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China's Challenges in Achieving "High-Quality Growth": Insights into the Difficulties from Guangdong's Economic Situation[1]

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Abstract

China is pursuing a goal to "basically achieve socialist modernization by 2035, through significantly enhancing its economic strength, scientific and technological capability, national defense capacity, comprehensive national power, and international influence, raising per capita GDP to the level of a moderately developed country, and making people's lives happier."

Although China's major economic provinces (Guangdong, Jiangsu, Shandong, Zhejiang, Sichuan, and Henan) are all expected to play active roles in driving the nation's "high-quality economic development," the economy of Guangdong Province has shown signs of slowing down in recent years.

Stagnation in the Guangdong economy is widely attributed to two main factors: (1) delayed structural transformation in traditional manufacturing and (2) the presence of extensive impoverished areas within the province. Although the province includes Shenzhen, a city experiencing remarkable growth driven by high-tech and innovation, and the Pearl River Delta region, which is highly regarded for its adoption of AI technology, these regional successes are insufficient to sustain stable growth throughout the province. Currently, Guangdong is striving to revitalize its economy through two main pillars: the "Guangdong–Hong Kong–Macao Greater Bay Area Development Plan," which focuses on integration with Hong Kong and Macao, and the "Hundred-Thousand-Ten Thousand Project," which targets rural development.

Difficulties in reforming traditional manufacturing and the complexities of regional disparities within the province are deep-rooted issues that plague many other provinces across China. Given that even Guangdong, which has the largest economic scale and highest tax revenue nationwide, is struggling to resolve these issues, it is highly likely that less economically developed regions are facing even more severe challenges. To solve these complex problems, the central and local governments must share information firmly and continue to make steady efforts.

[1] This paper is an English translation of the Japanese research note written by Okazaki Kumiko and published on April 30, 2026 (https://cigs.canon/article/20260430_9847.html).

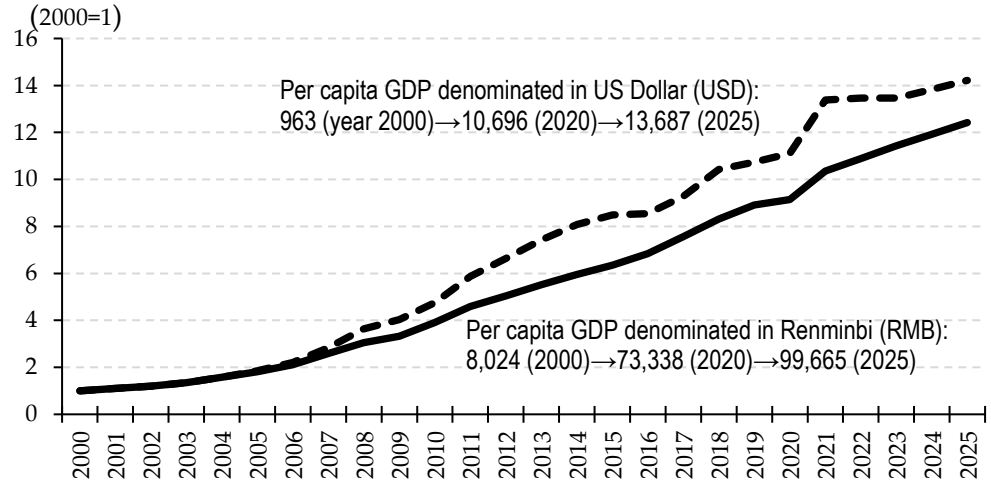
1. Introduction

Following the National People's Congress in March 2026, China officially launched its "15th Five-Year Plan for National Economic and Social Development (2026–2030)." The primary objectives of this Five-Year Plan are as follows: (1) high-quality development, (2) improving the level of scientific and technological "self-reliance and self-strengthening," (3) further deepening comprehensive reforms, (4) significantly enhancing the cultural and ethical standards of society, (5) continuously improving the quality of people's lives, (6) progressing the construction of a "Beautiful China," and (7) strengthening national security. Following these goals, the plan outline states: "On the basis of achieving these targets, through another five years of continued effort, China will basically achieve socialist modernization by 2035, through significantly enhance its economic strength, scientific and technological capability, national defense capacity, comprehensive national power, and international influence, raising per capita GDP to the level of a moderately developed country, and making people's lives happier."

This 2035 target was first clarified in 2019[2], although no specific numerical value for per capita GDP was provided then. However, the current Five-Year Plan outline explicitly states the goal to "double per capita GDP by 2035 compared to 2020 levels." For reference, China's actual per capita GDP in 2020 was 73,338 RMB, amounting to 10,700 USD based on IMF estimates. Based on the growth trend of per capita GDP since 2000, the target of doubling it over a 15-year period does not appear to be particularly difficult to achieve (Figure 1).

[2] In 2019, the Communist Party of China confirmed the long-standing goal for the centenary of the founding of the People's Republic of China (PRC) in 2049, to build China into a great modern socialist country that would be prosperous, strong, democratic, culturally advanced and harmonious, and set the intermediate goal to be achieved by 2035. This idea was officially included in the draft of the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021–2025).

Figure 1: Trend of China's per capita GDP (Year 2000=1)



Source：CEIC China Premium Database and IMF World Economic Outlook Database (April 2026)

Furthermore, the other numerical targets outlined in the 15th Five-Year Plan are generally conservative. These include maintaining the GDP growth rate within a "reasonable range," ensuring that labor productivity growth outpaces GDP growth, increasing the urbanization rate from 67.9% in 2025 to 71% by 2030, and maintaining research and development (R&D) expenditure growth at 7% or higher. This suggests that the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party and central government are prioritizing the quality of growth over its volume.

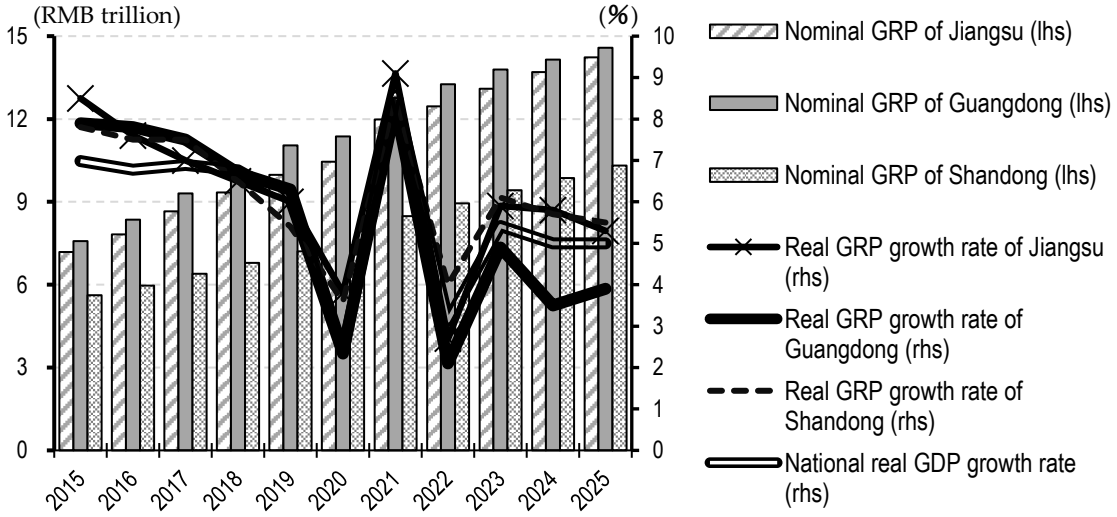
However, China has recently faced severe headwinds, including an accelerating aging population combined with a declining birthrate, delays in resolving the "three major excesses" (production capacity, housing inventory, and debt), intensifying US–China economic frictions, and instability in the global economy. Consequently, some analysts argue that achieving these goals will be far from easy. Amid these shifting dynamics, signs of deceleration have begun to emerge in the economy of Guangdong Province, which boasts the largest gross regional product (GRP) nationwide.

2. The Slowdown of Guangdong's Economic Growth

The GRP trajectory by province (including four municipalities and five autonomous regions)[3] shows that Guangdong, Jiangsu, and Shandong have consistently ranked as the top three provinces in terms of value since 1982. In recent years, they have been expected to play a proactive role as "major economic provinces"[4] to drive the nation's "high-quality economic development" (Xinhua, 2025a).

The real GRP growth rates of these three provinces generally outperformed the national average until the 2010s. However, since 2021, Guangdong's economic growth rate has decreased to below the national average, indicating signs of stagnation. Meanwhile, Jiangsu Province, located in the Yangtze River Delta economic zone, has maintained relatively strong growth, leading to recent speculation that its economic scale might eventually overtake that of Guangdong (Figure 2).

Figure 2: Trends inf nominal and real GRP growth rate of the top three provinces in China



Source : CEIC China Premium Database

[3] The first-tier administrative divisions of the PRC are defined as 23 provinces (including Taiwan Province), 4 municipalities (Beijing, Tianjin, Shanghai, and Chongqing), 5 autonomous regions (Inner Mongolia, Ningxia Hui, Xinjiang Uygur, Tibet, and Guangxi Zhuang), and 2 special administrative regions (Hong Kong and Macau). In general, when conducting domestic economic analyses, the government targets the 31 provinces, municipalities, and autonomous regions, excluding Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Macau.

[4] Currently, the “major economic provinces” in China include Guangdong, Jiangsu, Shandong, Zhejiang, Sichuan, and Henan, of which total shares in the country are 44% in terms of GRP, and 40% in terms of population respectively in 2025.

Guangdong's economic stagnation is frequently noted as being heavily impacted by (1) delays in the structural transformation of traditional manufacturing and (2) widespread impoverished areas. With a population of approximately 130 million, a land area (180,000 km²) nearly half the size of Japan, and a large scale of GRP ($2.0 trillion, exceeding Spain's $1.9 trillion GDP which ranks 11th globally), Guangdong appears as if it is on the verge of falling into the "middle-income country's trap."[5]

Regarding China's GDP/GRP statistics, although various debates on their accuracy and transparency have long persisted (Takeshige, 2025), efforts to improve data precision continue. For example, in 2019, the methodology for compiling provincial GRP was fundamentally overhauled, and the National Bureau of Statistics of China (NBSC), a central government body, took over the estimation for all provinces (NBSC, 2024). Therefore, while acknowledging the limitations in raw data collection, utilizing these statistics as a benchmark for understanding China's economic situation while cross-referencing analyses from domestic and international researchers and organizations remains highly meaningful.

3. Stagnation in Guangdong's Manufacturing Sector

Examining the breakdown of China's GDP/GRP by industry, the weight of the tertiary sector surpassed that of the secondary sector nationwide in the first half of the 2010s, and by 2025, the tertiary sector accounted for nearly 60% of the economy. Although Guangdong and Jiangsu Provinces have followed a similar structural shift, Jiangsu's secondary sector maintains a share of over 40% and is growing at a rate higher than the national average. Conversely, the growth of Guangdong's secondary sector lacks momentum (Table 1).

[5] The "middle-income country's trap" refers to a phenomenon in which many developing countries, after reaching a middle level of GDP per capita through economic growth, fail to shift their development patterns and strategies, leading to slowed or long-term stagnant growth (Cabinet Office of Japan, "World Economic Trend 2013 Ⅱ").

Table 1: Economic conditions of China and its top three provinces in 2025

		Nationwide	Guangdong	Jiangsu	Shandong
GDP/GRP (RMB trillion, %*)		140.2 (+5.0)	14.6 (+3.9)	14.2 (+5.3)	10.3 (+5.5)
	Primary sector (RMB trillion, %*)	9.3 (+3.9)	0.6 (+4.5)	0.5 (+3.5)	0.7 (+4.0)
	Secondary sector (RMB trillion, %*)	50.0 (+4.5)	5.5 (+2.4)	6.0 (+4.7)	4.1 (+5.0)
	Tertiary sector (RMB trillion, %*)	80.9 (+5.4)	8.5 (+4.7)	7.7 (+5.8)	5.6 (+6.1)
	Share of the primary sector (%)	6.7	4.0	3.8	6.6
	Share of the secondary sector (%)	35.6	37.7	42.2	39.3
	Share of the tertiary sector (%)	57.7	58.3	54.1	54.1
Land area (thousand km²)		9,600	180	107	158
Resident population (million)		1,405	129	85	100
GDP/GRP per capita (RMB)		99,665	113,769	167,040	102,377
Export (RMB trillion, %**)		27.0 (+6.1)	6.0 (+2.5)	4.0 (+8.4)	2.2 (+4.0)
Tax revenue of local government general account (RMB trillion, %**)		8.5 (+2.2)	1.0 (+4.0)	0.8 (+3.8)	0.5 (+1.4)

Note*: Numbers in parentheses show real growth rates (year-on-year).
Note**: Numbers in parentheses show nominal growth rate (year-on-year).

Source：CEIC China Premium Database and "Public Report of Economic and Social Development 2025" for each province

Generally, Petty-Clark's Law suggests that as a nation's economy develops, the core of its industrial structure shifts from the primary to the secondary sector and subsequently from the secondary to the tertiary sector. In China, the tertiary sectors in Beijing and Shanghai, where per capita GRP exceeds $30,000 (in 2025, Beijing reached 239,000 RMB/$33,000, and Shanghai reached 228,000 RMB/$32,000), already account for approximately 80% of their economies (86% for Beijing and 79% for Shanghai in 2025). However, manufacturing remains an indispensable economic driver in most Chinese provinces.

Looking at the real year-on-year GRP growth of the secondary sector in 2025 for Guangdong's four major cities (with provincial shares being 26% for Shenzhen, 14% for Guangzhou, 13% for Dongguan, and 12% for Foshan), Shenzhen and Dongguan managed to maintain growth close to the national average despite decelerating compared to the previous year (real YoY growth from 2024 to 2025: Shenzhen shifted from +8.3% to +4.1%, Dongguan from +6.6% to +4.4%, against the national average moving from +5.0% to +4.5%). However, Guangzhou and Foshan remained sluggish, continuing the trend from the previous year (Guangzhou moved from +0.7% to +1.6% and Foshan from +0.2% to -2.1%).

In Guangzhou, the core automotive industry is struggling with the transition from internal combustion engine vehicles to new energy vehicles. Combining this with the recent nationwide slowdown in auto sales, the city continues to face a challenging environment.

In 2023, Foshan ranked fourth nationwide in total industrial output value (surpassed only by Shenzhen, Suzhou in Jiangsu Province, and Shanghai). Its manufacturing sector is deeply tied to residential construction, to the extent that it is often said in China that "every household has Foshan products." Clusters of large and small manufacturers specializing in furniture, sanitaryware, kitchen appliances, and various construction materials are spread throughout the city, and their sales channels expanded rapidly until the 2010s. However, in recent years, hit hard by rising labor costs and the collapse of the real estate bubble, a strong sense of stagnation has become evident.

The relatively low ratio of older adults is sometimes cited as one of Guangdong's strengths. For example, in 2024, the old-age dependency ratio (the ratio of the population aged 65 years and above to the working-age population aged 15–64 years) was 22.9% nationwide but only 14.1% in Guangdong. For comparison, this ratio was 27.5% and 27.1% for Jiangsu and Shandong, respectively. This implies that financial pressure on social security expenditures, such as pensions and medical care, is relatively low in Guangdong. However, evaluating the actual social security burden requires comprehensive consideration of the labor force composition and social insurance enrollment rates among residents, making a definitive judgment difficult.

4. The Burden of Intra-Provincial Regional Disparities

In 2025, Guangdong's per capita GRP was 113,769 RMB, remaining at less than 70% of Jiangsu's level (167,040 RMB, Table 1). This gap is largely because of Guangdong's large population (129 million that year) and challenging geographical conditions.

Guangdong comprises 21 cities (classified as "prefecture-level cities" in China). In terms of per capita GRP in 2024, a more than five-fold gap existed between the highest, Shenzhen (205,714 RMB), and the lowest, Meizhou (39,221 RMB). Furthermore, although the national average for that year was 95,677 RMB, 15 prefecture-level cities in Guangdong fell below this benchmark (Table 2). This contrasts sharply with Jiangsu Province, where all 13 prefecture-level cities outperformed the national average.

Table 2: GRP per capita of 21 prefecture-level cities in 2024

(RMB thousand)

Shenzhen	Zhuhai	Guangzhou	Foshan	Dongguan	Huizhou	Zhongshan
206	179	164	138	117	101	93
Jiangmen	**Zhaoqing**	**Maoming**	**Yangjiang**	**Shaoguan**	**Shantou**	**Qingyuan**
87	71	65	62	58	57	56
Shanwei	**Yunfu**	**Choazhou**	**Zhanjiang**	**Heyuan**	**Jieyang**	**Meizhou**
56	55	54	54	50	45	39

Source：CEIC China Premium Database

In Guangdong, seven of the twelve cities outside the nine Pearl River Delta cities have mountainous terrain, covering 70% of their total area. This increases infrastructure development costs and makes it difficult to attract industries. Furthermore, many areas are designated nature reserves, which restricts industrial development. Guangdong is also heavily affected by natural disasters, such as typhoons and floods, further complicating economic activity and social development in impoverished regions.

The Chinese government's establishment of Special Economic Zones in the 1980s[6] to leverage foreign investment and cultivate regions that could "get rich first" led to the robust development of Guangdong and the broader Chinese economy. Among these, Shenzhen, Zhuhai, and their surrounding plains developed smoothly as the Pearl River Delta industrial region. In particular, the prosperity of Shenzhen, which has grown into the "Silicon Valley of China" driven by high-tech and innovation, is remarkable. According to reports, R&D investment has recently intensified even further in Shenzhen and Guangzhou.

However, with the end of the high-growth era, accompanied by a weakening momentum of quantitative growth, relying solely on the growth of the Pearl River Delta region has made the stable development of the overall Guangdong economy difficult.

5. "AI Plus" and Advanced Regions

In August 2025, the Chinese government released the "Opinions on Deeply Implementing the 'AI+' Action," setting phased targets up to 2035 with focus areas including "AI + Science and Technology," "AI + Industrial Development," "AI + Consumption Quality Improvement," "AI + People's Livelihood and Welfare," "AI + Governance Capability," and "AI + International Cooperation"[7] (Matsuda, 2025). These objectives have also been integrated into the 15th Five-Year Plan.

In January 2026, an information media outlet affiliated with the Xinhua News Agency published the "Large-Scale AI Model Industrial City Competitiveness Ranking," which compiled AI utilization trends across various regions (Xinhua Finance, 2026). This ranking is an attempt to provide a comprehensive evaluation based on criteria such as industrial scale, dynamics of leading companies, innovation capacity, financing

[6] In 1980, Shenzhen, adjacent Hong Kong, Zhuhai, adjacent Macau, Shantou which has close relations with overseas Chinese, and Xiamen near Taiwan were selected as special economic zone where pilot programs for reform and opening-up would be implemented. In 1988, all of Hainan Island was designated as a special economic zone and upgraded as province.

[7] The targets are to promote the integration of AI in six important fields by raising the device penetration rate to 70% by 2027, to foster a smart economy as a pillar of national growth by 2030, and to establish a smart society supporting the country's modernization by 2035.

capability, industrial revenue, and growth potential. Regarding competitiveness in 2025, Beijing ranked first, followed by the highly rated hubs of Shanghai, Shenzhen, and Hangzhou in Zhejiang Province. Ranking fifth and below were Hefei (Anhui), Wuhan (Hubei), Nanjing (Jiangsu), Chengdu (Sichuan), and Wuxi (Jiangsu). When aggregating the ranked cities by province, Guangdong had seven cities make the list, indicating that the Pearl River Delta region is leading in the adoption of AI technology. Meanwhile, the Yangtze River Delta region is not lagging. For example, the list includes six cities in Zhejiang Province, five in Jiangsu Province, four in Anhui Province, and Shanghai Municipality.

Encouraged by the central government, ideas for AI-related industry–academia–government collaboration and financial support (fundraising via banks, investment funds, and stock markets) are rapidly emerging in China. Although this momentum is expected to continue for the foreseeable future, several projects remain in the experimental stage. In the future, the critical point will be whether the country can avoid an oversupply of production and services and follow a balanced growth path backed by real demand.

6. The Greater Bay Area Initiative

Historically, Guangdong Province's economic development has been driven by cooperation with the Hong Kong and Macao regions. However, even after the handovers of Hong Kong in 1997 and Macao in 1999, both regions have continued to exist as Special Administrative Regions, drawing a clear line between themselves and mainland China. Consequently, economic integration did not rapidly progress all at once. The Chinese government may also have wished to avoid creating the international perception that it was heavy-handedly intervening in the economic management of Hong Kong and Macao under the "One Country, Two Systems" principle.

In 2008, a decade after the handovers, the National Development and Reform Commission announced that it would actively explore the formation of a "world-class city cluster" through collaboration between Guangdong, Hong Kong, and Macao. However, no immediate concrete progress was observed.

The shift occurred after 2015. First, the "Construction of the Guangdong–Hong Kong–Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA)" was explicitly included in the action plan for the "Belt and Road Initiative," proposed by President Xi Jinping. Subsequently, in July 2017, an agreement pledging cooperation for the construction of the Greater Bay Area was signed between the Chinese government and the governments of Hong Kong, Macao, and Guangdong Province. In February 2019, the "Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong–Hong Kong–Macao Greater Bay Area" was officially promulgated. The development plan targets Hong Kong, Macao, and the nine prefecture-level cities in Guangdong's Pearl River Delta region (Figure

3). Thus far, the development of transportation networks, such as roads and railways, has taken the lead.

Figure 3: Geographic location of the Guangdong–Hong Kong–Macao Greater Bay Area

Source: G8 (2024)1831, Guangdong Platform for Common Geospatial Information Services

Initially, critics noted that building a coordination mechanism was difficult because of the ambiguity regarding who has the ultimate decision-making authority. Unlike other regional cooperation initiatives within China, which are based on province-to-province collaboration, the Greater Bay Area features a structural mismatch, Hong Kong and Macao hold the same administrative rank as a province (and are higher in diplomatic terms), whereas the nine Pearl River Delta cities are merely prefecture-level cities. The scope of independent decision-making for these nine cities is limited, requiring coordination with the Guangdong provincial government depending on the project, which has reportedly caused confusion regarding the process. The provincial government established a project team called the "Guangdong–Hong Kong–Macao Greater Bay Area Construction Leading Group" to address these anxieties, demonstrating its commitment to fully support the development plan.

7. Promotion of the "Hundred-Thousand-Ten Million Project"

In the economically underdeveloped regions of Guangdong Province, the "Hundred-County, Thousand-Town, Ten-Million-Village High-Quality Development Project" (abbreviated as the "Hundred-Thousand-Ten Million Project") was deployed at the end of 2022. This local economic revitalization policy is modeled after the "Thousand Model Villages, Ten Thousand Renovated Villages Project" promoted by President Xi Jinping during his

tenure in Zhejiang Province. Under this mechanism, administrative units at the county level (an administrative tier below prefecture-level cities) and below devise their own revitalization plans tailored to their local characteristics, to which subsidies are distributed by the central and provincial governments.

The scale of individual projects is mostly small, limiting their contribution to the overall Guangdong economy thus far. However, positive effects are gradually emerging. According to reports, in 2024, the income gap between urban and rural areas in Guangdong narrowed from 2.41 in 2022 to 2.31. Furthermore, 57 counties, primarily in the eastern, western, and northern parts of the province, became net recipients of population inflows, and the industrial value-added growth rate in 32 counties exceeded the provincial average (Xinhua, 2025b). Continued policy support is expected to develop this momentum further in the future.

8. Conclusion

In 2025, despite hits from a sluggish real estate market and intensifying external economic frictions, the Chinese economy avoided a severe downturn, recording a real GDP growth rate of 5%. One driver of this resilience was the remarkable growth of emerging industries, led by advancements in information science and technology.

Although some sectors exhibit powerful growth momentum, an economic slowdown across Guangdong Province has become apparent. The primary causes cited are the delayed structural transformation of traditional manufacturing and the presence of extensive impoverished areas, largely because of harsh geographical environments. Furthermore, several large, privately owned real estate developers are headquartered in Guangdong, and their distress is quite likely casting a long shadow over the economy.

The central and Guangdong provincial governments are stimulating economic revitalization through the "Guangdong–Hong Kong–Macao Greater Bay Area Development Plan" and the rural-focused "Hundred-Thousand-Ten Million Project." Steady cumulative efforts will be required to achieve their intended objectives. The Guangdong provincial government must collect timely information from its vast and highly unequal jurisdiction, share it appropriately with the central government, and carefully resolve issues that arise during policy implementation.

While this paper focuses on the challenges facing Guangdong, the difficulty of structural reform in traditional manufacturing and the complexity of intra-provincial regional disparities are deep-rooted issues shared by many other provinces. If even Guangdong, which has the largest economic scale and highest tax revenue in the country despite its slowdown, is struggling to

manage these problems, the weight of the challenges faced by less economically developed regions must be more daunting.

The year 2026 marks the start of the 15th Five-Year Plan. Central government departments and local governments nationwide are expected to achieve tangible results while tailoring the plan to the realities of their respective sectors and regions. In doing so, redundant construction is a critical point of caution.

For example, according to various reports, construction plans for development and manufacturing hubs for humanoid robots, new energy vehicles, semiconductors, and biopharmaceuticals are surfacing across the country. The atmosphere suggests that active financial support will be funneled into these emerging fields. Establishing a coordination mechanism to execute a balanced development plan for the entire nation is likely to become a major challenge.

Rural areas also face redundant construction risks. For example, in connection with revitalizing economically underdeveloped rural areas, many villages nationwide have proposed resort development plans. Although tourism demand in China is expanding and diversifying with the rise in per capita GDP, building a resort village that can stably attract tourists is not easy. While it must be useful to reference successful examples from other regions, development must not lose sight of alignment with local characteristics.

Regarding measures against rural depopulation, the focus should not be entirely on efforts to stop population outflows. Methods are also needed to encourage population movement in alignment with the urbanization of neighboring areas. The key to this has long been considered to lie in whether equal administrative services, such as social security and education for children, can be provided to people who have moved from rural to urban areas.

Comparing Guangdong and Jiangsu from the perspective of cross-regional cooperation, observations suggest that, while Jiangsu successfully leverages Shanghai's strengths, such as the development of a massive consumer market with a permanent resident population of 24.85 million, advanced nature of the Free Trade Zone spanning the entire Pudong district, and presence of top-tier universities and research institutions, the collaboration between Guangdong and Hong Kong still lacks breadth and depth. Altering the division of roles among Hong Kong, Guangzhou, and Shenzhen, while fully incorporating the opinions of the business community and residents, would be effective.

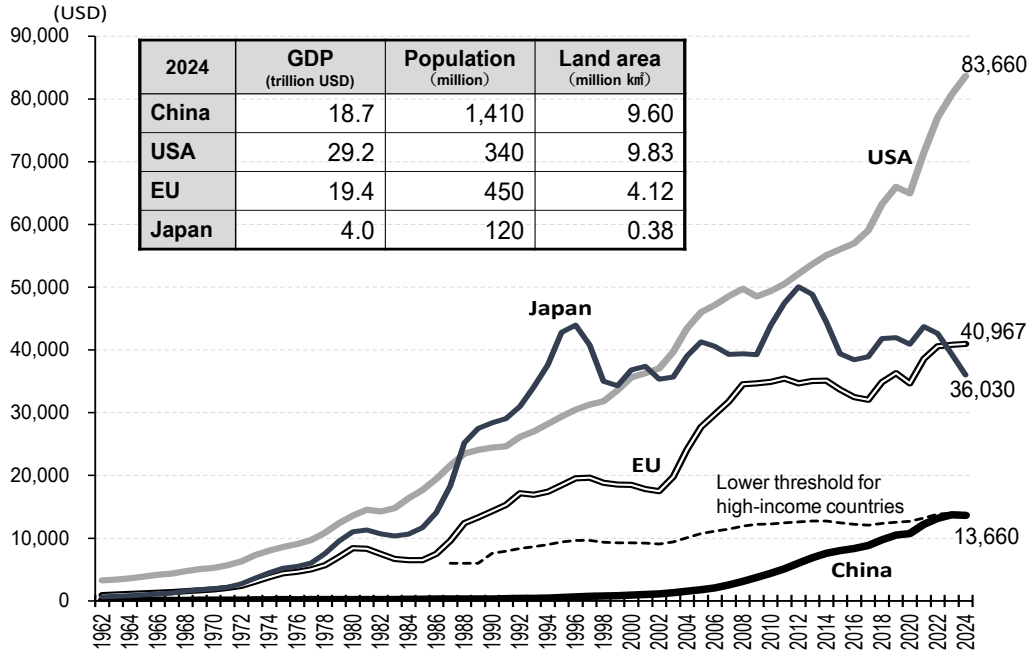
In China, pursuing economic development through cross-provincial cooperation is encouraged not only in the Beijing–Tianjin–Hebei (Jing-Jin-

Ji) region, Yangtze River Delta, and Guangdong–Hong Kong–Macao Greater Bay Area, which the central government prioritizes, but also in the western, northeastern, and central regions. However, deep-seated administrative practices based on provincial units over many years (including competitive performance comparisons) appear to make it difficult to build rational cooperative frameworks. These barriers must be broken down one-by-one.

The 15th Five-Year Plan outline includes tasks such as examining how to adjust tax revenues, land-related revenues, and carbon dioxide emission rights between industrial outflow and recipient regions. The allocation of fiscal resources to promote various projects is particularly vital, and the restructuring of tax revenue redistribution between the central and local governments appears to be a critical item under consideration.

According to World Bank estimates, China's per capita Gross National Income (GNI) reached $13,660 in 2024, coming within less than $300 of the lower threshold for high-income countries ($13,935; Figure 4). If viewed purely through simple averages, the goal of becoming a moderately developed country by 2035 may not be overly difficult.

Figure 4: GNI per capita of major countries and regions



Sources: World Bank World Development Indicators and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan

However, to fulfill the objective of "making people's lives happier and basically achieving socialist modernization," narrowing income disparities across various metrics will be indispensable. Compared to the European Union (EU), which has a similar GDP scale in USD, China's land area is 2.3 times larger, and its population is 3.1 times greater. Although China possesses immense potential as a "market," it faces substantial challenges in raising per capita income, such as employment and social security.

Raising the income of the relatively poor should contribute significantly to expanding domestic consumption, making it a critical task for high-quality social and economic development. Although the difficulty of resolving the problem can easily be inferred from the case of Guangdong, the central government must actively collect information from various regions, promptly share it nationwide, jointly evaluate response strategies, and continuously strive to reflect these findings appropriately in relevant policies.

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