellectual property, to jointly organise exchange activities for enterprises in creative industries and intellectual property intermediaries in Guangdong and Hong Kong.
 - To continue to update information in intellectual property databases.
 - To launch work for assisting Hong Kong candidates to sit for the National Qualification Examination for Patent Agents 2009.

8 Signed by the Guangdong/Hong Kong Expert Group on the Protection of Intellectual Property Rights (that is, the Intellectual Property Department of the HKSAR and the Intellectual Property Office of Guangdong Province)

- To take forward exchanges between intellectual property-related non-government organisations in both places.
- To organise a symposium on "China Patent Law Amendment and Implementation" in Hong Kong.
- To kick-off practical training in Guangdong on intellectual property protection in conventions and exhibitions in Guangdong and Hong Kong.
- To organise training course in Guangdong on use of patent information by Hong Kong-invested enterprises in Guangdong Province to accelerate restructuring and upgrading.

Ends/Wednesday, August 19, 2009

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