

Acting CE meets Governor of Hunan Province (with photo)

The Acting Chief Executive, Mr Chan Kwok-ki, met the Governor of Hunan Province, Mr Mao Weiming, today (May 13) to exchange views on deepening Hong Kong's co-operation with Hunan. Also attending the meeting were the Acting Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs, Mr Clement Woo, and the Acting Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Dr Bernard Chan.

Mr Chan welcomed Mr Mao and his delegation to Hong Kong to organise an exchange conference promoting economic and trade co-operation between Hunan and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. Mr Chan said that Hong Kong and Hunan have been maintaining close economic and trade relations, and Hong Kong has been a significant source of external investment and an important trading partner for Hunan. In the past year, Hong Kong established 208 foreign-invested enterprises in Hunan, and the total value of imports and exports between the two places reached about RMB56.3 billion. Many Hong Kong enterprises have investment projects in Hunan. He pointed out that under the "one country, two systems" principle, Hong Kong has the distinctive advantages of enjoying strong support of the motherland and being closely connected to the world. Hong Kong will fully leverage its strengths as a "super connector" and "super value-adder" to assist Hunan in expanding into international markets. He believes that the two places can complement each other's strengths and achieve mutual success through collaboration.

Mr Chan said that the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government is determined to develop the low-altitude economy and has set up a working group to formulate the development strategy. Hunan is the first province in the country to pilot the opening of an entire low-altitude area, and possesses policy and industrial strengths. He believes that the two places can strengthen exchanges and co-operation in the field of low-altitude economy.

Mr Chan also mentioned that after the commissioning of Express Rail Link service between Hong Kong and Changsha, the shortest travelling time between the two places was reduced to within three hours. With profound historical and cultural value, Hunan Province has become a popular travel destination for Hong Kong citizens. He also hoped that citizens of Hunan would visit Hong Kong more often to experience the charm of Hong Kong as an events capital, further promoting cultural exchanges between the two places. Hong Kong will continue to strengthen co-operation with Hunan in areas including trade, culture, tourism and youth exchanges, with a view to making greater contributions to the country's development together.



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