

PSITI and Director-General of Department of Science and Technology of Guangdong Province co-chair 20th meeting of Guangdong/Hong Kong Expert Group on Co-operation in Technology and Innovation (with photos)

The Permanent Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry, Mr Eddie Mak, and the Director-General of the Department of Science and Technology of Guangdong Province, Ms Wang Yueqin, co-chaired the 20th meeting of the Guangdong/Hong Kong Expert Group on Co-operation in Technology and Innovation held in Jiangmen today (March 12).

Mr Mak said at the meeting that, with the country's staunch support, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government has been moving towards the vision of developing Hong Kong as an international innovation and technology (I&T) centre along the directions and strategies set out in the Hong Kong I&T Development Blueprint. He said that the HKSAR Government promulgated the Development Outline for the Hong Kong Park of the Hetao Shenzhen-Hong Kong Science and Technology Innovation Co-operation Zone (Hetao Co-operation Zone) in November 2024. Capitalising on the strengths of "one country, two systems" and the geographic advantages of "one river, two banks", as well as the arrangement of "one zone, two parks", the HKSAR Government will strive to develop the Hong Kong Park into a world-class industry-academia-research platform, and an internationally competitive research and development (R&D) transformation and pilot production base for industries at full speed, with a view to facilitating the high-quality I&T development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA).

Mr Mak also expressed his gratitude to the Guangdong Provincial Government for its staunch support for Hong Kong's I&T development over the years. He said that in the past year, the two sides had continuously deepened their exchanges and co-operation, including the continuous implementation of the Guangdong-Hong Kong Technology Cooperation Funding Scheme, supporting the scientific research institutions in the two places to carry out joint technology R&D, co-operation in technology transfer and industrialisation, and the continued opening up of Guangdong Province's key R&D programmes and major scientific research infrastructure to Hong Kong. The HKSAR Government will continue to work closely with the relevant Mainland authorities to expedite the development of the Hetao Co-operation Zone, and to boost both the speed and quantity in developing the Hong Kong Park by leveraging market forces.

"We will make good use of Hong Kong's distinctive advantages of enjoying strong support of the motherland and being closely connected to the world, to

deepen I&T co-operation with Guangdong Province as well as international exchanges. We will give full play to our critical roles as a 'super connector' and a 'super value-adder', with a view to contributing to the country's high-quality development," he added.

Mainland members attending the meeting included representatives from the Department of Science and Technology of Guangdong Province, the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the HKSAR, the Shenzhen Institutes of Advanced Technology of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Guangdong Academy of Sciences, the Development Authority of Shenzhen Park of Hetao Shenzhen-Hong Kong Science and Technology Innovation Co-operation Zone, the Qianhai Authority of Shenzhen, Science, Technology and Innovation Bureau of Jiangmen, and other education and I&T-related agencies of Guangdong Province and GBA cities. The Hong Kong delegation comprised representatives from the Innovation, Technology and Industry Bureau and the Innovation and Technology Commission. The Secretary of the CPC Jiangmen Municipal Committee, Mr Chen Anming, has also exchanged views on the I&T co-operation between Hong Kong and Jiangmen with the HKSAR government delegation.

After the meeting, Mr Mak visited the Jiangmen Laboratory of Carbon Science and Technology (JCL) to understand its latest developments and to explore opportunities for enhancing co-operation between R&D institutes of the two places. JCL was jointly founded by the Jiangmen Municipal Government and the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (Guangzhou).

Mr Mak concluded his visit and returned to Hong Kong this evening (March 12).



