

Asia's world city

Progressive

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Opportunity

High Quality

December 2008

Building a City of Opportunity

Overview

The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government is committed to improving infrastructure – it is key to Hong Kong's continued development, as well as a source of huge economic and employment benefits. During 2008-09, it is estimated that HK\$23.8 billion (US\$2.9 billion) will be spent on infrastructure projects (12 per cent more than in 2007-08), and it is expected that 27 000 new construction jobs will be created.

10 Major Infrastructure Projects for Economic Growth

The 10 major infrastructure projects announced in the 2007-08 Policy Address are coming on line, with some being brought forward to boost the economy and create jobs in an effort to offset the impact of the global economic downturn. A rough estimate of the added value to our economy brought about by these projects, from commissioning to a mature stage, would be more than HK\$100 billion annually. In addition, some 250 000 additional jobs would be created. There has been particular progress with cross-boundary infrastructure projects.

Railways

Of the 10 major infrastructure projects, three are railway developments projects. In addition, three other new railway lines will extend the local network to about 220 kilometres. The Kowloon Southern Link, which is under construction and scheduled for completion in 2009, will connect the West Rail Line at Nam Cheong and East Rail Line at East Tsim Sha Tsui. The planning and design of the West Island Line and the Kwun Tong Line Extension are on-going. The West Island Line will extend the existing Island Line from Sheung Wan to Kennedy Town, and the Kwun Tong Line Extension will connect the Whampoa area to the metro system.

The railway projects under planning will put in place a rail network that is within walking distance for about 70 per cent of Hong Kong's population and about 80 per cent of the workforce. Railways will then carry more than 40 per cent of all passengers using public transport.

The expansion of the rail network is vital to meet Hong Kong's increasing transport needs in a sustainable and more environmentally friendly manner. It will also help the provinces and regions of southern China continue to develop into a vast, integrated regional economy with a population the size of the European Union's, bringing further opportunities for foreign businesses.

Roads and Bridges

Between the 2007-08 and 2012-13 financial years, about HK\$40.1 billion (US\$ 5.1 billion) has been earmarked for road projects. The HK\$ 3.9 billion (US\$ 496 million) Stonecutters Bridge, due for completion in 2009, will be a key component of Route 8, linking Tsing Yi Island with Sha Tin. At 1.6 km long, it will be one of the longest cable-stayed bridges in the world, and will provide direct access to the container terminals in Kwai Chung, thus enhancing Hong Kong's position as an international logistics hub.

Container Port Development

Hong Kong is one of the busiest container ports in the world, handling 24 million TEUs in 2007. In order to ensure the port and its related infrastructural facilities are able to meet the demand from increasing cargo throughput, the Government is considering the feasibility of constructing a new terminal (Container Terminal 10) in southwest Tsing Yi.

Harbourfront Development

Exciting developments are planned for both sides of Hong Kong's famous Victoria Harbour.

The planned West Kowloon Cultural District will be a world-class integrated arts, cultural and entertainment district covering 40 hectares of prime harbour-front land – a district that will be a source of pride for residents and a major attraction for tourists.



On the island side of the harbour, a study is underway to refine the urban design framework for the new Central harbourfront and to provide detailed planning and design guidelines for the creation of a vibrant and accessible waterfront. The re-modelled Central harbourfront will also accommodate the new Government headquarters, Legislative Council offices and an open space of not less than two hectares on the Tamar site.

Urban Renewal

Recent policy initiatives have placed increased emphasis on factors such as air quality, living space, cultural infrastructure and heritage conservation, and an improved living environment is increasingly reflected in urban planning policies. Late 2008 saw the revision of several urban renewal and large-scale building projects for greater inclusion of conservation or environmental aspects.

Most of Hong Kong's population lives in urban districts, a fact which makes urban renewal an ongoing and sensitive issue. Where possible, current and future policy will seek to treasure existing building stock, and to revitalise districts and historic buildings sympathetically rather than simply preserve them.

MICE Facilities

Hong Kong is an international hub for meetings, incentives, conventions and exhibitions, with a range of superb facilities to meet the needs of any function. Over 300 major MICE events take place each year at venues such as Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre (HKCEC) and AsiaWorld-Expo – two of the biggest and best-appointed convention centres in Asia. AsiaWorld-Expo, conveniently located next to Hong Kong International Airport

offers 70 000 square meters of rentable space and a multi-purpose hall with seating for 13 500. The award-winning HKCEC is located in the heart of Hong Kong's Victoria Harbour – its 75 000 square metres of rentable space will soon expand to nearly 90 000 when its atrium extension is completed in 2009.

10 Major Infrastructure Projects for Economic Growth

South Island Line: Construction of this seven-kilometre long, medium-capacity railway line linking the metro network with the south side of Hong Kong Island will start in 2011 and is expected to be commissioned in 2015.

The Sha Tin to Central Link: This new railway will connect the Northeast New Territories and Hong Kong Island via East Kowloon. Construction will start in 2010.

The Tuen Mun-Chek Lap Kok Link and the Tuen Mun Western Bypass : Upon completion in 2016, these new roads will link the Kong Sham Western Highway, the Northwest New Territories and Hong Kong International Airport.

The Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link: This new railway will run from West Kowloon to Guangzhou through Shenzhen. Construction of the Hong Kong section is scheduled to start in 2009.

Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge: When completed, the western Pearl River Delta (PRD) will fall within a 3-hour commuting radius of Hong Kong, cutting travelling time between Hong Kong and Zhuhai/Macao to around 30 minutes. Construction of the bridge will start in 2010.

Hong Kong-Shenzhen Airport Co-operation: The HKSAR Government and the Shenzhen Municipal Government are studying the feasibility and economic benefits of establishing a rail connection between the two airports.

Hong Kong-Shenzhen Joint Development of the Lok Ma Chau Loop: Hong Kong will work with the Shenzhen authorities to develop the Lok Ma Chau Loop on the basis of mutual benefits. Joint consultancy studies are to be commissioned in 2009 to explore the feasibility and options for development.

West Kowloon Cultural District: A major cultural hub covering about 40 hectares and costing HK\$21.6 billion (US\$2.8 billion) will be developed in West Kowloon.

Kai Tak Development Plan: Part of the old Kai Tak airport will be developed into a world-class cruise terminal, helping to consolidate Hong Kong as a regional cruise hub. The first berth is expected to come into operation in 2013.

New Development Areas (NDAs): New plans are being drawn for NDAs to provide quality living space in the northern New Territories.

For more information, please visit www.devb.gov.hk