



**HONG KONG HOTELS ASSOCIATION**

香港酒店業協會

(Incorporated with Limited Liability)

**Statement of Support to Co-location Arrangements for GZ-SZ-HK Express Rail Link at West Kowloon Station**

The Association is writing to express our stance of support to the co-location arrangements for the Express Rail Link at West Kowloon Station from a tourism perspective.

**Major Benefits**

- 1) Connectivity - Hong Kong will be connected to over 20,000 km of express rail network in the Mainland, running across major cities and bringing greater convenience to the people on both sides of the border in logistics, business investments, visiting friends and relatives and tourism.
- 2) Transportation Hub – It will further enhance Hong Kong’s position as the transportation hub and cope with the growing trend of visitors from Mainland travelling by express rail. Express rail has become an important mode of long-distance mass transport and welcome by business travelers.
- 3) New Tourism Route – New tourism products could be developed along the railway such as the West Kowloon Cultural District which will become a new place of interest for promoting both the tourism and cultural industry in Hong Kong.
- 4) Big Bay Tourism Development - As the Belt and Road Initiative forges ahead, the express rail will be a basic and important means of transport. By connecting to the national railway network, Hong Kong will benefit by participation in the Belt and Road Initiative and marketing Hong Kong as the core city in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Big Bay Tourism Development projects.
- 5) Environmental Friendly Destination - Express rail is a green transport mode, it is the ideal choice for visitors who care about the environment as express rail is environmental friendly in terms of alleviating greenhouse gas production and air pollution.

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- 6) Effective Clearance Procedure – As a cross-boundary railway, efficient and time-saving clearance procedures are absolutely essential to realizing the full potential of the express rail in terms of speed and convenience.

**Conclusion**

Under a co-location arrangement, visitors coming to Hong Kong from Mainland can complete clearance procedures of both Hong Kong and the Mainland at the West Kowloon Station in one go. They will not be constrained by whether a particular Mainland station has clearance facilities and they can choose to board trains at any station along the national express rail network.

The Hong Kong section of the express rail is an important strategic infrastructure project for the future of Hong Kong, and the implementation of the co-location arrangement at the West Kowloon Terminus is instrumental in optimizing its transport, economic and tourism benefits.

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