



Hong Kong Federation of Electrical & Mechanical Contractors
Submission to Legco Panel on Planning, Lands and Works
Kai Tak Planning Review
14th November, 2006

The Hong Kong Federation of Electrical & Mechanical Contractors (HKFEMC) welcomes the opportunity to present its views on the Kai Tak Planning Review. Having reviewed the majority of the papers on the subject the HKFEMC is appreciative of the extensive amount of work done and the diverse collection of views from various quarters of society.

1. Support of review work

HKFEMC does not profess to make new ground over and above the comprehensive studies and reviews done to date. We are in general supportive of the development plan as last outlined in the background brief of the 24 Oct, 2006 meeting of the Panel, LC Paper No. CB (1) 89/06-07(04).

2. Holistic approach to ensure sustainability

All three Outline Concept Plans (OCPs) have their specific attributes while taking into account the views from a wide spectrum of representation from the public. However, we believe it is most important that whether any of the OCPs or a hybrid them be eventually adopted, Government should take a leading role to ensure that the development is sustainable whole rather than a combination of its parts. The various components of the development should be well integrated such that there will be a continuous flow of activities and people within the various parts of the Kai Tak Area and also outside of the Area for the years to come.

To illustrate the point we refer to the single dimension of the Tin Sui Wai development, the above-average social problems of the Tuen Mun Area, and the decline of patronage in the Tsim Sha Tsui East Area vis-à-vis the TST West Area.

3. Importance of engineering aspects

We refer to the Engineering Review as outlined in CB(1)89/06-07(05) and agree that a thorough review is most essential for the Kai Tak Development because of the special conditions of the site, as well as specific environmental concerns that are unique because of the Kai Tak Approach Channel. The HKFEMC is most willing to offer its views and assistance in areas of its expertise, such as environmental engineering, building services, and transport systems.



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4. Local elements essential for sustainability

Judging from past experiences we opine that future work on the development of Kai Tak Area, whether it be consulting, construction, or engineering, should engage parties with a certain degree of local knowledge and experience. This is to ensure that the work can be successfully executed to the end and the results be nurtured to sustain for the years to come.

5. Early resource planning essential

Because of the magnitude of the development it is essential that the works be well staged so that there will not be a sudden drain of available resources to carry out the work.

We would very much look forward for the work to commence as soon as possible so as to give a necessary boost to the slowdown of the construction industry.

Conclusion

Hong Kong as a whole should be able to obtain the maximum benefit from the Kai Tak development. This should range from people who are involved in the planning and construction, as well as those who are going to live or work there. From the engineering point of view we emphasize that local involvement of the construction work will ensure not only the best combination of experience and expertise but that the wide scope of new technologies in various field will be transferred to local companies and for Hong Kong to keep.