

## **We must join Bay success story now**

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Last week I described a visit made by our Legislative Council members to the Greater Bay Area and complimented it on the success of some of its industries.

I like to continue to describe some other interesting places they visited.

Apart from BYD and DJI, the third was Huawei in Shenzhen.

Starting out as a mundane maker of PABX phone systems some three decades ago, Huawei has evolved into a high-tech giant and the undisputed world leader in 5G communications.

It almost overtook Apple in smartphone manufacturing some five years ago.

I had experience with Huawei when I worked as a building contractor 10 years ago. The firm I managed built its Shenzhen headquarters 25 years ago, and I oversaw the construction of its Hangzhou branch office in the 2010s.

It was an assembly of huge buildings that looked like factories, and led me to ask them what they were for and what machinery they plan to put in them.

Their answer, to my surprise, was that these were offices for their research and development staff.

Astounded by their size, I said it must house thousands in each building.

Without batting an eyelid, the project manager said they were by no means the largest under development.

Imagine how many top-notch high-tech doctoral degree grads could work in that huge complex, researching and developing cutting-edge technological systems and products to be rolled out.

It is that vision and determination to invest enormous resources that led to Huawei's success, with an operation many times larger than that we can ever imagine for Hong Kong.

Another place of interest was the Dream Workshop for Young Entrepreneurs in Qianhai.

It is a tech incubation center with facilities to enable up and coming young people to conduct embryonic research projects, offering low or rentfree offices and subsidies to enable grads to engage in start-up projects.

Many teams are reaping results.

A standout example is an AI driverless system, ready for use by vehicle manufacturers.

Even more noteworthy is that its team was made up of University of Hong Kong mechanical engineering grads. They would not have been able to achieve this if they stayed here.

There were many other places the Legco members visited, including water treatment plants, wetland parks and many others. Ample land and effective policy support certainly helped to make these successes.

And if we are still not convinced they have world-class facilities that we here should learn from and participate in, let me give another example: the Hong Kong Airport Authority Logistic Park in Dongguang.

The facility allows mainland goods to complete customs declarations and airport security checks on a large site with excellent direct and seamless water transport access to our airport for overseas deliveries, significantly reducing demand on land and personnel resources at Chek Lap Kok.

Hong Kong's integration into the Greater Bay Area business and commercial web is inevitable.

The longer we stay isolated, the greater the delay to our membership in this mammoth growth trend. Why should we get left behind when we can jump on this bandwagon now?

*Veteran engineer Edmund Leung Kwong-ho casts an expert eye over features of modern life*