

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 2020/21 budget allocates some \$78.3 billion (10.7%) 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** to open in phases from 2020; Tuen Ma Line Phase I, extending the existing Ma On Shan Line to three new stations, opened in February 2020
- **New railway projects under the Railway Development Strategy 2014** are moving ahead in an orderly manner.

Roads, Bridges and Cross-Boundary Projects

There are currently 7 land crossings – 5 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. Spanning a total of 55km, the HZMB is the longest bridge-tunnel sea crossing in the world. It is an unprecedented cross-boundary infrastructure project connecting Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao and bringing the Western Pearl River Delta region (PRD) to within a three-hour drive of Hong Kong.

Commissioned in August 2020, the **Heung Yuen Wai Boundary Control** is the 8th road-based crossing between Hong Kong and the Mainland, with capacity to handle up to 30,000 passengers and 17,850 vehicles per day. This new boundary control point enhances connectivity to eastern Guangdong and further boosts the flow of people and business between Hong Kong and the Mainland.

In response to a Government invitation, the Airport Authority Hong Kong commissioned a study on the topside development of the Hong Kong Boundary Crossing Facilities Island of the HZMB covering various airport-related businesses. The development, together with the Hong Kong International Airport'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 "**Aerotropolis**", **strengthening and enhancing Hong Kong's position as an international transport, logistics and business centre.**

The Hong Kong Section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link (XRL) commenced operation in September 2018, connecting Hong Kong to the 30,000km national high-speed rail network. Hong Kong West Kowloon Station, with an area of about 400,000 square metres, is the terminus of the XRL. The

26km XRL section runs from Hong Kong West Kowloon Station to the Shenzhen boundary in 14 minutes and shortens traveling time to Guangzhou to 46 minutes.

A number of major new road projects are under construction, including:

- **Tuen Mun–Chek Lap Kok Link (TM-CLKL) Northern Connection (Tuen Mun-Chek Lap Kok Tunnel)** plans to be completed by end-2020 at the earliest, further to the opening of the Southern Connection in stages in October and November 2018
- **Tseung Kwan O – Lam Tin Tunnel** plans for completion by end-2021
- **Cross Bay Link, Tseung Kwan O** plans for completion in 2022.

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

Hong Kong International Airport Expansion

Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA) is consistently rated as one of the **best and busiest in the world**. In 2019, HKIA handled 71.5 million passengers and 4.8 million tonnes of cargo and airmail.

Three-Runway System

- HKIA is building a Three-Runway System (3RS) to meet anticipated air traffic demand at least up to 2030
- Upon full commissioning of the 3RS in 2024, HKIA's annual passenger and cargo handling capacities will increase to around 100 million and 9 million tonnes respectively.

SKYCITY

- Apart from the future development of AsiaWorld-Expo, the SKYCITY project underway will help transform HKIA from a city airport into an **"Airport City"**
- SKYCITY is strategically located a short stroll from HKIA's passenger terminals and the nearby Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge which has significantly enhanced the connectivity of HKIA with cities in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA)
- 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
- With the hotel development scheduled to complete in 2020 to 2021 and the retail, dining and entertainment development to open in phases from 2023 to 2027, SKYCITY aims to capture broad opportunities in tourism and business, and will provide dynamic lifestyle and family entertainment options.

Innovation & Technology Infrastructure

The Government is committed to promoting the development of innovation and technology in Hong Kong through various measures. On 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 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

- \$5.5 billion earmarked to 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 2024 at the earliest.

Hong Kong-Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Park

- The 87-hectare site at the Lok Ma Chau Loop (the Loop) will become the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Park. The Loop is undertaking land decontamination and advance engineering works, and the goal is to **deliver the first batch of land parcels by 2021**.

Digital Infrastructure

- Multi-pronged approach to develop **5G network** in Hong Kong
- 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

- Upon the introduction of the platform, iAM Smart account will be provided for all Hong Kong residents to use free of charge on a voluntary basis, enabling them to conduct government and commercial online transactions with a single digital identity and authentication method.

Geospatial Data

- In addition to the \$300 million last year, \$60 million more will be allocated to establish the first **Geospatial Lab** to promote the use of spatial data to develop mobile apps
- High-quality territory-wide **3D digital map** to be introduced in phases from 2020, for the full operation of the **Common Spatial Data Infrastructure Portal** by end-2022.

Promoting the use of electric vehicles

- Formulate Hong Kong's first roadmap on the popularisation of electric vehicles
- Prepare to launch a \$2 billion pilot scheme to subsidise the installation of electric vehicle charging-enabling infrastructure in car parks of existing private residential buildings in the second half of 2020.

Decarbonisation and Green Technologies

- \$200 million earmarked for setting up the new **Green Tech Fund** to promote the research and development, as well as application of decarbonisation and green technologies, so as to expedite low-carbon transformation and enhance environmental protection in Hong Kong.

Submarine cable links

Hong Kong is a **leading digital economy**, consistently achieving top rankings in digital readiness and Internet access capabilities. 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.

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 – both of which were renovated and reopened in 2019 – 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 within 10 years 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 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 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)
- **ACE (Art, Commerce and Exhibitions)** – a joint development project to form an Exhibition Hub. It will include an exhibition centre (47,045 square metres), a hotel and offices (81,066 square metres) together with embedded retail/dining/entertainment facilities (6,894 square metres). The exhibition centre will be designed for multi-purpose functions and will include a main hall for various types of performances with a seating capacity of around 10,000. It is estimated that the tender will be awarded in Q3 2020 for targeted completion in 2025.

Hong Kong Museum of Art

The Hong Kong Museum of Art (HKMoA) re-opened in November 2019 after a major expansion and renovation. The exhibition space has greatly expanded by more than 40%, from 7,000 square metres to around 10,000 square metres; the number of exhibition galleries has increased from 7 to 12 to enhance the promotion of Hong Kong Art and Chinese culture. In 2018, the HKMoA received donations of Wu Guanzhong’s Paintings and Personal Archives and the Chih Lo Lou Collection of Chinese Painting and Calligraphy. These two internationally renowned collections become part of the HKMoA permanent exhibits.

Energizing Kowloon East

The Energizing Kowloon East initiative is transforming a former industrial area and the former Kai Tak Airport into **Hong Kong’s second core business district** (CBD2) and a desirable place to work, live and enjoy a high-quality lifestyle:

- The **488-hectare Kowloon East** comprises the **Kai Tak Development Area**, and **Kwun Tong and Kowloon Bay Business Areas**
- CBD2 currently has over 2.8 million square metres of commercial/office floor area, with potential to further supply 4.2 million square metres
- **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, covering 2.16 hectares**, will comprise five facilities of various sizes for music, drama and dance performances. It will incorporate advanced technology including all-round computerised stage facilities and execution system to provide artists, arts groups and arts enterprises with more room for development, while nurturing audiences and enhancing opportunities for arts inclusiveness. Construction is targeted for completion in 2020.

Sports Infrastructure

Taking forward new infrastructure **development of the Hong Kong Sports Institute** to equip our athletes with world-class training and support facilities and strengthen support services to athletes on physical fitness, sports science, sports medicine, etc.

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