

# Dynamic Guangzhou poised to become national pivotal city

By ZHAN LAOJI

With all its achievements in the 11th Five-Year Plan (2006-2010), the South China metropolis of Guangzhou is now seeking to partner with more businesses from home and abroad.

And the city has a particular interest in those who will help further transform its industrial structure, assist in development of a regional financial hub, bring independent innovation, boost urban infrastructure and public facilities, as well aid the development of creative industries.

"The endeavors aim to help the city make major breakthroughs in strategic infrastructure, leading industries

and development," noted a senior official.

"The advances are expected to enhance the city's core competitiveness, cultural soft power and international influence across the board over the 12th Five-Year Plan (2011-2015)."

It has revealed an ambitious target to build itself into a national pivotal city.

"With all the development in the past five years and the urban facelift for the 2010 Asian Games, Guangzhou has unprecedented business opportunities and more outstanding advantages for investors," he said.

The city will continue efforts to speed up expansion of its international airport along with harbors, rail hubs and

international information in the coming five years, making it even more convenient for investors to share in the city's geographical advantages, according to the official.

Guangzhou lies at the center of the Pearl River Delta region, a very short distance from both Hong Kong and Macao, and serves as a business entrepot for investors from Beijing, Shanghai, Singapore, Taipei and Tokyo.

Its traffic network includes Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport, Guangzhou Port and railway stations that all help link the city with the rest of the world.

Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport handled 40 million passengers in 2010, while

Guangzhou Port had cargo throughput totaling 400 million tons and 12 million containers, according to official statistics.

The official said that the city will further expand development in the city's downtown and the eastern sector along with the new district of Nansha while improving its various State-level development zones.

Thanks to efforts and incentives to attract top-notch professionals from home and abroad, Guangzhou has pooled abundant human resources, he said.

"Guangzhou will make greater effort to promote international practices and improve financial services during the 12th Five-Year Plan to fortify its reputation," he said.



PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

Guangzhou is a famed global business center in South China.

Guangzhou topped the Forbes list of "Best Commercial Cities on the Chinese Mainland" in 2010.

Hefty financial support of up to 4 billion yuan annually from 2011 to 2015 is earmarked for its strategic industries, with awards of up to 50 million yuan each to new investors who base

their regional headquarters in the city, he added.

Guangzhou's GDP grew 13.2 percent annually from 2006 to 2010, with the total reaching 1.0748 trillion yuan last year, trailing only Shanghai and Beijing nationwide.

Spending on R&D comprised 2.4 percent of its GDP,

while high-tech industries generated 38.5 percent of its gross industrial output and patents totaled 15,000 last year.

The city had 174 investment projects funded by global top 500 enterprises by the end of 2010. Its imports and exports surpassed \$100 billion last year.

## Robust business zones boost development

By LAO ZHAN

Guangzhou is accelerating the development of economic and business zones to support the city's next round of economic development.

Zones highlighted in the city's strategic development plan include China-Singapore (Guangzhou) Knowledge City, Tianhe CBD and Intelligence Town, Guangzhou South Railway Station Business District, Nansha New District, the airport economic zone and Guangzhou International Healthcare Industry Town.

The planned 123-square-kilometer Knowledge City, in the east of the city in the Guangzhou Development District, is expected to become

a vanguard for high-end industrial development and the knowledge economy.

Some 10 sq km will be developed by 2015 in the initial stage and be home to R&D services, creative industries, life and health sciences, education and training, information technology, biotechnology, new energy and environmental protection as well as advanced manufacturing.

The 18-sq-km Tianhe CBD in the city itself — one of the nation's top three central business districts — will contain a key area of 5.37 sq km in the next five years, according to the city's blueprint, providing a base for financial institutions, high-end business services, real estate develop-

ers and corporate headquarters.

The Guangzhou CBD has more than 1,200 foreign-funded enterprises, including over 200 with headquarters operations, and 76 projects funded by the world's top 500 enterprises.

With a planned area of 63 sq km, Tianhe Intelligence Town is expected to be a cluster for high-end electronics and information technology, software and information services, new-generation information technology businesses and scientific and technological services.

Covering 36 sq km and requiring an investment of 49.9 billion yuan, Guangzhou South Railway Station

Business District is expected to grow into a comprehensive passenger transportation hub in South China and a center of modern service industries, commerce and trade.

Located at the center of the Pearl River Delta region, the Nansha New District will include harbor manufacturing industries, cultural and creative industries, modern shipping services, tourism and health services.

According to the nation's 12th Five-Year Plan, Nansha New District is expected to become a business service center for both the mainland and Hong Kong as well as a pilot zone in the CEPA (closer economic partner-

ship arrangement) with Hong Kong and Macao.

The airport economic zone around Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport includes the 390-sq-km core airport zone and an economic zone covering 2,600 sq km.

In addition to the aviation industry and logistics, it will be home to aviation-related business headquarters, services, high-tech industries and advanced manufacturing.

With a planned area of 124 sq km, Guangzhou International Healthcare Industry Town close to Maofeng Mountain will include the biomedicine, medical apparatus, medical service and health-care industries.



Plan for the 123-square-kilometer China-Singapore (Guangzhou) Knowledge City.



Ershadao Green Lane, one of Guangzhou's eco-zones.