

# 2024

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## Editor's Note:

The 13<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO) was held in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates from 26 February to 2 March 2024. As an original member of the WTO, Macao, China formed a delegation comprising representatives of the Economic and Technological Development Bureau (DSEDТ) and the Macao Economic and Trade Office to the World Trade Organization to attend the Conference, with the DSEDТ's Deputy Director Chan Tze Wai serving as the head of delegation.

The second meeting of the Guangdong/Macao Expert Group on Cooperation in Technology and Innovation was held in Macao on 28 February. It was attended by Tai Kip Ip, Director of the DSEDТ; Wang Yueqin, Director-General of the Department of Science and Technology of Guangdong Province; and Huang Shengbiao, Deputy Director-General of the Economic Affairs Department of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Macao Special Administrative Region, among others.

The DSEDТ organized a group of 30, consisting of members of the High-and-New Technology Sector Development Policy Study Group of the Economic Development Council and of the Science and Technology Council, to travel to the Intensive Cooperation Zone (ICZ) on 29 February to visit relevant enterprises and institutions and have in-depth discussions with representatives of government agencies of the ICZ.



## 1. Macao, China attends the 13<sup>th</sup> WTO Ministerial Conference

Source: WTO official website



Group photo of heads of delegations of WTO members at the opening ceremony

The 13<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO) was held in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates from 26 February to 2 March 2024. As an original member of the WTO, Macao, China formed a delegation comprising representatives of the Economic and Technological Development Bureau (DSED) and the Macao Economic and Trade Office to the World Trade Organization (DECM (OMC)) to attend the Conference, with the DSED's Deputy Director Chan Tze Wai serving as the head of delegation.

The Ministerial Conference is the WTO's top decision-making body. It is held biannually to review the implementation of WTO agreements and the functioning of the multilateral trading system, as well as make decisions on matters under multilateral trade agreements on a consensus basis.

Source: WTO official website



Photo of China's Minister of Commerce Wang Wentao and Deputy Director Chan Tze Wai taken at the IFD special meeting



IFD members convene a special meeting

After intensive negotiations, the Conference reached a number of practical outcomes and issued the Abu Dhabi Ministerial Declaration, in which members pledged to strengthen the multilateral trading system and continue to push forward the reform of the WTO. Concrete outcomes mainly include:

1. The Agreement on Investment Facilitation for Development (IFD), responding to the strong aspiration of developing members to attract foreign investment and grow economy;
2. The Dispute Settlement Reform - Ministerial Decision, striving to restore the normal operations of the dispute settlement system by this year;
3. The Work Programme on Electronic Commerce, extending the moratorium on customs duties on electronic transmissions to the 14th Ministerial Conference, which provides a stable rules-based environment for global digital trade development;
4. Realization of the entry into force of the outcomes of negotiations on services domestic regulation to reduce the costs of global services trade;
5. Approval of the accession of Comoros and Timor-Leste to the WTO to enhance the representativeness of the multilateral trading system;
6. The Ministerial Decision on Smooth Transition Support Measures in Favour of Countries Graduated from the LDC Category to help the relevant countries better integrate into the multilateral trading system.

The Conference also achieved outcomes on regulatory cooperation, small economies, and non-violation and situation complaints, among others.



Photo of the WTO's Deputy Director-General Zhang Xiangchen, Director of DECM (OMC) Lúcia Abrantes dos Santos and Deputy Director Chan Tze Wai taken at the opening ceremony



Photo of China's Minister of Commerce Wang Wentao, Hong Kong, China's Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development Algernon Yau, and Deputy Director Chan Tze Wai taken at the IFD special meeting

## 2. Second meeting of the Guangdong/Macao Expert Group on Cooperation in Technology and Innovation held in Macao



The Guangdong/Macao Expert Group on Cooperation in Technology and Innovation convenes its second meeting

The second meeting of the Guangdong/Macao Expert Group on Cooperation in Technology and Innovation was held in Macao on 28 February. It was attended by Tai Kip Ip, Director of the Economic and Technological Development Bureau of the Macao Special Administrative Region Government; Wang Yueqin, Director-General of the Department of Science and Technology of Guangdong Province (GDSTC); and Huang Shengbiao, Deputy Director-General of the Economic Affairs Department of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Macao Special Administrative Region, among others.

Director Tai Kin Ip remarked that Guangdong-Macao cooperation is one of the major tasks of the SAR Government for promoting regional cooperation. With the two sides working closely and promoting pragmatically the collaborative development of innovation and technology between Guangdong and Macao over the last year, a certain level of outcomes has been achieved; Director-General Wang Yueqin expressed the hope for the achieving of mutual benefits in the work on Guangdong-Macao technology and innovation in 2024 by means of complementation of advantages under the national strategic background of pursuing high-level technological self-reliance.



The GDSTC and the FDCT sign a cooperation agreement on the Work Plan for Initiating Joint Funding for Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Joint Laboratories

At the meeting, representatives of Guangdong and Macao summarized the work of the Expert Group over the past year, introduced the major work plans for 2024 and discussed on enhancing the cooperation between Guangdong and Macao on innovation and technology, among other tasks.

After the meeting, the GDSTC and the Science and Technology Development Fund of Macao (FDCT) signed a cooperation agreement on the Work Plan for Initiating Joint Funding for Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Joint Laboratories.

In the future, the two sides will pursue development together by continuing to deepen pragmatically the collaboration projects between the two places.

The meeting was also attended by representatives from, among others, the FDCT; the Education and Youth Development Bureau; the University of Macau; the Macau University of Science and Technology; the Pharmaceutical Administration Bureau; the Macau Post and Telecommunications Bureau; as well as Nansha District of Guangzhou; the Zhuhai Science and Technology Innovation Bureau; the Economic Development Bureau of the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin, among others.



Group photo of the representatives attending the meeting

### 3. DSEDT organizes visit of CDE and CCT members to Hengqin to gain high-and-new technology sector insights

The Economic and Technological Development Bureau (DSEDT) organized a group of 30, consisting of members of the High-and-New Technology Sector Development Policy Study Group of the Economic Development Council (CDE) and of the Science and Technology Council (CCT), to travel to the Intensive Cooperation Zone (ICZ) on 29 February to visit relevant enterprises and institutions and have in-depth discussions with representatives of government agencies of the ICZ.

Led by Tai Kin Ip, Director of the DSEDT, the group visited Wisewave (Zhuhai) Technology Co., Ltd., Summitview Integrated Circuit Fund and the Traditional Chinese Medicine Science and Technology Industrial Park of Cooperation between Guangdong and Macao to learn about the current development of the high-and-new technology sector and traditional Chinese medicine research and development and manufacturing in the ICZ, as well as to discuss in-depth cooperation between the sectors of Macao and Hengqin.

The group later had a discussion session with Hengqin's Economic Development Bureau (EDB) and Financial Development Bureau (FDB) at the ICZ's Citizen Service Centre. During the session, Antonio Lei, Director of the EDB, and Chi Tenghui, Director of the FDB, gave a briefing on the ICZ's development planning, policy measures and development



Members of the CDE and CCT in discussion with representatives of a technology enterprise in the ICZ



Members of the CDE and CCT in discussion with representatives of a techfin enterprise in the ICZ



Members of the CDE and CCT travel to the ICZ to gain insights on the development of high-and-new technology sector

focuses, as well as the recent implementation of work. They also had discussions with members of the committees, and the participants gave several opinions and suggestions on how to make good use of Macao and Hengqin's unique advantages to develop collaboratively the high-and-new technology sector.

This year is a critical year for achieving the first-phase development targets of the ICZ. This exchange activity deepened the understanding of CDE and CCT members about the ICZ's latest development and policy planning, and helped them to better grasp the opportunities brought by the Master Plan of the Development of the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin, the Opinions on Supporting the Special Measures of the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin for Relaxing Market Access and other important policy documents, thereby promoting the further collaborative development of high-and-new technology sector between Macao and Hengqin.



Members of the CDE and CCT visit the Traditional Chinese Medicine Science and Technology Industrial Park of Cooperation between Guangdong and Macao



Members of the CDE and CCT in discussion with representatives of the ICZ's EDB and FDB

#### 4. Award presentation ceremony of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area High Value Patent Portfolio Contest held on 9 January



The Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area High Value Patent Portfolio Contest 2023 holds its award presentation ceremony

The second meeting of the Guangdong/Macao Expert Group on Cooperation in Technology and Innovation was held in Macao on 28 February. It was attended by Tai Kip Ip, Director of the Economic and Technological Development Bureau of the Macao Special Administrative Region Government; Wang Yueqin, Director-General of the Department of Science and Technology of Guangdong Province (GDSTC); and Huang Shengbiao, Deputy Director-General of the Economic Affairs Department of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Macao Special Administrative Region, among others.

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Deputy Director of the DSEDTC Chan Tze Wai gives a speech