



**Business and Professionals
Federation of Hong Kong**
香港工商專業聯會

**BPF Submission to the Legco Panel on Economic Development
on "Hong Kong International Airport Master Plan 2030"**

BPF has no doubt that a third runway at Chek Lap Kok is crucial for the future maintenance and development of a broad based economy for Hong Kong and the livelihood of our people.

The environmental issues are of great importance, but if Hong Kong does not now meet the future demand for air passengers and cargo, others will. This being so, we must use all our efforts to manage and overcome the environmental challenges. It is essential that we grasp both the opportunity to reinforce our economic future and the responsibility to do this in a way which least damages the environment. We do not accept, therefore, that environmental issues should be a deciding factor in whether to proceed or not.

It is given to none of us to forecast precisely the future but the heart of the debate on the need for a third runway is an assessment whether the projected trends on volume growth for passengers and cargo are realistic. If they are – and all the evidence confirms their validity – Hong Kong has a clear choice.

Either we build on the primacy in air cargo and passenger movements for Hong Kong that Chek Lap Kok has made possible or we allow others to replace us as the prime aviation and logistics cluster for this region.

Hong Kong cannot maintain its role as a leading international city on being a financial centre alone. Its future prosperity and ability to provide employment opportunity for all its citizens is inextricably linked to our leadership as a trading and services centre. Now is the time for all who stand to benefit – not just the Airport Authority itself – to start manpower planning and training and assessing to what extent we can home grow essential new skills and to what extent they will need to be imported. Without new skills and their delivery on time the investment on a new runway will be wasted. This is a major challenge for both the government and the private sector.

On our decision, rests the livelihood of today's young Hong Kong generation and those to come. We owe it to them to press ahead with this essential expansion of our airport capacity.

Nor should we forget that to maintain Hong Kong as an aviation hub will require more than expansion of the airport. It also requires better land connections with the PRD, especially rail links and more convenient border checks so that Hong Kong can readily draw on the air passenger and cargo traffic from nearby PRD cities and elsewhere on the Mainland.

The vision of those who created Chek Lap Kok as one of the world's key aviation hubs has provided us with a unique opportunity to greatly reinforce our economic future. Let us likewise have the vision to make it a reality.