

A Way Out for Hong Kong Youth? : Opportunities and Challenges in the GBA

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Introduction

The social problems in Hong Kong have put increasing pressure on the citizen.

- High housing prices
- Expensive cost of living
- Unsteady employment
- Upward mobility difficulties
- An accelerated pace of life

- All struggles made them confused and took their optimism away from future.

In 2019, the Chinese government issued the Outline Development Plan of the Greater Bay Area (GBA)

- Fosters coordinated regional economic growth
- Provides a new impetus to the development of Hong Kong and Macao
- Offers alternative opportunities to the Hong Kong and Macao youth.

However, many challenges have reduced the attractiveness of the GBA to Hong Kong people.

Housing investment in HK Middle Class

- In 2012, one in six investment in the new development in central London are Middle-class Hongkongers (Ho, 2019)
 - Wealthy middle class
 - Have property in Hong Kong
 - Interest in investing
 - Aspiring middle class
 - Do not have the first property in Hong Kong, but 'second home' in oversea
- Unemployment benefit and government pension are negligible
- The average Hong Kong real estate price rose to nearly 20 times the average household income in 2018 (Ho, 2019)
- Different perception of investment in housing
 - Investment
 - Financial return
 - Rent out to generate income
 - Cashing out
 - Political uncertainties

Internationalizing in Higher Education

- The higher education development in GBA is related to the national policies, strategies policies and regional development (Chan, 2021)
- The goal is to achieve an international higher education hub and make a contribution to the local economy development
- Challenges: Independent relationship between the nine cities and two SARs
- Different administrative and operational system between the mainland and Hong Kong
 - Academic freedom
 - Faculties
 - Curriculum
- High ranking of universities and good reputation in Hong Kong attract local students or even the non-local students stay and study in Hong Kong (Chan, 2021)
 - Recognition

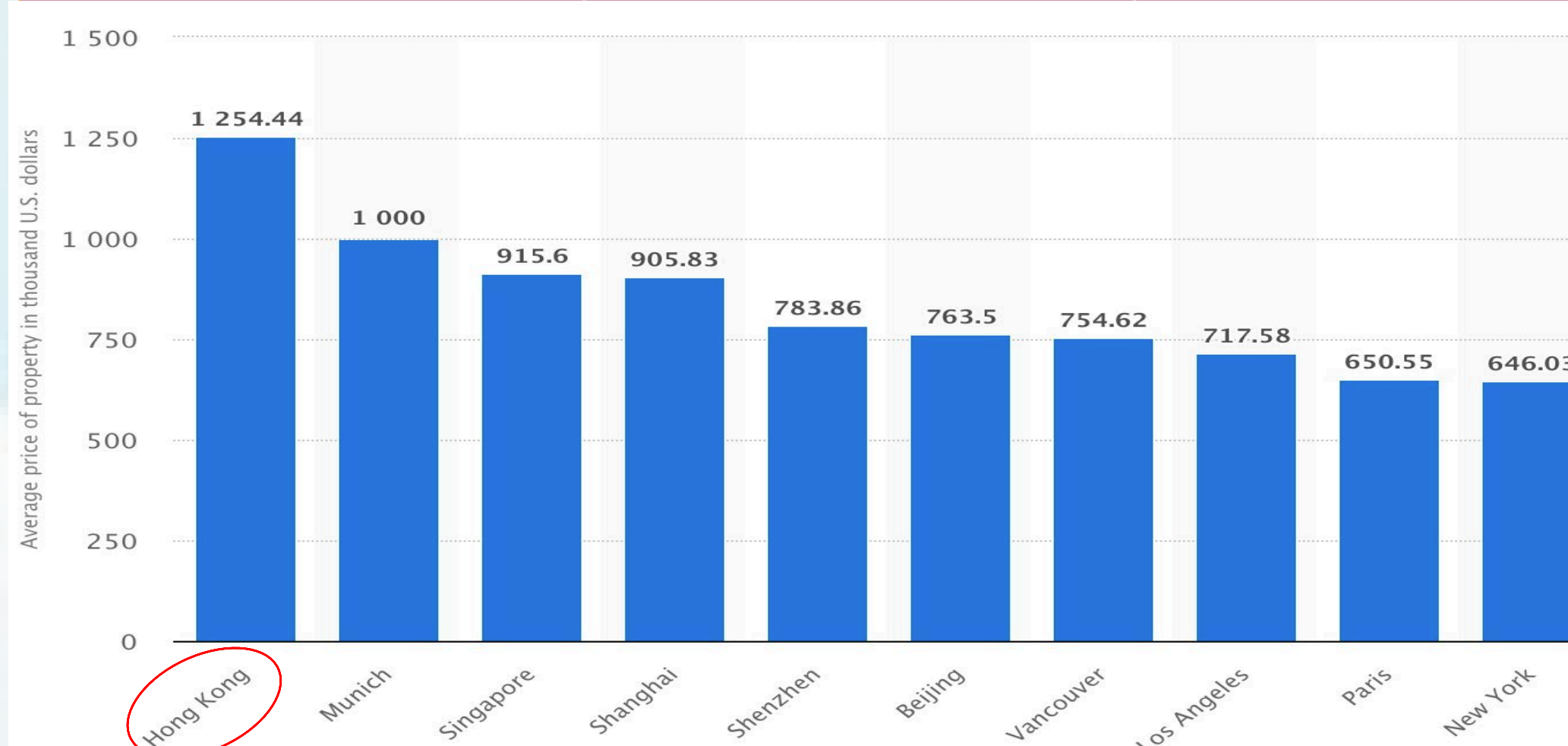
Reason of attracting Hong Kong students

- ① Easier to get into universities
- ② Easier to pick a discipline of your interest
- ③ Easier to find a job that related to the discipline

Medical System in the Mainland

- Extensive prescription is presenting a phenomenon and public medicine system (He, 2014)
- Defensive behaviours and overprescription
- Patients do not trust the doctor
 - Monetary returns
 - Avoid potential conflict with patients
- Under such circumstances, do Hong Kong people believe in the Mainland's medical system?

Most expensive residential property markets worldwide in 2020 (in 1,000 U.S. dollars)



Reflections

- Qualitative research
 - Interview
 - 'In depth' description
- Theories
 - Motivation theories
 - Income maximization theories
- Different system in higher education, housing and health care across regions within the GBA
- Lingnan research: Evaluation of Hong Kong's young people on the development potential of the GBA
 - The intention of studying or moving to GBA is weak (Lingnan University, 2019)
 - Misgiving: internet restriction; life-style different; low salary; tax issue; children education
- The establishment of the transnational higher education institution provides a solution for the higher education

Policy implications

Regulations and supports offered by the mainland government

- Education
 - ◆ The policy of issuing Employment Registration Certificate for Hong Kong student was introduced in 2017 to provide more job opportunities after graduation (Greater Bay Area, 2021)
 - ◆ Since 2017, Shenzhen has allowed Hong Kong children to apply for free education in public schools (Greater Bay Area, 2021)
- Medical services
 - ◆ The central government announced a measure to allow the use of Hong Kong-registered drugs and general medical equipment in designated medical institutions in Hong Kong in the Greater Bay Area. (Greater Bay Area, 2021)
- Housing
 - ◆ Hong Kong residents to be treated as same as local residents in buying properties in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area
- Many young people in Hong Kong do not know the preferential policies for Hong Kong people.
- The government needs to strengthen publicity and introduction.
- How to facilitate Hong Kong people's cross-border work and life

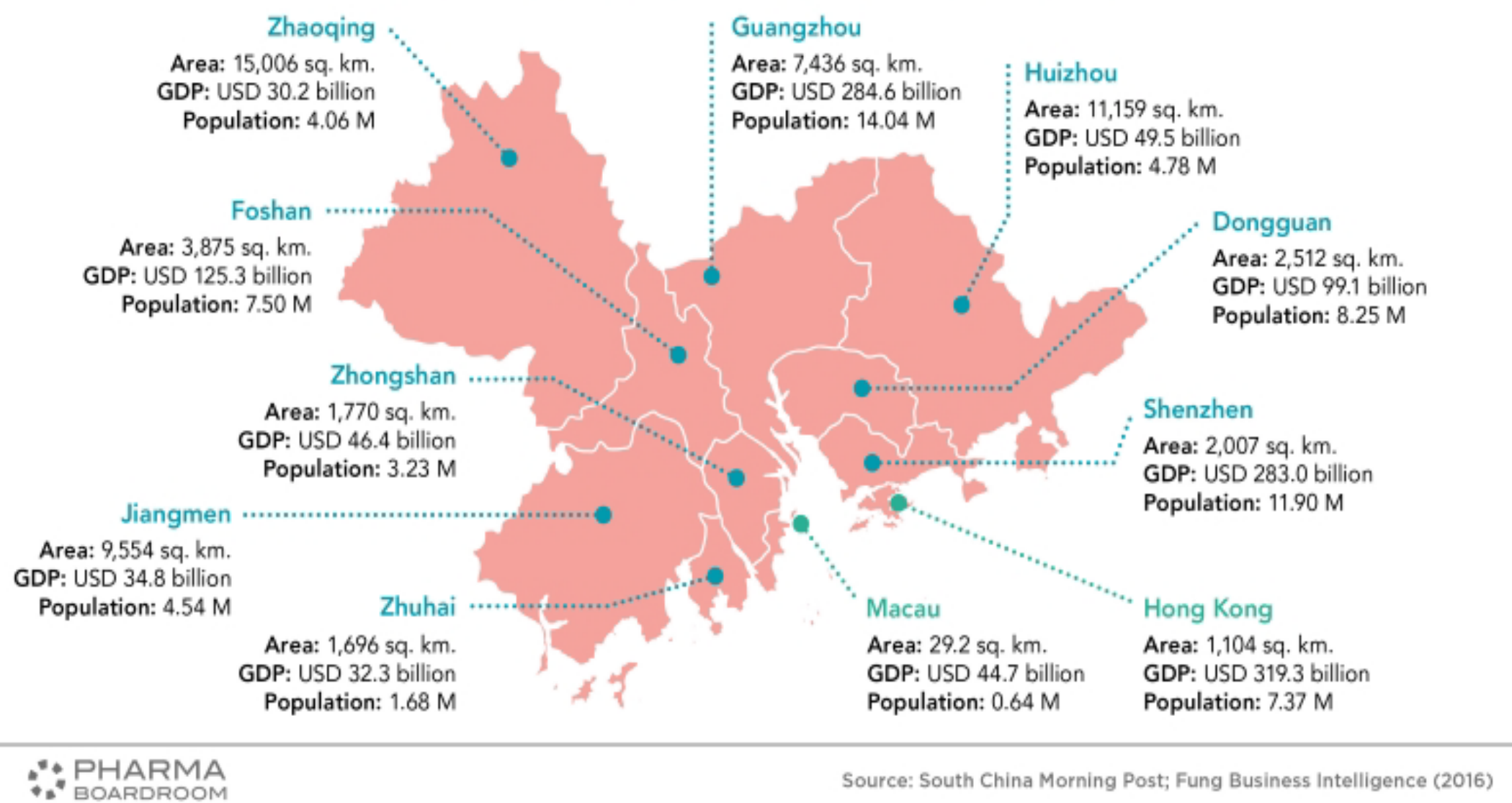
Conclusions

- Relocating to the Greater Bay Area is one solution for Hong Kong youth to relieve the pressure of life in Hong Kong.
- The GBA development does provide opportunities to Hong Kong and Macao.
- However, the differences between the housing, education and medical system also raise challenges
- The government should understand the cultural differences and the adaption of the youth from Hong Kong to mainland cities.

THE GREATER BAY AREA

The "Greater Bay Area" (GDHMC Bay Area) refers to the Chinese government's scheme to link the cities of Hong Kong, Macau, Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Zhuhai, Foshan, Zhongshan, Dongguan, Huizhou, Jiangmen and Zhaoqing into an integrated economic and business hub.

The Greater Bay Area, taken as a whole, forms the world's largest mega-city at 66 million people - nine cities in Guangdong province and the two Special Administrative Regions (SARs): Hong Kong and Macau



Housing Problems in Hong Kong

- Hong Kong poverty has a low residential space with the highest housing price around the world (Forrest and Shi, 2018)
- Young people lack the ability to afford independent housing
- The move from parental home to independent living becomes increasingly difficult (Forrest and Shi, 2018)
- Having a large, public rental sector in Hong Kong also is unusual due to the eligibility rules
- The frustration of economic, political, and social barriers faced by young people
- Social modern trend occurred
 - Late marriage age
 - Low fertility rate
- Youth desired the government to provide help with entering the private household
- Housing issue is significant for maintaining social cohesion
- The housing situation of young people in Hong Kong stimulates the political discontent



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