

(Translation)

Motion on
“Seizing the chance to turn the risks from the
‘Three Direct Links’ across the Taiwan Strait into opportunities”
moved by Hon Mrs Sophie LEUNG LAU Yau-fun
at the Legislative Council meeting commencing
on Wednesday, 24 June 2009

**Motion as amended by Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, Hon IP Wai-ming,
Hon WONG Ting-kwong and Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun**

That Hong Kong has all along been an important platform for commercial and social exchanges across the Taiwan Strait, since the implementation of the ‘Three Direct Links’, i.e. direct maritime, air and postal links, across the Taiwan Strait in December last year, coupled with the impact of the financial tsunami, the air passenger and air cargo traffic of Hong Kong has, to a certain extent, been affected; however, apart from promoting cross-strait exchanges and trade flows, the ‘Three Direct Links’ across the Taiwan Strait is also a development opportunity for Hong Kong; as such, this Council urges the Government to formulate a comprehensive plan to turn the ‘Three Direct Links’ across the Taiwan Strait into an opportunity for Hong Kong to further develop the relations among the three places across the Taiwan Strait, including:

- (a) conducting a study on fully opening up air rights on a reciprocal basis with the Mainland and Taiwan, so as to raise Hong Kong’s position as a regional and international aviation centre;
- (b) strengthening cooperation with the neighbouring airports in the Pearl River Delta to achieve complementarity of edge, so as not to result in mismatched development and to consolidate Hong Kong’s status in aviation;
- (c) putting into place arrangement for mutual visa-free access between Hong Kong and Taiwan, and establishing formal channels among the three places across the Taiwan Strait to strengthen exchanges and cooperation at the non-government and societal level as well as in areas of tourism, culture and creativity, etc;
- (d) setting up a high level inter-departmental task force to study and coordinate long-term development plans for promoting economic and trade cooperation among the three places across the Taiwan Strait;
- (e) assisting the Mainland and Taiwan in concluding the Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement at an early date to eliminate the trade barriers between them and jointly create common markets in the Greater China, as well as fully utilizing the functions of the Trade

Development Council's Taiwan Office to help Hong Kong businessmen to further develop;

- (f) studying the feasibility of promoting mutual recognition of professional qualifications among the Mainland, Hong Kong and Taiwan, so as to foster the development of Hong Kong's professional services industries; and
- (g) bringing forward arrangements with Taiwan to avoid double taxation, so as to enhance the competitiveness of Hong Kong, strengthen Hong Kong's position as a business platform of the Greater China and promote a win-win situation for the three places across the Taiwan Strait; and
- (h) discussing the setting up of a task force on an airport cluster in the Great Pearl River Delta to exchange views on issues relating to the positioning, airspace, flight routes, flight schedules, runway construction and equity exchange, etc of the airports in the region, and studying the construction of the third runway for the airport of Hong Kong as well as discussing with the Mainland to resolve the problem of airspace allocation, etc;
- (i) stepping up efforts to attract Taiwan enterprises to raise capital through Hong Kong, so as to optimize Hong Kong's function as an international financial centre; and
- (j) actively participating in the planning and construction of the economic zone on the western side of the Taiwan Strait, and optimizing Hong Kong's function as an international financial, shipping and trading centre, so as to enable Hong Kong to continue to maintain its active role and functions in the economic and trading exchanges among the three places across the Taiwan Strait and give new impetus to Hong Kong's economic development;
- (k) actively studying the streamlining of customs clearance procedures for residents of the three places across the Taiwan Strait travelling to and from these places;
- (l) strengthening exchanges and cooperation in areas of education, environmental protection and mutual legal assistance among the three places across the Taiwan Strait; and
- (m) in accordance with the existing mode adopted by the Special Administrative Region Government in establishing offices on the Mainland, commencing a study on the feasibility of establishing a government office in Taiwan.