



**HONG KONG ASSOCIATION
of
TRAVEL AGENTS**
(FOUNDER MEMBER OF UFTAA)

21 September, 2009

The Hon Mrs Miriam Lau
Chairman
Subcommittee on Matters Relating to Railways
Legislative Council Secretariat
3/F Citibank Tower,
3 Garden Road,
Central, Hong Kong

By Fax and by post
(Fax. No.: 21210420)

Dear Mrs Lau,

Hong Kong Section of Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link

The Hong Kong Association of Travel Agents is grateful to have the opportunity to present our views on the Hong Kong Section of Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link in light of the development of Hong Kong's tourism and retail industry.

Mainland tourists have been a vital part of Hong Kong's tourism and retail industry in recent years. Leisure trips are more common to people in the Mainland China with their improved living standards. The 16,000 km National High Speed Rail Network will provide a good choice and will definitely encourage more people to travel among cities and to Hong Kong. In Japan, the Shinkansen has already demonstrated how the tourist industry is boosted by the High Speed Rail. The Express Rail Link would provide an eco choice for Mainland visitors to come to Hong Kong and also make Hong Kong a gateway for overseas visitors to visit the Mainland via Hong Kong. Tremendous convenience to visitors as well as huge economic returns will be brought about to Hong Kong's tourism and retail industry.

On the same token, Hong Kong people will be able to broaden our horizons and vision by visiting the scenic spots in various destinations on the National High Speed Network in a conveniently and timely manner.

I urge the Subcommittee to support an earlier commencement of the construction of the Express Rail Link so that the Hong Kong Section will be connected to the National High Speed Rail Network as soon as possible so as to bring benefits to both the tourism and retail industry in Hong Kong.

Yours sincerely,
Hong Kong Association of Travel Agents

Michael Wu
Michael Wu
Chairman

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