



The British
Chamber of Commerce
in Hong Kong
香港英商會



BRITISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
GUANGDONG 广东英国商会



British Chamber
of Commerce in Macao
澳門英國商會



China-Britain
Business Council
英中貿易協會



British Business Associations Form Greater Bay Area Business Network

18th June 2019: The British Chambers of Commerce in Hong Kong and southern China, the British Chamber of Commerce in Macao, the China-Britain Business Council, and the Confederation of British Industry Beijing Office, meeting in Shenzhen on 14 June, agreed in principle to form an inter-organisation working-group on the Greater Bay Area (GBA) Initiative.

Senior representatives of the organisations agreed to collaborate in areas such as, sharing information and insights, joint member events, and arranging business exchanges between member companies across the GBA. The group will look to work together to develop policy recommendations to offer to governments and regulators across the region, as well as working with the British Government and relevant departments to help member companies, and British business more widely, understand and access the business opportunities arising from the GBA initiative.

Peter Burnett, Chairman of the British Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong said: *"The Greater Bay Area Initiative is a major opportunity for Hong Kong, our Chamber, and our members. By connecting further with our colleagues in the Mainland and Macao we will develop a deeper understanding of the opportunities that the GBA presents for our member companies and the business community at large. We look forward to working with governments, regulators and businesses to help shape the initiative going forward."*

Jeremy Sargent, Chairman of the British Chamber of Commerce Guangdong said: *"The British Chamber of Commerce Guangdong has been operating for the past two decades at the heart of today's Greater Bay Area – supporting our members and wider stakeholders with business development in many areas. We are delighted to be part of this new initiative – one which will enable our members and stakeholders to better understand and benefit from the immense opportunities which the GBA will afford. We shall play our part in continuing to build upon our close relationships with fellow Chambers, CBBC, CBI and other business stakeholders across the region to serve our members and British businesses."*

Jeff Astle, Managing Director China Operations, of the China-Britain Business Council said: *"UK businesses trading or investing in China need to understand and analyse what the Greater Bay Initiative may mean for them in terms of opportunities and challenges. The China-Britain Business Council already has offices in Shenzhen and Guangzhou and we have helped UK businesses share in this region's journey of development, expansion and growth over the past 20 years. With the GBA Initiative we are entering a new phase of market sophistication and integration, which should present more opportunities for UK business. We will play a leading role in establishing a network of the UK stakeholders in this region and jointly co-operate to ensure that we all align our approaches and maximise these opportunities."*

Suzanne Watkinson of the British Chamber of Commerce in Macao concurred: *"For the past 13 years, the British Chamber of Commerce in Macao has represented a broad spectrum of British, Macao, international, and Chinese companies, all of which share commercial interests in the region in an environment of ideas and knowledge sharing. The Greater Bay Area initiative has important significance to our members. We fully support the setting up of a working group among our British Chamber and association partners throughout the GBA, to create a venue for businesses across this region of 70 million people, to explore areas where we can further align ourselves, to share perspectives, challenges, to project the GBA opportunities to British companies, and likewise to aid Chinese companies' investment into Britain."*

Guy Dru Drury, the CBI's China Chief Representative, stated that: *"The CBI was very happy to support the Greater Bay Area initiative; furthermore we are pleased to be working closely together with the British Chambers of Commerce and the CBBC to create an influential regional UK-China business network."*



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About the British Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong:

The British Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong is one of Hong Kong's biggest and most active independent international business organisations representing a broad span of British, Hong Kong and international companies doing business in, with, or through Hong Kong. The Chamber encourages diversity in its membership and activities and has over 1,000 members from the biggest multinationals through to a broad range of medium and smaller companies and start-ups. The Chamber's aim is to help our members grow their business, and promote and represent their business interests by providing representation and advocacy; networking and brand exposure; as well as information and insight.

<https://www.britcham.com/>

About the GBA:

The Greater Bay Area initiative aims to create a world class economic, business and technology region, rivalling global bay areas such as Tokyo Bay and San Francisco Bay, by a massive increase in the interconnectivity between Hong Kong, Macao, Guangzhou, Shenzhen and seven other cities in southern China. The area is already one of China's richest and most outward looking regions, with a combined population of around 70m, and a combined GDP of around US\$1.5 tr.

Press Contact:

Emily Weir
Marketing and Communications Manager

emily.weir@britcham.com

+852 2824 1972