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Editor's Note:

Co-chaired by Mr. Wang Bingnan, the Vice Minister of Commerce of the People's Republic of China, and Mr. Lei Wai Nong, the Secretary for Economy and Finance, the Mainland and Macao Economic and Trade Cooperation Committee convened its third meeting on 3 December in Macao. Both sides concurred that the Mainland and Macao, having withstood the test of the pandemic, have achieved phased outcome on the coordina-

tion in advancing pandemic prevention and control as well as the economic and trade exchanges and cooperation between the two places.

Jointly organized by the Macao Economic Bureau and the Department of Commerce of Guangdong Province, the “SME + Internet Workshop”, which aims to promote interaction and exchanges between the services sectors of Guangdong and Macao and encourage SMEs to enhance their management and service quality levels, was successfully held on 11 December in Macao. The workshop invited experts on the Mainland’s food and beverage (F&B) industry to give detailed lectures on the market development, business models and investment environment of the F&B industry under Big Data, and to share the latest information about the upgrading and transformation, as well as the innovation development of Mainland enterprises.

As a member of the Guangdong-Macao Quality Testing and Certification Task Force, the Macao Economic Bureau (DSE) was invited by the Guangdong Administration for Market Regulation (GDAMR) to participate virtually in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA) Standardization Research Seminar on 6 November this year, together with the Macau Productivity and Technology Transfer Center (CPTTM), which is also a member of the task force, to exchange and discuss on further deepening the work on standardization in the GBA. Participants from Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao included: the GDAMR; the Hong Kong Quality Assurance Agency; the DSE; the CPTTM; the Guangdong Federation of Industry & Commerce; the Guangdong Institute of Standardization (GBA Standardization Research Center) and expert advisors.

1. Mainland and Macao Economic and Trade Cooperation Committee convenes third meeting in Macao

Co-chaired by Mr. Wang Bingnan, the Vice Minister of Commerce of the People’s Republic of China, and Mr. Lei Wai Nong, the Secretary for Economy and Finance, the Mainland and Macao Economic and Trade Cooperation Committee convened its third meeting on 3 December in Macao. Both sides concurred that the Mainland and Macao, having withstood the test of the pandemic, have achieved phased outcome on the coordination in advancing pandemic prevention and

control as well as the economic and trade exchanges and cooperation between the two places.

At the meeting, the two sides reviewed the progresses of the work of various task forces, summed up the work that have been commenced by the Committee since the second meeting and reached a consensus on the future orientation of economic and trade cooperation between the two places.

In the next step, the two sides will focus

on deepening their cooperation in jointly promoting a high-quality development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA), advancing the implementation and further broadening of liberalization of CEPA, supporting Macao's development as a platform between China and Portuguese-speaking countries (PSCs), supporting Macao's development of moderate economic diversification, as well as supporting Macao's participation in the co-development of the "Belt and Road" Initiative.

Mr. Lei expressed sincere gratitude to the Central People's Government for ensuring the stable supply of goods to Macao during the difficult times in preventing and controlling the sudden outbreak of COVID-19. He added that as an official mechanism for communication on economic and trade areas between the Central People's Government and the Macao SAR Government, the Economic and Trade Cooperation Committee has effectively coordinated the issues relevant to the areas of economic and trade cooperation between the Mainland and Macao with a continuously improving and strengthening working mechanism, playing an active role in advancing the economic and trade exchanges

and cooperation and promoting the joint economic development between the two places.

He pointed out that with the in-depth advancing of the development of the GBA, a major development opportunity has been present for Macao's further integration into the Mainland's domestic circulation. In addition, the further enhancing of the role as a China-PSCs platform is one of the important means for Macao to link up the domestic and the international circulation. Macao will commit full efforts to prepare well for the 6th Ministerial Conference of Forum Macao, as well as further improving and enriching the substance of the China-PSCs platform, so as to give full play to the platform role.

Mr. Wang noted that the task forces of the Mainland and Macao Economic and Trade Cooperation Committee worked closely and collaborated fully with each other throughout the year to take forward the steady development of various tasks with multiple measures, thereby the economic and trade exchanges between the two places are gradually getting back on the right track.

He offered three suggestions for the orientation of the next step of cooperation of the Mainland and Macao Economic and Trade



The third meeting of the Mainland and Macao Economic and Trade Cooperation Committee



Mr. Wang Bingnan, the Vice Minister of Commerce of the People's Republic of China, and Mr. Lei Wai Nong, the Secretary for Economy and Finance, co-chair the meeting

Cooperation Committee: the first is to actively support Macao's integration into the Mainland's domestic circulation by supporting Macao's acceleration in linking the Mainland market, further enhancing the level of liberalization of trade in services in the GBA through CEPA and focusing on the development of the Hengqin Guangdong-Macao In-depth Cooperation Zone, etc.; the second is to assist Macao in linking up the domestic and international circulation by properly establishing major platforms, such as the International Infrastructure Investment and Construction Forum, and introducing new initiatives for supporting Macao's promotion of the development as a China-PSCs platform; the third is to support Macao's development of moderate economic diversification with multiple measures and concentrated efforts.

The Economic and Trade Cooperation Committee is a mechanistic arrangement for supporting Macao's economic development and livelihood improvement in economic and trade areas and comprehensively promoting the mutually beneficial cooperation between the Mainland and Macao. To further deepen the economic and trade cooperation between the Mainland and Macao under the 14th Five-Year Plan, the Economic and Trade Cooperation Committee will actively support Macao's exploration of new development directions for injecting new development impetuses and exploring new rooms of development, so as to achieve moderately diversified and sustainable economic development and integrate better into the overall development strategy of the country.

2. "SME + Internet Workshop" helps the F&B industry to enhance management and service levels

Jointly organized by the Macao Economic Bureau (DSE) and the Department of Commerce of Guangdong Province, the "SME + Internet Workshop", which aims to promote interaction and exchanges between the services sectors of Guangdong and Macao and encourage SMEs to enhance their management and service quality levels, was successfully held on 11 December in Macao. The workshop invited experts on the Mainland's food and beverage (F&B) industry to give detailed lectures on the market development, business models and investment environment of the F&B industry under Big Data, and to share the latest information about the upgrading and transformation, as well as the innovation devel-

opment of Mainland enterprises.

One of the tasks in the economy and finance field proposed in this year's Policy Address is to encourage MSMEs in the F&B industry to develop mobilized business models and introduce mobilized management systems through network technologies. This workshop helps the F&B industry to learn about the latest development of the Mainland's internet economy and inspire local SMEs to make use of technologies for providing better services to consumers, while reducing their labour costs and enhancing their operational efficiencies.

Ms. Chan Tze Wai, the Deputy Director of the DSE, indicates in her remarks that the SAR Government attaches high importance to the

development of internet application and actively encourages local SMEs to develop new ideas, carry out technological improvements and innovation and enhance their own competitiveness. The DSE launched the Distinctive Shops Programme in July in joint effort of district-based business associations. Currently, there are 100 participating Distinctive Shops, of which 71 are F&B businesses. The programme supports businesses to make good use of internet technologies to develop business and assists Macao's Distinctive Shops to station in the Mainland's well-known lifestyle guide platforms in order to attract visitors to spend in Macao, thereby grasp the development opportunities in the "dual circulation" of the Mainland.

Ms. Ren Shao, the Deputy Director-General of the Department of Commerce of Guangdong Province, noted in her remarks that Macao has become an indispensable partner for trade in services to Guangdong, and the integration of the internet with other industries is the prevailing trend, with no exception for the F&B industry. While the internet has changed the devel-

opment of the conventional F&B industry, she hopes that this event can promote exchanges and cooperation between the services sectors of the two places, thereby jointly start a new chapter of Guangdong-Macao development. During the event, the guest speakers gave detailed lectures on how to incorporate internet technologies to harness the distinctive advantages of the quality products and services of SMEs, enhance the service level and competitiveness and expand online sales channels. The acceleration of the popularization of mobile payment will be achieved through the application of technological means by MSMEs to develop e-commerce.

This workshop saw the participation of a total of some 80 representatives of F&B industry associations and enterprises of the two places, who actively engaged themselves in the interaction and exchange session. The event helps the industry to acquire a deeper understanding of the development trend of the Mainland's F&B industry and inspire local F&B businesses to make good use of internet technologies to develop business.



The "SME + Internet Workshop" jointly organized by the DSE and the Department of Commerce of Guangdong Province is held successfully



Interaction and exchange session

3. GBA Standardization Research Seminar held on 6 November

As a member of the Guangdong-Macao Quality Testing and Certification Task Force, the Macao Economic Bureau (DSE) was invited by the Guangdong Administration for Market Regulation (GDAMR) to participate virtually in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA) Standardization Research Seminar on 6 November this year, together with the Macau Productivity and Technology Transfer Center (CPTTM), which is also a member of the task force, to exchange and discuss on further deepening the work on standardization in the GBA. Participants from Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao included: the GDAMR; the Hong Kong Quality Assurance Agency; the DSE; the CPTTM; the Guangdong Federation of Industry & Commerce; the Guangdong Institute of Standardization (GBA Standardization Research Center) and expert advisors.

The Outline Development Plan for the GBA mentioned “standard” for 14 times, stressing on ushering the development of the GBA with an advanced standards system. To promote the development of standardization in the GBA, the GDAMR has made an application to the Standardization Administration of the PRC for establishing the GBA Standardization Research

Center for providing technical support to the development of “GBA standards”. It officially inaugurated on 19 September this year with a view to actively promoting the participation of Hong Kong and Macao in the development of standardization in the GBA.

The seminar was held for the first time by Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao for the development of standardization in the GBA, and was anchored by the GBA Standardization Research Center. This meeting was mainly for soliciting the views of Hong Kong and Macao, so as to form consensus for the joint promotion of the GBA’s standardization development by the three places. In the future, Macao will strengthen the exchanges and cooperation with the Center and work with the development of standardization in the GBA.



GBA Standardization Research Seminar

4. Single E-lock Scheme officially implemented by the customs of Guangdong and of Macao

The Macao Customs Service (SA) and the Macao Economic Bureau (DSE) held a press conference at 11 a.m. on 28 September 2020 at the cargo terminal of the Macao International Airport and the export cargo terminal of the

Macao Border Checkpoint at the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge to announce the official launch and implementation of the Single E-lock Scheme by the customs of Guangdong and of Macao. Having been

pushed by the relevant working group since the signing of the CEPA Agreement on Trade in Goods on 12 December 2018, the launch of the scheme was agreed in September 2019 after rounds of consultations held in Beijing between the DSE and the SA and the Ministry of Commerce and the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China. The implementation of the scheme allows the customs of the two places to monitor loaded cross-border goods vehicles throughout their trips with a smart customs lock equipped with satellite positioning, so as to achieve automatic express inspection and release for customs clearance for vehicles and their cargoes at customs checkpoints and reduce repeated inspections for the same cargo. This will speed up the flow of cargoes, and in turn enhance the competitiveness of traders by reducing the delivery time of cargo.



Smart customs lock device



The first consignment of cargo under the Single E-lock

5. Newly revised CEPA ROOs implemented on 1 January 2021

After consultation with the Mainland through the mechanism under CEPA, the revision of 7 CEPA rules of origin (ROOs) was confirmed to be made in the second half of 2020 and implemented on 1 January 2021. There were a total of 14 CEPA ROOs revised in the year, including the 7 implemented on 1 July 2020. The products covered include meat, nuts, other edible animal products (e.g. bird's nest, royal jelly, etc.), Chinese herbal medicines, condiments, medical products and others. The revisions of the ROOs, which provide favourable conditions for local food and pharmaceutical production enterprises and facilitate the promotion of sustainable development of

industries, are in line with the orientation of the SAR Government's industrial development policy.

The Agreement on Trade in Goods under the CEPA between the Mainland and Macao was implemented on 1 January 2019. The Agreement establishes ROOs for about 8,000 Mainland tariff line products. In response to the actual development needs of enterprises, a consultation mechanism for revision of ROOs has been established under the CEPA agreement. The mechanism enables requests for revision of ROOs of products to be made based on factors such as industries' changes in production technology or adjustments in pro-

duction scale. Enterprises can submit revision requests to the Macao Economic Bureau (DSE) by 1 March and 1 September of every year, so that the Mainland and Macao can carry out consultations on the requests. Both sides agree that the revised ROOs shall be implemented on not later than 1 July of that year or 1 January of the following year respectively.

With the continuous enhancement of ROOs, conditions that are more favourable have been created for local enterprises to enjoy CEPA's zero-tariff preferences and grasp the development opportunities in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area to push their products into the Mainland market. This will facilitate the further development of the local manufacturing sector. Meanwhile, by leveraging on Macao's role as a commercial and trade cooperation service platform between China and Portuguese-speaking countries (PSCs), this can attract manufacturers to import quality raw materials from PSCs to Macao for processing and production, and explore the Mainland market with products made in Macao.

Details about the revision of ROOs can be viewed on the DSE's website and WeChat public account (DSEMACAU), or enquired by calling 85972328/85972342.



6. 2020 Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Intellectual Property Trade Expo held from 13 to 19 November

The 2020 Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Intellectual Property Trade Expo (hereinafter "the Expo") was held virtually on 13-19 November 2020 jointly by the Guangdong Administration for Market Regulation (Guangdong Intellectual Property Administration) (GDAMR (GDIPA)), the People's Government of Guangzhou, the Intellectual Property Department of the Hong Kong SAR Government (IPD), and the Macao Eco-

nomics Bureau of the Macao SAR Government (DSE). At its opening ceremony on 13 November, hosted by Chen Liangxian, Deputy Governor of Guangdong Province, Ma Xingrui, Governor of Guangdong Province; Shen Changyu, Commissioner of the China National Intellectual Property Administration; Wen Guohui, Mayor of Guangzhou; and Mai Jiaomeng, Director-General of the GDAMR (GDIPA) attended and delivered remarks, while Deng Hongsen,

Director-General of the World Intellectual Property Organization; Wong Fuk Loi, David, Director of the IPD; and Chan Tze Wai, Deputy Director of the DSE delivered remarks via video.

Held virtually for the first time, the Expo had 7 themed exhibition zones, including online trade and exhibition zones for patented technologies, trademarks and brands, geographical indication products, copyright culture, international intellectual property (IP) and IP operational services, as well as the special featured exhibition of the year – the themed zone dedicated to the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. The number of organizations participating in the Expo online was 2,469, more than an eightfold of the number of participating organizations in last year’s Expo, which was held physically. There were 134 overseas exhibitors from 35 countries and territories and 41 from Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan, of which 13 were from Macao, display-

ing 17,000 pieces of IP exhibits. In addition, the Expo staged 10 online Greater Bay Area IP forums and 15 featured sessions, which were filled with lots of highlights and sensations.

The Expo, which lasted for 7 straight days, brought down its curtain on 19 November with intended IP deals worth 12.85 billion RMB brought about and 1,867 million RMB of IP deals secured.



Deputy Director Chan Tze Wai delivers remarks via video at the opening ceremony of the Expo

7. Pan-Pearl River Delta Intellectual Property Cooperation Joint Conference held in Hainan

Director-General of the World Intellectual Property Organization; Wong Fuk Loi, David, Director of the IPD; and Chan Tze Wai, Deputy Director of the DSE delivered remarks via video.

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The 15th Pan-Pearl River Delta Intellectual Property Cooperation Joint Conference

8. The 5th Qianhai Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao-Taiwan Youth Innovation and Entrepreneurship Competition held in Qianhai

The grand final and the award presentation ceremony of the 5th Qianhai Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao-Taiwan Youth Innovation and Entrepreneurship Competition have been successfully held recently at the Qianhai Shenzhen-Hong Kong Youth Innovation and Entrepreneur Hub. Over 200 young business starters from Guangdong, Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan competed on the same ground under an online-plus-offline approach. Among the 1,100 participating projects, 30 managed to break all the way through to the grand final after stages of selection. 6 projects from Macao were qualified to compete at the venue for the title.

The Qianhai Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao-Taiwan Youth Innovation and Entrepreneurship Competition was jointly organized by the Qianhai Authority in association with the Science and Technology Innovation Committee (STIC) of Shenzhen, the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office (HKMAO) of Shenzhen, the Taiwan Affairs Office (TAO) of the Communist Party of

China (CPC) Shenzhen Municipal Committee, the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government (LOCPG) in Hong Kong, the LOCPG in Macao, the Macao Economic Bureau of the Macao SAR Government (DSE), the PKU-HKUST Shenzhen-Hong Kong Institution, the Shenzhen Media Group and others. This competition aims to forge a platform for exchange and cooperation between youths of Guangdong, Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan and create better conditions for the development of youths of Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan in Qianhai, so as to assist them in integrating into the overall development strategy of the country and making new contributions to the new application of "One Country, Two Systems" .

Themed "Dream Big, I measure the length of dream" , this year's competition encourages young business starters in Guangdong, Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan to work together to boldly realize their aspirations. The competition has been held consecutively for five times since its first inauguration in 2016, with

the number of participating projects aggregated 5,000, among which 300 are from Macao.

The event was attended by, among others, Cao Saixian, Level-II Counsel and Deputy Director-General of the Greater Bay Area Affairs Office of the CPC Shenzhen Municipal Committee (HKMAO of Shenzhen); Yang Li, Deputy Director-General of the TAO of the CPC Shenzhen Municipal Committee; Huang Zhen, Deputy Director-General of the STIC of Shenzhen; Lai Feng, Deputy Secretary of the Communist Youth League Shenzhen Municipal Committee; Zhang Feimeng, Deputy Director-General of the Qianhai Authority; TANG Sau Han, Vanessa, Director of the Shenzhen Liaison Unit of the Hong Kong SAR Government; Lau Kit Lon, Head of Business Promotion Division of the DSE; and Du Tu, Deputy Chief Editor of the Shenzhen Media Group.



Group photo of teams from the Macao competition zone



Gold prize awardees sign intents to invest with investors

9. Pilot Measures for Hong Kong Legal Practitioners and Macao Practicing Lawyers to Obtain Mainland Practice Qualifications and to Practice as Lawyers in the Nine Mainland Cities in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area issued by the State Council

The General Office of the State Council issued on 22 October 2020 the Pilot Measures for Hong Kong Legal Practitioners and Macao Practicing Lawyers to Obtain Mainland Practice Qualifications and to Practice as Lawyers in the Nine Mainland Cities in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (the Measures), which states to commence, in accordance with the Decision of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress on Authorizing the State Council on the Implementation of Pilot Measures for Hong Kong Legal Practition-

ers and Macao Practicing Lawyers to Obtain Mainland Practice Qualifications and to Practice as Lawyers in the Nine Mainland Cities in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, trial work in the cities of Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Zhuhai, Foshan, Huizhou, Dongguan, Zhongshan, Jiangmen and Zhaoqing of Guangdong Province, such that eligible Hong Kong legal practitioners and Macao practicing lawyers are allowed to practice in certain areas of Mainland law upon obtaining the practice qualifications through passing specific test.

The Measures specifies that a person who has obtained a practicing certificate for lawyer (Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area) is allowed to be employed by a Mainland law firm or a partnership association between a Hong Kong/Macao law firm and a Mainland law firm in the nine cities in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, and is allowed to become a partner in a Mainland law firm in the nine cities in the Guangdong-Hong

Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. The Measures provides for the signing-up, test, application for practice, business scope, practice management, as well as the organization and implementation that are involved in the trial work. The implementation period of the trial work is three years with effect from the date of issue (22 October) of the Measures.