

**Replies to supplementary questions raised by Finance Committee Members
in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08**

**Director of Bureau: Secretary for Economic Development and Labour
Session No.: 11**

Reply Serial No.	Question Serial No.	Name of Member	Head	Programme
S-EDLB(ED)01	S047	WONG Kwok-hing	28	Air Services
S-EDLB(ED)02	S039	CHAN Yuen-han	42	Energy Supply; Electrical, Gas and Nuclear Safety
S-EDLB(ED)03	S040	CHAN Yuen-han	42	Energy Supply; Electrical, Gas and Nuclear Safety
S-EDLB(ED)04	S043	WONG Kwok-hing	42	Energy Supply; Electrical, Gas and Nuclear Safety
S-EDLB(ED)05	S044	WONG Kwok-hing	42	Energy Supply; Electrical, Gas and Nuclear Safety
S-EDLB(ED)06	S046	LAM Wai-keung, Daniel	145	Air and Sea Communications and Logistics Development
S-EDLB(ED)07	S050	LAM Wai-keung, Daniel	145	Travel and Tourism
S-EDLB(ED)08	S051	KWONG Chi-kin	145	Air and Sea Communications and Logistics Development
S-EDLB(ED)09	S102	KWOK Ka-ki	145	Travel and Tourism
S-EDLB(ED)10	S103	KWOK Ka-ki	145	Travel and Tourism
S-EDLB(ED)11	S107	KWONG Chi-kin	145	Air and Sea Communications and Logistics Development

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head: 28 Civil Aviation Department Subhead:

Programme: (5) Air Services

Controlling Officer: Director-General of Civil Aviation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

Question:

The noise brought about by over 5 600 flights per week to 150 destinations worldwide has been a major nuisance to residents in the New Territories West, especially those living in Park Island, Tsuen Wan. As the Government is about to conduct a feasibility study on the construction of a third runway, please advise:

- (1) whether the Civil Aviation Department has adopted any measures to mitigate the nuisances of aircraft noise? If so, what are the details and effectiveness of such measures?
- (2) whether the study on the construction of a third runway will take into account the issue of aircraft noise? If so, what does it involve and how much the noise level is expected to fall?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

- (1) The Civil Aviation Department (CAD) will continue to monitor aircraft noise and flight track round-the-clock by means of the Aircraft Noise and Flight Track Monitoring System which consists of 16 noise monitors installed in the vicinity of the flight paths of the Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA). As long as air traffic safety is not affected, CAD will also continue to implement the following noise mitigating measures:-
 - (a) flights departing Hong Kong between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m. in the northeasterly direction, after avoiding the terrain in the vicinity and reaching Ma Wan, are required to turn right and use the south-bound departure flight path over the West Lamma Channel in order not to overfly the populated areas of Kowloon and Hong Kong Island;
 - (b) flights arriving Hong Kong between midnight and 7 a.m. have to use the flight path south of Hong Kong to fly round the southwest corner of Lantau to the west of HKIA for landing. This will avoid overflying areas such as Sha Tin, Kwai Chung, Tsing Yi, Tsuen Wan and Sham Tseng;

- (c) aircraft approaching from the northeast between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m. have to adopt the Continuous Descent Approach which reduces engine thrust so that noise at Sai Kung, Tseung Kwan O and Ma On Shan will be reduced;
- (d) all take-offs in the northeasterly direction have to adopt the Noise Abatement Departure Procedures prescribed by the International Civil Aviation Organization to reach a higher altitude within a shorter distance in order to reduce the noise impact in the vicinity of HKIA; and
- (e) all noisy subsonic jet aircraft which do not comply with the noise standard stipulated in Chapter 3 of Part II, Volume I of Annex 16 of the Convention on International Civil Aviation are banned from landing and taking-off at Hong Kong.

CAD has monitored closely the aircraft noise impact since the opening of HKIA. As indicated by the aircraft noise recorded at the noise monitoring terminals, there have been noticeable improvements since the implementation of the above noise mitigating measures.

- (2) The Airport Authority will soon begin engineering and environmental feasibility studies on the option of constructing a third runway. The study will examine the effect of various factors such as possible runway locations, corresponding arrival and departure flight paths, and possible increase in aircraft movements, on aircraft noise.

Signature _____

Name in block letters NORMAN LO

Post Title Director-General of Civil Aviation

Date 23.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head: 42 Electrical and Mechanical Services Department Subhead:

Programme: (1) Energy Supply; Electrical, Gas and Nuclear Safety

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

Question:

According to reply no. EDLB(ED)031, the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department will provide expert and technical advice on the proposed liquefied natural gas (LNG) receiving terminal. It is stated that risk assessment is only part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and the Government has, through the statutory EIA process, collected public views on the risks associated with the proposed LNG facilities.

In respect of the expert and technical advice, does it cover assessment of the impact to the daily lives of the nearby residents and the livelihood of the fishermen who are dependent on fisheries? If yes, what are the resources involved? If no, what is the reason and will consideration be given to provide additional resources to expand the scope of the assessment?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply:

The "Technical Memorandum on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Process" has clearly stipulated the scope of work of the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD), which is risk assessment related to hazards to human life. The assessment on possible impacts to commercial fisheries has been addressed in another part of the EIA study with expert and technical advice from other relevant departments. It is therefore not necessary to allocate resources for such work by EMSD.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **HO KWONG WAI** _____

Post Title _____ **Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services** _____

Date _____ **23.3.2007** _____

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head: 42 Electrical and Mechanical Services Department Subhead:

Programme: (1) Energy Supply; Electrical, Gas and Nuclear Safety

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

Question:

According to reply no. EDLB(ED)031, the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department will provide expert and technical advice on the proposed liquefied natural gas (LNG) receiving terminal. It is stated that risk assessment is only part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and the Government has, through the statutory EIA process, collected public views on the risks associated with the proposed LNG facilities.

If strong objections are received during the public consultation period, will additional resources be allocated to handle the related views?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply:

Public consultation under the statutory EIA process has been completed. Public views on risk assessment on hazards to human life have been received and processed. Should there be other follow up work in the future, we shall endeavour to deal with it using existing resources.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____
HO KWONG WAI

Post Title _____
Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Date _____
23.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head: 42 Electrical and Mechanical Services Department Subhead:

Programme: (1) Energy Supply; Electrical, Gas and Nuclear Safety

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

Question:

According to reply no. EDLB(ED)033, the existing team responsible for ensuring the safe production, transmission and distribution, as well as use of town gas will also monitor the pipe replacement programme at the same time.

Other than the daily routine duties, the dedicated team is also required to monitor the replacement work. Is there any additional manpower allocated to this team? If yes, what are the details? Are there any additional resources being set aside to enable the team to take on the additional work? If yes, what are the details?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

For 2007-08, the creation of three additional posts, comprising one engineer and two mechanical inspectors, has been approved to strengthen the gas safety regulatory function of the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department. The total salary cost of these three posts, in terms of notional annual mid-point salary value, is \$1.32 m. These staff will cover a range of duties including providing assistance to monitor the town gas pipe replacement work.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

HO KWONG WAI

Post Title _____

Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Date _____

23.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head: 145 Government Secretariat: Economic Subhead:
Development and Labour Bureau
(Economic Development Branch)

Programme: (5) Travel and Tourism

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and Labour
(Economic Development)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

Question:

Under the Concept Plan for Lantau mentioned in the Budget Speech, projects that can stimulate the local economy and improve people's livelihood will be accorded priority in accordance with the overall planning concept of balanced development and conservation. Please advise what facilities are available to further promote tourism development on Lantau Island, as well as how to strike a balance between boosting tourism development and preserving the local ecology.

Asked by: Hon. LAM Wai-keung, Daniel

Reply:

The Government attaches great importance to the tourism development on Lantau. The opening of new tourism attractions, such as the Hong Kong Disneyland, Ngong Ping 360 and Wisdom Path, has greatly enhanced the island's potential for tourism development. The Government also plans to beautify the landscaped piazza at Ngong Ping to improve the connectivity among different attractions in Ngong Ping. The new attractions on Lantau need time to expand their source markets and attain steady performance. Our focus for the near future is to ensure smooth operation of these existing tourism attractions, promoting them to visitors, as well as creating a synergy among new and existing attractions, e.g. bundling Ngong Ping 360 with other green and traditional attractions in its vicinity. In addition, we have installed directional signs and mapboards at Mui Wo, Pui O, Tong Fuk, Ngong Ping, Tung Chung and Tai O etc. to facilitate visitors' access to various attractions on Lantau.

On publicity and promotion, the Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTB) is promoting various attractions on Lantau through different channels, including its website and publications like Hong Kong Visitor's Kit and Discover Hong Kong Nature, etc. These attractions include the quaint fishing village of Tai O, the Big Buddha, Po Lin Monastery and the traditional snacks of Lantau. To complement the opening of Ngong Ping 360, the HKTB also works closely with the travel trade to enhance its promotion to visitors, links it with the nearby natural scenery, heritage and unique culture of Lantau to form a new cluster of attractions, and develops sightseeing tours on the island. The HKTB also

promotes the Lantau South Country Park, the Tai Po hiking itineraries, and the Island Hopping Pass to facilitate visitors to Lantau and other outlying islands. Moreover, the HKTB introduces to visitors quality guided tours on Lantau, such as the Lantau Explorer Bus and Lantau Island Tour. The HKTB will continue to work with the travel trade to promote the island's traditional customs and festivals, such as the Birthday of Lord Buddha celebrations at Po Lin Monastery and the flying lantern and floating lantern activities of the Mui Wo Hung Shing Festival, etc., and encourage trade operators to launch different sightseeing tours to facilitate visitors' participation in these special celebrations.

The Government has been promoting tourism under the principles of nature conservation and sustainable development. For example, we conducted environmental impact assessments for the Hong Kong Disneyland and Ngong Ping cable car projects in accordance with the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance, and implement the measures as recommended in the relevant assessment reports to protect the environment. On publicity and education, the Government makes use of different channels including signage, publications and internet, etc. to enhance visitors' awareness of nature conservation, promote nature appreciation, and publicize the code of using country parks. To bring the professional standards of tourist guides in line with tourism development, the Tourism Commission has been working with the travel trade to provide a training programme for tourist guides under the Skills Upgrading Scheme since 2002. With the support of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, specialist training in nature appreciation with green tourism elements has also been provided to over 240 tourist guides since 2004.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

EVA CHENG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for
Economic Development and Labour
(Economic Development)

Date _____

26.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head: 145 Government Secretariat: Economic Development and Labour Bureau
(Economic Development Branch) Subhead:

Programme: (2) Air and Sea Communications and Logistics Development

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and Labour
(Economic Development)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

Question:

In the light of Reply EDLB(ED)121, please advise:

How many employment opportunities can be created upon completion of various infrastructure projects? Are there sufficient training programmes to meet the future demand for manpower?

Asked by: Hon. KWONG Chi-kin

Reply:

Port-related infrastructural development mentioned in the Reply EDLB(ED)121 comprises establishing more barging facilities and making available container terminal back-up land for enhancing the handling capacity and competitiveness of our port.

We do not normally tie training courses to individual infrastructural projects. In support of the overall development of our port, however, we have at different times organized such schemes as the Hong Kong Maritime Scholarship, Ship Repair Training Incentive Scheme and Sea-going Training Incentive Scheme.

The above new facilities may create more employment opportunities with higher cargo throughput, but we do not have an estimate in this respect.

The air cargo infrastructure projects mentioned in the Reply EDLB(ED)121 will expand Hong Kong International Airport's cargo handling capacity to meet the anticipated growth in demand, hence improving the overall competitiveness of Hong Kong's air transport sector. While we expect this to have a positive effect on employment opportunities for the air transport sector, reliable estimation of the specific number of additional employment opportunities resulting from these projects is not available at this stage. On manpower training, we understand that because the relevant companies operate systems which specifically cater for their respective business model, they usually recruit staff with education at a certain level and provide them with specialized in-house training.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

EVA CHENG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for
Economic Development and Labour
(Economic Development)

Date _____

26.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

S-EDLB(ED)09

Question Serial No.

S102

Head: 145 Government Secretariat: Economic Development and Labour Bureau
(Economic Development Branch) Subhead:

Programme: (5) Travel and Tourism

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and Labour
(Economic Development)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

Question:

Under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2007-08, the progress of the former Marine Police Headquarters (MPHQ) project and the smooth operation of tourism facilities, including the Hong Kong Disneyland, Hong Kong Wetland Park and Ngong Ping 360 will be monitored. Would the Administration inform this Committee of the following :

The staff involved in “monitoring the progress of the MPHQ project” in terms of number, ranks and resources?

Asked by: Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply:

We deploy existing resources to monitor the progress of the Former Marine Police Headquarters Project. No additional manpower is required.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

EVA CHENG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for
Economic Development and Labour
(Economic Development)

Date _____

26.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head: 145 Government Secretariat: Economic Development and Labour Bureau
(Economic Development Branch) Subhead:

Programme: (5) Travel and Tourism

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and Labour
(Economic Development)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

Question:

Under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2007-08, the progress of the former Marine Police Headquarters (MPHQ) project and the smooth operation of tourism facilities, including the Hong Kong Disneyland, Hong Kong Wetland Park and Ngong Ping 360 will be monitored. Would the Administration inform this Committee of the following :

Apart from the concern over the progress of the MPHQ project, what specific measures will be taken to ensure that the antiquities and monuments on the site and its surrounding environment will not be destroyed?

Asked by: Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply:

Unlike normal property development projects, the developer of the Former Marine Police Headquarters Project is subject to specific conditions in the Conditions of Sale. Under these conditions, the developer is required to draw up detailed heritage preservation and tree preservation plans to the satisfaction of relevant authorities, such as the Antiquities Advisory Board and the Town Planning Board, etc. Through such controls, there are adequate safeguards to ensure that the historic buildings and items, and the surroundings will not be damaged, e.g., the developer is required to preserve in-situ five historic buildings and other specified historic items.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **EVA CHENG**

Post Title _____
Permanent Secretary for
Economic Development and Labour
(Economic Development)

Date _____ 26.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head: 145 Government Secretariat: Economic Development and Labour Bureau
(Economic Development Branch) Subhead:

Programme: (2) Air and Sea Communications and Logistics Development

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and Labour
(Economic Development)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

Question:

With Reference to reply under Reply Serial No. EDLB(ED)121, please advise us:

on the estimate economic benefits to be brought to Hong Kong by the initiatives to ensure the competitiveness of the airport, the port and the freight service.

Asked by: Hon. KWONG Chi-kin

Reply:

Port-related infrastructural development mentioned in the Reply Serial Number EDLB(ED)121 comprises putting up more barging facilities and making available container terminal back-up land for enhancing the handling capacity and competitiveness of our port. While our cargo throughput would increase with the completion of these projects, we do not have an estimate of the relevant economic contributions.

In 2005, the aviation industry accounted for about 3.0% of Hong Kong's Gross Domestic Product, amounting to \$40 b. The relevant infrastructural projects to maintain the competitiveness of the air cargo industry mentioned in Reply Serial Number EDLB(ED)121 will expand Hong Kong International Airport's cargo handling capacity, hence improve the overall competitiveness of Hong Kong's aviation industry. However, no estimate of the economic benefits resulting from these individual projects is available at this stage.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ EVA CHENG

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for
Economic Development and Labour
(Economic Development)

Date _____ 26.3.2007