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Subject: LegCo Three Runway System Subcommittee Public Hearing on 3 May 2016 -
Written Submissions

Dear Sirs,

We support the 3rd Runway Project primarily because:-

1) Economic Benefits

Since its opening at Chek Lap Kok in 1998, Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA) has grown to become one of the busiest airports in the world. In 2015, the airport served 68.5 million passengers, handled 4.38 million tonnes of cargo and accommodated 406,000 air traffic movements (ATMs). With more than 100 airlines connecting to over 190 destinations worldwide – including 47 in the Mainland – HKIA is a leading international and regional aviation hub that helps maintain Hong Kong's status as "Asia's World City". Hong Kong is facing increasingly fierce competition as nearby airports (including Singapore Changi, Seoul Incheon, Shanghai Pudong, Guangzhou Baiyun and Shenzhen Bao'an) are expanding their facilities. Implementing the 3RS as soon as possible will help strengthen Hong Kong's status as an aviation hub, and enhance the city's overall competitiveness.

Also, HKIA supports Hong Kong's four economic pillars – financial services, trading and logistics, tourism, and producer and professional services – which together accounted for around 58% of the gross domestic product (GDP) in 2014 according to government statistics. If a third runway is not built, supply of aviation services will fall short of demand. As a result, ticket prices will increase, airlines will focus on more lucrative routes, fewer destinations will be served, and travellers - Hong Kongers as well as tourists and businessmen from all over the world – will all suffer. Such a situation will have negative impact on Hong Kong's overall competitiveness.

2) Employment Benefits

Under 3RS, the job opportunities are huge. It is estimated to create 123,000 direct jobs and 165,000 indirect and induced jobs. Moreover, the construction will take place next to an operating airport, it will create 139,000 man-years during construction phase. If works can commence in 2016 as targeted, it is anticipated the 3RS can be completed in eight years.

The Airport Authority also surveyed more than 400 different companies and organisations operating on the airport island in 2015. Of the airport's 73,000 staff, around 22% perform manual/low-skilled jobs and 64% is engaged in skilled jobs. Expanding the airport into a 3RS will continue to provide enormous job opportunities.

The 3RS is crucial to the future of Hong Kong. It will consolidate our city's status as an international and regional aviation hub, spur economic development and create hundreds of thousands of jobs.

On behalf of Tradeport Hong Kong Ltd.

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