WEBINAR DOING BUSINESS IN HONG KONG -**OPPORTUNITIES IN THE GREATER BAY AREA**

Thursday, November 12th











Greater Bay Area

Luca Cico

President of the Italian Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong and Macao

Greater Bay Area: a bit of history

The GBA¹ concept was outlined in the **"Action Plan for the Bay Area of the Pearl River Estuary".** Premier **Li Keqiang** announced in the annual government report that the authorities were going ahead with the initiative.



The **13th Five Year Plan**² (2016-2020) endorsed the idea for a city cluster in Southern China. A framework agreement[®] was signed by the National

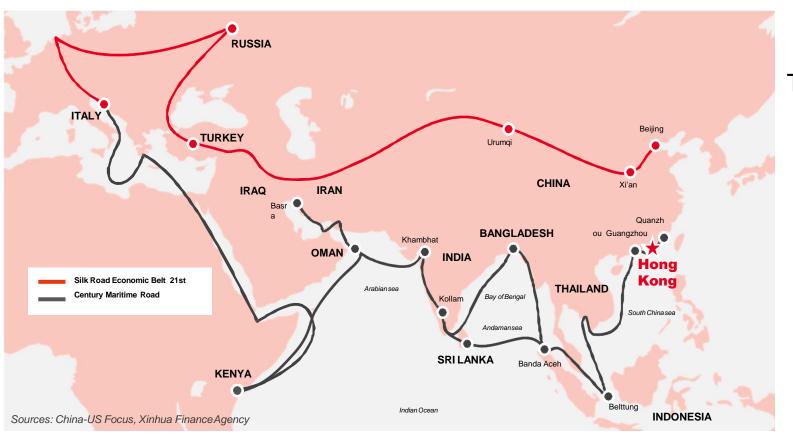
Development and Reform Commission and the governments of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macau.

1. www.epd.gov.hk/epd/english/resources_pub/policy/files/qla_consult_eng.pdf

2. https://en.ndrc.gov.cn/policyrelease_8233/201612/P020191101482242850325.pdf

3. https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/201707/01/P2017070100409.htm

WHY: to act as a catalyst for China's Belt and Road Initiative



The aim is to extend GBA reach:

- Within China, beyond the Pearl River Delta to the nearby provinces of Fujian, Jiangxi, Hunan, Guangxi, Hainan, Guizhou and Yunnan
- Beyond China, in Southeast and South Asia

WHERE : 9 Guangdong cities + Hong Kong + Macau

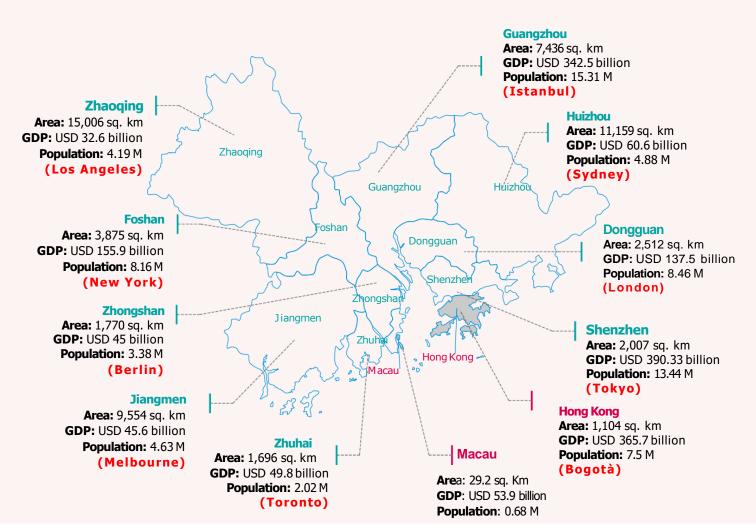
Population :72.6 million

Area: 56,000 square km

GDP: US\$1.68 trillion (12% of Chinese GDP)

Freight turnover: 67m+ teu

Thanks to the strong connection among manufacturing & logistics, finance & services, innovation and market GBA is considered today as the Potential "New Silicon Valley"



WHAT: to build a new powerhouse that could rival all the other "bays"

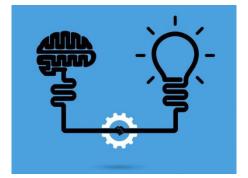
Bays Areas			100 A	Å
	Greater Bay Area	San Francisco Bay Area	New York Metropolitan Area	Greater Tokyo Bay
Population (m)	72.65	7.75	19.3	44.28
Land area (1,000 km²)	56	17.9	21.5	36.8
GDP (US\$ trillion)	1.68	0.95	1.77	1.98
Estimated GDP in 2030 (US\$ trillion)	4.6	2.2	2.2	3.2
Number of the world's top 100 universities	4	3	2	2
Number of <i>Fortune</i> 500 companies	16	28	22	60
A well-develop transportation system, with government su	+	An internationa financial centre a well-developed service industry		An innovation hub with a number of leading universities

HOW: by integrating the strengths of different cities in the region

The high-tech innovation of SHENZHEN

The strong manufacturing
 base in DONGGUAN, JIANGMEN
 ZHONGSHAN and GUANGZHOU

The world-class financial and professional services industries of HONG KONG







GBA Strengths



Banking and financial services

Hong Kong is a prominent international financial centre with a world-class financial and legal system, as well as extensive experience in banking and financial services.



Trading

Guangzhou is one of China's most important trading centres, with an expansive transportation network that includes a busy port, railway and airport.

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Technology

Shenzhen is a major technology manufacturing and innovation hub, home to several of China's largest tech giants.



Tourism and leisure

Macao is a renowned tourism and leisure hub with a flourishing entertainment industry.

Zhuhai is a major tourism hub with a beautiful, natural environment renowned for its high standard of liveability. The city also has a strong industrial base.

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Manufacturing

Dongguan is a major manufacturing hub that acts as a base for many of the world's leading multinational businesses.

Foshan electronics and furniture.

Zhaoqing is a cultural centre and is steadily growing its manufacturing sector, with rich primary resources including rare metals and herbal medicines.

Zhongshan home appliance industry and denim wear.



Logistics

Jiangmen is establishing itself as a logistics hub with several notable pillar industries including motorcycles, metal production and paper making.

Green energy

Huizhou is one of China's top green cities and specialises in petrochemicals and electronic information, as well as clean energy.



Hong Kong: Finance excellence

Quality & efficient financing platform

World's largest offshore Renminbi business hub

Asia Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)

Infrastructure Financing Facilitation Office (IFFO)

- High Standard of corporate governance
- Abundant talent pool
- · Ability to manage and operate mature projects
- Diversified investors including banks, private equities and etc
- Largest pool of RMB deposits: RMB 658bn
- Largest Dim Sum Bond market outstanding RMB 400bn
- Daily RMB clearing and settlement turnover: RMB 1,100bn
- Approval of Hong Kong's membership highlights what Hong Kong can offer project loans, bond issuance, treasury management, private equity investments and many others.
- The IFFO now boasts 77 members ranging from multilateral financial agencies, development banks, private and public sector investors, to insurance companies and professional service firms all keen to ride the wave of GBA and Belt and Road opportunities.

What's Next for the Greater Bay Area

Invest**HK**

Dr Jimmy Chiang Associate Director-General Invest Hong Kong

12 Nov 2020



	0	Verview	
		Outline Development Plan	
	-	New Policies and Specific Opportunities Financial Services	
		 Business and Professional Services Innovation and Technology 	
		Facilitating People in HK to Work/Live in Mainland China	
		InvestHK's Services	

Outline Development Plan for the GBA

Promulgated by the State Council on 18 February 2019

- To implement the innovation-driven development strategy, improve the regional synergistic innovation system, pool together international innovation resources, and develop an internationally competitive innovation development area
- To implement the coordinated regional development strategy, fully leverage the comparative advantages of different areas, strengthen policy coordination and planning interface
- To develop a new system for an open economy, create a high-level platform for opening up, converge with highstandard trade and investment rules, and accelerate the development of new edges in international cooperation and competition



Strategic Development Objectives

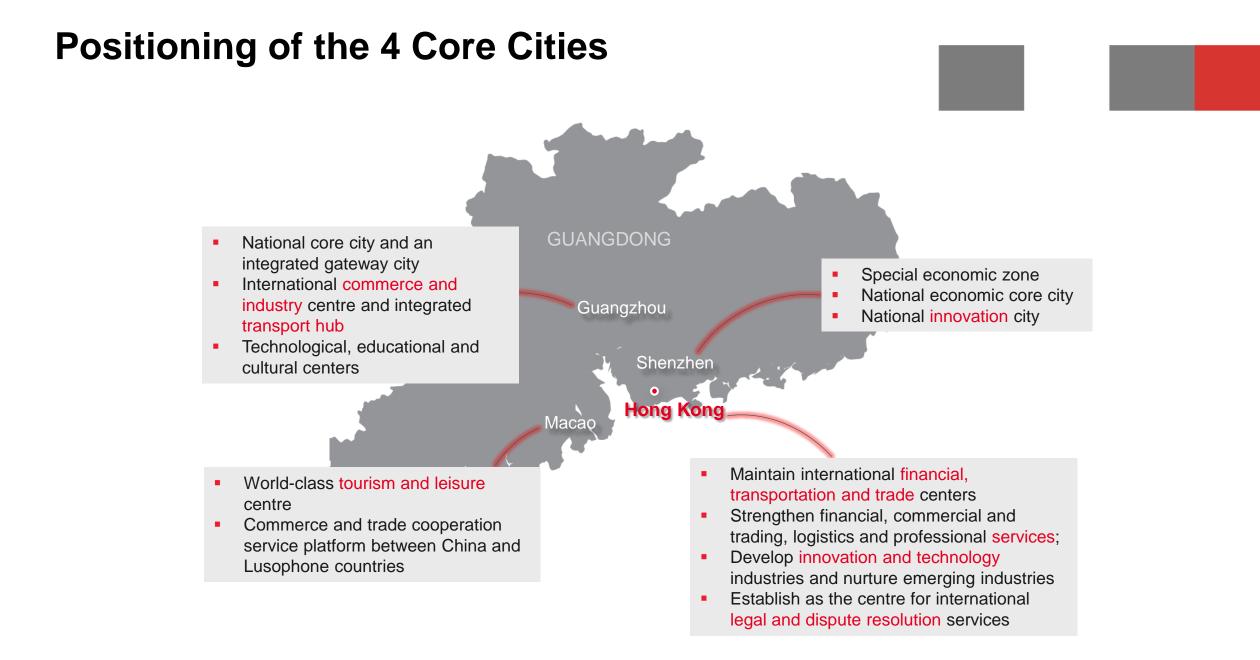
- A globally influential international **innovation and technology hub**
- 2 Expediting infrastructural connectivity
- 3 Building a globally competitive modern industrial system
- 4 Taking forward **ecological conservation**

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- 5 A quality living circle for living, working and travelling
- 6 An important support pillar for the **Belt and Road** Initiative (BRI)

A **showcase** for in-depth cooperation between the Mainland and Hong Kong and Macau



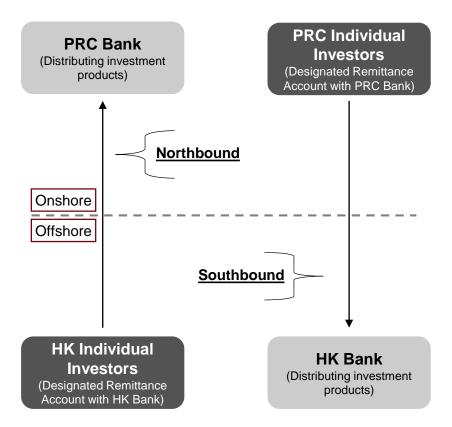


Financial Services Wealth Management Connect in the GBA

What is Wealth Management Connect?

It is an arrangement under which individual residents in the GBA carry out cross-boundary investment in wealth management products distributed by banks in the GBA, including

- a) Southbound route for individual residents of the Mainland cities in the GBA to access offshore wealth investment products through designated intermediaries (eg banks) in Hong Kong (and Macao) (ie Mainland investors investing in Hong Kong / Macao); and
- b) Northbound route for individual residents of Hong Kong and Macao to access onshore PRC wealth investment products through designated custodians in Mainland cities in the GBA (ie offshore investors investing in Mainland China).





Financial Services Potential Insurance Developments

- Two services centres by end of 2020 in Shenzhen and another mainland Chinese city featuring counters for Hong Kong insurers who initially will be limited to handling claims and processing payments of their mainland clients
- The Central Government removes the eligibility requirement on years of operating experience for Hong Kong service suppliers to establish insurance loss adjusting companies on the Mainland
- The Central Government supports Mainland insurers to issue catastrophe bonds in Hong Kong by relaxing the requirements for establishing special purpose insurers





Business and Professional Services

Legal

- Hong Kong and Mainland law firms can form partnership associations in the Mainland
- Hong Kong legal practitioners can obtain Mainland qualifications to practice in the nine Pearl River Delta municipalities in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area

Architecture & Engineering

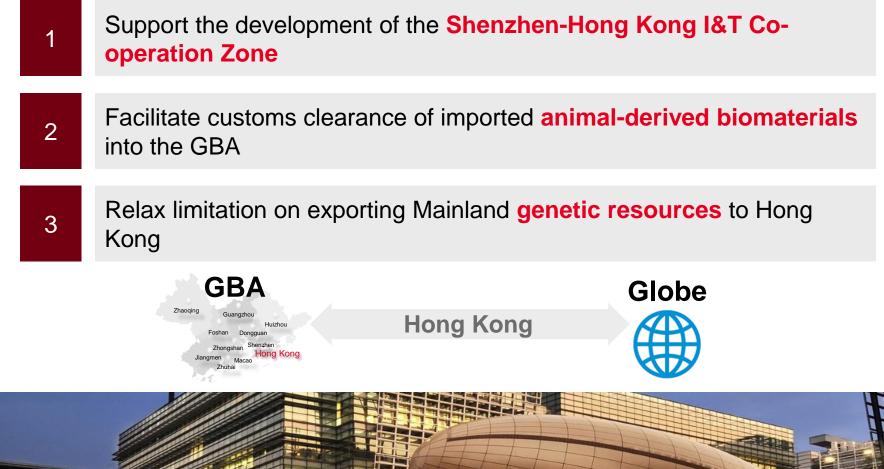
- Allow Hong Kongregistered companies to directly provide services in the GBA
- Simplify procedures for Hong Kong companies to start business in the GBA

Construction

- Mutual recognition of qualifications for construction professionals
- Expand liberalization measures for Hong Kong construction professionals to practice in the Mainland

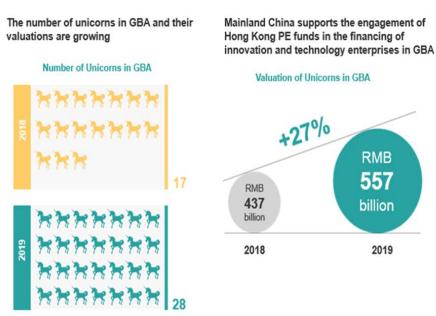


Innovation and Technology Policy Breakthroughs





More Family Offices to be Set up in the GBA



Note: "Unicorn" refers to a startup with at least US\$1 billion valuation Source: Hurun Unicorn Index 1Q2018,1Q2019

- The new Limited Partnership Fund Regime has been introduced since 31 August 2020.
- A very **positive demand** a total of 11 applications received on the first day of introduction.
- The new regime further promotes:
 - Hong Kong's asset and wealth management ecosystem with the development of more PE and VC funds
 - 2. Hong Kong as an IFC
 - 3. Hong Kong's PE and VC funds focusing on the GBA as an investment theme

More investment opportunities for family offices

Sources: Fung Business Intelligence, China Council for the Promotion of International Trade, Hurun Wealth Report in Nov 2019

Facilitating People in Hong Kong to Work and Live in Mainland China

1 "183 days" of domestic residence for personal income	tax
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- 2 Tax relief for high-end talents and talent in short-supply
- 3 Easier entering and exiting Mainland for Hong Kong vehicles
- 4 Easier travel to/from Mainland for non-Chinese permanent residents
- 5 Easier bank account opening and use of mobile payment
- 6 Local treatments for property purchase and children's education
- 7

Use of HK-registered drugs and medical devices in designated hospitals



Useful Resources



Facebook及Instagram pages (@<u>hk.bayarea</u>)



WeChat ID : HKCMAB

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香港特区政府粤港澳大湾区速递 🚖

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敬请关注本公号,了解在"一国两制"的方针下, 通过优势互补、互惠共赢,香港特区在粤港澳大 湾区建设中的角色、功能定位和政策措施。

進入官方帳號 取消關注

Conclusion

GBA will be a more and more important economic region in China

IFC status of Hong Kong will be further strengthened

Hong Kong / Shenzhen can be a R&D centre for global I&T companies, while other GBA cities can support advanced, mass manufacturing

Hong Kong is well positioned to serve as the gateway for global businesses to access the GBA and China



How We Help Companies Grow



Planning

- Guidance in strategic implementation and evaluation of business decisions
- Advising on living and working in Hong Kong (housing, healthcare, schooling and networking, etc)



Set-up

- Providing support with business licences, visa applications, trademark registration, IP and trade regulations, etc
- Informing on tax and business regulations
- Arranging meetings with service providers, professional associations and government departments
- Advising on sectorspecific industries and opportunities



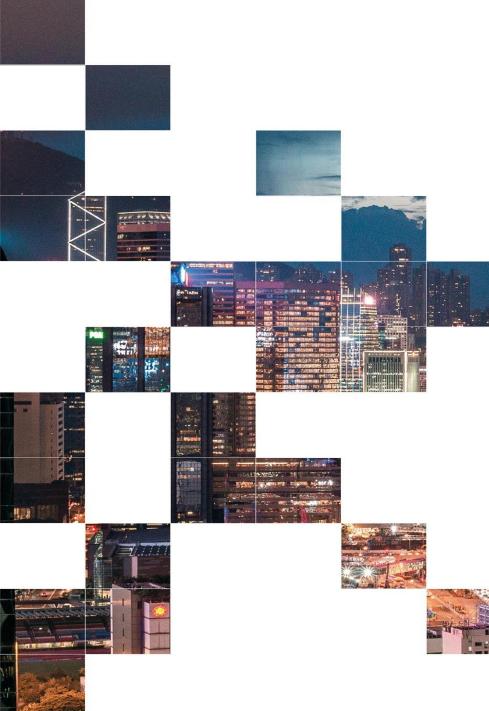
Launch

- Connecting with lawyers, accountants, human resource specialists, consultancies, designers, interior specialists and real estate companies, etc
- Providing marketing and public relations services



Expansion

- Tools for continuous expansion
- Ensuring a sustainable foundation for growth
- Continuing to support across marketing and public relations



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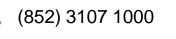
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Company setup, Tax & accounting requirements in Greater Bay Area

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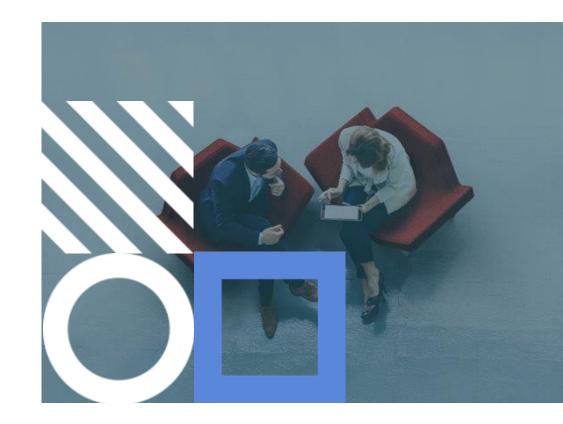
AGENDA

- Accessing GBA via Hong Kong
- Company setup in Hong Kong
- BUD Fund
- Taxes And Accounting in the GBA
- Tax Incentives in the GBA



About Hawksford

- International provider of corporate, private clients and fund administration services
- Pan-Asian and European (10 locations) with unrivalled expertise in key growth markets such as China (5 offices)
- Specialized sector experience: tech and innovation, manufacturing and trade, consumer and retail, and luxury/fashion
- We are trusted to deliver efficient administration services to large and multinational corporates, FTSE listed companies, and SMEs as well as entrepreneurs, HNW individuals and intermediaries



Our Presence & Expertise In Asia

Business Establishment

- Incorporation of new entities
- Outsourcing administration services
- Corporate secretarial services
- Annual compliance
- Bank account opening
- Business license applications

Tax & Accounting

- Tax compliance
- Bookkeeping and preparation of year-end financial statements
- Statutory requirements and management reporting
- Payroll, leaves & claims

- Board & committee meetings support
- Corporate governance
- **Director services**

management

establishment and social

contributions schemes

Corporate tax return

preparation and filing

Personal tax filing

Temporary CFO

Project Management

Immigration Advisory & Applications

- Citizenship
- Permanent residence
- Employment passes pass
- Dependent

pass



passOther work

Entrepreneur

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Accessing GBA via Hong Kong

Accessing China/Asia via Hong Kong



- Buffer between headquarter and PRC
- Streamlined process for incorporation in China
- Facilitates disposal of assets
- Benefit from double taxation agreements and CEPA

Accessing China/Asia via Hong Kong



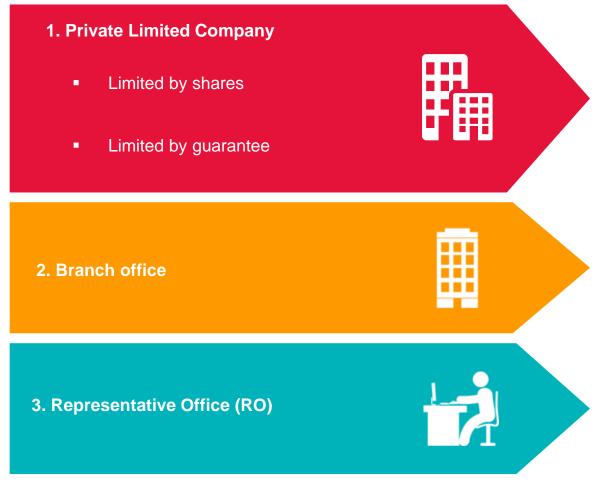
- Common law jurisdiction
- Efficient/simple corporate / commercial law framework
- Best jurisdiction in Asia for dispute resolution (courts/arbitration)
- Regulate the JV in Hong Kong, implement the Shareholders' Agreement

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Company setup in Hong Kong



There are three alternatives to access the Hong Kong market



- private limited company incorporated in Hong Kong with the shareholder being another local or foreign corporate entity
- separate legal entity thus the parent company's liability is limited to the amount of share capital it has contributed to the subsidiary
- legal entity registered with the Company Registry
- Hong Kong branch office must appoint at least one person who is resident in Hong Kong and authorized to accept legal notices served on the company
- Representative office has to restrict itself to promotion and liaison activities, undertaking market research and co-ordinating activities on behalf of the parent company
- The only requirement is to register with the Inland Revenue Department and obtain a Business Registration Certificate

Limited Liability Company: An Overview

- Name
- No Business Scope
- Share Capital
- Registered Office
- Shareholder(s)
- Director(s)
- Company Secretary (<u>new TCSP</u>)
- Designated Representative (<u>new SCR</u>)
- Tax Representative



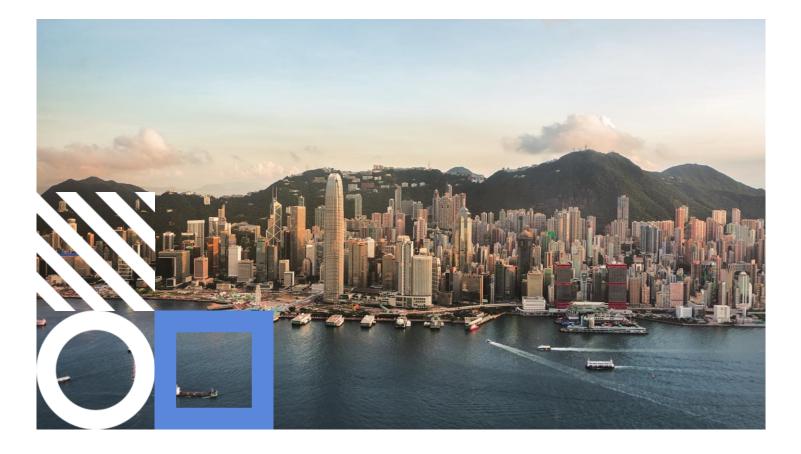
Subsidiary company

- Private limited company incorporated in Hong Kong with the shareholder being another local or foreign corporate entity
- Separate legal entity thus the parent company's liability is limited to the amount of share capital it has contributed to the subsidiary
- Name must be approved by the Companies Registry
- 100% shareholding by a foreign company is allowed
- Hong Kong subsidiary must have at least one director & a minimum of one shareholder and a maximum of 50
- It is mandatory to have a local resident company secretary (individual or body corporate) & must appoint an auditor who must be a member of the Hong Kong Society of Accountants and holds a practicing certificate
- Subsidiaries are subject to the same tax regime and tax rates as other private limited companies in Hong Kong



Tax: An Overview

- VAT: not applicable
- Profit Tax: 8.25%* // 16.5%
- Dividends: not applicable
- Royalties: 16.5% // 4.95%
- Capital Gain: not applicable



Two-Tiered Profits Tax Rates Regime



- Starting from year of assessment 2018/2019, under the two-tiered profits tax rates regime, the profits tax rate for the first \$2 million of assessable profits will be lowered to 8.25% for corporations and 7.5% (half of the standard rate) for unincorporated businesses (mostly partnerships and sole proprietorships). Assessable profits above \$2 million will continue to be subject to the rate of 16.5% for corporations and standard rate of 15% for unincorporated businesses.
- In case of connected entities, the 2-tiered profits tax rates may apply to only one of them;
- Submission of additional forms (S1, S2) together with Profits Tax Return (new Part 9):
 - S1: connected entities in Hong Kong
 - S2: transactions with non-resident associated persons/entities





2017-2018

- Yearly Profit: HK\$ 3,000,000
- **Tax Rate**: 16,50%
- **Tax Payable**: HK\$ 495,000
- **75%* Tax Reduction**: HK\$ 30,000
- Total Amount: HK\$ 495,000-HK\$ 30,000
- = HK\$ 465,000

2018-2019

- Yearly Profit: HK\$ 3,000,000
- Tax Rate on HK\$ 2,000,000: 8,25%
- Tax Rate on HK\$ 1,000,000 : 16,50%
- **Tax Payable**: HK\$ 330,000
- **100%** Tax Reduction**: HK\$ 20,000
- Total Amount: HK\$ 330,000-HK\$ 20,000

= HK\$ 310,000

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BUD Fund

"Dedicated Fund on Branding, Upgrading and Domestics Sales"

BUD Fund



- Firstly launched in 2012, it provides funding for non-listed Hong Kong enterprises to undertake projects to develop brands, upgrade and restructure their business operations and promote sales in Mainland China, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and all economies with which Hong Kong has signed Free Trade Agreements;
- All non-listed enterprises registered in Hong Kong under the Business Registration Ordinance, with substantive business operations in Hong Kong, are eligible to apply.
- The program covers three areas: (i) branding; (ii) upgrading and restructuring; and (iii) domestic sales/promoting sales
- Open to applications all year round, with application's vetting time set at 60 working days (tentative)
- Each approved project should be completed within 24 months.
- Government will cover (i.e. reimburse) a maximum of 50% of the total approved project cost. (e.g. if total project cost is HKD 1,000,000, Government may reimburse up to HKD 500,000 – provided all costs qualify);
- Total cumulative funding ceiling per enterprise is HKD
 4,000,000 (with a sub-cap of HKD 1,000,000 per project).
- Initial payment for approved project can be requested (guarantee may be required).

BUD Fund

PROCUREMENT AND COSTS

- A procurement procedure shall be followed for each cost to be reimbursed, varying according to the amount of the cost to be reimbursed;
- Furthermore, each cost category will have to respect and remain within a certain % of the total project cost (e.g.: promotional costs – advertisement - shall not be higher than 50% of the total project cost, etc.);

PROJECT MONITORING – REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

- Statements of income and expenditure shall be kept throughout the whole project period.
- Projects with duration of over 18 months shall submit a Progress Report and Annual Audited Accounts covering the first twelve months. Such Report should include a summary of the project progress against the project implementation plan set out in the Approved Project Proposal as well as a statement of income and expenditure for the reporting period.
- Both projects that are 18 months or below or more than 18 months to up to 24 months, need to submit a Final Report and Final Audited Accounts.



BUD Fund

Branding	Upgrading and Restructuring	Domestic Sales
 Brand Strategy and Positioning – corporate brand visioning, product and service planning; Brand Building, Design and Communication – brand identity and personality development, rebranding; Brand Management – brand assessment, brand protection; and Brand Tracking – brand equity research and brand sustainability study 	 Business Model Upgrading & Restructuring Product Innovation and Repositioning – product strategy, new product development; Material Management – supply chain planning and execution; Technology Upgrading – manufacturing technology upgrading, process and business automation; Management Upgrading – world-class management system, business process re- engineering, quality improvement; and Logistics Management – warehouse management, fleet management and distribution management. 	 Domestic Sales Strategic Planning – visioning process and strategy formulation; Domestic Sales Business Operation Management – operation transformation; Domestic Sales Channel Management – marketing strategy and research, sales and distribution development; Domestic Sales Team Formation and Management – staff development, performance management;

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Taxes & Accounting in GBA

Wholly Owned Foreign Enterprise (WFOE) Compliance accounting and tax

Corporate Income Tax

- **25%** is the standard rate. 5% and 10% for micro-small enterprises
- **15%** CIT rate is applicable to certain companies in specific fields encouraged by the Government or qualified as "High Tech"

VAT and local surcharges

- **13%** is the standard rate applicable on trading and import of goods
- 6% is the standard rate applicable on services rendered in China
- Small scale tax payers apply 3% VAT rate on goods and services (not deductible)
- Local surcharges (from 0.45% to 0.12%) are applicable on payable VAT. The percentage is different in each city and district
- **0%** on export of goods and input VAT refund is allowed under certain circumstances

Wholly Owned Foreign Enterprise (WFOE) Compliance accounting and tax

Individual Income Tax

• 3% to 45% progressive rates

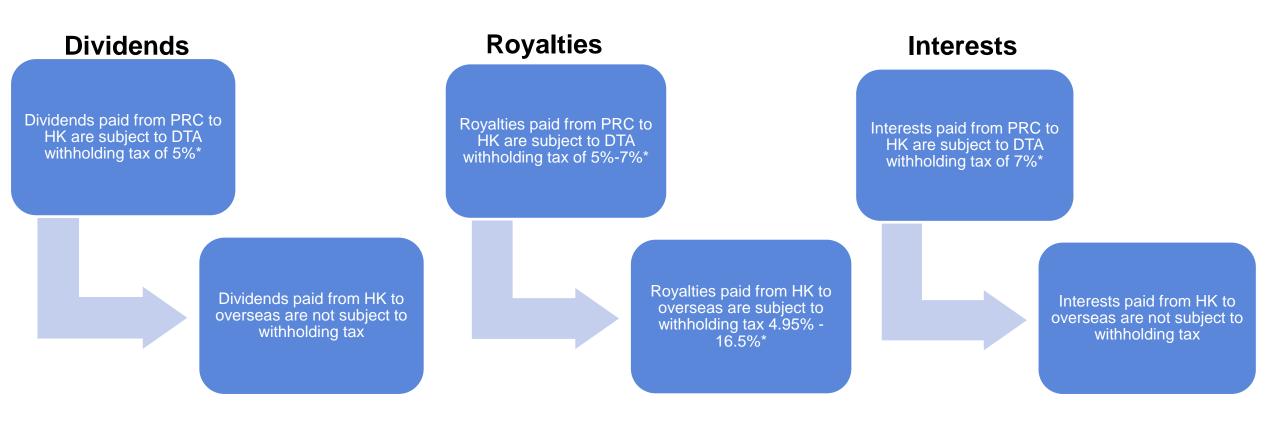
Consumption Tax

 Applicable to certain categories of consumable products including alcoholic beverages, cosmetics, jewelry, automobiles, luxury watches etc. The consumption tax rate is from 1% to 56% of the sales value/volumes of the goods

Withholding tax

- 10% is the standard rate. It's applicable on payments of service fees, dividends and royalties to non-residents
- Double Tax Treaty applicable in order to avoid double taxation

Taxation (Dividends, Royalties, Interests)



Hong Kong offers the most tax efficient way to pay dividends, royalties and interest, with a clear legal framework

*Provided recipient is beneficial owner **DTA withholding tax special rate may apply

Profit Repatriation

HONG KONG HOLDING				
Gross Profit PRC	100			
Corporate Tax PRC	25% (25)			
Net Profit PRC	75			
Statutory Surplus Reserve PRC	10% (7.5)			
Withholding Tax PRC	5% (3.37)			
Net Profit PRC to HK	64.13			
Gross Profit HK (territoriality principle)	100			
Corporate Tax HK	8.25% (8.25)			
Net Profit HK	91.75			
Total Profit to overseas	155.88*** (91.75+64.13)			

- Dividend distribution subject to approval of PRC authorities
- 3 months application time
- Subject to tax filing and payment of yearly Corporate Tax
- Interim dividend: No

PRC

ΗK

- Free dividend distribution
- No application time
- No prior tax filing required
- Interim Dividend: yes (available reserves)

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Tax Incentives in the Greater Bay Area



Enterprise income tax (EIT) benefits for High-Tech enterprises

	EIT from 25% reduced to 15%	Research and development (R&D) subsidies	Training reimbursements
Corporate taxation benefits	Establishment and business scope	The company has been established for mits main operations are conducted within Aerospace, advance manufacturing, bio-r	PRC related to electronic information,
	IP Protection	Through independent R&D, transfer, enterprises obtain the ownership of intell supporting role in technology for their main	lectual property rights that play a core
Requirements	R&D to Sales revenue ratio	 accounting year; 2. For 50mln RMB<annual accounting="" in="" li="" previous="" revenue="" revenues<200mln="" ri="" the="" year<=""> </annual>	enses not less than 5% of revenues in the last MB, R&D expenses not less than 4% of the sales ses not less than 3% of sales revenues in the

Enterprise income tax (EIT) benefits for High-Tech enterprises % **Research and** EIT from 25% **Training** development reduced to 15% reimbursements (R&D) subsidies Personnel specialization Personnel engaging scientific and technological research and development activities shall be not less than 10% of the total number of employees in the **Corporate taxation benefits** company **Innovation** (point Companies' innovation is graded as follow (full score is 100 point, 71 at least for system) eligibility) Intellectual property rights (30 points); Scientific and technological achievements, transformation ability (30 points) Requirements Research and development organization and management level (20 points) Enterprise growth (20 points) 4. **Environmental**

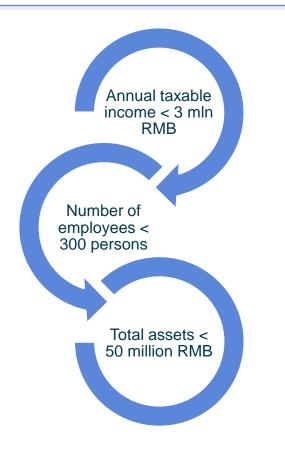
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protection

No major safety, quality, serious environmental violation

Are you a micro-enterprise?

Requirements





Progressive EIT rate into 3 brackets:

- Yearly taxable profits less than 1 mln RMB: EIT rate of 5%
- 1 mln RMB < yearly taxable profits < 3 mln RMB : EIT rate of 10%
- Yearly taxable profits higher than 3 mln RMB: EIT rate of 25%



- Timely declare EIT for Q2, Q3 and Q4;
- Settle relevant payments (if any) only in January 2021

Source: Announcement No. 2 of 2019 issued by State Taxation Administration

Micro-enterprises EIT calculation and timeline

EIT beneficiary treatment example

Source: Announcement No. 2 of 2019 issued by State Taxation Administration

Year	Taxable income (RMB)	Portion (RMB)	Tax rate	Income tax (RMB)	
2018	2.1 mln	2,100,000	25%	525,000	
2019	2.5 mln	1,000,000	5%	50,000	200,000
		1,500,000	10%	150,000	

EIT payment postponement scheme

Source: Announcement No. 10 of 2020 issued by State Taxation Administration



Tax incentives in the Greater Bay Area (GBA)

Individual income tax benefits

Who

- Hong Kong and Macao permanent residents
- Hong Kong residents enrolled in the Hong Kong Entry scheme
- Taiwan residents
- Foreign nationals
- Overseas Chinese with permanent residence abroad

Conditions

Shall meet either of the following:

- Class A work permit holders
- Guangdong excellent talent card holders (into local talent projects)
- Scientific and technical staff in key development industries

Benefits

The selected individuals will be eligible for a subsidy of the amount of individual income tax paid in the nine core cities of the GBA exceeding the 15% of their yearly taxable income

Source: Cai Shui [2019] No.31 issued by State Taxation Administration and Ministry of Finance

Tax incentives in the Greater Bay Area (GBA)



Taxable income

Calculation

Salaries and wages

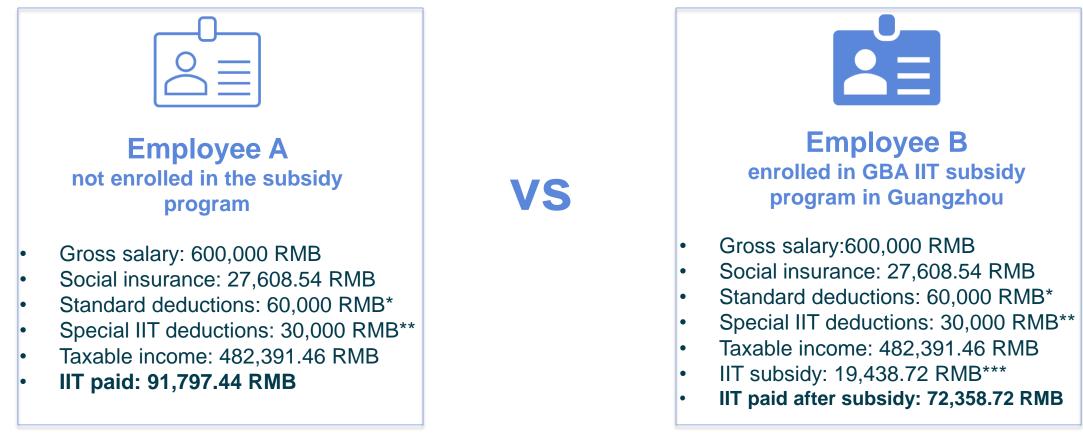
Income from labor services

• income from manuscript remuneration

- income from royalties
- Income from operations
- Talent projects subsidies

The subsidy is calculated as: Total IIT paid during the year – (taxable income for the year * 15%)

GBA IIT subsidy practical comparison on a yearly basis



*5,000 RMB per month for both local and foreign staff

**1,000RMB per month for children education and 1,500 RMB per month for rental expenditures

***IIT Subsidy = IIT paid-(taxable income * 15%) = 91,797 - (482,391.46 *15%)

Each municipality might have different yearly income threshold: eg Guangzhou sets the minimum yearly income for eligible candidates to 300,000 RMB, whereas the minimum threshold is set to 500,000 RMB in Shenzhen

CONTACT US





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