

大珠三角商務委員會

The Greater Pearl River Delta Business Council

The Honourable Donald Tsang
The Chief Executive of
the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

February, 2010

Dear Mr Tsang,

On behalf of the members of the Greater Pearl River Delta Business Council, I am honoured to convey to you our Term Report on the work of the Business Council from 2008 to 2010.

Since its establishment in 2004, the Business Council has served as an important communication platform for the private sectors of Hong Kong and Guangdong to explore ways of promoting Hong Kong/Guangdong cooperation and channel their views to the two governments.

During the past term, the Business Council continued to focus on key issues concerning the development of the Greater Pearl River Delta. These include facilitating cross-boundary passenger and cargo flow, attracting Guangdong enterprises to Hong Kong, promoting sustainable development, strengthening development of services industries and human resources training, and making recommendations in response to “the Outline of the Plan for the Reform and Development of the Pearl River Delta” (“Outline”). I will report on them separately below:

Cross-boundary Passenger and Cargo Flow:

The Cross-boundary Passenger and Cargo Flow Sub-group followed closely the utilisation of new border control points and the progress of major cross-boundary transport infrastructure projects, and has made recommendations on relevant matters. The Sub-group considers that the cross-boundary infrastructure must have the support of well-developed software in order to achieve best efficiency. It has therefore recommended provision of the Express e-Channel facilities in all border control points and increase of 24-hour border crossings.

Attracting Guangdong Enterprises to Hong Kong:

Joint Investment and Trade Promotion Sub-group, in collaboration with its Guangdong counterpart, has organised study visits for Guangdong enterprises intent on “going global” to enhance their understanding of the business environment of Hong Kong. The Sub-group has also co-organised with the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce two seminars, one on “Prospects for Hong Kong-Shenzhen Economic Cooperation” and the other on “Prospects for Hong Kong/Guangdong Cooperation under the Overall Planning of PRD”. The aim was to explore business opportunities for Hong Kong’s services industry and promote the implementation of the “Outline”. Furthermore, the Sub-group has held discussions with the relevant government departments on optimising the “Capital Investment Entrant Scheme” and “Admission Scheme for Mainland Talents and Professionals”.

Sustainable Development:

The Sustainable Development Sub-Group has held a series of meetings on issues including air quality improvement, waste management, use of water resources and alternative energy. For the improvement of air quality in PRD, the Sub-group has made a number of recommendations and proposals, which include adopting solid waste recycling programmes, abandoning the use of sub-standard oil for power generation, and introducing incentive policies to encourage the generation and use of clean green energy.

Services Industry Development and Human Resources Training:

The Services Industry Development and Human Resources Sub-group has conducted a review of the training web page launched in 2008 to evaluate its usage and operation, and made suggestions to enhance its design and functions. Besides, the Sub-group has explored the possibilities for Hong Kong tertiary institutions to attract non-local students and our existing arrangements for attracting foreign professionals to practice in Hong Kong.

To leverage the opportunities of the “early and pilot implementation” arrangements under the “Outline” and put forward pragmatic recommendations in this connection, the Greater Pearl River Delta Business Council set up an ad hoc group in April 2009 to conduct studies, discussions and consultations on two major domains, namely industries and livelihood matters, under promoting the premises of reciprocity and mutual wins between Hong Kong and Guangdong. The ad hoc group spent nearly six months in relevant work and its final report “the Study Report in Response to the Outline of the Plan for the Reform and Development of the Pearl River Delta” was published in end September 2009.

Study Report in Response to the “Outline”:

Revolving around the two domains of industries and livelihood matters, the study report puts forward 47 specific policy recommendations under seven headings, summarising the views from representatives of Hong Kong’s business sectors. The recommendations cover a total of 14 aspects, including healthcare services, environmental protection, education, transportation, social services, professional services (legal, finance, accounting, maritime and logistics, insurance), small and medium enterprises’ entry into the Mainland domestic market and the upgrading and transformation of manufacturing industries, innovation technology, culture and creativity as well as testing and certification.

In March 2009, the Hong Kong and Guangdong Governments initiated the drafting of a Framework Agreement on Hong Kong/Guangdong Cooperation to set out the direction for substantive and deeper Hong Kong/Guangdong cooperation in the areas of infrastructure, industries collaboration, environmental protection and education. Both governments also agreed to jointly devise regional cooperation plans on the subjects of “Building a Quality Living Area” and “Infrastructure Construction”. On the basis of the above, the Business Council considers that the two governments can jointly submit practicable proposals to the Central Authorities with a view to elevating Hong Kong-Guangdong cooperation to the level of national strategy and having those proposals incorporated into the National 12th Five-year Plan. The Business Council believes that the genuine cooperation between the two places under the premise of reciprocity will generate new contributions for the country.

In carrying out its work, the Business Council has maintained a constructive dialogue with the two governments, the CCPIT Guangdong Sub-Council and its sub-groups. We will continue to enhance this working relationship in the years ahead.

I look forward to your continued support in the Business Council’s work.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Victor Fung
Chairman

The Greater Pearl River Delta Business Council