

## CE meets Secretary of CPC Zhuhai Municipal Committee (with photo)

The Chief Executive, Mr John Lee, met the Secretary of the CPC Zhuhai Municipal Committee and Secretary of the Hengqin Working Committee of the CPC Guangdong Provincial Committee, Mr Chen Yong, today (December 12) to exchange views on further deepening Hong Kong's co-operation with Zhuhai and promoting the high-quality development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA). Also attending the meeting were the Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs, Mr Erick Tsang Kwok-wai; the Secretary for Transport and Logistics, Mr Lam Sai-hung; and the Director of the Chief Executive's Office, Ms Carol Yip.

Mr Lee welcomed Mr Chen's visit to Hong Kong with his delegation. Mr Lee said that Hong Kong and Zhuhai have been working together to promote the development of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (HZMB). The implementation of Northbound Travel for Hong Kong Vehicles on July 1 this year is an important measure that boosts the interconnectivity and economic integration within the GBA, and brings about more impetus for the development of the western parts of the Pearl River Delta region. Hong Kong will continue to work closely with Zhuhai to jointly seize the opportunities brought by the HZMB.

Noting that the National 14th Five-Year Plan and the Outline Development Plan for the GBA have indicated clear support for consolidating Hong Kong's position as an international aviation hub, Mr Lee said that the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government has been continuously working with the Airport Authority Hong Kong (AAHK) to enhance the competitiveness of Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA). He said he is grateful that after joint discussions between the AAHK and the Zhuhai Municipal Government, the "Fly-Via-Zhuhai-Hong Kong" direct passenger service has officially launched today. Mr Lee said he hopes that the service can effectively integrate the aviation networks of the two airports in Hong Kong and Zhuhai, serving as another evidence of promoting complementary advantages and mutually beneficial co-operation in both cities.

He also thanked the Zhuhai Municipal Government for its support for the HKSAR Government's Labour Importation Scheme for Transport Sector launched in July this year. The support includes co-operation in accommodation and transportation to facilitate the same-day return for workers living in Zhuhai to travel to HKIA via the HZMB, enabling the smooth implementation of the scheme.

Mr Lee said that Hong Kong and Zhuhai have always been close partners in such aspects as economy and trade, investment, transportation and aviation. The HKSAR Government will continue to leverage the unique advantages of enjoying strong support of the motherland and being closely connected to the world under "one country, two systems" to strengthen co-

operation with Zhuhai and the entire GBA, with a view to creating strong impetus for growth and jointly making greater contributions to the country's development.

