

HAS Fully Supports Building a Third Runway at Hong Kong International Airport

Hong Kong Airport Services Ltd (HAS), the largest ground handling services operator at HKIA, gives its full support to the Option of Building a Third Runway at Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA) outlined in the HKIA Master Plan 2030 released by the Airport Authority Hong Kong on 2 June, as it is vital to the sustainable future of aviation industry in Hong Kong.

HAS currently accounts for 49% and 25% market share respectively in the ramp handling and passenger handling business at HKIA. We provide services to a total of 34 airlines at HKIA, including the 3 major local carriers Cathay Pacific Airways, Hong Kong Dragon Airlines and Air Hong Kong. We handled over 110,000 flights in 2010. Out of the 3,200 strong workforce in HAS, 648 of them are manual workers and 2,222 are skilled agents. We intend to add 300 staff to our workforce this year in order to meet the rising demand in air traffic movements.

Having operated at HKIA since the opening of Chek Lap Kok airport, we witness fast and continuously growth in air movements. Despite crisis affecting airline business like 911 terrorist attacks, SARS, fuel price increase and financial tsunami, air traffic demand recovers quickly and airline customers are adding flights to meet passenger and cargo traffic demand. We expect strong and long term growth in flight movements at HKIA.

Giving the current level of air traffic movements at HKIA, the operation both in the airport apron area and at the passenger terminal has already been extremely busy. Availability of check-in counters, boarding gates, aircraft parking bays and airport staff facilities are becoming increasingly limited. If not addressed in a timely manner, it will inevitably adversely affect ramp safety, airlines' on-time-performance, efficiency and service excellence. We need a long term, unconstrained, sustainable and cost-efficient approach, with minimum disruption to the operations, to increase the airport capacity.

We reckon Building a Third Runway is the only option that can provide a long term solution to meeting growing air traffic demand, maintaining the competitiveness of HKIA and Hong Kong, building up HKIA as a leading aviation and logistics hub, as well as providing efficient and excellent services to passengers. It will also create vast job opportunities for both manual labours and servicing professionals, and at the same time enable the tens of thousands of existing employees at HKIA to advance their careers in the long run.

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