

# Guangzhou Knowledge City lauds achievements in celebrating first decade



The China-Singapore Guangzhou Knowledge City in Huangpu district has become an innovation hub gathering technologies, funding and talent. PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

## Area has been a successful bilateral venture for both China and Singapore

By LIYOU  
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As the 10th anniversary celebration of the China-Singapore Guangzhou Knowledge City took place on Tuesday in Guangzhou, the achievements made in the national-level bilateral cooperation project were heralded.

The knowledge city project started in 2010 with the joint efforts of the Chinese and Singaporean governments.

With a planned area of 8.08 square kilometers in Huangpu district, nowadays it has grown into an innovation hub occupying 178 sq km and gathering high-end technologies, talent and funding.

Leveraging on the close partnership with Singapore and opportunities arising from the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, it has grown to be a core platform of science and technology innovation, said Chen Yong, head of the Huangpu district government.

Chen noted that this year marks the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Singapore.

Huangpu district is promoting the development of the knowledge city in many different ways.

The district will spare no efforts in promoting new projects, absorbing Singapore's experience involving business environment and industrial development, developing emerging technologies and trying to build the knowledge city into a world-class cooperation platform, Chen said.

To date, a total of 1,803 enterpris-

es have registered in the area since its inception, with registered capital reaching 150.81 billion yuan (\$21.35 billion) and fixed asset investment reached 142.15 billion yuan.

The first quarter's economic performance didn't show stagnation amid the COVID-19 outbreak. GDP increased by 6.3 percent year-on-year.

The actual utilization of foreign capital increased by 125 percent from January to April.

Zhou Yawei, Party secretary of Huangpu district, said under the framework of the Sino-Singapore cooperation, the knowledge city drew lessons from Singapore's experience in policymaking and technical support, explored cooperation with Singapore in arbitration mechanism and intellectual property protection, and took the lead in building up the business environment.

A representative project of the platform, the "knowledge tower" project, was started.

The central area of the knowledge city was planned with an innovation town for scientific research and education.

Covering an area of 2 sq km, it aims to introduce 13 scientific research institutes, to become the hub for high-end talent cultivation, universities' scientific and technological research and development and pool of higher education resources.

A number of scientific research institutes such as Guangzhou research institute and graduate school of Xidian University, and



Guangzhou CanSemi Technology Inc makes up the proprietary chip industry chain in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area.

Huangpu research institutes and graduate schools of Guangzhou University and Guangdong University of Foreign Studies. The enrollment of the first batch of graduate students exceeded 1,100.

The local administration also announced the construction of the of China Nano Valley and Jiulong Lake economic belt last year. With 79 enterprises projects to be drawn, total investment reached nearly 170 billion yuan and an output value will exceed 300 billion yuan after their completion.

The knowledge city also geared up the construction of healthcare industry.

BeiGene, like other high-profile biomedical projects in the area, has given full play to the industrial agglomeration effect, which drives more than 30 biomedical projects to be landed in the knowledge city, with a total investment of 20 billion yuan and an estimated revenue nearly 100 billion yuan.

Guangzhou CanSemi Technology, a landmark project for the knowledge city, owns the only 12-inch wafer production line in Guangdong province.

After its establishment in 2017, about 80 enterprises engaged in the integrated circuit industry came to inspect its factory.

In its next step, the knowledge city will introduce more high-end scientific and technological innovation projects such as the Innovation Research Institute of National University of Singapore.

The 10th anniversary ceremony also included the launch of the Knowledge City International Science and Technology Center.

Taking the Siemens Crystal Future City Exhibition Center in London as inspiration, the center, with a total construction area of about 5,000 sq m, is a comprehensive center for exhibitions, conferences, academic forums and talent training.

# Institute flourishes as cooperation increases

By LIYOU

The Sino-Singapore International Joint Research Institute has become a key engine to the innovation-driven industry and home to world-class human resources for the past five years.

The institute was jointly set up by the China-Singapore Guangzhou Knowledge City Administrative Committee, South China University of Technology, Nanyang Technological University and China-Singapore Guangzhou Knowledge City Investment and Development in 2015.

The institute has brought in more than 200 high-tech professionals, including more than 30 from Singapore.

Focusing on the key industries in Guangzhou, the institute launched six research and development platforms, namely, the life and health, new materials, artificial intelligence, new energy, pollution prevention and environmental recovery and green building and smart city.

It introduced 45 industrial projects, including 25 such projects in cooperation with South China University of Technology and Nanyang Technological University and produced a series of technological innovation achievements.

It initiated 17 projects working together with the local government, applied for 40 patents, produced 44 new products and new processes and published 88 papers.

Leveraging the experience from Singapore's practice, the institute has established an operation mechanism suitable for worldwide technology commercialization, which has melted away the worries of the IP owners.

At the same time, the institute is promoting in-depth cooperation with local enterprises, investors and investment companies.

At present, it has secured and incubated 20 enterprises and one of them was recognized as a

national-level high-tech enterprise.

According to Yu Long, director of the institute, the purpose of the institute is to deepen scientific and technological cooperation between China and Singapore, to attract Singapore's high-tech achievements to China.

Yu said that as a major scientific project collaborated by the governments of China and Singapore, the research institute provides a good platform for researchers from South China University of Technology and Nanyang Technological University.

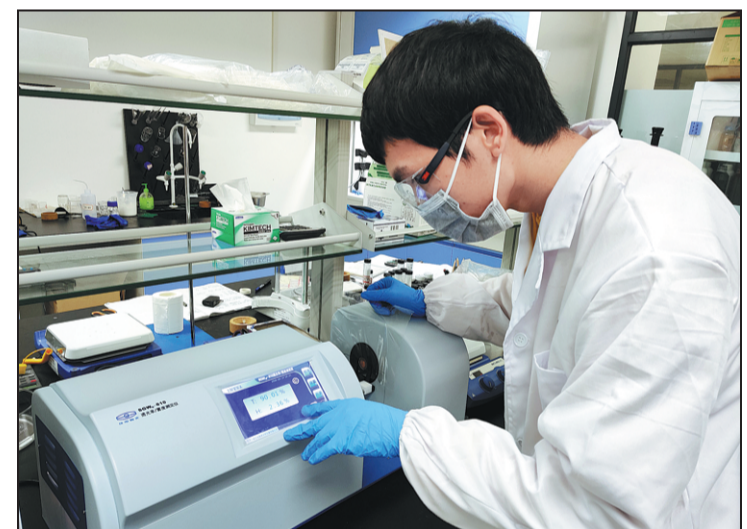
Through the application of laboratory results, it has become a representative project for scientific and technological cooperation and industrial incubation in the China-Singapore Guangzhou Knowledge City.

Yu said besides the high-tech projects, the China-Singapore Guangzhou Knowledge City can also strengthen cooperation in management and IP protection with the institute, and China can learn more from Singapore.

Chin Phei Chen, board director of Sino-Singapore Guangzhou Knowledge City Investment and Development Co Ltd, said the Guangzhou Knowledge City project has drawn on Singapore's experience in urban planning, industrial development and investment promotion.

It has also benefited from "software transfer" including talent attraction and development, intellectual property protection and application, as well as social management, which are critical for the development of knowledge-based economy.

"As for the second phase of development, we will build on the foundation laid over the last 10 years to bring in more Singapore and international elements to make Guangzhou Knowledge City a preferred place to work, live and play," Chin said.



A staff member from the Sino-Singapore International Joint Research Institute checks up a research facility at a lab.

# Favorable policies attract businesses to development district

By ZHANG LINWAN  
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The China-Singapore Guangzhou Knowledge City has become a magnet for promising businesses and projects thanks to its progressive business environment, according to local officials.

Founded in 2017 at the knowledge city, CanSemi Technology is Guangzhou's first manufacturer of 12-inch wafer chips.

The company has been mass producing the chips since September 2019, with an output of nearly 20,000 pieces per month.

"We spent only one and a half years setting up production facilities, faster than many chip enterprises world-

wide," said Herman Lee, vice-president of the company. Lee said the project was given excellent support from the Huangpu district government. "In addition to favorable policies, local authorities streamlined the approval process, saving much time for the project's launch," he added.

CanSemi Technology's success has attracted several peers in the semiconductor and integrated circuit industries creating an industrial cluster with around 70 businesses at the knowledge city, according to local officials. Thanks in part to the project, the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area now boasts a proprietary chip industry chain including design, manufacture and packaging. This will boost the growth of informa-

tion technology, artificial intelligence and consumer electronics in the area, Lee said. Next, the company will initiate the project's second phase to further ramp up its capacity.

"We signed a contract for the second phase in February with an additional investment of 6.5 billion yuan (\$920.4 million). After construction is completed, our monthly output will rise to 40,000 pieces," Lee said.

Another company thriving in the knowledge city is cancer drug supplier Guangzhou BeiGene Biologics.

With a combined investment of 2.3 billion yuan, the enterprise started production in December last year.

Liu Jian, general manager of the company, was impressed by the local government's customized and efficient services to ensure his project progressed smoothly.

The project's approval involved 21 departments, which was complicated and time-consuming, said Liu, adding that it took him two months to get the approval in the city where he used to work.

"But the local government mobilized related departments to work together for us, and we completed all procedures within one day," Liu said.

Huangpu district government has further released a slew of incentives to expand its talent pool including increasing housing subsidies and medical benefits. "Numerous researchers and experts in our company were attracted by these measures and chose to settle in the city," he said.

As the enterprise continues to prosper, it has given impetus to the development of the biopharmaceutical and healthcare industries in the knowledge city and surrounding areas, local officials said.

# Area planning to become leader in technological innovation, IP services

By LIANG KAIYAN  
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As a key local player in promoting high-tech industries, the China-Singapore Guangzhou Knowledge City in Guangzhou, Guangdong province has put its weight behind intellectual property services.

In 2019, the number of patent applications in the knowledge city reached 1,798, up 73.9 percent year-on-year, according to Zhou Yawei, a member of the standing committee of the Guangzhou Party committee and Party secretary of Huangpu district.

Approved as the only pilot field for the reform of IP utilization and protection by the State Council in 2016, the knowledge city has been driving technological innovation and leading industrial development in IP.

After four years of effort, the knowledge city has developed several modes that may be replicated elsewhere in fields including the innovation of IP systems, IP creation and international cooperation under the support of scientific and technological incubators, Zhou said.

Last year, its modes were listed by the China National Intellectual Property Administration as one of the first pilot projects and typical cases of building Guangdong into an IP powerhouse, Zhou added.

The knowledge city is the only place in the country to coordinate the management of all patents,

Developing under the focus of a 'knowledge economy', the knowledge city has become a leading player in this sector around the country

**Dong Cheng**, deputy director of the Patent Examination Cooperation Guangdong Center of the Patent Office of the CNIPA

trademarks and copyrights, according to Zhou.

It is home to more than 100 IP service providers ranging from the Guangzhou Intellectual Property Court and the Guangdong IP protection center under the NIPA to the China-Singapore International IP Innovation Service Center.

In 2011, the Patent Examination Cooperation Guangdong Center of the Patent Office of the CNIPA was established in the knowledge city under the cooperation of the CNIPA, the Guangdong provincial government, the Guangzhou city government and the administrative committee of Guangzhou Development District.

It has become a major force in national patent examination over the past few years, according to local officials. To date, the center has completed 936,000 patent examinations, accounting for one-fifth of the country's total. In addition, the center has set up 21 IP service work stations in a bid to increase the quality of patent applications from regional innovators, help industrial transformation and upgrading, and improve the local business environment.

Dong Cheng, deputy director of the center, said that as the first IP service institution launched at the knowledge city, the center plays a key role in collecting IP factors for IP reform. "Developing under the focus of a 'knowledge economy', the knowledge city has become a leading player in this sector around the country," Dong said.

In Guangzhou's 2020 city budget report, the government will provide the knowledge city with 4 billion yuan (\$566 million) in financial support to help it become a national knowledge center with global influence, and promote the construction of its pilot zone. Next, the Patent Examination Cooperation Guangdong Center will help the knowledge city become a model area for IP protection, a pioneer in IP operation, a demonstration area for the development of high-end industries led by IP, and a frontier explorer in the innovation of IP institutions, according to Dong.



The China-Singapore Guangzhou Knowledge City has become a magnet for promising businesses.