



Financial Services – GBA Opportunities

GBA Opportunities for Financial Services in Hong Kong

Hong Kong will benefit from the development of the GBA



Population, trade and capital flows create opportunities for payment, banking and wealth management services



Strengthen Hong Kong's status as a global offshore RMB business hub



Enjoy mutual financial market access in the GBA

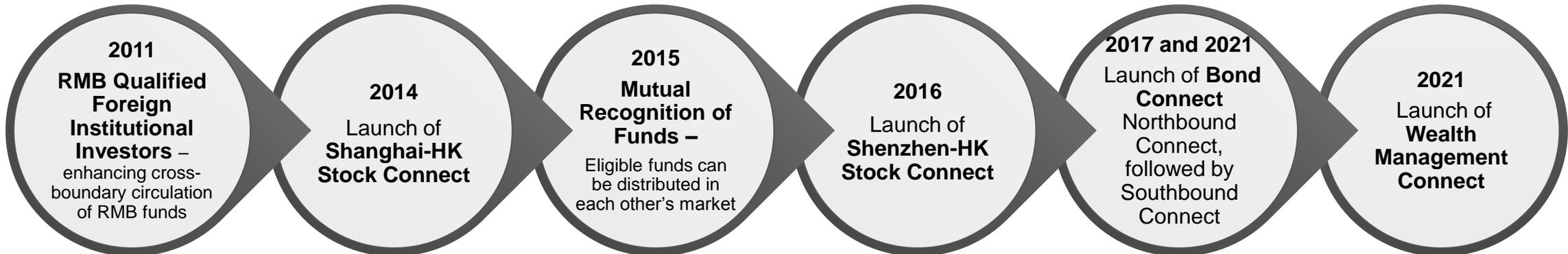


Financial Market Connectivity - Mainland and HK

2022 – 2024 Onwards

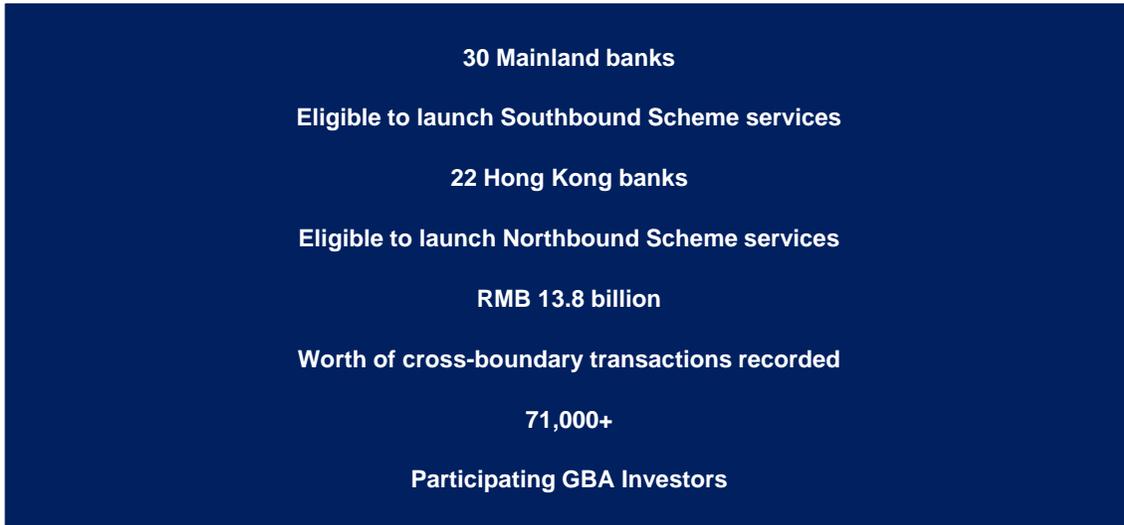


2011-2021



Wealth Management Connect (WMC)

Updates of WMC uptake as of Jan 2024

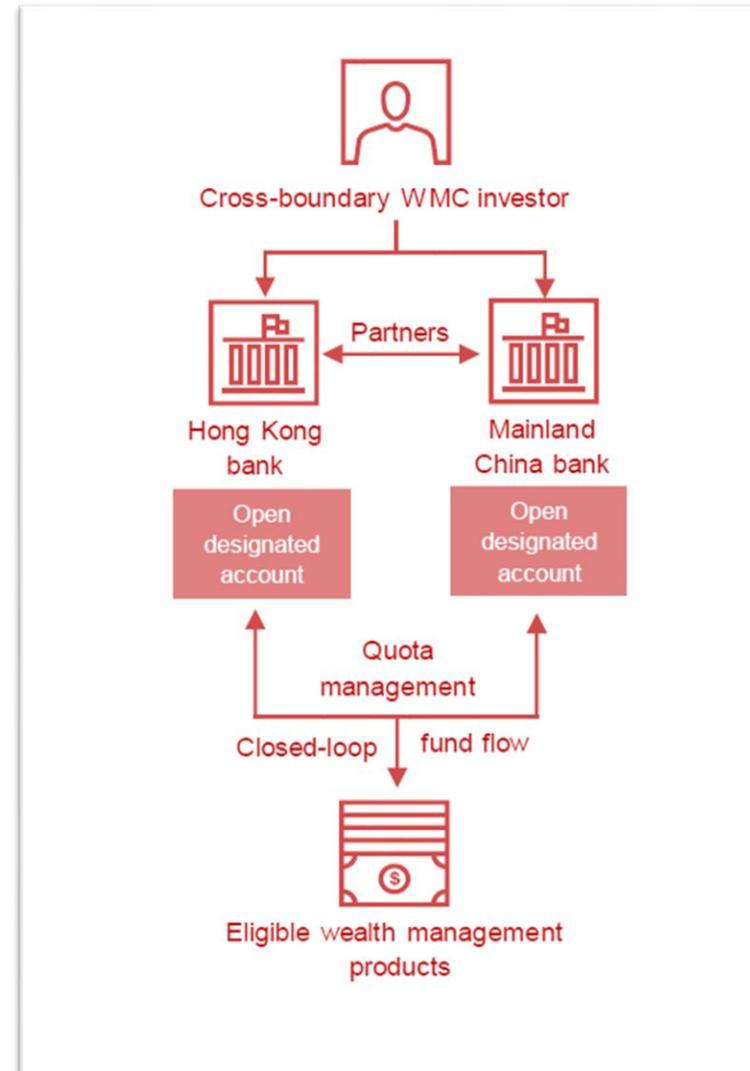


Source: HKMA , PBOC Guangzhou branch

Enhancement Measures of WMC (Jan 2024)

- lower the eligibility criteria of Mainland investors
- expand the scope of participating institutions to include eligible securities firms
- expand the scope of eligible products
- increase the individual investor quota
- enhance the promotion and sales arrangements

WMC Current state of play



Hong Kong's Role to Develop Cross-Border Insurance in the GBA - Updates



- Provide post-sales services such as handling claims, changing policyholders' information and processing payment of premiums.
- Direct settlement of health claims at public hospitals available in Shenzhen



Unilateral recognition policy

- Its future introduction will allow third-party insurance coverage for Hong Kong vehicles entering Guangdong Province via the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge



Issuance of insurance-linked securities (ILS)

- Inaugural catastrophe bond (US\$ 30m) was issued in HK in Oct 2021 by China Reinsurance (Group) to pay for claims from typhoon damage in the GBA and other parts of China



GBA Opportunities for HK Insurers as a Global Risk Management Centre

Retail

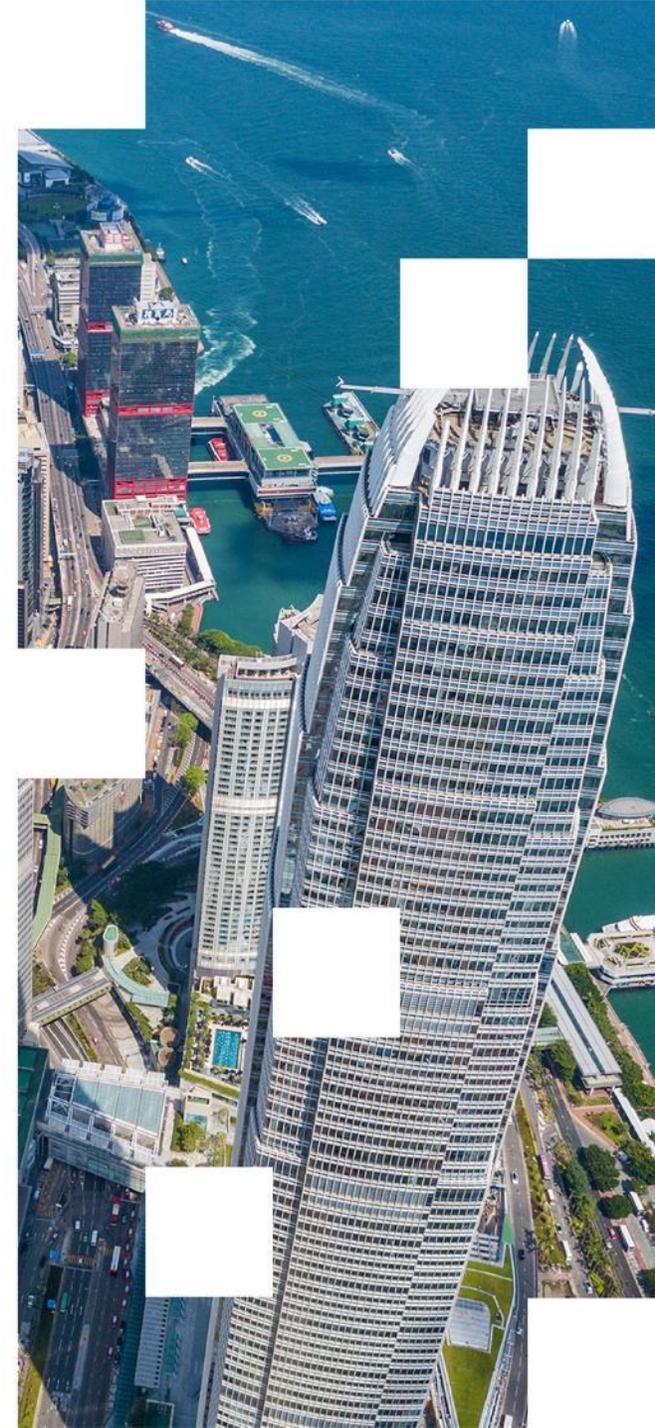
Increasing demand for cross-border life, motor and medical insurance, relatively low penetration of insurance in GBA cities, and a rapid expanding middle-class in the region

BRI

Central Gov't support for Hong Kong in providing insurance and reinsurance services for large infrastructure projects under the Belt and Road Initiatives. It also backs Mainland enterprises looking to set up captives in Hong Kong to enhance their corporate risk management systems.

ILS

Insurance-linked securities (ILS) can pave the way for HK to become a fundraising hub for Chinese and international companies to meet funding needs for natural disasters



How to Strengthen Hong Kong's Role as a Premier Offshore RMB Hub in the World

Hong Kong plays a pivotal role in RMB internationalisation, **handling over 75% of global offshore RMB payment** and **owning the deepest offshore RMB capital pool** in the world. Its status as the world's largest offshore RMB hub will be enhanced by:

Increasing the breadth and depth of RMB bond issuers

- Continue to encourage PBOC, Ministry of Finance (MOF), other top-tier Chinese corporates and institutions to issue offshore RMB bonds (dim sum bond) and list them on the HKEX

Enriching offshore RMB products

- Continue to provide more offshore RMB-denominated products e.g. interest rate risk hedging tools and offshore RMB bond index ETF etc., to further encourage onshore investment of international capital by providing more risk-management investment options.

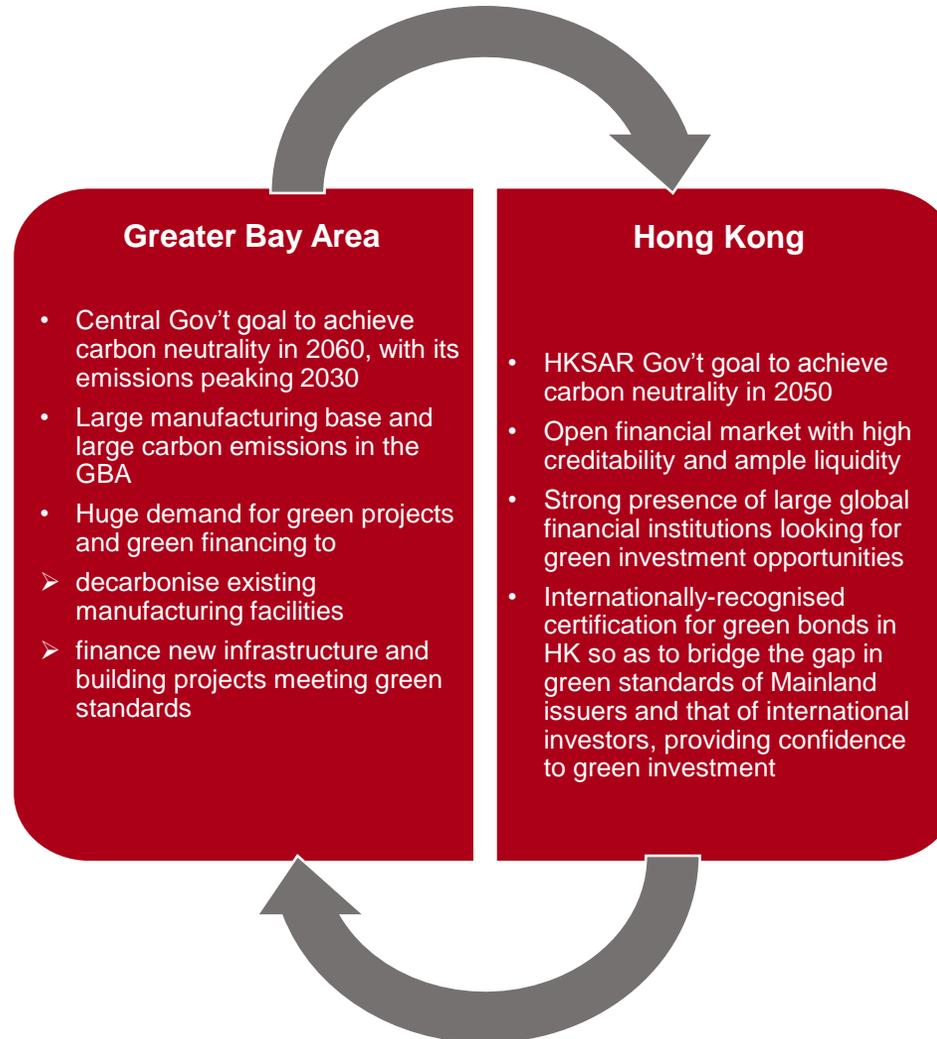
Providing RMB liquidity for Belt & Road Initiatives

- HK Dim Sum Bond market attractive for project finance to other Belt & Road countries, where their domestic bond markets are less developed.
- Mainland companies participating in BRI will need to conduct a series of cross-border financial activities like capital transfers, asset transactions and cross-border liquidity management etc., which will be supported by HK's professional services sector



Hong Kong as a Green Finance Hub in the GBA

- Hong Kong plays a unique role in cross-border green financing, with strong demand for green funding from Mainland China, and for foreign investment opportunities from international investors.
- Inaugural issuance of offshore RMB-denominated green bonds of RMB5b in Nov 2021 in Hong Kong, under the Government Green Bond Programme
- The Shenzhen Government announced that it will issue offshore RMB green bonds up to RMB5b (of which RMB 3.9b is green bond) in Oct 2021 – first time a Mainland municipal government has issued bonds outside the Mainland.

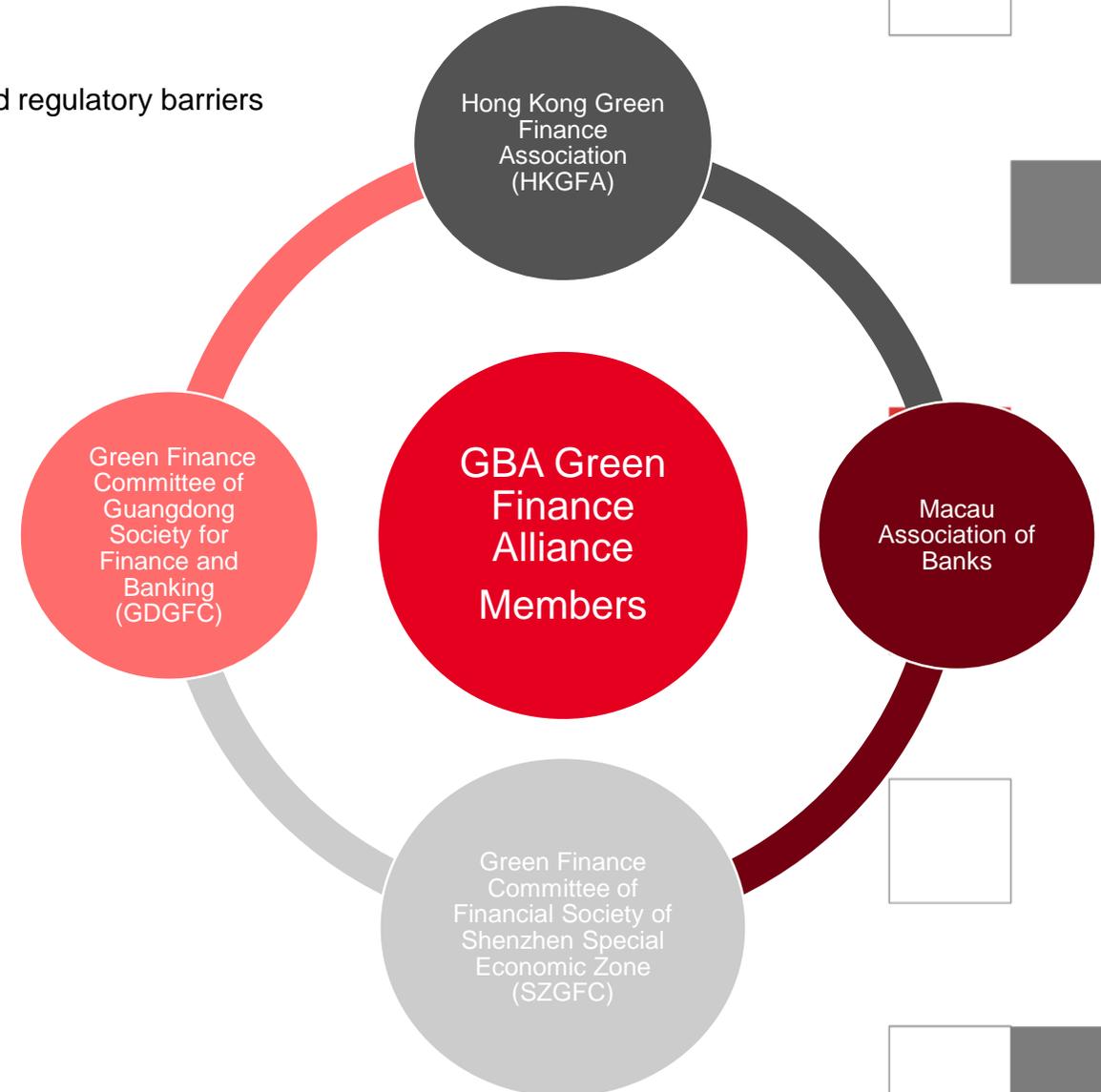


The Greater Bay Area Green Finance Alliance – Established in Sept. 2020

Objectives

- Incubate green projects to develop the GBA into a quality living area
- Bring in government support from different localities, reduce information and regulatory barriers
- Increase funding channels for green projects in the GBA

Five green finance-related projects supported by the Alliance





Fintech - GBA Opportunities

Opportunities for Fintech companies in the Greater Bay Area



Population¹
86 million



Land Area²
56,000km²



GDP³
US\$2 trillion

Invest**HK**
Fintech**HK**

¹ Larger than that of Germany

² Greater than Ireland, Latvia, Panama

³ Larger than Australia, Spain

A fast growing market for fintech companies to scale their expertise and know-how.

A platform for integration between professional and financial knowledge and software technologies

A gateway for Mainland companies to go global and international companies to enter the Mainland market

A test market for new products and services

Financial Innovations (Fintech) in the GBA - Trends and Opportunities



Cross-border trade finance

- Connectivity between e-Trade Connect and PBOC's Trade Finance Platform
- B2B Fintech companies facilitating trade finance



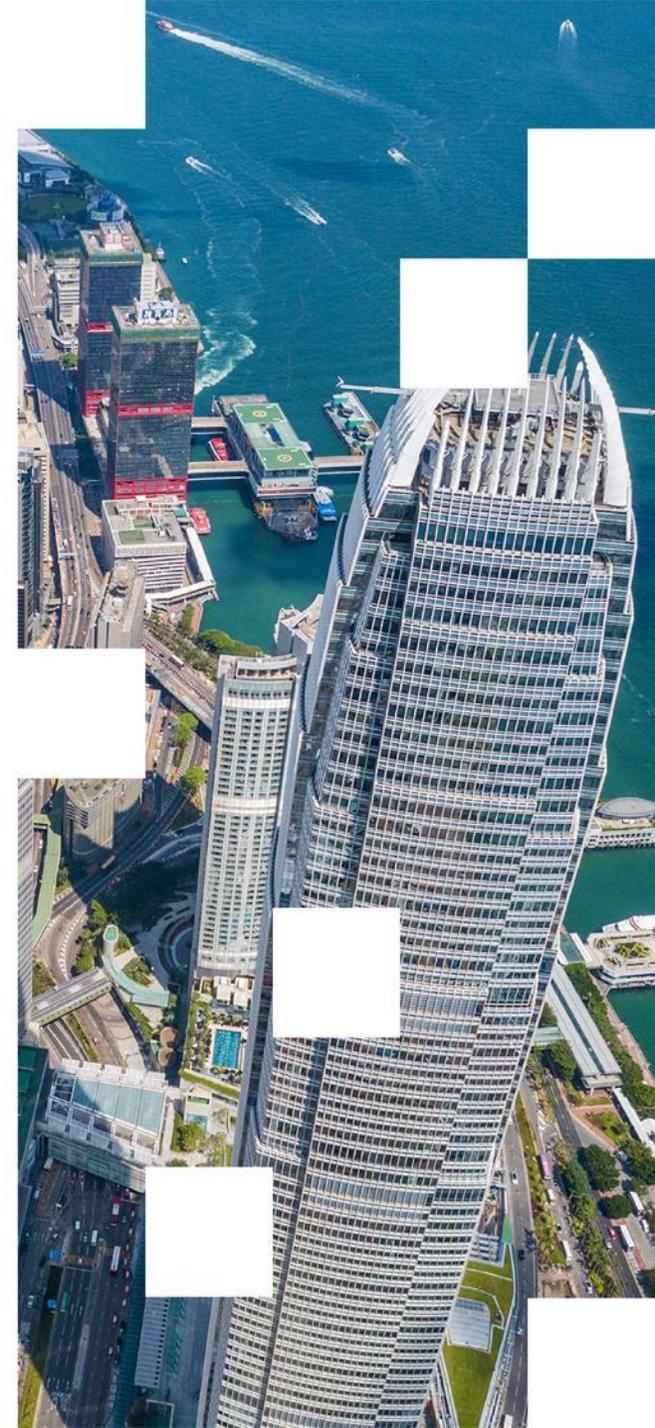
Cross-border payment

- E-CNY
- Fintech companies facilitating cross-border trade settlement



B2C fintech companies serving individual financial needs due to increasing flow of people, capital and data in the GBA

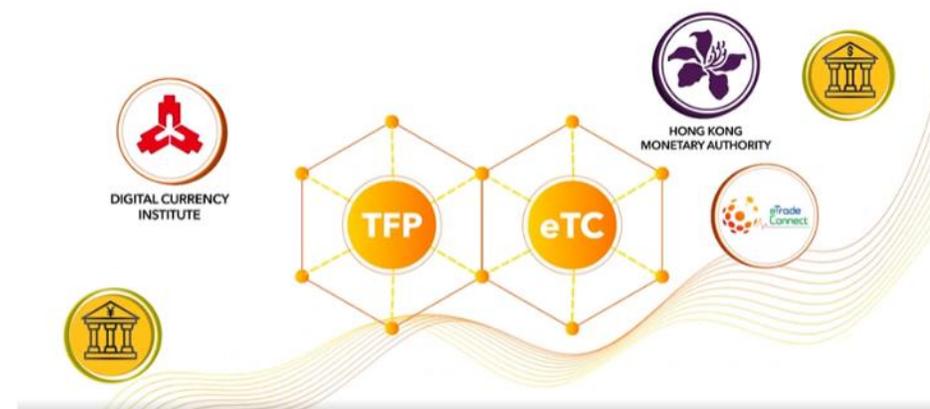
- Wealtech, Regtech, Insurtech



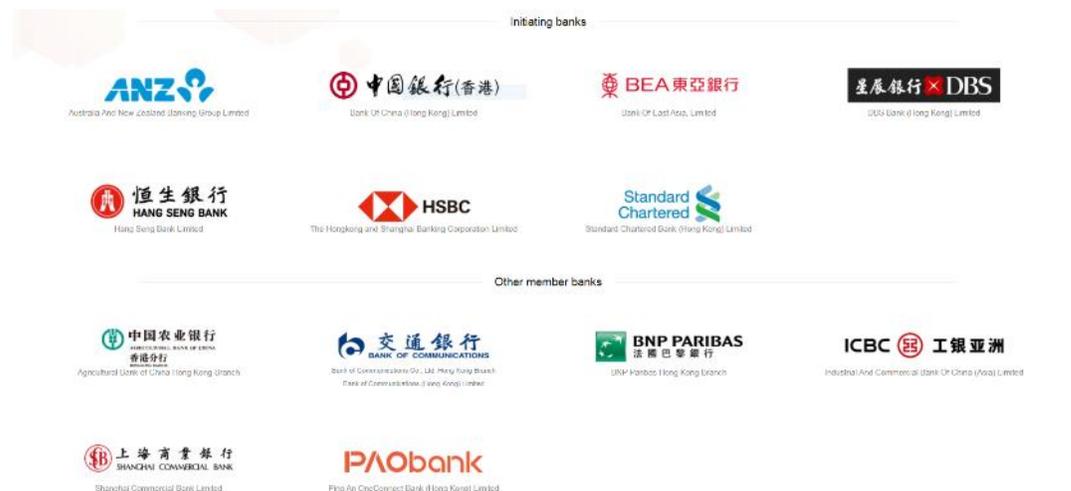
Cross-Border Trade Financing - Connectivity between HK's eTradeConnect (eTC) and People Bank of China's Trade Finance Platform (TFP)

- Currently, Mainland China is the world's 2nd largest traders of goods/commercial services and more than 50% of HK's trade volume are related to Mainland
- TFP and eTC were both set up in 2018 in Mainland China and HK respectively to serve SMEs
- The connected platform will improve trading experience through a paperless trade cycle (digitalise PO and invoice issuances, payment requests etc.)
- Enhance mutual trust between buyers and sellers
- Facilitate trading parties to obtain trade finance
- Ultimate goal of transforming trade ecosystem in the GBA

Regulatory authorities involved in HK and Mainland China



Participating banks in Mainland China and HK



HKMA Actively Exploring Use of e-CNY in Hong Kong

Wholesale Level:

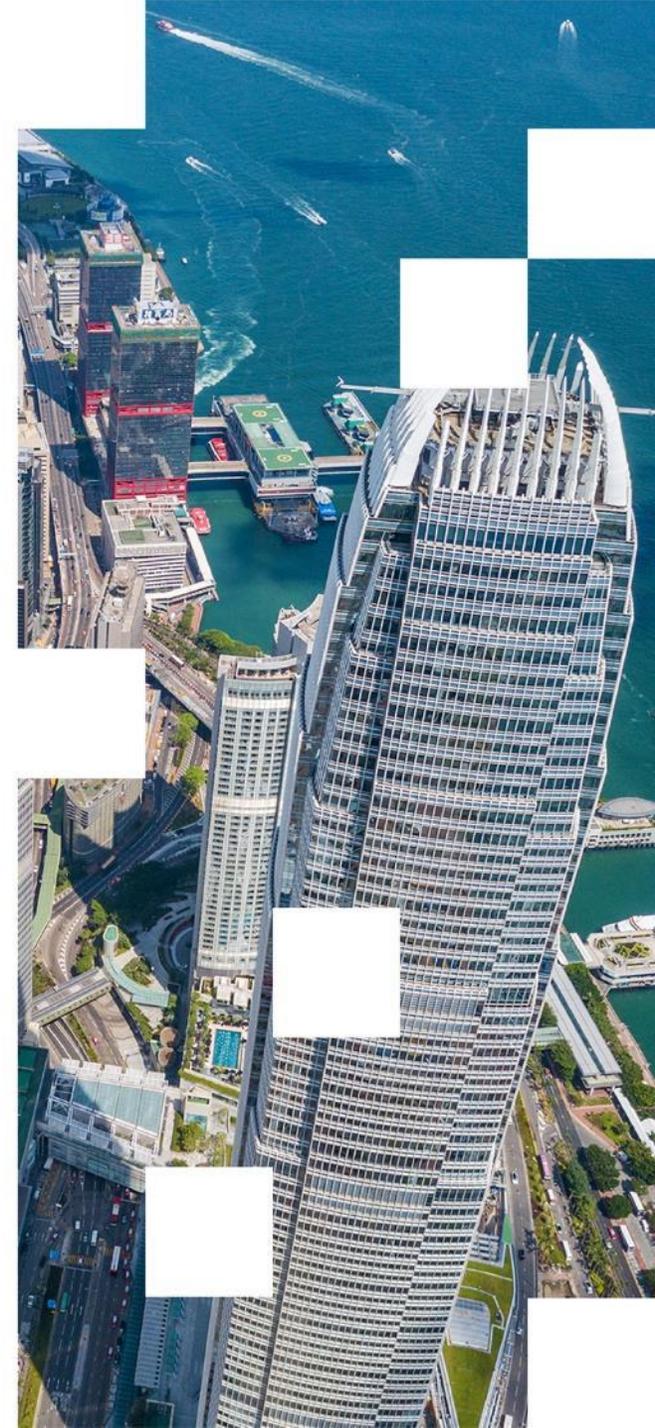
- In Feb 2021, the **Digital Currency Institute of the PBOC** has joined the **mBridge** project, an extensive research initiated by HKMA in 2017 to explore the applications of CBDCs in Hong Kong, cross-border transactions and FX settlements, alongside with Bank of Thailand and the central bank of UAE.

Retail Level:

- HKMA has been supporting PBOC in **technical testing of e-CNY in Hong Kong** to facilitate **cross-border payments**
- BOCHK rolled out a pilot scheme for the use of e-CNY for shopping and dining in Hong Kong

Benefits:

- Strengthening HK status' as the world's premier offshore RMB hub
- Practical way of accelerating the integration of people living in the GBA.



GBA Opportunities for Fintech Companies

Trade finance platforms

- Qupital – a HK-based fintech company that offers offshore US dollar loans to Mainland Chinese merchants selling their products on overseas marketplaces including Amazon.com, eBay and Lazada.
- Addressing the pain-points of many mainland SMEs, the company has received funding from the investors including the GBA Homeland Development Fund, Innovation and Technology Venture Fund, Mindworks and Alibaba Entrepreneurs Fund



Digital payment

- Currency Fair started out as an online P2P currency exchange platform in Ireland and in 2021 merged with payment workflow automation platform Assembly Payments to form Zai.
- Zai has formed a strategic partnership with Chinese B2B trade marketplace Buy-World. The partnership allows Zai to bring integrated financial services including global payment collections to businesses and individuals of the trade network of Buy-World, bringing in innovative way to connect Chinese suppliers with their foreign buyers.



GBA Opportunities for Fintech Companies (Cont'd)

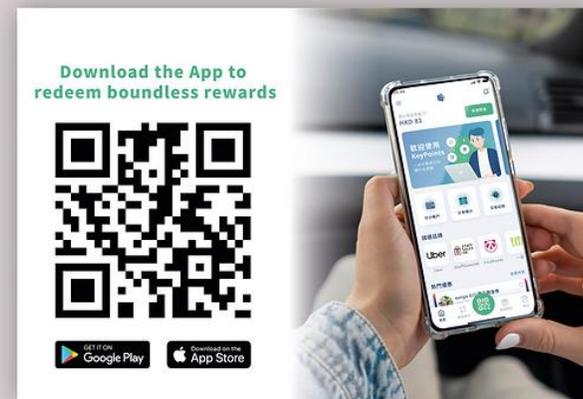
Digital lending platform

- WeLab is a B2C digital online platform leveraging its proprietary risk management technology to analyse unstructured mobile big data to offer financing solutions for individuals
- One of the 8 licensed virtual banks in HK
- With its advanced AI capabilities, the homegrown HK-unicorn has expanded into GBA, operating both B2C (WeLab Digital) and B2B (Tianmian Lab) business lines
- Postal Savings Banks of China's lending platform is powered by WeLab



Cross-Border Payment Tech

- Originated from the Cyberport, KeyPoints Exchange provides a point-system mechanism to facilitate consumer engagement
- Allows users to bind their points earned to their UnionPay credit cards so that they can pay with points earned at shops where UnionPay is used.
- A demonstration of how innovative payment tech can be deployed in the GBA in an integrated way





Preferential Policies for Financial Services & Fintech Companies from Hong Kong to Access GBA

Launch of GBA Fintech Pilot Trial Facility by HKMA and PBOC

In Oct 2021, HKMA and PBOC **signed a MOU**, agreeing to link up the **PBOC's Fintech Innovation Regulatory Facility** with the **HKMA's Fintech Supervisory Sandbox**, to provide a “one-stop platform” to allow financial institutions (FIs) and technology firms to pilot test their cross-boundary fintech initiatives concurrently in Hong Kong and GBA cities.

In **Feb 2022**, HKMA and PBOC have announced that both organisations are **ready to accept applications** from FIs and technology firms for conducting pilot trials of cross-boundary fintech initiative in the GBA.

In **Feb 2024**, HKMA, PBOC and the Monetary Authority of Macao (AMCM) agreed to expand the one-stop pilot trial facility to cover Macao in addition to Hong Kong and Mainland GBA cities.

The new approach will **encourage fintech companies to develop more cross-border financial tools** as the one-stop sandbox platform allows fintech experiments to be **conducted faster and at a lower cost**.

18 measures for Supporting the Linked Development of Shenzhen and Hong Kong Venture Capital Investments in Qianhai Sept 2022

Facilitate cross-border VC and PE Investments

More Qianhai QDIEs to invest in I&T companies in HKSTP and Cyberport via Qianhai

Strengthen financial co-operation between Shenzhen and HK

Encourage Qianhai VC and Qianhai-related SPACs and high-quality REITs to raise capital via HKEx listings

Consolidate HK's role as an international financial centre

HK LPFs set up qualified investment entities in Qianhai

Qianhai VC entities to join HK LPFs in opening overseas business



Qianhai Finance 30 Measures Feb 2023

30 specific measures to:

- **deepening financial cooperation between Shenzhen and Hong Kong**
- **interconnecting Shenzhen and Hong Kong financial markets and infrastructure**
- expanding the opening up of the financial industry to the outside world
- developing characteristic financial industries, and strengthening financial regulatory cooperation

Jointly announced by:



Qianhai Finance 30 Measures – Deepening Financial Cooperation between Shenzhen and Hong Kong



Cross-border connectivity in asset and wealth management, PE and VC investments

Cross-border financing for Hong Kong residents and Hong Kong enterprises in Qianhai

Pilot cross-border data transfer in credit reporting

Cross-border insurance offerings

Promote development of green finance

Promote joint development of fintech innovation

Cross-border connectivity in asset and wealth management, PE and VC investments

Allow HK-based private banks, family offices to set up specialised institutions in Qianhai

Support eligible HK asset managers to establish JV wealth management companies in Qianhai to carry out cross-border asset management business

Allow securities companies in Qianhai to provide their mainland clients securities research reports issued by licensed financial institutions in HK on HK Stock Connect stocks

Support securities companies to carry out cross-border business pilots projects and underwrite panda bond business

Explore Private-Equity Connect between Shenzhen and HK, in connection with Qianhai 18 measures

Establish a secondary trading market for PE and VC and expand industry exit channels

Cross-border financing for Hong Kong residents and Hong Kong enterprises in Qianhai and cross-border data transfer in credit reporting

Cross-border financing for Hong Kong residents and Hong Kong enterprises in Qianhai

- HK residents can share same credit status held by their HK parent bank and obtain credit in Qianhai, with consent of the residents
- Support HK companies engaging in innovative business to obtain RMB loans from overseas banks within a limit of RMB5M

Cross-border data transfer in credit reporting

- Allow Chinese and HK-funded commercial banks with branches in Qianhai and HK to carry out internal cross-border data flow pilot projects, while complying with relevant laws
- Explore legal cross-border exchange and cooperation between credit agencies in Hong Kong and Shenzhen to allow obtaining corporate credit information from both clients with client consent

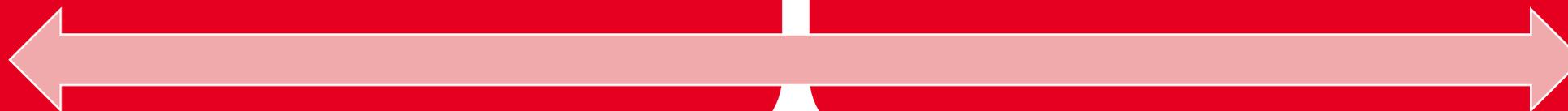
Cross-border insurance business between Hong Kong and Qianhai



Accelerate the establishment of GBA Insurance Service Centre in Qianhai Cooperation Zone



Support insurance institutions in Qianhai and Hong Kong to develop cross-border insurance products e.g. medical insurance, endowment insurance and shipping insurance etc.



Cross-border green finance cooperation between Qianhai and Hong Kong



Explore mutual recognition and unified environmental information disclosure standards for financial institutions



Support int'l green finance certification institutions in HK to set up in Qianhai



Encourage VCs to invest in greentech in Qianhai and the GBA



Support enterprises in Qianhai to issue green bonds in HK



Cross-border fintech innovation between Qianhai and Hong Kong



Support the set-up of Shenzhen-HK
fintech research centres in Qianhai
Cooperation Zone



Strengthen synergy and linkage
between fintech innovation and
regulatory tools and HKMA's
“regulatory sandbox”



Supporting Policy in Qianhai Shenzhen-Hong Kong Modern Service Industry Cooperation Zone for the Development of Financial Industry

- The "Interim Measures for the Management of Special Funds for Supporting the Development of the Financial Industry" was announced on 22 Nov 2021, valid for 3 years. 《深圳前海深港现代服务业合作区支持金融业发展专项资金管理暂行办法》
- The funds are used to give financial rewards ranging from **RMB500K to RMB10M** as **one-off settlement to attract relevant foreign, HK and Macao-funded financial companies** in the related fields to set up in Qianhai.



Example of Target Financial Companies to Benefit from the Special Funds to be set up Qianhai Shenzhen-HK Development Zone (Cont'd)

FINANCIAL INSTITUTION	ADDITIONAL INCENTIVES FOR HK and MACAO FINANCIAL COMPANIES	FINTECH	OTHERS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Newly registered financial holding companies• Commercial bank franchises• Licensed financial institutions• Foreign bank branches	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• HK/Macao/bank branches• Guangdong-HK-Macao financial cooperation platforms• QFLP, WOFE PFM,• Shenzhen-HK fintech accelerator• Cross-border wealth management business operators• HK and Macao youth innovation/entrepreneurship organisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• E-CNY operating institutions• Green financial technology• Outstanding fintech companies• Fintech subsidiaries initiated by HK and Macao banks and insurance companies• HK and Macau virtual banks and virtual insurance companies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Financial leasing• Commercial Factoring

The International Fintech Center Of The Greater Bay Area

灣區國際金融科技城

ABOUT

The International Fintech Center of the Greater Bay Area (IFCGBA) and Fintech Eco-park of the Greater Bay Area (IFEGBA), also called Futian Fintech Dual- Industrial Park, are high-standard fintech industrial parks established by the Futian District Government. They are two of the most dynamic, market-oriented industrial parks in the country, strategically positioned as the exchange hub for the fintech industry.

TARGET COMPANIES

- Recognized as an industry-leading company
- Having received more than RMB30 million funding from the government-backed funds or three independent investment firms



Futian District

SECTOR



AI



Fintech

STAR TENANTS

WeBank



WEBSITE

<http://www.ifcgba.com/>

