



Hong Kong Retail Management Association
Submission on
“Hong Kong International Airport Master Plan 2030”

18 July 2011

In response to the “Hong Kong International Airport Master Plan 2030” published by the Airport Authority Hong Kong on 2 June 2011, the Hong Kong Retail Management Association (“the Association”) would like to present our members’ views as set out in the following deliberations.

1. Support the Immediate Construction of Third Runway

Among the two options outlined in the Master Plan, the Association is firmly in support of the construction of the third runway. The key considerations are as follows:

- a) Hong Kong is a small and open economy, aviation connectivity to the world is of paramount importance to our survival and sustaining growth. The mere enhancement of existing facilities of our airport cannot meet the ever expanding demands in terms of international passenger volumes and cargo traffic. At the same time, our airport should also strategically position itself to profit from the burgeoning market of private jets as well as to lure more budget airlines flying to Hong Kong.
- b) Our international airport is the key infrastructure upon which Hong Kong builds its longstanding success and undeniably it is also a cornerstone for furthering our economic growth. Amidst fierce aviation competitions in recent years, we deem the third runway is an indispensable investment that will help uplift Hong Kong’s status as an international as well as a regional aviation hub while strategically protecting the territory’s competitive edge as a world class financial and business centre.



- c) Hong Kong enjoys a unique geographical advantage that allows passengers flying to and from major Mainland cities within same day. The third runway will capitalize on this advantage of physical proximity and hence promote even closer economic integration with China. As such it will help prevent Hong Kong from being marginalized by other Mainland cities in the wake of China's rapid economic and social transformation.
- d) With a third runway, Hong Kong's overall competitiveness and its appeal as a world-class city will be uplifted as greater interflows of goods and people from around the world will be facilitated. More importantly, it will serve as a new impetus for Hong Kong's much needed diversification in its economic development. Alongside, it will bring substantial tangible benefits to a number of relevant sectors such as aviation, logistics, tourism, retail, catering, hotel, hospitality and more, which in turn will create multiplier effects to boost other sectors in the economy as a whole.

2. Call for Government's Financial Commitment and Support

We think that the construction of the third runway should be prioritized as another significant long term infrastructure investment in Hong Kong, alike the Chek Lap Kok Airport project back in 1990's. In the light of this, we urge the Government to adopt a firm stance in its financial commitment and render immediate support to this important investment of Hong Kong. We trust it will yield positive and measurable returns that will be shown in our economy's GDP growth, total consumption, employment, investment and other social parameters in longer term.

3. Undertake Environment Impact Assessment Without Delay

It is evident that the public is concerned about the environmental impacts that the construction of a third runway may bring to Hong Kong. To ease public concerns and avoid future debates on issues that may further delay the construction, we think that the Government should conduct the Environment Impact Assessment immediately.



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During the process of assessment, it is necessary to engage stakeholders closely as the project will bring impacts on public health, air quality, water, marine life and natural habitats, as well as other social cost considerations. We trust a comprehensive, impartial and in-depth study of environmental and social impacts will definitely help the Government to gain public consensus in this critical project of Hong Kong.

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