



# Non-Fiction

Group 1

## Future Adventure of the Greater Bay Area

*Ching Chung Hau Po Woon Primary School, Cheung, Siu Sewang – 8*

The wonderful world of China will make our people more compatible and make a brand new life for our new generation.

The greater development and improvement of our place are base on our mankind and in our government.

The people in the cities and provinces are the heart of the place.

The "**Greater Bay Area**" refers to the Chinese government's scheme to link the cities of Hong Kong, Macau, Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Zhuhai, Foshan, Zhongshan, Dongguan, Huizhou, Jiangmen and Zhaoqing into an integrated economic and business hub.

The new mission and vision for the people and place today is to make sure that the new generation is more compatible and productive.

The new era of the Greater Bay Area tries to make the better place for everyone. It's more exciting, what would life be like in a place that is full of wonderful things and people that are full of love and happiness.

## Amazing GBA

*Ching Chung Hau Po Woon Primary School, Fei, Xue Han Rui – 8*

Hong Kong is a small city, but it has a big population. Therefore, it is crowded and noisy. People living here expect more space for housing and doing activities. I believe when GBA is launched, Hong Kong people's dream will come true.

GBA stands for Greater Bay Area. It is made up by 11 cities: Hong Kong, Shenzhen, Dongguan, Huizhou, Foshan, Zhongshan, Macau, Zhuhai, Jiangmen, Zhaoqing and Guangzhou which are located in the southeast area of China. In ancient China the whole area was called Canton, people here have been speaking Cantonese which is a very different language from other areas of mainland China. The special language here helps people to have easy communication and similar thinking, and then it makes people work together as a team. Therefore, I guess this might be main reason for the idea of GBA. I am wondering how GBA will be built? There must be more airports, train stations, roads, harbor ports, bus stops and parking areas for those airplanes, high speed trains, ships, buses and cars which are powered by wind, solar and electric energy and controlled through 7G or 8G technology. It would be amazing when this transportation system comes true. For example, I live in Hong Kong, but my school is in Zhuhai, I take an auto bus across the HK-Zhuhai bridge which takes only 20 minutes. My friend Ms. Elanine who lives in Guangzhou, but she works for the company located in Macau, she takes a high-speed train and then transfers to an unmanned bus to her office in the central of Macau every day. This travel pattern only takes her 40 minutes. Hence, when GBA is built, the safer, faster and more convenient transportation system will connect 11 cities as a larger city, then HK people can make their homes in any place within GBA, and find their jobs anywhere within GBA.

I am also thinking about more people from all around world coming to the GBA, because there will be more opportunities for them. We will see lovely restaurants which have robot waiters to serve people with many kinds of foods which are cooked by robot chefs, and unmanned supermarkets in which customers serve themselves and use mobile phones to pay.

We also will see all of the students from all over the world including primary, secondary and university will study at artificial classrooms, they will learn all kinds of lessons on the internet and find their favorite teachers including AI teachers from all over the world. They may have many kinds of sports, arts and science activities in their different campuses located in different cities within GBA, such as science park with different laboratories in Shenzhen; AI ski ground in Jiangmen; an Art center with exhibition gallery in Zhongshan; a library in Guangzhou.

I may not have a very clear vision of GBA, but I look at the GBA map, I found it really looks like a running puppy, I want it to run to a bright and exciting future. In order to catch up the puppy, I have to study hard, be talented and capable as a resident of the GBA.

## Future adventure of the Greater Bay Area

*Ching Chung Hau Po Woon Primary School, Lam, Yau Ming – 8*

Hello! Today I am writing about the future of the Greater Bay Area. Let's begin! In 2199, the Greater Bay Area will have a lot of machines and robots. The machines and robots are made from the advanced technology now developing in Macau, Hong Kong and Mainland China. The first machine will be called the Octo-cleaner. It helps create a better environment for the Greater Bay Area. When it sees trash, it will throw it into the trash can. When it walks on the street, it will clean the ground. It has ten abilities. First, sweep. Second, clean the windows. Third, clean rooms. Fourth, help people. Fifth, wash the dishes. Sixth, take care of pets. Seventh, make food. Eighth, create luck. Ninth, read storybooks. Tenth, throw away trash. It can look after kids too! Wow! The Octo-cleaner can do lots of things! The Greater Bay Area will be a fine place if everyone in it can live happily, healthily and in a pleasant environment. The Earth will also be clean and hygienic in no time. How will the Earth be when it is clean? I can image that the earth will be very beautiful!

The second robot that would be placed in the Greater Bay Area will be called the Octo-Builder. It takes one day to build a 70 feet tall building. It likes to build very much. It takes a minute to build a hut. It takes 5 minutes to build a shop. It has 6 abilities. One, dig. Two, build. Three, have an iron head. Four, super punch. Five, eat. Six, double super punch. The Greater Bay Area will have great buildings and infrastructure if a robot like this is created. Imagine how happy and comfortable people will be when the Greater Bay Area has safe and modern architecture.

Living in the Greater Bay Area will be great if people can enjoy a high-quality life. The third robot to be introduced is the Express Robot. What ever you buy on the internet will only take just one minute and after you wait for one minute, boom! It's here! Don't forget the name. It's called the Octo-Delivery machine, and now for its abilities, it has three. One, rocket projector. Two, it can control rocket projector's speed. Three, it can pack parcels in quick speed. The logistics in the Greater Bay Area will be quick and efficient!

If the Greater Bay Area can be developed into a city with these intelligent robots, together with a clean, safe and pleasure environment, everyone will be happy!

## Future Adventure of the Greater Bay Area

*Ching Chung Hau Po Woon Primary School, Tam, Yi Ki – 9*

Today, I'm on a magic carpet. It flies down from Victoria Peak. On the magic carpet, I can see the Victoria Harbor. It's very beautiful. There are many skyscrapers. They are taller than the clouds! Then, the magic carpet flies to Tsing Ma Bridge. After thirty minutes, I'm at Disneyland. There are two Disneylands. One is Tomorrow Land, the other is Princess Land. Tomorrow Land is huge. There are many planets, Avengers heroes and Space Thrill Rides. Princess Land has a royal ball, Fairy Tale Village and Songs of Princess.

After playing in Disneyland, I can see a long string. Is that really a string? Nope. It's the Hong Kong Zhuhai Macao Bridge. After flying through the Hong Kong Zhuhai Macao Bridge, I can see St. Mark's Square. Am I in Italy? In front of me, I see the Eiffel Tower. Am I in France? No. This is Macao. Macao is a world – class tourism and leisure center. Then, I see a park. It's call the Greater Bay Area Animal Park. It has an Ocean Fish Park and a Land Animal Park. The Ocean Fish Park has many fish. The Land Animal Park has many animals, like: pandas, horses, tigers and many more .....

When the magic carpet goes out of the park, it flies to the north. After two hours, I lands in Guangzhou. It's a prosperous city. I go to a restaurant called "Greater Bay Area Guangzhou Space Restaurant". We can use our minds to order food. The food can appear by itself. While I'm eating an apple pie, someone says "Wake up! Sophia!" Then I know I'm dreaming. I laugh.

## The World of GBA!

*Diocesan Preparatory School, Tang, Chun Yin – 8*

GBA is located in Southern China. It contains 9 municipalities and 2 administrative regions, Hong Kong and Macau. GBA has over 71 million people in only 56,000 square miles, which is still not 1 percent of China's land.

Facts: Although it is small, it has more people than Canada and the UK! It has more business activities than some other countries. It is 12 percent of China's economy.

After reading the facts, let's go back. Many readers ask, "When did the GBA plan start?" That's a good question. In 2015, the Chief Executives of HK and Macau signed the GBA plan, and it has started from that day.

You can find one of the fabulous attractions in the last chapter.

Let's Discover Hong Kong!

Now, we are in the GBA's main city, Hong Kong. HK was once a small fishing village, but then it grew up into an economic city with lots of companies until now. HK container ships export the products into Mainland China. Due to its world-famous banks, HK has a boasting economy. Except that, HK also has many types of traditional cultures, walled villages, and food. For example, Cha Chaan Tengs, these old-fashioned Hong Kong style restaurants have been here since Hong Kong was a British colony. In addition, HK has Ocean Park for visitors to have entertainment, education and conservation.

'Vegas of China' - Macau

And here's Macau, a Portuguese colony from the 16<sup>th</sup> century until the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. Macau is famous for its heritage and casinos. Moreover, Macau only has a population of not more than 1 million, which makes it the city with the smallest population in GBA. On the other hand, Macau's economy is growing rapidly. Also, Macau has a new light rail for the visitors and local people to travel around conveniently. Facts: Macau's Venetian Macao Casino is the largest casino in the world, with more than 800 gambling tables and thousands of gambling machines. Furthermore, it is the largest building in Asia.

Here's Guangzhou, a large city with the largest population in GBA.

Now, I will introduce Guangzhou to you. Guangzhou has the most people in GBA. Guangzhou has many metro lines, the Guangzhou Metro Company has also started building the Guangzhou-Foshan line, which will connect the two cities together, and the construction is still on its way. Guangzhou has a Changlong entertainment park, just like Zhuhai Changlong. Some readers may ask, "Why there are two Changlong entertainment parks?" Excellent question. Actually Guangzhou's Changlong is just a copy of Zhuhai's.

GBA's contributions to the world

The GBA actually helped China's economy a lot, including itself. Because the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge are to meet the demand of passengers and freight land transport among Hong Kong, the Mainland and Macao, plus to enhance the economic and continuous development of the three places. And the GBA can serve as a springboard for China's ongoing internationalisation.

# The Adventures of the Greater Bay Area

*Discovery Mind Primary School Tung Chung Campus (DMPSTC), Naik, Shivansh – 10*

## Introduction

Have you ever wondered what a megacity, the size of a whole country, would be like? Well, you're in luck because something like that is already being built by the Chinese government, and it is known as...The Greater Bay Area! Also known as the GBA.

## What is the Greater Bay Area?

First of all, what is the GBA?

GBA is a connected, "Megacity", combining; Hong Kong, Macau, Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Zhuhai, Foshan, Zhongshan, Dongguan, Huizhou, Jiangmen and Zhaoqing, to increase trades and make a society of business.

## What is the aim of the Greater Bay Area?

This project was mainly built to link the cities of; Hong Kong, Macau, Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Zhuhai, Foshan, Zhongshan, Dongguan, Huizhou, Jiangmen and Zhaoqing, to increase imports and exports between these cities, also since all of these cities are business hubs combining all of them would bring a massive amount of money. Also, cities in the GBA will have more trades from other cities and countries.

## The Benefits of the Greater Bay Area.

Of course, there is an obvious benefit that everyone knows..the money! The GBA only covers 1% of China, but makes 12% of China's GDP. If that's doesn't impress you, that's 12% of 12.24 trillion dollars!

Another benefit is cities in the GBA that don't have much imports and exports, can have more connections due to countries in the GBA that do have imports and exports.

## The Future of the Greater Bay Area.

The potential of the GBA is possibly limitless, so much good can be done. Currently, the Chinese government is working on strengthening the links between the cities in the GBA and increase efficiency in making profits. Personally, I think the Chinese government can further invest in the GBA and possibly extend its reach past the Pearl River Delta and have more cities than 9. Also, the Chinese government could promote the GBA more to attract foreign businesses. The GBA has the massive potential to become the number one business hub in all of the world. There would be challenges of course but, all it requires is the time!

## My Final Thoughts.

The GBA is an amazing investment and should definitely continue, it will profit every city in it and has amazing potential. I can't wait to see what the Chinese government does next!

## The Greater Bay Area

*Dulwich College Beijing, Lam, Aiko – 8*

Someone has just created an entirely brand-new nation called the Greater Bay Area, which has more land than Switzerland; more people than Canada, and will contain more business than Australia! The Greater Bay Area, or shortened as the GBA, includes three places: Hong Kong, Southern China and Macau, with the people speaking Cantonesia. There are lots and lots of different islands.

### Buildings

There are many skyscrapers that bring birds close by to look at. These skyscrapers are lit up with pretty lights. The tallest building is so high up, you would have to lift your head until you can't go further to look at it. Lots of people tour these skyscrapers.

### Environment

The GBA is a beautiful home, filled with rivers that can be a mirror. Green trees and growing flowers surround it, no plastic or rubbish can be seen anywhere. Because of that, there is rarely any pollution at all. Many animals have made the GBA their new home, including a lot of pandas and birds. Everyone loves to dance to the sweet music of the birds! The humans find this place a very good environment to live in.

## The Greater Bay Area

*Dulwich College Beijing, Tao, Rosie – 8*

Welcome to a place that is bigger than Switzerland and more population than Canada and they have more business than Australia!

### Food

The most popular food in GBA is the chicken feet, dim sum, dumplings, sweet sour pork and a lot more! In the morning, people eat noodles and drink coconut juice. As for lunch, they eat dim sum and chicken feet. For dinner they eat a variety of steamed shrimp.

### View

The views are amazing like the wavy trees and the soft grass. When you smell it, you can smell the flowers and you can hear the little birds singing around you. The seas are so gentle and calm and when you walk fresh air is always blowing into your face.

### Tea culture

Tea is a famous drink that lots of people drink. It is very famous because it helps you calm down, let you meditate and let your brain rest. It also helps you concentrate and the most important thing is the feeling of warmth and happiness it gives you as you're drinking it.

## Having fun at Ocean Kingdom

*Korean International School, Li, Charlotte Tsz Yin – 7*

We went to China, Zhuhai with my family and friends. We went to Ocean Kingdom in China. We stayed in penguin hotel in Zhuhai. We each get a room. All the rooms are the same. The walls are full of penguin pictures. It is a nice hotel. It also has some cups for us. My brother broke one of the cups. My mom was angry at my brother. The cups are penguin cups. We stayed for two nights and three days. In Ocean Kingdom, we took a lot of pictures. We saw the Striped Catfish, Redtail Catfish, Suckermouth Catfish and Albing Strained Catfish, it's a lot of fish, right? Then we went to see the rays. that is a strange name for animals.

And then we saw pups, they are not dogs but seals. Their fur is brown or grey when they are three to four years old. We went to see the Walruses. They are fat and big, and they got thick skin and blubber. We also saw the Chinese Sturgeon; they are old as dinosaurs and they live in the Yangtze River! The Chinese High Fin Banded Shark changes with age. The giant Salamander cries like a baby! They are not fish but the largest amphibious in the world!

We saw the polar bears. They are found to up 200 miles from land! They swim with their head up the water. Belugas! Belugas! They are known as sea canaries. The Arctic wolf is good. We saw the Snow Jellyfish; they do look like snow. Then we saw the lone ranger crab. they are very big. We saw Sliver Arowana fish and Asian Arowana fish and Asian Arowana fish.

At night, we saw fireworks! We even eat a buffet dinner. The buffet dinner got everything! It got dessert, bread, pasta and more! The soup was hot. My mom told me to stay careful. I followed my friend's mom walking. Everything was yummy. We only got one time to eat at the buffet dinner. We are sad to go back to Hong Kong. We go back to Hong Kong by bus then a ship. I got a special seat; I am happy on the special seat. At last, we are back to Hong Kong. it took an hour. I was feeling tired when I go back to Hong Kong. It was a good holiday. I hope I was still in Zhuhai. I wish I can visit Zhuhai again very soon. We came to Zhuhai to play, hope that my friends will also be happy.

## Future Adventures of the Greater Bay Area

*Regents Primary School of Shenzhen, Lu, Nero – 8*

Shortlisted

I am very excited to hear that China's leaders have plans to launch a GBA project, which stands for the Greater Bay Area. The GBA consists of nine Chinese mainland cities (Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Huizhou, Dongguan, Zhuhai, Zhongshan, Jiangmen, Foshan and Zhaoqing) and two special administrative regions (Macao and Hong Kong).

I have always dreamed of being a tour guide and planned to be a little tour for my friends when they visit these great cities. When the GBA is launched, we can have a great adventure!

We will all meet at the Shenzhen Futian railway station in one of our school summer holidays. I will help them purchase the train tickets from Futian to Kowloon in Hong Kong. This will only take about 15 minutes. Our first stop will be the Hong Kong Science Museum. We will be able to see and play with some of the latest technology video games and watch the latest 5D movies. Our next stop will be even more exciting! We will go to Disneyland! We can enjoy many exciting and scary rides there. Definitely we will watch the Lion King show which is one of our favourites. We will never miss the evening parade and the night fireworks. Hong Kong is a food paradise. I will introduce many delicious foods to my friends. We will have dim sum in the morning. I will take them to Mongkok and we will have our lunch and dinner at the Street Market. Besides being a food paradise, Hong Kong is also a shopping paradise. Unfortunately, we are all too young to have enough money to do much shopping.

Hong Kong is connected to Zhuhai and Macao with a bridge called the Hong Kong–Zhuhai–Macao Bridge. The bridge is 55km long and built with very highly technological equipment. It is going to be very exciting to travel in a coach over this bridge across the sea. My friends and I can sing and play games inside the coach.

Our next stop will be Zhuhai. Zhuhai is famous for its beaches and delicious seafood. I will bring my friends to play at the beach and eat some nice seafood for dinner. Our next and final stop will be Macao. This is a small city with a population of about 635,000 people. However, this is a very exciting place with many 5 stars hotels and casinos. We are too small to go into the casinos so we will visit some of the interesting places like the Wall from the destroyed cathedral (Ruínas da Antiga Catedral de Sao Paulo), the Macau Tower and Macau Museum instead.

I believe our journey will be very exciting with the convenient transport within the GBA and I look forward to the day that my dream will come true – I can be a little tour guide for my friends!

## Fragrant Harbour and Nine Dragons that Touch the Heart – A Day in Hong Kong

*Regents Primary School of Shenzhen, Mohamed Mahmoud Shawki Abdelshafi Ismail, Mahmoud – 8*

During my summer holiday, I travelled to Hong Kong with my family. It was a fabulous journey. Once we arrived at the ‘Fragrant Harbour’, the literal translation of Hong Kong in Cantonese, I was surprised by the number of skyscrapers. I felt like I was an ant in the huge city. Nowadays, Hong Kong consists of Hong Kong Island, Kowloon, and the New Territories. However, this summer, we only visited Hong Kong Island and Kowloon. On the way to Kowloon, I was surprised to see a Rolls Royce and other luxurious cars. After seeing Kowloon, we went to one of the most famous places in Hong Kong: Victoria Peak. We were very hungry so we went to a small restaurant located at the top of the Peak and at the same time enjoyed the beautiful view. The waitress was very kind and recommended dim sum, which means ‘touch the heart’. It was very delicious and touched our hearts and I’ll never forget the succulent texture and the taste of dim sum.

After lunch, we went to explore the Peak. Before going to the Peak, I had seen photos and read about it. However, upon arriving, everything was different from what I imagined. I thought I’d see the Peak as it was in the time of Cheung Po Tsai that excited me. I genuinely believe that Cheung Po Tsai’s treasure is still hidden in a quiet place that has not been found yet, but definitely not in his cave. I thought the Peak would still be a pirate’s lookout, but now there are thousands of tourists and many people are living there. I was a little bit upset to see this because I imagined that the buildings and scenery would look the same as it did when pirates were there. Apart from this, we enjoyed our trip to see the views of the beautiful sea and city. I also tried unforgettable dim sum. I still keep the hope that one day the old look of Victoria Peak will be restored, at least partly, and it will attract even more tourists. Also, I wish that there will not be long queues in the future. Hopefully, the capacity, or number of trams will be increased so the trip to the Victoria Peak will not be clouded by wasting time in queues.

The day was about to end and the time had come for us to leave Hong Kong. I hope that we will all come back soon as it is now much more convenient to travel there and thanks to the fast check-points, convenient transport, and the world’s longest bridge connecting Zhuhai, Hong Kong, and Macau. Hong Kong is an amazing, multicultural place with so much to see and explore. In the future, I would like to explore other provinces in the Greater Bay Area.

## The Greater Bay Area

Winner

*Regents Primary School of Shenzhen, Su, Curran – 8*

The Greater Bay Area locates in the south of China. It is the fourth largest bay area in the world after the New York Bay Area, San Francisco Bay Area and Tokyo Bay Area. It includes Hong Kong, Macau, Shenzhen, Dongguan, Huizhou, Guangzhou, Foshan, Zhaoqing, Zhuhai, Zhongshan and Jiangmen. The four central cities of this area are Hong Kong, Macau, Shenzhen and Guangzhou. Hong Kong will reinforce and enhance the center as an international financial, shipping, trade and aviation hub. Macau will build a world tourism and leisure center. Guangzhou and Shenzhen will play an important role of national central city and comprehensive gateway city. With the development of the central cities, Dongguan, Huizhou, Foshan, Zhaoqing Zhuhai, Zhongshan and Jiangmen will form idiomatic and multi-functional cities.

The government has issued a series of policies to support business environment in the GBA. For example, the enterprise income tax rate reduced to 13 percents from April 2019. Many young top talents choose to work in this big city group under the government's policy. The government also issued protection policy of the ecological environment to keep sustainable development.

The Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge was officially opened in October 2018. People can drive from Hong Kong to Zhuhai in about 45 minutes. Many railways and bridges are under construction. The convenient transportation will drive more diversified business and other economic activities into the GBA in the near future.

More and more technology invented and applied in the China markets. With the growing demand for mobile data, the fifth generation mobile network is developing fast in the world. It will provide more services to customers, for example ultra HD television and smart home, while WeChat pay can be widely used in our daily lives.

There are kinds of distinctive food in Hong Kong, Macau, Guangzhou and Foshan. The delicious snacks and drinks in Hong Kong are pudding cake, egg tart, mango pancake, curry fish ball, Hong Kong-Style milk tea and so on. People can taste cantonese cuisine, such as roast goose, crab porridge and the soft-boiled chicken. As the birthplace of tea culture, people like to drink tea with many snacks from the Tang dynasty. People celebrate the traditional festivals with many folk-custom, such as Dancing Lion, Cantonese Opera and Chinese Kung Fu.

People are polite, friendly and hard-working in this area and their languages are Hakka Chinese, Cantonese, Teochewese and Mandarin. They can also speak international English. Guangdong is the earliest birthplace of the Maritime Silk Road. Cantonese businessmen are talents in merchandise. Most of them are very smart and clever.

People will have better work and living environment with their corporation and hard-working in future. Will you join this adventure?

## Treasure in Greater Bay Area

*Yaumati Catholic Primary School (Hoi Wang Road), Cheng, Chun Wang – 11*

The status of the Greater Bay Area (GBA) has improved recently.

It is a decent project and many local initiatives are trying to explore new opportunities in the region.

In these fifty years, China has had an important development in technology. Many cities and provinces have been modernized. In addition, there have been keen competitions against foreign cities. China has been important in terms of global economy.

With the introduction of the GBA, China's market share will increase. This is a good chance for enterprises to expand their business. Let's take Shenzhen as an example. Shenzhen is considered a revolution hub. Many technical and electronics companies, such as Teneent, set up their research base there. In general, the cooperation among different cities and provinces are beneficial to the economic development of both Hong Kong and mainland China. It is difficult for firms to survive by depending on local markets only. However, when they make an effort to learn the cultures, they can expand their business.

GBA will help foreign countries to work together to create opportunities. Firms and consumers can pay low transportation fee. This can benefit all the people in the world. Furthermore, GBA will also provide opportunities for teenagers. More jobs will be found and more people will be willing to spend money to buy good.



# Non-Fiction

Group 2

## Future Adventure of the Greater Bay Area

*Alliance Primary School, Kowloon Tong, Chung, Yui Hei Alvis – 9*

The 21st century has been a huge challenge for the mankind. We are suffering from poor environment, which causes a lot of bad consequences, including worsening global warming. In addition, intensive political unrest across the globe has hampered the livelihood of people. Apart from that, people have to adjust with the ever-advancing technology. Within the Greater Bay Area, Hong Kong is facing the problem of ageing population while China is struggling with the adverse impact of one-child policy. As teamwork is of the utmost importance in solving complex issues, the formation of the Greater Bay Area would facilitate the cooperation amongst the eleven cities and tackling their respective issues. The following discusses the benefits of the formation of the Greater Bay Area in terms of innovation and technology, environmental protection and youth development.

Firstly, in terms of innovation and technology, Hong Kong will play a leading role in developing and applying the 5G technology. As Hong Kong is fully equipped to host the 5G technology, elderlies residing in Hong Kong would be heavily benefited by it. They could use the 5G technology using electronic devices to attain more information. As time goes on, the 5G technology could effectively help take care of the elderlies and facilitate their daily routine in form of automatic cars and electric glasses. These will remind them of their schedule, help them connect with people and entertain them. Apart from that, our society would become more knowledgeable and the access to educational content and information get easier.

For environmental protection, a sustainable future would require a stronger mindset and action forwards environmental protection. We can build infrastructure similar to that of the Waste-to-Energy Park at Dongguan. The Waste-to-Energy Park collects industrial and household wastage and transforms it into new renewable energy. Such transformation process turns waste into electricity that supports the needs of the entire facility and supply for the public use. In the long run, the Greater Bay Area will have less waste and would be self-sustaining and environmentally friendly region. Moreover, in Beijing, there are some recycle bins that automatically open when the residents are approaching. The six recycle bins are used to sort out plastic, paper, metal, glass, kitchen waste and other waste. The Chinese government could effectively promote them by sharing this policy and environmental protection techniques with the eleven cities through cooperating as a large whole region of the Greater Bay Area.

Lastly, for youth development, formation of the Greater Bay Area would lead to an increase in number of universities, colleges and schools for the youth to learn and develop different skills. Cookery university for youths who want to become a chef. We can invite professional and chefs from all around the globe to teach and share their famous and savory dishes along with skills with youths. Eventually, the youth could develop their potential talent and true value. In the course of studying, the youth can share experiences, work together, tackle on various challenges, or collaborate on different projects. It opens up on different projects a channel to communicate and understand other cities' youth's culture and backgrounds. It also lays a foundation stone to set up a channel for the youths to express their own opinions and accept different views. And because the youth in Hong Kong are our future leaders, so they will develop with sympathy and empathy in their life.

Through continuing innovation and technology development, enhanced environmental protection, and scope for youth development, the Greater Bay Area would be a positive move for all the eleven cities, making it a better place to live. Definitely, the perfoliate society problem would solve subsequently along teamwork and cooperation.

## Future Adventure of the Greater Bay Area

*Ching Chung Hau Po Woon Primary School, Chan, Chung Hei Bradley – 12*

The Greater Bay Area is China's ambitious plan to link the special administrative regions of Hong Kong and Macau with nine cities in the southern province of Guangdong, creating a single, grand economic hub. In terms of GDP, size and Population, the region already surpasses the San Francisco Bay Area. Economically, it still lags behind Greater Bay Area to lead the world by 2030. Under a Central Government blueprint, major cities in the bay area will establish themselves as key hubs for different sectors. Hong Kong will be the international finance, navigation and trade Centre, as well as transport hub. Macau will be an international tourism city and a platform for trading with Portuguese-speaking countries like Brazil. Guangzhou will take a leading role as an administrative hub while Shenzhen will expand its leading role as a special economic zone and tech hub. Dongguan is transforming itself from "the world's factory" into a move of a hi-tech manufacturing base. Other cities in the region will also be involved, with the government already spending billions on massive infrastructure projects. The Hong Kong – Zhuhai – Macau mega bridge and the high-speed rail link from Hong Kong to the mainland are supposed to make it easier to travel between the cities. But integration is not only about physical links. There are many other challenges ahead. Hong Kong and Macau, both former European colonies, have their own legal, monetary and Political systems that are separate from the Mainland. Anti-mainland sentiment in Hong Kong is a major hurdle to full integration, with many in the city viewing closer ties as a threat to their unique identity. Another challenge for the Greater Bay Area is attracting talented professionals and distributing them across all 11 cities. Most will inevitably be drawn to the cities of Hong Kong, Macau and Guangzhou. Also, experts say that in order for the Greater Bay Area to become a global net for companies keen to experiment, while Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam has urged the cities to work together, there will be regional competition over infrastructural development and professional talent. But planners say the benefits of collaboration are worth tackling the challenges of making the Greater Bay Area dream a reality.

## Future Adventure of the Greater Bay Area

Shortlisted

*Ching Chung Hau Po Woon Primary School, Kwok, Ho Yu – 12*

‘What is Greater Bay Area?’ ‘Where is it?’ ‘When and why did Greater Bay Area appear?’

These are the questions that usually knock my brain and drive me to explore more about this “mysterious zone”!

In fact, more than half of Hong Kong’s young people have never heard about the “Greater Bay Area”’s(GBA) development plan, this kind of ignorance means we are continually missing the development opportunities there – what a pity!

I would like to sum up certain truths and facts I have researched as below:

1. GBA’s master plan concept was primarily announced on the occasion of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the return of Hong Kong to China.
2. Greater Bay Area (GBA) physically is neither a city or province, for easy understanding we can describe it as a ZONE.
3. GBA consists of total eleven cities which encircle Pearl River Delta area, nine of them are situated in Guangdong Province. These eleven cities include :  
 Hong Kong  
 Macau  
 Guangzhou  
 Shenzhen  
 Zhuhai  
 Foshan  
 Jiangmen  
 Zhaoqing  
 Huizhou  
 Dongguan  
 Zhongshan
4. More than 70 million people are living in GBA – nearly 10 times more than Hong Kong’s people right now!
5. Total Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in GBA reach RMB 10.49 trillion, comparable to the world’s tenth largest economy.
6. The GBA development plan is not only a local and regional strategy, in fact it is a long-term plan at the national level led by China government.

So what are the new opportunities and challenges can we dig out from this important plan? And the impacts towards Hong Kong? I believe we need to analyze these issues in the following aspects :

1. Complementarity effect among cities  
 Each city has its own special strength and characteristics – Hong Kong is famous in finance, logistics, professional service and asset management; Guangzhou, Dongguan and Foshan are well-known for their large scale production plants; Shenzhen, needless to say, has turned into “Silicon Valley” in China – see how well Tencent, Huawei and DJI perform in the world stage; and we are always easily entranced by Macau’s fantastic tourism industry. In GBA, each city can contribute her advantage and strength, complement other’s weakness for the aim of spurring the mutual economic growth. This is especially important for Hong Kong as can concentrate effort in developing certain industries, but without considering some in-born hindrances such as land and manpower shortage.
2. Seamless connection of infrastructure facilities and public services  
 With the completion of a series of infrastructure projects such as Hong Kong–Zhuhai–Macau Bridge,

and the continuous development of high-speed rail, all eleven cities in GBA are easily connected – which mean we can enjoy greatly improved traffic convenience in the future, the so-called 3 hours living zone! Besides of the close connection of infrastructure facilities, it is important to connect and integrate public services among cities as well, e.g. education, medical care etc, so as to speed up the rapid growth of production as quickly as possible, and finally achieve an integrated single market in GBA! We can imagine how large the potential it will unleash!

3. Development of financial and innovative industry

In an era of globalization, it is imperative for us to develop world-leading industries thus to maintain our competitiveness in the world. Hong Kong, besides being named the “Pearl of Orient”, has matured into a well-established finance centre since the 1970s, while our home country, China, has also shown tremendous progress in technological sector (look at your mobile, check your social media apps, see how you shop in Internet!) for recent decades. If cooperation among GBA cities can be strengthened, our world-leading financial and technology position will definitely be further secured.

4. The Belt and Road

This modern “Silk Road” covers more than 70 countries which enables China to deepen cooperation and connection with other Asia, Europe and Middle-East countries, no matter in economy (broaden the market coverage), culture (West-meet-East fusion), environment protection etc. GBA’s development plan facilitate China’s southern cities to jointly open a platform to the world which exposes our global presence. Imagine one day you might be invited to participate in a forum held in Saudi Arabia, just because you invented an innovative product which sold there via The Belt and Road! What an amazing experience!

5. Limited natural resources, esp. in Hong Kong and Macau Vs Quality of life!

Hong Kong and Macau are sometimes notorious as one of “The most difficult place to live”. Why? This is the truth that Hong Kong and Macau are such tiny cities, but with a dense population. People there find life is always not easy – so polluted, so crowded, so expensive, it is hard to find a solution at all! For the GBA development plan, cities are all linked up. We can share our natural resources together – think about to living in Guangzhou, or take a break in Zhaoqing village, or have a nice meal with family in Zhongshan – just by 1 or 2 hours travelling! Or think about our retirement life, cities in GBA with relatively low living cost and ideal living environment can attract retirees from other cities to move in – making them suitable for the development of high-end elderly care services.

6. Development of integrated shopping and tourist centre

In every year, eleven cities in GBA receive more than 400 million tourists which contribute revenue around RMB one trillion in 2016. However the major cities are almost independent with each other in terms of tourism destination – an integrated single market has not yet been established! For the closer cooperation in GBA, e.g. faster interconnection among cities, people can reach other tourist sites within two to three hours, this would definitely enhance our tourism industry.

China has showed to the world her tremendous growth in past three decades – reformed from remote country into one of the world’s most dynamic and exciting regions. Within GBA, we share a similar dialect – Cantonese, we have similar appearance but the most important point is, we all Chinese have the heart and determination to build up a better future for our home country – China!

## The Greater Bay Area is a megalopolis

*Ching Chung Hau Po Woon Primary School, Kwok, Siu Chung – 12*

‘What is Greater Bay Area?’ ‘Where is it?’ ‘When and why did Greater Bay Area appear?’

These are the questions that usually knock my brain and drive me to explore more about this “mysterious zone”!

In fact, more than half of Hong Kong’s young people have never heard about the “Greater Bay Area”’s(GBA) development plan, this kind of ignorance means we are continually missing the development opportunities there – what a pity!

I would like to sum up certain truths and facts I have researched as below :

GBA’s master plan concept was primarily announced on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the return of Hong Kong to China.

Greater Bay Area (GBA) physically is neither a city or province, for easy understanding we can describe it as a ZONE.

GBA consists of total eleven cities which encircle Pearl River Delta area, nine of them are situated in Guangdong Province. These eleven cities include :

Hong Kong

Macau

Guangzhou

Shenzhen

Zhuhai

Foshan

Jiangmen

Zhaoqing

Huizhou

Dongguan

Zhongshan

More than 70 million people are living in GBA – nearly 10 times more than Hong Kong’s people right now!

Total Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in GBA reach RMB 10.49 trillion, comparable to the world’s tenth largest economy.

The GBA development plan is not only a local and regional strategy, in fact it is a long-term plan at the national level led by China government.

So what are the new opportunities and challenges can we dig out from this important plan? And the impacts towards Hong Kong? I believe we need to analyze these issues in the following aspects :

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Seamless connection of infrastructure facilities and public services

With the completion of a series of infrastructure projects such as Hong Kong–Zhuhai–Macau Bridge, and the continuous development of high–speed rail, all eleven cities in GBA are easily connected – which mean we can enjoy greatly improved traffic convenience in the future, the so–called 3 hours living zone! Besides of the close connection of infrastructure facilities, it is important to connect and integrate public services among cities as well, e.g. education, medical care etc, so as to speed up the rapid growth of production as quickly as possible, and finally achieve an integrated single market in GBA! We can imagine how large the potential it will unleash!

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China has showed to the world her tremendous growth in past three decades – reformed from remote country into one of the world’s most dynamic and exciting regions. Within GBA, we share a similar dialect – Cantonese, we have similar appearance but the most important point is, we all Chinese have the heart and determination to build up a better future for our home country – China!

# The Prospect of the Greater Bay Area

Honourable Mention

*Diocesan Girls' Junior School, Leung, Sin Yu – 10*

## Introduction of the Greater Bay Area

Greater Bay Area, also known as Guangdong–Hong Kong–Macau Greater Bay Area or GBA, is a city cluster consisting nine cities (Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Zhuhai, Foshan, Dongguan, Zhongshan, Jiangmen, Huizhou, and Zhaoqing) and two special administrative regions (Hong Kong and Macau). Although it is only 1% of China's territory, Greater Bay Area covers 56,000 square kilometres, which is the biggest in the four bay areas— Greater Bay Area itself, Tokyo Bay Area, New York Metropolitan Area and San Francisco Bay Area. Also, having 5% of China's population, which means 70 million people, Greater Bay Area also has the most population out of the four, also meaning that it has more population than the whole of Canada or United Kingdom. But don't think that's all! Greater Bay Area also has the best airport and port strength, best educational strength, second in science and technology strength out of the four bay areas.

## Positive and Negative Effects of the Greater Bay Area

Once you hear “Greater Bay Area”, you would probably think about business. But before you boost any business, we first need to find a job. Of course, we can find any job that suits ourselves in the Greater Bay Area. Now, let's learn about the opportunities for businessmen. They will get a bigger market in mainland, and companies can also attract more investment. The Greater Bay Area will also bring technologies and knowledge. For example, Shenzhen is known for its technology. Hong Kong may have some expertise exchanges with places like Shenzhen with new technology and this will definitely help to improve the technology level of local products.

If you are not a businessman, don't think Greater Bay Area isn't useful for you. We can live in the cities of Greater Bay Area because the price of the properties there are lower. The Financial Secretary of Hong Kong, Paul Chan Mo-po has also said that this may solve Hong Kong's housing problem.

But while everyone focuses on the benefits, others have spotted out some harm. They say that it may be a loss for Hong Kong as talented people in Hong Kong will move to these cities. But others suggest that attractive policies can help to stop any loss of talented people.

## The Future of Greater Bay Area

But after all of this introduction, what will the Greater Bay Area be like in the future? Based on its total area of 56,000 square kilometres, population of 7 million and its GDP in 2017 to be US \$1.58 trillion, I believe that not far from now, the Greater Bay Area would probably be filled with the newest and best technology. Loads of talented people with different talents from all around the world would probably gather together in this place. It would be a place full of wonders and very attractive. Businessmen would soon find out that this place is perfect for them to start their business—full of opportunities, the rent is low, all the cutting-edge technology... Their products can get bigger markets and work with companies or businessmen from different parts of the world that are gathered in the Greater Bay Area! Besides, they can easily work with companies in Hong Kong, Macau and mainland China. Also, their products can be sold in the whole area, probably with a bit of help from all the professionals from different categories found in the Greater Bay Area.

In terms of normal citizens living in this area, they would probably seek academic in Dongguan, a place mainly for education and research, or job in Zhongshan, a place mainly for manufacturing as there are various institution and job opportunities that suit them. They can also rent or buy houses in mainland as there is more land in mainland. Therefore, the houses there are bigger but cheaper. But the bad thing is, if everyone lives in mainland, the price of houses would also rise like Hong Kong, so there would be the same housing problems in mainland and Hong Kong.

A lot of places are being built in this area to help it grow—such as Qianhaiwan in Shenzhen. It is a place that has already been partially built. The North is for business activities, including some operations for Hong Kong banks. There will also be many logistical activities. Actually, the plan was to replicate some of the advantages of Hong Kong. Another example is Binhaiwan in Dongguan. The government is trying to start a first-class university here, just like Stanford University in Silicon Valley. It will possibly be called Greater Bay University. It will also host an “international technology innovation cooperation zone” and aims at becoming the “industrial core of Dongguan”.

But to achieve this, Greater Bay Area needs to have better transport, just like some of the current railways and roadways which make travelling around Greater Bay Area easier— Guangzhou–Shenzhen–Hong Kong Express Rail Link from Futian Station in Shenzhen to West Kowloon in Hong Kong, Hong Kong–Zhuhai–Macau Bridge which connects Hong Kong International Airport to the coast of Macau and Zhuhai, and Northern Lian Tang/Heung Yuen Wai Checkpoint which also connects Hong Kong and Shenzhen.

Based on all the benefits of the Greater Bay Area, I fully believe that the Greater Bay Area will grow fast and be full of talents and technologies. I believe that very soon, the area that I live in, Greater Bay Area, would be a place filled with advanced technology.

# My Family and the Greater Bay Area

*Diocesan Girls' Junior School, Ngai, Ching Audrey – 10*

## What is Greater Bay Area (GBA)?

Guangdong–HK–Macau Greater Bay Area (GBA) is an initiative from the Chinese government to link up Hong Kong, Macau and 9 cities in Guangdong Province to form a big cohesive metro area to foster growth by developing technology and innovation, boosting infrastructure and increasing financial links between the cities<sup>1</sup>. The GBA has a combined population of 70 million in 2017<sup>2</sup>. To me, it is like bringing 11 individual people with different skills together to create stronger companies and more comfortable living condition. Let me introduce the cities to you in my eyes and how they can work together to bring out the best of all regions!

First of all, Hong Kong is my home. It's full of people, high–rise buildings, malls, and convenient transportation. Hong Kong also has highest quality in financial, legal and professional services. My father always tells me that he needs to work with Hong Kong banks to provide cheap loans to support his business.

My family's duty–free trading business has an office in Futian, Shenzhen, right above the high–speed train station. I went with Daddy to Futian many times by the high–speed train, which only takes 14 mins from West Kowloon to Futian, it is so fast I didn't even have time to finish my pastry! There, I don't need to pay cash for anything; people just need to scan a QR code from Daddy's phone, even when you take taxi! To me, Shenzhen is like a technological inventor, with high speed train, 5G mobile phone network, and all taxi are electric cars. It offers lots of technology innovations for better living.

Dongguan is right next to Shenzhen with factories everywhere. I have been there two times to visit handbag manufacturing factories as my mother owns a handbag label Esemblē. Mommy took me there to understand how things were made. The staff even taught me how to weave bracelets out of three strings! It is like a LEGO master builder, who can build anything.

Next is Guangzhou. I went there in 2016 to visit my great grandfather's old home, which is now a historical building. My great grandfather grew up in Thailand but returned to China in 1949. He eventually became a politician but he lived in Guangzhou when Daddy was young. Guangzhou is just a massive city with lots of people everywhere (Guangzhou has a 14.5–million population which is the highest in GBA<sup>3</sup>) and most well known for food.

I also went to Macau a few times, and we stayed in gigantic hotels mimicking Paris and Venice, with large pools and lots of children adventure. Macau is also full of casino that children are forbidden to enter. It's an entertainment heaven!

Zhuhai is next to Macau. Daddy drove us across the longest bridge in the world – Hong Kong–Zhuhai–Macau Bridge (Bridge)– in just 40 mins! We went to a big mall and also visited Daddy's office in Zhuhai. I also went to Hengqin during Christmas to go to Lionsgate VR park. Everything seems cheaper and is less crowded in Zhuhai.

I have been to 6 out of 11 GBA cities already and I know them quite well!

## How my family business benefits

<sup>1</sup> BBC.com, "Greater Bay Area: China's ambitious but vague economic plan", 26 February 2019

<sup>2</sup> SCMP.com, "Greater Bay Area: 10 facts to put it in perspective", 1 April 2019

<sup>3</sup> SCMP.com, "Greater Bay Area: 10 facts to put it in perspective", 1 April 2019

My family has been running duty free product trading business in China and Thailand for decades. Duty free is the zone between borders, and there are more than 100 duty free zones within GBA.

My grandfather opened the first duty free store in 1979 in Shenzhen Luohu port. In its first 35 years, LongTime was a mid-sized Hong Kong and Thailand company, but in 2018 things changed quite dramatically because of the opening of the high-speed rail between Hong Kong and China and the Bridge between Hong Kong, Zhuhai and Macau. It enabled Daddy to move the warehouse to Zhuhai and also open an office in Shenzhen to improve product finding and connect all high-quality factories in Shenzhen and Dongguan. Therefore, the business has expanded quickly into a “Greater Bay Area” business with 4 offices in 2 years, while achieving higher revenues and lower costs. Hong Kong office remains to be the headquarter with all finance and accounting and legal professional resources based in here. LongTime will continue to grow rapidly to cover the 100 duty free zones in GBA, as fast as the high-speed train!

You see how businesses can grow quickly through this GBA initiative, and how infrastructure and technology enable my parents to manage their businesses outside of Hong Kong while taking good care of me and my younger brother.

### **The Future and I**

I imagine when I grow older I will go to Shenzhen, Guangzhou and Macau for a day trip with friends for fun, cash-free carrying just our phone around to pay and commute. There will be more cross border inter-school activities for cultural exchange in which I will participate. My parents will continue to travel between cities as businesses continue to expand all over GBA. In fact, Daddy is planning to open another office in Foshan because faster ferries between Foshan, Hong Kong and Macau will be open soon. We can even afford a big weekend home in Zhongshan, since Zhongshan’s home price is a lot cheaper than Hong Kong and the 30-mins highway between Zhongshan and Shenzhen will be opened in 2024. When I take over Mommy’s business in the future, I will take advantage of the GBA gateway to grow the business to all over China so that everyone will own an Esemblē bag! I will open a shop in Guangzhou since population is highest there. Everyone in GBA benefits out of it by bringing the best out of each city together! How wonderful!

## Greater Bay Area

*Diocesan Preparatory School, Ng, Pak To Matthew – 9*

Have you ever heard of GBA? The full title of GBA is Greater Bay Area. GBA is a co-operation plan between Guangdong, Hong Kong, Macau, Zhuhai, e.t.c. This co-operation plan aims to combine first class, second class and third class industry in the area. Why should we have this plan? Is it good for our future? We should know that every place has their own advantages and weaknesses.

Hong Kong is good at providing trading services, raising capital for international companies; however, Hong Kong is small, hence it does not have enough lands for its own first and second industry. In Guangdong, there is more land for farming, light and heavy industry, but not enough capital to support their commercial activities. Then, under the GBA plan, Hong Kong can help Guangdong raise capital to support their development, and Guangdong can provide farming and industrial products to Hong Kong. So it can be a win-win solution for everyone in the area.

What have we done for GBA in the future? All the effort can be classified into two major parts, the hardware and software. For the hardware part, the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge is built to connect these three places. Therefore, we can travel among these three places in a more convenient way. The commercial efficiency can be boosted. The Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong High Speed Rail Hong Kong section can give a better travel experience to the guest. For the software part, Hong Kong government has signed the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) to reduce the trading barrier between Hong Kong and mainland China.

We look forward to have more preparation for the further development of the Great Bay Area. Someone may worry that the plan may not be good for Hong Kong. They think that Hong Kong will lose its own advantages under this plan. However, Hong Kong should look for improvement, but not stand still.

## A Living Land

*Diocesan Preparatory School, Pang, Jianan – 11*

Thousands of miles of land, millions of people..... The Greater Bay Area lives up to its fame. And I'm in the midst of it all.

I have always wondered what it would be like to live in a whole new dimension, and this is the second best thing. I longed that my life could be different, that I could start over, and by moving to the GBA I have been given an opportunity. The GBA is a dream for everyone.

As I am offered this new option, I worked hard and my life unraveled in front of me. I loved the GBA and was convinced that I should stay here forever. It held so many new and fresh places and made myself see the world in a different perspective. But not all talk was about the good of the GBA. Some people didn't want it to stand, as saying it was a threat to Hong Kong's independence.

As so many people have been saying that, my thoughts began to waver, and I started to doubt the GBA.

"Why should we have a Greater Bay Area?"

"What is Greater Bay Area?"

"The Greater Bay Area is nothing but a problem!"

Maybe the GBA isn't such a good idea after all.

One night, I thought about all those gossip. Those cruel words about the GBA sent a chill to my heart. What if the GBA really won't stand and all those opportunities faded away? My eyes drifted towards a notebook which I had written down all my dreams, all the hopes I had: 1. to live in the GBA, to work hard, and make my new life more significant. Then I looked to the painting that I had painted more than a year ago. It was the GBA; the world that I imagined would be like. The painting was disturbingly familiar, as if I had seen the GBA from the sky, and captured all the features. But that isn't possible, I thought, I haven't even seen the GBA then. Although I reassured myself that was unlikely, the painting showed too much likeness that I can't ignore. My heart rapidly fluttered as I came to the conclusion. No, it can't be. I pushed the thought aside.

The GBA is a place full of technology. But, I didn't feel overwhelmed as I took in everything. I only find it fascinating; all those fresh knowledge planted a seed in my brain as I began to comprehend everything. The GBA..... it is more than just a new place in the globe..... it is more than just a place where people live..... it is alive. I finally realised the secret; all the memories started flooding back, drowning me in a deep pool of remembrance. The thunder that had rumbled when people cut down the trees to make room for buildings was not just a typical storm; it was the GBA growling in protest. The warm sun that had shined for days weren't just luck; it was the GBA smiling down on the community services. The longer winter this year is not just.....

The realisation hit me as hard as any ball would. The GBA is alive! I repeated it three times and I still could not believe it. I felt a rush of protection for it. Then I remembered the ghastly comments about it, and I couldn't have suffered worse. Am I becoming obsessed? Is it possible to be living in a place that's alive-----a place that has its own opinions?

After that, I lived in fear of the GBA, which was probably natural, since the knowledge of the land that I'm living on is alive. I felt helpless, well; it wasn't every day that you get to deal with a living land. I have read many books describing these kinds of situations, except that this is real; and I may not get a happy ending like the heroes in countless stories. What should I do?

Waiting is painful. Forgetting is painful. But not knowing what to do is the worst kind of suffering. So I should just wait for troubles to come to me, not go looking for them. Well, what could go wrong with living on a live land? Actually, everything could. The ground could just open up and swallow me, and not waste any energy on it. I could run, but I know that I would never escape from the GBA's wrath. However hard I try, I would never shake off this piece of knowledge, for it would haunt me until the end.

Unless.....sometimes, not knowing what I'm doing allows me to do things I never knew I could do. I decided to investigate, to observe things that the GBA had in store for us. And I'm really glad I did. I

found out that the GBA is not evil, actually completely the opposite. It cares for the world and we have many things to thank it.

The world won't come to us; we have to come to the world. I realised that I have become part of the GBA, and I will share many adventures with it, also relishing the thought that it won't do anything to hurt me.

## The Greater Bay Area

Honourable Mention

*Dulwich College Beijing, Herbert, Oliver – 11*

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to step foot in a brand-new region? The Greater Bay Area (GBA) is your chance to seize that moment! This is a Chinese Government initiative to link the cities of Hong Kong, Macau, Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Zhuhai, Foshan, Zhong Shan, Dongguan, Huizhou, Jiangmen and Zhao Qing. This would cover 56,000 square kilometres. It would have a combined population of over 60 million people, and China hope it will rival other bay areas, such as the ones in San Francisco, New York and Tokyo. The GBA has an endless amount of magnificent wonders that must be visited, and China hope it will become a major economic force in the world.

### Hong Kong

Hong Kong is an incredibly diverse region located on the south coast of China with a dense population of over 7 million people. Hong Kong consists of Hong Kong Island, Kowloon, the New Territories, and several other small islands scattered over 1,092 square kilometres. Its official languages are Cantonese and English.



Did you know that Hong Kong means ‘Fragrant Harbour’ in Chinese?!

#### Culture

Hong Kong holds many cultural treasures; including the Man Mo Temple, the Tian Tan Buddha and many more places. There are about 600 Buddhist and Taoist temples, 800 Christian churches, five mosques, three synagogues, a Hindu temple and a Sikh temple – so you could practice up to 7 religions in one day! These examples show how varied the culture in Hong Kong really is.

Did you know that Hong Kong’s oldest cemetery dates back to 1845?



#### Economy

Financial services, trading and tourism are the traditional industries in Hong Kong. They are Hong Kong’s providers of economic growth. The Hong Kong Dollar is the 8<sup>th</sup> most traded currency in the world. It is among the richest cities in the world and has more Rolls Royce per person than any other place on Earth. The Hong Kong International Airport is among the top ten busiest in the world. It handles over 59 million passengers every day.



Did you know that Hong Kong is nicknamed ‘shopping paradise’?

#### Scenic Spots

There are many scenic spots in Hong Kong that must be visited. Due to its popularity, people from all over the world visit them, which have grown in popularity; including Ocean Park (voted ‘the world’s best theme park’ in 2012), Disney Land, the Dragon Back Hike and many more very fascinating and amusing areas. Its terrain is rather hilly, so there are outdoor escalators in the Central district – these are great fun to ride.



Did you know that Hong Kong has the most skyscrapers in the world?

## Macau

Macau is otherwise known as the ‘Las Vegas of the East’, but its home to more than just casinos. It’s the most densely populated region on earth, with a population of 648,500 SQUEEZED in to just 30.5 square kilometres. **WOW!** Its far more than just a casino city, with a rich history, delicious food and many attractions, there is nowhere like it! Its connected to Hong Kong and China by the world’s longest sea bridge.

### Culture

Macau doesn’t just hold lavish casinos. The centre of Macau is a UNESCO world heritage site! You must visit Senado square (which is a stunning symbol of East meets West heritage), and the Ruins of St Paul’s. Also, did you know that one of the world’s most endangered languages is found here which is Patua? This is an interesting blend of Cantonese and Portuguese – due to the fact that it used to be a Portuguese colony. As of the year 2000, there were only 50 speakers left worldwide!



Did you know that Macau was Europe’s first and last colony in China?

### Economy

Macau surprisingly has its own currency called Patacas and it is the second richest territory in the world with zero public debt. This remarkable region is the most successful gaming capital with its casinos raking in 80% of its economy. Due to this amazing economic profit, the government gives every local resident 9,000 patacas a year. It depends on mainland China for most of its food, fresh water and goods.

### Entertainment

Macau has developed many amusements over the past years including the DreamWorks experience, The House of Dancing Water and many other fun areas. People from all around the world go to Macau to gamble. Casinos in Macau roll in 3 times more money than Vegas does, and they own the largest casino in the world. Also, did you know that Macau holds the highest bungee jump ever? Jumpers leap from a platform 233m above ground level and experience the ultimate bungee jump!



Did you know that ‘rink hockey’ is one of the most popular sports in Macau?

### What do you think?

What do you believe life in the GBA would be like in the future? China’s ambitious creativity to form a bay area to rival those in San Francisco, New York and Tokyo, is devised to advance the economy. It would develop the latest technology to deliver around the planet and some say it would attempt to challenge Silicon Valley (home to the enterprises Google, eBay, Apple and Facebook). The GBA would utilise high tech transport, transferring many people from city to city around the Bay Area.

It is rich in resources, culture and also beautiful to look at.

Hong Kong, Macau and southern China already attract many tourists for their stunning scenery, so the GBA is already wealthy because of tourism. Business companies may be interested to develop and locate their workers to this area, as it is close to the sea so it’s easy to ship goods.

# The Greater Bay Area

Shortlisted

*Dulwich College Beijing, Li, Damien – 9*

The Greater Bay Area is a dynamic megapolis with a vibrant economy, splendid geographical features, and fascinating traditions. It consists of eleven different cities: Macao, Hong Kong and 9 more cities located in Southern China including Shenzhen and Guangzhou.

The new region will have more land than Switzerland, more population than Canada, and the business will be larger than the whole of Australia. In this report, you will be experiencing what it feels like to live in the Greater Bay Area.

## **BALANCED LIFESTYLE**

As a pioneer of a four-day workweek, the Greater Bay Area promotes a balance between work and leisure. From Monday to Thursday, life is fast paced. Starting from Thursday night, relaxing weekend mode turns on.

Go to a Cantonese pop concert, admire the magnificent city skyline, immerse into a high-end shopping mall, try your luck in a bustling casino in Macau, enjoy precious family time in Disneyland, or pay an educational visit to Daya Bay Nuclear Power Plant...city life is always rich and colorful!

If you prefer to soak in nature, the Greater Bay Area will not disappoint you either. With winding coastlines, beautiful mangrove forest and endless mountains, sunbathing on a tranquil beach or hiking on a strenuous trail is just one step away.

Crazy housing price is not an issue for Hong Kong anymore. As a result of the vast land supply and the speedy and convenient transportation system, young people choose to settle in suburbs in Guangdong. Living in a three-floor house or a spacious apartment is not a luxury. Those tiny pigeon-cage-like low cost housing has become part of the Great Bay Area History Museum.

## **ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY**

Rivalling with Silicon Valley, the Greater Bay Area is a globally influential technology hub where leading science, innovation and bio-tech giants such as Huawei, Tencent and Dajiang Innovations thrive. It possesses abundant resources to pave a way to our bright future, full of artificial intelligence and modern technology.

With a 5G connection, you can download a two-hour Jackie Chan kung-fu movie in just a few seconds, wear an interpreting headset and chat with your Arabic friend from Dubai without any language barriers, or watch the live alpine skiing race of 2022 Winter Olympics from different angles.

Autonomous driving is not a dream anymore. Speak to the smart screen, the driverless car will automatically take you to the destination safely.

In the Greater Bay Area, technology is rapidly advanced and constantly reshapes everyone's daily life.

## **SCRUMPTIOUS CUISINE**

After a full day of hard work, feeling like some authentic Cantonese dish such as steamed fish or barbecue roasted pork? Or craving for some elegant French cuisine or delicious Italian steaks in Michelin-starred restaurants? As a "Gourmet Paradise", the Greater Bay Area has everything you expect to taste.

Local people have a strong passion for food, especially the classic Cantonese breakfast, Dim Sum. Shrimp Dumplings, Siu Mai, Rice Noodle Rolls, Pineapple Butter Buns, Steamed chicken Feet... hundreds of exquisitely cooked dishes are just dazzling and tempting!

## **CLEAN ENVIRONMENT**

The GBA citizens have a strong awareness of environmental protection. Garbage classification is a must. Water recycle allows you consume minimal fresh water. Thanks to the big leap in clean energy, gasoline cars are now antique displayed in museums. Electric cars with solar panel roofs can be charged in minutes.

## HISTORICAL SITES AND TRADITIONS

Although surrounded by glamorous skyscrapers, amazing historical sites and culture relics play a vital role in the Greater Bay Area.

Strolling in the Historic Center of Macau, a World Cultural Heritage, you will hear the harmonious conversation of China and the Western from these oldest and largest buildings with co-existing Chinese and Western architecture characteristics,

Kaiping Diaolou and Villages, another World Cultural Heritage, is perfect for exploring the history of overseas Chinese in the 18th and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Traditional rituals and celebrations are well preserved. People perform lion dance during the Chinese New Year to bring good fortune. Families reunion on the Mid-Autumn Festival to enjoy egg yok moon cakes while admiring the full moon. People celebrate the Dragon Boat Festival with dragon boat racing and eating zongzi.

## A TYPICAL DAY FOR KIDS

An 8-year-old's typical day will be like this.

*After a healthy breakfast, my driverless car takes me to a golf course for a 45-minute practice. When I arrive at school, my study will start with a Chinese professor from Zhongshan University giving a Madarin lecture on Li Bai and Traditional Tang Poems. Next, I will do an online self-taught math course on Internet, and then discuss Shakespeare with my English teacher, a PHD from Oxford. After lunch, I might have a virtual trip either to Mars or Xi'an, the Capital City of Tang Dynasty in Ancient China. Finally, I can finish school with a show and tell on the 3D print of my art design. Sometimes after school, I have to practice Kung-fu or piano. But luckily, we have no-homework and no-after-school-tutoring rules, and I only go to school four days a week.*

*"In 20 years, the knowledge we learn today may be obsolete, the popular jobs may be taken by robots, so how can we prepare for the unknown future?" This question that our Headmaster always asks is probably the only "homework" I need to solve.*

## FUN FACTS

- The Phoenix bird represents a symbol of good luck
- The Greater Bay Area has a population of 70 million, more than the whole of the U.K and twice that of Canada
- The Greater Bay Area stretches for 56,000 square kilometers
- The Greater bay Area only takes up one percent of China's whole space
- Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge is 55 kilometers, the longest sea crossing link in the world

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the Greater Bay Area is a thriving and vigorous area where Chinese meets Western, and past connects with future. It may well become great, but the question is, will it become the greatest in the world?

# The Greater Bay Area

Honourable Mention

*Dulwich College Beijing, Li, Kya – 11*

## What is the Greater Bay Area?

It's exciting, launching a new area where your home was! The Greater Bay Area (GBA) is a region, which brings together the countries Macau, Hong Kong and Southern parts of China. Covering 56,000 square kilometres; about three times the size of the San Francisco Bay Area. The GBA is developing aims to try and bring different parts of Southern China closer. The goal is to develop a world-class urban cluster that could rival global cities also situated on bays, such as San Francisco, New York or Tokyo. Can you imagine what life would be like in this new wonder land?

## **Hong Kong**

### History

The area that is today Hong Kong was settled by the Han Chinese Dynasty in the 7<sup>th</sup> century. In 1513 the Portuguese explorer Jorge Alvares arrived in Hong Kong. Trading between Portugal and China started soon after. However, there were also battles between the Chinese and Portuguese and soon the trading stopped. Years later, in 1699, the East India Company from Britain arrived, and trade started up with Britain. At the end of the first Opium war in 1842, Britain gained control of Hong Kong. The city became a major port for trade with southern China. After more than 150 years of British rule, China again took control of Hong Kong in July of 1997. Although now a part of China, Hong Kong maintains the same political, economic and legal systems that it had before.

### Food

Hong Kong is a true food paradise, with some of the world's very best restaurants, from cheap eats and street food to high-end Michelin-starred eateries. While most of these dishes are informed by Chinese cooking, many of them also capture Hong Kong's heritage in the most delicious of ways. One of the most popular meals in Hong Kong is Dim Sum from Sham Shui Po. No Hong Kong experience is complete without a dim sum meal. Traditionally served in bamboo steamers, these small plates are designed to be shared, allowing you to taste a bit of everything. Originated from this region and means "Touch the heart." Must-orders include steamed siu mai (pork dumplings), har gow (prawn dumplings) and the fluffy barbecued pork-filled buns known as char siu bao. It's expertly crafted and freshly prepared also tremendously affordable – dim sum.

### Geography

Hong Kong can be geographically sorted into three different parts; Hong Kong Island, Kowloon City, and the New Territories. Hong Kong has a total area of 1,108 square kilometres of which 3.16% is water. 60 islands are dispersed around Hong Kong, the largest of which by area is Lantau Island, located Southwest of the main peninsula. Hong Kong Island is separated from Kowloon by Victoria Harbor, a natural landform harbour, while Kowloon Peninsula and New Territories are contiguous to the mainland, and there is no ocean between them. The highest point in the territory is Tai Mo Shan at a height of 958 metres in the New Territories.

## **Macau**

### Landscapes

Just feeling the pleasant and complacent feeling while observing the alluring landscape of Macau, make the environment a noticeable part of Macau's personality. This land of green can shock the senses especially after you've spent a while in the bustling, modern city. Taipa village is a small and peaceful community with narrow streets, markets and great Macanese food. Portuguese-style offices, ancient temples and colonial villas blend effortlessly amongst old-fashioned streetlamps, hanging flower baskets and street vendors. Food Street, which is also known as the Rua da Cunha, draws many people over to the south of the island, eager to savour the true taste of Macau.

This is a photo of the Macau landscape in the evening.

### Architecture

The architecture of Macau encompasses a mixture of world heritage listed and modern buildings, as well as multiple bridges and tunnels. The tallest completed building in Macau is the Grand Lisboa Casino & Hotel, with an architectural height to the tip of 258m (846 feet) and a residential height of 197.7m. The Grand

Lisboa has 48 floors above ground and 4 below, with 433 hotel rooms, and 338 parking spots. One of the bridges, The Zhuhai bridge, opened in October 2018, is the world's longest sea bridge, spanning 55 kilometres, from Hong Kong to Macau, and Zhuhai. The bridge cost approximately \$20 Billion to complete and was under construction from December 2009. The bridge is designed to last over 120 years, withstanding pressures from earthquakes and typhoons.

### Economy

The economy of Macau has remained one of the most open in the world since its handover to China in 1999. During the first three quarters of 2007, a rapid rise in the number of mainland visitors due to China's easing of travel restrictions, increased public works expenditures, and significant investment inflows associated with the liberalisation of Macau's gaming industry drove the five-year recovery. Sadly, in 2015, Macau's economy saw a sharp decrease (-26.4%) due to the reduced spending by visitors from Mainland China since Anti-corruption campaign under Xi Jinping. The Hong Kong is itself a reserve currency for the Macanese pataca, which is pegged at the official rate of around 1 Hong Kong dollar to 1.03 Macanese pataca.

### What would life be like in the Greater Bay Area?

China's plan is to develop the GBA improve the economy. The Greater Bay Area will link up Hong Kong, Macau, and nine parts of Southern China. Hong Kong is known as a world financial center; Shenzhen is known as China's "Silicon Valley" because of its innovation and startup culture; Guangzhou is known for its manufacturing industry and Macau and Zhuhai are known for leisure and tourism. If all of this is brought together, then it will create a new wonderful place, which will bring together the whole of Southern China together. What's other great adventures will China take next?

# The Greater Bay Area

*Dulwich College Beijing, McIntosh, Leo – 9*

This report will give information about lifestyle, entertainment and wildlife in the Greater Bay Area. This report is about the GBA which has more land than Switzerland, a bigger population than Canada and business is busier than the whole of Australia. This country could soon become a huge tourist attraction. Read on to find out more about this special country.

## Lifestyle

Many people in the Greater Bay Area get up early to do dancing and Tai Chi. This was influenced by China. Traders come to the flower boats to get the flowers and sell them in the market. They got the idea of this from southern China. Rice and noodles are a delicious national delicacy. Thousands of bowls are eaten every day. There is a national park right in the centre of the Greater Bay area that has lots of places to walk.

## Entertainment

One of the most popular hobbies in the Greater Bay Area is walking on trails. There is a range of 250 different trails. Some are in the national park and others are on the mountains. In the Spring, many people watch lots of rugby. The best team is GBA RC with thousands of supporters. The team have won around 35 tournaments. They also love to watch Chinese lion dances to celebrate the Chinese New Year. There are also many casinos in which only adults can play in.

## Fun Facts

- There are lots of places to eat in the Greater Bay Area.
- The Greater Bay Area is full of skyscrapers.
- Dim Sum is a popular dessert in the Greater Bay Area.
- Macao is part of the GBA and makes 3 times more casino profits than Las Vegas.

## Wildlife

The Greater Bay Area contains nearly 30,000 different plants. They are used for medicine and eating. There are lots of different types of animals in the Greater Bay Area. One of the most famous animals in the Greater Bay Area is the pink dolphin which is also known as the Chinese white dolphin and which is endangered because of pollution and habitat loss. Some other animals found in the GBA are the black faced spoonbill and shrikes. There are over 100 animal species found in the Greater Bay Area.

The Greater Bay Area is a really nice place to visit. After all, who would not want to go to a place with amazing wildlife and scenery. You'll never get bored with so many things to see and explore.

## The Greater Bay Area

Honourable Mention

*Dulwich College Beijing, Soldati, Valerie – 9*

On the northern coast of South China sea there lies a country called Greater Bay Area. GBA is a young country but yet, it has thousand-year-old heritage. Traveling through this land, you can find both modern skyscrapers and UNESCO heritage historical sites (Kaiping watchtowers), you can taste both traditional Cantonese dishes and modern Western food. Some parts of GBA are buzzing and vibrant having great population density (Macau is number 1 in the world with 20000/km<sup>2</sup>), whilst the others are very quiet and peaceful. All these make it special.

### Wildlife

GBA is home to a wide range of animals and birds. There are approximately 365 mammal, 272 amphibian and 194 amphibian species. The tropical and subtropical climate creates an ideal habitat for them.

Among animals, endemic to GBA are the giant panda, the blue-nosed monkey and of course the unique *box-headed lizard*. Unlikely to other lizards who are incredibly fast runners, the box-headed one is very slow. Unsurprisingly, feeling threatened it doesn't run away but rolls its body inside the box-like head and produces frightening sound. It makes the lizard look like a hissing shoebox. This is often enough to scare the predator away.

Some animals are not native to Greater Bay Area, they found their home here during the colonization period. For example, the *Azores noctule* is a species of bat originated from the forests of Azorean islands, Portugal.

**Did you know...?**  
The Azores noctule is the only bat specie which is known to hunt at the day.

Not all animals inhabiting GBA are very friendly. Surely enough, you wouldn't like to come face to face with a *many-banded krait*. Its name comes from many black and creamy white stripes. The many banded krait is amongst the most venomous serpents in the planet. The scientists believe that one bite of this snake contains enough toxin to kill 20 men.

Unfortunately, some species residing in the country are directly threatened with extinction, and *the Chinese pangolin* is one of them. It is a very shy and secretive nocturnal mammal. The Chinese pangolin uses its long claws to dig out anthills and termite mounds. While eating the animal shuts its nostrils to stop the ants from rushing up the nose. Chinese pangolins are considered as a scrumptious meal, that's why poaching together with deforestation brought them close to extinction.

### Amazing Fact!

The body of Chinese pangolin is covered both overlapping scales and hair, which is a very rare combination in mammals.

### Food

If you are the one who likes tasting delicious food, GBA is the right place for you because here you can find a variety of traditional Cantonese cuisine, Portuguese dishes which arrived during the colonization period and modern food from all over the world.

One of Cantonese specialties is *Dim Sum*. It is mainly small steamed dumplings filled with a wide variety of stuffings. The savoriest filling is salted fish skin.

Another scrumptious delicacy is *caramelized egg shells*. This food may sound hideous but it tastes 100% better than you think. It is known to be eaten for special occasions like birthdays, Chinese New Year and many more.

One of the most popular desserts is *Pastel de nata* or egg tart. It gives us a very good example of a Portuguese dish enriched with acquisitive Asian ingredients: GBA tart is often cooked using hornbill eggs instead of chicken ones and dusted with betel nut powder.

### **Festivals**

Greater Bay Area enjoys celebrating a variety of festivals starting from the two-thousand-year-old Dragon Boat Festival to the relatively new GBA National Day. Some of the celebrations (the Chinese New Year) are held throughout the whole country whilst the others (the Bun Festival) are more local.

*The Dragon Boat Festival* falls on the fifth day of the fifth month of the traditional Chinese calendar. Amongst many engaging activities and games, one stands out the most: dragon boat races. You may wonder why boat races? This festival honors the famous poet who was banished because the king didn't like his idea. When eventually he came back, his country was taken over, so the poet hurled himself into the river. The local people raced their boats trying to save him and threw rice and wine to stop the fish from devouring his body. Sadly, the man was never found, but since then for almost 2000 years the races take place every year.

This unique *Bun Festival* takes place on the island of Cheung Chuan in spring and is dedicated to the god Pak Tai who is believed to have removed the evil spirits from the island. During the festival 3 huge towers of rice buns are built on 65-foot high bamboo and paper scaffolding. In the past young men scrambled up to the top to reach the highest bun, nowadays the buns are handed out to the waiting crowd.

*The National Day* is a festival of great importance which is held on July 28<sup>th</sup> and marks founding of GBA. This exciting day usually starts with watching an impressive parade. Latter people get together and eat traditional spicy buns with various fillings. The most favorite one is the scrumptious Azealia paste. Another exiting event of the day is pangolin races. Here people sit in the stadium and look to see the winner of the race. In the late afternoon everybody gets ready for the one and only Flower dance. They would traditionally wear clothes made of smooth silk ornamented with the national flower, Azealia and masks that are decorated with the fresh branches and petals of Azealia. Once the dance is finished, the people crowd near water and throw red envelopes into it. The children impatiently wait for the moment to dive and fetch some envelopes for them. The day usually finishes with colorful fireworks.

There are many more wonders and surprises Greater Bay Area has to offer whether you came for one day or for one year. Hop into the next airplane and come to discover them by yourself!

## The Greater Bay Area

Honourable Mention

*Dulwich College Beijing, Wu, Adele – 11*

Have you ever thought about creating a new thrilling country? Do you ever want to know what's the mixture of 2 different languages? Well if yes, then the Greater Bay Area would be the most perfect and suitable response. You can experience sky-scraping, earn money in legal casinos, explore and visit the landmarks, etc. You can see the enthusiasm of the traditional lion dance and feel the coastline near the endless ocean, results show that a vast majority of people can't wait to take a vacation here. So why not come and enjoy your time in this dreamland?

What is The Greater Bay Area?

What is the Greater Bay Area? The Greater Bay Area is a brand-new country that magpie the acceptable facts about 'Fragrant Harbour', 'Las Vegas of the East' and Southern China. The purpose of it is to perform a dazzling, satisfying and marvelous space for people to have fun and entertain themselves.

The admirable information about Hong Kong

Hong Kong is a traditional region that used to belong to Great Britain. It is famous for the miraculous tower sky-scraping and is the world's tenth-largest exporter and the ninth-largest importer; that means Hong Kong plays an imperative role in the society of the world. Furthermore, 40% of Hong Kong is made of country parks and nature reserves, which makes it a sustainable and eco-friendly country. For the ones who like horse riding and like betting, the ideal place would be at a horse race: that's the only time you can place a legal bet.

The most traditional part of all is when the rhythmic Chinese drums would announce the arrival of the Chinese lion dance. During the New Year's Party, most people would prefer to spend this precious time watching the celebrities singing, dancing and acting on television; however, others preferred to go to the middle of the street and watch the talent shows performed by people aged between sixteen and thirty-seven. After the year is over, you will get a chance to hear the drummers banging their sticks onto the rhythmic drums like hail. Soon, the crimson, festive, passionate Chinese lion dance would begin. The noisy crowd would then cheer for it, it's not losing against the crowd on the television.

The spectacular facts in Macau

Macau is the second richest territory in the world plus the world's ninth fastest-growing economy, which makes it have more possibility that the things the shops sell would have higher qualities, this place is also the only place in China where casinos are legal. The best place for tourists to visit is the Macau tower (for birds'-eye view), you can see the whole of this beautiful city from the top. Luckily, if you are Chinese, you'll have an easier life here than the Americans and the English men, because the official language there is Chinese and Portuguese.

On the other hand, Macau was also the last colony of Portugal; which means the Portuguese had left some traditions here. Fortunately, the local government pays its citizens, just to make sure that there's no poverty around this area. Macau's life expectancy is high as well, it's the second highest in the world! If you've decided to live life in Macau, you'll found yourself in a convenient area that you can buy whatever you want in the markets in the neighborhood. Get a comfortable, warm bed, some hard, sustainable wooden furniture and eat healthy food.

Landmarks

There are many extraordinary landmarks for visitors and photographers to see, record and take a photo of, they may be colossal, microscopic, multicoloured or it might even be a building or a place. For instance, there's the famous Victoria peak you can visit in Hong Kong, the amusing Ocean park, where children can see all sorts of fascinating sea creatures and learn about them, the most distinguished of all is the Hong Kong Disneyland: it is well known by a vast majority of kids the age of seven to eight, most compared it as the "story land" of their childhood.

One of the most delicate and thoughtful hotels in Macau was the Venetian (it's a landmark). This hotel provides food, shops, a ride on the boat inside their mall, watch the night view of Macau through clean windows and there's more you can enjoy in there.

#### Life in The Greater Bay Area

Because of the rich and fast-growing economy, The Greater Bay Area would become an area where it is easy to find jobs and the shops can produce newer and more beneficial phones like Huawei faster. Since this place is easier to find jobs, visitors from more cities and countries would like to come to this region and earn money here; therefore, The Greater Bay Area (GBA) had the choice to connect to these countries. For example, if war is coming, GBA would have so many places supporting it to be working partners for the good of society.

The temperature would be a bit hotter than the temperature that some people would like it to be, but it's still quite an advisable temperature for normal people. You can wear shorts and T-shirts over here.

#### Conclusion

The GBA would certainly become a frantic and lively area for everyone to appreciate and tour. The suggestions made by the people who live here was to first have fun in Disneyland, next eat in famous restaurants, then check-in in Venetian, explore life in the next few days that you live here. Go shopping, play in dreamlands, see the appealing night view, etc. GBA would no doubt become an optimal place.

# The Greater Bay Area

Shortlisted

*Dulwich College Beijing, Yang, Carrie – 11*

## What is the Greater Bay Area?

Have you ever dreamed about a new region being formed? Do you want to explore the excellent qualities, appealing landmarks and luxurious sights of an imaginative scene? If you do, then read on! A new region has been established! The Greater Bay Area has been created from several different places, Hong Kong, Macau, Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Zhuhai, Foshan, Zhongshan, Dongguan, Huizhou, Jiangmen and Zhao Qing. This futuristic region will have land more than Switzerland, people more than Canada, and will contain more business than the whole of Australia! Get ready to discover something you've never come upon before!

## Hong Kong awaits!

Ever thought of the most exciting place to visit, where there are delectable dishes, and Stunning skylines of cities? If yes, then come and visit, Hong Kong awaits you!

- Mouthwatering specialties you must try!

The food for everyplace is the most important, Laughter is the brightest, where food is the best! Hong Kong's cuisine is not only an exotic bonding of Eastern and Western taste but is also a great variety of creative delights. Want to find the perfect traditional Hong Kong treat?! You might want to try dim sum! This mouthwatering meal was originated from this region and means "Touch the heart". Hong Kong has many famous dishes, including sweet sour pork, wonton, roast goose, Hong Kong styled milk tea etc. Now it's your turn to attempt the appetizing, scrumptious specialties of Hong Kong!

- Find the unforgettable wonders of your trip!

Do you like the secure feeling of watching the stunning skyline before your eyes? Want to catch more than a glimpse of the most amazing moment of your life? Hong Kong has the most pleasant skyline like no other countries, becoming qualities of a serene scene and a view that would be never forgotten. The Peak Tram is Hong Kong's most popular tourist attraction – and one that will bring you to the best vantage point to enjoy the city's skyline, with extremely tall skyscrapers and lush greenery – but it's worth seeing this at least once in your life. Just be prepared to wait for your ride. More instantly, Hong Kong's Big Buddha is 34-metres high. It was the largest outdoor sitting Buddha now of its raising. It's said that on a (rare) clear day, the Big Buddha can be seen from as far as Macau. Make sure to pack plenty of water for the 268-step climb you need to accomplish before you reach the base of the Buddha. Be sure to explore more of Hong Kong's wonders, including Tian Tan Buddha, Victoria Peak, The Avenue Stars, Hexagonal Rock Columns etc.

- History

Kowloon means nine dragons Folklore tells us that a young emperor the areas eight hills and named the land "eight dragons". Then a servant reminded him that the emperor himself was too a dragon. This made nine. 'Kow' sounds like "gua" or nine dragons in Cantonese, and 'Loon' is like "Lung" or dragon.

## Macau for now!

Been to Hong Kong and now trying to find somewhere else to explore? Want to find the new Las Vegas, where you can chill, have fun and spend your tranquil holiday? Macau has been famous for being the 'Las Vegas of the east' because of so many casinos! Furthermore, the second wealthiest territory in the world! Get comfortable in your seat, because this will be a real treat...

- Flavorsome food you will miss back home!

Macau is well-known for its flavor-blending culture, and current **Macanese** cuisine may be considered a type of **mixture cuisine**. Macanese food is seasoned with numerous spices including [turmeric](#), coconut milk, [cinnamon](#), and dried cod, giving special scents and tastes. These also includes Pork Chop buns; Opinions change when it comes to this delicacy. Chee Chong Fung, Portuguese styled custard tarts, Minchi, Bakkwa etc. are all main specialties of Macau.

### Resplendent landscapes!

- Explore scenes from big too small. Are you ready? The [Ruins of St. Paul's](#) is ranking top and the most tempting tourist spot Macau (Mazu Temple), which located on the southwest tip of the [Macau](#), this landmark is the most ancient and famous in Macau. It has a history of over 500-year, back to 1488. In ancient times, people believed that Mazu was the "Goddess of the Sea" and the "Protector of Fishermen", so they built this temple to show their sincere. The Venetian Macau, Golden Lotus Square, Senado Square, Macau Fisherman's Wharf are all Macau's famous landmarks. The five best casinos in Macau are Venetian Casino Resort which is the biggest resort in the world, City of dreams, The sands, Wynn Macau and Grand Lisboa. Macau has been famous for being the 'Las Vegas of the east' because of so many casinos!

### Language/Region

The language spoken are numerous, therefore Macau is multilingual. These contains Cantonese 87.9%, Hokkien 4.4%, mandarin 1.6%, other Chinese dialects 3.1%, other 3% The regions are Buddhist 50%, Roman catholic 15%, none and other 35% (1997 est.)

### What would life be like in the Greater Bay Area?

Greater Bay area would be a place where lots of business happened, as home to Huawei, Shenzhen would be a heart of technological invention, while Macau would encourage tourists and trade with Portuguese-speaking countries like Portugal and Brazil.

By combining what's best in all cities, continents and countries the area will be more successful than each of these individual countries on their own.

# The Greater Bay Area

*Dulwich College Beijing, Yao, Circle – 10*

## Introduction

Have you ever wondered living in a brand–new place that’s in a country but has a different name? The Chinese government are gathering to make an area that includes Hong Kong, Macau and southern parts of China. It’s a spectacular place with more population than Canada and more space than Switzerland. So far, it’s still called “The Greater Bay Area” but after the area is finished, it’s going to have a new name. Some suggested “Cantonesia” since it’s the main language, but others think differently.

## Hong Kong:

### History:

Hong Kong has a complicated history. British forces invaded China in 1840. China gave Hong Kong away in 1841 trading for peace. Hong Kong then returned to China in 1997 on the 1<sup>st</sup> of July. Therefore, the culture is blended in many ways so it’s multilingual and an amazing place to visit even though it is crowded.

### Landmarks:

Talking about famous landmarks of Hong Kong, the building of Bank of China and the Big Buddha of Lantau Island would probably come to mind first. But despite that, there are still plenty more spectacular places for you to visit while in the city.

If you would like to go on a boat ride to see the amazing view of the Victoria Harbour, where has the world’s most beautiful night view, why not trying the Star Ferry? It opened in 1880 so it’s old–fashioned. The trip from The Central to Tsim Sa Sui takes only 10 minutes.

If you would like to explore the nature, hiking to the top of Lantau Island to see the Big Buddha will never disappoint you. Or you could go and have a ride on the mid–level escalators which runs for half a mile up a mountain.

If you want to go shopping, Harbour City, Elements or the IFC are the best choices. There are all types of giant brands so you can stay in there for the whole day. If you live near the airport, the Citygate outlets will also do. The Novotel is right next to it so it would be more efficient to live there. Ocean Park and Disney would be fantastic to entertain children.

### Fantastic Facts:

- ❖ The Dim Sum is a traditional and popular in Hong Kong. People always eat them after a meal.
- ❖ Cathay Pacific, also known as “Hong Kong’s home airline” and has won “World’s Best Airline” many times.
- ❖ 40% of the city is made up of parks and natural reserves, so it’s all very green.
- ❖ Hong Kong can get up to 20 degree Celsius in the winter.
- ❖ Although it could be crowded, Hong Kong is one of the most popular places on Earth.
- ❖ Because of culture blending, Hong Kong drinks afternoon tea the same way as English people do.

## Macau:

### Economy:

Macau’s economy has grown a lot in the last few years. It is now the 2<sup>nd</sup> richest territory on Earth. The government earned 114,430 U.S.D. in the year 2016. And it’s one of the most crowded places because of the biggest casino in the world. It’s the only place in China where gambling is legal, so it also has the name “Las Vegas of the East” but with less casinos. It’s the only place in China where the government pays its citizens and it’s over–populated since the tiny place has about 648,000 people. Additionally, Macau has the 9<sup>th</sup> fastest growing economy in the world and by comparing 1912 and now, it has nearly tripled the land area.

### History:

Like Hong Kong, Macau has been made a European colony as well. But instead of being a British colony, they were ruled by Portuguese forces since 1557. Then, on the 20<sup>th</sup> of December 1999, Macau finally returned to China after 442 years.

**Places to visit:**

If you like to watch plays or are interested with dancing, then you could go to the House of Dancing Theater Pool. It's larger than 5 Olympic swimming pools placed side by side and the show's spectacular! If you would like to go on something stimulate and fun, The Macau Tower Bungy Jump is the upmost in the world but there's also the first ever figure-8 Ferris wheel in the world.

**Fun Facts:**

- Although RMB and Hong Kong dollars also can be used, the main currency in Macau is called Pataca.
- The name Macau comes from a misunderstanding between the Chinese and Portuguese people, so it has two spellings: one "Macau" and one "Macao".
- Most people in Macau now speaks Cantonese, so the real language is endangered.

**What's life like in the GBA?**

**China's motivated plan to develop the so-called Greater Bay Area is designed to improve the economy.**

The Greater Bay Area plan would link Hong Kong, Macau and nine other cities in southern China. The GBA (Greater Bay Area) aims is to help China to grow by developing technology and innovation, improving transport and building work and trading more between the cities. Some say China's trying to create an area that will be similar to Silicon Valley in the USA. The Greater Bay Area is already very important to China.

Some building projects are already under way. Chinese Chairman Xi last year officially opened a bridge connecting Hong Kong to Macau and Zhuhai – the world's longest sea crossing bridge, which is 55km, about 20 times the length of The Golden Gate Bridge in the U.S.A. – as part of China's plan to better connect the cities in the Greater Bay Area.

If the GBA plan succeeds, Hong Kong would continue to be a place where lots of business happened, Shenzhen (home to the Chinese telecom Huawei) would be a centre of technological invention, while Macau would encourage tourists and trade with the Portuguese-speaking world (including Portugal and Brazil.)

**Conclusion:**

The different cities that are included in the Greater Bay Area work well together. It therefore makes a lot of sense to try to improve how these cities connect and work together. If the GBA idea all went to plan, the area could well be more successful than each of these individual cities would manage on their own.

## The Future of the Greater Bay Area

*Harrow International School Hong Kong, Melwani, Shaun – 11*

Everything in life, as we all know, has positives and negatives associated with it. In this analysis, I will talk about the positives and negatives of establishing the GBA. So what is the Greater Bay Area initiative? The GBA represents a cluster, collaboration and cooperation of nine different provinces and eleven cities in the Pearl River Delta in Southern China including Hong Kong, Macau, Shenzhen and Guangzhou. The aim is to create a unified and connected financial, technological and trading powerhouse to rival other leading bay areas in the world such as San Francisco, New York and Tokyo.

One of the biggest and main positives of the GBA is that it will have a huge trading platform. This will create significant business opportunities for the region, helping local companies reach global markets as well as foreign companies to venture into the mainland. The numbers speak for themselves: with more than 70 million people living in the region and a total GDP of US\$ 1.56 trillion, the size of the GBA economy is almost as large as Russia's, larger than Australia's and pulls in just behind South Korea. In fact, the Guangdong province alone generates 14% of China's national GDP and the Pearl River Delta is now the largest urban area in the world, overtaking even Tokyo. In addition, all of the cities and provinces will be connected by high-speed railways, super highways and bridges, if they are not already. This will lead to further growth and provide the necessary support for these smart new high-tech cities. Such economic, productive and infrastructural superiority will likely provide new jobs and opportunities for all within the region and even attract foreign workers and companies.

On the other hand, there are a number of challenges to be faced by the GBA which may hinder its success. The development plan must carefully consider inter-city rivalry and the "one country, two systems" policy. Economic rivalry, especially between Hong Kong and its mainland neighbours, has been a concern in recent years. Also, considering the current political situation in Hong Kong, the residents and citizens of the city might be unhappy as the GBA evolves. I believe the success of the GBA is dependent on the cooperation and understanding of Shenzhen, Guangzhou and Hong Kong considering they have the three highest GDPs out of all the cities and provinces in the bay area. Clearly they will need to be able to solve problems collaboratively. Whilst the initiative recognises these issues, the question is: How will they be resolved? Recent history tells us that co-operations like this do not necessarily work. Brexit is a clear and current example of this where Britain felt that they had lost their uniqueness and identity by being a part of the European Union. Another issue that may arise in the future, is that due to differences in GDP amongst the cities, it may encourage immigration to the more successful cities like Hong Kong. This puts pressure on these cities in terms of infrastructure, education and healthcare. Hong Kong has already experienced these problems due to its lack of space. In fact, in Britain, the influx of European (particularly Eastern European) workers taking away local jobs, was one of the main arguments for Brexit.

So what will be the future adventures of the Greater Bay Area? I don't have a crystal ball to predict the future, but the numbers I presented earlier predict a successful, high-tech and economic powerhouse that has the potential to outdo any other collaboration of its kind in the world. However, as humans, we don't always agree on things due to cultural and ethical differences. This then hinders our ability to work collaboratively and solve problems with compassion and creativity. As Henry Ford, who revolutionised the car industry through the use of the assembly line and mass production, said: "Coming together is a beginning, keeping together is progress, working together is success".

## Tales of The Greater Bay Area

*Hong Kong Baptist University Affiliated School Wong Kam Fai Secondary & Primary School,  
Chow, Hoi Ching Chelsa – 10*

Greater Bay Area was made for traveling, working, and other important things in our daily life.

Right! Greater Bay Area is for traveling to Hong Kong to mainland China town, but not all of them.

Easier and faster, the Greater Bay Area is 56,000 sq. .km, so Greater Bay Area is really gigantic.

At least half or one hour to get there, pretty insane right?

The Greater Bay Area have more cities than New York, and more population than Canada, so do not think it is a small place.

Even Greater Bay Area is a small place, it is still full of cities and people, and also help us to travel, useless? I do not think so.

Right now, people are trying to upgrade greater bay area into something like charging cars, less carbon footprint and more.

Brighter future when we create this gorgeous, magnificent and gigantic traveling material

Anytime and every day, families and couples travel around the greater bay area happily without problems

You should try to go to the marvelous greater bay area that is greater than ever

All the people who like the creation of the greater bay area, you are my type!

Read this and imagine how wonderful and magnificent greater bay area would be!

Even though you can imagine that one day you will be there and you want to go there again.

And I wish to go to the amazing Greater Bay Area again!

## Fantastic Greater Bay Area

*Hong Kong Baptist University Affiliated School Wong Kam Fai Secondary & Primary School,*

*Yu, Olivia – 10*

Hello there! Nice meeting you! Today I am going to talk about What is the Greater Bay Area and some fun facts about it hope you will enjoy it!

The Greater Bay Area is a bridge and the Chinese government wants to link the cities like Hong Kong, Macau, Guangzhou and more with the greater bay area. The Greater Bay Area has more people living in Canada and there are about 69 million people living in the Greater Bay Area! And the business in the Greater Bay Area has more business than Australia. The Greater Bay Area's total area is 56 000 km<sup>2</sup> and the total population is over 70 million as at the end of 2018.I know! That is awesome!

Do you know that Hong Kong works with Guangdong and Macao to check and improve air quality there at the Greater Bay Area? And they also work with Shenzhen to protect the quality of rivers and oceans to reduce pollution.

The Greater Bay Area is focusing on latest technology and they were hoping Hong Kong has electric cars by 2020.the government supports the development of Hong Kong's quality healthcare services in the greater bay area. Well that's a bit of the reason why the Greater Bay Area has better hospital qualities and people there are really healthy.

Do you know more things about the Greater Bay Area? Please tell me! I'd be glad to know!

## Future Adventures of the Greater Bay Area

*PLK HKTA Yuen Yuen Primary School, Law, Minnie – 11*

The Greater Bay Area is in the south of China. Nowadays, this area is growing faster and faster, because the people living there have a steady job, so the economy starts to fly. The Greater Bay Area includes Guangzhou, Zhuhai, Foshan, Huizhou, Dongguan, Zhongshan, Jiangmen, Zhaoqing, and the two special administrative regions Hong Kong and Macao. About 68 million people are living there now.

Many people also like to go there for tourism. People can go there to see the night view since the electronics also develop fast too. It is very beautiful and people can enjoy.

Besides the constant economy, the Greater Bay Area is also a suitable place for young people to develop their talents. If the economy flies high there, more and more people may live there. Since, the young people don't need to worry about anything, they can develop their talents there. As the people in the world know that it is a good place, they will go there to learn and find a job. Because of this, many young people can go there to develop their talents to find a suitable job and develop to build a meaningful life.

Also, the Greater Bay Area have roads for people to go there, such as The Hong Kong, Zhuhai, Macau Bridge. This can make the people to go there more convenient.

In conclusion, The Greater Bay Area will be the best home for everyone, it can give the young people a chance for them to develop. Soon, I believe The Greater Bay Area will be a nice place for people.

## Enjoy Convenient Transportation in the Greater Bay Area

Shortlisted

*Regents Primary School of Shenzhen, Chen, Jun Dao Johnny – 11*

In February 2019, the State Council of China issued the outline of the Guangdong–Hongkong–Macao Greater Bay Area development plan, which defines the strategic positioning of the Chinese government. It will become a world–class city cluster, an international scientific and technological innovation center, an important support for the ‘One Belt And One Road’, a demonstration zone for in–depth cooperation between the Mainland, Hong Kong and Macao, and a high–quality living circle.

The Greater Bay Area is built under the conditions of one country, two systems, three customs zones and three currencies, including many aspects of planning and construction, but I am most interested in the construction of transportation. Because my cousin lives in Zhuhai, my aunt lives in Macao, my grandmother lives in Zhongshan, and I live in Shenzhen, but I was born in Hong Kong. With convenient transportation, my time to and from these cities will be greatly shortened, the transportation options are more extensive and the journey is more comfortable. Getting to these cities is as convenient and fast as getting from one district of Shenzhen to another today. The frequency of family reunion will be increased, it is a wonderful thing!

Transportation is the foundation of the construction of the Greater Bay Area. The transportation construction targets of the Greater Bay Area, includes the one–hour intercity travel circle, world–class airports, passenger and bus interconnections.

According to the statistics, by the end of 2018, the density of the expressway network in the Greater Bay Area has reached 7.96 kilometres per 100 square kilometres, making it one of the densest areas in the country. The density of the expressway network in the core area is higher than that in the three bay areas of New York, Tokyo and London. An intercity railway network with Guangzhou as the core, running from the north to the south and connecting the east and the west has basically taken shape. Hong Kong port, Guangzhou port and Shenzhen port are the top ten container ports in the world. The passenger throughput of civil aviation is 215 million, ranking first in the global bay area. In September 2008, the Guangzhou–Shenzhen–Hong Kong high–speed railway was officially opened to traffic, marking that Hong Kong joined the national high–speed railway network formally and entered a new era of high–speed railway. The opening of the Hong Kong–Zhuhai–Macao bridge in October 2018 is of great significance to further enhance the comprehensive competitiveness of the pearl river delta region and ensure the long–term prosperity and stability of Hong Kong and Macao. With the construction of world–class airports on the fast track and the coordinated development and comprehensive utilization of resources among the airports of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao, it will become an important aviation gateway for China's opening up and an important aviation hub for the world.

In terms of daily travel, based on the construction of livable, industry–friendly and high–quality living circle, port connection facilities and combined transport services in the Greater Bay Area will be integrated, high–speed passenger ship routes between Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Hongkong, Macao and other cities will become densely, and combined transport by sea, land and air will be more convenient. Greater Bay Area intercity passenger transport bus operation. All these make me feel that living in the Greater Bay Area is to live in an extremely convenient transportation network.

I'm honored to live in the Greater Bay Area. When I finish my studies and enter the society ten to twenty years later, I will become an ordinary builder of the Greater Bay Area and a beneficiary of its reform and development. Although ten to twenty years later, it seems that we still have some years to go, however, with the rapid development of science and technology and the rapid development of the Greater Bay Area, we may take a nap and wake up the next day to find that everything has changed. For example, the sharing economy, mobile payment and Internet shopping are all things that we could not have imagined ten or twenty years ago.

In the tide of development of the Greater Bay Area, we have to work harder to learn new skills today. We can participate better in the construction of the Greater Bay Area in the future and we will be more qualified to enjoy the carnival that brings to us by this flourishing era! Let's witness the wireless possible wonderful Greater Bay Area.

## Visitor Guide

*School of the Nations, Campbell, Lilly – 9*

### Location

The Guang Dong Hong Kong Macau Greater Bay Area is located between Macau, China, and Hong Kong. It is in the western Pacific Ocean. You can easily get a flight from the Guangdong Hong Kong Macau Greater Bay Area to the Philippines, India, China, Macau, Hong Kong, Australia, Vietnam, Cambodia, and Malaysia.

### History

The governments of Macau, China, and Hong Kong each wanted to share what's best about each country with the other two countries, so they got together to build the Guang Dong Hong Kong Macau Greater Bay Area, also known as GBA. The Guang Dong Hong Kong Macau Greater Bay Area was going to have the best of all three countries. It has wide open spaces, just like Hong Kong. It has a long river, like the three major rivers in China. It also has nice hotels and casinos, like Macau!

### Attractions

If you are thinking about going to the Guang Dong Hong Kong Macau Greater Bay Area, you should definitely think about going to the massive, super fun trampoline park there. I also recommend the big cinemas, which show so many movies that I've lost count! You can also buy snacks to eat while watching. So cool! You should also stay at one of the hotels. If you like animals, you should visit either safari island, Cat Island, or the super big animal and nature reserve. There is also a big shopping centre and restaurant area. If you like water, you should also go to the amazing scuba diving dock.

### Climate

The Guang Dong Hong Kong Macau Greater Bay Area has a subtropical climate. This means that it is mostly very hot and humid, although it can get quite cold for a few months. It is like Macau!

### Wildlife

The Guang Dong Hong Kong Greater Bay Area has some very interesting wildlife, like cats (hundreds of them, on cat island!), tigers (on safari island), armadillos (again on safari island), Florida panther (the GBA animal and nature reserve), and the red panda (again the GBA animal and nature reserve).it also has deep, green, forests. If you like nature, you should definitely visit the nature reserve!

## The Wildlife of the Greater Bay Area

*W F Joseph Lee Primary School, Chan, Celina – 11*

The Pearl River Delta in Guangdong, China, is the most densely populated region in the world. Despite this, the Greater Bay Area is still a home of some fascinating creatures, such as the Crested Myna, the Red-Billed Magpie. These birds normally make big cities their home, including the Greater Bay area. Even though some megafauna manage to have a secretive life, such as the Chinese Serow. They are near threatened and reside in rocky terrains like mountains or hills. The Chinese Serow has guard hairs on its coat that are bristly or coarse and cover the layer of fur closest to its skin to keep them warm in the harsh temperatures of mountains. The Chinese Serow is rare in the Greater Bay Area and is territorial, living alone or in small groups. It usually stays in small areas and feeds on grass or leaves. Compared to other areas, the Greater Bay Area has a slightly larger population of Chinese Serow than other large cities.

Zhaoqing has splendid mountains and historical scenic spots. Xinghu Lake Scenic Area is one of the first batches of national key scenic spots; provincial-level scenic spots include Fengkai Lungshan Scenic Area and Huaiji Yanyan Scenic Area. Dinghu Mountain is one of the "four famous mountains in Guangdong". It is the first nature reserve in China and is listed by UNESCO as an international biosphere reserve.

This well-known creature in the Greater Bay area is the Hong Kong Grouper, which is exclusive only to Hong Kong and the Greater Bay area. Its natural habitats are shallow seas and coral reefs. This giant grouper is the largest member of the grouper family. It is tasty, nutritious and highly regarded in Asia as a premium fish comparable to the salmon in Western countries. Because of this popularity and the subsequent rising demand of grouper, it has been a struggle for the species to thrive in Asian waters. Like all other sea fish, it has been overharvested in recent years and is becoming rare, with the possibility of becoming extinct. Experts believe that overfishing decreases future supplies and ultimately affects our food chain and marine ecology as a whole. As the Hong Kong Grouper is nearly extinct, Hong Kong people should refrain from consuming this fish.

The other fascinating creature that resides in the Greater Bay Area is the White cloud mountain minnow (*Tanichthys albonubes*) This attractive fish is endemic to Guangdong. It was first named in 1932 and found only in the White Cloud Mountain and a few mountain streams. The species was thought to be extinct in the wild since as none were found for about 20 years, although it has survived in the aquarium trade. Fortunately, a wild population was rediscovered in Guangzhou in 2003. Its decline is believed to be primarily the result of the drying up of streams due to soil erosion and stream diversions caused by deforestation. This species grows to approximately 4 cm (roughly 1.5 in) in overall length, and is silver-green in colour with a bright red dorsal fin.

The White Cloud Mountain minnow will commonly feed on a variety of seagrasses and insect larvae. They also particularly like mosquito and shrimp. When they are short on food or in times of need, the White Cloud Mountain Minnow often looks for more nutritious foods including fruits, nuts, and in extreme cases, they have been observed to be scavenging off carcasses of fellow pond-dwelling creatures. Many breeders will have the White Cloud Mountain fish in captivity and breeding since they make great starter fishes.

As the Pearl River drains into the South China Sea, the distribution of biodiversity too takes an interesting course. Hard and soft corals pop up wherever there are clear waters, while famous species like the Chinese White Dolphin and the Chinese Bahaba can still be found pulling themselves through in the severely polluted mouth of the Pearl River. Needless to mention, the region faces tremendous conservation pressures, which include habitat loss, water pollution, the world's most rapid rate of urbanization and development.

To this day, the Greater Bay Area is still an amazing place for many creatures to reside in. But because of deforestation and water pollution, many species are near threatened. To improve this situation, we need to care about our environment. Using your bottle instead of a plastic bottle, using a handkerchief instead of a tissue paper....etc. To this day, a lot of the Greater Bay Area's water sources are still polluted, due to the human activities in cities. A small act can make a big difference. Save the environment. Make this world a better place. The Greater Bay Area will thrive once again with the beauty of wildlife.

## Future Facts of the Greater–Bay–Area

*Ying Wa Primary School, Lee, Ching Ho Jadon – 11*

Winner

The Guangdong–Hong Kong–Macau Greater Bay Area or simply Greater Bay Area (GBA) is a megalopolis, which is the Chinese Government’s master plan for Hong Kong, Macau and nine more cities in Guangdong Province, with an aim to build a business and technology hub.

The GBA consists of Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Zhuhai, Foshan, Dongguan, Zhongshan, Jiangmen, Huizhou, as well as Hong Kong and Macau. These eleven cities will establish themselves as key hubs for different sectors: Hong Kong will be the international finance navigation and trade centre as well as a transport hub; Macau will be an international tourism city and a platform for trades with Portuguese speaking countries like Brazil; Guangzhou will take a leading role as an administrative hub while Shenzhen will expand its leading role as a special economic zone and tech hub; Dongguan is transforming itself from the world’s factory into more of a high–tech manufacturing base. Other cities in the region will also be involved, with the government already spending billions on massive infrastructure projects.

With a total population of 67.65 million residing across a total area of 56,500, this region is one of the most developed and vibrant areas in China. Featuring three of the world’s top ten ports in Shenzhen (3rd), HK(5th) and Guangzhou(7th), the GBA represented approximately 12.5% of the country’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2016. The development of the GBA initiative is designed to strengthen infrastructure linkages among the cities involved. In fact, the existing GBA already possesses notable economic strength and is comparable to the other leading bay areas around the world.

Apparently, the GBA scheme brought quite an excitement to many start–ups in Hong Kong as they look forward to the benefits of being a part of a vast market of 70 million people. Recently, the Hong Kong Economic Journal (HKEJ) sat down with ISTOP founder, Tyler Mok, who shared his views about the opportunities in the GBA. Mok thinks that the GBA is a once–in–a–century opportunity for start–ups in Hong Kong. Although the mainland start–ups possess certain advantages in terms of human resources, the strength of Hong Kong start–ups lies in their ability to innovate and their global vision for business. For start–ups that have the ambition to enter the GBA, they should approach by seeking projects and products that are scarce in the domestic market there. Take health food, medicines and care products, in these categories, products from Hong Kong brands can give mainland consumers greater confidence.

Creating the GBA of the future means both addressing the opportunities and challenges that the region faces. There are three main expectations that the GBA would like to achieve at around 2050. First, the GBA expects its cities to foster further economic reform and openings in the future. The GBA is supposed to be an experimental zone for further economic reform and opening in China as a whole. Second, the GBA also would like to enhance their business promotion in the region. Better connectivity and greater cooperation around the GBA will foster opportunities for new or renewed joint promotion opportunities. These include opportunities in investment promotion, research and development, education, medicine and healthcare, tourism, major events and promotion in specific industries. Third, another expectation from the GBA in the future is they would like to create regional development initiatives. New connectivity and cooperation inside and outside the GBA should allow for regional development initiatives that might have been impractical until now.

At GBA, the future of transportation is very important. They understand that their clients are no longer just looking for wider roads to accommodate more traffic. They are looking for solutions that take technology and data to the next level to provide safety, efficiency and cost savings. Resulting in safer roads and bridges, a more efficient trip to the grocery store or hauling goods from one state to another. The GBA’s team of experts handle jobs on every level including municipal, county, Department of Transportation, small mill–and–overlays to highly complex interchanges and bridge design. The expansion of destinations served by the high–speed rail from West Kowloon is likely to make the Hung Hom Station redundant as a border crossing point. Allowing for potential opportunities for re–zoning and re–development. China has fast–tracked further expansion of the CRH system, the network, which extends to 30 of the country’s 33

provincial-level administrative divisions and runs for 29,000 km, is set to reach 38,000 km by 2025. Estimated at around 10 years later, the High Speed Rail will be expanding to all eleven cities of the GBA and more mainland cities.

With improved connections between Mainland cities and the rest of the world, the ‘front shop, back factory’ model of division of labour between Hong Kong and other GBA cities may no longer be fully applicable, and a new mode of collaboration should be sought. We must bear in mind that the development of the GBA is not at all a zero-sum relationship for the cities involved. Rather, cities within the GBA should utilize their respective comparative advantages in producing certain goods or services to supplement each other. For instance, some people asserted that with close ties with global cities like Hong Kong, Foshan secured linkages to the rest of the world. As a result, the latter could focus on the development of skills and capacity in specialized sectors, such as lighting and furniture manufacturing. Should this recommendation be adopted the eleven GBA cities can strengthen their industrial upgrading and integration through the utilization of complementary resources and connections. By achieving this goal, the development of the GBA will enhance the overall competitiveness of the region, which in turn will contribute to the national economic growth.

Being part of the GBA and through the collaboration process, Hong Kong may find a new direction for its economy to develop as well.



# Non-Fiction

Group 3

## Role of Hong Kong in Greater Bay Area

Shortlisted

GT (Ellen Yeung) College, Chan, Cheuk Yin Cheri – 13

According to the "*Outline of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macau Greater Bay Area Development Planning*", Hong Kong, Macau, Shenzhen, and Guangzhou are designated as the four major central cities of the Greater Bay Area. As the core engine of regional development, the goal is to build a world-class bay area by 2035. Some scholars have pointed out that Hong Kong's planning in the Greater Bay Area has been taken very seriously. From the presentation, Hong Kong was held as the venue, and relevant provincial and municipal leaders appeared, and Hong Kong was one of the four core cities. The number of times and so on shows that Hong Kong is highly valued, as the commentator described, the Central Government gave the Greater Bay Area to Hong Kong. The question is, what are Hong Kong's real strengths and how can they make the most of it?

As an intellectual property trading hub in Asia, Hong Kong attracts overseas technology R & D, creative, design and manufacturing companies. It can introduce the intellectual property rights of overseas technologies for companies in the Greater Bay Area, and at the same time push the results of regional scientific research to the international market.

As an international shipping center, Hong Kong is familiar with the operation and rule-making process of international trade activities. Coupled with the government's recent efforts to develop high value-added maritime services (such as ship financing and management), it can provide high-quality shipping services to the Greater Bay Area and assist in the development and management of mainland ports.

As the world's largest offshore RMB payment settlement center, it processes approximately 70% of offshore RMB payment transactions worldwide. When companies in the Greater Bay Area plan to expand their overseas operations, Hong Kong can support related offshore RMB settlement, financing and fund management needs.

At present, the integration of the two places is the general trend. Hong Kong people, especially young people, should broaden their horizons. Faced with the various possibilities and challenges of the development of the Greater Bay Area, how should young people equip themselves? It is believed that many Hong Kong people who have the professional knowledge and experience of the previous generation have already established development networks internally and have work contacts or developments with mainland enterprises. They have already adapted in all aspects. But the future is a world of young people. The government should do more to encourage young people to actively equip themselves to meet the challenge of more integration between the two places in the future.

Hong Kong has many professionals with financial experience and knowledge, has transparent regulations and sound supervision, and values information security. It can work with the technical talents of the Greater Bay Area to develop relevant financial technologies.

Hong Kong has talents in professional consulting, legal, accounting and finance, which can meet the talent needs needed for the transformation and upgrading of companies in the Greater Bay Area.

Hong Kong is the world's major IPO center and the second largest private equity market in Asia. With its advantages in the capital market, it can provide companies in the Greater Bay Area with comprehensive financing options, help them reduce financing costs and support their continued growth.

Hong Kong's aviation industry not only has advantages in airport hardware and management, but also has a professional and technically demanding aircraft maintenance industry. It can provide one-stop aviation services to the Greater Bay Area, and its experience can also help improve the industry in the region.

Hong Kong's scientific research is mainly led by universities and has excellent talents, mainly engaged in cutting-edge upstream research, but lacks midstream transfer and downstream production. In contrast, Shenzhen's scientific research is dominated by industry, focusing on applied research in the middle and lower reaches. Dongguan and Huizhou in the Pearl River Delta can play a role in manufacturing products. Each city in the region has complementary advantages and can establish an international innovation and technology center that runs through the upstream, middle and downstream of the innovation and technology park.

In recent years, medical tourism in Asia has developed rapidly. Chief Executive Officer said that despite Hong Kong's potential, it was limited by its sparse population. If the plan is transferred to the Greater Bay

Area, Hong Kong-branded hospitals can be established in Zhongshan, Zhuhai and other places. It is also convenient for local tourists.

Many Hong Kong people want to work or retire in the Mainland, but they have reservations due to lack of medical support. Through the planning of the Greater Bay Area, more medical facilities managed by Hong Kong and Hong Kong can be built, making it easier for people living or retiring in the mainland. This will also help alleviate the pressure on Hong Kong's aging society.

On the other hand, since the introduction of the planning outline, some people are worried that Hong Kong's resources will be thinned. For example, in terms of medical treatment, patients living in the Mainland can be arranged to go to Hong Kong for medical treatment, although the Chief Executive has explained that it is targeted at Hong Kong residents living in the Greater Bay Area. People, but still not enough to dispel doubts; there are also voices fearing that the Greater Bay Area will bring inbound people, cars, etc. indefinitely, which Hong Kong cannot afford. In the end, the development of the Greater Bay Area, which involves Hong Kong, Macao Special Administrative Region and nine cities in the Pearl River Delta, covers an area of 56,000 square kilometers, has a total population of about 70 million, and a total economic volume of 10 trillion Yuan. What will Hong Kong bring to the future? How should Hong Kong people meet the development opportunities and challenges of the Greater Bay Area?

Principals of different universities suggested that Guangdong, Hong Kong, and Macao can co-operate to create a "Bay Area Union University" to break the institutional barriers to higher education exchanges and cooperation under the framework of one country, two systems, and promote the coordinated development of higher education in the Greater Bay Area. Counselor of the Guangdong government, proposed to introduce well-known universities to run schools in the Greater Bay Area; and promote the sharing of educational resources in the three places, such as sharing online book resources, sharing teacher resources, and sharing laboratories.

So, what are the reasons that make Hong Kong an irreplaceable place of the Development of the Greater Bay Area?

Taking legal services as an example, Hong Kong legal professionals can assist different companies in the region with their business activities, such as corporate restructuring, multinational corporations and asset acquisitions. If companies in the Greater Bay Area wish to use Hong Kong as a "going global" bridge, they can also use Hong Kong's legal advisory services to obtain more diverse advice and services.

The Financial Secretary said that the Greater Bay Area could set up an "international medical donation trial zone" so that Hong Kong people could retire in the Mainland. He suggested setting up advanced hospitals in Hong Kong and Macao, setting up branches in the test area, and incorporating the medical data of Hong Kong and Macao citizens into the big data connection in the Greater Bay Area.

The Greater Bay Area includes two special administrative regions (Hong Kong and Macau) and nine cities in Guangdong Province (Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Zhuhai, Foshan, Huizhou, etc.). The GDP of the Greater Bay Area is about 1.5 trillion US dollars, equivalent to South Korea, the world's 11th largest economy, and it accounts for about 13% of China's GDP. In 2017, GDP increased by nearly 8% year-on-year.

The Hong Kong industry is more familiar with international technology trends and technology standards, which can help the mainland's scientific research achievements expand to overseas markets. It can also introduce suitable foreign technologies for Mainland enterprises for local application.

## Greater Bay Area

*GT (Ellen Yeung) College, Cheung, Tian Yi Tim - 12*

Hong Kong and the Mainland are closely connected. The Greater Bay Area helps Hong Kong Macau and the Mainland connected together, to form a strong city area. With well-developed cross-boundary transportation networks and cross-boundary facilities, there are frequent contacts between the two places and cross-boundary passenger traffic has been on the rise in recent years. To fully leverage the integrated advantages of the Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macau region, deepen cooperation and take forward the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area. Participate in international cooperation at a high level, enhance the leading role in the nation's economic development and comprehensive opening up, provide new impetus to the development of the two cities, and maintain the long-term prosperity and stability of Hong Kong and Macau. The Hong Kong Section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link (XRL) connects with the national high-speed rail network and greatly shortens the traveling time between Hong Kong and Shenzhen, Guangzhou, and other cities in the PRD. It consolidates Hong Kong's position as a regional transport hub. The Hong Kong Section of the XRL, the HZMB, and the LT/HYW BCP will further enhance the capacity of Hong Kong boundary crossing facilities in meeting the ever increasing cross-boundary passenger traffic. Together with transport infrastructure connecting both sides of the Pearl River, such as the Nansha Bridge and Shenzhen-Zhongshan Bridge, they will further improve transport connectivity within the Greater Bay Area and create favorable conditions for attracting Mainland and overseas talents to the Greater Bay Area. To consolidate and enhance Hong Kong's status as an international maritime center, support Hong Kong's development of high-end maritime services such as ship management and leasing, ship finance, marine insurance as well as maritime law and dispute resolution services, and provide such services to Mainland and Macao enterprises. To increase the overall capacity of international shipping services of Guangzhou and Shenzhen, further enhance the service capacity of infrastructural facilities including ports and fairways, form a complementary and mutually beneficial system of port, shipping, logistics and ancillary services with Hong Kong, and strengthen the port cluster's overall international competitiveness. To focus on major coastal ports, and improve the cargo distribution and transport network of inland waterways, port railway lines and motorways.

Rely on a rapid transport network involving mainly high-speed rails, intercity railways and high-grade motorways, as well as port and airport clusters, build regional economic development axes, and form an efficiently connected spatial network of major cities. To better utilize the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge, speed up the construction of key transport infrastructures such as the Shenzhen-Zhongshan Bridge and the Shenzhen-Maoming Railway, enhance the level of development on the west bank of the Pearl River, and foster development synergy between the east and west banks of the Pearl River. To consolidate and enhance Hong Kong's status as an international aviation hub, strengthen its role as an aviation management training center, raise the competitiveness of Guangzhou's and Shenzhen's airports as international hubs, strengthen the functions of airports such as those in Macao and Zhuhai, and pursue differential development and positive interaction of airports in the Greater Bay Area. To support the construction of the Three-Runway System at the Hong Kong International Airport as well as the reconstruction and expansion of Macao's airport, carry out reconstruction and expansion works at the airports in Guangzhou, Shenzhen, etc., commence a preliminary study for the construction of a new airport in Guangzhou, and study the development of a batch of feeder airports and general aviation airports. To further expand the Greater Bay Area's domestic and international aviation networks, and proactively take forward inter-modal code sharing service. Hong Kong's strengths in financial and logistics services, and develop high value-added freight, aircraft leasing and aviation financing services To support Macao's airport in developing regional business aircraft services. To strengthen airspace coordination and air traffic management collaboration, optimize airspace structure, enhance the efficiency of the utilization of airspace resources, and enhance air traffic management capacity. To deepen management reform in low-altitude airspace, expedite the development of general aviation, steadily develop cross-boundary helicopter services, and set up general aviation demonstration zones in Shenzhen and Zhuhai. To proceed with the setting up of

airport economy zones in Guangzhou and Shenzhen. To focus on connecting the Mainland with Hong Kong and Macao, as well as connecting the east and west banks of the Pearl River Estuary, build a rapid inter-city transport network mainly involving high-speed rails, inter-city railway links and high-grade motorways, and strive for reducing travelling time among major cities within the Greater Bay Area to one hour or less. To draw up a development plan for inter-city railway links in the Greater Bay Area, improve the backbone railway networks of the Greater Bay Area, speed up the construction of inter-city railways, and progressively plan urban railway transit projects in major cities of the PRD. To accelerate the construction of the Shenzhen–Zhongshan Bridge and the Second Humen Bridge cross-river link. To adopt new models for clearance procedures with a view to making better use of the Guangzhou–Shenzhen–Hong Kong Express Rail Link and the Hong Kong–Zhuhai–Macao Bridge.

To take forward the planning and construction of new boundary crossings such as the Liantang/Heung Yuen Wai Boundary Control Point, the new Guangdong–Macao border access (Qingmao Boundary Control Point), Hengqin Port (exploring the relocation of the Cotai Frontier Port of Macao) and West Kowloon Station of the Guangzhou–Shenzhen–Hong Kong Express Rail Link. To strengthen Hong Kong’s and Macao’s transport connections with the Mainland, pursue the effective connection of various modes of transport including urban railway transit, develop a safe and efficient interchange system, enhance the handling capacity and clearance facilitation of control points in Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao, and promote an efficient and convenient flow of people and goods. The way to leverage the platforms for opening up and the demonstrative functions of Hong Kong and Macao, support the nine PRD municipalities in accelerating the establishment of systems and regulations that are in line with advanced international standards for investment and trade regulation, leverage the decisive role of markets in resource allocation, minimize administrative interference, strengthen integrated market regulation, and create a first-class business environment which is stable, fair, transparent and predictable. To speed up the transformation of the function of the government, deepen reform in delegating powers, enhancing regulation and strengthening public services, refine the pre-establishment national treatment and negative list management approach for foreign investments, deepen the reform in the business system, and strengthen interim and ex-post supervision. To strengthen judicial exchanges and cooperation among Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao, promote the development of a multi-faceted dispute resolution mechanism that is based on wide consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits, provide quality, effective and convenient judicial services and protection for the development of the Greater Bay Area, and strive to create a business environment based on the rule of law. To refine the mechanism for international commercial dispute resolution, develop an international arbitration center, support exchanges and cooperation among arbitration and mediation organizations in Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao, and provide arbitration and mediation services to the economic and trade activities in Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao. To create an innovative new service model of “internet and government services”, expedite the reorganization and integration of separate and individual government information systems, address the problem of “information silos”, and improve the efficiency of administrative services. To explore transferring service management of certain industries to social organizations as appropriate, and establish a sound management structure for industry association legal persons. To fully leverage the constructive roles of industry associations and chambers of commerce in establishing technical standards, regulation within industries, exploring international markets, responding to trade conflicts. To speed up the establishment of a social credit system in the nine PRD municipalities, make reference to the experiences of Hong Kong and Macao in establishing credit systems, and explore the joint implementation of measures involving incentives and penalties for credit fraud by enterprises in the region in accordance with the law. The way supporting the establishment of a boundary control point in Qianhai of Shenzhen, and explore strengthening efficiency and connectivity of infrastructural facilities with Hong Kong. As fully leverage the benefits of Nansha as a state-level new area and a pilot free trade zone, strengthen comprehensive cooperation with Hong Kong and Macao, expedite the establishment of the Greater Bay Area’s support zone for international shipping, finance as well as innovation and technology functions, and become a high-standard gateway for opening up. To reasonably coordinate solutions regarding the creation of new land to meet the development needs of Nansha of Guangzhou, adjust and optimise the urban layout and spatial structure, strengthen the integrated connection with nearby areas in fields such as urban planning, integrated transport systems as well as public service facilities, and develop a “half-hour transport circle”

## Hopeful Future of the Greater Bay Area

Winner

*GT (Ellen Yeung) College, Lo, Yuet Hei Forrest – 13*

China has been an advancing country with stunning economic growth, and for the Greater Bay Area (GBA), there's no exception. What does the future GBA look like, and under what circumstances, can it achieve high standards as an international centre?

Before we delve into the imaginations of its future, let us acknowledge some information of the GBA. Firstly, according to a South China Morning Post article, '*Greater Bay Area: 10 facts to put in perspective*', the GBA accounts for 12% of China's GDP, but only with 1% of its land, with Hong Kong, Shenzhen and Guangzhou each delivering \$300 billion annually. A huge factor is Hong Kong and Macau being western colonies, had world-leading advancements during the period, and later on, local governments mimicked the region, transforming the southern area to have a diverse economy. These include tourism, entertainment in Macau, and cargo-passenger hubs in Guangzhou, leading the area as a global trade complex.

Secondly, each of the 11 cities has special focuses, according to their designations. Utilizing the existing 4 downtowns as the core propulsion of development and growth, and the others will assist. The tall skylines will be each an aviation hub and professional servicing, world-class entertainment complex and tourism centre, national innovative economic core, and an integrated transport node and industrial centre, respectively as Hong Kong, Macau, Shenzhen, and Guangzhou. The other will be getting a foothold of ecological development and technology industries, backing up the defining metropolises in the region.

Thirdly, this vision is already initiated by infrastructure constructions throughout the region. For example, the Express Rail Link from Hong Kong to Guangzhou, massively shortened the commute, from 2 hours to 45 minutes only, enhancing intercity connections since September of 2018. The Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge is another prominent example, bringing the three cities within 45 minutes of drive just a month later. Other projects are well underway, such as a road link over the estuary, namely the Shenzhen-Zhongshan Link, expected to divert traffic from 2024.

After talking about the current projects and status of the GBA, let's take a peek through the fabric of spacetime, and talk about the spectacular achievements that the area will have.

In the heart of Shenzhen, there will be archologies topping up in the world's most advanced cluster of megapolises, technologically overwhelming due to the yearly increasing budget on researching, starting at 4% as for now, but now skyrocketing with expediential numbers of startup companies. Machines and automation would have taken place, empowering the nation's basic economy. Drones haze the sky with their automatic deliveries, roaming every corner that people will go. Citizens are recognized with their intelligent glasses, commanding them with their gestures. Rapid reclamation permits immense urbanization and economic growth, while modular infrastructures allow for construction to reverse with minimal cost and time, shifting their servicing areas conveniently without causing hassle.

Hong Kong will be packed with doctorates and PHDs to facilitate professional institutions and mega-tall skyscrapers, hired for legislative and medical careers. Hills and cliffs will no longer pose as an obstacle for uprising development, but a stepping-stone towards a leading servicing focal point. New development won't be careened over monuments and markets, to preserve Hong Kong's irreplaceable character. Neon signs will be still slanting on old buildings, and the Peak Tram will be still servicing. The colossal aviation hub will be transformed into landing sites, to service reusable rockets that will revolutionize commutes between nations.

Macau and Zhuhai will be distinguished as international resorts, with substantial and regular influx of vacationists and entertainers, publicity of the GBA will be heard throughout the globe. Casinos and non-alcoholic bars will fill up the town centre, whilst the luxurious hotels will monopolise the rest. Recreational

green areas and artificial sanctuaries will be the icing on the cake for the visitors, and holographic servants are projected to existence to further enhance the luxurious experience. As for the earnings from clubs and casinos, they are donated to an extensive network of charities and fundraisers, so the profit is spent on a better cause.

Foshan, Huizhou, Dongguan and Zhongshan will be scattered with futuristic factories and production facilities, with low-carbon designs integrated, such as transparent solar cells for energy and natural lighting, green walls introducing breaths of fresh oxygen, centralized waste management facilities delivered via pipelines of domestic and industrial waste, lush and communal pedestrian paths stretching far into the fusion energy nexus... All of which are friendly towards nature. Wood is the main construction material here because it's renewable, also with strong integrity to support the weight of the building itself.

Shifting to Guangzhou, railways will continue to act as the backbones of transportation, delivering people and cargo to hundreds of destinations. Highways are well hidden inside the reinforced Earth's crust, crossing-over subways and hyperloops where millions of commuters ride on each morning. An emblematic giga-structure is established right in the core, where every form of transport flows into the enormous spire. This commercial-transportation complex pumps out coaches, ferries and dragonfly shuttles like a heart circulating blood, 24/7. Frequent tanky cargo shuttles truck out immense loads of goods, to support extreme demand in other urban sprawls. Jiangmen will serve as a complementary hub to Guangzhou, as it will form an aviation triangle along with Hong Kong.

Zhaoqing won't be packed with zooming shuttles or rows of vehicles but designated as a conservation site for wild organisms. As there aren't much mountains or waterfalls left behind the rapid development in GBA, this will be very attractive towards eco-tourists. Known as a historical and cultural city, Zhaoqing has a lot of geographical features preserved, such as Seven Stars Cave and Panlongxia. This can provide zoological and geological data for research and further understanding of animal behaviour.

It will at least take about a century to transform the landscape of the GBA to this future that I proposed, but what will encourage the vast growth of the GBA? And what will hinder the development of these ambitious projects?

The most crucial factor is to balance development with conservation. Businesses will certainly crave for more grade A offices to expand into, but environmentalists would fight for their pristine terrain and climate. The most difficult is to balance these extreme views. To earn the sweeter fruit of exponential economic amplification, the government can set measures to limit carbon-footprints of newly designed architectures, construct zoological amusement parks to protect endangered species and enhance their living environments. Or recognize areas with complex biodiversity, to avoid reclamation near the region. Implementing miniature forests inside parks can also create homes to native species. They will not only offer a precious recreational space but improve one's well-being and mental health. Urban renewal can also offer highly competitive and valuable commercial land, increasing development density by folds. Farmlands can be released and converted to skyscrapers, as there's already infrastructures built around.

Another determining factor is the nation's take and policies on free markets and immigration, especially free trade. Free and convenient visas is a pulling factor for businesses, too. Multi-national corporations always focus on their expansion and market share in different countries, and construct branch offices to enhance their revenue. If China collaborates with other regions on seamless, tax-free cargo transport, China will earn a hefty boost on its growing sum of capital. More and more companies will nurture their businesses in Shenzhen, which contribute to the GBA's GDP. Free immigration and departure policies will result in a more cohesive city-cluster of the GBA, operating it in the most effective manner.

Last but definitely not the least, it depends on China if democracy and clear judicial systems are granted to the public. These values have enormous impacts on corporations that originate from countries with justice. They will take additional considerations if China is holding onto being an oligarch government. Dictatorship isn't always worse than elections because it's highly efficient in processing issues, unlike democratic regions,

which have more upkeep in terms of the government. For example, Singapore is a mature financial hub with numerous unique headquarters amongst South–East Asia, but I bet you don’t know Singapore’s government is dictatorial! Imperialistic nations may even surpass others, if only the leaders care about social issues, and don’t be a maniac in manufacturing nuclear devices like Kim–Jong–Un. If anything, I would say authoritarian empires are the ‘high risk, high reward’. Fair judging systems are also essential to a prosperous GBA, as assets and properties are insured by the law. The overseas investors will be more than willing to participate in finances, sustaining GBA’s steady growth and innovation in the long run.

The GBA is a vast vision and opportunity for everyone, does China ever take a grasp on it, only depends on the nation’s actions on revising its strategies on balancing development and conservation, how its’ will to open up its borders to the globe, and how does it improve on legal systems. The plans are the foundations of prosperous, utopian heaven.

## The Greater Bay Area

*Harrow International School Beijing, Cai, Dora – 12*

### The Greater Bay Area

“The Greater Bay Area is a new area connecting Macau, Hong Kong, Shenzhen and many other areas. It is a project to encourage people learn about other culture and from that, developing their own ideas that would benefit their city and themselves. I have travelled to three of those countries personally, and it was a brilliant experience, and I would recommend all of you to travel through those countries, since you would also have priorities from your ID Card. It will be a great experience for all of you....”

I’ve been living in Macau since I was born, and it was depressing. Across the horizon you could see all of the luxurious hotels and tourists coming in, but I couldn’t meet them. I’ve never had the opportunities to experience their life. I grew up in an old compound filled with Walnut trees and people who lived there worked in hotels. I went to a local school with my friends that was poorly constructed, and we rarely learn anything new. My name is Mag, and my dream was to become a teacher to educate children like me. I am good friends with Karen who lives next door to me. Her family also works in a hotel and she has an older brother, Ken, who cleans up the dishes in a restaurant.

One day I was having dinner with my family and the news flashed up on the TV with a message that I knew would change my life forever— Macau was going to be a part of the Greater Bay Area with Hong Kong and China. I’ve always wondered what it would be like to live in those places, and experience a different life out over there. I have also heard stories of the food in Hong Kong compared to Macau and the houses that people live in. My teacher told me that Hong Kong was previously owned by Britain but was given back to China in 1997, and Macau, the country that I am from, was given back to China by Portugal in 1999. Knowing that I have the chance to travel to these countries, a feeling of happiness consumed me.

The TV reported said that people who live in these three areas would have special privileges compared to tourists, and we would be given a new Greater Bay Area ID card, which would give you access to free transportation between the three areas by boat, bus or train. We would also have priorities for certain activities ranging from theme-parks, free hotel stays and free food on special celebration days. I immediately contacted Karen about this idea, and we began to plan our trip to these two places. A few years later, when everything was official, we made our first trip to Hong Kong....

We arrived at Hong Kong by the train, skipping the queue because we were residents from one of the places in the Greater Bay Area. Walking out of the train station, I was amazed by the different architecture in the area and the different smell of food attracted me to try it. I peeked over the counter and saw a yellow substance which everyone seemed to be eating, so me and Karen decided to try it out. It was called ‘egg cake’ and it was soft, sweet and chewy, which I’ve never had the taste of before in Macau.

Later on I went on a bus with Karen that took us to the beach in Hong Kong. The sun was shining onto the water that reflected the light onto the ships passing by in the horizon, it was a beautiful view. The sand was soft and hot, and it burned my feet when I stepped on it, unlike the beaches in Macau, where stepping onto the sand felt like standing barefoot on needles. The wind blew softly onto my cheeks, stinging them and a fresh smell of salt keeps hitting my nose. We stayed there for about an hour or two, before returning to the train station.

When we returned to the train station, Karen realized how hungry she was (which was quite obvious because of her rumbling stomach) so she decided to try out a fast food shop called ‘Mc Donald’s’. Because she had the special ID Card, she was able to skip the queue and get a 20% off offer, which was a really good deal, and she got some fries. Out of the window, the sky was getting darker and the moon was waking up,

also reminding us that it's time for us to leave Hong Kong and head on to the neighboring city—Shenzhen....

Shenzhen had a huge difference to Hong Kong and Macau, it was much more drier and the way people behaved was different too. Shenzhen people seemed more careless off their looks, except for the women, and spoke with a slight accent which made sometimes made it hard to understand what they were talking about. Thinking back, the people who live in Hong Kong seemed to be more polite and had more bright, bold ideas with their architecture designs, as you could clearly tell from the unique skyscrapers that towered over the rest of the city, unlike Shenzhen, who seemed to have used the traditional architecture style on their buildings which made it look duller, and some Shenzhen citizens had a bad manner and appeared to be moody most times.

Next to the train station was a local market, and the noises that made the city seem busier seemed to all be coming from that one entrance, so Karen and I decided to go in and check it out. Stepping into the marketplace, a scent of vegetables mixed with meat and flowers hit my nose, which wasn't the most pleasant smell to be honest, and we were surrounded by a swarm of people in a few seconds, and the sound of them chattering engulfed me. I struggled to push out of the crowd, but luckily Karen was able to get free before me which meant that she was able to help me out.

Gasping for breath, I finally saw a clear view of the structure. The building had a tall roof which was made out of glass, and sunlight shone through giving the market a natural lighting. Instead of shops, there was stands of all kinds, forming a grid-like shape which also cleared a straight pathway to the stands which benefited the citizens. Well, although at first the Shenzhen citizen seemed careless, they turned out to be pretty smart in some ways. We strolled around for a bit, until the market seemed to get a bit bored for us, and that's when we decided to walk around the city.

In the city there was a lot of trees and wild flowers growing around, and it made Shenzhen looked like a large garden, which was similar to Macau, even though some areas were deserted in Macau, nevertheless, the ecosystems were very alike in Macau and Shenzhen. Shenzhen had a lot of tall buildings that seemed to reach up in to the sky, and by the coastline of Shenzhen there was a massive river with a bridge outstretched on it to connect to areas. It was getting late, and the sunset was reflected onto the river, which shone an orange light onto the buildings next to it. Me and Karen decided to stay next to the river to watch the sunset, and it made it seem like that the sun was falling into the river, and the splashes were the rising stars in the night sky. The noises in the city seemed to be quieting down, and the whole city was asleep...

“The Greater Bay Area is a new area connecting Macau, Hong Kong, Shenzhen and many other areas. It is a project to encourage people learn about other culture and from that, developing their own ideas that would benefit their city and themselves. I have travelled to three of those countries personally, and it was a brilliant experience, and I would recommend all of you to travel through those countries, since you would also have priorities from your ID Card. It will be a great experience for all of you....”, I started to get lost in the memories I had when I travelled to Hong Kong and Shenzhen, and my voice trailed away. I stood there, frozen for a couple of seconds, then suddenly realizing that I stopped in the middle of my speech for my students. I wanted to carry on speaking, but I was lost for words.

The trip I made when I was small had so many memories, from the slightest movement to the prettiest views, so that the feelings and thoughts I had could not be put into words and sentences to speak out. But what I do know is that one small change can make a big difference to one's life, just like how my life changed forever when the Greater Bay project was launched.

## Upstream or Downstream? More Questions than Answers for China's Great Bay Area

Shortlisted

*Harrow International School Hong Kong, Wang, Jade – 13*

The Pearl River Delta has captured the interest and imagination of many historians and artists in the past. This famous estuary, where the Pearl River flows into the South China Sea, has once again captured our attention and awareness. Not just whether its water is flowing upstream or downstream but what future lies for the cities in the Pearl River Delta.

The Greater Bay Area Initiative is China's national drive to turn nine cities and two special administrative regions of the Pearl River Delta into an economic powerhouse. The eleven metropolia shall serve as the core of a megalopolis for the region's political, economic, communications, infrastructure, and urban development. The initiative is not a new invention of sorts. There are more prominent megalopolises in the world, such as "BosWash" or "So-Cal" in the United States and may have inspired China's initiative in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. The main objective is to improve and innovate the mechanisms of cooperation, complementarian and relationship to develop the cities of Hong Kong, Macau, Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Zhuhai, Foshan, Zhongshan, Dongguan, Huizhou, Jiangmen and Zhaoqing into an integrated Greater Bay Area.

Think of it like a present-day Industrial Revolution where each area has a different goal according to their characteristics. Hong Kong, for example, with its status as international, financial, transportation and trade centre, will further strengthen its status as a global offshore business hub and an international asset management centre. Macao, on the other hand, shall take forward its development as a global tourism and leisure centre and foster the appropriately diversified and sustainable development of the economy of Macao.

However, China's Greater Bay Area Initiative also raise more questions than answers. Will there be true integration amidst income and wealth inequality? What will happen when people from a high Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita city like Hong Kong and Macao live and work with those from a low Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita city like Zhaoging and Jiangmen? Will the integration cause massive migration to enjoy the benefits of "richer" cities like Hong Kong and Macau, forcing existing residents to "share" their infrastructure and other social benefits with migrants? Further, as there are different tax structures of the cities in the Greater Bay area, will the initiative give businesses more options to avoid paying tax? When that happens, will this force the government to alter their tax systems just to solve this problem and do so at the expense of upsetting the existing way of doing business in that city?

As a citizen of Hong Kong, we must regard the initiative, not as a heedless observer but an attuned stakeholder. The Greater Bay Area may have unique perspectives and ambitions to become a world leader in manufacturing, innovation, shipping, trade and finance by 2030. It is buoyed by potentials. Nevertheless, just like a river in a mountain or a hill, the fast running water cuts away at the rocks. Although the Greater Bay Area Initiative has many benefits for all the regions, there is one problem: cultural and political diversities of each region. A higher number of Hongkongers remain deeply divided about the Greater Bay Area plan. Many feel multi-billion-dollar infrastructural projects like the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao mega bridge and the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link threaten the city's freedoms, as China's embrace grows tighter and tighter. Hong Kong has a democracy and its own legal and political system under the "one country, two systems" arrangement. This high degree of autonomy was promised Hong Kong until 2047. Hongkongers, nevertheless, fear the city is slowly losing its unique identity. In 2017, for example, Beijing decided it would pre-screen the candidates standing for Hong Kong's Chief Executive. It sparked the Hong Kong democracy protest called "The Umbrella Movement", who say Beijing's decision

as a violation of the "one country, two systems" principle. A public opinion survey conducted by the University of Hong Kong's Public Opinion Program showed distrust in Beijing's Central Government in the first half of 2018 hit the second-highest level since the handover. Results from the poll of 1,000 people revealed the younger the respondent, the less proud they felt about becoming a Chinese national citizen, and the more negative they were about the Central Government's policies on Hong Kong.

In other similar initiatives such as San Francisco Bay in the Northern California and Greater Tokyo in Japan, there were no different laws, to begin. That is not the case here. There are three distinctly different laws in this Greater Bay Area. Will this mean trouble for many aspects of life? Only recently, Mainland Chinese tourists visited Tung Chung in large numbers on Sunday via the Hong Kong–Zhuhai–Macao Bridge, sparking complaints from residents. Shops and restaurants in Tung Chung, the area closest to the bridge's pier, were filled with tourists, as residents raised concerns about overcrowding. Tung Chung resident Mr Ng said the area "no longer looked like Hong Kong." Thus, the high influx of visitors has sparked complaints from residents, with local community group Tung Chung Future launching a "Reclaim Tung Chung" action group to report illegal tour groups. Upon the other hand, a dozen members of the pro-Beijing group "Treasure Group" launched a counter-protest in Tung Chung urging residents to welcome mainland tourists, since Hongkongers and mainland people are "compatriots."

Indeed, many great towns and megacities are built on the riverside. The direction in which the Greater Bay Area Initiative is "flowing" is met with some curves, rocks and pebbles along the way. Will the Pearl River Delta's Greater Bay Area Initiative be an immense success and astonishing economic growth? We may have some answers, some theories, but the most basic are lots of questions. Only the future can tell if the Greater Bay Area Initiative will flow upstream and be China's greatest economic redevelopment; or downstream to nowhere and be China's most notable failure.

## More opportunities, Better lives

*Immaculate Heart of Mary College, Chau, Hyatt – 13*

Since China has started to open its door to the world and reform its economy in 1978, the GDP growth has reached almost 10 percent a year, allowing more than 850 million people to get rid of poverty. Today, China is an upper-middle-income country and the world's second largest economy. Now it is ready for further and more advanced developments, an Greater Bay Area is one of the ambitious plans that China has in mind.

Greater Bay Area Project is never an one-off programme but a long term cooperation between different cities of China, aiming at promoting its growing and dynamic commerce and potentials to the world. After the announcement of the plan, Greater Bay Area (GBA) has become a hot topic for worldwide citizens, as well as businessmen.

Greater Bay Area includes two special Administrative Regions- Hong Kong Government and Marco Government and nine districts of Zhuhai, Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Zhaoqing, Dongguan, Zhongshan, Jiangmen, Huizhou and Foshan in Guangdong Province. According to "People's Daily", with the strong leadership of the Chinese government and the significant advantages of the social system, the Chinese economy will surely on the high-quality developing track. Some people believe that the Greater Bay Area Project uplifts the importance of China in the global economy.

There are policies helping the GBA to commit to promoting development of a quality living circle for living, working and travelling. The Greater Bay Area is connected to the area with the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge. Citizens living in the Greater Bay Area can travel to the vicinity of the Greater Bay Area through the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge, and they can also visit the International Finance Center, Hong Kong, to carry out investment projects. The High-Speed Rail can reach the entire China, so it is a convenient transport for businessmen to work and citizens to enjoy their life, and thus increase their mobility, making good use of time and human resources.

Moreover, GBA is showing its geographical advantages for developing a quality living circle for living, working and travelling. Greater Bay Area includes the key structures of transportation to develop the quality of living, working and travelling, for example, Hong Kong Section of the XRL, HZMB (Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge) and Nansha Bridge allow people from these places to travel to the whole China in a more convenient and shorter distance which helps to promote trade and exchange ideas of talented minds. Learning from the past, the Chinese government has set its path for laying down the promising development of science and technology. Nowadays, people are focusing on a brand new topic, STEM. The word means Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. Fortunately, In the Greater Bay Area, there are lots of learning programs and working projects for citizens who live there to learn something technical and skillful, so they will have a chance to partake the "Greater" project, sharing their experience and benefits.

In addition, the plan also includes creating Hong Kong-Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Park and publishing Smart City Blueprint. The Greater Bay Area is a well-planned area where the Chinese Government has strengthened the development of science and technology in eight ways: increasing research and development resources, pooling scientific and technological talents, providing venture capital, providing scientific research infrastructure, reviewing existing laws and regulations, opening government data, changing procurement systems and strengthening science education. The amount of money involved is indeed more than \$100 billion dollars. Moreover, an Internal Innovation and Technology (I&T) Hub is the vital facility that cannot be missed out. Innovation and technology is the development which focus of Greater Bay Area, by supporting and strengthening I&T cooperation, developing international platforms, Greater Bay Area position is the best place to develop science and STEM with those excellent facilities.

The third dream of Greater Bay Area is the joint developing Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao cooperation platforms, before the development of the Great Bay Area, Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge was designed by Hong Kong Government, Macao Government and the Chinese Government. The bridge opens the road from mainland China to Hong Kong. After developing Greater Bay Area, the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge will surely become the fantastic facility to join Hong Kong and mainland China. Thus, the Greater Bay Area plays a crucial role of connecting the whole China especially Hong Kong and Macau. Given the

geographical advantages of the Greater Bay Area, Chinese economy is set to bloom and grow despite the uncertainties that may arise in the future.

In the past, there were more severe fracturing between China and the West, and that is still the challenge faced by China, especially the trade war between China the United States of America, that has actually slowed down the economy growth a bit, so Beijing may have to strive harder to work with the West using the advantages of the free market of Hong Kong to avoid any possible loss in trade and globalization. With the past experience of China, it is time for China to adjust its role in world trading and negotiation as well as technology advancement so as to gain the trophy, the fulfilment of its great expectations for China's economic future. Failure to having good and healthy relations with the West could cause the expectations thwarted.

Greater Bay Area is not the chess on the checkerboard for China to win the international platform or reputation, but it enhances the trend of business and livelihood of citizens, and with the modern technology and tremendous support of the Chinese government, the Greater Bay Area will be developed into the best global livable city which is ready to open its door to all countries. Hong Kong is the most international city in the Greater Bay Area, as a result, it has a well-known business-friendly environment, a well-developed legal system and the open economy for the success of the Greater Bay Area.

## Greater Development for the Better Future

*Immaculate Heart of Mary College, Chou, Cheuk Yan Ambrose – 13*

Honourable Mention

Over the past decades, many of us were excited to see the blooming of Chinese economy, and we wondered when we would be benefited from the growth of our country. The brighter future of the development of China has been foreseen by many because of its comparatively stable economy. I was not surprised when I heard about the plan to develop an even stronger economic zone within the country itself, and the Greater Bay Area, the new area for the new development of China, will like nothing else but a Silicon Valley in Asia.

It seems like something new to every one of us, however, it is not. The Guangdong–Hong Kong–Macau Greater Bay Area or simply Greater Bay Area (GBA), is a megalopolis, also known as the Pearl River Delta which consists of nine cities and two special administrative regions in South China. Cities like Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Zhuhai, Foshan, Dongguan, Zhongshan, Jiangmen, Huizhou, and Zhaoqing and two special administrative regions, Hong Kong and Macau are the core engines for the development.

It was indeed the right time to announce such an ambitious and amazing plan while people were looking forward to having the celebration of the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. Though many can definitely see the ambitions of China in the Greater Bay Area to create an innovate economy that is greater than that around San Francisco Bay, as the area is home to about 68 million people, and it has combined gross domestic product (GDP) which is worth about \$1.5 trillion, and it is approximately equal to that of South Korea or Australia. The area of GBA is the biggest among other bay areas like Tokyo Bay Area and New York Metropolitan Area. It also has the highest number of annual airport freight turnover, annual air passenger traffic and annual port container throughput.

It is believed that the development of GBA will take a further step to enhance and support the leading role of Guangdong–Hong Kong–Macau Greater Bay Area in the economic development, technology innovation and advanced manufacturing and modern services industries of China for the long term.

The plan for the Greater Bay Area is, of course, always in the spotlight of the world. A more watchful eye is needed for carrying out the plan to ensure the gradual and successful development of the area. Therefore, two missions and six principles are set for facilitating the work.

The first mission is to open up on all fronts. The recent continuing growth of China's economy, showing China can attract more countries in the world to invest and befriend with China. Therefore, China's opening its market to the world is of utmost important for the development.

The second mission is taking a further step in implementing the practice of "One Country, Two System" which is a policy used in Hong Kong and Macau after the handover. The freedom of speech, trade and more is guaranteed by Chinese government to ensure the free flow of trade and the mobility of manpower for keeping the prosperity of these two places.

To ensure the growth of the Greater Bay Area, six principles are introduced for the development of these core cities. The first one is about innovation and reformation of China. The Chinese government will support the establishment of a platform for developing the area into a global innovation and technology hub.

The second one is to coordinate development and plan holistically. It includes consolidating the integrated development, using the existing connection channels for a more effective skill and manpower flow and communication. With the development and opening of the Hong Kong–Zhuhai–Macau Bridge (HZMB), the transportation of people can be tackled seamlessly between these areas.

The third one is to pursue green development and ecological conservation. As there are more concerns about environmental protection and getting green for the better world, there is no exception for the Greater Bay Area to take part in it. Therefore, the development of the Greater Bay Area will also address the ways to reduce pollutions.

The fourth one is to open up the door and cooperate to achieve a win-win outcome. China will consolidate and capitalize the international reputation of Hong Kong and Macau for tourism, finance and trade. Shenzhen is considered to be China's tech hub where you can find the headquarters of giants like Huawei and other famous Chinese companies.

The fifth one is sharing the benefits of development and improve people's livelihood. With the help of this Greater Bay Area, there will be a greater economic integration between Hong Kong and China, strengthening cooperation and jointly participating in the Belt and Road Initiative. There will be some measures for supporting investors in Hong Kong and Macau to set up pension and other social service facilities through sole proprietorship, joint-venture, cooperation and more in the nine municipalities.

The last one is taking the advantages of "One country, two systems". The freedom of Hong Kong allows investors to trade freely here and to enjoy the privileged access to China. It is a win-win economic cycle as China needs Hong Kong's rule of law and openness to and integration into the world financial and economic system to attract global capital to come. Hong Kong is also the door which is open for selling into the whole Chinese middle class market.

Obviously, GBA offers numerous opportunities for the win-win trading and economic growth. It has potentials to extend its growth beyond the Pearl River Delta region. The entire policy might expect this area to be a catalyst for Belt and Road Initiative and bridging the cooperation between different cities. It is also expected that Hong Kong should strengthen its role as a global offshore RMB centre and the centre for resolving investment and commercial disagreements in Belt and Road projects.

Though benefits are foreseen and expected in GBA, the challenges do exist in the real world. One of them is the differences in financial policies and situations. We do have problems in cross-border payments and transfers of data, regional taxation, and regulations on foreign-direct investments. In Hong Kong, there are regulations on data privacy which protects both individuals and companies while in China, it emphasizes more on national interest and security.

There is no doubt that GBA provides significant opportunities for different sectors including infrastructure, construction, real estate, financial services, capital markets, insurance, technology and more. With the encouragement of the Chinese government, more investors and businessmen will want to get involved in the future development of China. The region will definitely transform China from "The Factory of the World" to a dynamic hub of innovation and services with the expected GDP worth US\$4.62 trillion by 2030, then it will be turned into the only place which generates the highest GDP in the world.

On its way forward, China will definitely reach its goal of being the economic giant, developing the Greater Bay Area into the Silicon Valley in Asia which features the financial and technological development and more.

## The Greater Bay Area

*King George V School, Shetty, Reva – 13*

The Greater Bay Area. Can you imagine that? A place combining Hong Kong, Macau and 9 cities in southern China, three places all with the same roots, yet so diverse. The Greater Bay Area Initiative, unveiled way back in February 2019, aims to stimulate the world's second largest economy by taking several steps such as increasing the financial link between the countries, developing and enhancing technology and innovation and improving infrastructure in all three places, securing a good quality of life for citizens. It will have twice as much of the population of Canada, consisting of around 70 million people, having an area of 56,000 km per square, and having a GDP of US 1.39 trillion. The GBA only occupies less than 1% of China's land, but it further contributing to 12% of the GDP. In 2017, Now, even though some benefits of the GBA are guaranteed, what would each place bring to the mix? We will be further looking into the strengths of each area and will see how that will help the GBA flourish and become more successful as a whole.

Let's first start with Hong Kong, our home. Hong Kong is able to surpass many countries on levels such as *internationality, connectivity, diversity* and *transportation*. The city is also dubbed as one of the world's busiest cities, thus "one of the cities that never sleeps".

Hong Kong is largely known to be one of the world's largest thriving economies, being one of the top four global financial centres alongside London, New York and Singapore and a hub for businesses and international trade. This is due to the connectivity of Hong Kong to other countries and cities. Being only within a 5-hour flight from almost half of the world's countries, it adds to being able to access and enlarge one's business in other countries as well. It also can tie businesses to trade with China. This is able to attract many people from all around the world to settle in Hong Kong in order to expand their business. Hong Kong has also been deemed the world's freest economy in 1995, making the city an ideal place to start a company. Hong Kong is also a cosmopolitan city, with a diverse scale of nationalities. This allows Hong Kong to be more open and easier to adapt to and live in for immigrants. Being a cosmopolitan city has its charms, making Hong Kong more likable and attractive to people. The diversity makes Hong Kong appear more sophisticated to outsiders, due to the opportunity to interact with people from so many different backgrounds. This title enables Hong Kong to be presumed as being civilized as there is a fair degree of harmony between the many different types of people. The city is able to provide satisfactory healthcare services. The water treatment and quality in Hong Kong matches those of the quality in foreign countries and meets those of the WHO standards. In addition to having good services, the transportation in Hong Kong is also very efficient and is easy to travel using, which easily making travelling a strong point with Hong Kong.

Next, we will look at China our neighboring country. China also excels in many different standards which would highly profit to the making of the GBA. This includes *international trading, infrastructure, rich historical culture, overseas investments and cultural tourism*.

International trade has benefited China as much as doing trade with China has benefited other countries and cities. China has used trade to bring new equipment and technology to modernize the country over the years and to rise economy. Being the world's fastest growing economy taking over India in recent years, China is the "market of all markets". This is now being used to the country's favors as this in turn attracted many companies to start trading with China. Another magnet that luring people to trade and do business in China is the substantially low manufacturing rates higher production capability in the country. Infrastructure remains to be a very important part and priority for China's government. The country has long realised the various gains of a well-structured and developed infrastructure and has chosen to make that one of the countries focal points. They have done this by advancing the roads, railways, electricity and telecommunications of the country. The government has also used the considerable infrastructure to protect

the country from the economic deficiency in recent years. With the country also having reasonable and quite reachable goals— bringing the entire nation’s infrastructure to the level of a middle–income country, the country can continue to flourish. China is also very cautious and has proven this countless times, especially by making a move in order to invest in overseas companies. China has invested throughout the world, mainly investing in companies in the US, spending over 7 billion in doing so in 2017. China also has a very rich cultural background and has many monuments and attractions throughout the country reflecting this. Some of the most famous ones include the Great Wall of China, Tiananmen Square, Terracotta Warriors, Forbidden City, etc. These monuments have added to increase the overall tourism in China.

Lastly, we will be looking at Macau. The two most best qualities of Macau include the *level of tourism* and, of course, the *casino industry*, earning the nickname “the Las Vegas of Asia”.

Being the world’s largest gambling centre, it overcomes the size of Las Vegas gambling centres. This solely has contributed a lot to the city’s GDP, the gambling empire helps to make 79% of the gambling tax revenue. As gambling is a very important part of Macau and is a sort of statement to define the place that is Macau, it has been named the “world’s casino capital”. The largest casino in Macau is at the Venetian Macau hotel, inspired by the one in Las Vegas, having the largest casino floor. There is yet again the sense of diversity in Macau, much like Hong Kong, due to the city’s history of being ruled by a Portuguese colony until the year 1999. Tourists find themselves immersed in both Chinese and European culture, attracting more people because of this unique quality which is hard to find in many countries. This is often shown in Macau by the street signs that are in both Chinese and Portuguese, truly making it a different experience.

Now that we have looked at all three places, we can start to imagine and picture the life in the GBA. Combining all the three’s advantages would create, in a way, a master country, topping in economy, tourism, transportation, trading, communication, diversity, cultural richness, and that’s just by the top of my head. As there are so many other benefits of each of the places individually that I have not covered, we can start to piece together what life might look like.

Because of the formation of the GBA, many problems that occur in all places will start having solutions to them. One of Hong Kong’s major setbacks and what makes it a less ideal place to live is the fact that it is one of the most expensive places in the world. This is because of limited space we have here in Hong Kong. Due to the GBA being formed, citizens may be encouraged to live in Macau or China helping to make flats and houses cheaper as people move out. China will begin to have more revenue because of the globalization of Hong Kong. China will also become gain more popularity by this act. Macau, on the other hand, could even start exceeding in population, more people getting influenced to move to Macau. In addition to this, tourists travelling throughout all three places won’t have to go through such a hassle to go to the attractions across the GBA. Travelling to China and Macau from Hong Kong will be a relatively easier process now. This is as tourists can travel without having to get visas. This also encourages better and faster transportation production for tourists to travel.

Now, as we look back on what we discovered, the GBA will be a fresh start. Not only for the region, but for us too. This has now allowed me to realize that when this initiative will be put into practice, it will create more job opportunities for people, help stabilize the economy, improving governance in the region, enhancing cultural importance and creating a sense of wellbeing and security in the minds of people, making the recipe for a perfect place.

## Future Adventures of the Greater Bay Area

Shortlisted

*Korean International School, Tsu, Lok Yee Xylia – 12*

The postmodern world is not only continually urbanising to fast-growing metropolitan regions and cities but also multiple neighbouring areas with integrated functionalities and connections. The emergence of these vast regions ignites interdependence plans that increase the possibility of facilities and firms to be established in them. Regional associations are significant and advantageous in the development of businesses. On that note, the Chinese government revealed on 18th February 2019 a blueprint announcing plans to create the Greater Bay Area (GBA), a 'Mega Region' to enhance technology and business along with with Macau, Hong Kong as well other nine cities in Guangdong Province (Chen and Chen). The completion of the GBA would be China's representative in global industrial competitions as well as providing internal opportunities in economic transformations. Therefore, the strategic construction of the larger Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area would substantially offer new levels of development due to its adoption of a Megalopolis concept based on its relevant features such as its natural conditions and good geographical location (Xuejun et al. 724). Besides its proximity, the Mega Region calls for new regional-scale operations, governance, investment, and planning. Consequently, this study justifies the thesis that the management, diversification of industrial sectors, proximity, and innovation capability in the Greater Bay Area propels a new economic growth in China, although it faces multiple challenges.

The Greater Bay Area's (GBA) governance provides plans of action and vivid structures that could enhance the development of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs). The GBA concept was commenced through *The Action Plan for the Bay Area of the Pearl River Estuary*, a study jointly developed in 2011 by Pearl River Delta, Macau, and Hong Kong governments. In March 2016 the 13th Five-Year Plan was endorsed, and the city cluster ideology was expanded in Southern China. Afterwards, in 2017 President Xi Jinping witnessed the preparation geared towards the signing of a framework agreement on constructing the GBA. The document titled as *The Framework of Agreement on Deepening Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Cooperation in the Development of the Greater Bay Area* was signed collectively by the Macau and Hong Kong Chief Executives, and the Head of the National Development and Reform Commission. Through joint governance, the GBA initiative elicited a prioritised and top national policy aimed at constructing a universally leading megacity. The new area has a considerably large size and population in comparison to other previously developed bay areas. By illustration, the Greater Bay Area has the highest population of sixty-nine million, five hundred thousand people compared to the Tokyo Bay Area with forty-four million people, New York city twenty-million, and San Francisco Bay Area seven million (Chen and Chen). Besides, GBA boasts of fifty-five thousand square kilometres, the largest land size amongst other bay areas.

Further, overseas and domestic Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) could thrive in GBA. Markets on bonds have significantly indulged in the construction of infrastructure in GBA. For instance, the Guangdong government-supported over five hundred of the megacity's projects by issuing bonds amounting fifty billion yuan (Hua). Similarly, an exclusive corporate bond was launched by Shenzhen Investment Holding Co Ltd to mark GBA's first official bond launch. The collaborative governments' support of local bond issuances could enhance the attraction of long-term and middle investors with additional innovative products and patent technology into the region.

The GBA primary aim is becoming the leading hub in innovation and technology. Shenzhen, one of the eleven merging cities in GBA, was singled out during the 1980s as a Special Economic Zone that acted as an experimenting base to practice Chinese characteristics of socialism termed as market capitalism. After that, Shenzhen proliferated to become a world factory currently called China's Silicon Valley, a residence to ZTE, Tencent, Huawei among other renowned Chinese technology firms. Shenzhen hosts nearly two million private organisations inclusive of China's largest companies. By illustration, Huawei is based in the city with sixty thousand employees. On that account, the Chinese government turned Shenzhen as a technology and innovation hub that could be compared to Silicon Valley in San Francisco.

Therefore, through the arrangement of GBA 9+2, China could strategically take part to facilitate technological advancements in the GBA by indulging top technologies and talents to propel the development of innovation in the megacity (Chen and Chen). In addition to Shenzhen's base of deployment and high-quality technology in the manufacturing industry, the Hong Kong-Shenzhen bond would act as a springing board for global postmodern techniques that would intrigue the area to accelerate to a future leading universal technology and innovation hub. The objective was supported through the July 2018 Shenzhen University-The Hong Kong Polytechnic University collaboration that established GBAI3 (The Greater Bay Area International Institute for Innovations). Consequently, with the fusion of the universities, GBA would be developed to a world-class competitive hub for technological innovation and advancement, entrepreneurship, and knowledge transfer by partnering with top-notch global corporations, governments, and learning institutions.

GBA's excellent geographical location, capability in great innovation, and muscular economic strength, the region would serve as a strategic hub to construct the Belt and Road (B&R). The construction of the megacity could influence integration in regional and global economies by enhancing cross-border economic cooperation resulting in mutual and equality benefit (Xuejun et al. 723). GBA's proximity is grounded on a coastal zone with adjacent lands, land areas adjacent to bays as well as coastlines that face inland depressions. Hence, through the regions Urban Cluster embedded with independent towns and cities of various functions and sizes, GBA serves as the growth pole for both regional and national economies. Through the pole of growth, although among the eleven cities of the urban cluster do not develop sequentially, their differences in growth intensities spread onto various channels that also finally impact the entire economy differently. Besides, the collaborative talent, technology, and government capital are some of the factors that are transmitted via multiple ways to the hinterland where diverse growth on the pole area is radiated and driven to the realisation of overall regional development (Xuejun et al. 724). Therefore, in comparison to the economy of a global bay area, GBA is advantageous in that it has a heightened degree of openness, right location conditions, and a massive economic aggregate as well as an essential condition to build a world-class bay area economy. Also, through the Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement framework, the cooperation of Macao, Hong Kong, and Guangdong has boosted progress in regions of investment liberalisation, trade in services, and trade in goods. The B& R strategy has sparked GBA construction. Even though the area has provided a conducive and favourable environment for institutions to aid its development among other affirmative aspects mentioned herein, it faces different challenges.

Even though GBA is a world-class bay area, it lacks vital technologies such as in the semiconductors sector. In 2018, sanctions from the U.S on ZTE nearly toppled this leading company in telecommunications by exposing the Chinese weakness in chips and semiconductors (Chen and Chen). Therefore, China's delay to a breakthrough in this sector could lead to dependence on foreign companies for the survival of the tech in the manufacturing industry, especially by GBA and the larger China. Luckily, to curb the raging challenge, efforts have borne fruits after Hisilicon Huawei company designed five chips whose capability is equated to that of foreign companies. Also, Guangzhou has successfully manufactured chips on foundries and fabs. Secondly, GBA is challenged by barriers in regional administration. The geographical location of the region could result in the eleven cities to face internal competition when obtaining economic favours and resources, leading to funds being allocated inefficiently. Lastly but not least, the GBA economic aggregate is massive, while the value of its output per capita is low compared to that of San Francisco. The region does not appear among the one hundred universally acclaimed institutions in innovations. It exhibits a previous change whose capacity is demanding, and the integration of Hong Kong and Shenzhen should be increased even if the strength of their global finance ranks highly globally (Xuejun et al. 725).

Overall, the Greater Bay Area is an innovation and technology hub comprising of eleven cities. The region is among the global bay areas such as Tokyo Bay Area, New York metropolitan, and San Francisco Bay Area. Besides, the megacity has both vast land size and population. GBA's development strategies include collective governance which provides plans of action and vivid structures that propels the development of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises both regionally and globally. It continually aims to become the leading hub in innovation and technology through Shenzhen that host tens of thousands of tech

manufacturing industries. Additionally, GBA is advantageous in that it has increased openness, right location conditions, and a massive economic aggregate, among other merits. Nevertheless, it should increase integration between Hong Kong and Shenzhen cities.

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## Future Adventures of the Greater Bay Area

Honourable Mention

*Sha Tin College, Ng, Ryan – 12*

The Guangdong–Hong Kong–Macau Greater Bay Area, or more simply, The Greater Bay Area (GBA), is a megalopolis which consists of Hong Kong, Macau, and nine provinces of Guangdong. The GBA covers 56,000 square kilometers, has a combined population of over sixty nine million people and a GDP of around one and a half thousand billion US dollars, which is comparable to the Tokyo Bay Area or the New York Metropolitan Area.

The GBA aims to strengthen cooperation between Hong Kong, Macau and China. It also aims to create a bay area capable of competing with similar bay areas around the world such as the San Francisco Bay Area, the Greater New York or Greater Tokyo. The GBA has distinct geographical advantages, such as being along a coast, allowing for it to play an important role in the Belt and Road Initiative. The GBA also leads the country in terms of economic development, as Hong Kong and Macau are both highly developed cities, while the nine provinces of Guangdong have developed an industrial structure. All of the cities in the GBA have the same cultural roots, so the GBA already has strong cooperation foundations.

However, the GBA also has severe challenges to overcome. For example, the plan links two “systems”, three currencies and multiple cities. This makes it highly complicated, and such complexity could introduce far more challenges than those found on other bay areas. Some citizens may be reluctant to merge as they are concerned about the identity of their city blurring. But is this true?

The identity of a city is defined by its language, currency, culture, education and laws. These are all crucial aspects within a community and for a country; it gives the citizens a sense of belonging and a unique identity, allowing people to embrace their culture and feel pride in their roots. However, in the GBA, where the cities are brought closer together, the identity of places will have to change.

A country can be defined by its language and currency, as they both shed light on the origins of a country and it’s evolution through time. For example, Hong Kong uses the Hong Kong dollar, and most of its inhabitants speak Cantonese or English. This is because, back in 1841, the British colonized Hong Kong, introducing the English language. This is one example of how language can show a country’s past. As most of the cities involved in the GBA already speak Cantonese, under the GBA scheme, the cities will be brought closer together as there is no much of a communication barrier. For future development though, Hong Kong people may need to learn Cantonese in order to converse with the people in China. In the long run, this may mean that the Chinese language dies out, as no one needs to use it anymore. The currency, may cause challenges as well. The currency exchange between Hong Kong and Macau is not a problem, as there are no restrictions, but in China, people are allowed to withdraw only fifty thousand US dollars a year, causing the exchanges to be smaller. What this means is that trading on a large scale with China in the GBA will be harder.

Colonization can also be part of a city's identity, as there will be roads and buildings named in the city that colonized it. For example, as Hong Kong was colonized by the British, it has a road called Queen’s Central, which has a British tone to it. On the other hand, Macau, which was colonized by the Portuguese, has a road called Ramal dos Mouros, which is the name of a castle in Portugal. The architecture of a building can also show colonization. An example of this is St. John’s cathedral in Hong Kong, or Macau’s town square, ‘Senado Square’. In the GBA project goes on though, some new infrastructure will be built, causing the names of the roads to change, and making Macau and Hong Kong to lose that part of their identity.

There are also many different festivals, both common and uncommon which can die out. While some are uncommon, such as Dongguan’s Water Sprinkling Festival, or Zhuhai’s Innovation Fest, others are celebrated worldwide, for example, Chinese New Year, or the Dragon Boat Festival. For the ones that are famous, there is not much risk of disappearing, as almost everyone knows about it, and will be easily passed

down through the generations. As for the others, a smaller amount of people will be celebrating over them. These festivals risk getting lost, as slowly, fewer and fewer people celebrate them, not allowing them to be passed down. The festivals celebrated solely in a city or province, however, may be passed on to other cities, allowing it to live on. The festivals then, however, may change to suit the laws in that city. Hong Kong also celebrates more western festivals, such as Christmas or Easter, and take breaks on that day, while China does not. This raises some questions, such as whether or not we will take a break on that day. While some concern may be raised over the western holidays such as Christmas, overall, the festivals will not disappear as they are all famous enough.

The city's education system may also change in the GBA. For example, Hong Kong follows a more British type of education, while China has a more Chinese kind. This is evident in the languages they focus on, as Hong Kong focuses on the English language rather than the Chinese. In the GBA, the education may change, eventually all becoming the same. Whether a new education system emerges or we all follow a single city's education is a different question. The length of education is also uncertain. As China has a nine year compulsory education, while Hong Kong and Macau have twelve, the range of years possible is between those two.

Some laws could change as well. As Hong Kong has a common law system, whereas the government of China has a civil law system with socialist roots, it may change to suit one city or the other. Like the education, China's laws have a Chinese touch to it, while parts of Hong Kong's laws resemble the ones in England and Wales, a remnant of the time when the British occupied Hong Kong. Another call back to this is the language in which the laws are written. Hong Kong's are written in English, while China's are written in Chinese. This might mean, in the GBA, the laws will need to be rewritten to fit everyone's standards. The "one country two systems" law between China and Hong Kong may also disappear in the GBA, as the city's become closer together.

In conclusion, the GBA will cause some lifelong identities to die out. The language, currency, education and festivals will have to change, as not all of the people know about them. There, some of the older, smaller, cultures will die out, as they are unknown. It may accomplish its goal, but not without troubles along the way. The identities of each city can be kept by allowing them to be passed down through the generations. The Chinese government has done a good job with the GBA, choosing cities with much in common, and the same cultural roots, and giving it advantages over its geographical location and economic development.

## A Charming Persona, The Greater Bay Area

*Shanghai Singapore International School, Panda, Anouska – 14*

My numb feet staggered out of the swarming, chaotic and vigorous metro,  
A bullet train they'd called it, roaring with such liveliness, I'd never known.  
My eyes found themselves noticing every little detail guardedly.  
From the chic white, polished walls of a sheer metro station,  
To the baffling absence of shiny wrappers of Lays on the spotless floor,  
To the heartbeat pulse of the crowd, shoving me in the shoulder every minute,  
That emitted a certain vibrancy I'd never felt.

Back home, nothing ever had looked like this before,  
With the scenic countryside to keep me company,  
The peaceful silence that lingered while I reflected my thoughts,  
The pleasant swish of waves colliding with one another while you wrote a poem,  
The gush and swoosh of the moonlit waterfall as it pounded on the rocks and frothed at the bottom,  
Taking a flavorful sniff of the rainwater aura that surrounded the roads when you needed some fresh air.  
The tranquility seemed to be lost here, completely.  
Something so ordinary, I missed so very deeply.

The apparitions of different, unfamiliar faces, ghosted past me,  
As I gawked at them, curious as to who they were.  
I'd never seen this many wonderers from across the globe, like bees in a bonnet they were.  
Chills sprouted across my arms like beads on a friendship bracelet.

I ogled at the ornamental bags latched on to people's forearms.  
My body ached in unfamiliarity,  
My mind throbbing with bewilderment,  
Questioning if I'd made the right decision.

I found myself scrambling to see the outside,  
To feel the sunlight on my pale skin when,  
A familiar laugh formed on my muddled face,  
The acquainted mention of my name and a hug,  
Washed away the chaos and exhilaration for a minute.

The hug was nothing like I'd given my family before I left,  
It lacked the feeling of warmth and love.  
But here, right now, was the start of my new life.  
I was reborn, with having success,  
a bright fairy fluttering near the palms of my hands,  
waiting to be captured and treasured.

My friend from home, dressed in a formal suit,  
I eyed myself, with normal jeans and a worn-out shirt,  
Consciousness gripped my blood, clinging on to it, not wanting to let go.

Within the wink of an eye,  
I could see the place unfold gradually in front of me,  
like a toddler opening a graphic book for the first time;

A place,

Bustling, booming and buzzing with crazed liveliness,  
 Full of concrete, colossal and massive skyscrapers that kissed the beryl blue skies.  
 Ringing laughter, merriment and cheers of the joyous people that could be heard from miles away,  
 The whirr and the whoosh of the high speed gigantic rail that encircled the city,  
 Peering over the endless grey, grisly snakes that formed the bottom,  
 With rushing vehicles, cheerful crawling bugs, caking the top.  
 The sound of the mellifluous chorus of the harmonious, twittering birds blessed my ears,  
 Mixed with the occasional cacophony cries of traffic as if the city killed its engine,  
 breathing its power back to life in the frosty, winter morning.  
 An auburn gaze of the blazing sun met my spangled eyes,  
 Reminding me of the nostalgic sun back home.

My companion pointed to the vacant beach,  
 Roaring waves crashed down upon the golden shores,  
 Sizzling as the whitecaps were yanked back, only to crawl gently back to the coast.  
 Zooming trams whizzed past the area every now and then,  
 I found myself smiling at a kid sitting by the window,  
 Watching the cityscape race towards the horizon,  
 His eyes the size of dinner plates as he laid his head against a pillow.

The wind gently caressed my cheek,  
 A simple reassurance of confidence.  
 My friend, Ronald, held a cuppa' Cappuccino in one hand,  
 Hefty work files in the other,  
 The pungent smell of the last wisps of fog lifting filled my nose,  
 As I took a deep breath of the unfamiliar, stunning yet ambitious nature of the place.

My small, remote, minuscule gem of a town,  
 Now a miniature kite in the massive skies,  
 It had built my roots, taught me the most important things in life.  
 But now, it was time to plant a new seed.  
 Fulfill my dream of being a banker, I must indeed.

My fellow childhood pal pointed at Yang's Dumplings,  
 And before I knew it,  
 Fiery, boiling, savory juice trickled down my chin as I munched bits of shrimp in my mouth.  
 How could something be so delicious, mouthwatering and appetizing at the same time?  
 The familiar taste of foreign filled the ends of my mouth.  
 Never had I ever eaten outside before,  
 Always rice and vegetables my mom cooked from the store.

He chattered, chattered some more,  
 Ordering a taxi through an app on his smartphone,  
 Leaving my mind, utterly blown.  
 He pointed to the lighted sign which read:

"Welcome to the Pearl River Delta, the Greater Bay Area, a true, imperial megalopolis,  
 Soon to be home to you and millions of others.  
 A whole new world, a place even exploring with a magic carpet,  
 wouldn't capture all the splendors it has to offer.  
 A luxurious combination of nine bustling cities,  
 Two signature regions,  
 Hong Kong, Macau, Guangzhou,  
 Shenzhen, Zhuhai, Foshan,

Zhongshan, Dongguan, Huizhou,  
Jiangmen and Zhaoqing,  
A technological hub for young minds,  
Business opportunities for the others,  
A true industrious beginning in your lives.”

Awe grasped tightly at my ankles, refusing to let me walk,  
My eyes re-reading the sign again and again.  
The modern taxi collected me, as if picking up a drink at the store.  
The city whirled past me as I sat in silence,  
Absorbing all the feelings, the people, the happiness, the place had to offer.

City lights hummed along to the brightness and joy in the Bay Area,  
As if beaming proudly upon its citizens,  
and the activity it contained.

The night sky gazed at me intently,  
The trees nodded their heads vigorously, in agreement to the question that nagged my mind.  
“Was all of this real?”

Tick-tock, tick-tock, tick-tock,  
The clock struck 7:00 pm.  
I arrived at the doorstep of my new home,  
A deluxe apartment facing the crystal blue waters,  
As a certain doubt of penumbra crept over me.  
Just as I opened the door to my house,  
The benign neighbors greeted me with green tea and a polite smile, their hands ferociously typing away on  
their phones every few minutes,  
Eyes glued to the lighted screen, now a part of their modern world.

I walked to the balcony peering over the edge of the city,  
Feeling a bit giddy.  
I stared at the landscape as the dark sky,  
Remained a blanket in which the stars illuminated opportunities,  
scattered across the Greater Bay Area like a spectrum.

I took a minute to gather my thoughts as every now and then,  
Where millions of vehicles would park downstairs,  
blaring a binding light in the darkness,  
reflecting my feelings towards the once ambiguity of a place,  
but possessed a charm that lured me,  
to feel a searing passion in my heart for this realm of success,  
Such a realm that held my future in its hands.

A place where nature and industrialization work together,  
A place where technology and communities interact,  
A place where studies and future endeavors link hands,  
A point where ecstasy and a passion to enjoy life meet.  
A pulsating cluster and utopia of sorts.

From Stunning skyline scenery,  
To orgiastic casinos for tourists,  
To lip-smacking Cantonese food,  
To Kung Fu lessons facing the vast waters,

Experiencing overseas Chinese culture,  
Anything to make you linger, making you forget to return.

The future lies in the hands of this new domain,  
Of thousands of young men and women like me,  
A detailed map to success for those clueless like me,  
A smooth bridge to the bright careers that awaited us,  
From a megacity to a world leader,  
From employment, rising technology, new people from different backgrounds, innovations, thriving trade  
and finance,  
A hot pot full of rich soup of spice mixed from the combined regions and cities,  
A fuel to ignite the scorching fire of success and development that loomed nearer and nearer.

Greater Bay Area,  
I'm proud to call you my new home.

## The Greater Bay Area

Shortlisted

*St. Pauls Co-educational College, Li, Cheuk Yan – 12*

### **Let the adventures begin!**

The Greater Bay Area (GBA) is a new business entity comprising 11 cities in Southern China, namely Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Zhuhai, Foshan, Huizhou, Dongguan, Zhongshan, Jiangmen Zhaoqing, and the two special administrative regions, Hong Kong and Macao.

It has a population of 70 million inhabitants and a combined economic output estimated at US\$1.5 trillion. The objectives of the Greater Bay Area are to further enhance the cooperation among the Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macau regions with a view to developing a world class bay area for living, working and traveling. It will definitely become the coolest trend to shop, eat, hang out, and explore this exciting hub because it can cater to a wide range of tourists' different needs.

### **WELCOME TO THE FASCINATING GREATER BAY AREA!**

#### *What is so attractive about the Greater Bay Area?*

The Greater Bay Area is a great platform that can provide a wide range of potential opportunities, attractions and activities for businesses, investors and tourists. On the tourist attractions, within this bay area, you can find everything, ranging from the family-oriented theme parks and shopping hotspots, to the historical heritage of ancient Chinese history. No matter who you are and what you are looking for, there will be something for you and your family!

#### *Tourist hotspots*

Given the wide spectrum of activities and tourist destinations on offer, we thought it would be convenient to list out some of our recommended activities and tourist spots into the four following categories.

The Greater Bay Area is the next big exciting thing on the tourism map and the excitement will only grow in the years to come. Come and visit us at the next opportunity and you will not be disappointed!

#### **If you're family-oriented...**

If you are travelling with your family, these tourist spots should be on your must-go list.

**Foshan Ancestral Temple** – In this temple, the art of Chinese Kung-Fu has been brought back into the spotlight – if you are a Kung-Fu lover, you simply must visit this place! This elegant temple is also known as a folk museum as there are extensive displays of folk relics, and this famous temple offers martial art culture, Kung Fu and Lion Dance performance.

**The Peak, Hong Kong (day/ night view, Peak Tram, Souvenirs)** – when you ask any tourist who has been to Hong Kong, among the first things that they will say to you is that they will have been fascinated by the famous view of the Victoria Harbour from the Peak. From this vantage point, you will be able to see both sides of the Victoria Harbour, with world-renowned skyscrapers within your sights! From inside the tram you can truly feel the slope of the famous Peak and the elevation makes it a fun ride, especially when you are riding it for the first time!

**Lantau Island** – you will find the Big Buddha, the Po Lin Monastery and Tai O Fishing Village where you can get a real sense of the old Hong Kong village life from over 100 years ago. The famous Ngong Ping 360 Cable Car from Tung Chung Town will provide a gorgeous view of the China South Sea and the scenic views nearby. You will no doubt be intrigued by this experience!

#### **If you're a foodie and a shopper...**

**Yum Cha** – it is almost a mandatory ritual for every tourist to try the famous dim-sums when they visit southern China, and in the Greater Bay Area you will have the chance to taste the well-known dim sums such as pork buns, steamed shrimp dumplings and siu mais from the hundreds of Chinese “tea-houses” on offer. You can be assured that the taste will be second to none!

**Michelin star restaurants** – there are hundreds of Michelin-rated restaurants in the Greater Bay Area. You will never run out of options to savour delicacies of a variety of cuisines in the Greater Bay Area, from

French Cuisine to all types of Chinese Cuisine such as Shanghainese, Cantonese and Sichuan Cuisine. The hardest part will be to decide how to fit them all into your itinerary!

**Causeway Bay and Tsim Sha Tsui** – Hong Kong – as one of the famous duty free shopping centres in the world, Hong Kong is renowned for its shopping. In shopping districts like Causeway Bay and Tsim Sha Tsui, you will find anything and everything for you, ranging from local brands to the famous luxury brands. If you are a keen shopper, you definitely shop till you drop!

**Temple street night market, Hong Kong** – this is one of the most famous tourist sites because it offers a lot of items for tourists to see and buy, and aside from the food and drinks, shoppers can look for local special souvenirs such as jewelery and chopsticks. It is also proximate to other famous streets such as the Ladies Street and the Birds' Street in Mongkok. With most shops open till well after midnight, you will be entertained long into the night!

**If you're looking for adventures...**

**Chimelong Theme Parks** – Of a dozen of prominent PRC theme parks in the Greater Bay Area, Chimelong Paradise in the Panyu District in Guangzhou and the Chimelong Ocean Kingdom in Zhuhai should be on every adventurer's bucket list. With a plethora of activities such as amusement rides, animal shows, aquariums and water parks, you will find some of the most exciting rides in the world in these theme parks.

**Hong Kong theme parks** – the world-renowned theme parks including Ocean Park and Disneyland are two of the favourite tourist spots in Hong Kong. These spots are not just for kids either – from toddlers to adults, everyone will find these places interesting!

**Macau casinos** – since the Macanese government opened up the casino industry around 20 years ago, it has developed into one of the leading casino resorts in the world. And it is not just for the gamblers – in fact you don't have to gamble at all – with new and world-class hotel facilities and convention centres, all members of the families will have a fulfilling experience without doubt!

**If you're looking for cultures...**

**Ruins of the St. Cathedral in Macau** – This is perhaps the most iconic site in Macau and you will find a picture of it on most of the Macanese postcards. This beautiful church was severely burned down in a fire in 1835 and the only remnant was the artistic granite facade and the grand staircase entrance. It was officially listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2005 and continues to be crowd favourite.

**Splendid China Folk Village** – Travel China in One Day – this famous place in Shenzhen comprises of two areas including the Splendid China Miniature Park and the China Folk Culture Village. At the Splendid China Miniature Park, there are 82 reproductions of the various famous places in China ranging from the grand architecture, historical sites and traditional dwellings in China. At this place, you can do a fast-track visit of China in less than a day! At the China Folk Culture Village, there is a museum of 56 ethnic groups of China where you can find the various clothes of the various ethnic groups and enjoy the Chinese folk dancing up close.

**Museum of the Mausoleum of the Nanyue King** – Seek the History of more than 2,000 years ago – In this museum in Shenzhen you can explore the Chinese heritage of the past 2,000 years as this museum traces back to Nanyue King (204 BC to 112 BC) in the West Han period but also a 2000 year old stone chamber tomb of the Emperor.

## Future Prosperity – Greater Bay Area

*St. Paul's Co-educational College, Ho, Yan Ching Isabelle – 14*

The Greater Bay Area – as its name suggests, an area connecting the most innovative cities, forming a greater, more prosperous cluster. This community connects cities all across China, fostering connectivity and enhancing development as a whole. Cities that play a role in this project include Hong Kong, Macau, Dongguan, Huizhou, Guangzhou, Zhaoqing, Foshan, Zhongshan, Jiangmen, Zhuhai.

To begin with, these cities are geographically ideal for development – the physical properties of both coastal cities and inland cities are fully utilized. In terms for coastal cities, it allows overseas trade to be conducted conveniently. This encourages international trade with China, giving rise to more shares bought by China in the international market. On the other hand, in terms of inland cities, despite its geographical constraints such as its landscapes and weather, it also fosters industries and technological development. The Greater Bay Area fully utilizes the geographical advantages of coastal and inland cities, favouring China's trade and development. These supremacies already give the Greater Bay Area an upper hand in becoming a world-leading region.

Moving on, the Greater Bay Area is truly an energetic business and financial zone. Each city already have booming economies, and when these flourishing cities come together, it promises efficient growth of capital. The Greater Bay Area will soon not only be an Asian community, but an international community for investment. A stable and thriving economy is the fundamental development goal of a country, hence it is of utmost importance that the Greater Bay Area is economically prosperous.

Socially, the Greater Bay Area provides job opportunities and development opportunities. Many industries and companies are set up there, as the Greater Bay Area can supply people with a larger target audience and more resources to develop their business. Entrepreneurs can also start their own businesses there and this creates quality opportunities for all. The Greater Bay Area does not suggest any restrictions to developers and welcomes different people with different businesses.

Furthermore, technology and innovation are looked highly upon in the Greater Bay Area. Scientific development in terms of healthcare, infrastructure, environmental and more. Most importantly, the technological developments are closely linked with economical development. The Government strives to apply technological resources in improving the economy, while to also nurture talents in this aspect.

In addition to social and economic aspects, the Greater Bay Area also boosts tourism development. The Greater Bay Area is not only a place for economical development, it is also a recreational hub. There will no longer be need for local citizens to travel overseas, since the Greater Bay Area itself already houses many leisure activities! These recreational services include movie-themed amusement park Liongate Entertainment World, Chimelong International Ocean Resort, City of Dreams, just to name a few. The rapid development and expansions of tourist attractions will cause a great boost in recreational development. The Greater Bay Area will be a world renowned centre, attracting millions to spend their holidays here and bringing an influx of profit.

The Greater Bay Area blends in premiums of mainland China, Hong Kong and Macau. This variation of cultures is unique to the Greater Bay Area. Hong Kong, as an international cosmopolitan city, is where the East meets West. Hong Kong is a city with a diversity of cuisines, architectures, and languages. Macau, despite its small size, is also a well-developed and professional city. The Western Portuguese culture is evident while traditional Chinese heritages are also distinct. Other than Hong Kong and Macau, the Greater Bay Area connects eight other Mainland Chinese cities. These cities are not only rich in Chinese cultures, but are also metropolitan cities. Equipped with innovative technologies, they will also assist the development of the Greater Bay Area.

The Greater Bay Area allows cities to connect and showcase their assets. Bringing together cities in unity allows us all to strive towards the same goal – future prosperity. Prosperity means to be well-developed and all-rounded, with general satisfaction from citizens. The Greater Bay Area is sure to achieve prosperity – given its development in different aspects, it caters the needs to different stakeholders, allowing more opportunities for all. The name “Greater Bay Area” already fully illustrates this community, and it will house regional, national and international developments, promising future prosperity.

## Future Tales of the Greater Bay Area

West Island School, Huang, Vincent – 13

In 2017, while celebrating Hong Kong's 20th anniversary for its return to China, President Xi Jinping witnessed the National Development and Reform Commission, the two Special Administrative Regions Hong Kong and Macau, and the governments of Guangdong sign the *Framework Agreement on Deepening Guangdong–Hong Kong–Macau Cooperation in the Development of the Greater Bay Area*. This decade, the Greater Bay Area will be finalised, encompassing Hong Kong, Macau, Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Zhuhai, Foshan, Huizhou, Dongguan, Zhongshan, Jiangmen, and Zhaoqing. The cities combined occupy less than 1 percent of China's land area but contribute 12 percent of its GDP. Each city in the area will be better developed, more financially attractive, popular for tourists and give more opportunities to all.

On September 23, 2018, the Hong Kong West Kowloon Station was opened<sup>1</sup>. Exactly one month after that, one of the most ambitious engineering projects in the world was inaugurated—the Hong Kong–Zhuhai–Macau Bridge<sup>2</sup>. These two projects will further integrate Hong Kong with other cities in the Greater Bay Area, slashing travel times down to less than an hour from Hong Kong to certain mainland cities, allowing transport to be more simple and convenient. The train station and bridge will also allow Hong Kong, Mainland, and Macau people to easily travel across cities, allowing for more tourism and business freedom.

The Greater Bay Area will give people more opportunities. Once the Greater Bay Area is finalised, job opportunities will skyrocket; more people will have the freedom and flexibility to move across the cities, giving more choices for whom employers want to hire and what jobs people want. Macau, known for its casinos and malls, is developing its strengths, most notably with Zhuhai to increase business and tourism. Zhuhai will also support Macau in diversifying its economy; the two will work together in the Hengqin Free Trade Pilot Area to develop new industries and encourage the movement of people. People can find jobs more easily in other cities in the Greater Bay Area. By using the Hong Kong–Zhuhai–Macau bridge, tourists can easily travel from and to the two cities. In fact, since the bridge opened, there has been a 25-per-cent increase year on year tourism<sup>3</sup>.

The Shenzhen Government will work with Hong Kong's government and the Central government to increase tourism as well. They will develop the Hong Kong–Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Park located at the Lok Ma Chau Loop, the largest technology and innovation park in Hong Kong. The Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Zone will be just adjacent to the loop, on the north side. Through city cooperation in the Greater Bay Area, they have also launched a Technology Talent Admission Scheme, which is faster than typical applications, to allow overseas and mainland Technology people to work in Hong Kong, improving technology there.

Because of each cities advantages—the high-quality technology, mass-manufacturing, and financial experience, the Greater Bay Area is a lucrative market for businesses of all industries, from manufacturing to tourism. The Greater Bay Area will improve life for nearly everyone living in and around it.

<sup>1</sup> "PR073/18 23 August 2018 High Speed Rail Service ... - MTR." 23 Aug. 2018, [http://www.mtr.com.hk/archive/corporate/en/press\\_release/PR-18-073-E.pdf](http://www.mtr.com.hk/archive/corporate/en/press_release/PR-18-073-E.pdf). Accessed 9 Jan. 2020.

<sup>2</sup> "Xi Jinping declares Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau bridge open ...." 23 Oct. 2018, <https://www.straitstimes.com/asia/east-asia/xi-jinping-declares-hong-kong-zhuhai-macau-bridge-open>. Accessed 9 Jan. 2020.

<sup>3</sup> "Greater Bay Area: 10 facts to put it in perspective | South ...." 1 Apr. 2019, <https://www.scmp.com/native/economy/china-economy/topics/great-powerhouse/article/3002844/greater-bay-area-10-facts-put>. Accessed 10 Jan. 2020.

## Of Water, of Land: Reimagining the “Greater Bay”

*West Island School, Kao, Zoe – 13*

Most of us grow up only with our families and immediate communities in sight. We get used to leaning on those who are closest to us. Every day we seek comfort in familiar places, faces, and names. Now imagine an opportunity to grow up in a community that is broader than a city, a province, and a country? Imagine a point in the future where you could introduce yourself as someone not from Southern China, not from Hong Kong or Macau, but from a place that is defined by a large body of water and the massive land that surrounds it?

The "Greater Bay" is such a bold and exhilarating concept. To me it is like a futuristic bridge that connects nine different provinces and cities. Not only does the region produce a significant amount of GDP and have a whopping population, it also boasts a network of distinctive communities and promises to generate endless possibilities. I have read that the Greater Bay Area is focusing on the importance of promoting innovation and technology. I am also aware that the Greater Bay Area could become another globally competitive cluster of megacities. I have seen the big advances the area has taken. I believe that with the power of all nine different cities together, they can form a stronger bond than other traditional bay areas such as the San Francisco Bay Area or the “Alpha++” cities such as New York City and London. While Hong Kong has a deep financial influence on the world, Shenzhen has many tech enterprises and internet ventures such as Tencent, DJI, Huawei, and ZTE that have been growing at an unprecedented rate. In addition, the auto industry in Guangzhou and the appliance industries in Zhuhai and Foshan have also been fast expanding. And let us not forget Macao’s tourism industry, which adds to the diversity. These achievements on their own are impressive, but to achieve a truly amazing future, we must connect these industrial and commercial centers. We need an interwoven bond that can be built by individuals like you and me, and perhaps the Avengers as well. Yes, although fictional, the Avengers are a great example of teamwork. They are a group of incredible individuals who together forge a new world with an unbreakable bond. But as many groups do, the Avengers have their own problems. In *Captain America, Civil War*, the Avengers split up over a clash of political views. Eventually, they solved their problems and joined together to fight a Thanos. Together we can solve problems greater than the sum of our parts. I am not saying that if Hong Kong and Mainland China get into an argument, they should fight with lasers and superhuman powers. That is science fiction, after all. But individuals like you and me can still make a difference.

I first encountered the concept of the Greater Bay Area when I moved to Hong Kong with my family from the United States four years ago. It was truly a transformative cultural revelation. Before then, I called myself a Chinese-American. But now I am in the process of adding the "Greater Bay" to my mix of cultural identities. A few years from now, I might return to the United States for college, but the experience of living close to these connected megacities will have left a lasting impact on my experience of growing up. And maybe a few more years down the road, after my college and higher education, I might even find myself back in this region of the world. I can’t help thinking, what will the world be like in ten years? What will Hong Kong be like in ten years? And what will the Greater Bay Area as a whole be like in ten years? The concept is so bold that there is no limit to reimagining a common future that is built around it.

Let us try to reimagine this future here. I see many opportunities, but I also see some problems and challenges. One important issue is the population of these dense cities. In Hong Kong alone, there are more than 1,800 street sleepers. In the entire Greater Bay Area, there are a lot of people in need of our help. While economic growth is the imperative of local governments, what can we do as societies to help people who are in need? I believe this is where non-government organizations should come in. Although governments can do a lot for the people in the region, cities such as Hong Kong do lean on the work of individuals, communities, and groups. These NGOs become more important when local governments disagree on how to handle vital issues. For instance, Hong Kong’s economy benefits from low tax rates, free trade, and less government interference; but the Chinese economy, on the other hand, is more centrally planned. Disagreements can also happen in other areas. Hongkongers are in the process of cementing their

own identities in a post-British era. They are growing more aware of their own history and culture. Mainland China has a different political system and self-awareness. We have seen how these differences are played out in current events. Our challenge is to find ways to benefit from the connections of the Greater Bay and let different communities still maintain their individual identities. I have learned from my own involvement with the charity group “Feeding Hong Kong” about how non-government organizations can make a profound positive change. You and I can only get stronger if we can respect each other’s differences.

We have talked a lot about the Greater Bay’s overall impact on large groups. But how will this future affect individuals and daily lives? Well, let me introduce you to my family friend Chad Ching. Chad was born and grew up in Hong Kong. His dad, Ka Ching, works in the import-export-trading company in the Kowloon peninsula. He moved to the Greater Bay Area due to job prospects. He met Bara Bing Ching in a public event. Bara Bin Ching moved from Switzerland to the Greater Bay Area to conduct research on merging of cultures. Due to Ka Ching, she ended up moving to the Greater Bay Area. Chad went to the United States for college. He majored in economics. After college, he decided to return to Hong Kong and got a new job at the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Park, an opportunity that would not have existed five years ago. This is a job Chad has been super excited for. He always wanted to do something along these lines. Chad speaks Cantonese, Mandarin, and English so he is at an advantage. Now, why are we talking about Chad? Well, Chad is one of the 69 million others who will live in the Greater Bay Area. His life is being affected by the development of the Greater Bay Area. In Chad’s daily life, he interacts with a spectrum of different people. There are people like Chad who were born and raised in Hong Kong. There are also many immigrants who moved to the Greater Bay Area for jobs and opportunities. There are also many Mainland business people who come for their jobs and diverse communities. Regardless of their different backgrounds, people are here for the same reason that Chad had for his return. The Greater Bay offers tremendous opportunities for everyone. These are the types of people the area can bring together, a mix of people with different backgrounds working cohesively on a common goal. This is certainly Chad’s goal, that is, to enrich his own identities and to gain experiences he could not have anywhere else.

The Greater Bay Area will be the home of millions of people, who at the end of the journey may come out as different individuals. These people will share incredible journeys with others like them. Our friend Chad might one day go out to the world and introduce himself this way: “Hello, I am Chad. I am not from Southern China. And I am not from Hong Kong or Macau, either. I am from a place that is defined by a large body of water and the massive land that surrounds it. It is called the Greater Bay...”

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# Non-Fiction

Group 4

## A Glimpse into the Future

*Diocesan Boys' School, Cheng, Justine Kudret – 15*

Winner

Historically, Guangdong has always been a kaleidoscope of evolution. From a mere outpost of imperial China, to becoming an indispensable trading post connecting the Middle Kingdom to Asia and beyond, through its time as a warzone plagued by colonial struggles, it has always been a site of breath taking change. And as China awakens from its slumber, after being ravaged by civil and international warfare, it has garnered recognition slowly but surely. This is most emblematic in a cluster of Guangdong cities collectively named the Greater Bay Area, where it has undergone yet another transformation in the span of a few decades. Briskly, the southern province has reinvented itself into a place the world has never seen. While Hong Kong's tale of metamorphosis from a backwater fishing village to a cosmopolitan city is one that is often lauded, it is integral to note that this success story has been emulated just a few miles up north, in the metropolis of Shenzhen. When the sleepy village of 30,000 was designated as one of four special economic zones, giving it access to more foreign investment and special taxation laws, it underwent an economic boom — its GDP per capita grew a jaw-dropping 24,569 percent between 1978 and 2014. Now, the story of the city liberalizing acts as a beacon of light for the region: as it continues to urbanize at stunning rates, it is paramount that one stops to investigate how life would be like for ordinary citizens in the region, as well as what it has to offer in the future, especially in our increasingly interconnected world.

Before delving into the specifics of what the Area could offer, it is of prime importance to take its regional context into account. Situated on the southern coast of China, the Greater Bay Area is composed of nine cities — Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Zhuhai, Foshan, Dongguan, Zhongshan, Jiangmen, Huizhou, and Zhaoqing, as well as the Special Administrative Regions of Hong Kong and Macau. To date, it is already one of the preeminent financial centres of the world: despite taking up less than 1 percent of the country's landmass, it accounts for 12 per cent of the national GDP. Its close proximity to the South China Sea, one of the busiest waterways in the world has also helped catapult the Area into a major transportation hub: according to the Hong Kong Trade and Development Council, the volume of air freight traffic was greater than the combined volumes of Tokyo, New York and San Francisco.

First and foremost, as the international image of the Greater Bay Area is further enhanced, this will trickle down to the average citizen in many aspects. Starting with education, often an integral part of every developed society, many members of the Area are actively seeking to improve their educational infrastructure. Indeed, with a population of twice that of Canada, the human capital that is being utilized could not be fully explored if education were subpar. This is already changing in many ways. In Hong Kong alone, three universities are ranked in the world's top 50 in the Quacquarelli Symonds World University Rankings 2020, namely the University of Hong Kong, the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology and the Chinese University of Hong Kong. The research findings and the intellectual capital will then be cross-pollinated to other cities in the region: CUHK (Shenzhen) was established as a joint venture by the Chinese University of Hong Kong and Shenzhen University in 2014, and HKUST is eagerly preparing for its new Guangzhou campus' inauguration.

Such a process is also exemplified in other veins of the education sector, which have seen massive development in the past few decades. For instance, most cities in the Bay Area have allowed Hong Kong children to apply to public schools as other citizens would. On a larger scale, the Sister School Scheme has also engendered cooperation between many institutions; since 2004, the Guangdong–Hong Kong Sister School Scheme has led to many alliances being forged to the point where, by some accounts, 70% of schools participating in the Scheme. As more lives are altered by this exposure to this refreshing system, students from primary school pupils trying to understand the fundamentals of life to university undergraduates attempting to delve into their fields of interest would all have stimulating education that is of the highest calibre. Thus, it may not be a surprise to see schools in the Area, spurred on by this virtuous cycle of educational exchange, join the ranks of the best institutions across the globe. Soon, student life would be highly diversified with students from every country in the world listening to lectures and sharing classrooms

with local cohorts. These young people will not only be observing the world's fastest emerging superpower up-close, they can also serve as seedlings in an ever-growing greenhouse of ideas, a sphere containing blossoming intellectual exchange that will fertilise China's next generation of big ideas.

However, all of that intellectual discourse would not be as valuable if it did not materialize in different areas of society. To meet the burgeoning demand for dissemination of information, many state-of-the-art lecture halls and libraries would have to be built, which could be a steady stream of modern facilities being erected, such as the futuristic Shenzhen Library which boasts more than 2 million books and 1 million online reading materials. Sharing a complex with the neighbouring Shenzhen Concert Hall, its sheer size and proximity to residential areas makes it a bustling cultural hub. In addition, in order to showcase their ideas to the public, more exhibition centres will be constructed in the future. A prominent example of this is the Guangzhou International Convention & Exhibition Center, which provides world-class exhibition infrastructure for a myriad of activities, including technology exhibits and artificial intelligence summits. Another area where expertise shines is in robotics: Shenzhen hosts a Robomaster competition annually, a tournament which attracts talent from across the globe to compete in a variety of engaging battles, with job opportunities at DJI — the sponsor of the championship, and the largest drone manufacturer in the world — as the top prize. Not only does this provide learning opportunities for many youngsters, the enhanced level of public awareness forms yet another virtuous cycle of discourse when more people are cognizant of the latest breakthroughs in different walks of life.

To fully utilize the advantageous geography of the Area and to add on to its growing human capital, cutting-edge infrastructure would be necessary to act as a catalyst for economic growth. The poster boy of China's economic boom, the Chinese high-speed rail system, is already at the forefront of the world: China now owns more high-speed rail than any other country, and with the opening of the Hong Kong Express Rail Link, which pledges trips from the West Kowloon station to the Shenzhen Futian station in less than fifteen minutes, the creation of a "one-hour sphere of living" is already approaching reality. When a scale model of a train capable of travelling at 1000 km/h was unveiled at the National Mass Innovation and Entrepreneurship Week turned heads, it is no longer ludicrous to imagine a world where due to higher levels of education, the perception of convenience could be redefined. On a shorter time frame, as the Shenzhen-Zhongnan Bridge edges closer to completion in 2024, the two cities will be connected by trips less than 30 minutes, a stark departure from now which requires around three hours to cross the bay. This is accompanied by the recent culmination of the Shenzhen Bao'an International Airport: often compared to the venerable Hong Kong International Airport and Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport, the hub offers ferry trips to its Hong Kong counterpart where passengers do not need to pass through immigration, alongside a fourth terminal that could meet demand up to 2045. Although greater caution should be exercised before construction — the Guangzhou Baiyun expansion of a new runway is seen to be in direct competition with the Foshan airport — competition will still inevitably provide users with better facilities, better hospitality and better quality as a whole.

Secondly, business and technology will also thrive in the foreseeable future. Combined with the rising education levels and the proliferation of infrastructure, other factors will also contribute to the region's rise. The most documented one would certainly be Hong Kong, with its laissez-faire economic market which is consistently one of the most open in the world. As one of the most highly regarded financial centres in the world, Hong Kong could strengthen its status as an offshore Renminbi business hub, or provide trading services for mainland conglomerates such as Tencent due to its independent financial system and its high credibility. In addition, Hong Kong's medical system is also heralded as one of the leaders in the industry, and the expertise is already being cross-pollinated to other cities: from 2012 to 2017, a University of Hong Kong-backed hospital in Shenzhen has assisted more than 4 million patients, introducing sophisticated technology such as cutting-edge anaesthesia that enables liver transplants along the way.

This progress is in direct refutation to the criticism that some opponents might bring up: they believe that further integration would be detrimental to the Region's autonomy, which is stipulated in the city's mini-constitution, the Basic Law. It is critical to note that Hong Kong's success as an entrepot and a free trading

port is premised upon the principles of transparency and openness, and to claim that these values would be eroded is unfounded at best. However, Hong Kong's technological sector has seen limited fanfare as opposed to the symphony of inventions across the border: a major example was when DJI CEO Frank Wang, a student at the HKUST founded his company in Shenzhen after not being able to get financial backing in Hong Kong, due to sky-high costs and a lack of government support. Despite these constraints, however, Hong Kong Science Park has still nurtured quite a few innovative companies, and SenseTime's success is a testament to this when it was founded in 2014. In a mere five years, the company has defied expectations and now is the world's most valuable A.I. start-up at \$4.5 billion, with joint research programs with acclaimed universities such as Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK), Tsinghua University, and Peking University. Learning from examples like these, the governments of both cities have agreed to commence construction of the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Park, a vanguard for technological exploration located on the border.

Moving northwards, Hong Kong's younger counterpart shines enthusiastically as a metropolis ready for change. Often referred to as "China's Silicon Valley" and home to titans such as Tencent, Huawei and Alibaba, Shenzhen's attention to investment in research and development is almost unparalleled: its use of 4% of its GDP in 2018 is rivalled only by the innovative economies of Israel and South Korea. For instance, Tencent's brainchild Wechat is the most popular social media network in the world, connecting around a billion users. However, to suggest that it is a social media application would be a vast understatement: it offers a multitude of features, ranging from online payments to video calls to options for advertising. In reality, it means that one can pay for groceries, book an appointment to the doctor, and send anyone a voice message while catching up with your friends' latest adventures, not to mention to pay for utilities in case you've forgotten, all without leaving the app. It is then no surprise that Tencent is one of the miracles of the past decade: its Hong Kong-listed stock price increased up to 12,200 percent since its inception in 2014. In addition, the smartphones that are used for accessing this expanding network could take a radically different form: Huawei, another tech giant headquartered in the vibrant city of Shenzhen, which stretches from the smartphone industry — in which it is neck and neck with the global leader, Samsung — to the nascent 5G sector, a subject that has attracted global attention. It is then easy to foresee a future where you can call a taxi and pay the driver in advance, when you tap on your Huawei that boasts a smorgasbord of features, including a top-class semiconductor chip that could be manufactured by Alibaba, which recently released the Hanguang 800 chip that the firm claims to be the fastest in the world. Although the artificial intelligence chip right now is being used internally for product search and advertising, it is not impossible to envision a future where the two titans join forces and create a chip that could be used both for supporting smartphones and digital infrastructure.

These electronics could be assembled just a few miles up north in the city of Dongguan, which is suffering from its overreliance on migrant workers: some 75% of its 8.3 million population are migrants who leave the city deserted during festivals such as during Chinese New Year. Instead, it has repositioned itself as a production base, as more enterprises are attracted to its allure. It is already home to about 9,000 enterprises according to the Hong Kong Trade and Development Council, and it is readjusting to meet the demand of neighbouring cities. Spanning an area of 60 square km, the emerging district of Binhaiwan will be a hotspot for innovative industries, including university startups which have seen increased engagement in the technological sphere. One in five smartphones in the world are made in Dongguan due to its large workforce and abundant supply of materials, and this is set to accelerate as semiconductors are in the spotlight of the city's development. A major reason for this is the "Made in China 2025" plan: China aims to produce 40% of the semiconductors it uses by 2020 and 70% by 2025. Self-sufficiency is significant as the global economy is still volatile in the wake of the US-China trade war, and Dongguan is a prime actor in realising that goal in the years to come.

Hop on a state-of-the-art high-speed rail and you could be minutes away from Guangzhou, the provincial capital of Guangdong and the region's most populous city. Apart from the spectacular transportation network that solidifies its position as a gateway city, its culture which had been shaped by decades of change is also worthy of attention. The Wuxian Guan, a Taoist temple engraved with sculptures

of five sheep, is a prominent example of the city's heritage: it is believed that five celestial rams arrived in Chuting (Guangzhou during the Zhou Dynasty) and blessed the city with good harvests, bringing an end to an era of sustained famine. Go into the city centre and you would be stunned by the ancient architecture in Old Xiguan, which was home to elaborate Cantonese mansions owned by the most affluent personalities a few centuries ago. All sharing the traditional Lingnan characteristics, they are immaculately designed with timber–masonry structures and have withstood the test of time: the Xiguan houses are currently open for visits. Combined with deep black bricks and an elaborate architectural style, the district is a hotspot for tourists and academics alike. A few minutes' walk would bring you to a row of restaurants with authentic Cantonese cuisine, each of them selling their specialities which often are passed on for generations. The sight of woks humming, people salivating and dishes ranging from steamed oysters, fried chicken or char siu is definitely a delight to the eyes, and will not vanish in the near future when the Area modernizes into one the world stops to observe. Thus, life for residents in this aspect will not change as dramatically as in other realms, however with the aid of technology pioneered by companies such as Tencent, one could expect lengthy waiting times for food delivery to be lost in the past. With the advent of the recent infrastructural boom, the prospect of ordering bona fide daliang double milk from Guangzhou to a world–class hotel in Macau could no longer be fiction.

The distinct Cantonese culture forms a direct contrast with Macanese culture, a gambling hub which retains a few shreds of its Portuguese occupation. The remnants of St Paul's Church, and historically known as the 'Vatican of the Far East', the site is a magnificent culmination of a grandiose staircase leading up to a seamless granite façade. A 10–minute walk northeast would lead you to the ancient St Lazarus Church, a pristine white facility surrounded by some of Macau's most picturesque streets that cannot be found anywhere in the world. INdeed, as new casinos are constructed and as new resorts are built to meet the skyrocketing demand, some local bazaars might be forgotten. However, this is not emblematic of Macanese culture as a whole; regardless of whatever trials and tribulations the city might go through, the revenue gained from tourism is already enough to ensure they will not become remnants of the past.

All of this breathtaking change will definitely present cities of the Greater Bay Area in a refreshingly new light, as centerpieces of innovation and prosperity. This is in direct juxtaposition to the perception some may hold decades ago; with every soaring skyscraper being erected, with every university being constructed, with every station being established, the image that the region is no more than a rural backwater has already been deemed obsolete. This image will be even more irrelevant as the GBA progresses and flourishes; time and trust will only bolster the Area's international image as an interconnected and highly intellectual hub. And as Hong Kong remains embroiled in a political conflict full of acrimony, one can only hope for the city that we call home can find a way past the strife and forge a path back to prosperity. With this golden opportunity on our doorstep, we have the opportunity to regain what we have lost in the midst of this chaos, but also to reach new heights with cooperation and innovation.

## A Dream not Shared by All

*Harrow International School Hong Kong, Webb, Stephanie – 15*

Shortlisted

Imagine a utopia. A place where bullet trains and monorails glide effortlessly, winding in and out of different districts. A place where towering skyscrapers stretch miles into the sky, creating a labyrinth of glass and concrete. A place where robots, instead of humans, offer their services in restaurants and stores. An urban cluster of cities where anything can be made possible, with a population twice the size of Canada.

This is already becoming a reality. It will be known as the Greater Bay Area (GBA). It is Mainland China's ambitious plan to establish an international all-in-one innovation/entertainment/ financial hub.

How do they plan to do this?

The plan entails integrating and developing the nine cities of Shenzhen, Guangzhou, Foshan, Dongguan, Zhuhai, Zhongshan, Huizhou, Zhaoqing, Jiangmen in Guangdong Province and the two special administrative regions of Hong Kong and Macau.

Although this seems like a lot of cities, it only really takes up 0.6% of China's land mass with the population of the GBA, exceeding 69 million, accounting for 5% of China's total population.

However, what is most impressive about the Greater Bay Area is that its monetary output (Gross Domestic Product or GDP) per capita (or per person) at US\$23,000 already exceeds the two other major Chinese city clusters of Jing Jin Ji (Beijing–Tianjin–Hebei) at US\$13,000 and Yangtze River Delta at US\$11,000.

With further development, the Greater Bay Area could become the powerhouse of the whole of China, accounting for an even more significant percentage of China's GDP than its current 12%. With further integration supported by government policies, the GBA is expected to rival or even overtake the three largest bay areas in the world – Tokyo, New York and San Francisco!

In order to fully understand how China is planning on accomplishing this ambitious task, we will examine the blueprint of the GBA plan carefully.

The fundamental idea is to leverage on the existing strengths of the various cities, so that each complements the others, rather than competing.

Hong Kong and Shenzhen will play the role of the international finance centres.

As it stands, Hong Kong already operates the world's largest offshore Renminbi (RMB) business and financing centre. Generally speaking, when companies in the Mainland want to expand their businesses, instead of borrowing money from banks, they might consider raising this money through listing on the stock markets, known as Initial Public Offerings (IPOs), or selling bonds, a type of debt, to investors.

This is where Hong Kong comes in with its unique financial service offerings. Mainland China does not allow free exchangeability of RMB into other currencies such as the US dollar (USD). In addition, the Mainland also restricts capital inflow/outflow i.e. how much money can be brought in and out of China. This has given Hong Kong an opportunity to become an important financial intermediary that connects the Mainland to the rest of the world. Hong Kong has helped many mainland companies tap into a vast pool of foreign investors by conducting their IPOs on the Hong Kong stock market as well as selling Mainland companies' bonds to global investors. The total amount of capital raised from IPOs in Hong Kong and Shenzhen combined has ranked the highest in the world since 2015.

In addition, Shenzhen is expected to be the incubator for technology companies such as Huawei, Tencent and DJI Technology. Most of China's massive technology companies originate from Shenzhen since the city

was earmarked for the Central Government's reform and opening over thirty years ago. Shenzhen's investment in research and development accounted for about 4% of its GDP, among the top three in the world along with South Korea and Israel. The Central Government is planning to oversee the "Shenzhen-Hong Kong technology innovation cooperation area", hoping to further develop 5G, artificial intelligence, cyberspace technology and bio-medical technology.

Meanwhile, have you ever wondered what toys, clothes, furniture, electrical appliances, machinery, your beloved iPhone and many other things have in common? A lot of them are actually made in China! Looking at the back of any one of those objects, you would likely see a small "MADE IN CHINA" label.

But where, exactly, in China are a lot of these objects manufactured? Many are manufactured in Dongguan and Foshan which are known as the world's factories and they are a part of the proposed GBA! China is hoping to transform them from a low labour cost manufacturing base to producing advanced parts and assembling for Shenzhen's high-tech industries.

Elsewhere, the flashing lights, the shuffling of cards, the clinking of casino chips, all merge together into one at Macau. With casino revenue of US\$37bn in 2018, Macau is a gaming centre with 6 times the revenue of Las Vegas which only had US\$6.5bn revenue. Together with Hong Kong and Macau's neighbouring Hengqin Island, the Chinese government is planning to develop these cities into a tourism hub offering gaming, theme parks and sight-seeing.

Given the strengths of key individual cities, what is it about the Greater Bay Area that would make it "greater" than all the other bay areas in the world?

To start with, the Greater Bay Area has a low-cost manufacturing base which ensures seamless cooperation between the high-tech design companies and the parts suppliers/manufacturers because of their physical proximity. This is a major advantage compared to other bay areas, such as Silicon Valley which has to source its parts from China or other low-cost overseas suppliers, resulting in lower efficiency and higher costs than the GBA producers.

Another advantage the Greater Bay Area has is that further development and upgrading of skills should be easy to accomplish, considering that much of the labour force is already skilled in manufacturing. Furthermore, while cities like Dongguan and Foshan morph into high-tech producers and centres of innovation, secondary areas such as Zhaoqing can take over the lower-end manufacturing. Moreover, alongside shifting to high-end manufacturing, Dongguan can further expand its service industries, such as financial insurance, e-commerce and technology services, in order to support its high-tech hub neighbour.

The Greater Bay Area also has the advantage of having a vast population. The 70 million people in this area not only provides more potential for creative input and a broader base to develop talents, but it also means that there is a vast pool of relatively low cost labour. This is because the average GDP per capita in the Greater Bay Area is only US\$ 23,000, well below the GDP per capita of the other bay areas of the world (from Tokyo Bay of US\$ 42,000 to San Francisco Bay of US\$102,000).

As for connectivity within the Greater Bay Area, China has already invested heavily in infrastructure. For example, there is the bullet-train network, the HK-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge and other infrastructure projects which all help to significantly reduce travel time between the cities. The provincial capital, Guangzhou, which is located at the heart of major railway lines across the GBA will be turned into a transport hub, with plans to extend its rail and subway network further. For connectivity with the rest of the world, three of the world's top container ports, Shenzhen, Guangzhou & HK are in the Greater Bay Area, with established shipping lines making scheduled visits for exports and imports. The air freight traffic across the Greater Bay Area at close to 8 million tonnes per annum is already greater than the combined figures of the bay area of San Francisco, New York and Tokyo. Still there are further plans to turn the GBA into an airport hub by expanding existing airports' capacities and transport links.

The Greater Bay Area blueprint thus seems like a very well-thought out and feasible plan. However, there are still many challenges the Chinese government has to overcome if it wishes to make a success of its plans given the many inherent differences that exist in the various cities. Let's analyse what these challenges mean and if they can be overcome.

One of the biggest challenges is the existence of three different legal systems (Macau, Hong Kong, China) and three different customs zones unique to the GBA. Macau and Hong Kong are two separate special administrative regions with their own legal and taxation systems and currencies. There are also two hard borders that travellers and goods would have to cross. This makes the execution of policies a lot more complicated.

Some of these obstacles can be overcome with certain Central Government initiatives. For example, to solve the problem of there being different currencies, digital currencies or online payments can overcome this issue fairly easily, while Hong Kong can take over the primary role of external financing / RMB exchanges. In terms of the difficulty of having different customs zones, the Central Government could coordinate regional policies so as to streamline the process of crossing the borders, hence easing the movement of goods, workers and capital.

Thus, these challenges do not seem insurmountable initially. That was the case until the anti-extradition bill protests in Hong Kong began...

Will these protests compromise the picture-perfect utopia? Have they already caused irreversible damage to the role Hong Kong will play in the GBA?

Over the past six months, Hong Kong has faced a whirlwind of protests, unrest and violence which have threatened its position as an international financial centre. Hong Kong has many well-educated, competent young people, with 5 of its universities being ranked among the top 100 worldwide. Before this, the trilingual youth of Hong Kong would have naturally provided a pool of talent for the GBA plan. However, these protests have shown that these university graduates are not exactly keen on integrating with the Mainland.

These protests have also led to lawlessness within HK. Whether we are looking at the behaviour of the radicals or the law-enforcers, violence has now become the norm. This means that Hong Kong's tourism has been adversely affected, potentially even for the longer term if unrest continues.

A recent ban on face masks has added even more fuel to the fire as it invokes a colonial-era emergency law. The Hong Kong High Court later passed a judgement that the ban was not constitutional and did not comply with the Basic Law. However, a spokesperson from the National People's Congress (NPC) issued a statement that only the National People's Congress Standing Committee (NPCSC) has the authority to make any decision on whether any HK law complies with the Basic Law.

Stuart Hargreaves, an associate professor at CUHK says it is not clear whether this statement is meant "to totally deny HK courts ability to interpret the Basic Law in course of decisions" or whether "it is just a 'helpful reminder' that NPCSC has final say on Interpretation, then that's business as usual." The first interpretation would put Hong Kong's judicial independence under strain, potentially eroding Hong Kong's financial role as global investors become wary whereas the second interpretation should leave Hong Kong's position intact.

To add to the uncertainty, the US has recently passed the "Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act" in response to the escalating protests. This Act states that there will be an annual review on the autonomy of Hong Kong. If the US decides it is not up to standard, not only will they impose sanctions on the Hong Kong/Chinese officials involved but they could also remove Hong Kong's special trading status.

For example, the exports of American sensitive technology to Hong Kong would be restricted, just as in the Mainland. This Act in fact presents a double-edged sword to HK. On the one hand, it does seem to ensure the continuation of one-country-two-systems because of the potential threat of the loss of Hong Kong's special status which would hurt China. On the other hand, if the US views Hong Kong as no longer enjoying a high degree of autonomy, then Hong Kong will suffer a double blow because not only would its autonomy be eroded, but it would also lose its "most favoured nation" status currently granted by the US.

Therefore, whether Hong Kong is considered to enjoy a high degree of autonomy seems to hold the key to whether Hong Kong will suffer from the worst case scenario of a double blow.

If this happens, the Greater Bay Area will suffer greatly because the ability of the Greater Bay Area firms to raise USD financing as well as to attract foreign direct investment (FDI) will be adversely affected if HK's financial role disappears.

However, this worst case scenario does not seem likely, as both China and the US benefit from Hong Kong maintaining its status as a global financial centre.

From the US perspective, US companies benefit economically from trading with Hong Kong. The value of US exports to Hong Kong far exceeds the value of its imports from Hong Kong, with a surplus of US\$ 31 billion in 2018. Given Hong Kong's trusted common law system, US companies also feel secure in using Hong Kong as a springboard into China.

From China's perspective, Hong Kong is an important bridge that links Mainland firms to the rest of the world. Professor Simon Shen, Adjunct Associate Professor in Political Economy at HKU & CUHK, points out that investment into China by foreign companies (FDI) routed through Hong Kong has increased from 40% pre-1997 to 70% because foreigners have faith in Hong Kong's common law system. Professor Shen also argues that Hong Kong has a unique role in China due to the free exchangeability of RMB into other currencies in Hong Kong, unlike in Mainland China. China's need for USD financing and its strict control of the flow of money in the Mainland thus gives Hong Kong an advantage.

Indeed, Hong Kong has always been special in that it has enjoyed a free flow of information, people and capital, an independent judicial system, a regulatory framework that is free from corruption and a highly-educated workforce with a good command of English. All of these are paramount for an international financial centre and none of which the other Mainland cities can replicate. As long as China values HK's unique financial role, it is likely that HK will be left to operate as it has done in the past, at least in appearance.

Yet, China still faces the challenge of some Hong Kong youth who refuse to be integrated. Since Hong Kong is such a vital part of the Greater Bay Area plan and contributes so much to China, perhaps the Central Government would consider maintaining the status quo for Hong Kong on the surface but gradually replacing the pool of local talent with ones from the Mainland. For example, in Mainland companies or in other spheres where the Central Government can exert influence, they may adopt a policy to hire only loyal mainland graduates, bypassing this generation of Hong Kong protestors.

In conclusion, the ambitious Greater Bay Area plan will, without a doubt, lead to the prosperity of China. Given the strengths the Greater Bay Area has, such as the availability of a local labour force that is relatively low cost (compared with the other bay areas) yet becoming increasingly skilled, the rapidly growing talents in the prospective cities and their complementary strengths, the Greater Bay Area will have no problem developing further to overtake the other Bay Areas. Unfortunately, this dream of a utopia is not shared by all. Judging by the recent events in Hong Kong, it is not certain whether Hong Kong can remain as the primary financial/trading centre. However, considering the benefits both the US and China derive from leaving Hong Kong as it is, with the former enjoying favourable trade with Hong Kong, and the latter primarily from raising foreign currencies, it does not seem likely that Hong Kong will lose its critical role as

an international financial centre. Either way, the GBA blueprint seems promising and will definitely propel China into a future of innovation and new developments.

It could be a utopia for those who dreamt it, but this dream is not shared by all.



## The Greater Bay Area

Honourable Mention

*Korean International School, Bertrand, Max Albert Pierre – 15*

The Greater Bay Area is a place containing Hong Kong, Macau and some other parts of China. It has recently been declared as an official location causing an increase in Business in the local area, tourism, and has attracted the eyes of some of the worlds' largest organisations to be a part of the Greater Bay Area in order to reach their business goals and they believe that this is the right place to do it, containing their target audience, a low cost of production and a high revenue. For some context, the Greater Bay Area was officiated on the first of July 2017 containing some major cities including Hong Kong, Macau, and Guangdong. This could have been viewed as an attempt at bringing harmony and political discretion by indoctrinating Hong Kong to conform to China's values before the official transfer of sovereignty. Nevertheless, this could also bring benefits to all involved parties by improving their businesses by trading goods and being more lenient towards giving each other a helping hand. This will be further discussed. To end this introduction, I will be guiding you through the facts and histrionics that make up the Greater Bay Area.

The Greater bay area contains core and key node cities. Some core areas include Hong Kong, Macau, Guangdong and Shenzhen. The key node cities are Zhuhai, Foshan, Huizhou, Dongguan, Zhongshan, Jiangmen, Zhaoqing. Core cities are cities which have an advantage and leadership in the creation of this region and its development whereas Key node cities are mainly used in order to support the core cities as they have weaker infrastructure and are in a less important position in this area.

This area creates countless opportunities for all involved parties to benefit from. This could increase the revenue on housing, due to an increased demand, an increase in government communication and better business for the area as a whole.

This would also contain the possibility of creating a positive image for the leaders of both sides in relation to their citizens as they are currently having protest, possibly resulting in the feasible resolution of this now out of hand topic.

Nevertheless, this could also be seen as a move towards the hostile takeover of the chinese government controlling both Hong Kong, and Macau prior to it's inevitable handover possibly received negatively Hong Kong's citizens and could possibly be the reason for more possible protests as a way to express their political angst and resentment for the recent actions the police and China have taken against them.

Anyways, to move past political discussions, the Greater Bay originated the 7th of December 2016 when the people's Republic of China suggested the idea at the "Year plan for economic and social development for China" as a proposition and hopeful chance to benefit all involved parties in order to sustain themselves and support their greater good.

One of the reasons for the implementing of the Greater Bay Area was to create a passageway between all regions of this area with bridges such as the Huangpu Bridge in Guangzhou going towards Guangdong, The Nasha Bridge from Dongguan to Guangzhou, The Hong Kong- Zhuhai Macau Bridge, The Humen Pearl River Bridge, or lastly the Shenzhen- Zhongshan Bridge. In addition to this, a large number of "Urban Rails" have been developed in their designated City, such as the Hong Kong MTR, the Shenzhen Metro, the Dongguan Rail Transit, Foshan Metro, Macau LRT, Zhuhai tram and others are still under construction. On top of this airports and inter-city trains have also been used as a common mode of transport between cities.

In retrospect, due to China's suggestion of this area, this could lead some to believe that China had no choice but to propose this due to the inevitable benefits this would bring to their economy and those they

are collaborating with. In addition the benefits mentioned above, possible supplementary economic gains could be the enhancements of markets as they would be shared with possible new industries, producers and certain cities. Some of which could potentially be in need of aid resulting in a booming market being the best possible solution for their underdevelopment issue. The combination of one of the worlds largest with one of the worlds greatest ports and trading areas. Not even mentioning the increasing amount of revenue made from Macau with it's gambling.

In conclusion, the Initiative for the greater bay area was an idea resulting in the rejuvenation of these cities in addition to making them what they weren't before. A community, this would provide help for all parts of this area to exchange ideas and support each other in ways they couldn't before with economic infrastructural development.

# The Greater Bay Area

Shortlisted

*Korean International School, Yau, Hiu Lam Janice – 15*

Robust, breath-taking, beautiful, and culturally oriented are a few attributes that begin to describe the Greater Bay Area region. The conceptualisation of the region that operates independently from other countries' political influence emulates the best qualities obtained from Mainland China, Macau, and Hong Kong. Covering a landmass that is more than Switzerland, the region has a population of about forty million individuals. The region dubbed the Greater Bay Area (GBA) provides the ultimate opportunity for people living in the region to live a fulfilling life. GBA is characterised by beautiful sceneries, economic prosperity, culture, freedom, cheap but entertaining lifestyle, exquisite cuisine, and great weather. Individuals native or foreign visiting the region gets to experience peaceful natives, enhanced economic and technological opportunities, diverse cultural history, eco-tourism, local and neighbouring region cuisines, unique shopping experience. They also access affordable housing, recreational and educational facilities, thrilling mountainous adventures, and a spectacular gambling lifestyle.

## Correspondence to best Attributes of Mainland China

People living in the GBA suggest it to be referred to as Cantonesia owing to the commonality of the primary language (Cantonese) used in the region. The region envisions bringing the best aspects of Mainland China, Hong Kong, and Macau. For instance, by emulating best practices in farming and agricultural ideologies set up in Southern China, the GBA will enhance its self-sustainability and supports its population that will be approximately 40 million. It will also adopt the preservation of rare species and critical cultural centers. The best attribute that emanates from Mainland China is the ability of the country with only 10% arable land being capable of sustaining a population of more than 1 billion people. As such, it showcases the importance of agriculture to the economy of a region. Similarly, small scale farming from individuals living in the mountainous region of Southern China enables them to contribute to the production of varying crop and animal products, enhancing food security.

Mainland China is growing at a rapid rate. It is evident by the growing GDP that is ranked second in the world and the creation of new economic zones (Zhang 21). However, they have remained grounded in conserving its cultural sites and culture in general. GBA thus aims at staying rooted in its heritage and culture. Hence, the identification of cultural sceneries that double up as attraction is identified and protected. Mainland China also boasts of sanctuaries for rare species animals. Animals such as the panda which provide an extraordinary spectacle, are protected and act as revenue generators and source of attraction. Ultimately, GBA will take the best attributes from southern Mainland China and implement it in its southern region, characterised by the most arable land, best weather condition, and natural ecosystem. As proposed, the GBA southern region encompasses the rural part characterised by mountains and ranges. It is suitable for agriculture and riparian land which acts as a source of freshwater feeding the inland rivers within the region, making it the more significant supplier of clean water used across the region. It also houses the GBA's most prolific cultural and religious sites.

To better experience, the GBA a trip down the southern part of the region will showcase an ecosystem characterised by peace, tranquillity, and fresh air. The scenery of green spread of crops outlines by the contours of the mountain ranges welcomes any individual to the agricultural and farming hub of the GBA. Farmers have diversified their production based on the area to ensure varied supply. Most parts of the arable land are in constant use owing to the adoption of modern technology and irrigation in farming. Contrary to scenery experienced in rural parts of many regions, the GBA authority will ensure easy accessibility by developing a robust infrastructure that connects the rural area to the northern cities. The further south one moves, the more chill and higher it becomes with a substantial landmass on the high-altitude areas reserved for forest and wildlife existence. Clear marking of protected areas is visible to avoid encroachment and human-wildlife conflicts. The protected area in the mountainous region contains riparian land that provides fresh, clean, and safe water.

Two massive dams in the southern region are used in water storage and electricity generation. Favourable weather conditions in the mountainous southern region of GBA emulates that in Southern Mainland China, making it possible for farmers in the region to grow crops that are a common delicacy when visiting any region close to China. Taking advantage of the robust ecosystem in the region, the region will become an eco-tourism attraction with visitors and researchers visiting the area not only to admire the rare exotic animals only found in the Chinese region but also learn how to emulate the same in their respective countries. For instance, the creations of panda sanctuaries in the area will only be rival that in mainland China, making it a significant source of attraction. Locals and tourists will also get a chance to explore critical cultural sites that capture the heritage of different communities living in the region.

To top it off, visitors and locals alike get to have a taste at a variety of delicacy that depicts different cultural set up around the region. Most prominent are dishes native to Southern China, such as the roasted pecking duck, wonton noodles, Boedijn, and dim sum (Zhang et al. 386.). For the thrill-seekers, the GBA southern region provides the perfect challenges and adventures that range from scary zip-lining, mountain climbing, and biking. For example, Guangzhou China has one of the most extended zip lines in the world as a result of its extensive but accessible mountain ranges. Implementation of such ensure the area increases its economic development as visitors from within and outside the region have fun while enjoying a serene environment like no other. Lover on mountain biking can also have a short at the never-ending fun couple by the serenity of the country. All in all, an adventure to the rural part of GBA will provide the much-needed relaxation and tasty food variety while providing equipping an individual with knowledge regarding cultural and religious diversity in the region.

The northern part of the GBA will contain two cities that will rival the busy buzzing life that can only be experienced in Hong Kong and Macau. Hong Kong, even though considered a part of Mainland China, has its independence governance and political structures. This makes it a center for freedom relating to human rights and the social lives of those living in the metropolitan region. Hong Kong skyline is considered one of the most adorable in the world due to the number of skyscrapers in the region. With a population of just over 7 million people covering an area of about 1106 km<sup>2</sup>, it is considered the financial and technological city of the world. In its quest to attract investors while ensuring the better livelihood of individuals living in the city, the highly diversified city has adopted technology in nearly every aspect of its operation.

With international companies setting up shop in the region, it is paramount that they get convenience, economic stability, political stability, and security. Contrary to most big cities, Hong Kong is among the few where an individual feel secure whenever on the streets due to the friendly security services. Similarly, a sight of citizen protesting for their social right is a common sight which alludes to the political independence it enjoys. Notwithstanding, pollution has been a rising issue leading to the adoption of clean energy from solar to embracing electric cars. Hong Kong equally has the most sophisticated transit network that makes a movement with the city convenient.

#### Emulation of the best Hong Kong Attributes

Emulating attributes of Hon Kong in terms of city planning, housing, and transports system, the northern part of GBA buzzing scenery is noticeable, revealing its intention of becoming the world's economic hub. The two metropolitan cities, which will have a population of just over 20 million people, provide a unique lifestyle that cannot be experienced in any other city. Contrary to scenes experience in many cities around the world where utter disorganisation, pollution, and security concerns are paramount, boast of top security and organisation. Even though the cities are densely populated, the metropolitan authorities having analysed aspects from Hong Kong city and suggested mechanisms and policies ensure the city remains in robust and attractive shape.

GBA's paramount objective is to develop a self-sustaining model but an affordable city. Well established manufacturing industries across different sectors create jobs and the needed commodities to support the day-to-day activities. With a standardised wage rate, citizens will manage to develop their life

around the city. Low-cost housing and transport make it possible for even regular workers to live just outside the city. Most breath-taking about the urban areas of GBA is the technological advancement that has been implemented in the delivery of services to improve people's convenience and lives. Aspects such as affordable and reliable transportation, internet and telecommunication will become a norm to GBA in a bid to attract foreign investment.

Pollution and transportation are always a significant concern when dealing with a big city. In the case of GBA, the authorities governing the city have suggested mechanisms to resolve this issue. The adoption of clean-energy sources in transport and daily usage minimises the level of carbon emission. Electricity use in Cantonesia will be obtained from hydrothermal and solar sources. With the city adopting an eco-friendly rapid transit system based on Hong Kong's transport set up intending to reduce pollution while also reducing congestion caused by the usage of personal cars (Shapiro, Hassett & Arnold 21). Aiming to preserve the environment, the region will encourage the use of electric vehicles, especially within the metropolitan areas. The GBA will allow convenience when dealing with mobility by developing roads, underground passes, walk-ways, railway networks, and water canal. An individual wishing to explore further parts of the city will have the opportunity to use the high-speed train that traverses the whole region. Ultimately, the transport network will ensure convenience for every person ranging from pedestrians to regular automobile users. The city has put in place measures and policies that encourage the development of high capacity building to facilitate housing, especially in the densely populated urban areas in GBA.

GBA, on its spectrum, can be considered a 'skyscraper city.' The authorities provide baseline housing pricing that ensures citizens fulfill their dreams of owning a home at a certain point in their life. Ultimately, what makes GBA admirable when it comes to housing policies is the mechanism put in place to ensure that, ideally, every citizen has access to shelter, thus reducing the causes of homelessness. In the recent past, cities have battled the high rates of mortgages and acquiring homes making low-earning members of the social strain or even become homeless. For instance, Hong Kong is experiencing a housing crisis emanating from unaffordable housing occasioned by ever-growing housing prices. Thus, GBA will put up a measure that monitors housing prices to ensure that developers do not overinflate prices.

The dream of GBA becoming a financial hub will be further boosted by the available infrastructure and political goodwill. The region must attract the leading commercial brands to the region while putting up policies that ensure fair and reliable trading. Owing to the independent governance that GBA will enjoy creating a political environment that simulates or even betters that of Hong Kong is possible (Bache, Bartle & Flinders 592). The favourable political climate in a strategically located region will spur GBA to new economic heights boosting its international trade. Situated with the vicinity of a highly influential region but enjoying a serene political environment makes the proposed region a haven for new and existing investors. A functional 24-hour economy, especially in the cities, will showcase GBA financial capabilities that will match other Mainland China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Japan, Korea, and the Philippines.

Safety, cultural diversity, world-class infrastructure, educational, and recreational facilities will similarly make GBA a go-to tourist destination. For instance, shoppers get access to top brands that represent the different Asian cultures while also providing them with the opportunity of purchasing other international brands at competitive rates. The decision to shop in such a destination not only showcases top quality brands but also showcases innovation, technology, and high engineering of building around the central business district. This guarantees a shopping galore that is unmatched by surrounding cities in the region. For an individual interested in locally manufactures items, the cultural center is the go-to place offering a wide array of items that reflect specific cultural backgrounds within GBA and from neighbouring Asian countries.

The region also emulates Hong Kong, which has top-class educational and recreational facilities. To cater to students from all backgrounds, GFA has instituted a high-quality curriculum that meets international standards. That is not what makes the GBA educational facilities unique. Through the adoption of talent-based educational programs, young members of the society can quickly identify fields of study that

they are interested in. The high-level educational system will not only nurture local talents but also encompass students from other regions. GFA will also harbour the best recreational facilities, such as five-star hotels and sports facilities. Social centers where families can interact will also be accommodated in the GFA. With a vast sandy beach on the northern side, hotels can attract local and international guests who wish to experience the uniqueness of the city during cool weather, a healthy city life.

#### Emulation of GBA to Best Aspects of Macau

The Food Culture in GBA emanates from Macau and Mainland China setup, where varying types of foods are accessible owing to the diversity in culture. Macau is home to themed restaurants and bars that represent cuisine from nearly all cultures in the Asian peninsula while also showcasing European cuisine. Contrary to what is experienced in the southern region, which majorly deals with local cuisines, the north region of the GBA will be food heaven to locals and foreigners alike. Food lovers can cheaply and easily experience a taste of exotic cuisine from different Asian countries. This has been made possible by the presence of ethnical diversification owing to immigration that has resulted in the adoption of cross-culture practices. One can have a taste at delicacies from India, Mainland China, Japan, Korea, Macau, and other countries at a low price. The local eateries are packed with plenty of dim sum, egg custard, among many other delicacies that are affordable to literary everyone but living a person craving for more. For those interested in fine dining, specific themed locations and top-class restaurants provide the opportunity to taste any meal from around the world.

The Macau nightlife is a unique experience that showcases well-lit buildings and the central attraction being the casinos. Covering an area of 113.5 km<sup>2</sup> and a population of just over 620,000, Macau is the dubbed Vegas due number of casinos it host. A substantial percentile of its revenue emanates from gambling proceeds, which is at its peak in the night hours. The establishment of entertainment joints and casinos contributes to GBA economy and attraction. More-so the casinos in the region have been influenced by the setup in Macau that encompasses that provide one-stop leisure, shopping, and financial assistance to its patrons (Greenwood & Dwyer 582.) Notwithstanding, lovers of photography will experience the full extent of the GBA beauty showcase by carefully designed lighting and fountains in a different building, a scenery that can only be enjoyed in Macau.

#### Natives/ Tourists experience in the GBA

Any individual seeking an adventure in the Greater Bay area can begin in the southern region by visiting the ancient cultural sites that highlight the cultural origins of the native. They can proceed to visit the wild animal sanctuary that is home to the famous panda and other exotic animal species distinct to the region. They can then engage in Mountain climbing, biking, and zip-lining while enjoying fresh delicacies from the numerous farms located in the region. One can also visit the human made spectacle site, such as the two dams in the region that double up as power generation centers. When one wants to experience the fast-paced city life, a ride at the bullet train is a unique experience. They can also enjoy street food that showcases the diversity of the GBA areas. If one requires premium dining, they can always visit several five-stars hotels that provide the best view of the city. To better experience the nightlife, one can visit any number of casino or lovers of photography can always capture the well-lit skyline. To cool off after a long day's adventure, one can visit the sandy beaches, which provide a vast range of recreational activities that keep everyone moral high.

Ultimately, the GBA was created with conceptualised to accommodate everyone from children to adults. By taking the best aspects of Mainland China, Macau, and Hong Kong, GBA is capable of creating a region that one-stop adventure that is only achievable by visiting the three distinct locations. Be it education, recreation, tourism, food, cultural diversity, and a cheap but standardised lifestyle; this is the region to be. Emulating best practices from Hong Kong enables Cantonesia to establish itself as a city of adventure, financial prowess, technology, and security. Aspect conceptualised from Southern Mainland China advances the newly developing region to a sustainable agricultural and farming hub while remaining rooted in its cultural heritage. It also enables it to become self-sufficient concerning food productions that are equally delicacies in the region. The main attribute that Macau offers is the buzzing nightlife categorised

with beautiful lighting that showcases inner beauty. It also exposes other economic alternatives that GFA can explore to boost its economy and attract tourists. Ultimately, the GFA showcases a region full of adventures emanating from its carefully crafted system obtained from existing cities that have prospered. Hence, it is the most prolific place to live.

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## New Area, New Benefits

Honourable Mention

*St. Mary's Canossian College, Lee, Amber – 14*

“New Bay Area, New Chance.” This is one of the advertisements frequently shown on television, telling us how the new planned Great Bay Area can benefit adolescents, saying that many chances can be grasped in the Greater Bay Area. Let us know more details about this place and look into different kinds of benefits that Greater Bay Area can bring to the areas nearby, China and even the whole world.

Guangdong–Hong Kong–Macao Greater Bay Area consists of 9 cities and 2 special administrative regions, namely Hong Kong SAR, Macao SAR, Shenzhen, Zhuhai, Jiangmen, Foshan, Zhaoqing, Zhongshan, Dongguan, Guangzhou and Huizhou. With Macao SAR, Shenzhen and Hong Kong SAR as the core cities, these 11 coastal cities would build up a connection in different aspects such as medical service, transportation, exchange of knowledge, youth development, etc. The Greater Bay Area is built with several aims including providing a brand new and advanced international innovation and technology hub, improving infrastructural connectivity, etc.

Talking about how Greater Bay Area is formed, it is better to refer to China’s huge development project— — The Belt and Road Initiative. The B&R is one of the long-term developments of China with other countries in the world. In order to facilitate the south coastal cities’ economic development and make use of the advantage of special administrative regions and Shenzhen to the greatest capacity, the idea of developing the Greater Bay Area in 2022 in the immediate term and 2035 in the long term had popped up on 1st March, 2015 in The Belt and Road Initiative Document. Another milestone for the Greater Bay Area Development is set on 7th December, 2016. The concept of the area was mentioned in 13th Five-Year Plan for Economic and Social Development of PRC. Then in July 2016, the Framework Agreement on Deepening Guangdong–Hong Kong–Macao Cooperation in the Development of the Bay Area was signed, marking that Hong Kong is formally listed under the list of the Greater Bay Area.

The Greater Bay Area could bring benefits based on the geographical location. The Greater Bay Area is located at the southern coastal area of China. In cope with one of the most significant projects in the Belt and Road Initiative, Maritime Silk Road, ports in Greater Bay Area can play important roles in connecting the other Asian countries in exchange of goods. Huizhou is the easternmost point in the Greater Bay Area. With the establishment of Xiamen–Shenzhen railway with the starting point in Huizhou, transportation time for people who have their business trips to northern part of China will be shortened. The two ports, three networks development of transportation infrastructure is mature in Huizhou, making the connection between the southern and northern part of China closer. In Hong Kong, the Hong Kong–Zhuhai–Macao Bridge and Guangzhou–Shenzhen–Hong Kong Express Rail Link are set up to strengthen the connection of the three core cities in the Greater Bay Area. Having the best airport in the world, Hong Kong has been the most important transportational component in aviation aspect among the cities in the Bay Area. With the cooperation of coastal geographical advantages and mature transportation systems, this could bring more trades and merchants to the Greater Bay Area to set up their business.

The advanced level of technology takes up another place of the major pull factors for different technological enterprises to set up headquarters in the Greater Bay Area. One of the core cities, Shenzhen, is the home for tech giants such as Tencent, Huawei, Zhongxing Telecommunication Equipment Corporation and BGI group. In 2017, Hong Kong and China have signed the "Memorandum of Understanding on Jointly Developing the Lok Ma Chau Loop by Hong Kong and Shenzhen", which plans to build a new Innovation and Technology hub in the Lok Ma Chau Loop. Shenzhen and Hong Kong will both invite some professions to develop the hub. With the size larger than four Hong Kong Science Park, this hub aims to attract different professions and related higher education to help strengthen the co-development of Hong Kong and Shenzhen in innovation and technological aspects. In Zhongshan, Zhongshan E-Park Entrepreneurship Incubation Base is built, providing opportunities of e-commerce and cultural and creative

industries. In Foshan, Maple Tree International Technology Park and CTIC San Shan Technology Incubation Park are built which have attracted leading enterprises in the innovation and technology industries to set up headquarters and bases there. In Dongguan where Changping Science & Technology Park is located, inspection, testing, software and network technologies were done there, facilitating Foshan as one of the Bay Area cities with mature Science and Technology development. Science and Technology development is the leading industry in the whole world in the past and future decades. The Greater Bay Area's sufficient support on Science and Technology would provide a variety of chances for the related jobs and enterprises.

In addition, support for teenagers in Bay Area cities could encourage the new generations to input new ideas, set up new business and create new industries. In Zhaoqing, the Guangning County Youth Innovation Entrepreneurship Base provides a place for university students to start their business. The Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Overseas Youth Entrepreneurship Centre in Jiangmen consists of office space for creative industries and e-sport industrial base for young entrepreneurs to start their business in the Bay Area. Macao Young Entrepreneur Incubation Centre's opening also marks a milestone on providing youth innovation entrepreneurship bases. The centre is a co-working space in Macau. There are enquiry service, business registration, professional consultation and business matching which attracts young entrepreneurs lack experience to set up business here as there are one-stop services provided for young rookies in running a business. The South China Advanced Materials Innovation Park facilitates young entrepreneurship to run their micro business related to new materials, biomedicines, electronic information, energy conversion and high-tech service industry. In Shenzhen, the Shenzhen Overseas Chinese High-Tech Venture Park in Shenzhen High-tech Industrial Park creates an important platform for helping young overseas Chinese students to start their business as well as supporting their business. Basic counselling, financing, talent recruitment, exchange and training, marketing, management consultation, professional talks and networking, etc. Such support would encourage more youngsters to step out of their comfort zone and explore the world by owning a micro corporation. The new generation would input some new and innovative ideas which would be another gimmick of the Greater Bay Area. Many big enterprises would like to have the youngsters as their designer or input such ideas. Both enterprises and youngsters would find their opportunities in the Greater Bay Area.

Other main aim of building Bay Area is to create a quality living circle for living, working and travelling. Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macau will join in hands on operating education institutions and encouraging the joint development of academic programmes, laboratories and research centres. From linking up the kindergartens in the three cities as sister kindergartens, to encouraging young people in Hong Kong and Macau to enjoy education in Mainland schools, the three cities aim to strive a closer relationship on education aspect. The massive amount of Industrial parks in the Bay Area would be a pull factor for talents, professions and huge enterprises to set up business in the Bay Area. Besides, to jointly promote cultural development among cities; media, publishing, radio, film and television industries are developed to mix the culture of different places. In Hong Kong, Xiqu Centre, Hong Kong International Film & TV Market, Hong Kong Book Fair and the Business of Design Week are essential in the cultural development in the Bay Area.

To conclude, Greater Bay Area doesn't only aim to enhance the technology development. It makes good use of its location as an important port of Maritime Silk Road, also with the one country two systems, Hong Kong and Macau can bring even greater benefits to the other cities in the Bay Area. With many of the well-developed innovation hubs, the area could attract more talented youngsters with the dream fulfilled in the Bay Area. The Bay Area will soon pop up the trend of new industries. With such a trend, it will bring more economic advantages to the area, facilitating it as another important spot in China or even the whole world.

## Is the Greater Bay Area China's future?

Honourable Mention

*St. Mary's Canossian College, Wan, Hannah – 15*

In recent decades, in addition to the famous Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), China has aimed to reshape the Pearl River Delta, which includes Hong Kong, Macao, and nine cities in Guangdong province. The goal was to create one economic entity called the Greater Bay Area. According to the Development Outline published by the State Council of China on February 18, 2019, the Greater Bay Area will represent China in industrial competitions worldwide and provide opportunities for internal economic transformations.

This ambitious plan soon caught the attention of the rest of the world. Some, like the BBC, which calls the Greater Bay Area plan “ambitious but vague,” noticed the vastness of China’s new plan — aimed at “spurring the economy” — and yet question whether it can truly achieve its goals. Others, looking at the region’s industries and finances wonder if it truly can compete with Silicon Valley, the other Bay Area, someday.

While recognizing the Greater Bay Area’s potential, some such as the Washington Post detected Beijing’s integration attempt on Hong Kong, as the Bay Area plan connects Hong Kong and mainland China through infrastructure projects and criticized the “steady rollback of political freedoms.” Even Chen Guanghan, a professor from Sun Yatsen University’s Research Institute of the Development of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao, commented that the “vision of the Greater Bay Area is far more than just a bridge or a railway. No country has ever tried something like this before, merging different tax and customs and legal systems.”

In other words, the reaction of the international community toward the Greater Bay Area remains uncertain. Most are still waiting and seeing whether if China truly can pull off such an aggressive economic plan and merge the region into one.

Indeed, the Greater Bay Area has its unique advantages and the characteristics to be a world-class player, especially considering its population and size. For instance, while the San Francisco Bay Area has a population of 7.8 million, the New York city metropolitan area 20 million, and the Tokyo Bay Area 44 million, the Greater Bay Area boasts a population of 69.5 million. Furthermore, its size of 55 thousand square kilometers also stands out while compared to the New York City metropolitan area’s 21 thousand sq. km, the San Francisco Bay area’s 18 thousand sq. km, and the Tokyo metropolitan area’s 13.6 sq. km. And while its relatively low GDP per capita also exposed its weaknesses and the lack of economic efficiency when contrasted with the other 3 areas, on the other hand, this insufficiency also hints at the region’s huge potential for growth.

But the true advantage of the Greater Bay Area rests not in its size or scale. After detailed analysis, one can easily detect that New York is indeed a financial region: for instance, 14 of the 22 world top 500 enterprises in this area are financial and insurance companies. On the other hand, the San Francisco Bay Area gained its name as a technology leader due to the well-known Silicon valley and the huge profits its tech companies bring. There is some diversity in representation of the Tokyo Bay Area, consisting of strong manufacturing industries covering steel, chemicals, semiconductors, automotive, electronics, and so on. But unlike its competitors who all had distinct characteristics of their own, the Greater Bay Area has achieved a rare balance in its industrial structure development. 20 of the world’s top 500 companies are based there and includes almost all major sectors of the modern industrial system, such as automobiles, home appliances, real estate, internet, and finance.

In other words, the diversity of industry sectors present in the Greater Bay Area allows it to compete in multiple sectors on a world-class level. Hong Kong’s financial influence can rival New York, while Shenzhen’s tech enterprises and internet companies such as Tencent, DJI, Huawei, and ZTE can slowly grow into strong competitors of the members of the Silicon Valley. Guangzhou’s auto industry and the

appliance industries in Zhuhai and Foshan are also forcing their counterparts in Tokyo to move further upstream of the industry. Last but not least, Macao offers the best tourism and gaming services in the Eastern Hemisphere, not only perfectly addressing the entertainment needs within the area, but also attracting capital flows from all East Asia.

Undoubtedly, this type of industrial division helps foster deep and frequent cross-integration within the Greater Bay Area, leading to the birth of more new technologies and products, which, in return, establishes unique advantages in seizing the emerging industries in the future, such as artificial intelligence, intelligent manufacturing, and the Internet of things.

Nevertheless, despite its advantages, the Greater Bay Area also faces various challenges.

While the Bay area has achieved world-class competitiveness at these levels, it cannot hide the embarrassment of lacking core technologies, specifically in the area of semiconductors. U.S. sanctions on ZTE in 2018 almost drove China's leading telecommunications company to the brink of collapse and exposed China's weakness in semiconductors and chips. If China cannot make a breakthrough, the survival of tech manufacturing industry in the Greater Bay Area, or the entire country, will depend on foreign companies.

Fortunately, efforts are under way and bearing fruit. 5G chips designed by Huawei's Hisilicon company are said to be as capable as similar products from Qualcomm. And in terms of chip manufacturing, Guangzhou has also broken ground on two fabs and foundries successively.

In addition, the Greater Bay Area will have to counter the challenge of regional administrative barriers. Within the geographical scope of the narrow Bay Area, every city cannot help but face fierce internal competition in order to obtain more resources and economic advantages, which will lead to inefficient allocation of resources. Twenty years ago, in order to connect the pearl river delta, Hong Kong, Shenzhen, and the west bank of Macao, the region spent \$20 billion and 10 years to build the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge, connecting Hong Kong, Macao, and Zhuhai, while the densely populated and economic competitive Shenzhen was left out. Now, they have to build a separate bridge linking Shenzhen to the opposite bank, which, due to its impact on Guangzhou's ports and shipping routes, might face endless delays. Overall, the internal competition in this region will never cease.

Last but not least, just as the Washington Post mentioned, the Greater Bay Area will also have to face the striking differences in administrative and value systems between Hong Kong, Macao, and Mainland China. Even though the development plan of Greater Bay Area aims at eliminating the differences between both parties to a certain extent, the recent protests and demonstrations in Hong Kong have clearly showed that no matter the geographic distance, the more international and "western" Hong Kong seemed to have a hard time integrating into Mainland China. In the short term, neither Hong Kong nor China will find the key to solving this dilemma.

Just as it hopes to gain more advantages and say in international trade through the BRI, the planning of the Greater Bay Area also leaves hopes that China will gain a higher position in the international industrial chain. Whether it can overcome the many challenges that still exist will become the key to the realization of this hope.



# Non-Fiction

Group 5

## The Greater Bay Area: A Land of Opportunity

*Sha Tin College, Chan, Cyrus – 16*

Shortlisted

From agrarian economy to global powerhouse – China’s economic transformation has been nothing short of extraordinary. This upward trajectory in economic growth has not come by accident but is the result of several strategic derivatives along with meticulous planning. However, this pales in comparison to its most ambitious plan to date: The Greater Bay Area Initiative. The main goal is to develop the region into an international innovation and technology hub, improve connectivity between cities and seize the opportunities that are provided by the country’s most open and economically vibrant region. With integration as the focus of the initiative, many critics worry about the Special Administrative Region status that sets apart Hong Kong and Macau, and whether the merging of different tax and legal systems will prove to be too much for investors. Another underlying concern is that the Greater Bay Area Initiative seems to directly benefit China the most through their leveraging of Hong Kong and Macau’s Special Administrative Region status, however while on the surface this may be the case, Hong Kong and Macau too are put in a position to succeed.

So, what is this Greater Bay Initiative? This ambitious and somewhat vague blueprint lays out lofty aspirations for the major cities within the region to develop into specialised economic hubs. Hong Kong would be able to bolster its status as a finance and trading hub. Shenzhen – home to the telecom giants Huawei – would cement itself as the tech hub of the east, while Macau would focus on developing into the region’s tourism hub. In addition to this, the initiative is also looking towards the future, intending on plans to improve the innovation capacity through collaborations such as the Hong Kong – Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Park, as well as the establishment of the Youth Development Fund which provides financial support in the form of matching funds for NGOs to support the youth of Hong Kong to be entrepreneurs. Considering all that has been organised, it is clear to conclude that there are high hopes for the region to flourish.

Comprising of the two Special Administrative Regions of Hong Kong and Macau, the Greater Bay Area also includes the nine municipalities of Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Zhuhai, Foshan, Huizhou, Dongguan, Zhongshan, Jiangmen and Zhaoqing. With three of the world’s top 10 busiest container ports and air freight traffic greater than San Francisco, New York and Tokyo combined, the Greater Bay Area only occupies less than 1% of China’s land area, yet they contribute to 12% of the total gross domestic product. And with a population greater than the whole of the UK and twice that of Canada, China aspires the region will be able to develop into an urban cluster to rival global cities alike. Built upon the core cities of Hong Kong, Macau, Guangzhou and Shenzhen, the Chinese government aims to leverage their comparative advantages and utilising them as integral engines for regional development, with hopes that it will have a radiating effect for the development of the key node cities (Zhuhai, Jiangmen, Foshan, Zhongshan, Dongguan, Huizhou, Zhaoqing).

So, what are these core cities like, and what do they have to offer for the Greater Bay Area? Hong Kong, the Pearl of the Orient, being the most international city in the Greater Bay Area provides a business – friendly environment with a free economic system; in addition to its information technology infrastructure and wealth of high–end talents and services, encourages enterprises from the Mainland, Hong Kong and Macau to conduct business regionally and internationally. Along with its efficient transport system and world–class infrastructure, Hong Kong is posed as an international transportation and logistics hub, and is a shining example of a world–class city for international and regional businesses to invest in.

Macau, China’s answer to Las Vegas, with low tax rates and its free port, has flourished into a strong economy in the Asia–Pacific region. Predominantly maintained by tourism and gambling, these integral pillars have propelled Macau to a GDP of \$55 billion US dollars in 2018, and its close relationship with the

Portuguese government allow Macau to serve as an important gateway linking Mainland China with the international market.

Shenzhen, China's up and coming Silicon Valley, has much changed from its humble beginnings as a fisherman's village; to now being the tech manufacturing capital of the world – home to some of the world's largest and most innovative Fortune 500 and 100 companies. Moreover, Shenzhen is the city that networks the large landmass of China with Hong Kong and Macau, establishing it as a hub for regional businesses.

Guangzhou, the commercial hub of China, is the centre of the country's transportation, industrial and financial infrastructure and acts as an important trading point with Hong Kong. With a large portion of China's GDP from the tertiary industry, through the Greater Bay Area, China hopes there will be an influx of skilled workers into the province, removing China's reliance on manufacturing and agriculture whilst transitioning to being predominantly in the service sector. Consequently, with this inundation of attention given to Guangzhou, there is an expectation for it to develop into a global metropolis.

With connectivity as a major focus for the Greater Bay Area, China in tandem with Hong Kong and Macau have collaborated on several key infrastructural constructions which have led to an ease of access between Hong Kong, Macau and the Mainland.

A clear example of this would be Hong Kong's Section of the XRL – the Express Rail Link, which connects Hong Kong with over 29,000 kilometres of the national high-speed rail network. Opened in September 2018, Hong Kong's Section of the XRL provides direct train service to 58 mainland destinations, in addition to greatly shortening the travelling time between Hong Kong and Shenzhen (around 18 minutes), Guangzhou (around 46 minutes) and other cities in the Pearl River Delta. And as of June 2019, the average daily patronage of the XRL was over 54,000 passengers during weekdays and over 56,000 passengers during weekends; firmly cementing Hong Kong's position as a regional transport hub.

However, a more notable example of the improved inter-regional infrastructure would be the HZMB: the Hong Kong – Zhuhai – Macau Bridge. Opened in 2018, the \$18.8 billion US dollar bridge spans from the Hong Kong port to Zhuhai and Macau with a length of 41.6 kilometres. Together with the 13.4 kilometres long Zhuhai Link Road, the total length becomes 55 kilometres, making it the longest bridge-tunnel sea crossing in the world. So, what does this translate to in terms of travelling from Hong Kong? The bridge reduces the travelling time between the Hong Kong International Airport and Zhuhai from 4 hours to around 45 minutes and incorporates the western side of the Pearl River Delta into a reachable three-hour commute. Since the implementation of the HZMB, the Hong Kong government has been discussing to gradually increase the number of cross-boundary vehicles able to use the bridge, and thus increasing the ease of transport for local businesses and for the general public.

Along with these the following infrastructural plans have been commissioned: the Liantang / Heung Yuen Wai Boundary Control Point which would be the seventh land crossing point between Hong Kong and Shenzhen, the Nansha Bridge which would serve as an important expressway across the Pearl River and the Shenzhen – Zhongshan Bridge which would significantly reduce travelling time. Through these improvements in transportation, the workforce would be more inclined to explore employment within the whole Greater Bay Area, making headway on distributing skilled workers throughout the region.

While this initiative proposed by China seems clear in how they will directly benefit from it – with a greater economy and workforce as well as a more integrated region, less so is said of the two SAR regions Hong Kong and Macau regarding their objectives within the formation of the Greater Bay Area.

Given this initiative, the Hong Kong government has set its mission on two fronts. First off, allowing the Greater Bay Area to serve as an attempt to break new ground for local businesses. More importantly, for the initiative to be a step further in the practice of the “One Country, Two Systems”. With this in mind, this

mission is encompassed by six basic principles: to be driven by innovation and led by reform, to coordinate development and plan holistically, to pursue green development and ecological conservation, to open up inter-regional cooperation to achieve a win-win outcome, to share the benefits of development and improve people's livelihood and to adhere to the "One Country, Two Systems" whilst acting in accordance with the law. Finally, with these principles, Hong Kong has set several goals: to develop as an international innovation and technology hub, to expedite infrastructural connectivity, form a globally competitive modern industrial system, to take charge in ecological conservation, to raise their quality of life, strengthen cooperation and involvement in the Belt and Road Initiative as well as developing cooperation between Guangdong and Macau.

As for Macau, their government has set its sights upon developing into a world-class tourism and leisure centre along being a commercial trading service platform between China and Portuguese speaking countries. Through this, they hope Macau will develop into an area of diversified economies where the mainstream Chinese culture and diverse cultures coexist. Due to the Macau SAR having close relations with Portugal – both sides maintaining closer cultural, financial and legal exchanges – Macau possesses unique advantages in becoming a commercial trading hub for Portuguese speaking countries, and along with the aid from the mainland, will be able to break the constraints of being a micro-island economy. Furthermore, by pursuing economic diversification as a long-term development goal, Macau has honed in on nurturing emerging industries which will provide more avenues for their economy.

While both Special Administrative Regions stand to benefit from an integrated economy, it does not come without its potential challenges. Despite the importance placed on integration, research fellow Martin Chorzenpa at the Peterson Institute for International Economics in Washington has been quoted saying "An enormous amount of red tape related to transport, customs, immigration will need to be cut to make it actually easy to move people, goods and money between these areas." This challenge for the region with its different customs, legal systems and public services can already be found in the Hong Kong – Shenzhen Express Rail Link customs arrangement. China will lease the "Mainland Port Area" from Hong Kong – with this area comprising of the Chinese section of immigration and customs, the waiting hall for departure as well as all platforms and trains. And within this area, full Chinese law, both criminal and civil will prevail, even though physically located on Hong Kong soil. With some concern already about the "One Country, Two Systems" framework in place, passengers being able to complete both the Hong Kong and Chinese clearance procedures under one roof has raised red flags for Hong Kong's Special Administrative Region status, along with its economic freedom.

Furthermore, while the initiative is for the bay area to work together to become an innovation and financial hub, this goal could be impeded by regional economic rivalry which has been a prevalent concern in recent years. With the underlying notion that helping other minor cities' progress will, in turn, hurt their own long-term interests, Hong Kong or Macau could be less inclined to offer their full assistance. Moreover, in the agenda stated by Beijing's leading group, it has not been said how economic rivalry could be mitigated, which causes concerns as to the major cities as to whether they should fully commit.

The Greater Bay Area Initiative is ambitious, it's unrefined and has lofty goals, no matter how you look at it. However, it is that precise reason that makes this vision for the future so attractive. It takes an incredible amount of ingenuity and desire to break conventions in order to succeed and rival global cities; even with the shortfall of its expectations versus the current reality, this willingness shown is what is required to progress. By focusing on the future entrepreneurs and innovators of the region, improving interregional connectivity and utilising the strengths of the major and minor cities involved the Greater Bay Area Initiative is the correct step forward in China's long journey of economic reform and liberalisation.

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## Black and White Cats

Shortlisted

*Sha Tin College, Cheng, Yui Hang – 16*

Surely, Deng wasn't impressed when his ashes were brought back to life again. His unmistakable frown was still there, but was he still functionally a human being? "That is the fundamental question," he proclaims triumphantly after emerging from his pensive stare, a smile creeping across his morose complexion. Towering above Shenzhen's skyline just like the propaganda posters that once emblazoned the streets of the overachieving fishing village, a sense of pride overwhelms him, a feeling that his efforts have not been in vain.

He was never the theoretical bureaucrat his predecessor was; as another of his sayings goes, "seek truth from facts". Presiding over a regime of extreme pragmatism, experimentation, and setting down the foundations of an institutional praxis that continue to be legally codified in the form of the PRC's current constitution, his legacy lives on in the memories of those who witnessed the changes precipitated by his Reform and Opening-up program.

Sidelining Mao's designated successor, deposing leftist radicals and shifting culpability for the cultural revolution from Mao to four of his loyal followers (the notorious "Gang of Four"), legitimising his grip on power in the process, his political prowess is undeniable. It is hard to imagine what it felt like to be purged twice from the upper echelons of a party he helped create, to be labelled an enemy of the state, and to have his family tortured by fanatical mobs. Whether he ever wept for his son's predicament is something we'll never know, permanently handicapped after years of torment from the Red Guards, but his reputation as the architect of China's unprecedented rates of modernisation is, as the Chinese saying goes, imprinted into our bones and hearts.

Well, what a long digression. Deng hated verbose language, following in the tradition of laconic diction adopted by the great thinkers of his youth. And accordingly, out of deferential respect, it would be most befitting for me to skip all the bureaucratic gibberish about the 13th Five Year Plan, the Hong Kong Steering Committee for the Development of the GBA, the National Development and Reform Commission etc. etc. etc., and delve directly into how the GBA took its present form and what this means in light of the status quo. And honestly, Deng wouldn't be impressed (or rather, appalled) by the level of progress Hong Kong is making, especially when it was once seen as the paragon of a modern capitalist welfare state and something tangible to learn from.

Somehow finding himself perched over a little knoll across the border, he turns around and gets quite befuddled by the sight he beholds. A meandering river divides the two territories; one side is sparsely populated by farmers with superiority complexes and the other is a bustling CBD full of financial activity. "What a spectacular waste of land," Deng exclaims, expectedly. The ubiquitous officials that meticulously noted down any room for improvement were no longer here with him, but so was the political factionalism that catalysed his retreat from power. He liked the latter's absence. Very much, in fact, as he nods in agreement, reminding him of the strict discipline during his days as a guerilla fighter. But the status quo kept bothering him.

And voilà, pathetic fallacy. Dark clouds and torrential rain. But as they say, there's a silver lining in every cloud. With pessimism comes a certain degree of optimism, and we hark back to a fateful day 40 years ago.

Goodbye with the ration ticket and hello to liberalism. "We need a Special Economic Zone, no matter the cost!" Deng announced during another of his Working Committee meetings. One year later, the Shenzhen SEZ was born as a pilot project, opening to foreign investment and free-market forces in a sharp deviation from the centrally planned economy embraced by Mao. And as its name suggests, it was really distinct, with its own border checkpoints, its own policies, and even planned to introduce its own currency, presumably

scrapped when the RMB was devalued from its artificially inflated exchange rate. Just as he would be with Shenzhen today, his visit to the area in 1992 brought him great satisfaction.

The British and the Chinese had many disagreements, but one thing they had in common was that both governments were fed up with farmers fleeing to Hong Kong. The implementation of the SEZ also meant rigorous, bilateral enforcement of border controls, hardly believable today when it houses multiple tech giants (i.e. Huawei, Tencent, DJI, etc.) and surpassed Hong Kong's GDP for the first time last year. The time when youth idolised our popular culture and civilians envied our wealth as an achievable version of modernity is long gone, but some of us haven't adapted to this changing reality. Defence mechanisms, or something more sinister? Soon, it might as well be us fleeing across the border for work opportunities.

And hence, Deng's Four Modernisations (Economy, Agriculture, Science and Defence) and his praxis of experimentation guided China's development for years to come, laying the foundations of today's Greater Bay Area. Rain deluged the abandoned fields of Hong Kong, as thin mist obscures organised rows of skyscrapers across the river. Still awkwardly perched on the same knoll, Deng reflects on whether his achievements bear relevance in the modern-day.

By the time the long-proposed GBA officially came into fruition, its eleven participating cities have become more integrated than ever: inter-regional specialisation, intensive infrastructural development in pursuit of the "one-hour living circle", and ambitious plans for economic trade. A disequilibrium of power dynamics catalysed by mainland China's stunning levels of development means that unless Hong Kong is determined to reposition itself as the innovative driver of change it once was, it has no choice but to "integrate into the nation's greater schemes", as national leaders keep emphasising.

Although Xi's rhetoric against foreign intervention in his recent visit to Macau may be contentious, it is quite evident that our city is not exactly the unique paragon of 'freedom' some of us think it is. Politically changing the mainland is nothing but a false hope, when our fundamental conceptions of development are different: one in which food, housing, security, basic human needs and economic development come first; another in which a model of Western liberalism and representative democracy rules.

It isn't very wise to turn down an offer of assistance and pursue something else at this critical juncture of development. Deng recalls personal experiences of his relatively forced retreat from power when student protests in memory of Hu Yaobang morphed into factional struggles both within and outside the party. Now, he didn't know whether he was shuddering from the sudden gust of wind or from sheer terror at the disastrous splits that could have happened. His former pro-market ally Zhao Ziyang was placed under de facto house arrest ever since, conservative party cadres seized the reins of power, and his road to moderate reform wasn't reinstated until a few years later.

His sighs are muffled by intense winds from the south. Factionalism nearly deprived him of his legacy, and analogously, it threatens to do the same to our city in the south, marginalising it to the extent where it no longer bears significance. Action leads to a greater reaction, and it is very hard to tread cautiously and moderate the needs of all stakeholders. The metaphorical silver lining of optimism is the certainty in a shared future engendered by the creation of common objectives, similar to how Deng's Four Modernisations were succinctly delineated. The cycle of experimentation and implementation in the pursuit of this is instrumental to long-term development. Following in his footsteps, "seeking truth from facts" and the emphasis on finding a consensus was the Chinese recipe of success, just as it will be for the GBA. An uncertain future lies ahead of us, especially in view of the status quo, and I sincerely hope that unity will lead us to new adventures, to new heights.

Once upon a time, Jiang Zemin and Tung Chee-hwa attended international summits as near-equals. Times have changed, but something hasn't, and that is Deng's perennial quote: "it doesn't matter whether the cat is black or white, as long as it catches mice."

Have you ever wondered what a place would look like that fuses diversity in education, culture, and finance? Well you don't need to wonder, the Greater Bay Area (henceforth referred to as the GBA) will foster its cities' strengths to encourage future success in the area.

Hong Kong is a regional education hub that possesses a leading position in global rankings of students' strengths, while China strives to develop itself as a world-class research center. Out of 1400 universities across 92 countries, the top 2 universities of Hong Kong ranked 35th and 47th, while the top universities in China ranked 23rd and 24th. Hong Kong's innovation and technology sector, tallied with that of Shenzhen – the Shenzhen-Hong Kong technology cluster – ranked the world's second largest (based on the Global Innovation Index 2019). Of the top 100 science and technology clusters, China has racked up 18, second only to the United States. The success of the GBA depends on whether the area's strong cluster of top universities can demonstrate leading and path-breaking research, innovation, and technological advancements. This will help develop the Greater Bay Area as an international education base as well as open up collaborative innovation opportunities for students in Hong Kong and Guangdong. Educational cooperation between Hong Kong and the Mainland will be able to reach a new pedestal, achieving good progress in areas such as variety of educational programmes, student exchange, scientific research collaboration, and professional training. To further foster creativity and innovation within the region, people studying in the area could stay after their graduation to seek economic, creative, or employment opportunities in nearby cities. Thus, the present-day problem of fluctuating social mobility in the cities of the GBA can be alleviated. Moreover, joining the GBA initiative would bring the SARs and also the Guangdong province new technology, knowledge, and an influx of new talents. For example, Shenzhen is known as a forefront technology hub. Hong Kong may experience exchanges in the technology sector, such as submitting technological issues across the border and receiving unparalleled advice from certified professionals within the GBA. By providing resources which bolster productivity, learning, growth, and aiding collaboration with leading industry professionals from Shenzhen (which will definitely help to improve the technological level of local products) both Hong Kong and Macau will see the benefits of these type of exchanges. There are considerable perks of building an open community of innovation and technology throughout the GBA. For example, it will form alliance across diverse crucial sectors such as entrepreneurship, financial technology, and commercial applications. Further, it would also support Macau as a training base for talented entrepreneurs who are fluent in both Chinese and Portuguese, hence turning the area into an education and training base.

The initiative is an economic enticement for Hong Kong and Macau to start building stronger ties with the mainland. It will also greatly benefit Hong Kong's economy as the plan brings about the movement of capital and goods. With this, local companies may attract more investment, attain a better yield in the stock market, as well as providing Hong Kong businesses with a more substantial stake market in the mainland. Developing the GBA into an international financial hub would make it an important component of the One Belt, One Road initiative, thus it would encourage the development of Macau into a Sino-Portuguese stage for financial services. This would support the development of specialised financial products in the city as the overseas experience of Hong Kong businesses would help GBA companies in their efforts to "go global", which would be an important factor in the city's future success. On one hand, Hong Kong's status as an international connector should naturally enable the city to promote the GBA initiative overseas and attract more capital and talents therein for further development.

Hong Kong could benefit from integration with Guangdong by gaining greater access to the Chinese market in the financial and professional services sector. Hong Kong only exports 7.5% of all its financial services to China – about a third of what it exports to the United Kingdom. This exportation of financial expertise is significantly lower than it perhaps should be considering Hong Kong's close relationship and geographical location in relation to the mainland. By transferring financial expertise from city to city within the GBA, each city or major city of the area would enjoy benefits in the finance industry by directly increasing GDP growth through promoting domestic investment and growth through capital imports and reducing consumption volatility. Transferring financial expertise leads to healthy competition among the GBA cities

as well as internationally, thus making a more effective financial system. Also, it provides information on the vital areas of investment, like property in Hong Kong, and can hence lead to effective capital allocation, subsequently increasing GDP growth. More importantly, it promotes the integration of the economy and facilitates the easy flow of capital. The free transfer of funds and expertise would eventually result in more equality among the cities that are a part of that same financial system.

Originally a sparsely populated collection of coastal islands, Macau has become the top destination for gambling tourism and a major resort city in Asia. The territory is the ninth-highest recipient of tourism revenue and its gambling industry is seven times larger than that of Las Vegas, earning its nickname the “Las Vegas of Asia”. The city has a severe income inequality despite having one of the highest per capita incomes in the world at 96,570 Macanese pacaeta dollars in 2016 (according to the World Bank). In addition, Macau’s GDP per capita by purchasing power parity (PPP) is one of the highest in the world and higher than any other country in 2017 (World Bank), thus showing the need for the other cities’ financial expertise to promote the capital growth of Macau itself. Over the years, Macau has prioritised gambling, tourism, and resort development which has created a narrow economic base. The GBA however, could diversify its economy away from its reliance on gambling to focus on tourism, financial services, entertainment, cultural events, as well as boost its role as a ‘knowledge centre’. For instance, Macau may focus more on its openness abroad, namely by becoming a reference point in China for cultural and academic relations not only with Portuguese-speaking countries but also with Spanish-speaking countries – especially given the ease of connecting Portugal and Brazil with the Iberian world, thus boosting its role as a ‘knowledge centre’. Macau plays a vital role in the Greater Bay Area’s progress towards further success, particularly in utilising its strengths to link the mainland with Portuguese-speaking countries, the EU, and the ASEAN. These credentials firmly establish Macau as a platform for international exchange. In recent years, Macau has strategized accelerating the growth of its convention and exhibition industry, cultural and creative offerings, as well as adopting a role as a service provider for business cooperation between the region and Portuguese speaking countries. It has called for casino operators to focus on gaming elements such as hosting conferences and cultural events in their casino and hotel establishments. This realignment of Macau’s focus necessitates cooperation between and advancement of research, the cultivation of talent, and the widespread application of new technology: all of which would be offered and enhanced through expertise exchange with Hong Kong and Shenzhen.

In addition, Macau, as a tourism and leisure hub, will establish the Greater Bay Area as a world-class travel destination. Due to Macau already having outstanding tourist facilities, it is now developing as a tourism training and education base for the entire region. Building on its reputation as a city where East meets West, Macau is ideally placed to promote cultural and language exchange between China and the rest of the world. Macau will facilitate cultural development with countries that are part of the One Belt, One Road trade route – particularly those that speak Portuguese.

In spite of these advancements, Macau would still benefit greatly through development of the GBA and the initiative presents Macau with several opportunities to further its growth. Macau is small, crowded, and has limited space, which restricts further development and economic diversification. Fortunately, however, one such option for progressive development is the development of straying away from economic dependency on its gambling industry. In other words, Macau could capitalize on the infrastructure of several bases built in Guangdong, such as the traditional Chinese Medicine, Science, and Technology Industrial Park in Hengqin. Macau could utilise these resources and branching into the Guangdong region would also provide new spaces for the transformation of Macau’s industry, along with new areas for the Macanese people to work and live in. By providing additional residential space, the GBA would provide a plethora of new

opportunities for Macanese. As such, Macanese residents currently working and living in Guangdong could enjoy the same benefits as those in mainland China, such as education, medical care, housing, and elderly care. These facets will be further improved by improving border clearance facilities and the linkage of several public services, make it easier to travel within the area as it makes it easier to cope more effectively with immigration and security concerns at the border, and allow bay area citizens to enjoy equal services respectively.

ICBC, the largest locally registered bank in Macau, is actively participating in the strategy to develop the Greater Bay Area by promoting the development of Macau's specialised finance system. In March 2018, Macau's government and the ICBC Group signed a memorandum of cooperation to this effect. With the support of the Macau government and the ICBC Group, ICBC Macau successfully launched an asset platform for Portuguese-speaking countries in the second quarter of 2018. ICBC will remain focused on Macau's strategic position in the Greater Bay Area and comply with the development of specialised, Silk Road, green, and marine financial products and services. Further, the bank will also assist Macau by playing a leading role in the One Belt, One Road initiative and will contribute to creating a vibrant and internationally competitive city cluster. In no time, the Greater Bay Area will grow to become a globally renowned hub for tourism, business and culture – with Macau playing an integral role in this. Hong Kong's role as a platform for foreign exchange and investment would also help Macau economically due to Hong Kong's experience, thus providing its expertise to further develop Macau's economy effectively.

The Greater Bay Area provides a much larger stage for Hong Kong's development. With greater connectivity between the regions, Hong Kong can better interact with the surrounding cities and utilize its strengths in sectors such as finance and scientific innovation. Further, according to the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA), with the development of financial services playing an integral role, the development plan supports centralizing Hong Kong's status as an international financial center, a global offshore Renminbi business hub, an international service management center, and a risk management center, which would subsequently further boost Hong Kong's economy. In particular, its finance and innovation sectors would reap huge rewards as more talents from neighbouring cities in the GBA would be brought in to further development.

The initiative, along with the two recently-launched projects to benefit transportation (the Hong Kong section of Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link and Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge) will further interlink cities and areas within the Greater Bay Area and bring more tourists from the region to Hong Kong. Thus, this will raise revenue in the tourism sector. For instance, with Macau's expertise in tourism, the flow of people and trade is facilitated with the use of the 42km bridge connecting the 3 major regions of the PDR, which could turn Lantau Island into a tourism and business hub with potential to create jobs for residents of Tung Chung. The development of Hong Kong as an international innovation and technology hub is one of the initiative's priorities, and the Greater Bay Area will provide a favourable environment for Hong Kong's scientific and innovative industries to further develop. The knowledge exchange within the region, particularly with cities like Shenzhen, would propel Hong Kong to the next level of scientific development. Shenzhen is home to some of the biggest tech companies worldwide, for example telecommunications firm Huawei and smartphone maker ZTE, and companies like these would only see positives from the GBA.

The GBA provides an extraordinary opportunity in which cities in the area can be interdependent and would form a complete and integrated industrial chain for technological advancement. Hong Kong, strong in both basic scientific research and finance, can play an integral role in the successful development of the Bay Area which would strengthen its influence within the region.

In conclusion, with the continuous improvement of connectivity between cities in the Greater Bay Area, opportunities to expand businesses by leveraging the complementary strengths of different cities in the area will arise. For example, Hong Kong as an international finance center and offshore RMB hub leaves it well placed to be at the centre of investment, financing, and deal and venture capital activity. Our vibrant city can be at the leading edge of the development of the GBA into a technology and innovation hub by helping to create the ecosystem that is essential to fostering innovation and entrepreneurship along with greater business-to-business cooperation. The future is bright for the GBA.

## Future Adventures of The Greater Bay Area:

Winner

### A Fusion of All That is Great

*St Margaret's Co-Educational English Secondary and Primary School, Bajaj, Sasha – 16*

Have you ever wondered what a place would look like that fuses diversity in education, culture, and finance? Well you don't need to wonder, the Greater Bay Area (henceforth referred to as the GBA) will foster its cities' strengths to encourage future success in the area.

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Hong Kong could benefit from integration with Guangdong by gaining greater access to the Chinese market in the financial and professional services sector. Hong Kong only exports 7.5% of all its financial services to

China – about a third of what it exports to the United Kingdom. This exportation of financial expertise is significantly lower than it perhaps should be considering Hong Kong’s close relationship and geographical location in relation to the mainland. By transferring financial expertise from city to city within the GBA, each city or major city of the area would enjoy benefits in the finance industry by directly increasing GDP growth through promoting domestic investment and growth through capital imports and reducing consumption volatility. Transferring financial expertise leads to healthy competition among the GBA cities as well as internationally, thus making a more effective financial system. Also, it provides information on the vital areas of investment, like property in Hong Kong, and can hence lead to effective capital allocation, subsequently increasing GDP growth. More importantly, it promotes the integration of the economy and facilitates the easy flow of capital. The free transfer of funds and expertise would eventually result in more equality among the cities that are a part of that same financial system.

Originally a sparsely populated collection of coastal islands, Macau has become the top destination for gambling tourism and a major resort city in Asia. The territory is the ninth-highest recipient of tourism revenue and its gambling industry is seven times larger than that of Las Vegas, earning its nickname the “Las Vegas of Asia”. The city has a severe income inequality despite having one of the highest per capita incomes in the world at 96,570 Macanese pacaeta dollars in 2016 (according to the World Bank). In addition, Macau’s GDP per capita by purchasing power parity (PPP) is one of the highest in the world and higher than any other country in 2017 (World Bank), thus showing the need for the other cities’ financial expertise to promote the capital growth of Macau itself. Over the years, Macau has prioritised gambling, tourism, and resort development which has created a narrow economic base. The GBA however, could diversify its economy away from its reliance on gambling to focus on tourism, financial services, entertainment, cultural events, as well as boost its role as a ‘knowledge centre’. For instance, Macau may focus more on its openness abroad, namely by becoming a reference point in China for cultural and academic relations not only with Portuguese-speaking countries but also with Spanish-speaking countries – especially given the ease of connecting Portugal and Brazil with the Iberian world, thus boosting its role as a ‘knowledge centre’ Macau plays a vital role in the Greater Bay Area’s progress towards further success, particularly in utilising its strengths to link the mainland with Portuguese-speaking countries, the EU, and the ASEAN. These credentials firmly establish Macau as a platform for international exchange. In recent years, Macau has strategized accelerating the growth of its convention and exhibition industry, cultural and creative offerings, as well as adopting a role as a service provider for business cooperation between the region and Portuguese speaking countries. It has called for casino operators to focus on gaming elements such as hosting conferences and cultural events in their casino and hotel establishments. This realignment of Macau’s focus necessitates cooperation between and advancement of research, the cultivation of talent, and the widespread application of new technology: all of which would be offered and enhanced through expertise exchange with Hong Kong and Shenzhen.

In addition, Macau, as a tourism and leisure hub, will establish the Greater Bay Area as a world-class travel destination. Due to Macau already having outstanding tourist facilities, it is now developing as a tourism training and education base for the entire region. Building on its reputation as a city where East meets West, Macau is ideally placed to promote cultural and language exchange between China and the rest of the world. Macau will facilitate cultural development with countries that are part of the One Belt, One Road trade route – particularly those that speak Portuguese.

In spite of these advancements, Macau would still benefit greatly through development of the GBA and the initiative presents Macau with several opportunities to further its growth. Macau is small, crowded, and has limited space, which restricts further development and economic diversification. Fortunately, however, one such option for progressive development is the development of straying away from economic dependency

on its gambling industry. In other words, Macau could capitalize on the infrastructure of several bases built in Guangdong, such as the traditional Chinese Medicine, Science, and Technology Industrial Park in Hengqin. Macau could utilise these resources and branching into the Guangdong region would also provide new spaces for the transformation of Macau's industry, along with new areas for the Macanese people to work and live in. By providing additional residential space, the GBA would provide a plethora of new opportunities for Macanese. As such, Macanese residents currently working and living in Guangdong could enjoy the same benefits as those in mainland China, such as education, medical care, housing, and elderly

care. These facets will be further improved by improving border clearance facilities and the linkage of several public services, make it easier to travel within the area as it makes it easier to cope more effectively with immigration and security concerns at the border, and allow bay area citizens to enjoy equal services respectively.

ICBC, the largest locally registered bank in Macau, is actively participating in the strategy to develop the Greater Bay Area by promoting the development of Macau's specialised finance system. In March 2018, Macau's government and the ICBC Group signed a memorandum of cooperation to this effect. With the support of the Macau government and the ICBC Group, ICBC Macau successfully launched an asset platform for Portuguese-speaking countries in the second quarter of 2018. ICBC will remain focused on Macau's strategic position in the Greater Bay Area and comply with the development of specialised, Silk Road, green, and marine financial products and services. Further, the bank will also assist Macau by playing a leading role in the One Belt, One Road initiative and will contribute to creating a vibrant and internationally competitive city cluster. In no time, the Greater Bay Area will grow to become a globally renowned hub for tourism, business and culture – with Macau playing an integral role in this. Hong Kong's role as a platform for foreign exchange and investment would also help Macau economically due to Hong Kong's experience, thus providing its expertise to further develop Macau's economy effectively.

The Greater Bay Area provides a much larger stage for Hong Kong's development. With greater connectivity between the regions, Hong Kong can better interact with the surrounding cities and utilize its strengths in sectors such as finance and scientific innovation. Further, according to the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA), with the development of financial services playing an integral role, the development plan supports centralizing Hong Kong's status as an international financial center, a global offshore Renminbi business hub, an international service management center, and a risk management center, which would subsequently further boost Hong Kong's economy. In particular, its finance and innovation sectors would reap huge rewards as more talents from neighbouring cities in the GBA would be brought in to further development.

The initiative, along with the two recently-launched projects to benefit transportation (the Hong Kong section of Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link and Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge) will further interlink cities and areas within the Greater Bay Area and bring more tourists from the region to Hong Kong. Thus, this will raise revenue in the tourism sector. For instance, with Macau's expertise in tourism, the flow of people and trade is facilitated with the use of the 42km bridge connecting the 3 major regions of the PDR, which could turn Lantau Island into a tourism and business hub with potential to create

jobs for residents of Tung Chung. The development of Hong Kong as an international innovation and technology hub is one of the initiative's priorities, and the Greater Bay Area will provide a favourable environment for Hong Kong's scientific and innovative industries to further develop. The knowledge exchange within the region, particularly with cities like Shenzhen, would propel Hong Kong to the next level of scientific development. Shenzhen is home to some of the biggest tech companies worldwide, for example telecommunications firm Huawei and smartphone maker ZTE, and companies like these would only see positives from the GBA.

The GBA provides an extraordinary opportunity in which cities in the area can be interdependent and would form a complete and integrated industrial chain for technological advancement. Hong Kong, strong in both basic scientific research and finance, can play an integral role in the successful development of the Bay Area which would strengthen its influence within the region.

In conclusion, with the continuous improvement of connectivity between cities in the Greater Bay Area, opportunities to expand businesses by leveraging the complementary strengths of different cities in the area will arise. For example, Hong Kong as an international finance center and offshore RMB hub leaves it well placed to be at the centre of investment, financing, and deal and venture capital activity. Our vibrant city can be at the leading edge of the development of the GBA into a technology and innovation hub by helping to create the ecosystem that is essential to fostering innovation and entrepreneurship along with greater business-to-business cooperation. The future is bright for the GBA.



# Non-Fiction

Group 6

## Welcome to my MaChiKong Adventure

Shortlisted

*King George V (DLA), Batt, Caleb – 11*

Our tour starts in Hong Kong  
Then to Macau  
Then to Southern China  
All three places are different, but also have their similarities.

Can you tell them apart? One day they will be one place!

Good hikes  
Lovely views  
Tasty restaurants  
Beautiful beaches  
Secluded camping  
BBQ sites so you can enjoy a campfire and you'll always feel safe when outside.

Laser light shows  
Iconic Star Ferry  
Fast ferry  
A longggg bridge  
High up helicopter!!

Gambling in the casinos  
Traditional Portuguese food  
Red & gold decorations  
Egg tarts  
Pork buns

Bullet trains  
Meat and veg dumplings  
Noodle soup

Chinese New Year  
Dragon dancing  
Cantonese, English and Mandarin

The MaChiKong Adventure sounds pretty good to me.

## HongChiMa

*King George V (DLA), Chatlani, Praneel – 11*

Shortlisted

HongChiMa...Do you know where that is?  
Greater Bay Area...Is that more familiar?

Let me take you on an adventure through three places that could one day  
become an incredible tri-country achievement  
I like to call that place – HongChiMa

Lets keep this short  
I'll share with you my favourite things

Macau  
Gambling, casinos, hotels, egg tarts, and history.

Southern China  
Hot pot, factories, bullet trains, dumplings, pandas and noodles.

Hong Kong  
Beaches, hiking, tropical islands, friendly people, lasers, temples and food  
markets

Now imagine that all together...One tri-country agreement  
I'd be happy  
It would be a journey  
But worth it  
Welcome to HongChiMa.

## It's all about the Love for Hong Kong...My home

Shortlisted

*King George V (DLA), John, Sabrina – 13*

Hong Kong is my home  
Macau and China are holiday places to me.

Hong Kong is great  
I'm happy to share if you take care of it and share your place too.

I love Hong Kong  
I love the buildings  
I love the parks  
I love Disneyland, movies and cinemas  
I love the food  
I love my school  
I love my family

I can imagine a fun place with all of that and also, egg noodles, dumplings, dim sum, mountains, beaches, boats, trains and casinos.

There would be egg tarts, pork buns, historical ruins and lots of shopping.

There would be hot pot, smoky skies, red and gold decorations, singing, shows and big firework displays.

Sharing great places is nice.

I say 'Welcome to the GBA'.

## Our New Home

Winner

*King George V (DLA), Pek, Maxx – 11*

Today HK  
Tomorrow Macau  
The day after...Southern China  
The Greater Bay Area, soon to be... Ummmm let me see.

Hong Kong has Disneyland  
Hong Kong has skyscrapers  
When I go Attractions with my friends, I take lots of exciting rides. Hong Kong Disneyland is a good place.

Me and my family like to go shopping in Ocean Terminal  
We plan what to eat for dinner, our favourite is a Japanese restaurant  
We then work it off with a hike to Lion Rock

*Hong Kong is a great place  
My home*

I will take you on an adventure in Macau  
I love Macau because I like visiting hotels and eating yummy food  
I can be a tourist in Macau and take photos to keep in for memories  
Like Hong Kong, we can go to the beach and swim in the sea  
And at the end of the trip we always go shopping to buy souvenirs.

*Macau is a great place  
Maybe one day my home*

Sometimes we go to Southern China, I love Southern China because it's a beautiful place  
But we don't go very often  
My family and I like visiting the famous old building and seeing the view but sometimes the sky is grey  
We visit the temples to pay respect and pray to buddha  
We also like relaxing in the hot springs because it's warm and nice  
We then chill out in the hotel and watch TV

*Southern China is a great place  
Maybe one day my home*

The GBA idea is exciting because it has so many similarities and so many differences.  
Drinks, Food, Language, Nature, Festivals, Culture, Weather.

*If we get this new place as our home  
I think I will like it.*

## It's Just SO Cool!

Shortlisted

*King George V (DLA), Richter, Evangeline – 12*

Yesterday I heard that my home Hong Kong might change  
It might be called the Greater Bay Area  
It might be merged with two other places  
WOW...SO COOL  
Luckily with two other places I enjoy.

Let's go on a journey to see the best bits.

My journey starts in Hong Kong at Chinese New Year  
See all the dragons  
Smell the tasty food  
Touch the beautiful soft clothes  
The colours are red and gold  
It's so beautiful how the gold shimmers so bright, the hotels, the lights, the buildings are so pretty  
This place is so cool  
I love it.

Now we go to Macau.  
I take one look at this place and my mind is blown  
Look at the size of the buildings and the casinos  
See the big bright buildings  
Smell the money in the casinos  
Taste the egg tarts  
It's so cool  
I know I say that about everything but it really is just so cool  
I love everything about Macau.

Next I'm taking you to Southern China  
Oh my mind.....it's ... so cool  
All the temples with incense burning  
All the shops selling fun toys and all the dumplings from the food markets

Now you can see how much I love all three places imagine what it would be like all together...  
As our home.

It would be a tropical island  
It would be hot  
There would Lots of beaches with ice cream  
There would be so much good food and drinks  
The transport fun, quick and reliable  
So many weekend adventures  
And Lots of good shops and malls

But now I'm worried that it would become too busy as more people would want to live here.

## My Home

Shortlisted

*King George V (DLA), Shum, Lok – 11*

Hong Kong, Macau and Southern China are kinda the same...but also different  
Going from living in 1 to all 3 would be a change  
My home Hong Kong would not be so small anymore  
My home the GBA would be massive.

I wonder why they want to put them together  
I think they are ok on their own  
But I also wonder how fun it might be, especially making new friends!!

We'd have more shopping malls  
Places for peace and quiet  
And also calm parks.

There would be lots of space to do parkour, diving and rock climbing  
More food to eat  
More places to hike  
More sea to swim in.

More buffets to eat from  
More hotels to sleep in  
More places to explore  
More places to celebrate Chinese New Year!

I hope my home doesn't become too busy  
I hope my friends don't leave to live somewhere else  
I hope my school stays the same and I can eat fish and chips for my lunch  
I hope my family stay working here.

If those things stay the same I think it will be fun.

I love my home, please don't change too much.



# Non-Fiction

Group 7

## It Would be an Adventure Hong Kong, Macau, China....OH MY!

Winner

*King George V (DLA), Kwok, Jonathan – 16*

The Greater Bay Area??...WOW. Imagine such a big place.  
Hong Kong, Macau and Southern China together...OH MY!

*It would be an adventure*

Hong Kong is my home  
A big place with many famous people, great culture, restaurants, buildings schools and hospitals

*It would be an adventure*

It would be a road trip with different foods and hiking  
It would be new and exciting  
It would be fun and fabulous

*It would be an adventure*

It would make our tiny Hong Kong bigger...but maybe that might be fun?  
It would be fun to go camping  
It would be fun to eat different foods for lunch and dinner...I hope I can learn to cook  
I just hope this new place keeps all of the good parts about Hong Kong

*It would be an adventure*

Let's try and imagine what it might be like.

*I think, It would be an adventure*

## Red & Gold

*King George V (DLA), Sy, Bryan – 17*

The Greater Bay Area would be one big city  
I wonder what the name could be?  
Perhaps I could help name it...It's going to be my new home after all

I'm excited.  
We will get more sightseeing which means more weekend adventures!

I love Hong Kong  
I love Macau  
I love Southern China

Hong Kong has big buildings  
A laser show that makes the light shine bright  
High up roof tops to see the buildings at night

The language is English and Chinese. But other languages are welcome.  
Sometimes Mandarin, French and maybe even German

We go to the beach  
Hike the mountains  
Swim in the pool  
Shop at the market

The colours are red and gold  
The smell is sweet and sour  
The taste is yum yum yum

The shopping centre has air con which is good as it's hot  
I don't have much money but I go shopping a lot

Temples, shopping, dancing and parks  
I think the GBA will be a good place to live, let's hope there are no sharks.

## A New Adventure Awaits

*King George V (DLA), Veilleux, Eva – 15*

Shortlisted

Hello My Name is Eva and I live in Hong Kong  
Hong Kong is my home now, but it used to be Holland  
Now I call here my home and I'm proud.

I love Hong Kong, but I don't know much about Macau and China

But I've moved before so I'm used to new places

I don't mind moving  
As long as the place is fun  
I think the GBA would be the same  
Why didn't they call it HKMCSC?

As long as I have tasty food  
My family  
My friends  
My School  
And my fun weekend activities

I don't mind if Hong Kong becomes bigger  
A new adventure awaits.