

**The Hon. Michael D. Kadoorie's Speech  
for the Joint Legco Panel Meeting on the  
Proposed Heliport Development -  
31<sup>st</sup> January 2005**

Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is kind of you to provide your time for this important presentation and I wish to thank you. Four generations of my family have been welcomed by the Chinese people, and as a Jew, I take note that the heritage of both China and my own ancestors each span some five thousand years. At a recent dinner, I was privileged to hear the erudite words of the Vice Prime Minister of Israel on the Palestinian/Israeli conflict. I was inspired by the new window of opportunity for peace in the Middle East and how all parties concerned are concentrating on the larger good.

Although perhaps not of the same gravity, the parallel for us today is our window of opportunity to provide the community with a world-class heliport that, if appropriately designed and positioned, will ensure Hong Kong retains its rightful place as the hub of the Pearl River Delta. Destinations from a heliport in the Central Business District to the Pearl River Delta, which currently take some three hours to reach, will be reachable potentially in no more than 15 to 30 minutes.

The call to provide easy access and communication for executives, visitors and overseas buyers to empower cross-border businesses and tourism, the lifeblood of Hong Kong and the livelihood of many of our ordinary workforce, is of vital importance if we are to retain our prominence in the Pearl River Delta.

The paramount need, as has always been the case, is for our people to be useful and competitive and this has at no time been challenged more forcefully than today. Surely, we should take advantage of this opportunity.

I must stress that I am not here for personal gain, nor only as a representative of the helicopter industry, but driven by the benefits I see for our community at large. Our beautiful harbour is as important to me as it is to

each and every one of us.

Our people have always supported the wise provision of infrastructure – indeed over the past forty years, the Island heliports have always been an integral part of the Central Business District.

These earlier heliports, shared between industry and government, were previously sited at Tamar, Harcourt Road, Fenwick Pier and Central, and all within a quarter of a mile of each other! Today we have the opportunity to give Hong Kong much more.

If I may, I shall now illustrate this.

*[Presentation*

*Slides attached. ]*

To conclude – This is a project that all of us here should embrace and promote to all segments of the community as being important to the well-being of Hong Kong.

X X X