



香港觀鳥會有限公司
THE HONG KONG BIRD WATCHING SOCIETY Limited

認可公共性質慈善機構 Approved Charitable Institution of Public Character

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Panel on Economic Development
Legislative Council Secretariat
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Hong Kong Bird Watching Society's views on
“Hong Kong International Airport Master Plan 2030”

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The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society (HKBWS) would like to express our appreciation of a discussion on the issue in the Legislative Council.

The HKBWS is concerned that information in various aspects, currently provided by the Airport Authority, is inadequate. We sincerely urge the Legislative Council (LegCo), the HKSAR government and the Airport Authority (AA) to resolve the following problems before making any decision:

1. Environmental Impacts

The option of a third runway would introduce significant environmental impacts. The HKBWS emphasizes a full Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) should be available before the public can make fair judgments on the proposed options. An EIA report accepted by both the public and the authority is indispensable for proper decision making. However, the information on environmental impacts and possible mitigation measures provided by AA is very limited, and the public may not be aware of the significance of environmental impacts introduced.

The HKBWS is also concerned about the Cumulative Impacts of various developments including further developments of Tung Chung New Town and HKZM Bridge. We urge for a Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment to address the impacts and avoid unacceptable impacts to Lantau or to Hong Kong as a whole.

In fact, the discussions between the Airport Authority and various Green Groups revealed that many environmental impacts that are not being addressed by the AA. This also proves that the information currently provided is inadequate for any decision-making.

2. Information accuracy and reliability

The HKBWS questions about the accuracy and reliability of the projected airport usage and economic benefits provided by AA. A proper set of any kind of projections should provide different scenarios with error ranges¹; however such cannot be observed in the information provided by AA. HKBWS believes economic and flight projections are complex issues affected by many aspects and do not think these can be addressed properly in a simple linear projection as provided by AA. The HKBWS thus remains skeptical on the benefits brought by the option of a third runway. We believe members of the Legislative Council, who have adequate profession knowledge, are responsible for addressing these uncertainties to the public and the HKSAR government.

3. Public consultation strategies

The HKBWS appreciates consultation at an early stage. However, some of the information provided by AA were considered misleading to public and tends to downplay the environmental impacts. The economic benefits suggested are also questionable. We hope that there will be a continued public consultation and no decision-making should proceed before adequate information (both on environmental impacts and economic benefits) are properly presented to the public.

Thank you very much for your attention.



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¹Climate Change projections as an example: http://www.hko.gov.hk/climate_change/proj_global_e.htm