

The further economic integration of the PRD region is expected to generate greater demand for services and goods, better economies of scale, and broader mobility of people in terms of livelihood and consumption in the area.

The PRD metropolis is more than just a concept or vision. Following the completion of the inter-city infrastructural projects, notably the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge and the high-speed rail between Hong Kong and Guangzhou, those who travel, reside and work in the delta will enjoy better connectivity and greater convenience.

## Co-operation with other Mainland provinces and municipalities

Since reunification, Hong Kong has been fostering closer relations with various Mainland provinces and municipalities. In addition to Guangdong and Shenzhen, Hong Kong has established co-operation platforms of the Pan-PRD Region provinces and regions, as well as Beijing and Shanghai to strengthen mutually beneficial co-operation. All these will help Hong Kong enterprises explore new development opportunities in the Mainland.

## **Hong Kong-Taiwan Co-operation**

Hong Kong-Taiwan relations are a unique part of cross-Strait relations. Since the reunification, the Hong Kong Government has been actively and pragmatically promoting co-operation and exchanges between Hong Kong and



The sleek facade of the Hong Kong Pavilion at the World Expo 2010 in Shanghai. ⊙



Taiwan on various fronts, including economic and trade, cultural and tourism, in accordance with the "One Country, Two Systems" principle and under the policy framework of "Qian's Seven Principles". Today, Taiwan is Hong Kong's fourth largest trading partner and second largest source of inbound visitors.

April 2010 marks a historic milestone in Hong Kong-Taiwan relations: Hong Kong and Taiwan set up respectively the Hong Kong-Taiwan Economic and Cultural Co-operation and Promotion Council (ECCPC) and the Taiwan-Hong Kong Economic and Cultural Co-operation Council (THEC). The two Councils provide a direct communications platform for both sides to explore, discuss and implement various co-operation initiatives involving public policies.

With the concerted efforts of the parties concerned, the Hong Kong Government has achieved fruitful results through the ECCPC-THEC platform. For example, the two sides signed a memorandum of understanding for banking supervisory co-operation and an air services arrangement in 2011. The Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office, Hong Kong's multi-functional office in Taiwan, also commenced operation in December 2011. The Chung Hwa Travel Service in Hong Kong has changed its name to Taipei Economic and Cultural Office with effect from 15 July 2011 to reflect its functions.

The establishment of the ECCPC-THEC platform has institutionalised co-operation between the two sides. The Hong Kong Government will continue to enhance co-operation with Taiwan in the spirit of goodwill and reciprocity, taking forward co-operation initiatives on various fronts for the mutual benefit of the people in both places.



The second joint meeting of the Hong Kong-Taiwan Economic and Cultural Co-operation and Promotion Council (ECCPC) and the Taiwan-Hong Kong Economic and Cultural Co-operation Council (THEC) on 10 August 2011 followed by a joint press conference. Photo shows (from left) the THEC Secretary-General, Mr James Chu; the THEC Deputy Chairman, Mr Kao Charng; the THEC Chairman, Mr Lin Chen-kuo; the ECCPC Chairperson, Mr Charles Lee; the ECCPC Executive Vice-Chairperson, Mr Stephen Lam; and the ECCPC Secretary-General, Mr Howard Chan, at the press conference. ①



The Chief Executive, Mr Donald Tsang (right), meets with the Chairman of the Taiwan-Hong Kong Economic and Cultural Cooperation Council, Mr Lin Chen-kuo, and members of the Council at Government House on 11 August 2011 to exchange views on enhancing co-operation between the two places. ⊙