2026 Global Mayors' Forum
The 7th Guangzhou International Award for Urban Innovation

Delegate Handbook

December 9-11, 2026
Guangzhou, CHINA



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Key Information at a Glance

Dates

December 9–11, 2026

Venue

Guangzhou Yuexiu International Congress Center (GYICC)

No. 119 Liu Hua Road, Yuexiu District, Guangzhou, China
https://www.gyicc.com/en/

Hotel

China Hotel, Guangzhou

No. 122 Liu Hua Road, Yuexiu District, Guangzhou, China
https://chinahotelgz.com/en/

Time Zone

Beijing Time (GMT+8)

Currency

Renminbi (RMB)

Registration

Lobby of China Hotel

Contact

gmf2026@guangzhouaward.org

Emergency

Police 110 | Fire 119 | Medical Emergency 120

Programme

1.1 Programme Overview

Time	Event	Venue / Room
	Wednesday, December 9	
Morning	Arrival and Badge Collection	Lobby, 1st Floor, China Hotel
12:00-13:30	Buffet Lunch	Café Veranda, 2nd Floor, China Hotel
14:30-17:00	International Entrepreneurs' Roundtable	502AB, GYICC
	The Metropolis Solutions Lab – Urban Mass Mobility (By Invitation Only)	505AB, GYICC
18:30-20:30	Award Ceremony of the 7th Guangzhou Award & Welcome Dinner of the 2026 Global Mayors' Forum	301 Ballroom, GYICC
	Thursday, December 10	
09:00-11:30	Opening Ceremony of the 2026 Global Mayors' Forum	101 Exhibition Hall, GYICC
12:00-13:45	Buffet Lunch	301 Ballroom, GYICC
14:00-15:30	Megacities Dialogue	201, GYICC
15:30-15:45	Coffee & Networking Break	Networking Area on the 5th floor, GYICC
15:45-17:30	Forum 1: Smart Cities	505BC, GYICC
	Forum 2: Livable Cities	502AB, GYICC
	Forum 3: Beautiful Cities	501AB, GYICC
	The Metropolis Solutions Lab – Urban Mass Mobility (By Invitation Only)	505AB, GYICC

Time	Event	Venue / Room
17:45-19:30	Guangzhou Economic & Trade Exchange and Promotion Dinner	301 Ballroom, GYICC
20:00-22:00	Light of Guangzhou: Thematic Pearl River Night Cruise	Departure from GYICC
	Friday, December 11	
09:00-16:30	The Metropolis Solutions Lab – Urban Mass Mobility (By Invitation Only)	Nansha District, Guangzhou
10:00-12:00	Forum 4: Resilient Cities	503AB, GYICC
	Forum 5: Culturally Advanced Cities	502AB, GYICC
	Forum 6: Innovative Cities	503AC, GYICC
12:00-13:30	Buffet Lunch	301 Ballroom, GYICC
14:30-17:30	City Tour 1: Green Economy & Traditional Chinese Medicine Heritage	See 1.4 City Tours
	City Tour 2: Smart City & Future Mobility	
	City Tour 3: Guangzhou–Hong Kong Cooperation and Rural Revitalization	
18:00-19:30	Buffet Dinner	301 Ballroom, GYICC
	Saturday, December 12	
All day	Delegate Departure	

1.2 Detailed Programme

Wednesday, December 9	
Time	**Event**
12:00-13:45	**Buffet Lunch** **Venue: Café Veranda, 2nd Floor, China Hotel**
14:30-17:00	**International Entrepreneurs' Roundtable** Bringing together corporate executives, municipal leaders, and industry institutions from around the world, the roundtable explores how businesses can contribute to urban innovation, job creation, economic development and green transition. The discussions consider how cities can create a more open and supportive business environment. The event offers an opportunity to connect cities and businesses and identify new opportunities for international commercial cooperation. **Venue: 502AB, GYICC** **The Metropolis Solutions Lab – Urban Mass Mobility (By Invitation Only)** This working session is exclusively for Metropolis Solutions Lab participants, serving as the in-person culmination of the peer-learning process that began with the initial online sessions. Rooted in the Solutions Lab methodology of collective knowledge creation, the session provides a structured space for participants to synthesize insights, share experiences, and co-develop practical approaches to urban mass mobility challenges. The working session will also feature a presentation by Guangzhou on relevant policies and strategic programs related to urban public mobility, contributing local perspectives to the discussion. By fostering direct dialogue among participating cities, this session ensures sufficient time to achieve the expected objectives of the Solutions Lab and sets the stage for the thematic seminar and field visit that follow. **Venue: 505AB, GYICC**
18:30-20:30	**Award Ceremony of the 7th Guangzhou Award & Welcome Dinner of the 2026 Global Mayors' Forum** This high-level gathering brings together global city delegations, leaders of international organizations, and distinguished guests to witness the announcement and presentation of the 7th Guangzhou Award, recognizing the winning and distinctive initiatives for their exceptional contributions to urban governance. It also features curated cultural performances highlighting local heritage. **Venue: 301 Ballroom, GYICC**

Thursday, December 10	
Time	**Event**
09:00-11:30	**Opening Ceremony of the Global Mayors' Forum** The opening session brings together national city level leaders, policy experts, and institutional partners to mark the opening of the forum through keynote addresses and high-level plenary panels. Addressing pressing urban trends and shared global challenges, the discussions focus on core dimensions of modern city development: innovation, livability, sustainability, resilience, inclusiveness, and smart governance, setting the stage for the discussions and exchanges to follow. **Venue: 101 Exhibition Hall, GYICC**
12:00-14:00	**Buffet Lunch** **Venue: 301 Ballroom, GYICC**
14:00-15:30	**Megacities Dialogue** Co-organized with the World Association of Major Metropolises, this dialogue specifically engages leaders from megacities around the world with populations exceeding 10 million to address shared urban management challenges. In alignment with UN-Habitat's global priority agenda, participants focus on the shared challenge of urban housing, discussing strategies related to population density, housing supply, affordability, and governance policy. It aims to highlight scalable policy solutions and cross-city learning among megacities navigating different developmental stages. **Venue: 201, GYICC**
15:30-15:45	**Coffee & Networking Break** **Venue:Networking Area on the 5th floor, GYICC**
15:45-17:30	**Forum 1: Smart Cities** Discussions will focus on methodological updates in global city evaluation in the AI era, evaluation dimensions for Asia-Pacific cities, and the interface between city evaluation and policy practice. The forum aims to promote substantive dialogue among global urban research institutions, think tanks, and international organizations, and to provide a platform for developing city evaluation frameworks that are both academically rigorous and policy-relevant, thereby supporting international friendly exchanges and innovative urban governance cooperation. **Venue: 503AB, GYICC**

Thursday, December 10	
Time	**Event**
15:45-17:30	**Forum 2: Livable Cities** Focusing on building sustainable and livable human settlements, this sessions explores how digital and intelligent technologies can empower urban spatial planning, public service delivery, and urban governance innovation under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It promotes joint efforts by cities worldwide to implement the "Leave No One Behind" principle of the United Nations New Urban Agenda (NUA), and convenes international dialogue on sustainable urban renewal, housing safety and security, protection of historical heritage and cultural context, and inclusive community governance, sharing diverse cases of global cities improving quality of life and achieving social inclusion. **Venue: 505BC, GYICC**
	Forum 3: Beautiful Cities Focusing on urban green transition, aesthetic urban renewal, and ecological environment improvement, this session will explore topics including ecological restoration and biodiversity, the green and low-carbon transition of urban industries and lifestyles, and the enhancement of urban appearance and distinctive landscapes. Through exchanges on Chinese and international city cases, it will discuss how to integrate ecological value and climate action with urban renewal and economic development, implement the United Nations Sustainable Development Agenda, and create beautiful, ecologically livable human settlements. **Venue: 501AB, GYICC**
	The Metropolis Solutions Lab – Urban Mass Mobility (By Invitation Only) This seminar explores the future of urban mobility, from rail transit to smart ports, multimodal transportation, autonomous driving, and low-altitude mobility. It combines thematic discussions with field observations to explore how technologies such as digital twins and intelligent vehicle infrastructure cooperative systems are being integrated into urban development, and how cities can build a more efficient, sustainable, and connected transport system. **Venue: 505AB, GYICC**

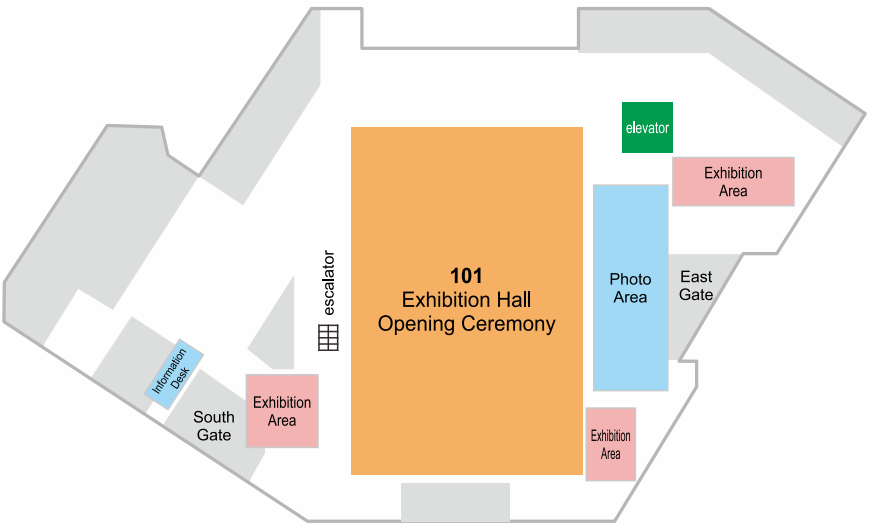
Thursday, December 10	
Time	**Event**
17:45-19:30	**Guangzhou Economic & Trade Exchange and Promotion Dinner** The event will showcase Guangzhou's industrial strengths, innovation ecosystem and international business environment, offering delegates and business executives from around the world insights into market opportunities. Delegates will also learn about the Canton Market, a new 9.86-square-kilometer trade hub adjacent to Baiyun Airport designed to extend Canton Fair opportunities year-round by integrating exhibition, manufacturing, logistics and cross-border e-commerce. Presentations will focus on advanced manufacturing, technological innovation and modern service industries. The event will also provide opportunities for exchanges between cities and businesses, as well as among businesses, with a view to promoting international trade, investment and strategic partnerships. **Venue: 301 Ballroom, GYICC**
20:00-22:00	**Light of Guangzhou: thematic Pearl River Night Cruise** Embark on a breathtaking journey along Guangzhou's iconic waterway. As night falls, shimmering lights illuminate the city's skyline, seamlessly bridging historical landmarks with modern architectural marvels like the Canton Tower.?Visit during the Guangzhou International Light Festival—one of the world's three major light festivals—when 36 dazzling light installations transform the Pearl River banks and the Canton Tower into a breathtaking open-air gallery. Experience the vibrant pulse, rich heritage, and romantic charm of Guangzhou from a unique waterfront perspective. **Venue: departure from GYICC**

Friday, December 11	
Time	**Event**
09:00-16:30	**The Metropolis Solutions Lab – Urban Mass Mobility (By Invitation Only)** This full-day field trip immerses delegates in Guangzhou's Nansha District—a hub of futuristic transit and smart city innovation. Highlights include riding the high-speed Metro Line 18, exploring integrated urban-industrial planning at Nansha Hub, touring the fully automated Nansha Phase IV Terminal of Guangzhou Port, witnessing autonomous vehicle testing, and discovering Pearl Bay's digital twin operations and low-altitude economy. **Venue: With Nansha District, Guangzhou**
10:00-12:00	**Forum 4: Resilient Cities** This session addresses urban capacity to absorb, adapt to, and recover from severe disruptions, including natural disasters, public health crises, and infrastructure failures. Discussions include risk identification, emergency management systems, and community-level resilience mechanisms, offering practical strategies to embed adaptive management into daily municipal administration and long-term risk reduction plans. **Venue: 503AB, GYICC**
	Forum 5: Culturally Advanced Cities This session explores the critical role of culture in shaping vibrant and distinctive cities, highlighting approaches to preserving and revitalizing cultural heritage, activating cultural spaces, and integrating culture with sports, tourism, business, and creative industries. It also examines how major cultural and sporting events and creative initiatives can enrich urban life, strengthen cultural exchange, and create new opportunities for cities. **Venue: 502AB, GYICC**
	Forum 6: Innovative Cities This session examines how technology and innovation are reshaping cities worldwide, emphasizing the deep integration of scientific innovation with industrial development and the application of artificial intelligence. Panelists share regional practices in building robust innovation ecosystems and fostering modern industrial systems, exploring how cities can leverage knowledge networks to navigate economic transition and sustainable development. **Venue: 503AB, GYICC**

Friday, December 11	
Time	**Event**
12:00-13:30	**Buffet Lunch** **Venue: 301 Ballroom, GYICC**
14:30-17:30	**City Tour 1: Green Economy & Traditional Chinese Medicine Heritage** This tour showcases Guangzhou's breakthroughs in green, low-carbon transformation and "Zero-Waste City" construction through a visit to **Fushan Circular Economy Park**—China's largest and most comprehensive solid waste treatment facility. It is followed by an immersive exploration of **Guangzhou Shennong Caotang Traditional Chinese Medicine Museum**, where guests can appreciate the deep-rooted heritage and modern innovation of Lingnan Traditional Chinese Medicine.
	City Tour 2: Technological Innovation & Smart Transportation Centered on future mobility and smart lifestyles, this route features the international sister-city themed **Jianshe Liu Lu Metro Station**, highlighting urban rail advancement. Guests will then visit the **Haixinsha Omni-Space Intelligence Experience Center** to experience cutting-edge future industries such as the low-altitude economy, connected mobility, and embodied AI, concluding with immersive digital solutions at the landmark **Huawei Flagship Store.**
	City Tour 3: Guangzhou–Hong Kong Cooperation and Rural Revitalization Highlighting regional synergy and rural rejuvenation, this journey takes participants to the **Hong Kong Jockey Club Conghua Racecourse**—a world-class equine training facility and a milestone emblem of Guangzhou-Hong Kong cooperation. The tour then continues to **Mibu Village**, a premier model for sustainable rural development, showcasing picturesque ecological landscapes, boutique rural tourism, and vibrant Lingnan country charm.
18:00-19:30	**Buffet Dinner** **Venue: 301 Ballroom, GYICC**

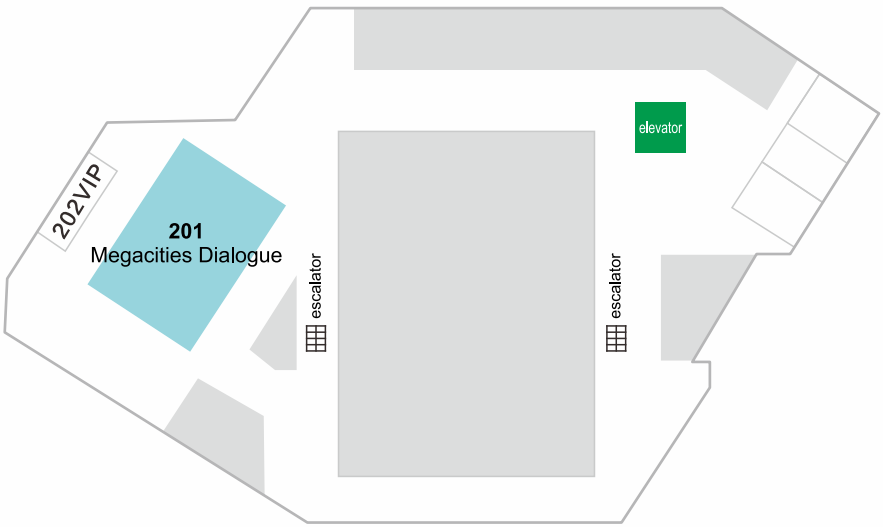
1.3 Floor Plans and Rooms

Floor 1



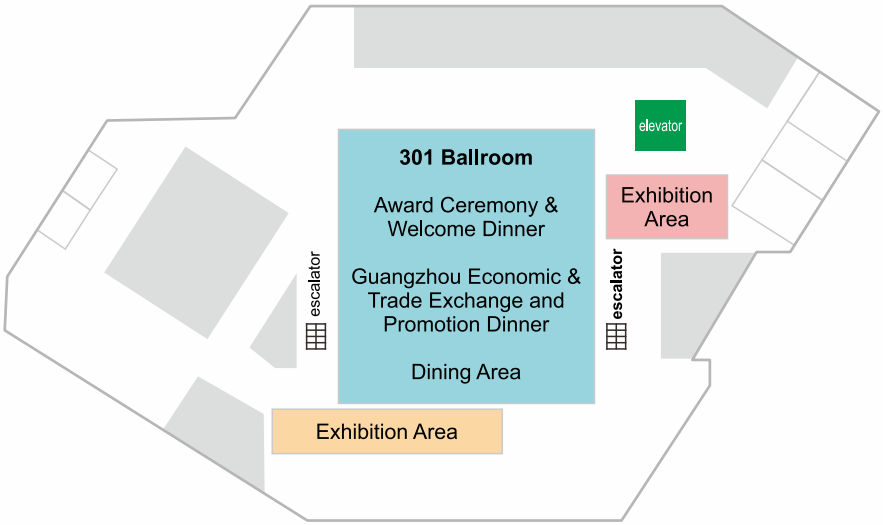
Venue	Program	Time
101 Exhibition Hall	Opening Ceremony of the Global Mayors' Forum	9:00-11:30, December 10

Floor 2



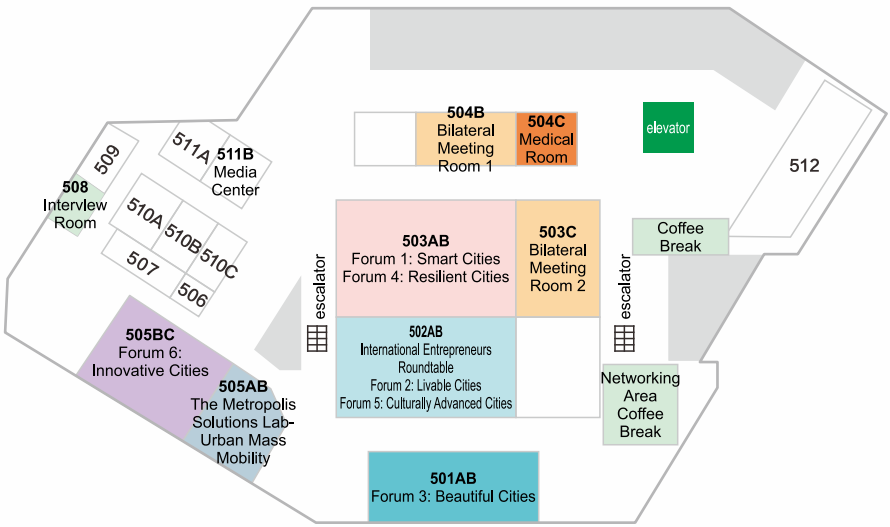
Venue	Program	Time
201	Megacities Dialogue	14:00-15:30, December 10

Floor 3



Venue	Program	Time
301 Ballroom	Award Ceremony of the 7th Guangzhou Award & Welcome Dinner	18:30-20:30, December 9
	Guangzhou Economic & Trade Exchange and Promotion Dinner	17:45-19:30, December 10

Floor 5



Venue	Program	Time
501AB	Forum 3: Beautiful Cities	15:45-17:30, December 10
502AB	International Entrepreneurs' Roundtable	14:30-17:00, December 9
	Forum 2: Livable Cities	15:45-17:30, December 10
	Forum 5: Culturally Advanced Cities	10:00-12:00, December 11
503AB	Forum 1: Smart Cities	15:45-17:30, December 10
	Forum 4: Resilient Cities	10:00-12:00, December 11
505 ABC	The Metropolis Solutions Lab – Urban Mass Mobility (By Invitation Only)	14:30-17:00, December 9
		15:45-17:30, December 10
	Forum 6: Innovative Cities	10:00-12:00, December 11

1.4 City Tours

City Tour 1: Green Economy & Traditional Chinese Medicine

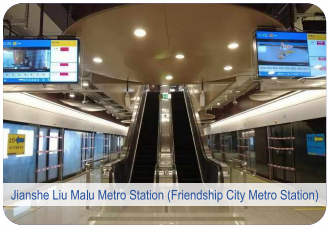
This route takes "green circularity and Lingnan cultural heritage" as its main thread, linking the Fushan Circular Economy Industrial Park and Guangzhou Shennong Caotang Traditional Chinese Medicine Museum. It presents in three dimensions of Guangzhou's vivid practices in cultivating and developing new quality productive forces, promoting green and low-carbon transformation, and advancing the inheritance and innovation of traditional Chinese medicine culture. The first stop, **the Fushan Circular Economy Industrial Park**, allows guests to learn on site about the construction and operation results of a circular economy industrial park with the most comprehensive waste treatment categories and leading scale in China, and to feel Guangzhou's firm strides in solving the "waste siege" problem, building a "zero-waste city," and promoting green and low-carbon transformation. Guests then proceed to Guangzhou Shennong Caotang Traditional Chinese Medicine Museum, where, immersed in Lingnan garden scenery and traditional Chinese medicine culture, they can appreciate the profound heritage and cultural confidence of Guangzhou as the central city of a major traditional Chinese medicine province. The entire route places equal emphasis on green, low-carbon development and humanistic heritage, helping guests understand Guangzhou's development picture of "new vitality in an old city" from multiple dimensions.


the Fushan Circular Economy Industrial Park


Guangzhou Shennong Caotang Museum of Traditional Chinese Medicine

City Tour 2: Technological Innovation & Smart Transportation

This route takes "sci-tech empowerment and a smart future" as its main thread, focusing on Guangzhou's frontier practices in cultivating and developing new quality productive forces and building transportation that satisfies the people's demand. **Jianshe Liu Malu Metro Station (Friendship-City themed Metro Station)**, an important interchange station between the central section of Guangzhou Metro Line 12 and Phase II of Line 13, showcases in a concentrated way the innovative achievements of Guangzhou's new round of urban rail transit construction and smart operation. **The Haixinsha Omni-Space Intelligence Experience Center** presents in a concentrated way Guangzhou's core achievements in future industries such as the low-altitude economy, intelligent connected vehicles, and embodied intelligence. It is the country's first omni-space intelligent system exhibition platform, allowing guests to intuitively feel the innovative pulse of the "Tech Island · Future Island." **The Huawei Flagship Store (Huilixuan Mall Store)**, located in a landmark urban commercial district, displays the latest flagship devices and all-scenario smart life solutions, presenting the innovative vitality of "Intelligent Manufacturing in China" from the consumer end. The entire route links "future transportation," "future industries," and "smart life," progressively demonstrating Guangzhou's surging vitality in leading high-quality development through scientific and technological innovation.


Jianshe Liu Malu Metro Station (Friendship City Metro Station)


The Haixinsha All-Space Intelligent Experience Center



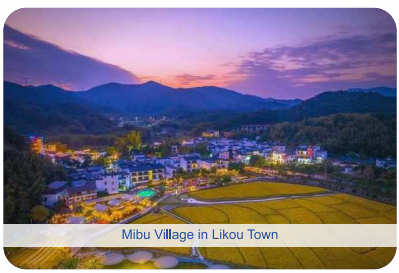
The Huawei Flagship Store (Huilixuan Mall Store)

City Tour 3: Guangzhou–Hong Kong Cooperation and Rural Revitalization

This route takes "Guangzhou-Hong Kong cooperation and rural revitalization" as its main thread, going deep into Conghua District to experience the contemporary atmosphere of Guangzhou's integration of culture, sports, and tourism and its comprehensive rural revitalization. **The Hong Kong Jockey Club Conghua Racecourse** is an important landmark project of Guangzhou-Hong Kong cooperation. Guests can learn up close about the construction and operation of world-class horse training facilities and feel the fruitful results of coordinated development in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. **Mibu Village in Likou Town** is one of the first batch of typical villages under Guangdong Province's "Hundreds, Thousands, and Tens of Thousands Project." Guests can experience on site the ecological pastoral scenery and distinctive homestays of Lingnan's beautiful countryside, and feel Guangzhou's vivid practices in advancing comprehensive rural revitalization and painting a new picture of harmonious and beautiful villages. The entire route integrates Guangzhou-Hong Kong sports and rural experiences, showcasing Guangzhou's urban character of openness, inclusiveness, and coordinated urban-rural development.



The Hong Kong Jockey Club Conghua Racecourse



Mibu Village in Likou Town

On-site Services

2.1 Conference Languages

Simultaneous interpretation in Chinese and English will be available for all sessions. Additional simultaneous interpretation in Spanish and French will be provided during the Award Ceremony for the 7th Guangzhou Award on the evening of 9 December, and during the Opening Ceremony of the Global Mayors' Forum on the morning of 10 December.

2.2 Registration and Badge Collection

(1) Online Registration
https://gmf2026.guangzhouaward.org/en/

(2) Badge Collection
The Lobby of China Hotel

2.3 Services at the Venue

(1) Medical Room (504C)
A medical room will be available at the meeting venue to provide basic medical services and first aid free of charge during the meeting period. The medical room offers emergency and trauma care only and does not provide medical services for chronic conditions.

(2) Information Desk (Lost and Found)
The Information Desk is located at the south lobby of GYICC from 8am to 8pm on December 9 to December 11.

(3) Media Center (509)
A media center will be set up for interviews and media release.

(4) Bilateral Meeting Rooms (503C & 504B)

Two bilateral meeting rooms---Room 503C with 20 seats and Room 504B with 10 seats, will be available for delegations by prior reservation from 8am to 7pm on December 9 to December 10, and 8am to 1pm on December 11. Each room may be reserved for a 30-minute time slot each time. Delegations wishing to use a bilateral meeting room are requested to inquire availability and make on-site reservations directly at the Information Desk.

(5) Venue Wi-Fi

Complimentary Wi-Fi is available throughout the meeting venue. Network name: GYICC_Guest; Password: 88888888.

2.4 Catering

December 9th	
Buffet Lunch	Café Veranda, 2nd Floor, China Hotel
Award Ceremony of the 7th Guangzhou Award & Welcome Dinner	301 Ballroom, GYICC
December 10th	
Buffet Lunch	301 Ballroom, GYICC
Guangzhou Economic & Trade Exchange and Promotion Dinner	
December 11th	
Buffet Lunch	301 Ballroom, GYICC
Buffet Dinner	

2.5 Dress Code

Participants are advised to wear their conference badges during all conference activities. Business attire is recommended for the Award Ceremony, Opening Ceremony and other conference sessions. Business casual attire is suggested for site visits.

Travel and Accommodation

3.1 Entry Requirements and Customs

(1) Visa and Customs Information

For information on countries eligible for visa-free entry to China, please visit the website: https://cs.mfa.gov.cn/wgrlh/, and refer to the right-hand column titled "Mutual Visa Exemption List," "Q&A on Visa-Free Entry," and "Visa-Free Transit."

All other participants will need valid visas or travel documents to enter China. Delegates are advised to confirm visa requirements with the Chinese embassy or consulate in their place of residence and to apply for visas well in advance of departure. Delegates requiring a letter of invitation for visa application purposes may contact the Secretariat at gmf2026@guangzhouaward.org.

Delegates carrying more than USD 5,000 or RMB 20,000 in cash (or the equivalent in other currencies), or other goods subject to declaration, must declare them to China Customs and complete the required customs clearance procedures in accordance with relevant regulations. Personal items for daily use may be brought into China in reasonable quantities and are generally exempt from import duties (excluding alcoholic beverages and tobacco products). All personal belongings must comply with relevant Chinese import regulations.

(2) Baggage and Restricted Items

Airlines impose strict regulations on the size and weight of both checked and carry-on baggage. Delegates are strongly advised to review the baggage allowances of their chosen airlines before departure to avoid excess baggage fees or other inconveniences.

For reasons of aviation safety, certain items and substances are prohibited or restricted from being brought into or out of China, including but not limited to weapons of any kind, counterfeit currencies and counterfeit negotiable securities,

lethal poisons, narcotic drugs, fruits, as well as food, medicines, and other items potentially harmful to humans/livestock or capable of transmitting diseases. Airlines also maintain specific restrictions on liquids in hand-carried luggage. Delegations should review these regulations in advance and prepare accordingly.

3.2 Accommodation

Hotel	Room Type	Contact	Address	Reservation
China Hotel, Guangzhou	Deluxe King Room, Deluxe Twin Room, Executive Junior Suite	Tel: +86 20 8666 6888 E-mail: ays@chinahotelgz.com	No. 122 Liu Hua Road, Yuexiu District, Guangzhou 510015 China	Please reserve through the "Guide" page of Forum Website

3.3 Getting to the Hotel

(1) Official Shuttle Service

Upon arrival, staff at the GMF Information Counter in Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport arrival hall and Guangzhou South Railway Station will guide delegates to the designated shuttle buses to the China Hotel. Please kindly bring a copy or screenshot of the official GMF Invitation Letter to help our staff verify your identity. For departure, shuttle buses will be available from China Hotel to Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport/Guangzhou South Railway Station.

To ensure smooth coordination, participants are required to enter complete and accurate flight/train details in the registration system. Should there be any changes to the itinerary, please also update it in the registration system.

Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport (IATA Code: CAN) is approximately 37 km away from the conference venue and the official hotel. The airport comprises three terminals. For further details on terminal maps, airline service counters, and transfer routes, please refer to the airport's official website: https://www.baiyunairport.com.

Guangzhou South Railway Station is located in Panyu District, approximately 22 km away from the meeting venue and the official hotel.

(2) Public Transportation

For delegates who miss or do not wish to use the official shuttle service, there are also multiple ways of public transportation options.

- **Metro**

From Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport:

Take Line 3 and transfer to Line 2 at Jiahewanggang Station. Then, get off at Yuexiu Park Station on Line 2. At Yuexiu Park Station, Take Exit D1 to China Hotel, or Exit B2 to GYICC.

Guangzhou South Railway Station:

Take Line 2 and get off at Yuexiu Park Station. At Yuexiu Park Station, Take Exit D1 to China Hotel, or Exit B2 to GYICC.



●Taxi

The taxi fare from Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport to China Hotel (No. 122 Liu Hua Road, Yuexiu District, Guangzhou, China) is approximately RMB 50–100, including expressway tolls. The taxi fare from Guangzhou South Railway Station to the hotel is approximately RMB 30–50, including expressway tolls.

Guangzhou Essentials

4.1 About Guangzhou

Guangzhou, a vibrant metropolis in southern China and the capital of Guangdong Province, boasts a unique history spanning over 2,200 years. As President Xi Jinping has observed: "To understand today's China, one must begin by understanding China's history. Guangzhou is the cradle of China's democratic revolution and the vanguard of China's reform and opening up. More than 1,000 years ago, Guangzhou was a starting point of the Maritime Silk Road. More than 100 years ago, it was here that China opened its door to modern progress. More than 40 years ago, it was also here that China started building and blazed a path of development for special economic zones. Now Guangzhou is actively advancing the development of the Guangdong- Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, continuing to play its role as a bellwether and a locomotive for high-quality development".

Covering an area of approximately 7,434 square kilometers and home to over 19 million permanent residents, Guangzhou is one of China's most populous and dynamic cities. As a key national center for trade and manufacturing, it hosts the renowned Canton Fair, driving global commerce. The city's skyline, dominated by the Canton Tower and skyscrapers in Zhujiang New Town, symbolizes its economic vitality. Guangzhou's GDP exceeded RMB 3.2 trillion in 2025 (approximately USD 450 billion). Looking ahead, it aims to further integrate tradition with modernity, fostering sustainable growth as a leading global city.


广州漫游
A Little Journey Through Guangzhou
山水之间，遇见广州
N
从化
CONGHUA
流溪河国家森林公园
Liuxihe National Forest Park
从化温泉
Conghua Hot Springs
增城
ZENGCHENG
白水寨
Baishuizhai
花都
HUADU
塱头古村
Langtou Ancient Village
白云
BAIYUN
白云山
Baiyun Mountain
越秀
YUEXIU
越秀公园
Yuexiu Park
陈家祠
Chen Clan Ancestral Hall
荔湾
LIWAN
永庆坊
Yongqing Fang
中山纪念堂
Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hall
北京路
Beijing Road
天河
TIANHE
珠江新城
Zhujiang New Town
黄埔
HUANGPU
南海神庙
Nanhai God Temple
海珠
HAIZHU
沙面
Shamian Island
广州塔
Canton Tower
海珠湿地
Haizhu Wetland
番禺
PANYU
长隆野生动物世界
Chimelong Safari Park
余荫山房
Yuyin Garden
南沙
NANSHA
南沙天后宫
Nansha Tianhou Palace
南沙湿地
Nansha Wetland
一盅两件 · Yum Cha
景点位置为示意 · Illustrated map, not to scale

4.2 Weather

Guangzhou, located in the subtropical southern China, features a typical monsoonal marine climate. During the event, the average high is expected to be around 21°C (69.8°F) and the average low around 13°C (55.4°F).

4.3 Time Zone

The conference schedule follows Beijing Time (GMT+8).

4.4 Currency and Payment

The official currency of China is the Renminbi (RMB). Foreign currencies are generally not accepted in Guangzhou, and participants are advised to exchange currency in advance.

For detailed instructions, please refer to the "Payment Service Handbook for Overseas Visitors to Guangzhou."

4.5 Power Supply and Plug Specifications

The standard power supply in mainland China is 220 volts at 50 hertz. Two- and three-pin power sockets are commonly used. Please check your electrical appliances before use.





4.6 Communications

Local mobile communication services in China are stable and reliable. Mobile phones that support 4G (TD-LTE/FDD-LTE) or 5G (FDD/TDD) networks and have active roaming agreements with Chinese mainland operators can be used.

4.7 Recommended Mobile Applications

(1) Mobile Payment

WeChat (Weixin): For Android devices, search for "WeChat" in the application store to download. For iOS devices, search for "WeChat" in the App Store to download. Alternatively, both Android and iOS users can download it directly via this link: https://weixin.qq.com/.

Alipay (Zhifubao): For Android devices, search for "Alipay" in the application store to download. For iOS devices, search for "Alipay" in the App Store to download. Alternatively, both Android and iOS users can download it directly via this link: https://render.alipay.com/p/s/download.

(2) Communication App

WeChat (Weixin): For Android devices, search for "WeChat" in the application store to download. For iOS devices, search for "WeChat" in the App Store to download. Alternatively, both Android and iOS users can download it directly via this link: https://weixin.qq.com/.

(3) Navigation and Hailing Apps

Baidu Maps: For Android devices, search for "Baidu Maps" in the application store to download. For iOS devices, search for "Baidu Maps" in the App Store to download. Alternatively, both Android and iOS users can download it directly via this link: https://map.baidu.com/zt/client/index/.

Amap (Gaode Maps): For Android devices, search for "Amap" in the application store to download. For iOS devices, search for "Amap" in the App Store to download. Alternatively, both Android and iOS users can download it directly via this link: https://wap.amap.com.

4.8 Tipping

Tipping is not customary in China.

Contacts and Emergency

5.1 Secretariat

gmf2026@guangzhouaward.org

5.2 Emergency Numbers

Police: 110

Fire: 119

Medical Emergency: 120

5.3 On-site Help Desks

For other assistance during the Forum, please contact the Information Desk at GYICC or the reception desk at the China hotel.

About the Forum and the Award

6.1 About the Global Mayors' Forum

The Global Mayors' Forum (GMF) was initiated in 2018 by the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC) and the Guangzhou Municipal People's Government, and is co-hosted with United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) and the World Association of Major Metropolises (Metropolis). It aims to promote international exchange and collaboration among cities and local governments worldwide on urban governance innovation, encourage cities around the world to take an active part in global governance, and contribute urban wisdom to building a fairer, more equitable and balanced global governance system, further implementing the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda.

So far, three sessions of the Global Mayors' Forum have been held. The 2026 Global Mayors' Forum will be held from December 9 to 11, 2026, under the theme "Intelligence Empowers Innovation: New Pathways to High-Quality Urban Development". The Forum will feature discussions on a wide range of topics, including technological innovation, industrial development, urban planning, economic and trade cooperation, environmental protection, youth development, and the cultural, sports and tourism industry. Major activities will include the opening ceremony, thematic forums, the Award Ceremony of the 7th Guangzhou International Award for Urban Innovation (the Guangzhou Award) , side events such as the Megacities Dialogue and the Solutions Lab on Urban Mass Mobility, as well as a rich array of supporting activities including economic and trade promotion events and thematic site visits.

6.2 About the Guangzhou Award for Urban Innovation

The Guangzhou Award for Urban Innovation (the Guangzhou Award) is jointly launched by UCLG, Metropolis and the City of Guangzhou in 2012. It aims to recognize innovation in improving social, economic and environmental sustainability in cities and regions and, in doing so, to advance the prosperity and quality of life of their citizens. Presented biennially, the Guangzhou Award is open to all cities and local governments with successful initiatives in urban innovation.

The initiative that is entered for the Guangzhou Award should be an ongoing or recently completed (within the past two years) project, measure or policy that has produced tangible results or substantial impact, and demonstrates originality, exemplary value and potential for replication.

Each edition is assessed independently by international experts. The Technical Committee selects up to 15 Shortlisted Initiatives and no more than 30 Exemplary Initiatives from approved applications. From the shortlist, the Jury makes a final selection of up to five award-winning initiatives, and the remaining shortlisted initiatives will be recognized with Special Mention and presented with a Certificate of Distinction. Over the last seven cycles, the Guangzhou Award has attracted more than 2,000 innovative practices from 815 cities in 105 countries and has been included in UN-Habitat's Urban Best Practices Database. The 7th Guangzhou Award was launched in September 2025, and received 381 urban innovation initiatives from 248 cities in 60 countries, with both the number of participating cities and initiatives reaching record highs among all previous cycles.

6.3 List of Shortlisted Initiatives for the 7th Guangzhou Award

No.	Country	City/Region	Initiative Title
1	Argentina	Neuquén	Participatory Local Migration Governance in Neuquén
2	Brazil	São Paulo	Behavioral Sciences for Improving School Meals
3	China	Qingdao	An Integrated Data-driven Approach to Green and Low-carbon Urban Transportation
4	China	Tianjin	From Burden to Beneficiary: Ninghe's Ecological Just Transition for Farming Communities
5	Colombia	Bogotá	Reúsa y Revitaliza: Turning Vacant Buildings into Housing, Heritage and Climate Action
6	Greece	Chania	AI-Powered Council Transparency: Making Local Democracy Accessible to Every Citizen
7	Kenya	Tharaka Nithi County	Using Digital Tools and Low-Altitude Technology to Improve Access to Safe and Affordable Water and Health Care for Marginalized Communities
8	Morocco	Rabat	Sustainable Urban Regeneration and Inclusive Governance in the City of Rabat
9	Republic of Korea	Shinan County	Shinan County Renewable Energy Profit-Sharing Program
10	Russia	Novy Urengoy	Cultural Process in an Arctic City: Expanding the Role of Art
11	the Philippines	Mandaluyong	Planning for Life's Next Journey in a Dignified and Socially Inclusive Manner
12	Türkiye	Bilecik	Lavender-Scented Pathways: A Circular and Inclusive Urban Green Model
13	Türkiye	Istanbul	Healthy Nutrition and Active Living Initiative Istanbul Model
14	Uganda	Kampala	Scaling Participatory Air Quality Management Through Community Engagement and Real-Time Data in Kampala
15	the Netherlands	Heerlen	"Heerlens Heitje": Creating a Marketplace for Inhabitants to Engage in the Upkeep of Their City

6.4 Winning Cities of Previous Editions of the Guangzhou Award

2012 **Winners of the 1st Guangzhou Award**

Kocaeli (Türkiye), Lilongwe (Malawi), Seoul (Republic of Korea), Vancouver (Canada), Vienna (Austria)

2014 **Winners of the 2nd Guangzhou Award**

Antioquia (Colombia), Bristol (United Kingdom), Christchurch (New Zealand), Dakar (Senegal), Hangzhou (China)

2016 **Winners of the 3rd Guangzhou Award**

Boston (United States), Copenhagen (Denmark), Qalyubeya (Egypt), La Paz (Bolivia), Songpa (Republic of Korea)

2018 **Winners of the 4th Guangzhou Award**

New York City (United States), Mezitli (Türkiye), Guadalajara (Mexico), Milan (Italy), Wuhan (China).

2021 **Winners of the 5th Guangzhou Award**

Chongqing (China), Union of Dannieh Municipalities (Lebanon), Quito (Ecuador), Vienna (Austria), Departmental Council of Saint Louis (Senegal)

2023 **Winners of the 6th Guangzhou Award**

Bogotá (Colombia), Chalandri (Greece), Gwangju (Republic of Korea), Kampala (Uganda), Xianning (China)



2026 Global Mayors' Forum
The 7th Guangzhou International Award for Urban Innovation