



前海深港青年夢工場

Qianhai Shenzhen-Hong Kong Youth
Innovation and Entrepreneur Hub



The 28th ASPA Annual Conference

Peter Mok

Enabling ESG-Driven Growth: Governance Models Supporting Science Parks and Startups



A wide-angle photograph of a lush green park. In the foreground, there is a large, well-maintained green lawn. In the background, a dense line of trees with green and some reddish-brown foliage forms a natural wall. The sky is visible through the trees.

The Evolving ESG Landscape in China:
**A Year of Accelerated
Disclosure and Strategic Focus**

The Evolving ESG Landscape in China: A Year of Accelerated Disclosure and Strategic Focus



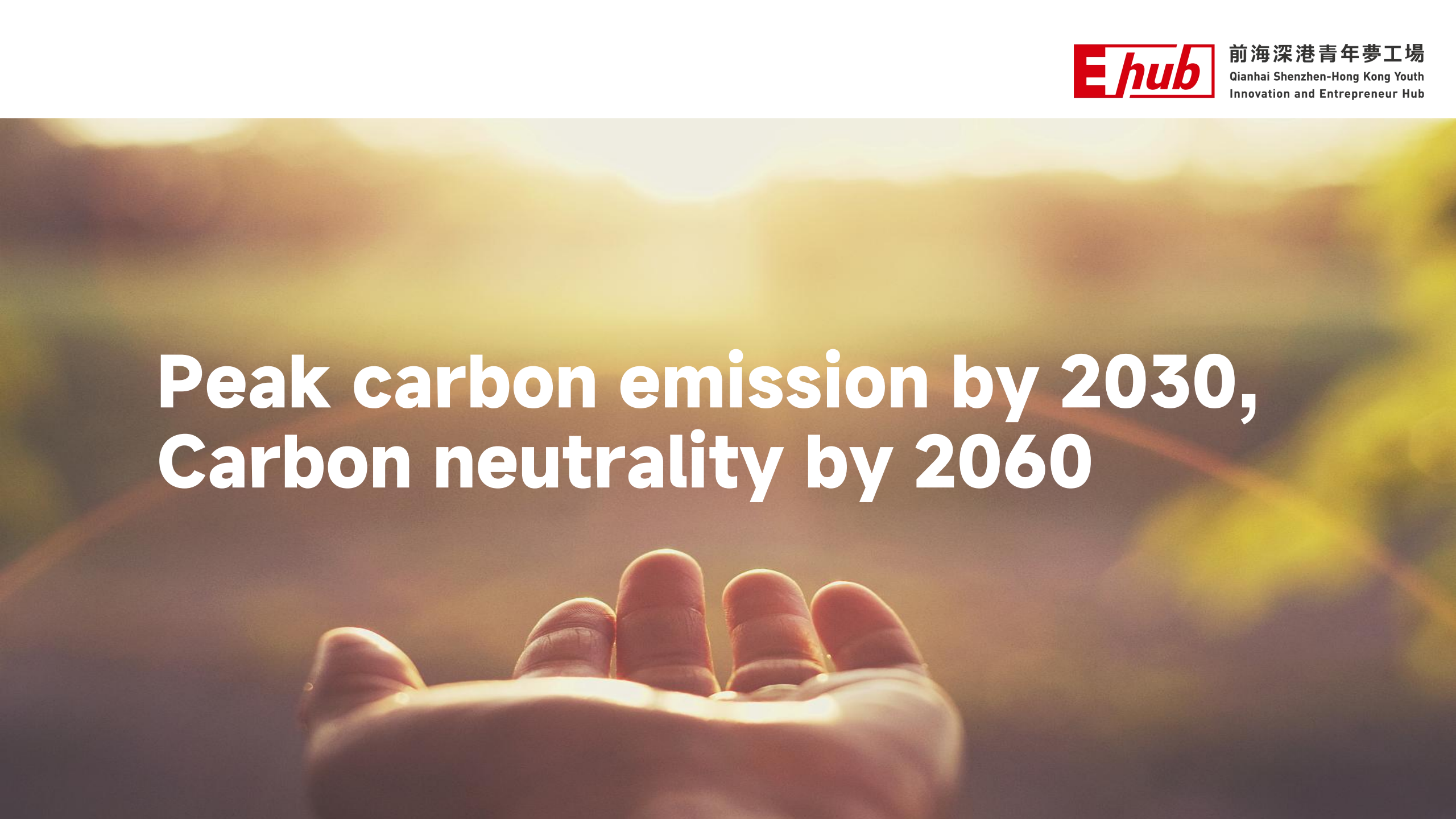
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Aligned with the objectives of its **"14th Five-Year Plan,"** is committed to addressing sustainable development challenges and steadily advancing the green and low-carbon transition. To this end, the country has implemented a comprehensive suite of policies spanning **technology, energy, industry,** and multiple other sectors.



Four Key Trends in China's ESG

1. Deepening "Dual Carbon" Focus
2. Significant Acceleration in Disclosure
3. Robust Growth in Sustainable Finance
4. Strengthened Compliance & Governance

The background of the slide is a photograph of a hand holding a small globe. The hand is positioned at the bottom, with fingers spread, supporting the globe. The scene is bathed in warm, golden light, suggesting a sunrise or sunset, with a blurred background of foliage and sky. The text is overlaid on the upper half of the image.

**Peak carbon emission by 2030,
Carbon neutrality by 2060**

Peak carbon emission by 2030, Carbon neutrality by 2060



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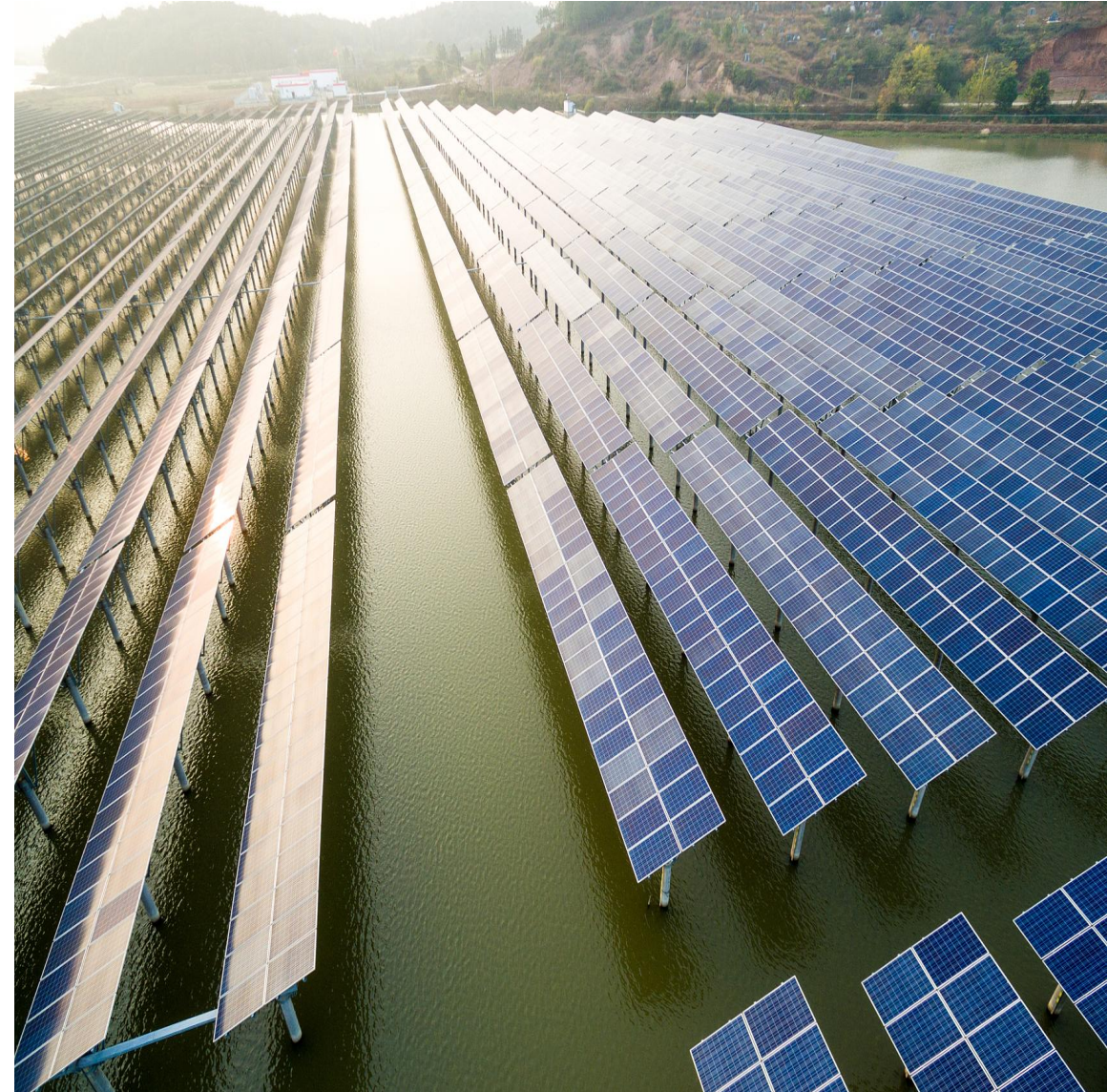
"Implementation Plan for Promoting High-Quality Development of New Energy in the New Era."

《关于促进新时代新能源高质量发展的实施方案》

**This isn't just a policy document;
it's a comprehensive action plan.**

It focuses on several critical pillars:

- 1. Innovating in how we develop and use new energy.**
- 2. Building a new power grid capable of handling a dominant share of renewables.**
- 3. Reforming regulations to streamline the new energy sector.**
- 4. And critically, guiding the industry's orderly growth, ensuring space for development, maximizing ecological benefits, and backing it all with supportive fiscal and financial policies.**



The tangible target?



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Achieving over 1.2 billion kilowatts in combined wind and solar capacity by 2030. This ambition is creating unprecedented opportunities and setting a clear direction for the market.



Green Finance Fuels the Transition

- **Directing Capital:** The People's Bank of China committed to building a **green financial system** to support carbon neutrality. Mandate and incentivize banks to issue green loans and companies to issue green bonds. This ensures the massive amount of capital needed for the transition is available.
- **Creating a Carbon Price:** The national Emissions Trading System (ETS) puts a cost on carbon pollution, making it financially smarter for companies to invest in clean technology.
- **Mandating transparency and action:** Companies are required to **disclose their ESG and environmental impacts**, compelling them to **assess and manage climate risks**. This **encourages innovation and decarbonization**, helping them stay competitive and compliant.



Renewable Tech

Massive state support for **R&D and manufacturing** of next-generation solar panels, wind turbines, and energy storage (batteries, hydrogen).
This directly replaces fossil fuels.



Digitalization

Policies promoting AI, Big Data, and the Internet of Things (IoT) to create a **"smart grid"** that can manage the intermittency of renewables and optimize energy use in cities and factories, drastically improving efficiency.



A close-up photograph of a lush green lawn with a fine texture.

To the Tech Sector:
"Innovate and scale the solutions we need."

A photograph of a clear blue sky with a few white clouds over a calm, turquoise ocean. A small sailboat is visible on the horizon.

To the Population:
**"Develop your skills and adopt sustainable practices
for a greener future."**

A photograph of a sunset or sunrise over the ocean, with a gradient of orange, yellow, and red colors.

To Policymakers:
**"Create the rules and incentives to make this
transition inevitable."**

China's strategy : Using technological innovation as the primary engine for decarbonization and new economic growth.

***China's 15th Five-Year Plan (2026-2030) will pivot from manufacturing-led growth to innovation-driven development, prioritizing technology, sustainability and economic resilience**

**Clusters in CHINA
made the most
CONSISTENT
RANK
improvements**

The top 15 innovation clusters in 2025

Cluster rank	Cluster name	Economy	PCT applications	Scientific publications	Venture capital deals
1	Shenzhen-Hong Kong-Guangzhou	CN / HK	117,542	193,635	6,916
2	Tokyo-Yokohama	JP	135,129	115,773	5,154
3	San Jose-San Francisco	US	50,813	56,510	16,296
4	Beijing	CN	49,792	331,874	6,727
5	Seoul	KR	71,318	142,509	7,376
6	Shanghai-Suzhou	CN	42,819	206,292	8,705
7	New York City	US	13,705	74,833	11,283
8	London	UK	6,981	57,152	10,411
9	Boston-Cambridge	US	19,333	75,168	4,592
10	Los Angeles	US	11,832	42,946	5,891
11	Osaka-Kobe-Kyoto	JP	38,307	52,227	546
12	Paris	FR	16,328	60,680	4,085
13	Hangzhou	CN	11,128	81,181	2,804
14	San Diego	US	26,713	19,863	1,705
15	Nanjing	CN	8,242	136,094	1,266

Source: Global Innovation Index 2025 Rankings, Cornell University, INSEAD, WIPO



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The Greater Bay Area (9 + 2)

GBA OVERVIEW

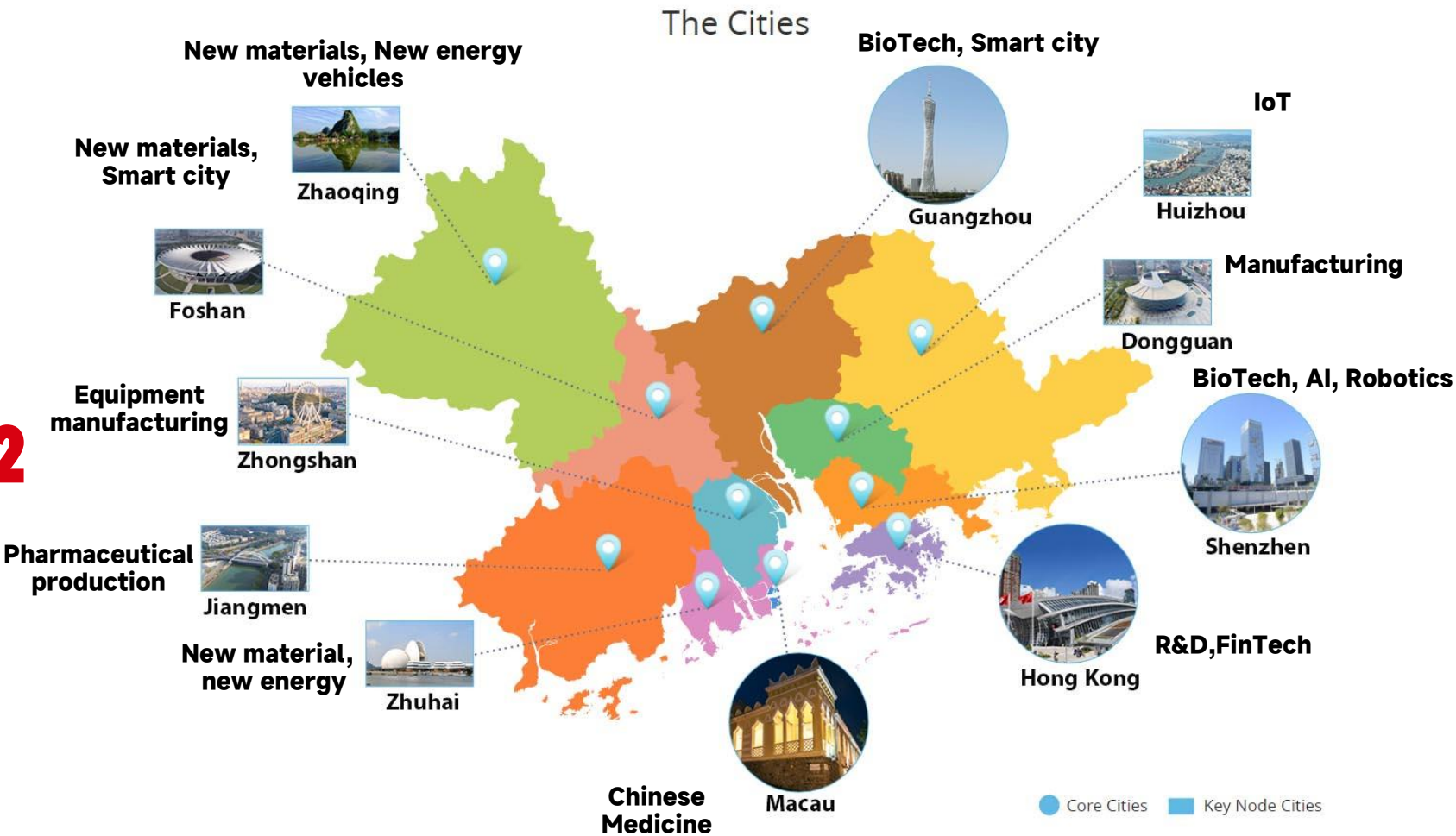
OVER **87M**
TOTAL POPULATION

AROUND
56,000km²
TOTAL AREA

GDP OVER
RMB 14.5T
IN 2024



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Source:<https://www.bayarea.gov.hk/en/about/overview.html>

Photo credit: <https://www.bayarea.gov.hk/en/about/overview.html>

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SHENZHEN

Policy Driver: "Green Finance Regulations" (2023)



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Photo credit:bingfengwu

Mandatory Disclosure:

161

financial institutions (Banks, Insurance, Trusts, etc.) required to disclose environmental reports.

SHENZHEN

Shenzhen's 2025-2027 ESG Work Plan: Key Targets



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100%

ESG disclosure for key state-owned enterprises and their listed entities.

~60% target for Shenzhen A-share companies in key sectors (Tech, Green, Bio, etc.).



Shenzhen demonstrates that stringent ESG policy drives both environmental improvement and robust economic growth.



QIANHAI



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Pilot Zone: Environmental Performance

As of 2023/2024,

- **Carbon Intensity:**
Regional GDP carbon intensity starts to decrease.
(Carbon Intensity = Total CO₂ Emissions / GDP)
- **Green Buildings:**
Cumulative emissions from new buildings

↓ 14.5%

(vs. 2020 baseline).



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Convention & Exhibition Zone and
Maritime Development Zone

会展新城及海洋新城片区
29.36km²

14.92 km²

8x expansion

120.56 km²

Airport and Surrounding Area

机场及周边片区
30.07km²

Bao'an Center and Dachan Bay Area

宝安中心区及大铲湾片区
23.32km²

Qianhai Three Bays Area

前海深港现代服务业合作区 (扩区前)
14.92km²

蛇口及大小南山片区
22.89km²

Shekou and Dananshan
Xiaonanshan Area



Tencent Helix

RMB

300.88B

REGIONAL GDP

Growth
8.6%

RMB

169.1B

FIXED ASSET INVESTMENT

Growth
10.1%

RMB

26.7B

UTILIZED FDI

Accounted for the city
60.4%

Accounted for
Guangdong
26.3%

RMB

706.7B

IMPORT AND EXPORT

Growth
42.4%

Data as of Dec, 2024

NEW INITIATIVES OF QIANHAI

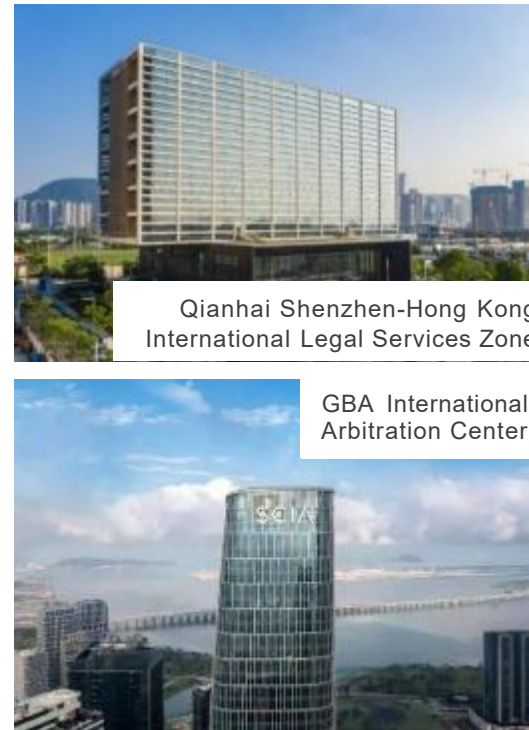
TAX

**Enjoying HK's tax scheme
(personal & corporate)**



LEGAL

**HK Law / Juries / Mediation
“Dual City, Dual Court”**



CROSS-BOARDER FIANCE

**Increased financing ratio cap
Securities investment
QFLP & QDIE**





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QIANHAI EHUB - "FIRST STOP" FOR GREATER BAY AREA

Phase III

Modern Services 前海深港現代服務業



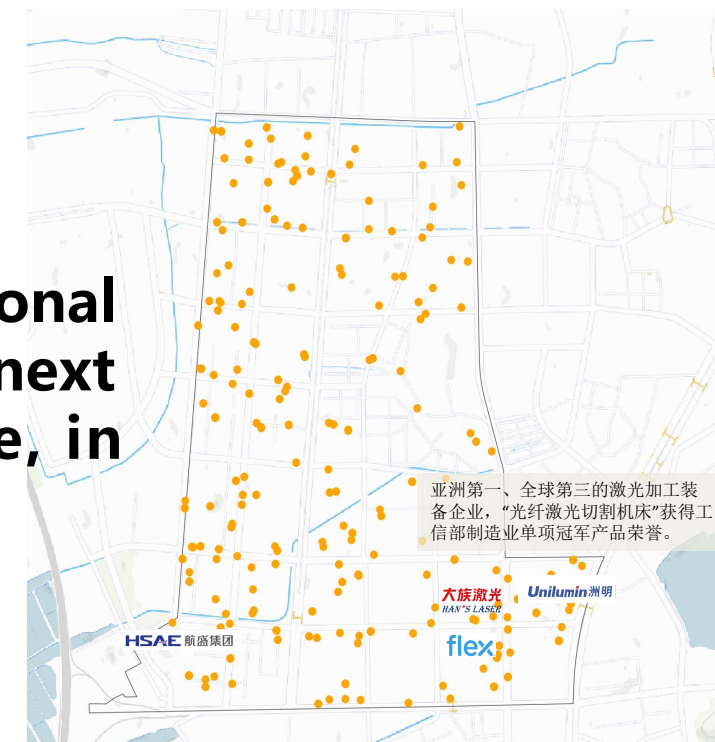
Ehub Incubation Programme
Graduates may enjoy up to 30–70%
rent discount in Qianhai Authority-
designated venues.



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**East of the International
Convention Center, next
to the airport zone, in
industrial cluster**



Manufacturing & Processing
前海深港先進製造業

5 Core Sectors



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513+ INCUBATION &
ENTREPRENEURIAL
TECH VENTURES

459+ FROM HONG KONG,
MACAU, TAIWAN
& GLOBAL MARKET



**ARTIFICIAL
INTELLIGENCE**



**EMBODIED
INTELLIGENCE &
ROBOTICS**



HEALTHCARE



**CULTURE,
CREATIVITY &
SPORT TECH**



FINTECH

The “1510” Development Model



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- **RMB1** MONTHLY SERVICE FEE / m²,
- ENJOY 3 YEARS OF INCUBATION/ ACCELERATION
- **RMB 500M** INVESTMENT FUND
- GATHERING INNOVATIVE RESOURCES FROM 5 HK LEADING UNIVERSITIES
- **10** TYPES OF INNOVATION RESOURCES
- **100,000m²** NEW OFFICE AND LAB SPACE

Ecosystem - Service Strategy

SZ-HK Collaboration



University



Youth & Talent



Acceleration

Incubation

Corporate Success

Corporate Services



Innovation competition



Cross-Border Logistics



Supply Chain



Laboratories and Research Institutes



Incubators and Accelerators

0 to 1

Ehub Landing Programme (ELP)
前海項目落地計畫

R&D and commercialize-tion backing to bring your product to market
研發及產業化支持

C Set

1 to 10

Ehub Accelerator Programme (EAP)
前海企業加速計畫

Market validation
customer pilots & feedback to refine your product
市場驗證

B Set

10 to IPO

Elite Hub
前海精英企業計畫

Greater Scale-up Potential
Industry Leaders, Follow-on Funding & IPO coaching
龍頭企業&後續融資及上市扶導

A Set



Investment and Financing



Application scenarios and key enterprise cooperation



Overseas Expansion and Promotion



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EHUB END-TO-END FINANCING SUPPORT SYSTEM

**ANGEL
INVESTMENT**

**PRIMARY
MARKET
ACCELERATION**

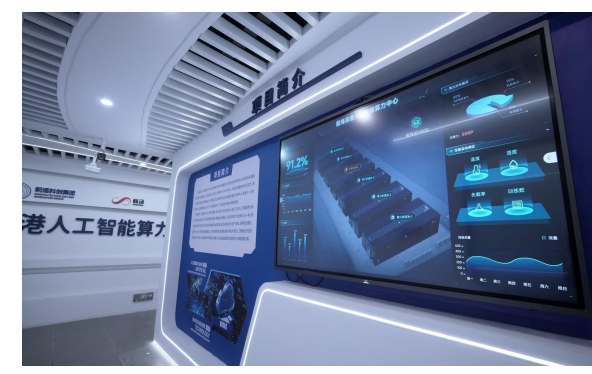
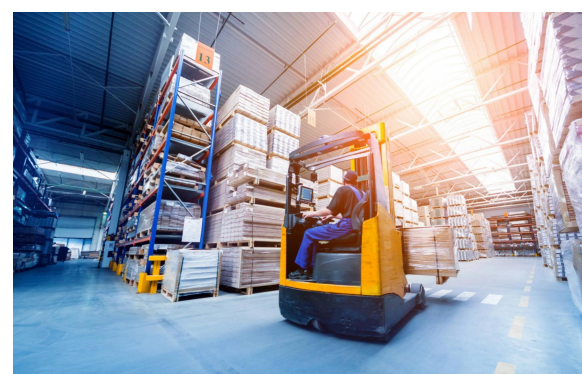
**QHEE TRADING
PLATFORM
SUPPORT**

LISTING

The Qianhai Equity Exchange Center will establish a special board - a Shenzhen-Hong Kong Joint Innovation Board. Companies can list here, obtain a dedicated code, hold a bell-ringing ceremony, and enhance their corporate reputation and financing capabilities.

TECHNOLOGY APPLICATION SCENARIOS

Finance, Manufacturing, Logistics, Cultural and Creativity



Large Language
Model Applications



Intelligent Connected
Vehicle



Low Attitude Economy
Testing Facilities



Qianhai Bonded
Warehouse



COMPUTING , TRANSMISSION, TESTING, PILOT PRODUCTION, INFORMATION MANAGEMENT



Shenzhen-Hong Kong AI Computing Center



GBA Integrated Computing Service Platform



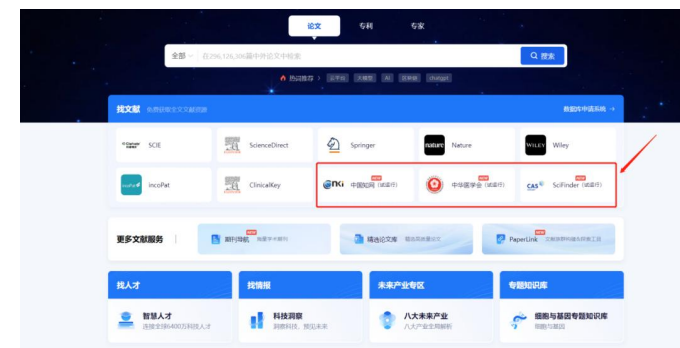
National Modern Internet Exchange Centre



GBA Industrial Internet Public Technology Service Platform



Shenzhen-Hong Kong Intelligent Manufacturing Common Technology Platform



International Science and Technology Information Center (Shenzhen)

Innovation Cluster

Qianhai Ehub Base

HKU Techno-
Entrepreneurship
Academy



香港大學
THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG



Ehub II Block A

POLYU -Qianhai
Disruptive Technology
and Innovation Research
Centre



THE HONG KONG
POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY
香港理工大學



Knowledge Transfer and
Entrepreneurship Office
知識轉移及創業處



PolyU Academy for
Interdisciplinary Research
香港理工大學高等研究院

Ehub II Block E

The Institute of
International Affairs
(CUHK-Shenzhen)



香港中文大學深圳研究院
Shenzhen Research Institute
The Chinese University of Hong Kong



研究及知識轉移服務處
Office of Research and
Knowledge Transfer Services

Ehub II Block B

香港科技大學
THE HONG KONG CYBER
UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE
AND TECHNOLOGY



香港城市大學
City University of Hong Kong



HKCRC
香港智能建造研發中心



研發辦公室
Research
Office



Knowledge
Transfer Office
知識轉移處



香港教育大學
The Education University
of Hong Kong



香港珠海學院
HONG KONG
CHU HAI COLLEGE



香港都會大學
HONG KONG
METROPOLITAN
UNIVERSITY



Lingnan 嶺南大學
University 香港 Hong Kong



香港恒生大學
THE HANG SENG UNIVERSITY
OF HONG KONG

高科院
Thei

Technological and Higher
Education Institute of Hong Kong
香港高等教育科技學院



創意研究院
Institute of Creativity



Qianhai Becomes a New Epitome of China's Green Development





WECHAT



LINKEDIN



WEBSITE



PROFESSIONAL · INTEGRITY · IMPACT