

基本法与香港

吴邦国题

The Basic Law and Hong Kong

The 15th Anniversary of Reunification with the Motherland

Wu Bangguo

Editor-in-Chief: Tam Wai-Chu Maria

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Promotion Steering Committee

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Preface

Five years ago, I wrote a preface to *The Basic Law and the 10th Anniversary of Hong Kong's Reunification with the Motherland* edited by Ms Tam Wai-Chu. As Ms Tam has again given me the draft of *The Basic Law and the 15th Anniversary of Hong Kong's Reunification with the Motherland* and asks me to write a preface for it, I am duty-bound to do that and I am pleased to meet her request.

As shown by this well-illustrated book, the Basic Law has significantly affected all aspects of Hong Kong, its society, politics, the economy and culture. And the Law has been prescribing, directing and shaping today's Hong Kong. In my preface to the previous book, I elaborated on three topics related to the Basic Law. Firstly, the system of the Special Administrative Region prescribed by the Basic Law created a novel model for governing Hong Kong. Secondly, the Basic Law plays an important role in maintaining Hong Kong's long-term prosperity and stability. Lastly, it is Hong Kong people in general who are the main force in implementing the Basic Law. It should be said that Hong Kong's accomplishments over the past five years rest on the fact that Hong Kong people in general profoundly apprehend the spirit of the Basic Law and effectively implemented it. This demonstrates that the Basic Law is imbued with a strong vitality and plays a significant role in maintaining Hong Kong's long-term prosperity and stability.

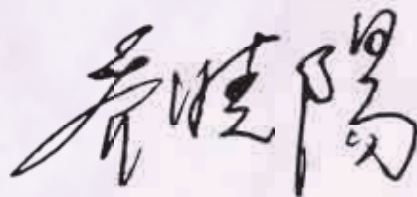
The Basic Law is a national law enacted by the National People's Congress (NPC). To implement the Basic Law is not only a duty of Hong Kong, but also

that of the Central Authorities. In the last five years, the Central Authorities have handled many affairs relating to Hong Kong in accordance with the Basic Law. The NPC and its Standing Committee have handled three issues of profound significance. The first was that the “Outline of the Twelfth Five-Year Plan for the National Economic and Social Development of the People’s Republic of China” passed at the Fourth Session of the 11th NPC included a chapter dedicated to bringing Hong Kong into the national overall development strategies. Hong Kong’s prosperity and stability, past, present and future, are closely connected to nation-building and development. “One Country, Two Systems” ensures that Hong Kong maintains its special status in national development. It also brings Hong Kong into the overall national developmental planning, provides Hong Kong with strong support and motivation and fundamentally impacts on Hong Kong’s future. The second is that the Standing Committee of the NPC (SCNPC) adopted the decision on issues relating to the methods for selecting the Chief Executive and for forming the Legislative Council in the year 2012 and on issues relating to universal suffrage, making clear the timetables for materialising universal suffrage in both areas. This problem of constitutional development has long been on the minds of Hong Kong society. The decision of the SCNPC means that Hong Kong people can achieve the broadest consensus on the two methods to resolve this important problem so as to create a friendlier environment and the conditions for economic development, improvement of livelihood and promotion of democracy. The third is that the Court of Final Appeal (CFA) for the first time sought an interpretation of the relevant provisions

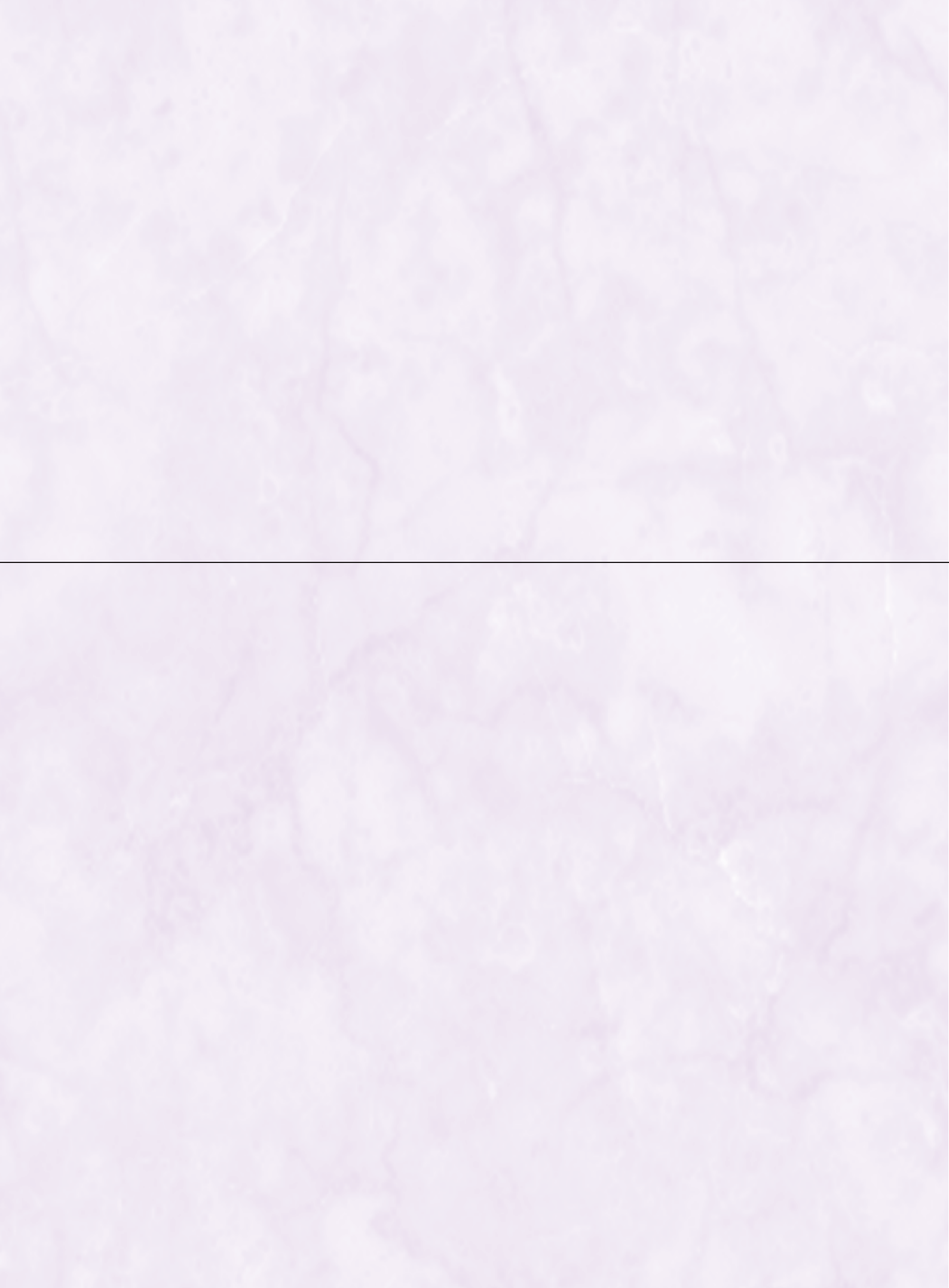
from the SCNPC. It is an important mechanism in the system of the Special Administrative Region for the CFA to seek an interpretation from the SCNPC regarding the relevant provisions in the Basic Law. This mechanism confirms the feasibility of authorising independent judicial power and the power of final adjudication to Hong Kong judiciary. It has a domino effect. The CFA sought an interpretation on the provisions concerning affairs which are the responsibility of the Central People's Government and concerning the relationship between the Central Authorities and the Region from the SCNPC in accordance with the Basic Law. Soon thereafter, the SCNPC made an interpretation on the relevant provisions of the Basic Law, thus giving reality to the mechanism prescribed by the Basic Law.

The Chairman of the SCNPC, Mr. Wu Bangguo gave the title to the book—The Basic Law and Hong Kong, rather than “The Basic Law and the 15th Anniversary of Hong Kong's Reunification with the Motherland”. I think that the title stems from an expectation. That is, if The Basic Law and the 10th Anniversary of Hong Kong's Reunification with the Motherland is the first edition, this new book is the second edition and we can expect the third edition in the 20th anniversary and the fourth in the 25th anniversary and so on. Although the book edited by Ms. Tam is not a monograph on the Basic Law, it vividly sums up the profound effects of the Basic Law on Hong Kong society and Hong Kong people's lives. It is very significant to update the book every five years in order to review the past, record the present and look forward to the future.

Having read the draft of this book, I have a feeling that it is very necessary for us to stop, review the present and look back on the footprints of history so that we can better face the challenges of the future in a fast paced environment where everyone is looking to the front and dashing ahead. This book provides such a stop, helping us to review the splendid course of Hong Kong's reunification with the Motherland, to take in Hong Kong's success and mull over the direction of Hong Kong's future.



Qiao Xiaoyang
12 March 2012



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Apothegms

詞



基本法與香港回歸十五周年誌慶

見證回歸
落實兩制

全國政協副主席

董建華

*Celebrating the Basic Law and the 15th Anniversary of
Hong Kong's Reunification with the Motherland:*

*This Book commemorates Hong Kong's
reunification with the Motherland and the
realisation of "One Country, Two Systems".*

Tung Chee-hwa

Vice-Chairman of the Chinese People's
Political Consultative Conference



行政長官曾蔭權



政明
通法
民護
安港

《基本法》與香港回歸十五周年紀念特刊

**The Basic Law and the 15th Anniversary of
Hong Kong's Reunification with the Motherland:**

**Upholding the Basic Law and safeguarding
Hong Kong's interests are essential for good
administration and the well-being of the people.**

Donald Tsang

The Chief Executive of the Hong Kong
Special Administrative Region

(Original text in Chinese)



《基本法》是「一國兩制」、「港人治港」的基石，也是本港法治、人權、廉潔政府，以及新聞自由、言論自由、集會自由等核心價值的法律依據。值香港特別行政區成立十五周年之際，出版《基本法與香港—回歸十五周年》，正好闡揚《基本法》確保香港特區持續穩定繁榮的重要作用，同時更可作為參考文獻，加深市民對實施《基本法》的了解。

梁振英

候任行政長官

2012年4月

The Basic Law is the cornerstone to the implementation of “One Country, Two Systems” in Hong Kong. As our constitutional instrument, it safeguards our core values including the rule of law, human rights, clean government, as well as freedom of the press, speech and assembly. On the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, the publication of this book is a timely reminder of the pivotal role of the Basic Law in ensuring the continued stability and prosperity of the HKSAR, and provides a useful source of reference to help the community better understand the operation of the Basic Law.

Leung Chun Ying

Chief Executive-elect

April 2012



《基本法與香港回歸十五周年》付梓誌慶

實踐一國兩制創舉
鑄就繁榮穩定香江

彭清華



二〇一二年三月

Celebrating the Publication of "the Basic Law and the 15th Anniversary of Hong Kong's Reunification with the Motherland":
Implementing the epoch-making concept of
"One Country, Two Systems" is forging Hong Kong's
prosperity and stability.

Peng Qinghua

Director of the Liaison Office of the Central People's
Government in the HKSAR

March 2012

(Original text in Chinese)

基本法與香港回歸十五周年特刊

偉大的制度創新
重要的法律保障



中華人民共和國外交部駐香港特別行政區特派員

呂新華



The Basic Law and the 15th Anniversary of Hong Kong's
Reunification with China

**“One Country, Two Systems” is a great
institutional innovation and an important legal
protection for Hong Kong.**

Lü Xinhua

Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of
the People's Republic of China in the
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

(Original text in Chinese)



政務司司長林瑞麟



宣章明法
利港惠民

《基本法》與香港回歸十五周年紀念特刊

*The Basic Law and the 15th Anniversary of Hong Kong's
Reunification with the Motherland:*

*Promoting understanding and upholding
the Basic Law benefits Hong Kong
and its residents.*

*Stephen Lam
The Chief Secretary for Administration*

(Original text in Chinese)

《基本法》與香港回歸十五周年

安民之基
治港之本

政制及內地事務局局長譚志源



*The Basic Law and the 15th Anniversary of
Hong Kong's Reunification with the Motherland*

*The Basic Law provides the foundation for the
well-being of the people and the basis for the
administration of Hong Kong.*

Raymond Tam

*Secretary for Constitutional and
Mainland Affairs*

(Original text in Chinese)

「基本法與香港回歸十五周年」發行誌慶



十五載建基立業
五十年本固枝榮

梁愛詩



敬賀

二〇一二年三月廿九日

Celebrating the Publication of the Basic Law and the 15th Anniversary of Hong Kong's Reunification with the Motherland

The achievements in the past 15 years have built a strong foundation for continued growth and prosperity throughout the stipulated 50-year period of the “One Country, Two Systems” principle.

Elsie Leung

Deputy Director of the HKSAR Basic Law
Committee of the Standing Committee of the
National People's Congress
29 March 2012

香港
明天
愈
益
美
好
周
南



**Wishing Hong Kong
a Better Future !**

Zhou Nan

(Original text in Chinese)

經歷了十五年的各種大風大浪，
“一國兩制”益發深入人心，說
明它是經得起時間和實踐考驗的。

希望七百萬香港同胞攜起手來，
共同愛護和珍惜這顆東方明珠，使
之永放光芒！

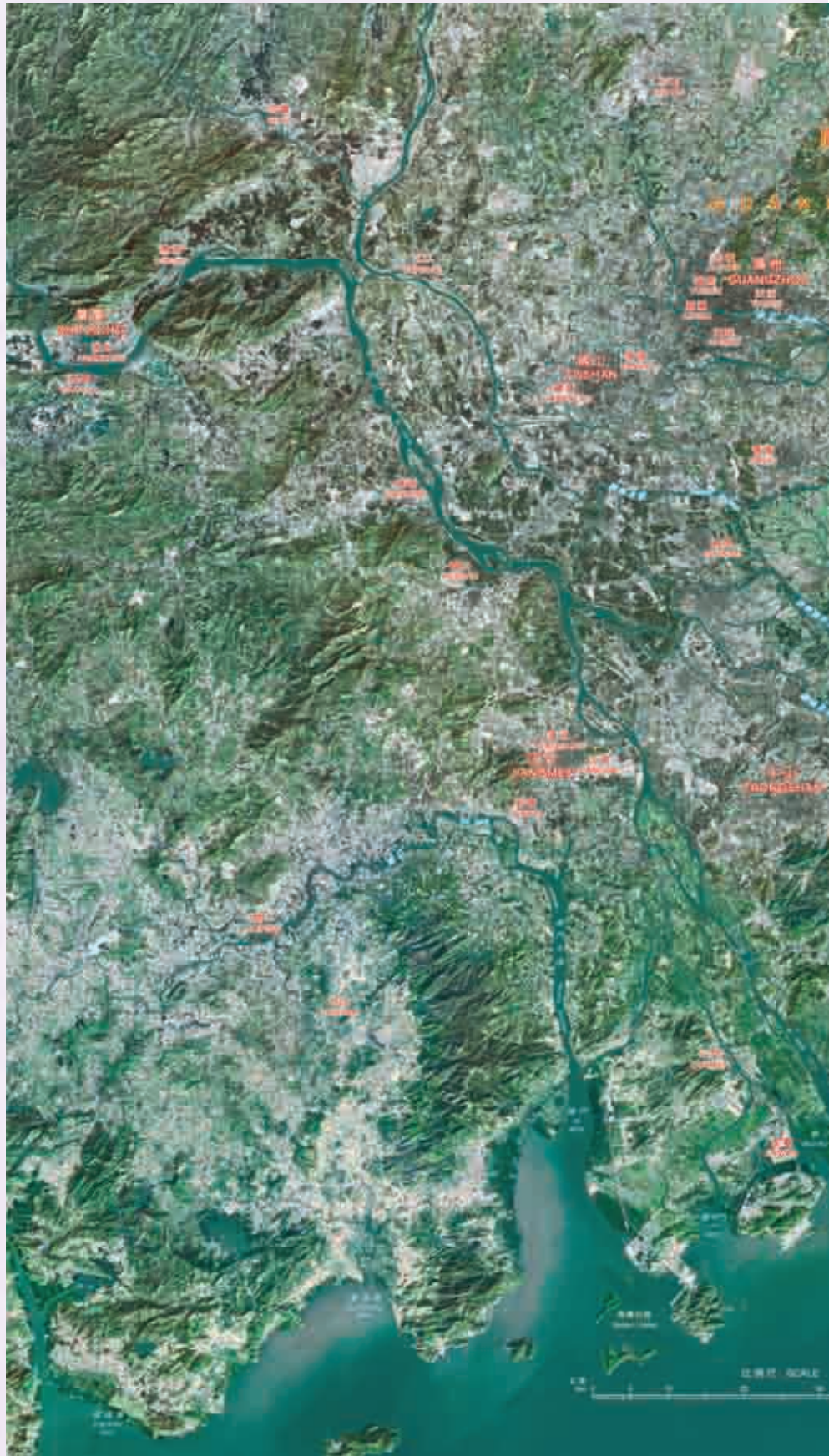
魯平

二零一二年三月一日

Having experienced all kinds of difficulties and challenges in the past 15 years, "One Country, Two Systems" has won more and more popularity and has withstood the test of time and practice. I wish that seven million Hong Kong compatriots will join hands to cherish and treasure this oriental pearl and make it glow and shine forever.

Lu Ping

1 March 2012



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The Basic Law and the 15th Anniversary of Hong Kong's Reunification with the Motherland

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