For discussion on 22 June 2015

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PANEL ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Port and Logistics Development

PURPOSE

This paper briefs Members on the latest position of Hong Kong's port development and logistics industry.

BACKGROUND

- 2. The Hong Kong Port (HKP)¹ is one of the busiest (in terms of cargo throughput) container ports in the world. The port and logistics industries are important contributor of Hong Kong's economy. Over 90% (in terms of cargo weight) of the cargo movements to and from Hong Kong is handled by the HKP. The port and related sectors directly contribute 1.1% (HK\$24 billion) to our Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and 2.4% (88 000 jobs) to our total employment. The trading and logistics industry ranks first among the four key economic pillars of Hong Kong, with the logistics sector directly contributing 3.2% (HK\$68 billion) to our GDP and 5.0% (188 000 jobs) to our total employment.
- 3. The port and related services also form a vital part of the maritime cluster in Hong Kong. At present, the Government is actively developing our maritime industry, planning the establishment of a new maritime body, promoting the development of our port services and maritime business services, in particular high value-added international maritime services such as ship management, chartering and finance as well as maritime law and arbitration; and promoting Hong Kong's strengths in the maritime industry in overseas markets. At the same time, given its unique geographical location, institutional advantages and comprehensive infrastructure, Hong Kong has also become a regional high-value goods distribution and management centre. The further development of our maritime

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The HKP comprises various port facilities including the Kwai Tsing Container Terminals (handling 79% of our container throughput in 2014), Tuen Mun River Trade Terminal, 6 Public Cargo Working Areas, mid-stream operations, anchorages and private wharves.

and logistics sectors will help strengthen and enhance Hong Kong's hub status in the region.

- 4. From the perspective of macroeconomic development trend, the shift of the global economic gravity to the East, the Mainland being the fastest growing major economy² in the world in recent years and the robust economy of Asia have all brought impetus to the development of Hong Kong's maritime and logistics sectors. Though there are signs suggesting that the economic growth in both the Mainland and the region has moderated lately, the respective growth rates remain notable³. Located in the centre of Asia, Hong Kong will thus continue to benefit from the regional economic development.
- The "One Belt One Road" development strategy recently announced by 5. the Central Government will bring about new opportunities for the maritime and logistics service providers in Hong Kong. We should capitalise on the maritime connections Hong Kong has established and countries along the Maritime Silk Road to strengthen and enhance our status as an international maritime centre. Moreover, development of the "One Belt One Road" will enhance the infrastructural facilities and transportation connectivity of the countries along the corridors, thereby providing a better business environment for regional economic development. As a regional logistics hub, Hong Kong will benefit from such enhancement and will be able to strengthen our trade relations with these countries. At present, there are about 350 container liner services per week connecting Hong Kong with around 510 destinations worldwide. As regards air freight, Hong Kong has remained the busiest air cargo hub in the world, with over 100 airlines at the Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA) providing some 1 100 daily scheduled services between Hong Kong and about 180 destinations worldwide (including over 45 Mainland destinations). Given the above and our land transport links with the Guangdong Province and the Pearl River Delta (PRD), Hong Kong can make good use of our comprehensive logistics and transportation networks to actively engage in the development of the "One Belt One Road".

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The average growth in GDP of China over the last decade is 9.9% while the average global rate is 2.6%.

As projected by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the economic growth rates for China and emerging Asian economies in 2015 are 6.8% and 6.6% respectively.

⁴ It is the short name for the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road. In 2013, President Xi Jinping announced the strategic initiative of building the "One Belt One Road" to foster economic partnerships with countries along the two corridors, i.e., over 60 countries in South East Asia, Middle East and Europe.

STUDY ON THE STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR HONG KONG PORT

6. To monitor changes in water-borne freight and port throughput, the Transport and Housing Bureau (THB) conducts port cargo forecasts from time to time, with a view to ensuring that port and related infrastructural facilitates are provided in a timely manner to meet development demands of the port and logistics sectors. The THB completed the Study on the Strategic Development Plan for Hong Kong Port 2030 (HKP2030)⁵ in late 2014. The HKP2030 forecasts that the total container throughput of the HKP would have an average annual growth of 1.5% up to 2030. The HKP2030 also elaborates on the positioning and competitiveness of the HKP and points out with particular reference to the Kwai Tsing Container Terminals (KTCTs), that its existing facilities must be enhanced to meet future needs. The HKP2030 proposes a series of measures to enhance the handling capacity of the KTCTs to cope with future demand.

Findings of the HKP2030

- The HKP2030 notes that over the past decade and more, cross-boundary transport has shifted from land-borne to river-borne transport, the size of ocean-going vessels has increased, and international transhipment throughput has surged. As a result, more and more containers are being handled at the KTCTs, and the share of its container throughput in HKP's total increased from 63% in 2005 to 79% in 2014. Meanwhile, as the growth in throughput is mainly driven by transhipment cargo, facilities at the KTCTs have been facing greater pressure in demand than other port facilities. The HKP2030 thus suggests that the Government take appropriate measures to sustain the competitiveness of the HKP.
- 8. The HKP2030 proposes a series of enhancement measures. They include (1) upgrading Stonecutters Island Public Cargo Working Area (PCWA) to a modern container handling facility for ocean-going or river trade vessels, thereby improving operational efficiency; (2) enabling the River Trade Terminal (RTT), which can accommodate ocean-going vessels, to become a terminal for both ocean-going and river trade vessels; (3) providing additional barge berths at the KTCTs to relieve congestion caused by the increase of river cargo throughput; and

The Executive Summary of HKP2030 was uploaded to the website of the Hong Kong Port Development Council (http://www.pdc.gov.hk/eng/bulletin/report.htm) in December 2014. Major findings of the HKP2030 were also set out in the Legislative Council Paper CB(4)363/14-15(03).

(4) making better use of land and other facilities around the terminals to enhance operational efficiency and accommodate future growth in transhipment.

Follow-up Measures

- 9. The THB briefed the Hong Kong Maritime Industry Council and Hong Kong Port Development Council on the findings of the HKP2030 in last December. Members of both Councils hoped that the Government would take actions promptly to enhance the efficiency and competitiveness of the HKP. As regards the four recommendations put forward in the HKP2030 for port enhancement, the THB has been taking corresponding follow-up measures.
- 10. The first recommendation is to upgrade the Stonecutters Island PCWA to become a modern container handling facility. In terms of geographical location, the Stonecutters Island PCWA is located adjacent to the KTCTs. As the latter operates round the clock while the existing PCWAs have restrictions on daily operating hours (mostly from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.) and lifting facilities, the barge berth at the PCWAs have not been fully utilised. The consultant therefore recommended that the Government should consider upgrading the Stonecutters Island PCWA to become a modern container handling facility so as to enhance the handling capacity of the KTCTs. At present, the Marine Department (MD) is conducting a review of PCWAs in Hong Kong to examine the berth re-allocation and tender arrangements upon expiry of the existing Berth Licence Agreements in mid-2016. The MD will also take the opportunity to explore how to make better use of PCWA resources, in particular the berths in the Stonecutters Island PCWA, to support efficient operation at the HKP while striking a balance between cargo transport sector's needs and port development. The review is expected to be completed in the latter half of this year, and the MD will consult the industry and relevant stakeholders on the findings.
- 11. The second recommendation is to develop existing berths at the RTT to provide for dual ocean and river vessel berthing. Currently, the RTT is solely used for river trade cargo between Hong Kong and the PRD. In order to optimise use of the existing RTT facilities to meet the future development needs of the HKP, the THB has drawn to the attention of RTT operator the HKP2030 recommendations and advised them that from the overall policy for the HKP, we support the RTT operator to actively consider developing ocean freight operation to help alleviate the cargo handling pressure on the KTCTs.

- 12. To follow up on the third and fourth recommendations set out in the HKP2030 and in response to the recommendations of the White paper "Maintaining Kwai Tsing Port Competitiveness" submitted by the Hong Kong Container Terminal Operators Association (HKCTOA) to the THB in late 2013, the Bureau has just completed a review (STT review) of the port back-up land let under Short Term Tenancy (STT) in Kwai Tsing. At present, the KTCTs occupy an area of 279 hectares (ha) and surrounded by about 100 ha of port back-up land, all let out by STT to logistics and freight operators (including small and medium enterprises (SMEs)) to support port operations. Taking account of the importance of the HKP and its long-term development, as well as the scarcity of land resources, the review seeks to formulate measures to enhance the use of port back-up land surrounding the KTCTs, having regard to the operational needs of both the KTCTs and the SMEs operating on the port back-up land. It is hoped that these measures would support the future development of the HKP and achieve the objective of land use optimisation.
- 13. Based on the findings of the STT review, the THB issued a proposal document in early June this year, putting forth a series of recommended measures. Specifically, the measures include—
 - (1) integrating suitable land adjacent to the container terminals into the boundary of the respective terminals to increase provision for yard area and barge berths to enhance the cargo handling capacity of the KTCTs, thereby alleviating port congestion and catering for the projected growth in container throughput up to 2030;
 - (2) refining the allocation and management mechanism of land under STT and revising relevant STT terms and conditions to make them conducive to SME operations as far as possible;
 - (3) examining the feasibility of developing multi-storey facilities at suitable port back-up sites in Kwai Tsing primarily for parking container trucks/goods vehicles and containers handling, so that more port back-up land can be released to support port operations and cater for future development.

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The Hong Kong Container Terminal Operators Association submitted a White Paper entitled "Maintaining Kwai Tsing Port's Regional Competitiveness Investing in Container Throughput Capacity and Operational Efficiency" to the THB in November 2013, in which it highlighted the growing port congestion encountered at the KTCTs and put forth suggested measures to provide relief.

The full text of the proposal document is at Annex. It has also been uploaded on THB and related websites⁷. The THB is currently consulting the industry and stakeholders on the various recommendations. It is hoped that these measures will be implemented in a phased manner (see Tables 1 to 3 in the paper).

- 14. We understand that the container terminal operators are also proactively exploring and implementing various measures to enhance the port efficiency and cargo handling capacity, for example, with respect to machinery and equipment, existing cranes (such as those tailor-made for barges) are replaced with latest models from time to time, remote controlled devices are installed for the operation of certain machinery, and software and hardware used in computer systems are upgraded with the adoption of artificial intelligence, etc. In addition, professional training (including the introduction of advanced crane training simulator system) is provided by individual operators to attract more young people to join the industry. The operators also offer summer internships every year to local students from senior secondary/tertiary institutions and universities with a view to showing them the diversity of container terminal operations.
- 15. In line with international maritime development, in 2013, we have commenced dredging works for the Kwai Tsing Container Basin and approach channel from 15 metres to a depth of 17.5 metres so that the new generation of ultra-large container ships may berth at all tides. The works are expected to be completed in early 2016. Also, the Government will commission another port cargo forecast about five years later to obtain data for an updated assessment of port development, with a view to ensuring timely provision of necessary port facilities and related infrastructure.

LOGISTICS DEVELOPMENT

Industry Development Initiatives

16. To encourage the logistics industry to develop towards the provision of high value-added services and further strengthen Hong Kong's position as the regional logistics hub, we are taking forward various major infrastructure projects with a view to enhancing the connectivity between Hong Kong and the region to

The websites of the THB (www.thb.gov.hk), Hong Kong Port Development Council (www.pdc.gov.hk) and Hong Kong Logistics Development Council (www.logisticshk.gov.hk).

strengthen our competitiveness. We have also made strenuous efforts to identify and make available suitable sites for the construction of modern logistics facilities, and promote e-logistics to enhance the operational efficiency of the industry.

Logistics Sites

- 17. To address the strong industry demand for dedicated land for logistics use, we disposed of three logistics sites of a total area of 6.9 ha in Tsing Yi through open tender from 2010 to 2013 for the construction of modern logistics facilities. It is noted that when all the three modern logistics centres are completed by mid-2017, they will provide a maximum total floor area of 279 400 square metres for logistics/storage use. Moreover, we have reserved 10 ha of land in Tuen Mun West (Tuen Mun Areas 38 and 49) for logistics development. The Traffic Impact Assessment (TIA) concerned was completed. We consulted the Tuen Mun District Council and its working group on the TIA results (including the proposed traffic improvement schemes) on 3 March 2015 and 24 April 2015 respectively. The District Councillors gave in-principle support to the proposed logistics development. We are now proceeding with the application for planning approval from the Town Planning Board for the proposed logistics development in Tuen Mun Area 49 (about 3.5 ha). If everything goes smoothly, it is expected that the logistics site could be released to the market by the end of this year. The logistics site in Tuen Mun Area 38 (about 6.5 ha) is being used as a temporary fill bank until the end of 2018. We will continue to keep in view the availability of this site for logistics use.
- 18. Apart from the sites in Tuen Mun West, we will continue to identify suitable sites for logistics development in different parts of Hong Kong, including Hung Shui Kiu, Tuen Mun Areas 40 and 46, New Territories North and North Lantau, through various on-going and committed planning, engineering and feasibility studies commissioned by the relevant departments to facilitate the long-term development of the logistics industry.
- 19. In addition, to meet the demand of the logistics industry for parking spaces and enhance land utilisation, the Transport Department is conducting a consultancy study to explore the feasibility of constructing a multi-storey parking facility at a site in Kwai Chung primarily for container trucks/heavy goods vehicles operating in that district, so as to free up some short term tenancy sites currently used as open-air car parks for other port back-up uses. The study is expected to be completed in the third quarter of this year.

Transport Infrastructure

20. As regards the implementation of transport infrastructural projects, we are pressing ahead with the construction of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (HZMB) and the implementation work for the development of the Three-Runway System at the HKIA. The commissioning of the HZMB can further strengthen the transport linkage between Hong Kong and the western part of the PRD, thereby expanding the cargo hinterland of Hong Kong to the west coast of the Pearl River and bringing about more investment and business opportunities for the logistics sector. For air freight, the Airport Authority Hong Kong expects that upon the full commissioning of the Three-Runway System, the annual cargo handling capacity will be increased to 8.9 million tonnes. This can help meet the continuous growth in the air cargo demand of Hong Kong.

E-Logistics

21. As the use of e-logistics is a market trend, the THB will continue to collaborate with the logistics sector through the Hong Kong Logistics Development Council (LOGSCOUNCIL) to explore and implement feasible measures to encourage wider application of information technology with a view to enhancing their daily operational efficiency and helping them adapt to the new trend of e-commerce development. The LOGSCOUNCIL launched the "SMe-plug Jumpstart Programme" in late March this year to sponsor about 100 logistics SMEs to install a newly developed software, which can help them get connected to large-scale airfreight and seafreight electronic services platforms in a convenient manner, thereby enhancing the efficiency and reliability in handling large amount of cargo information. Besides, the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (CEDB) is conducting a consultancy study on "single window" to examine how to develop Hong Kong's existing "Government Electronic Trading Service", which receives a number of trade submissions, into a trade "single window". This will provide one-stop services for the trade to submit various import/export documents to the Government, facilitating trade declaration and customs clearance. The possibility of connecting the single window with other platforms (such as the single windows of other economies in the region) is also covered by the consultancy study. Subject to the progress of the study, CEDB plans to complete the study in 2015-16 and will consult the industry and the Legislative Council on the way forward at a suitable time.

ADVICE SOUGHT

22. Members are invited to note various port and logistics development measures put forward by the THB.

Transport and Housing Bureau June 2015



PROPOSALS FOR ENHANCING THE USE OF PORT BACK-UP LAND IN KWAI TSING

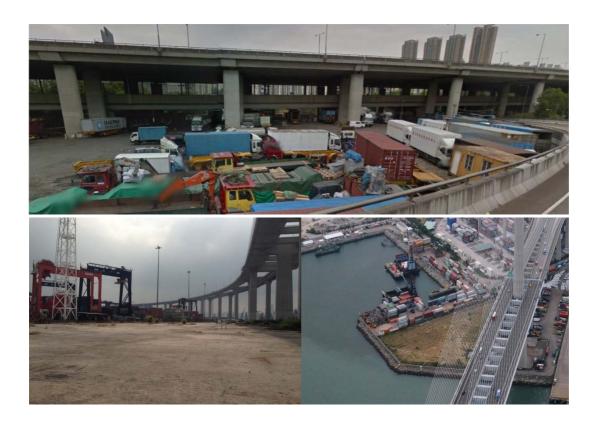


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1. INTRODUCTION

The Port

- 1.1 The Hong Kong Port (HKP) is one of the busiest and most competitive ports in the world. The HKP comprise various port facilities including Kwai Tsing Container Terminals¹ (KTCTs), River Trade Terminal at Tuen Mun West, 6 Public Cargo Working Areas, mid-stream operations, anchorages and private wharves. The container throughput of HKP averaged at 23.1 million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) in the past ten years and ranked the fourth in the world in 2014. The port and related sector contributed 1.1% (HK\$24 billion) to Hong Kong's Gross Domestic Product and 2.4% (88 000 jobs) of the total employment.
- 1.2 In recent years, the problem of congestion is becoming increasingly serious in KTCTs as container throughput and transhipment cargo continue to grow. Container terminal operators (CTOs) and port users are concerned that the operational efficiency of KTCTs is being adversely affected. Given that KTCTs handle nearly 80% of all containerised cargo in Hong Kong, there is concern that the overall competitiveness of the HKP is at stake.



Figure 1 Kwai Tsing Container Terminals

The Kwai Tsing Container Terminals comprise 9 terminals, all privately run. Terminal operators include Hong Kong International Terminals Limited (HIT) (Terminals 4, 6, 7 and 9 north), Modern Terminals Limited (MTL) (Terminals 1, 2, 5 and 9 south), CSX World Terminals HK Limited (Terminal 3), COSCO-HIT (Terminal 8 east) and Asia Container Terminals Limited (Terminal 8 west). KTCTs are handling 79% container throughput in 2014.

1.3 A Government-commissioned consultancy study on the Strategic Development Plan for Hong Kong Port 2030 ("HKP2030 Study")², the findings of which were released in December 2014, has noted, among others, that the HKP will continue to see growth in containerised cargo at a rate of 1.5% annually up to 2030. Port facilities, in particular those at KTCTs, must be enhanced in order to meet the forecast growth. In this regard, the consultants have recommended the provision of additional terminal yard space and barge berths, as well as the better use of land around terminal boundaries as among the enhancement measures for Government to act on expeditiously.

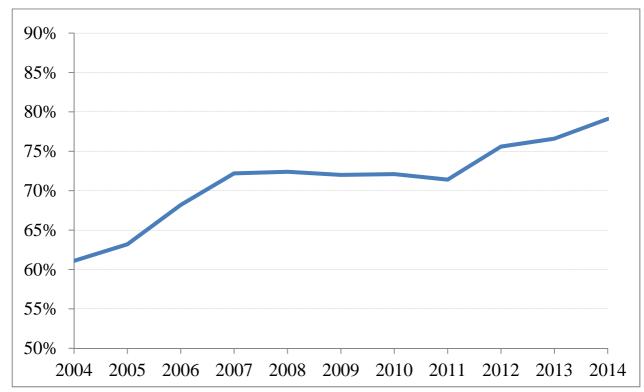


Figure 2 Percentage share of HKP's throughput handled at KTCTs

Need for Review of port back-up land

1.4 KTCTs have a total of 24 berths and a total yard area of 279 hectares (ha). Outside the terminal boundaries and surrounding KTCTs, there are another 100 ha of land primarily being used for "port back-up" uses³. These lands have been divided into small sites and are being let out by short term tenancies (STTs) to numerous smaller scale logistics and trucking users who

 ${^2} \ HKP2030 \ Study \ Executive \ Summary \ is \ available \ at \ http://www.pdc.gov.hk/docs/ES\%20Eng\%20(28.11.2014).pdf.$

³ The future long-term use of the land may be subject to change in order to cope with the changing development of society and the economy.

provide support to KTCTs' operations and/or the logistics industry⁴.

- 1.5 Land available for port-related uses around KTCTs is limited and can hardly be increased. The existing KTCTs and port-related sites are already surrounded by infrastructure and developments and there is no longer any scope for landward expansion.
- 1.6 To meet the future needs of KTCTs, there is a need to optimise the use of land within the Kwai Tsing area by reshuffling the existing different types of port-related land uses to align with the change in the mode of operation of the port, according priority to uses that are most directly related to container terminal (CT) operations, and increasing the utilisation efficiency of the existing land as far as practicable through higher density development of multi-storey facilities.
- 1.7 Apart from addressing the present and future needs of KTCTs, port back-up land users around KTCTs have expressed hardship and have asked the Government to provide better support to their operation by improving the terms and conditions of the STTs.
- 1.8 To address port operation and industry needs, the Transport and Housing Bureau (THB) recently conducted a review of port back-up land in Kwai Tsing let out by STTs (the "STT review"). The review aims to address three main issues-
 - (i) to help alleviate the port congestion problem at KTCTs and enhance its cargo handling efficiency through better use of port back-up land;
 - (ii) to refine the prevailing allocation and management mechanism for land let out by STTs to better meet the operational needs of logistics small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs); and
 - (iii) to optimise utilisation and efficiency of port back-up land in the long term to enable KTCTs to meet forecast growth in container throughput up to 2030.
- 1.9 The Kwai Tsing port back-up area is an essential component for the efficient functioning of the HKP. It also supports the operation of the logistics

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⁴ Port back-up land is generally let and managed by the Lands Department through STTs. As at June 2014, the Government has released 49 sites totalling about 100 ha under STTs in Kwai Tsing Area for port back-up uses for supporting the operation of KTCTs. The site areas for each STT normally ranging from 1 to 3 ha although they can also be as small as a few hundred square metres (m²) or as large as 10 ha. These sites and their main uses are broadly indicated in the plan at Annex A.

industry. In drawing up the recommendations on how best to utilise the land and improve the allocation and management of port back-up land, we need to take into account the physical constraints of the limited availability of land in the locality, the demand for water frontage for barge berthing for the loading/unloading of containers, the different - and at times competing - needs and interests of the relevant stakeholders, and relevant planning and land administration considerations.

Submission of views

- 1.10 On the basis of the findings of the STT review, THB has prepared this document to seek stakeholders' views on the proposals set out in it.
- 1.11 Written comments may be sent to THB through email: pml@thb.gov.hk, by post (Division 5, Transport Branch, Transport and Housing Bureau, 21st Floor, East Wing, Central Government Offices, 2 Tim Mei Avenue, Tamar, Hong Kong) or by fax: 2523 0030 by **15 August 2015**.
- 1.12 A person or an organisation providing any comments or views shall be deemed to have given consent to THB to use or publish, including posting onto an appropriate website, the whole or part of the comments and views (with the exception of personal data). Otherwise, please state so when providing comments and views.

2. ISSUE ONE – TO ALLEVIATE PORT CONGESTION AND ENHANCE CARGO HANDLING EFFICIENCY

2.1 With a view to addressing the port congestion problem and enhancing the efficiency of KTCTs, the Hong Kong Container Terminal Operators Association⁵ (HKCTOA) submitted a White Paper entitled "Maintaining Kwai Tsing Port's Regional Competitiveness Investing in Container Throughput Capacity and Operational Efficiency" to THB in November 2013. The document highlights the growing port congestion encountered at KTCTs and puts forth suggested measures to provide relief.

Factors for port congestion

2.2 CTOs noted that a number of factors have contributed to the recent port congestion. These include structural changes in the regional business environment such as increased vessel sizes and increased traffic volumes transported by river barges, as well as on-going issues such as lack of land provision to support port growth and operational efficiency improvements. Some of these key factors are elaborated below.

(A) Rising trend in transhipment cargo

2.3 The share of transhipment throughput of HKP rose from 44.9% in 2005 to 60.2% in 2014. According to the forecast in the HKP2030 Study, the trend is expected to continue and transhipment is expected to reach 75% by 2030, representing about 24 million TEUs transhipment throughput. Most of the transhipment throughput is concentrated at KTCTs. Transhipment handling requires CTs with sufficient facilities to handle large number of ocean-going vessels (OGVs) call and to efficiently transfer containers between nearby terminals.

(B) Increasing river-borne container traffic

2.4 There has been a shift from land-borne to river-borne container traffic, with a marked increase in barge traffic by river trade vessels (RTV) to/from Pearl River Delta (PRD) ports and KTCTs. River throughput increased from 2.0 million TEUs in 2005 to 3.1 million TEUs in 2014, representing an

⁵ The Hong Kong Container Terminal Operators Association represents all the terminal operators at KTCTs.

increase in the share of KTCTs' total throughput from 14% in 2005 to 18% in 2014. The proportion of cross-boundary container throughput handled by river transport rose from 47% in 2005 to 57% in 2014. Provision of barge berths has not been increased to cater for the increased traffic.

(C) Increasing use of mega vessels

2.5 The number of mega-OGVs calling at HKP has risen by some 17% between 2011 and 2014. This has resulted in longer OGV turnaround times and less main quay length available for handling PRD barges. The growth in size of OGVs has led to a concentration of container traffic at KTCTs.

(D) Competing use for berths

2.6 Furthermore, because the number of barge berths is insufficient, ocean berths at KTCTs have to be allocated for barge berthing use from time to time, despite the fact that the OGVs are facing similar congestion problems at peak operating hours. This has resulted in the competing use of the limited ocean berthing space between the OGVs and RTVs, which hampers the efficient operation of KTCTs and creates port congestion.

Limitations of yard area and port efficiency

- 2.7 Sufficiency of yard area is essential to efficient terminal operations. Yard area is needed for installation of crane and quayside equipment, and the provision of trucking corridors and loading/unloading bays. As well, yard area is necessary for container storage for a period of time after containers are unloaded onto the shore side, pending the next movement or being trucked inland.
- 2.8 The average container dwell time at the port is in the range of 3-4 days for full import and export containers, but 4-5 days for transhipment. As such, the increase in transhipment volume has resulted in longer storage time for containers at the port's yard area. Increase in transhipment cargo and concentration of vessels at KTCTs have posed further pressure on the terminals' limited yard and berth capacity, aggravating port congestion. More port back-up land for container stacking is needed.

Terminal Operators' requests

(A) Land to be disposed of on a long term basis

- 2.9 The HKCTOA White Paper suggested, among others, that the Government should optimise the usage of port back-up land by integrating a total of some 70 ha of such land with the container terminal yard so that they might enlarge the storage areas. They estimated that with this additional land provision, the annual capacity of KTCTs could be increased by 3 to 4 million TEUs, equivalent to the capacity of 3 to 4 new built container berths. HKP2030 Study consultant has made similar recommendations, although the total site area recommended for integration with KTCTs was 48 ha.
- 2.10 The CTOs asked the Government to dispose of sites adjacent to the terminals on a long term basis for the sites to be integrated into KTCTs so as to enhance the terminals' container handling capacity through the installation of purpose-built equipment and rail tracks. The use of such equipment is not possible under STTs due to the high investment cost involved. The CTOs also argued that greater synergy in moving containers among stacks could be created if the yard area was enlarged. The need to transfer containers between terminals (for loading/unloading onto vessels) will be reduced and this will lead to significant cost and time savings.

(B) Barge berths

2.11 The HKCTOA suggested that sites with water frontage adjacent to the two ends of CT9 be integrated into the CT on a permanent basis so that operators could invest substantial capital amount in equipment such as gantry cranes. This is also a recommended measure in the HKP2030 Study.

THB's Considerations and Recommendations

2.12 Given that an increasing share of Hong Kong's container throughput (some 80%) is concentrated at KTCTs, and the fact that utilisation rate of KTCTs has risen from 75.5% in 2005 to 89.2% in 2014⁶, if Hong Kong is to continue its position as a regional hub port, it is of paramount importance that the container port maintains its efficiency and competitiveness.

Utilisation rate is the ratio of actual container throughput to the handling capacity in the same year. Handling capacity is calculated by taking into account various factors affecting berth and yard capacity, such as berth length, the number of quay cranes, area of storage yard and the number of working days, etc.

2.13 At present, KTCTs have a total yard area of 279 ha, less than 50% of the international norm⁷. Compared with the international standard of 25 ha yard area per berth, the "yard: berth" ratio for KTCTs is only 11.6. By comparison, the average ratio of all PRD terminals is 17.4 and Shanghai Yangshan is 24.2. To ease the port congestion problem (which will otherwise drive away vessels/cargo from Hong Kong), and to cater for projected growth in container throughput, we see an imminent need to enlarge the current yard area to enable the terminals handle more cargo-in-transit and in a more efficient manner so as to enhance efficiency.

Increasing provision for yard area

- 2.14 To address the issue, and with a view to optimising land utilisation and achieving higher efficiency in supporting port operation, we **recommend** that **Sites 1a, 1b, 1c and 1d**, totalling 15.2 ha, as shown at **Annex B**, which are immediately adjacent to terminals be disposed to the operators of those terminals respectively, that is, CT9S, CT7, CT5 and CT8W on a long term basis subject to a premium at full market value. It is estimated that the four sites can bring about a 4% increase in the yard capacity of KTCTs, or an additional 820,000 to 850,000 TEUs per year.
- 2.15 To optimise land utilisation, we will in parallel explore the potential of using as least part of Site 1b for a multi-storey development, the feasibility and usage of which will be worked out by Government in discussion with the CTOs as necessary. It is hoped that some preliminary plans can be worked out in 1-2 years.
- 2.16 We are mindful that permanent disposal of land needs to be balanced against other considerations such as retaining flexibility in land use, taking into account the interests of different stakeholders operating on the port back-up sites, and Government's overall land use and planning policies. We therefore **recommend** that these four sites be made available in phases from 2016-17 onwards. Summary information on these sites (including land area where applicable) and the projected time-line are set out in **Table 1**.

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If we adopt the international norm of 1 berth : 25 ha ratio, KTCTs yard area should theoretically be 24x25 = 600 ha.

Increasing provision for barge berths

- 2.17 The HKCTOA White Paper and the HKP2030 Study consultant have also urged the Government to identify additional water frontage and develop dedicated barge berths to enable KTCTs to handle the increasing volume of river to ocean container cargo more efficiently. We **recommend** that two sites (viz. Sites 1e and 1f), currently let out through STTs mainly for barge berthing use, be disposed of by phases to respectively CT9S and CT9N on a long term basis as extension to the adjacent container terminals to form part of terminal facilities upon expiry of the fixed term in 2017-2018.
- 2.18 Separately, we have identified <u>Site 2d</u>, located to the north of CT5, of about 0.8 ha with about 90 m sea frontage, which can be used for barge berthing (see the plan at <u>Annex B</u>). The site (zoned "Government, Institution or Community") is currently under temporary Government use until August 2015. Subject to the resolution of the technical issue(s), we **recommend** that the Site 2d be let on STT. The facility may be used temporarily as a barge berthing site and is estimated to provide a berth capacity of about 105,000 TEUs yearly.



Figure 3 An STT site for barge berthing in KTCTs

Table 1:PROPOSALSTOALLEVIATEPORTCONGESTIONANDENHANCE CARGO HANDLING EFFICIENCY

	Concerns/requests from stakeholders	Recommended measures	Projected timeline
To alleviate port congestion	a. Provision of additional yard space for container storage uses to enhance terminal efficiency	• 4 sites of 15.2 ha in total at Sites 1a, 1b, 1c and 1d to be disposed on a long term basis to respectively CT9S, CT7, CT5 and CT8W as extension to the adjacent container terminals to increase the yard area	By phases from 2016 – 2017 onwards
	b. Provision of additional barge berths to meet the increase in river-borne container traffic	• 2 sites of 3.34 ha in total at Sites 1e and 1f to be disposed on a long term basis to respectively CT9S and CT9N as extension to the adjacent container terminals and for barge berthing use	By phases from 2017 – 2018 onwards

3. ISSUE TWO - TO REFINE MANAGEMENT OF LAND LET OUT BY SHORT TERM TENANCIES

STT Administration

Tenure and tenancy management

3.1 In Kwai Tsing district, about 100 ha of port back-up land are let out by As at June 2014, there were 49 such STTs. The term of a STT generally consists of an initial, fixed term followed by a periodic tenancy (usually quarterly) if the tenancy is not terminated after the expiry of the fixed term. According to established practice, if the intended use is compatible with the zoned use of the STT site concerned, the fixed term of a STT can be up to 7 years. In Kwai Tsing, the 49 STT sites can be categorised into three main types of uses.

	Types of Uses	Terms under STT
(i)	Fee-paying car park	Fixed term of normally one year
(ii)	Container storage / cargo handling (including consolidation)	Fixed term of normally 3 or 5 years ⁸
(iii)	Multiple uses ⁹ (combination of (i) and (ii))	Fixed term of normally 3 years

Apart from the above main uses, a number of ancillary uses, such as 3.2 "weighbridge", "vehicle repairing", "fumigation treatment of container cargoes", and "trade of receipt and dispatch of delivery orders in relation to containers transportation", are allowed on some of the port back-up sites mentioned in paragraph 3.1 (items (i) to (iii)) above to meet the industry's operational need.

The multiple uses allowed are intended to provide flexibility to the STT tenants in responding to changing

market needs.

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In response to the industry's request for prolonging the fixed term of STTs so as to allow more time for recovery of investment made on the site, including site formation and purchase of heavy equipment, LandsD agreed in 2010, upon THB's support, to lengthen the fixed term of STTs for container storage/cargo handling or consolidation from 3 years to 5 years upon re-tendering where appropriate.

3.3 The fixed term of a STT is determined having regard to factors such as the proposed use, any special consideration having regard to its nature of operation, and the availability period before the site is required for permanent use or for other purposes. If the site is not suitable for re-tendering for various reasons for the time being, the tenancy may be continued on a periodic basis after the expiry of the fixed term according to the terms of the STT, e.g. on a quarterly basis. In the periodic term, the tenancy may be terminated by either party serving the required period of notice in accordance with the tenancy conditions. Information including the term of tenancy will be clearly set out in the tender document. Individuals or corporations interested in operating port back-up business may put in tender bids for the STTs, having regard to their business considerations, and the terms and conditions of the STTs.



Figure 4 An STT site for container-related uses and parking in KTCTs

The open tender system

- 3.4 Port back-up sites are generally let by the Lands Department (LandsD) in consultation with the relevant bureaux and departments under STT through the established open tender system. The rationale for offering sites of varying sizes through open tender in the market is to-
 - (i) provide a level playing field for big, medium and small enterprises alike through fair competition;
 - (ii) provide newcomers with the opportunity to take part in the port/logistics related businesses; and

(iii) maintain flexibility to allow for switching uses of sites as and when the situation warrants which would not be possible if the land has been disposed of on long term basis.

The rent review system

3.5 It has been LandsD's policy, as stated in the tenancy agreement, to review the rent every 3 years if the STT is not retendered or terminated at that juncture. LandsD will assess the rent on the basis of the prevailing market rent and in accordance with the tenancy agreement ¹⁰.

Concerns of Logistics SMEs/STT tenants

- 3.6 The logistics trade operations in Kwai Tsing generally feel that the current system of administering STTs in Kwai Tsing areas could not cater for their costs and mode of operation. In May 2013, the trade petitioned the Government.
- 3.7 The industry's concerns relate largely to three areas:
 - (i) the short duration of the term of tenancies and the multiple uses permitted;
 - (ii) the triennial rent reviews and re-tendering mechanism; and
 - (iii) shortage of space for parking of container tractors / trailers and goods vehicles in Kwai Tsing

They hoped that the STT system could provide more certainty with lesser financial burden on their operation. Their specific views are set out below.

(A) Tenancy Term and Permitted uses

Longer tenancy for sites for container storage/cargo handling

3.8 Existing STT tenants request that the term of tenancies¹¹ of port back-up sites involving container stacking be lengthened as much as possible to

¹⁰ If the tenant does not agree to the level of the revised rent, he can lodge an appeal to the District Lands Office (DLO) according to established mechanism. If the tenant does not accept the rent which may or may not have been adjusted after an appeal, he may lodge a further appeal, and the DLO will refer the appeal, together with further relevant justifications from the tenant, to the LandsD Headquarters for consideration.

¹ At present, the fixed term of a tenancy is generally 3 or 5 years. Some operators asked to extend it to 10 years.

allow adequate time for recovery of investment made on the sites so as to give them a better return on capital investment. Site formation works which are costly ¹² may take several months to complete after commencement of tenancy with no revenue generated during that period. Investment is also required for acquiring necessary equipment and building electricity generator rooms.

Tenancy conditions should not allow multiple uses

3.9 The container storage / cargo handling operators are strongly against the current practice of allowing multiple uses on certain STT sites (that is allowing for container storage, cargo handling, car parking or a combination of these uses on the same site under one tenancy). It was pointed out that, in reality, most sites ended up being successfully tendered by carpark operators and were used for vehicle parking due to probably lower investment, higher profit margin and quick return. They proposed allowing only one type of use in each STT in order to achieve better and more balanced allocation of land in Kwai Tsing to support different port back-up activities.

(B) Rent Review and Re-tendering

STT rent review system

3.10 Logistics SME operators object to rent reviews within the term of a tenancy on the ground that reviews would, in most cases, lead to rental increase, create uncertainty for their business planning, and add financial burden to SME operators, thereby reducing the competitiveness of Hong Kong's logistics industry. They asked that there be no rental review within the entire tenancy term.

Priority use by existing tenants

3.11 Some logistics SMEs argued that as incumbent tenant/operator, they should have priority for continued use of an STT site upon expiry of a tenancy for reason of the significant investment they have made, such as in site formation, installation of equipment and other facilities. They asked that instead of putting a site for re-tender in the open market, the Government

According to the operators, site formation works can cost up to around \$2,000 to \$2,500 per m².

should first negotiate a revised rental towards the end of the fixed term of the tenancy with the incumbent tenant, and only if the negotiation failed or if the existing tenant decides to cease use of the site should the site be put to open tender.

(C) Parking Spaces and Related Issues

STTs to primarily cater for parking of container vehicles

3.12 At present, parking sites located on port back-up land are open to all types of vehicles, including small cars¹³ and coaches. The container trucking sector proposed that usage of the parking sites be confined to the parking of container vehicles and goods vehicles. They opined that non-container related vehicles could be parked outside of the Kwai Tsing port back-up areas. They believed that provision of more parking spaces for container-related vehicles would also help drive down parking fees for the logistics sector and be conducive to the development of Hong Kong's logistics industry.

Recommendations

3.13 Having considered the claims and needs of the logistics SMEs and other smaller STT operators in Kwai Tsing, our views and recommendations are set out below and in **Table 2**.

(a) Longer tenancy for container storage / cargo handling

3.14 We **recommend** extending the tenancy period for container storage sites and cargo handling sites from the existing 3 or 5 years to 7 years where appropriate¹⁴, subject to site availability in each case, when existing sites are retendered or new sites are put to the market. This recommended measure is to address concerns by operators that a longer tenancy is needed to recover the heavy cost in site formation and purchase of equipment.

Small cars, which may be parked at existing multi-storey car parks, include private cars, vans and taxis.

For container storage (or cargo handling) sites which are not zoned "Other Specified Uses (Container Related Uses)" on the statutory outline zoning plan (e.g. on GIC, open space zonings), the maximum fixed term of a STT for a user which does not accord with the town plan zoning for the site should be up to 5 years pursuant to the Town Planning Ordinance. A fixed term of over 5 years would require planning approval from the Town Planning Board.

(b) Restricting permitted uses for each STT site to single use

- 3.15 We **recommend** that each STT site should only allow for *either* one of the following three main types of use¹⁵-
 - (i) Container storage (for stacking of laden /empty containers);
 - (ii) Cargo handling (e.g. container cargo consolidation and open storage of goods/containers); or
 - (iii) Parking primarily for container/goods vehicles (and limited number of other types of vehicles as necessary).
- 3.16 Clear specification of a single type of land use for each STT is administratively more conducive to achieving a balanced allocation of limited land resources to cater for the specific needs of different sectors. Single permitted use for each site will also help to optimise land usage for port back-up facilities.
- 3.17 Ancillary uses currently permitted in existing STTs as mentioned in paragraph 3.2 can be maintained to meet the industry's operational needs. For new sites, ancillary uses can be considered for incorporation in the tenancies as appropriate.
- 3.18 For sites with marine access, "loading, unloading and storage of containers from land or sea" would be allowed to cater for barge berthing apart from the storage of containers¹⁶.

(c) Rent review system

3.19 We **recommend** that upon re-tendering of existing STT sites or tendering of new STTs, the tenancy condition allowing for the triennial rent review during the fixed term of tenancy be removed. Upon implementation of this revised measure, the rent will not be reviewed during the fixed term of the tenancy. This will provide more certainty for the tenants in planning their business. The tenancy terms will provide for rent review upon the expiry of the fixed term and thereafter every 3 years until termination of the STT. However, STTs are generally retendered upon the expiry of the

Among the port back-up sites, two STT sites currently let for the trade of receipt and despatch of delivery orders in relation to container transportation will be maintained on a fixed term of 3 years.

As these sites would be dedicated for storage of containers, open storage of goods or cargo handling/consolidation will not be allowed.

fixed term. The rent review provision comes into play only where there are circumstances of the fixed term having expired but the STT is being allowed to continue on a periodic basis (e.g. quarterly) 17 pending retendering/termination of the STT.

(d) More restrictive use of parking sites

- 3.20 We agree with the industry's views that parking sites on port back-up land should as far as possible serve container tractors/trailers and goods vehicles which support the port operation. We recommend that parking of non-container related vehicles, such as small cars and coaches, should be restricted through specifying the type and number of these vehicles permitted to be parked on the sites under the tenancy conditions. New tenancy agreement upon tendering/retendering will incorporate this restriction on the advice of Transport Department (TD) having regard to the circumstances and justifiable parking needs. Along similar vein, the parking of unlicensed vehicles¹⁸ will not be permitted in STTs on port back-up land in future.
- 3.21 With such restrictions specified, the number of parking spaces for small cars / coaches on the port back-up sites will be capped, thereby releasing some of the spaces currently occupied by them for the parking of container vehicles and goods vehicles. The restrictions to be imposed will be considered on a case by case basis.

Re-tendering system of STT upon expiry of tenancy term **(e)**

3.22 The suggestion that incumbent occupants should be given priority use of the sites upon expiry of their STTs is **not supported**.

3.23 The existing arrangement of retendering of STTs by open tender upon the expiry of their fixed term has been a well established system in administering STTs. The arrangement allows all interested parties equal opportunities to tender for sites upon the expiry/termination of the tenancies for the conduct of permitted businesses. As a matter of principle, it should be maintained to allow fair and open competition.

¹⁷ The term of an STT generally consists of an initial, fixed term followed by a periodic tenancy (usually quarterly) if the tenancy is not terminated after the expiry of the fixed term.

At present, one STT is being used for parking of unlicensed vehicles by a vehicle manufacturer. The use will be changed to align with the proposed categorisation in paragraph 3.15 when the site is re-tendered.

Allowing incumbent tenant a priority claim over renewal would, in effect, create entry barriers for newcomers and upset the long cherished principle of maintaining a level-playing field for all. Indeed, deviating from this principle might raise anti-competition concerns.

(f) Other STT Site provisions

New sites for cargo handling and vehicle parking

- 3.24 To meet the needs of the industry, we **recommend** making available **Sites 2a and 2c** for cargo handling and **Site 2b** for vehicle parking (see the plan at **Annex B**). Sites 2a, 2b and 2c are currently vacant land. The tenure for each new site will be considered on a case by case basis taking into account their future long term uses.
- 3.25 We also **recommend** that <u>Sites 2e and 2f</u> (see the plan at <u>Annex B</u>), with a total area of about 9.4 ha, be designated for the single restricted purpose of container storage when the STTs are retendered in 2015-16 and 2016-17 respectively. At present, multiples uses (including container storage and cargo handling) are permitted. We **recommend** that the tenancy term be set at 5 years.

Table 2: PROPOSALS TO REFINE MANAGEMENT OF LAND LET OUT BY SHORT TERM TENANCIES

	Concerns/requests from stakeholders	Recommended measures	Projected time-line
Management		Extending the fixed term	To be
Measures for STT	tenancy tenure of STTs for container storage/cargo handling to allow more time for recovery of investment cost	of STT each for container storage/ cargo handling use from the existing 3 or 5 years to 7 years where appropriate	implemented upon retendering of existing STTs

Concerns/requests from stakeholders	Recommended measures	Projected time-line
b. Not to allow multiple uses on STT sites. Each STT should only provide for one type of use	Each STT be allowed for either one of the following 3 types of uses: (i) Container storage (for stacking of laden/empty containers); (ii) Cargo handling (container cargo consolidation and open storage of goods/containers); or (iii) Parking, primarily for container/goods vehicles (with a limited number of other types of vehicles, as necessary)	To be implemented upon retendering of existing STTs
c. To waive the requirement for rental review according to market rates every three years during a STT tenure so as to ease financial burden of STT operators	The triennial rental review falling within a fixed term of STT tenure to be removed. The rent review provision comes into play only where there are circumstances of the fixed term having expired but the STT is being allowed to continue on a periodic basis (e.g. quarterly) pending retendering/termination of the STT	To be implemented upon retendering of existing STTs

	Concerns/requests From stakeholders	Recommended measures	Projected time-line
d.	Parking sites should cater for needs of container vehicles as priority	STT conditions will be adjusted accordingly on a case by case basis	To be implemented upon retendering of existing STTs
e.	Priority be given to existing tenants on renewal of the existing STTs instead of disposal by open tender so as to give better return to investment made by incumbent operators	Not accepted. Re-tender by open tender system upon expiry of fixed term of STT to be maintained to provide a level-playing field for all operators through fair competition	

4. ISSUE THREE - TO OPTIMISE UTILISATION AND EFFICIENCY OF PORT BACK-UP LAND IN THE LONG TERM

4.1 Given the scarcity of land provision in Hong Kong, we are mindful of the need to make the best endeavours to raise land utilisation efficiency of port back-up land near KTCTs. In this connection, we are exploring the technical feasibility of developing multi-storey facilities on potentially suitable sites for uses such as goods/container vehicles parking and cargo consolidation operations, etc. so as to free up more land in that area to better support port operations and cater for future development.

Feasibility study on the development of multi-storey car park

- 4.2 TD has commissioned a feasibility study to look into the development of multi-storey parking facilities at <u>Site 3a</u> (plan at <u>Annex B</u>) mainly for container vehicles and goods vehicles ("the Multi-storey Parking Study"). The Multi-storey Parking Study will assess the supply of and demand for parking of container / goods vehicles near the port in Kwai Tsing, and prepare conceptual designs and layout of the multi-storey car park. It will also assess whether a business case could be established having regard to the construction, maintenance and operation costs, which are likely to be significant, and the operation mechanism. The Study commenced in June 2014 and is scheduled for completion around 3rd quarter of 2015.
- 4.3 Subject to the Study findings and industry feedback, we will consider commissioning another similar Study for <u>Site 3b</u> in Tsing Yi.



Figure 5 An existing multi-storey cargo centre in Kowloon Bay

Feasibility study on the development of a multi-storey complex for mixed uses

4.4 We are also exploring more innovative ways to enhance land use efficiency of existing sites through creating space in a multi-storey development, drawing reference from existing facilities near KTCTs that allowed for combined use for container storage and cargo handling. We plan to conduct a feasibility study on the development of multi-storey complex for mixed uses including container storage and cargo handling at <u>Site 3c</u> (i.e. the combined **Sites 2e** and **2f**). We aim to commence the Study as soon as possible.

Table 3: PROPOSALS TO OPTIMISE UTILISATION AND EFFICIENCY OF PORT BACK-UP LAND IN THE LONG TERM

	Concerns/requests from stakeholders		Recommended measures	Projected time-line
Optimisation of land use in Kwai Tsing	To devise measures to optimise land utilisation for port back-up purpose in Kwai Tsing so as to free up more land in that area to better support port operations and cater for future port development		Multi-storey Parking Study in Kwai Chung commissioned in June 2014 to examine the feasibility of a 4 ha site in Kwai Chung for multi-storey car park mainly for the parking of container vehicles and heavy/medium goods vehicles	Study to be completed around Q3 2015
		b)	Subject to findings of the above study, to conduct a similar study on a site in Tsing Yi	To be planned
		c)	To conduct a study on the feasibility of a Multi-storey Complex in Tsing Yi for cargo handling and container storage	To be planned

5. NEXT STEPS

- 5.1 Subject to views received, we plan to implement the recommendations for the identified sites as outlined above and set out in **Tables 1 to 3** above.
- 5.2 For existing STTs, recommendations relating to the allocation of land for various port back-up uses and the administrative arrangement will be implemented upon retendering of the STTs to be conducted by LandsD in phases. Existing sites permitting multiple uses (e.g. container storage / cargo handling and vehicle parking) will be changed to single use upon retendering. We will deal with their re-tendering case-by-case, sorting out how different operations could as far as possible be re-allocated to different sites taking into account size, location and access to the sites.

Mixed modes of land disposal

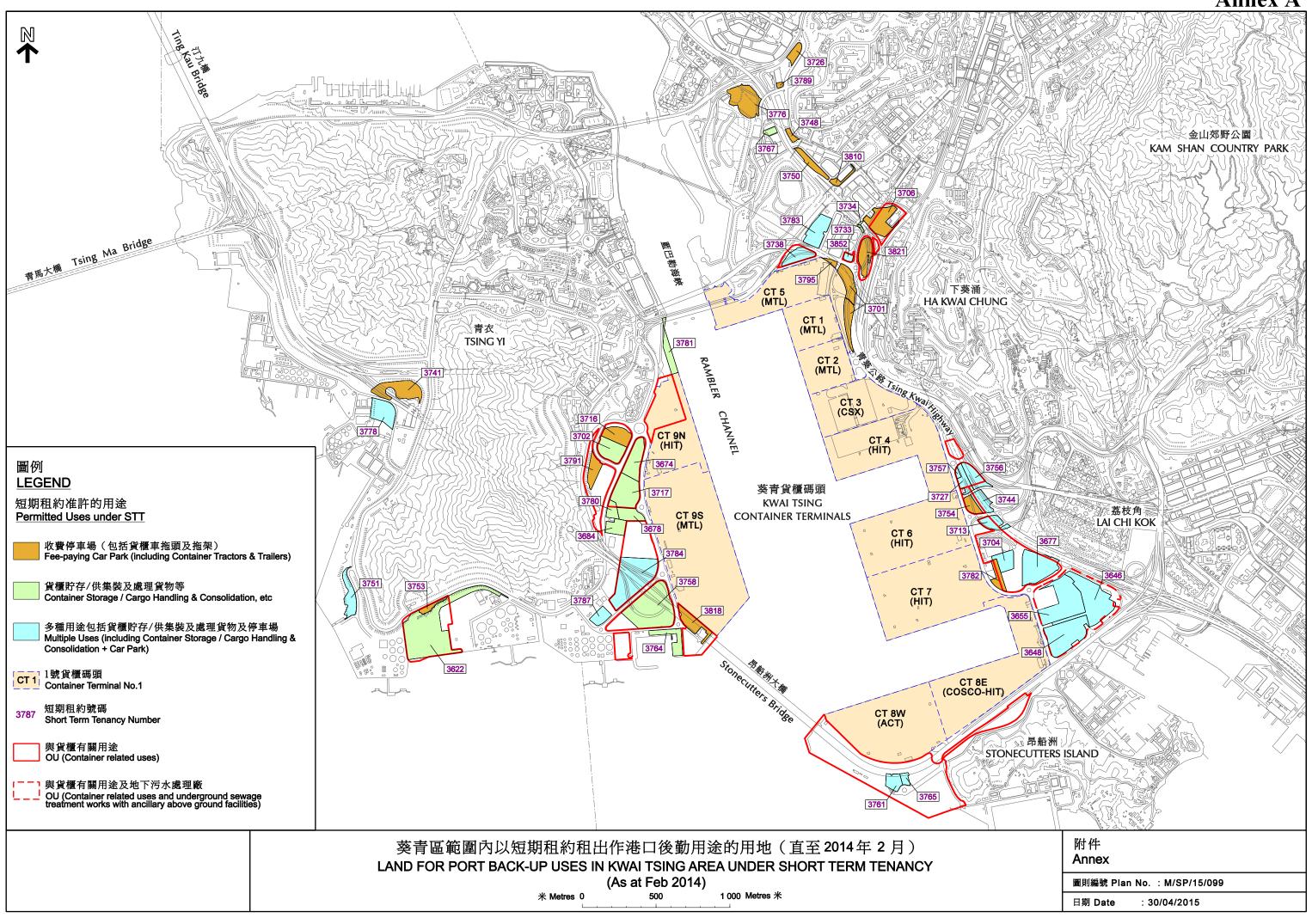
- 5.3 The 100 ha of port back-up land in Kwai Tsing will continue to be disposed of by mixed modes, that is, some by permanent disposal, some by longer STT tenure (up to 7 years) and some shorter tenure (1-5 years), depending on the designated use and availability of each STT site. The objective is to retain flexibility and variation in the land allocation system to meet changing demands and market needs.
- 5.4 For STTs in the Kwai Tsing area, they will continue to be disposed of through open tender as per the existing arrangements and established procedures to give market players a fair and open chance to join the business.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The HKP is an important contributor to Hong Kong's economy and plays an instrumental role in Hong Kong's maritime and logistics cluster. We recognise the need for timely action and closer collaboration between Government and industry (involving different port operators and STT operators) to maintain the efficiency and competitiveness of the HKP.
- In mapping the way forward, we need to bear in mind our port development strategy is to position the HKP as a competitive transhipment and logistics hub for South China and the region. As such, and given the limited land resources in Hong Kong, usage of the some 100 ha of land let on STT in Kwai Tsing for port back-up uses should be optimised. Coordinated efforts by all parties concerned are needed in order that we could upgrade the capacity of the HKP's facilities in the coming years to meet forecast demand and market/operational changes. We will make our best endeavours to work in collaboration with stakeholders to implement the agreed measures. As complex land issues and diverse interests among stakeholders are involved, we would adopt a pragmatic approach in taking matters forward. Implementation of measures would best be in a phased manner, taking into account different views and needs.
- 6.3 In the light of the fast changing market, THB will conduct further Port Cargo Forecast in about 5 years' time as suggested in the HKP2030 Study to monitor demand and ensure timely provision of infrastructural facilities.

Transport and Housing Bureau June 2015

Annex A



Recommended Short to Medium Term Measures for Enhancing Port Operation 圖則編號 Plan No. : M/SP/15/101 比例尺 1:13 000 SCALE 日期 米 METRES 300 300 600 900 METRES 米 Date : 10/06/2015