

HKCA Submission with regards to the Re-organisation of Policy Bureaux

It is a matter of fact that the construction industry has been suffering from lack of investment in the past few years and that the unemployment of construction workers has remained high. The grievances are felt by many families, in particular, the civil engineering sector at this point of time.

The construction industry is also suffering from a structural damage with trained professional and skilled workers leaving the local industry taking with them the management skills and technical know-how. Needless to say, a significant numbers of professionals and skilled workers have chosen to go outside Hong Kong in the past 2 years.

It is a matter of fact that only around \$22 Billion out of the \$29 Billion of the financial allocation for infrastructure spending have been utilized in the past years due to various reasons. HKCA estimated that the industry needs at least \$35 Billion of infrastructure spending per year.

One of the main reasons of delay in investment is the length of time it takes to circulate and negotiate for decisions amongst various government departments in its current hierarchy and relationship.

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HKCA fully support the proposed new Re-organisation of Policy Bureaux on the ground that:

1. by bringing the lands, planning and works department under one roof should streamline procedures and speedup the investment and delivery of the financial commitment of the government;
2. conflicts between transport and environment policies (now under different Bureau) with that of the infrastructure development works can be brought up to one level closer to the Chief Executive for decision;
3. HKCA does not perceive any conflict of having one bureau co-ordinating and administrating the development process provided that a reasonable level of transparency is observed;
4. Transport and Housing Bureau should improve and speed up the co-ordination of building and other infrastructure development which is very much needed in Hong Kong.

Hong Kong needs to keep up with the development of the region in order to remain as the Asia Financial Centre. This new administration arrangement will no doubt resolve the current stalemate in building and infrastructure development.

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