

# Building for the future

## Overview

Hong Kong invests heavily in infrastructure and other capital works to boost connectivity globally, with the Mainland and locally. These projects represent the vision for the city's long-term development. In coming years, annual capital works expenditure is expected to exceed \$100 billion (US\$12.8 billion), and the annual total construction output is expected to increase to around \$300 billion.

## Northern Metropolis

The Northern Metropolis is a new engine for Hong Kong's future growth. Spanning about 300 square kilometres, the Northern Metropolis will create space to enhance capacity for Hong Kong. The development of the Northern Metropolis integrates deeply with the planning of Shenzhen and other Greater Bay Area (GBA) cities, improving collaboration in areas such as economic development, infrastructure, Innovation and Technology (I&T) and ecological conservation, and facilitating Hong Kong's integration into the overall development of the country, including the GBA.

- The Government announced the **Northern Metropolis Action Agenda** in October 2023. The Northern Metropolis adopts an "industry driven and infrastructure-led" approach as its key planning axle and can provide a large amount of land for the development of I&T and other industries, thereby injecting new impetus into Hong Kong's economy. On the I&T front in particular, the Northern Metropolis will help Hong Kong develop into an international I&T centre under a new industry pattern of "South-North dual engine (finance - I&T)".
- The Northern Metropolis can be divided into four major zones, namely the High-end Professional Services and Logistics Hub, the Innovation and Technology Zone, the Boundary Commerce and Industry Zone, and the Blue and Green Recreation, Tourism and Conservation Circle, each with distinctive strategic positioning and development theme. It will adopt the principle of "infrastructure-led" and construct strategic railway and major roads to enhance the connection of the Northern Metropolis with the Mainland and other parts of Hong Kong.
- Upon full development, the Northern Metropolis is expected to accommodate **a population of about 2.5 million** with the provision of some **900,000 residential units** and about **650,000 jobs**.

## Railway Projects

Railways are the backbone of Hong Kong's public transport system, carrying millions of passengers daily. Major new rail expansion projects include:

- **Kwu Tung Station as Phase 1 of the Northern Link project, Tung Chung Line Extension, Siu Ho Wan Station and Tuen Mun South Extension** have commenced construction in 2023. The construction

works for **Hung Shui Kiu Station** and the **Northern Link Main Line** are expected to commence in 2024 and 2025 respectively.

- **World No.1 public transit system** (Oliver Wyman Forum in partnership with University of California, Berkeley: Urban Mobility Readiness Index 2023).

### **Smart and Green Mass Transit Systems**

- **Smart and green mass transit systems** in **East Kowloon, Kai Tak** and **Hung Shui Kiu/Ha Tsuen New Development Area** to provide connections to nearby railway stations and major public transport interchanges.

### **Roads, Bridges and Cross-Boundary Projects**

There are currently 10 land crossings – six road-based crossings (including the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Hong Kong Port), and four rail-based crossings.

- The **Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge** (HZMB) was commissioned in October 2018. The 55 km-long HZMB is the longest bridge-tunnel sea crossing in the world. It connects Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao and brings the Western Pearl River Delta region to within a three-hour drive of Hong Kong.
- **The Hong Kong Section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link** (XRL) commenced operation in September 2018, connecting Hong Kong to the over 40,000 km national high-speed rail network. The 26-km XRL section runs from the terminus at Hong Kong West Kowloon Station to the Shenzhen boundary in 14 minutes and shortens traveling time to Guangzhou to 45 minutes.
- **Tuen Mun-Chek Lap Kok Link** (TM-CLKL) Northern Connection (including **Tuen Mun-Chek Lap Kok Tunnel**) was commissioned in December 2020. Together with the Southern Connection, the TM-CLKL in full provides an alternative land access between the airport and the urban area in addition to the Lantau Link.
- **Tseung Kwan O-Lam Tin Tunnel** and **Cross Bay Link, Tseung Kwan O** were commissioned on December 11, 2022, providing a new route between Tseung Kwan O and Kwun Tong as well as the Eastern Harbour Crossing, with a remarkable effect in diverting the traffic to and from Tseung Kwan O.
- Tseung Kwan O-Lam Tin Tunnel, together with the Central Kowloon Route and Trunk Road T2 and Cha Kwo Ling Tunnel which are under construction, form the Route 6, providing an east-west express link between Tseung Kwan O and West Kowloon. Upon completion, the Route 6 will divert existing traffic between East Kowloon and West Kowloon and help relieve the traffic load on the existing major road links in Kowloon East.

### **Hong Kong International Airport Expansion**

Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA), **one of the world's busiest airports for air cargo and passengers**, connects to around 180 destinations by about 120 airlines.

The Government has accepted a number of proposals for the development of the Hong Kong Port (HKP) Island of the HZMB put forward by the Airport Authority Hong Kong (AAHK). The development, together with the HKIA's

Three-Runway System, the premium logistics centre, the SKYCITY project and the future development of AsiaWorld-Expo on the Airport Island, will develop HKIA into an **"Airport City", strengthening and enhancing Hong Kong's position as an international aviation, logistics and business centre.**

### Three-Runway System

- AAHK is pressing ahead with the Three-Runway System project. The Third Runway was officially commissioned for operation with effect from November 25, 2022, signifying an important milestone for the Three-Runway System project.
- The whole Three-Runway System, expected to be completed in 2024, will significantly increase HKIA's passenger and cargo handling capacities.
- After its expansion, HKIA's annual passenger and cargo handling capacities are expected to increase to around 120 million and 10 million tonnes respectively from 2035 onwards.

### Airport City

- **SKYCITY**, strategically located between HKIA's passenger terminals and the HKP Island of the HZMB, will be **one of the largest commercial projects** in Hong Kong comprising retail, dining, hotels, entertainment facilities and offices, spread over about 350,000 square metres of floor space. The first stage of SKYCITY development projects will be completed in phases between 2021 and 2027.
- **Automated car parks** will be built on the **HKP Island of the HZMB** to enable self-drive visitors from Guangdong and Macao to drive via the HZMB and fly out from the HKIA or visit Hong Kong to park cars there.
- Take forward the **Airport City Link project** connecting the SKYCITY and the HKP Island by constructing a bridge system and by applying **autonomous transportation system** to strengthen the overall transportation network and capacity, thereby connecting the SKYCITY, the HZMB HKP and the HKIA as one. Next, the Airport City Link project's autonomous transportation system will be extended to Tung Chung Town Centre, providing a **comprehensive and environment-friendly transport link** connecting the Tung Chung Town Centre, Airport Island and HZMB HKP Island.
- The HKAA plans to **expand the Hong Kong International Aviation Academy campus and provide student dorms** to strengthen talent training and attract more Hong Kong youth to the aviation industry.
- Land will also be reserved on the HKP Island for the development of **air cargo logistics and related supporting facilities for the airport community.**
- The AAHK, which is planning to construct a new aviation business park on the Airport Island, is exploring with Zhuhai authorities the feasibility of building an **aviation industrial park in Zhuhai**, to promote the aviation industry in the two places through cross-boundary cooperation.

### I&T Infrastructure

With opportunities brought by the National 14th Five-Year Plan and the GBA, Hong Kong can capitalise on its advantages in research and development (R&D) capabilities, technology, infrastructure, legal system and

intellectual property to act as a strategic bridge for innovative companies looking to access the Mainland market, thereby developing into an international innovation and technology centre. Key initiatives include:

#### Hong Kong Science Park

- The two buildings under Science Park Expansion Programme Stage 1 have been completed and commissioned to provide about 74,000 square metres of floor space for leasing to I&T enterprises and the first two **InnoHK research clusters** (namely **Health@InnoHK** focusing on healthcare technologies and **AIR@InnoHK** focusing on artificial intelligence and robotics technologies), an incubation centre and a robotic catalysing centre. Twenty-eight research laboratories under InnoHK have commenced operation, involving 7 local universities and research institutions as well as over 30 institutions from 11 economies.
- The Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation has kick-started **Stage 2 of the Science Park Expansion Programme** to explore both on-site and off-site development options. The Government earmarked \$3 billion for the Programme to sustain the momentum in building Hong Kong's I&T ecosystem.

#### Cyberport

- The **Cyberport 5 Project** has commenced and is expected to be completed in 2025 at the earliest, increasing the gross floor area of Cyberport by more than 40%.

#### Hong Kong-Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Park (HSITP)

- The Government is taking forward the development of the HSITP in the Loop. A provision of about \$32.5 billion has been approved for the Main Works Package 1 and the Fire Station and Ambulance Depot with Departmental Accommodations in the Loop, as well as the Batch 1 development of the HSITP. The first batch of eight buildings is expected to be completed in phases starting from end-2024. Upon full development, the HSITP will be the largest-ever I&T platform in Hong Kong.

#### Microelectronics Research and Development Institute

- The Government will support the establishment of a **Microelectronics Research and Development Institute** to promote microelectronics development in Hong Kong, aiming to make it a leading organisation supporting microelectronics development in the Asia-Pacific region. The Institute will strengthen collaboration with universities, R&D centres and the industry and expedite the "1 to N" transformation of technological outcomes. This will help pool Mainland and overseas talents in particular fields and strengthen the nurturing of local R&D talents, thereby further enhancing the I&T ecosystem.

#### Digital Infrastructure

- Major telecom operators launched **5G services** in Hong Kong in Q2 2020.
- Open up more suitable government properties, bus shelters and telephone kiosks for operators to set up **5G base stations**.
- Subsidy scheme for mobile network operators to **expand optical fibre network** to remote villages.

### "iAM Smart" Platform

- Launched in December 2020, the "iAM Smart" platform enables Hong Kong residents to login and use public and commercial online services with a single digital identity with their personal mobile phones.
- As of December 2023, more than 2.5 million users have registered for "iAM Smart".
- To expedite the building of a smart government, the Government is now implementing a comprehensive upgrade of "iAM Smart" to support full adoption of "iAM Smart" by e-government services for the provision of one-stop digital services by 2025, so as to realise "single portal for online government services".

### Geospatial Data

- The Geospatial Lab, established in May 2021, helps raise public interest in spatial data, and **explores** together with the **community value and application of spatial data** in support of smart city development.
- The [Common Spatial Data Infrastructure Portal](#) and the first 3D Visualisation Map dataset were opened to the public to use free of charge on December 29, 2022.
- High-quality territory-wide **3D digital map** is rolling out in phases by the third quarter of 2024.

### Smart Mobility

- Providing funding support, through the \$1 billion **Smart Traffic Fund**, to local institutions and enterprises for conducting research and application of technology to enhance commuting convenience and efficiency of road network or space, and improve driving safety. As at end of 2023, 49 projects have been approved by the Management Committee on Smart Traffic Fund, involving a total funding of around \$328 million.
- Rolled out the **HKeToll** in 2023, a **free-flow tolling service**, at the Tsing Sha Control Area and all government-tolled tunnels for more efficient and convenient payment. **Time-varying tolls** were implemented at the three road harbour crossings from December 2023 to encourage motorists to change their commuting patterns and hence alleviate cross-harbour traffic congestion during peak hours.
- Actively implementing a number of **automated parking system projects** in suitable short-term tenancy car parks and public works projects. The short-term tenancy projects in Tsuen Wan, Pak Shek Kok and Sham Shui Po were commissioned, while the one in Yau Ma Tei is expected to be commissioned in 2024.
- Replace about 9,800 older model of roadside parking meters with about 10,800 **new generation roadside parking meters** which allow remote payment.
- "HKeMobility" mobile app continues to provide real-time information on traffic, as well as vacant spaces in car parks.
- Promote "**Walk in HK**" with a view to creating a pedestrian-friendly environment, thereby encouraging people to walk more.
- Pedestrian facilities in various districts such as Admiralty, Wan Chai North, Kowloon Bay and Kwun Tong business areas are being improved and beautified with greening.

### Decarbonisation and Green Technologies

- The \$400-million Green Tech Fund (GTF) supports the R&D and application of decarbonisation and green technologies.
- **The Green Technology and Finance Development Committee** is set up, inviting industry representatives from green technology, green finance and green standard certification, etc. to help devise a plan to develop Hong Kong into an international green technology and finance centre.
- The **Hong Kong Green Week** was organised in February 2024, covering a series of events including those related to green technology.

### Promoting the use of electric and other new energy vehicles

- Formulate the first **Hong Kong Roadmap on Popularisation of Electric Vehicles** (EV) and take forward various relevant measures, including ceasing the new registration of fuel-propelled and hybrid private cars in 2035 or earlier and expanding the EV charging network on all front, with a view to attaining zero vehicular emissions and zero carbon emissions from the transport sector before 2050.
- Continue to press ahead with the **\$2 billion EV-charging at Home Subsidy Scheme** (EHSS) to subsidise car parks of existing private residential buildings to install EV charging-enabling infrastructure. The 2022-23 Budget set aside an additional \$1.5 billion to extend the EHSS for four years to the 2027-28 financial year.
- Continue to promote the development of **electric and other new energy public transport and commercial vehicles**, including conducting trials for hydrogen fuel cell (HFC) heavy duty vehicles for street cleaning purpose. At the same time, the first public hydrogen refuelling station will come into operation for servicing the HFC heavy duty vehicles.
- Formulate a citywide green transformation roadmap and timetable for public buses and taxis in the first half of 2024, with a view to achieving zero vehicular emissions by 2050. The Government will also formulate the Strategy of Hydrogen Development in Hong Kong in the first half of 2024, and commence the preparatory work for the necessary legislative amendments pertaining to the production, storage, transportation and application of hydrogen fuel with a view to introducing a bill into the Legislative Council in 2025.

### Submarine cable links

- Being a **leading digital economy**, Hong Kong has 12 **submarine cable systems** and operates nine **satellites** for external communications. Several submarine cable systems will be ready in the coming years, enhancing the city's connectivity with other parts of the world.

### Kau Yi Chau Artificial Islands

The 2023 Policy Address highlighted that the Kau Yi Chau Artificial Islands (KYCAI) will provide 1,000 hectares of land, creating a new central business district with liveable, smart, green and resilient development strategies. The KYCAI will also connect the Hong Kong Island, Lantau Island, the airport, New Territories West and even Qianhai of Shenzhen. The Committee on the Financing of Major Development Projects was established in December 2023. It will put forward proposals on the financing arrangements for the reclamation of the KYCAI, associated infrastructure and strategic transport infrastructure development.

Through creation of 1,000 hectares of land by reclamation, KYCAI can expand the scope and capacity of the development of Hong Kong to enhance our competitiveness as a financial, commercial and trade centre. Part of the land of the KYCAI (about 300 out of the 1,000 hectares) has been included as one of the supply sources of the 3,280 hectares of developable land in the entire territory in the coming 10 years.

- will house **190,000 to 210,000 residential flats** to accommodate a **population of 500,000 to 550,000**.
- will provide new land for developing a new generation of the **third Central Business District (CBD3)** and other industries, which, together with about 4 million square metres of commercial gross floor area (GFA) from CBD3, will provide a total of about **5 million square metres of commercial GFA** and create **270,000 employment opportunities**.
- will improve living space. The Government proposed to **increase the average flat size of public and private residential units by 10% to 20%**, and to raise the ratio of land for open space and land for community and social welfare facilities to population to no less than 3.5 square metres per person respectively.
- provide decanting space for the chain relocation caused by the reconstruction of Hong Kong Island and Kowloon old districts.

The target is to start the reclamation works by end-2025, with a view to commissioning the Hong Kong Island West – Northeast Lantau Link connecting the artificial islands in 2033, to tie in with the population intake of the first batch of completed residential developments.

### **Vibrant Harbourfront**

Hong Kong's Victoria Harbour has its iconic appeal. The Harbourfront Commission and the Government have all along been undertaking concerted efforts to enhance the harbourfront on both sides of the harbour, providing residents and visitors with continuous, connected and vibrant promenades and high-quality public open spaces for a range of events and activities to take place. Highlights include:

- The Water Sports and Recreation Precinct (Phase 4) in Wan Chai opened in December 2023 further extended the current longest promenade in Victoria Harbourfront (i.e. from Kennedy Town to Fortress Hill) to 9 km.
- Opening to the public the first fence-free breakwater within Victoria Harbour at the **East Coast Park Precinct** (Phase 1), which allows locals and visitors to enjoy an unobstructed view of Victoria Harbour.
- **Extending the total length of the promenade along Victoria Harbour to 34 km in 2028**. Among others, a 2-km off-shore boardwalk has been planned for completion in phases between 2024 and 2025 under the Island Eastern Corridor to create a new experience for locals and visitors.
- Opening promenades progressively in the next few years in places such as Cheung Sha Wan, To Kwa Wan, Kai Tak, as well as areas in East Kowloon.

### **Wan Chai North**

The Government is actively pursuing the redevelopment of the three government towers in Wan Chai North and Kong Wan Fire Station into convention and exhibition facilities, offices and a hotel. The sites are expected to be vacated by 2026 at the earliest for redevelopment.

### **West Kowloon Cultural District**

West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD) is one of the world's largest cultural infrastructure projects. Blending traditional local culture with international and contemporary elements, WKCD showcases the unique identity of Hong Kong as a metropolis where East meets West, and establishes Hong Kong as **one of the most vibrant arts and cultural hubs in the world**. Spanning 40 hectares along Victoria Harbour, WKCD offers **world-class integrated arts and cultural facilities**:

- **Xiqu Centre** – a new landmark offering a superb platform for the production, education, preservation and promotion of Cantonese opera and other forms of Chinese traditional theatre.
- **Freespace** – a creative venue for multiple forms of contemporary performing arts, where artists and audiences can exchange and explore new ideas.
- **Art Park** – a quality open green space and a vibrant venue for open-air performances and other cultural programmes.
- **M+** – Asia's first global museum of contemporary visual culture exhibiting visual art, design and architecture, moving image, and Hong Kong visual culture of the 20th and 21st centuries.
- **Hong Kong Palace Museum** – displaying invaluable artefacts from the Palace Museum.
- **Lyric Theatre Complex** – a centre of excellence showcasing the best of Hong Kong and international dance and theatre productions (expected to be completed after 2024).

### **Energizing Kowloon East**

The Energizing Kowloon East initiative sets out to facilitate transformation of old industrial areas and the former Kai Tak Airport into **Hong Kong's second core business district** and a desirable place to work, live and enjoy a high-quality lifestyle:

- Covering over 500 hectares, **Kowloon East** comprises the **Kai Tak Development Area, Kwun Tong, Kowloon Bay and San Po Kong Business Areas**.
- Since the launch of the initiative, the commercial floor space in Kowloon East has increased from 1.7 million square metres by 70% to about 2.9 million square metres, and will further increase to 3.5 million square metres in two years, progressively getting closer to the scale of the core business district in Central.
- **Kai Tak Sports Park**, covering 28 hectares, is targeted for completion in the second half of 2024. The Sports Park includes a world-class, 50,000-seat main stadium with a retractable roof, a 10,000-seat indoor sports centre, a 5,000-seat outdoor public sports ground, landscaped open space, retail and F&B facilities.
- **East Kowloon Cultural Centre**, to be opened by phases from 2024, will comprise five facilities of various sizes for music, drama and dance performances. A testbed studio will be provided to pioneer the convergence of arts and advanced technology (arts tech).
- Proposed a **multi-modal Environmentally Friendly Linkage System**, including the development of a travellers network and an elevated landscape deck to connect the Kwun Tong MTR Station, to enhance the accessibility of Kowloon East.



## **Invigorating Island South**

The Invigorating Island South initiative aims to develop the Southern District into a vibrant place for people to work, live, explore new ideas and have fun. Key projects include:

- **Implementation of Ocean Park future strategy:** Following the official opening of the Water World at Ocean Park in 2021, the Ocean Park Corporation is identifying partners for the development of new themed zones of the Park. Technical studies on proposed pier projects at Deep Water Bay and Tai Shue Wan have also commenced.
- **Exploring new marine tourism routes** with Ocean Park as the core to link up with other districts and islands.
- **Enhancing cultural and leisure facilities** in Wong Chuk Hang, Aberdeen and Ap Lei Chau.
- Exploring the development of a **water sports centre** at the rehabilitated Shek O Quarry site.
- Expediting the redevelopment or conversion of old industrial buildings in Wong Chuk Hang to provide more **operating space for arts and culture**.
- Exploring **redevelopment or consolidation of the existing "Government, Institution or Community" sites or facilities** in the district to promote "single site, multiple use".
- Studying the expansion of **Aberdeen Typhoon Shelter** to provide more space for vessels to berth.

## **Improving the Cycle Track Network**

- The **cycle track** from Ma On Shan to Tuen Mun, **totalling to about 60 km**, has been fully open since September 2020; and the Tsuen Wan waterfront section of about 2 km was opened in July 2021.
- Implementation of the **remaining track** (about 20 km) **between Tsuen Wan and Tuen Mun** will complete the cycle track network connecting the eastern and western New Territories, while a section of the approximately **13 km GreenWay for shared use by pedestrians and cyclists** is under construction in the Kai Tak Development Area.
- **Cycling related elements** will be suitably incorporated into **13 major harbourfront development projects**.

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