



Greater Bay Area opportunities and challenges

Economic cooperation between the three regions of the Greater Bay Area (GBA) is set to deepen but it is believed that Hong Kong youth who plan to take up career opportunities in Guangdong Province will face a number of challenges. While they see more career opportunities ahead, many barriers to cooperation remain.*

Key points from respondents

- More than 70% think the GBA will have a positive overall effect on Hong Kong's economy and young people's career opportunities.
- 86.0% say challenges to these opportunities lie in differences between Hong Kong and mainland China's legal systems.
- 79.9% say tax issues present challenges.
- 39.1% agree that the GBA will increase employment opportunities.
- 37.0% are worried that they will face greater competition.
- 26.1% say the GBA will increase business opportunities.
- 17.6% are concerned that the work environment in the GBA will be more difficult.

In-depth interviews showed that consistency in policy is a key factor for young people who want to start or continue running a business in Guangdong. Complicated business procedures, unclear information, complex processes for cash transfers and high tax rates are discouraging factors. At the root of these hurdles lie two social systems, three customs territories, and three legal systems in one bay area.

Comments from Youth I.D.E.A.S. think tank members

Ernest Chan, group convener "To cope with problems of policy inconsistency, we recommend the setting up of a Greater Bay Area Coordination Bureau under the leading group of the central government for the development of the GBA. The Bureau would take charge of coordination between the '9+2' cities according to the principle of 'One Country, Two Systems.' The Bureau should also provide a one-stop information platform for business and employment within the area in addition to simplifying various business procedures."

Denis Huen, group member "The establishment of the GBA provides important opportunities for Hong Kong young people. We recommend that the HKSAR government sets up a new office to help them develop startups or find jobs in Guangdong cities."

William Du and Manson Chow, group members "We propose that Hong Kong young people who work in the GBA and meet certain requirements pay income tax to the mainland China government according to Hong Kong tax rates. Besides, the cap for transferring money out of mainland China should be doubled from US\$50,000 to US\$100,000 per year for Hong Kong young people employed in Guangdong."

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Employment and Economic Development group

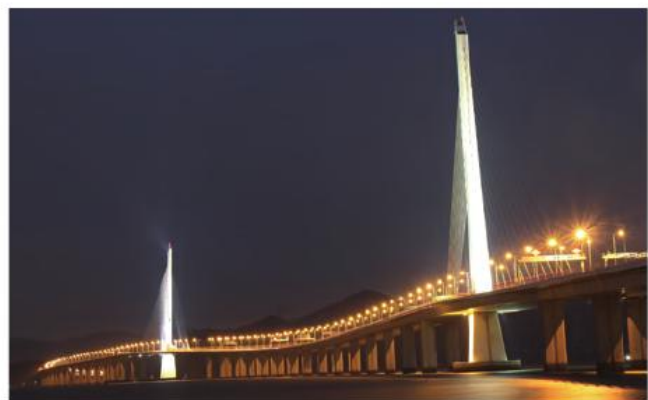
Published title Overcoming Career Challenges of Hong Kong Young People in the Greater Bay Area

Survey respondents 522 Hong Kong working youth aged 18-39

Interviewees 20 Hong Kong youth aged 18-39 working in Guangdong and six experts or academics.

More details [in Chinese] yrc.hkfyg.org.hk/2019/02/26/yi039/

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*Note This report was based on a survey that took place before the "Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area" was released in February 2019.