

Asia Airfreight Terminal Co. Ltd. (AAT) views on
“Expansion of Hong Kong International Airport into a Three-Runway
System and its related impacts on the environment”

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The air cargo throughput at the Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA) recorded a very low year-on-year growth rate of 2% - 3% in the last two years while the other airports in Guangzhou and Shenzhen recorded 6% - 7% growth.

One of the factors hindering the tonnage growth is the close to saturation of the runways of HKIA. We have noticed that our customer airlines encounter problems in applying for time slots from Civil Aviation Department (CAD) for their additional flights (especially the all-cargo freighter flights). It shows that even the airlines are able to source more cargo to be handled at the HKIA, they cannot realize their business because of the limitation of saturated runways.

If this situation continues, HKIA air cargo business will be overtaken by other airports in the region which is very difficult to bring it back to Hong Kong. In that case, it hinders the healthy development of air cargo industry in Hong Kong and Hong Kong will lose its top position as the world's most busy cargo airport.

As one of the Cargo Terminal Operators at the HKIA, we have invested heavily in our air cargo terminal facilities to cope with the further growth of air cargo business at HKIA. We strongly support the three-runway project be proceeded as soon as possible.