

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. Hong Kong **ranked third globally for quality of infrastructure in the World Economic Forum's *Global Competitiveness Report 2019***. The 2021/22 budget allocates some \$84.1 billion (11.6%) for infrastructure. In the next few years, annual capital works expenditure is expected to reach \$100 billion (US\$12.8 billion) on average, and the annual total construction output will increase to around \$300 billion.

Railways

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

- **17km Shatin to Central Link** opened in phases from 2020;
- The full Tuen Ma Line, the longest railway line in the city with a total length of 56km, opened in June 2021;
- **New railway projects under the Railway Development Strategy 2014** are moving ahead:
 - Commenced the detailed planning and design of the **Tung Chung Line Extension, Tuen Mun South Extension** and **Northern Link**;
 - Evaluating the project proposal of the **South Island Line (West)**.

Roads, Bridges and Cross-Boundary Projects

There are currently 8 land crossings – 6 road-based crossings (including the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Hong Kong Port), and 2 rail-based crossings. Cross-boundary passengers can also take high-speed rail at the Hong Kong West Kowloon Station or MTR Intercity Through Trains at Hung Hom Station to the Mainland.

- The **Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (HZMB)** was commissioned in October 2018. The 55km-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 37,900km national high-speed rail network. The 26km 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 46 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.
- Other major new road projects under construction include:
 - **Route 6** (including Tseung Kwan O – Lam Tin Tunnel, Trunk Road T2 and Cha Kwo Ling Tunnel and Central Kowloon Route) plans for full completion by 2026;
 - **Cross Bay Link, Tseung Kwan O** plans for completion in 2022.

In light of unforeseen events including the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government will closely monitor the progress of works and assess the impact on the projects.

Hong Kong International Airport Expansion

Hong Kong International Airport, **one of the world's busiest airports for air cargo and passengers**, connects to more than 200 destinations by around 120 airlines.

In response to a Government invitation, the Airport Authority Hong Kong had submitted a proposal for the development of the Hong Kong Boundary Crossing Facilities (HKBCF) Island of the HZMB. 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 transform Lantau into an **"Airport City", strengthening and enhancing Hong Kong's position as an international aviation, logistics and business centre.**

Three-Runway System

- A Three-Runway System (3RS) is being constructed at HKIA to meet anticipated air traffic demand at least up to 2030;
- Upon full commissioning of the 3RS, HKIA's annual passenger and cargo handling capacities will increase to around 100 million and 9 million tonnes respectively.

Airport City

- **Automated car parks** will be built on the **HKBCF 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 HKBCF 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 Hong Kong Port and the HKIA as one. As the next step, 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, the Airport Island and the HKBCF Island;
- The **Hong Kong International Aviation Academy campus and student dorms** will be built on the HKBCF Island to strengthen talent training and attract more Hong Kong youth to the aviation industry;
- Land will also be reserved on the HKBCF Island for the development of **air cargo logistics and related supporting facilities for the airport community**;
- A **premium logistics centre** is expected to be completed at HKIA in 2023.

SKYCITY

- SKYCITY is strategically located a short stroll from HKIA's passenger terminals and the nearby HZMB which has significantly enhanced the connectivity of HKIA with cities in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area;
- **One of the largest commercial projects** in Hong Kong, SKYCITY will be a major integrated development comprising retail, dining, hotels, entertainment facilities and offices, spread over about 350,000 square metres of floor space. It aims to capture broad opportunities in tourism and business, and will provide dynamic lifestyle and family entertainment options;
- The first hotel development scheduled to open in 2021. Together with the retail, dining and entertainment development and other projects, the first stage of SKYCITY development projects will be completed in phases between 2021 and 2027.

Innovation & Technology Infrastructure

Over the past three years or so, the Government has committed over a hundred billion dollars, as well as the implementation of eight major initiatives, Hong Kong's I&T development has been vibrant. On I&T infrastructure, key development plans 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. Some floors have been reserved for use by the first two **InnoHK research clusters** (namely **Health@InnoHK** and **AIR@InnoHK** focusing on healthcare technologies and artificial intelligence and robotics technologies respectively), an incubation centre and a robotic catalysing centre. The first batch of 24 R&D centres under InnoHK have commenced operation progressively. It is anticipated that the remaining three R&D centres will commence operation later in 2021;
- The Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation has kick-started **Phase 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

- Expand the campus to offer more space for technology companies and start-ups as well as to enhance the environment and facilities of the Cyberport Waterfront Park. Construction is expected to complete in 2025 at the earliest.

Hong Kong-Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Park

- The Government is taking forward the development of the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Park (the Park) in the Lok Ma Chau Loop (the Loop) in full swing. 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 Park. The first batch of eight buildings is expected to be completed in phases between 2024 and 2027. Upon full development, the Park will be the largest-ever I&T platform in Hong Kong.

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 phone.

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 will commence full operation by end-2022 tentatively;

- High-quality territory-wide 3D digital map is rolling out in phases until end-2023.

Promoting the use of electric vehicles

- Formulate Hong Kong's first roadmap on the popularisation of electric vehicles (EV);
- The \$2 billion EV-charging at Home Subsidy Scheme was launched in October 2020 to assist car parks of existing private residential buildings to install EV charging-enabling infrastructure.

Smart Mobility

- Six pilot projects on **automated parking systems** will be commissioned;
- 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 Green Tech Fund (GTF), established with a \$200 million Government allocation, was open for applications in December 2020. The GTF aims to provide better and more focused **funding support to research and development projects** which can help Hong Kong **decarbonise and enhance environmental protection**. This will give new impetus to deep decarbonisation and the development of green technologies, and can help Hong Kong pursue the target of striving to achieve carbon neutrality before 2050 as announced in the 2020 Policy Address.

Submarine cable links

- Being a **leading digital economy**, Hong Kong has 11 **submarine cable systems** and operates 11 **satellites** for external communications. Several submarine cable systems will be ready in the coming two to three years, enhancing the city's connectivity with other parts of the world.

Lantau Tomorrow Vision

Among the many **land supply** options, the Lantau Tomorrow Vision is the largest in scale and could provide the greatest amount of land, including creating new land and increasing housing supply. Among it, the artificial islands in the Central Waters, the studies of which commenced in June 2021, offers other benefits:

- **Optimise the transport network** of Hong Kong as a whole and relieve traffic congestion in the Northwest New Territories by linking up the roads and railways on Hong Kong Islands, North Lantau and the coastal areas of Tuen Mun;
- Develop a **liveable and carbon-neutral** community;
- Boost the **commercial development** potential of North Lantau;
- **Address environmental issues** by absorbing local public fill instead of sending it to sites outside Hong Kong for reclamation.

Vibrant Harbourfront

Hong Kong's Victoria Harbour has iconic appeal. With the concerted efforts of the Harbourfront Commission and the Government, 23km of accessible waterfront promenades have been connected along both sides of Victoria Harbour providing residents and visitors with attractive, vibrant, accessible and sustainable quality open spaces.

Highlights include –

- **Connecting the harbourfront from Shek Tong Tsui to the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre** to create **the longest waterfront promenade** of about 4.5km;
- The 10-hectare **New Central Harbourfront** in the core business district. The Central Harbourfront Event Space hosts mega events including wine and dine, art expo, Formula E racing, music and arts festivals and family carnivals;
- **The Tsim Sha Tsui Promenade** with the historic cross-harbour ferry, cruise terminal, large-scale indoor and outdoor performing venues, Hong Kong Museum of Arts and Avenue of Stars as well as a variety of culture, retail and food and beverage facilities.
- The Government has earmarked \$6.5 billion to **extend the promenade along Victoria Harbour** to 34km in 2028 and provide open spaces of about 35 hectares. Amongst others, a 2km off-shore boardwalk has been planned for completion in 2025 underneath the Island Eastern Corridor to create a new experience for locals and visitors.

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 the earliest for demolition and 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 the shore of 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+** – WKCD's museum of modern and contemporary visual culture, exhibiting visual art, design and architecture, moving image, and Hong Kong visual culture of the 20th and 21st centuries (expected to open in late 2021);
- **Hong Kong Palace Museum** – displaying invaluable artefacts from the Palace Museum that represent 5,000 years of historical Chinese art from the imperial courts (expected to open in mid-2022);
- **Lyric Theatre Complex** – a centre of excellence showcasing the best of Hong Kong and international dance and theatre productions (expected to open in 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, the **Kowloon East** comprises the **Kai Tak Development Area (KTD), 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 scheduled for completion in 2023. 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 as well as retail and F&B facilities ;
- **East Kowloon Cultural Centre**, to be commissioned in 2023, will comprise five facilities of various sizes for music, drama and dance performances. A testbed studio will be provided there to pioneer the convergence of arts and advanced technology, and serve as an indicator to support the development of Arts technology in Hong Kong;
- The Government will put forward and consult the public on 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, so as 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 being contemplated include:

- **Revitalising Ocean Park** to offer diversified education, entertainment, leisure and travel experiences;
- **Exploring new marine tourism routes** with Ocean Park as the core to link up with other districts and islands;
- **Enhancing cultural and leisure facilities** around Aberdeen and Wong Chuk Hang;
- 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 room for **redevelopment or consolidation of the existing "Government, Institution or Community" sites or facilities** in the district to promote "single site, multiple use".

Improving the Cycle Track Network

- The **cycle track of about 60 kilometres**, connecting eastern and western New Territories from Ma On Shan to Tuen Mun, has been fully open since September 2020;
- A cycle track linking **Tsuen Wan and Tuen Mun**, and a **13-km GreenWay** for shared use by pedestrians and cyclists in the Kai Tak Development Area, are under construction;
- **Cycle tracks** will be incorporated into **13 major harbourfront development projects**.

(Revision date: Aug 25, 2021)