

США та КНР, відбудеться значний політичний дисбаланс, який вплине не тільки на міжнародні відносини в Азіатсько-Тихоокеанському регіоні, а й на світову політику в цілому» [Там само]. Мабуть, це питання, також стало предметом для обговорення на зустрічі у Сан-Франциско між лідерами обох держав (листопад 2023 р.).

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THE GREATER BAY AREA IN PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF CHINA: A METROPOLITAN HUB FOR INNOVATIONS

The growing trend of urbanization is leading to not only an increase in the number and size of cities and metropolitan areas, but also to the formation of new clusters of adjacent cities [1]. These clusters, becoming more interconnected and functionally cohesive, are evolving into “mega-regions”. As these regions begin to coordinate and plan for mutual dependency, it becomes increasingly feasible for companies and facilities to be located in one area of the region while catering to the entire region. This integration of the region offers significant benefits for the business sector.

There are three such urban archipelagos in People’s Republic of China: Greater Bay Area (GBA): Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Hong Kong (HK), Dongguan, Foshan, Zhongshan, Huizhou, Zhuhai, Jiangmen, Zhaoqing, Macao; Jing-jin-ji: Beijing, Tianjin, Shijiazhuang, Tangshan, Baoding and

Yangtze River Delta: Shanghai, Nanjing, Hangzhou, Suzhou, Ningbo, Changzhou, Wuxi, Shaoxing, Nantong.

The Greater Bay Area, a dynamic hub for industry, services, and consumption, encompasses eleven major cities – including the special autonomous cities of Hong Kong and Macao, along with nine cities in Guangdong province. Over the past 15 years, this area has been central to coordination and regional economic growth in China. The Greater Bay Area has evolved into one of the wealthiest and most productive regions globally. Hong Kong is renowned for its international finance, high-value trade, and higher education. Macao is a hub for tourism and conferences. Shenzhen leads in information technology, biotechnology, and new materials. Guangzhou is known for its administrative and distribution services. Foshan and Dongguan excel in advanced manufacturing, while Zhuhai specializes in services, tourism, and leisure. Meanwhile, Zhongshan, Huizhou, Jiangmen, and Zhaoqing contribute with their comprehensive industry chains in manufacturing, trade, and logistics.

The primary focus for regional development in the Greater Bay Area is being placed on the four core cities: Hong Kong, Macao, Guangzhou, and Shenzhen, with the remaining seven cities offering support through their unique specializations and complementary roles.

Since 2018, there has been a relaxation of policy by governments concerning movement within the Greater Bay Area. This includes simplified visa regulations, such as extending the duration of visa-free stays from 72 to 144 hours for citizens of 53 countries, and allowing foreign workers (including those from Hong Kong and Macao) to participate in social protection schemes in Guangdong.

Recent developments in transportation infrastructure, including various rail and road projects, have significantly improved inter-city travel within the Greater Bay Area. This enhancement supports a more varied labor and housing market. A notable example is the bridge connecting Zhuhai with Hong Kong and Macao, which has reduced travel time from four hours to just 45 minutes and now accommodates around 70,000 commuters daily. As a result, Zhuhai has become an increasingly attractive residential option for commuters within the Greater Bay Area, offering an alternative to the congested markets of the two autonomous cities.

The synergy of individual city strengths within the Greater Bay Area has created a leading global region in trade. This has led to a growing demand for services in trade certification, supply chain, and logistics, presenting new opportunities for innovative start-ups and SMEs in the maritime sector.

Factories in the Greater Bay Area are responsible for 37% of China's exports, making the region equivalent to the world's fourth largest exporter [3]. This success is supported by a robust network of transportation and

shipping infrastructure, capable of efficiently dispatching goods worldwide. The ports of Hong Kong, Shenzhen, and Nansha not only meet current export demands but also have additional capacity. They are encouraged to identify and cultivate their unique capabilities within the blue economy. Nansha, in particular, has made strides in its marine industry, encompassing advanced sectors such as shipbuilding, high-end marine equipment manufacturing, ocean transport, marine science and technology, and coastal tourism. It recently launched a new maritime research center focusing on sustainable development technologies for islands and reef areas and the sustainable utilization of sea resources in the Greater Bay Area.

The Greater Bay Area's international outreach extends beyond maritime trade. As per the 2019 Outline Development Plan, Macao is designated as the gateway to lusophone (Portuguese-speaking) markets, leveraging its cultural influence and soft power.

The Greater Bay Area is increasingly enhancing its innovation capacity in sectors like high-value manufacturing, biotechnology, fintech, artificial intelligence, and robotics. Its primary strategies include fostering research and development (R&D), expanding access to capital and financing options, and cultivating technological expertise [2].

The Greater Bay Area Development Plan outlines new government initiatives aimed at strengthening intellectual property laws, their enforcement, and protection, which are crucial factors for entrepreneurs. The Hong Kong government is reforming its procurement procedures to facilitate digital service delivery, enabling smaller contract sizes and shorter timescales, thus opening opportunities for startups and SMEs.

Enhancing capital access requires public sector support. City governments have announced industry-specific tax reductions, such as Shenzhen's cuts in the Qianhai Free Trade Zone and Hong Kong's capped 300% tax deduction on corporate R&D spending. Some cities have also introduced dedicated public investment and venture funds, like Hong Kong's HKD2bn Innovation & Technology Venture Fund.

Shenzhen, with its established manufacturing base and comprehensive supply chain, is highly attractive for Chinese entrepreneurs. It enables efficient commercialization of high-tech innovations. The city aims to support talent and emerging companies by establishing new incubators every year.

All these efforts to bolster the innovation and technology sector aim to attract global talent, supported by programs such as the Shenzhen-HK Youth Innovation Entrepreneurship Base, the Nansha Guangdong-HK-Macao Youth Entrepreneur Hub, and various other platforms and bases across cities like Zhongshan, Dongguan, and Huizhou, focused on fostering youth innovation and entrepreneurship.

In summary, mega-regions present significant potential benefits to the cities involved, along with their businesses and residents. However, their success extends beyond mere geographical closeness. It demands careful planning, substantial investment, effective governance, and necessitates adaptations to operations on a new, larger regional scale.

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АРАБСЬКІ КРАЇНИ У БЛИЗЬКОСХІДНІЙ ПОЛІТИЦІ КНДР

Відносини Кореїської Народно-демократичної Республіки (КНДР, Північної Кореї) з країнами Близького Сходу, не є пріоритетом серед науковців. Стосунки КНДР з США, Китаєм, Росією, Японією і Південною Кореєю привертають набагато більшу увагу, особливо коли йдеться про ядерну та ракетну програми Пхеньяну, що становлять загрозу міжнародній безпеці. Проте, останнім часом, інші аспекти міжнародної активності КНДР усе частіше потрапляють до уваги експертів з міжнародних відносин, у контексті аналізу подій та процесів у різних регіонах світу, що сьогодні визначають політичну