

HKA's views on the Third Runway Project in the Hong Kong International Airport and the relevant Environmental Impact Assessment Report

- HKA supports any proposals that could increase the capacity and air traffic movements of HKIA. The three-runway system is one of the practical options.
- Being a major economic center and aviation hub in the region, Hong Kong gains enormous air traffic demand from all over the world. Both point-to-point traffic and transfer traffic in HKIA increase in a rapid rate and are important to Hong Kong's economics. Serving routes to major cities only is not sustainable without the feeding of transfer traffic from smaller routes. The continuous growth of other airports in the region as well as the competition thereof is threatening Hong Kong's position as an aviation hub. If Hong Kong aims to maintain its position as an international aviation center, it is necessary to serve a wide range of destinations of different natures with appropriate aircraft types. Thus, there is a need to expand the capacity and air traffic movements so as to ensure Hong Kong could continue to be a major player in the global aviation field.
- HKA observes the increased difficulties in securing slots in HKIA and foresees the situation would be worsen in the future with the bottleneck being reached in the coming 2-3 years if no appropriate actions are taken. The insufficiency in airport slots would undoubtedly affect the growth of HKA, which is a Hong Kong-based carrier and is still in its developing stage. If desirable slots cannot be obtained, airlines might need to reshuffle the schedule and network. Aircraft resources might not be well-utilized, especially for those new aircrafts which has already been ordered. Availability of parking space would be another problem being triggered as the aircrafts would involuntarily be grounded due to lack of departure/arrival slots. The unfavorable operating conditions in HKIA would definitely affect the investment decisions of the airlines while additional operating costs might also incur, which would not be beneficial to the passengers, the Hong Kong aviation industry, as well as the whole society.
- HKA always supports environmental protection alongside development. We believe the Hong Kong SAR Government will fully consider the environmental impacts of any possible options including the three-runway system and the relevant mitigation measures as recommended in the EIA report, and will choose a viable option that could accommodate the environmental sustainability as well as the sustainability in the economic development of Hong Kong.