

(Summary Translation of a letter from Mr LIU Kin-sang of
Hip Ching Association, Tai O, Lantau Island)

**Strive for the construction of a link road between
South Lantau and Tai Ho —— a cost-effective investment**

Over 90% of places in Lantau Island are designated country parks. With its superb walking trails and the four scenic bathing beaches located in the southern shore, Lantau Island has attracted flocks of visitors who found it a good place to go for leisure. The many facilities in picnic areas on the island provide a good basis for the promotion of environmental protection. An excursion to Lantau Island would not only enable visitors to relax themselves, but would also promote their awareness of environmental protection. Actually, there is an increase in the number of visitors to Lantau Island every year.

A number of capital investments made in Lantau Island fail to bring about the expected benefits: no interest is shown in purchasing new housing units on the island; bus company is suffering from huge losses in its business; taxis run on public holidays only; holiday flats rental businesses close down one after another; and young people choose to leave and look for a job in the urban areas. The time and money spent on travelling to and from workplaces have discouraged young people to live on the island. Moreover, holiday surcharge imposed by bus company on its fare has also dampened public interests in visiting the island.

The Government is urged to actively improve major roads on the island, and rebuild walk-paths in villages along the shore. The provision of such road facilities would not only cope with the needs of the increasing number of visitors to the island, but would also be of benefit to local residents. The major transportation problem in Lantau Island is a lack of road link with the urban areas. There is no coach services running between the urban areas and country parks on Lantau Island, nor linking up the urban areas with other places on the island such as Mui Wo, Tai O or Ngong Ping. With the lack of a well-developed transportation network, development of tourism on Lantau Island would only be an effort in vain.

It is sincerely hoped that the Government would expeditiously construct a link road between South Lantau and Tai Ho. Upon completion of the link road, previous investments made by the Government on Lantau Island would be able to produce the best possible results in a cost-effective manner, and resources would be put to the optimum use. Lantau Island would then be able to give fuller play to its role in protecting the environment and promoting environmental education. Villagers on the island would also be given a living space for their lives on the island.

March 2000