



## Unrivalled Connectivity

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### Overview

Situated in the heart of Asia, Hong Kong is within five hours' flying time of half the world's population. It is also an important gateway to Mainland China – the world's most populous consumer market and largest manufacturing base.

Hong Kong International Airport is the world's busiest for cargo and the third busiest in terms of passenger traffic. The city is also one of the world's busiest container ports. Hong Kong's world-class infrastructure and integrated services expertise make it the preferred international logistics hub and supply-chain base in Asia for goods moved by sea, air and land.

Hong Kong has a modern, highly efficient and interconnected transport network, while its state-of-the-art telecommunications system helps keep the city connected to the world. Hong Kong residents also enjoy the cheapest broadband services in the world.

### Hong Kong International Airport

Over 95 airlines operate at Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA), offering flights to and from about 160 destinations worldwide, including around 45 points in the Mainland. Since it opened in 1998, HKIA has won nearly 40 best airport awards from various international and regional organisations. In 2010, HKIA served about 51 million passengers and about 4.1 million tonnes of cargo, which set new annual records.

Cross-boundary coach services link the airport to 115 Pearl River Delta (PRD) destinations. In January 2010, a new cross-boundary ferry terminal, the Sky-Pier, was officially opened, linking the airport to neighbouring cities in the PRD area by high-speed ferry services.

### Hong Kong Port

In 2010, container throughput at Hong Kong Port reached 23.7 million TEUs of containers. In the same year, 30 340 ocean-going cargo vessels and 91 040 river-trade cargo vessels visited the port, handling nearly 270 million tonnes of cargo.

On average, around 400 container ship sailings connect to 500 destinations worldwide every week. Renowned for their efficiency, the 24 berths at Kwai Chung Container Terminals (Hong Kong's primary cargo handling area) offer round-the-clock service, with a handling capacity of over 19 million TEUs per annum.

### Logistics

Hong Kong has been a major logistics hub for over 50 years. There are around 15 100 logistics companies in the city. The city's success as a logistics centre lies not only in its superior connectivity but also in its security, quality assurance and strict intellectual property protection.

These assets differentiate Hong Kong from many other logistics centres in the region, and enable the city to provide professional management of high value goods at low cost.

Hong Kong's logistics enterprises are unrivalled at creating and managing highly flexible supply networks. Services account for 93 per cent of Hong Kong's GDP, and much of that huge sector – from transport and supply-chain management to financial and legal services – involves or supports the logistics industry.

The Government is committed to supporting the logistics trade by improving critical infrastructure along the supply chain, providing suitable long-term sites for the development of a logistics cluster and facilitating business through efficient customs procedures.

### Railways

A number of major railway projects are set to boost network and passenger capacity, with six new rail lines recently completed, under construction or at an advanced planning stage – the Kowloon Southern Link, the West Island Line, the Kwun Tong Line Extension, the South Island Line (East), the Shatin to Central Link and the Hong Kong section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link.

Taken together, these six rail lines will cost over \$100 billion (US\$13 billion). Upon their completion, Hong Kong's railway network will expand from its current 219 kilometres to over 300, while the railways' share in the public transport system will increase from about 35 per cent to 45 per cent.

## Roads and Bridges

Over 90 per cent of commuters' daily journeys are made on the city's highly efficient public transport network – the highest rate in the world. This explains why Hong Kong is one of the least car-dependent cities, with only about 610 000 registered vehicles for a population of seven million. In terms of private car ownership, the number of cars per capita is about half that of Singapore and one-third that of Taiwan.

Hong Kong's roads span 2 070 kilometres. Recently completed projects have vastly improved Hong Kong's internal road network and road/bridge connections with the Mainland, with upcoming projects set to upgrade the system further.

Between the 2007-08 and 2012-13 financial years, about \$40.1 billion (US\$5.1 billion) has been earmarked for road projects.

The \$3.9 billion (US\$496 million), 1.6km long Stonecutters Bridge, which opened in 2009, is one of the longest cable-stayed bridges in the world, and provides direct access to the container terminals in Kwai Chung, further enhancing Hong Kong's logistics services.

The planned Tuen Mun-Chek Lap Kok Link, together with Tuen Mun Western Bypass will be a dual two-lane road providing a north-south trunk route between Northwest New Territories and Lantau. It will be an alternative route to the HKIA, independent of the existing Lantau Link and North Lantau Highway.

## Cruise Terminal

The Government is committed to developing the city into a regional cruise hub and the cruise terminal project at Kai Tak is in full swing.

The terminal building and the first berth, able to accommodate the largest cruise

vessels in the world, are expected to start operating in mid-2013. The second berth, to be commissioned in 2014, will also be able to welcome the largest cruise vessels in 2015.

Mainland travellers represent massive potential for the cruise business through Hong Kong. Mainland tour groups can now travel to Taiwan on cruise ships homeporting in Hong Kong. There were 20 sailings from Hong Kong to Taiwan in 2010. Capitalising on the new cruise terminal, the Government will continue to work closely with the Hong Kong Tourism Board to promote cruise tourism.

## Connecting People

Hong Kong serves as the regional telecommunications hub and has developed one of the world's most advanced and sophisticated telecommunications systems, connected to the rest of the globe through multiple submarine and overland cable systems. In December 2010, the activated external capacity reached 3 346 Gbps.

Hong Kong's telecommunications network is fully liberalised and highly competitive. There are five major fixed telecommunications operators and five mobile network operators, each offering an array of premium services.

Hong Kong is also among the 14 places prepared for 'internet applications of tomorrow', such as HDTV and high quality video communications, an Oxford University study revealed in late 2010.

Hong Kong residents pay as little as \$0.22 (US\$0.028) per megabit for fixed broadband, the lowest price in the world during the third quarter 2010, according to market research firm Point Topic. It also has one of the world's highest density networks, with nearly all commercial and residential buildings, and all schools linked up. By December 2010, the number of fixed broadband internet access

accounts increased to over 2.1 million, representing a household penetration rate of over 82 per cent.

There are more mobile phones than people in Hong Kong – the penetration rate of 189 per cent is among the world's highest.

With the increasing popularity of smart phones, Hong Kong's mobile data usage surged to 1 847 Terabytes (1 846 764 Gigabytes) in December 2010, or an average of 296 Mbytes per 2.5G/3G mobile user. This represents 2.9 times and 13.9 times the mobile data usage over the same period in 2009 and 2008 respectively.

The city has over 9 000 Wi-Fi hotspots covering around 5 000 locations, making it a world leader in the provision of public Wi-Fi services.

The GovWiFi programme provides over 2 000 Wi-Fi hotspots at 392 government premises, offering access in all public libraries, job centres, key cultural and recreational centres, community centres, large parks and major government offices.

For more information, please visit [www.gov.hk](http://www.gov.hk)