

## *Hong Kong as a Center of International and Regional Aviation in the GBA Initiative\**

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### *Abstract*

Aviation is part of Hong Kong's constitutional identity. Article 128 of the Basic Law states that "the Hong Kong Government shall provide conditions and take measures to maintain the status of Hong Kong as a centre of international and regional aviation." The key phrase "a centre of international and regional aviation" is commonly interpreted as meaning an "international aviation hub." Hong Kong has indeed been a successful international aviation hub thanks to the city's overall laissez-faire economic policy and advanced infrastructure, although multiple factors have affected that status over the years. However, the Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA) provides new opportunities for Hong Kong. The GBA initiative defines the role that Hong Kong will play in the overall development of the GBA and reinforces its importance as a leading international aviation hub. This article suggests that although Hong Kong's status as a connecting airport has weakened, the GBA initiative can strengthen its role as a center of international and regional aviation.

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