

**Voice of  
the Mayors**



**Chen Jianhua**

Guangzhou

An Innovation-driven City



# About

## Voice of the Mayors

Celebrating its thirtieth anniversary, METROPOLIS wishes to leverage the unique experience of its members, represented by the mayors of the major metropolises, presidents and governors of metropolitan regions. Too often, the expertise of these high-ranking officials is lost once their term has come to an end. However, at a time when global urban development is quickening its pace, their experience is more beneficial than ever for the new generations of local decision-makers, the entire spectrum of public and private local development stakeholders and partners in the international community.

In its capacity as a network of the world's major metropolises, METROPOLIS also seeks to make an active contribution to the current international debate concerning the revision of the Millennium Development Goals, negotiations on climate change and the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III).

This is how the idea for **Voice of the Mayors** came into being, as a wealth of first-hand testimonies from local and regional leaders whose experience deserves to be recounted and disseminated. Bequeathing this legacy also conveys the willingness of METROPOLIS members to share their experiences and to enhance the exchange of knowledge, a concerted effort to contribute towards shaping sustainable urban development worldwide.

Upon the creation of METROPOLIS in 1984, the 14 founding members expressed their desire to work together to strengthen their mutual capacities to manage their cities. **Voice of the Mayors** helps to achieve this goal with the 136 members that comprise METROPOLIS today and the young generations of local decision-makers.

The testimony you are about to read serves to enhance the association's training activities and the work carried out within the framework of the METROPOLIS Initiatives, the METROPOLIS Women International Network and of METROPOLIS Youth.

The experience of the leading decision-makers in major metropolises across the world is essential. They manage the day-to-day needs of millions of citizens as regards housing, mobility, education, health, safety and energy, to name but a few. They run cities, urban areas and metropolitan regions that are sometimes larger than certain United Nations member states in terms of population, budget size and global reach. They are the main political leaders on the front line, tackling the challenges facing the planet. Nevertheless, this role has yet to be sufficiently recognised in present-day international relations.

It is Metropolis' aspiration that **Voice of the Mayors** will help these leaders' words to be better heard, listened to and taken into consideration by the international community.

**Alain LE SAUX**  
**METROPOLIS Secretary-General**  
**October, 2014**



## Curriculum vitae

CHEN JIANHUA

Mr. Chen Jianhua, Mayor of Guangzhou, was born in March 1956 in Lufeng County of Guangdong Province, China. When China resumed its college entrance examination in 1978, Mayor Chen became one of the first college students, during which he obtained a Bachelor's degree from Beijing University of Science and Technology and became an engineer. Later on, he obtained a Master degree in administration from the School of Administrative Affairs, Sun Yat-sen University. Mr. Chen has been devoted to local governments and public administration for nearly 30 years. In December 2011, he became Acting Mayor of Guangzhou and took his current post in January 2012. In October 2013, he was elected as Co-president of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) during the organization's IV World Congress.

Chen Jianhua was an eye-witness in Guangdong's reform and opening up. He was one of China's first official leaders to publicize his email address and micro-blog (the Chinese twitter) account. After he became Mayor of Guangzhou, the city became a platform for international cities to exchange on innovative management by hosting the Guangzhou International Urban Innovation Conference and the Guangzhou International Award for Urban Innovation.

# Chen Jianhua

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## Scientific Coordination and Proactive Exploration: Accelerating the Development of Guangzhou into an Innovation-driven City

**A**s the Mayor of Guangzhou and Co-president of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), I believe that building an innovation-driven city constitutes the only path to sustainable development. Symbolizing the core competitiveness of a city, innovation is the essence of urban development.

In the modern era, the competition among cities boils down to a contest in the capabilities for innovation. The capability for innovation is visibly at play in deciding the ebb and flow of great cities in the world history and in determining the rise and fall of Chinese cities in the overall strength ranking. In this sense, urban administrators are all faced with a critical challenge – how to propel the leapfrog development of their cities through innovation.

As a famous cultural city with a time-honored history of over 2,200 years, Guangzhou is the birthplace of the famed Marine Silk Road, rightly crowned with the title of “a thousand-year business city”. Since the reform and opening up program was inceptioned, the people of Guangzhou, with their pioneering and enterprising spirit, have pressed forward against great odds and eventually have developed Guangzhou into one of the most open and market-based cities in China. Daring to innovate has long been a noble tradition of Guangzhou. Be it in the ancient times or in the modern era, Guangzhou has always been a city that constantly draws on and gives rise to new ideas, new concepts and new technologies. In other words, never has Guangzhou been a city of isolation, seclusion and conservatism that resists and resents newborn things. Innovation is the cardinal attribute of the people of Guangzhou, which has already been seared into their genetic make-up.



Canton Tower and Zhujiang new Town

As the sole national central city of South China, Guangzhou is facing new challenges brought about by economic globalization, cultural pluralism, industrial high-end orientation and technological revolution in the post-financial-crisis era.

**First, new challenges brought about by industrial globalization and technological revolution.**

In the present-day world, a new wave of technological revolution and industrial revolution is sweeping across the globe, bringing with it profound and far-reaching impact on industrial upgrading, urban transition and lifestyle transformation. Against this backdrop, to catch up with developed cities of the world, Guangzhou needs to make the transition from “competing with low labor costs” to “winning on the basis of intelligent technologies”, sharpening its competitive edge not by offering favorable policies and exploiting resources but by driving innovation in science and

technology. Only by so doing can Guangzhou ascend to the commanding height of industrial and technological development and enable its citizens to have their share of the benefits generated by technological revolution. These new challenges caused by industrial globalization and technological revolution are what Guangzhou has to surmount in its endeavor to develop into an innovation-driven city. Nevertheless, if properly dealt with, these new challenges can also bring with them great opportunities for Guangzhou.

**Second, new challenges brought by rapid urban development and transition.**

Over the past 30 odd years since the policy of reform and opening up was inceptioned, space of the built-up area of Guangzhou has expanded from 136 square kilometers to 1,025 square kilometers. The sweeping trend of urbanization has put a lid on excessive land utilization and brought huge pressure to bear on the environmental carry-

ing capacity. Under such new circumstances, the crude mode of urban development and administration has come to an end, with the days gone when urban administrators could erect a project wherever there was enough room and expand the cityscape by centering on simply one metropolitan core. Without any effort to accelerate the pace of urban transition and upgrading, Guangzhou will be very likely to be afflicted with the so-called “city malaises” just as some mega cities were in the past, such as overpopulation, traffic congestion, housing shortage and environmental degradation. These “city malaises” will pose serious impediments to the sustainable development of Guangzhou. In this sense, only through perpetual innovation can Guangzhou adapt to these new changes and lead the future trend of urban development.

### **Third, new challenges brought about by pluralistic and diverse demands of the people.**

Guangzhou is home to a residential population of 12.7 million people. Factoring in the flowing population, the overall population of Guangzhou exceeds 16 million people. Under the new circumstances of population explosion and the diversification of social values, social interests, cultural values and thoughts, urban administrators are faced with new challenges in urban management and social services. These challenges present themselves in manifold manifestations. For instance: some eight million Chinese Yuan (RMB) have to be spent each day in Guangzhou just to dispose various forms of waste, with the annual expenditure on waste disposal exceeding two billion Chinese RMB two billion Yuan; to admit all the children of the city's more than seven million migrant workers into public schools, Guangzhou has to double the number of its public schools, and there is no enough land to realize this target. Therefore, urban administrators in Guangzhou cannot shy away from a realistic issue: how to meet the increasing diverse and personalized public demands of the people in Guangzhou and to achieve equalization in public services.

Each and every urban administrator in Guangzhou has been pondering upon these cru-

cial questions: how to develop their city with new strategies, how to manage their city with new approaches and how to alleviate the “growing pains” of their city. As it stands today, Guangzhou is at a critical juncture of economic transition. As the policy-makers of Guangzhou, we firmly believe that only by adhering to the path of innovation-driven growth can we make the transition from “made in Guangzhou” into “created in Guangzhou” and achieve our development targets in a most efficient manner.

### **Building an Innovation-driven City Requires Relentless Exploration and Practice**

There are a great number of theories on innovation-driven cities, many of which are presented in a systematic way. I believe that the connotations of an innovation-driven city are not confined to innovation or industrial innovation in the realm of traditional economic activities; rather, the connotations extend to innovation in urban production, urban life, infrastructure, social institutions and culture. In recent years, we have undertaken some new positive experiments in the policy-making and policy-implementing processes for developing an innovation-driven city.

### **Proactively exploring new paths to comprehensively transforming old urban areas.**

In the 1990s, due to excessive construction and unsystematic planning, nearly 310,000 people inhabited in Tongdewei, an urban section of Guangzhou that then covered less than four square kilometers. With the population density reaching over 80,000 people per square kilometer, Tongdewei suffered from a lack of public infrastructure in transportation, healthcare and education, which caused huge complaints among the local residents. To effectively transform Tongdewei, we called on the local residents to “work in concert and commit to the objective of developing Tongdewei into an urban area of happiness”. Under the guidance of this overarching objective, we formulated The Work Plan for the Comprehensive Transformation of Tongdewei, which encompassed the guiding policies of “increasing transportation facilities and administrative service facilities and reducing the flow of traffic and

passengers” and the “9+1” project (“One” refers to the transformation of Tianxin Village and “nine” refers to nine collectively-owned economic projects). After more than one year of concerted efforts, the plan produced significant and favorable outcomes, winning high acclaim from people of all walks of life. We are focusing on advancing optimization in the following four areas for realizing the overarching objective of “building Tongdewei into an urban area where people live a happy life”.

First, to optimize the road network. We have taken initiatives to develop transportation facilities along rail lines and streets. As it stands today, the land space of street transportation facilities in Tongde Street has been expanded from 50.4 hectares to 91.7 hectares. RMB 950 million Yuan has been allocated for the construction of a north-south elevated highway.

Second, to optimize the community environment. Focus has been placed on the transformation of freight distribution areas. Specific measures are: special campaigns to penalize freight distribution stores without operating licenses; great efforts to tear down unauthorized construction projects; to clean up building facades; comprehensive treatment programs for overhead power lines, streams and hygienic dead space. Consequently, the community environment of Tongdewei has been greatly improved.

Third, to optimize public facilities. The land space of public service facilities in Tongdewei has been enlarged from 10.7 hectares to 37.2 hectares, and public green space has been expanded from 2.2 hectares to 17.59 hectares. Efforts are being exerted to incrementally improve public facilities in education, healthcare and employment. RMB 15 million Yuan has been allocated by the government for the construction of Tongde Park, which covers a total area of 19,560 square meters, thus ending the history of Tongdewei as an area without a community-based park.

Fourth, to optimize the traffic environment. Since 2013, five campaigns have been carried out to clamp down on unlicensed vehicles of five categories: electric bicycles, three-wheel vehicles, motorcycles, combustion-motor-driv-

en wheelchairs and modified vehicles. Over 230 security personnel were mobilized to undertake these five campaigns. As a result, a total of 461 unlicensed vehicles were confiscated, leading to a significant improvement in the traffic conditions of Tongdewei.

### **Proactively exploring new paths to waste classification and disposal.**

As it stands today, Guangzhou produces on average 14,000 tons of domestic garbage and is able to dispose 13,800 tons of garbage mainly by landfill. With the increase of landfill sites coming to a standstill, Guangzhou is troubled with the conundrum of “waste siege”. Therefore, it is imperative that Guangzhou should reduce the total amount of waste by beefing up waste classification and improving its waste collection and disposal system. By drawing upon advanced experience and practices from home and abroad, we seek to explore a path to building a waste classification and disposal model of Guangzhou characteristics, under the overarching objective of “recycling all domestic waste and land-filling no raw refuse”. A technical roadmap has been drawn up, which consists of the major steps of “waste sorting for waste reduction and recycling, segregated waste collection and transportation and harmless incineration and landfill. Over the years, with tremendous efforts on our part, we have registered progressive achievements in waste classification. First, extensive publicity and promotion on waste classification. Since 2012, we have convened two special conferences on waste classification and disposal, involving party cadres and government officials at five different levels. Catchy slogans were designed to galvanize the efforts of people from all walks of life in winning the “protracted battle” of waste classification and disposal, calling on the people to “sell whatever waste that can be used for recycling, singling out hazardous waste from the rest and separating the wet from the dry”.

Second, establishment and perfection of guarantee mechanisms. Specific approaches include: formulation of Opinions on the Exploita-

tion and Utilization of "Urban Mineral Resources"; establishment of a municipal solid waste management center and a municipal public consulting and supervision commission; greater allocation of fiscal input and further opening of the market; provision of incentives for technological R&D; intensification of public supervision; publicity and education.

Third, improvement of the waste classification and disposal system. The amount of waste disposed at waste disposal terminals in 2011 and 2012 respectively decreased by 2.97% and 3.09% year on year. In 2013, the amount of waste disposed at waste disposal terminals further declined, with the proportion of waste recycled against the total amount increased by 35% year on year. Five waste incineration plants have been put under construction and are expected to be put

into operation within three years, with the waste handling capacity reaching 11,000 tons on a daily basis. Facilities for catering waste disposal have been planned.

**Proactively exploring new solutions to traffic congestion.**

The CPC Committee of Guangzhou Municipality and the People's Government of Guangzhou Municipality have long attached great importance to the issue of traffic congestion, as it bears greatly on the sustainable development of Guangzhou. In 2011, we formulated The Measures on Improving the Traffic Condition of the City Center of Guangzhou, which were abbreviated as the "Thirty Measures". We successfully prevented further worsening of the traffic conditions in the city center of Guangzhou and reducing the impact of auto growth on urban transportation by



Flower city Square and Haixinsha Island-Site of Opening Ceremony of 2010 Asian Games

implementing a series of measures, including giving a top priority to public transportation development, improving the structure of the road network, easing congestion in key spots and beefing up traffic diversion and management. Despite such visible progress, we realized that we still had a lot of work to do for improving the traffic conditions in Guangzhou. Therefore, in 2012, we focused our work on the following three areas.

First, to build more transportation infrastructural facilities. In 2012, we advanced the construction of 156 transportation infrastructural projects, which involved a total investment worth RMB 35.4 billion Yuan.

Second, to further implement the strategy of “giving a top priority to the development of public transportation”. In 2011, 100 urban and rural public transportation lines were opened and

70 kilometers of special public transportation lanes were set up within 100 days. Built on such great progress made in 2011, we opened 50 new public transportation lines and set up 70 kilometers of special public transportation lanes in 2012. As a result of these efforts, the appeal of public transportation was greatly improved, making the “Culture of Public Transportation” another cultural brand of Guangzhou.

Third, to raise the public awareness of low-carbon and intelligent transportation. Through scientific and technological innovation, we employed information technologies and intelligent technologies to adjust the flow of traffic and strengthen road management, thus realizing the objective of improving traffic conditions through high and new technologies. In 2011, the BRT (Bus Rapid Transit) system of Guangzhou won the



New Panorama of Guangzhou

"Sustainable Transportation Award" in 2011. In 2012, the BRT system of Guangzhou was granted "Green Low Carbon Award" in the UK and later on won the UN "Lighthouse Award". The presentation of these prestigious awards to the BRT system of Guangzhou speaks volumes of the high acclaim given by international authoritative organizations to Guangzhou's innovation in transportation.

**Proactively exploring a new path to innovation in social management.**

In 2013, we conscientiously summarized the experience and practices of the municipal public consulting and supervision commission in the carrying out comprehensive treatment of Tongde-wei. System of the Commission of Public Opinion Solicitation for Key Policies Concerning People's Well-being in Guangzhou (Provisional) was promulgated and put into implementation, which is a

success story about innovation in public policy formulation and implementation and social management, unprecedented in China and drawing huge attention from both home and abroad. The mindset of respecting the rule of law is the foundation for our endeavor to advance law-based administration and accounts for why we have set up a public consulting and supervision commission. By so doing, we intend to enable citizens of Guangzhou to participate in the making and implementation of public policies, so that we can "better understand the needs of the people, solicit advice from the people on policy-making and governance and ask for public opinions on the effectiveness and efficacy of government policies". Our measures are as follows.

First, adhering to the principle of "one meeting for one affair". An independent public





Guangzhou Tianhe Sports Center

consulting and supervision commission is set up to handle a key project or a key plan that bears on people's well-being before decisions are made. At the absence of such a public consulting and supervision commission, the project or plan should not be submitted to the leadership for collective decision-making.

Second, ensuring public participation. A public consulting and supervision commission should consist of no fewer than fifteen members, and at least one third of these members should be citizen representatives.

Third, to bestow the commissions with proper rights. Members of a public consulting and supervision commission have the rights to knowing the facts and details of relevant decision-making procedures, to participating in the decision-making processes, to independently and freely expressing their opinions and to looking into documents, plans and other materials of the

government departments involved in a specific project. As it stands today, a variety of public consulting and supervision commissions have been established, including a commission for the comprehensive treatment of Jinshazhou, a commission for solid waste disposal in Guangzhou and a commission for key construction projects. These public consulting and supervision commissions perform the tasks of mediating and settling disputes, participating in key government projects, increasing public understanding of and support for government policies and effectively supervising government institutes for the practice of law-based administration. As a result, these public consulting and supervision commissions are playing an irreplaceable role in facilitating the advancement of major government projects.

#### **Proactively exploring a new path to land expropriation and relocation.**

Land expropriation and relocation is a

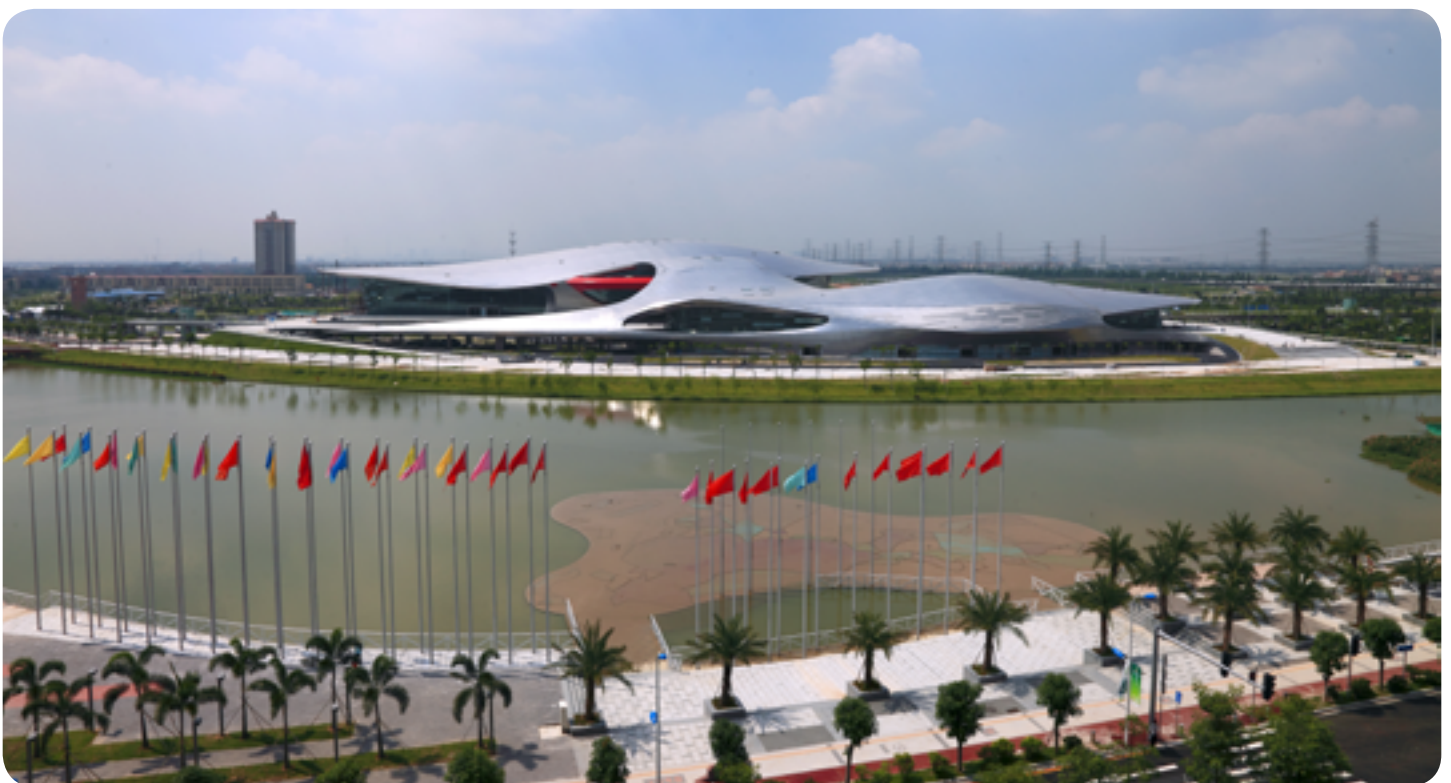
necessary step for the implementation of government projects and an essential building block to urban development. When it comes to land expropriation and relocation, intense public concern is often heard about how the government can guarantee the rights and interest of the relocated residents, address key issues and smoothly advance the construction of government projects. The land expropriation and relocation project for Guangzhou International Finance City produces a variety of complex issues and bears upon the interests of a number of people. 191,900 square meters of real estate property collectively owned by Tangxia, Shidong and Chebei, 251,100 square meters of buildings owned by the local villagers. These properties are both residential houses and commercial space, some of which have even been subleased. In response to such intricacy and complexity of conflicting interests and differing positions, we adopt the following approaches.

First, to create a new model of land expropriation. Land expropriation by the government is combined with the programs of urban village transformation. Specifically, villagers entrust

the village leadership to negotiate with property developers and conclude a contract concerning proper compensation and villager relocation. After that, the village leadership parcels out the compensation fees to every household. Under the model of novelty and originality, on one hand, the government can still play a role of guidance to ensure "collective land expropriation, collective planning and collective development"; on the other hand, the collective decision-making mechanism of villages can be brought into full play to ensure united opinions and stance among villagers.

Second, to practice transparent and open land expropriation and relocation. Initiatives are taken to achieve all-roundedness in three respects, namely, all-rounded participation by the villagers, all-rounded supervision by related organizations and all-rounded adherence to relevant laws and regulations.

Third, to protect public rights and interests. Eight inspection teams are set up to look into the proceeding of the land expropriation and relocation program, so that plans for compensation and relocation can be devised in a way that



Guangzhou Asian Games Sports Complex

respects basic facts, ensures fairness and equity and upholds justice. Under the guidance of these policies, within a short span of four months, the land expropriation and relocation program involving 450,000 square meters of collectively-owned property and villager residential property has been completed in the startup area of Guangzhou International Finance City, achieving the favorable outcome of “zero complaint, zero petition, zero forced demolition and zero incident”. As a result, the original desired objective has been achieved, that is, to complete the planning, relocation and ground breaking for the startup area of Guangzhou International Finance City all in the same year.

**Proactively exploring new paths to international urban cooperation.**

Guangzhou International Award for Urban Innovation has been created on the platforms of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) and the World Association of Major Metropolises (Metropolis). Guangzhou International Award for Urban Innovation serves to further optimize the mechanisms and channels of exchanges by

Guangzhou with cities and regions across the world. Under the tremendous support of UCLG and Metropolis, the award ceremony of the first Guangzhou Award was grandly held in Guangzhou in November, 2012. Through several rounds of rigorous evaluation on 255 initiatives from 153 cities, five winning cities were eventually selected to claim Guangzhou Award, together with ten nomination cities and thirty expert recommendation cities. With only one year for preparation, Guangzhou succeeded in brilliantly organizing all the events of Guangzhou Award, winning high acclaims from the international community. The success of the first Guangzhou Award is a testimony to the vigor and vitality of China and speaks volumes for the influence that Guangzhou has in UCLG and Metropolis. As the most important award of UCLG, Guangzhou Award is also the sole award of global proportions in innovation that has come into being under the cooperation of UCLG, Metropolis and Guangzhou. Therefore, Guangzhou Award can serve as a crucial platform for the cooperation and exchanges between cities of the world, offering incentives for innovation to cities around the world.



**New Canton Tower**

**To build an innovation-driven city requires the implementation of new urban strategies.**

Through exploration and practice, I have come to a profound realization that to build an innovation-driven city, we need to, first and foremost, adjust our concepts and reform our institutions; we also realize that we can generate strong momentum for this great cause only by casting away anachronistic and conventional ideas and emancipating out minds. Through over 30 years of reform and opening up, the Chinese people have been freed from obsolete concepts and institutions that stifled creativity and innovation. The people of Guangzhou have greatly tapping into their gushing vitality and creativity, and eventually have written a brilliant chapter in the history of Guangzhou. The success of Guangzhou is a symbol of the “China miracle” and has laid a solid foundation for the cause of developing Guangzhou into an innovation-driven city.

First, Guangzhou’s position as a comprehensive hub. Guangzhou has established trade ties with some 350 cities from over 80 countries and is home to consulates of 46 countries and 232 enterprises set up by the Top Global 500 Companies. Guangzhou is a bridgehead of strategic importance for engaging in the international division of labor and competition. Guangzhou is projecting its economic effects and influence over other Chinese cities, the ASEAN and even the world.

Second, full-fledged infrastructure. Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport has entered the ranks of the world’s top 15 airports; Guangzhou Port currently ranks 5th in the world in terms of production capacity; Guangzhou South Railway Station is listed as one of the four passenger transportation hubs in China; Guangzhou is one of China’s three telecommunication and Internet portals and an Internet exchange center.

Third, immense overall economic strengths. In 2012, the GDP of Guangzhou amounted to RMB 1.35 trillion Yuan, making Guangzhou the 3rd largest city in China in terms of economic aggregate for the 24th consecutive year. The total fiscal revenue of Guangzhou

reached RMB 430 billion Yuan, while the general local budget revenue amounted to RMB 110.2 billion Yuan. The total value of import and export exceeded US\$ 100 billion.

Fourth, abundant human resources. Guangzhou ranks third among the cities of the Chinese Mainland in terms of human resource aggregate. Guangzhou is home to 97% of the scientific research institutes and major institutes of higher education in Guangdong Province; some 100,000 overseas specialists work in Guangzhou each year, accounting for approximately 15% of the total number of overseas specialists working in China; Guangzhou boasts nine national key laboratories, 200 engineering & technological R&D centers at all levels and 162 independent research institutes.

Amidst the rising tide of prosperity, urban administrators of Guangzhou need to devise new strategies for releasing the gushing creativity and vitality of the citizens of Guangzhou, so that the “trees of innovation” can bear fruits and grow into a “forest of innovation” with sheltering splendor.

**New industrial strategies.**

Efforts will be exerted to push industrial value chains upward on both ends of the “smiling curve”, with focus placed on enhancing industrial core competitiveness, accelerating the development of ten key industries, cultivating six strategic emerging industries and building three strategic emerging industrial clusters, each with a total output valued at RMB 200 billion Yuan. Initiatives will be taken to develop Guangzhou into a national important base of strategic emerging industries. High-caliber personnel will be designated as the main driving force for developing Guangzhou into a national innovation-driven city. The program of attracting ten thousand overseas scholars will be implemented to upgrade Guangzhou Convention of Overseas Chinese Scholars in Science and Technology into a “high-caliber personnel exchange convention” of global proportions. Initiatives will also be taken to shape a multi-layer “pyramid of high-caliber personnel”.

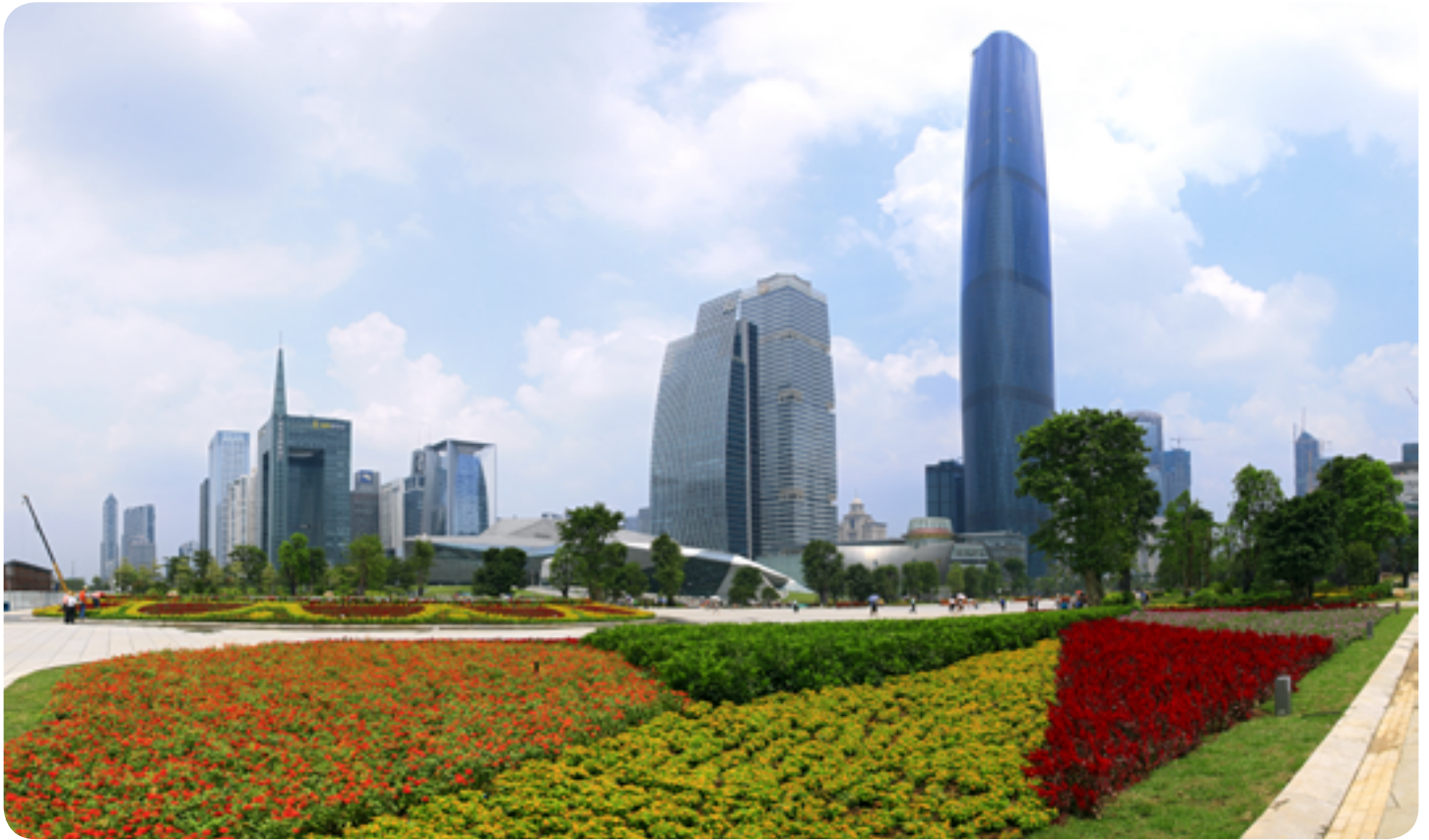
**New urban strategies.**

Under the overarching objective of developing Guangzhou into an intelligent city, vigorous efforts will be exerted to shape a new model for “Intelligent Guangzhou” based on intelligent industries, intelligent culture, intelligent services, intelligent management and intelligent lifestyle. Initiatives will be taken to cultivate new urban space, new urban patterns, new urban functions and new urban taste, seeking to facilitate urban transformation and upgrading and increase the influence and weight of Guangzhou in the building of a world-class cluster of cities in the Pearl River Delta.

**New strategies for improving people’s wellbeing.**

Ten programs are undertaken each year to improve people’s wellbeing. Initiatives are being taken to achieve equalization in basic public services. During the 12th five-year plan period, the average income per person in rural and urban areas grew by over 10% on an annual basis. Practically all residents in both urban and rural areas have been covered by the endowment insurance system and health insurance system. Over 10 million square meters of indemnificatory housing has been built. The urban public service system has been further enhanced.

These are what Guangzhou has done in its relentless endeavor to develop an innovation-driven city. We hope that by capitalizing on the platform of the World Association of Major Metropolises, we can draw on the wisdom of all sides, conduct in-depth studies of urban innovation models and learn advanced experience in innovation from cities around the world. I look forward to greater exchanges and cooperation for common prosperity and development for cities around the world.



**Zhujiang New Town-CBD of Guangzhou**

### **The City of Guangzhou (Canton)**

Guangzhou, the capital of Guangdong Province, is also the center of politics, economy, science and technology, education and culture of the province. Guangzhou is one of the five national-level central cities in China. Located on the northern edge of the Pearl River Delta, adjacent to the South Sea, Hong Kong and Macao, Guangzhou is the transportation and communication hub and trading port of South China, best known as the Southern Gateway of China.

There are 11 districts. The whole city covers an area of 7,434 square kilometers, with a population of more than 16 million. The city enjoys a subtropical monsoon climate with an annual average temperature of between 20°C and 22°C, and plenty of rainfall. With various colorful flowers blooming all the year round, Guangzhou also boasts the reputation of the City of Flowers.

Guangzhou is a city with a long history of over 2,200 years and great cultural heritage. Guangzhou was the starting point of the ancient "Maritime Silk Road" and was recognized as one of

the important ports in the world 1,000 years ago.

Guangzhou is the center of international trade and economic cooperation in South China. The Chinese Import & Export Commodities Fair has been held biannually in Guangzhou since 1957. The City's overall economic strength ranks the third in China. Its GDP reached RMB1542.01 billion in 2013, increased by 11.6% over the previous year, and the import and export trade reached USD 118.89 billion, increased by 1.5% over the previous year.

Opening-up and inclusiveness is the characteristics of Guangzhou City. It is home to 44 foreign consulates and 228 Fortune 500 companies. More than 100,000 international experts work and live in Guangzhou, which accounts for about 15% in the nation. The total import and export volume of the year 2013 reached 118.89 billion US Dollars. At present, Guangzhou City has 32 Sister Cities and 23 Friendly Cooperation Cities, establishing a dynamic network of "sister cities - friendly cooperation cities - sister districts - sister institutions".

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## Cities Alliance

Cities Without Slums

The Cities Alliance is a global partnership for urban poverty reduction and the promotion of the role of cities in sustainable development. Cities Alliance Members include local authorities, national governments, non-governmental organisations, multilateral organisations, and associate members. METROPOLIS is a founding member of Cities Alliance.

[www.citiesalliance.org](http://www.citiesalliance.org)



The Global fund for cities development (FMDV) was created in October 2010 at the initiative of METROPOLIS, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) and 34 founding members (cities and city networks). It is an international political organisation which aims to strengthen solidarity and financial capacity by and among local authorities and is complementary to existing mobilisation, coordination and advocacy networks.

[www.fmdv.net](http://www.fmdv.net)



Created in 2004, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) is the united voice and world advocate of local and regional self-government. Members of UCLG are present in 140 countries, and are organized into seven regional sections, a Forum of Regions, and a metropolitan section coordinated by METROPOLIS. UCLG's membership includes over 1,000 cities and regions, as well as 155 local government associations.

[www.uclg.org](http://www.uclg.org)



The World Urban Campaign is a global partnership coordinated by UN-Habitat, designed to promote a positive vision of sustainable urbanization and to place the urban agenda at the highest level in development policies. It is meant to build alliances with all the sectors of society in a movement to provide a knowledge and action-oriented platform to address urban challenges. It is a platform for Habitat III, the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development to be held in 2016.

[www.worldurbancampaign.org](http://www.worldurbancampaign.org)

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# Voice of the Mayors # 02

**metropolis** ●  
World Association of the Major Metropolises

**Secretariat General**

Avinyó, 15

08002 Barcelona

Phone: (+34) 93 342 94 60

Fax: (+34) 93 342 94 66

[metropolis@metropolis.org](mailto:metropolis@metropolis.org)

[www.metropolis.org](http://www.metropolis.org)