

**Hong Kong-Shenzhen Cooperation Forum:  
“Jointly Developing a World-Class Metropolis”**

**Welcome Address by**

**Mr. LI Hao, Chairman, Shenzhen Special Economic Zone Research  
Association, and Executive Vice Chairman, China Development  
Institute**

The Honourable Henry TANG, Acting Chief Executive of the HKSAR,  
The Honourable LAU Siu-kai, Head of the Central Policy Unit,  
Dear guests and friends,

More than one month ago, Hong Kong held the grand ceremony to celebrate its 10th anniversary of return to China, demonstrating the great achievements in Hong Kong after China implemented the “one country, two systems” policy. Today, the 2007 Hong Kong-Shenzhen Cooperation Forum opens here, which is of great significance. On behalf of Shenzhen SEZ Research Association as well as China Development Institute, I am sincerely grateful to the Central Policy Unit, Hong Kong SAR Government for their successful arrangement of the forum. And I also sincerely thank the experts, scholars, entrepreneurs, and government officials and media friends in the forum.

In 2006, we held the first Shenzhen-Hong Kong Cooperation Forum in Shenzhen, thus having realized our dream to set up a communication platform between the two cities. The forum last year was a great success, particularly because that Mr. Lau Siu-kai, Head of the Central Policy Unit, proposed to build the international metropolis based on Shenzhen and Hong Kong cooperation, thus greatly furthering the cooperation of the two cities. In the forum this year, we will continue to carry out deep discussions and dialogues on the theme of Shenzhen and Hong Kong’s cooperation to build the international metropolis, in order to deepen our understandings of its necessity, importance, and future perspective and objective of development as well. We will try to get some ideas about realization approaches, implementation steps and operational principles.

All walks of life in Shenzhen and Hong Kong warmly welcome the idea of jointly building an international metropolis. All agree that, for the past 20 years, joint building of the international metropolis is not only a necessary result of

the deepening cooperation between the two cities in terms of economic development and urban functions, but also the most realistic and ideal development orientation for the two neighbouring cities. Chief Executive Donald Tsang Yam-kuen suggests that Hong Kong should establish a strategic partnership with Shenzhen in order to jointly build a world-class metropolis. Shenzhen government also incorporates the idea of jointly building the international metropolis into the overall strategy of its urban development. Not long ago, the 10th Guangdong Provincial CCP Conference called for “the building of Shenzhen into an international metropolis with Chinese characteristics, styles and demeanor”. This strategic positioning provides policy basis and development space for the overall objective of the international metropolis jointly built by Shenzhen and Hong Kong. In consideration of the progress, this idea of the international metropolis is becoming the objective of the two governments driven by the civil and academic forces, transforming from discussion into action, and marching toward reality from a pure wish.

Thanks to the opening-up and rapid development for almost 30 years, China is emerging as a new driving force for the world economy. Today, China increasingly needs an international metropolis that attracts and allocates resources and elements cross national boundaries, regions and continents, and radiates the global market economically as well. However, objectively speaking, there is no real international metropolis in China. And it is very difficult for an inland Chinese city to develop into an international metropolis in a short period of time. But if Shenzhen and Hong Kong join hands to build an international metropolis, the metropolitan dream can be realized with ease. So from this perspective, no doubt the international metropolis jointly built by Shenzhen and Hong Kong should be regarded as a national strategic layout.

The jointly built international metropolis is very significant to the regional economic development in the Pearl River Delta Area or Pan-Pearl River Delta Area. The main functions of an international metropolis lie on its radiating and exemplary roles for domestic and foreign regions. The purpose of the international metropolis is to promote the mutual development for the overall region, push the industrial transformation, and strengthen the international competitiveness for urban and regional economy. And so a bridge will be built for domestic enterprises entering the world market, and for foreign enterprises coming to the domestic market. Therefore, in building the international metropolis, Shenzhen and Hong Kong should coordinate the relations with their neighbouring cities and the overall region, mobilize all positive parties and stimulate their passion. All parties

concerned should make efforts and coordinate their actions in order to jointly plan and construct the infrastructure facilities and transportation network in the region, and carry out the strategic layout and resource allocation in a broader scope. Of course, the relation is mutual. The international metropolis jointly built by Shenzhen and Hong Kong can get support from neighbouring cities and regions only if it plays a powerful radiating role; and the more powerful the radiation is, the bigger the supports becomes.

The development strategy of such international metropolis means that we should carry out cooperation in a more active, open and efficient manner. Regarding the method of cooperation, we should not only respect economic rules and fully make use of the market mechanism, but also further make use of the government's driving and coordination functions in macro guidance, system arrangement, planning consistence, etc. We should finally realize the economic and social integration of the two cities after continuous system innovation and upgrading of cooperation levels. Regarding the contents of cooperation, we should not only develop a more powerful and much larger economy, but also promote our cultural environment. Because only when we upgrade the moral quality of the residents, attract and educate a large number of talents, and cultivate a unique urban culture, can we manage the operation of an international metropolis.

The international metropolis cannot be finished soon; in stead, there should be a deepening and gradually moving stage. In the current stage, we should work out a clear orientation and strategy, reach consensus in guidance and cooperation principles, and deeply discuss fields and mechanism of cooperation. After that, we should do our work and begin work step by step.

The international metropolis should have Chinese characteristics. On one hand, it should be comparable with world-class cities such as New York and London in terms of size, function and industrial level; on the other hand, it should be an example of the organic integration and mutual learning of Chinese and world civilizations. Building of such an international metropolis is a dynamic process, because the process will be developed and perfected in the extensive exchange, cooperation and competition in China and the world as well.

In such a process, Shenzhen and Hong Kong should respect each other and pursue mutual benefits. The two cities should make full use of their advantages, beginning from easy things and implementing cooperation step by step. And under the

principle of “one country, two systems”, the two cities should be committed to reform and innovation in order to continuously expand space of development and establish a layout of mutual development. Specifically, they should not only eliminate systematic obstacles, but also promote two-way free flow of talents, logistics, funds and information.

With regard to the fields of cooperation, we may begin with those where fruits can be most possibly obtained, as well as the industrial transformation which can promote the development of the Pearl River Delta Area. For example, the cooperation can be infrastructure construction, scientific and technological innovation, higher education, logistics, and modern service industry including the financial industry.

With regard to the methods of cooperation, we should mainly pay attention to the full play of the advantages and characteristics of the two cities, and then gradually widening fields of cooperation.

If we have clear minds, well-defined objectives, and suitable methods, and if we are practical, we have reasons to believe that we can definitely realize the grand objective of jointly building the international metropolis.

Finally, I wish a full success to the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Cooperation Forum.

Thank you!

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