

July 14, 2014

Ms. Wong Sean Yee, Anissa, JP
Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environment Protection
Environmental Protection Department
15/F & 16/F, East Wing, Central Government Offices,
2 Tim Mei Avenue, Tamar, Hong Kong



The American Chamber
of Commerce in Hong Kong
1904 Bank of America Tower
12 Harcourt Road, Hong Kong

Dear Ms. Wong,

RE: Expansion of Hong Kong International Airport into a Three-Runway System

The American Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong (AmCham) appreciates the opportunity to respond to the public consultation on the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the Expansion of Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA) into a Three-Runway System (3RS).

In line with the public consultation result as part of the HKIA Master Plan 2030 (MP2030) conducted in 2011, AmCham would like to express its support for Option 2 which is to “expand into a 3RS” as the appropriate strategic direction of the future development of HKIA. AmCham respectfully submits that an early move to 3RS is essential to meet the projected needs of transfer traffic of passengers and trans-shipment of cargo around the world.

Since the opening of the HKIA in 1998, AmCham has continuously highlighted it as the city’s “crown jewel” – an important infrastructure asset enabling Hong Kong to be an international and regional aviation hub.

Hong Kong’s advantageous geographical proximity has made it a natural gateway into and out of China. Situated in the heart of Asia, Hong Kong can reach to all Asia’s key markets within a 4-hour flight and half of the world’s population in 5-hour flight, making it very competitive vis-à-vis other centers, such as Singapore, Dubai and Heathrow.

The connectivity advantages of HKIA have enabled it to be more than an origin-destination airport. It is also an international hub airport serving air traffic to and from Hong Kong and traffic routing via Hong Kong. Considering a number of factors, including aircraft mix, high speed rail service and the overall projected demand in the Greater Pearl River Delta region, the current two-runway system will not be sufficient to meet the projected needs and so a 3RS will be critical in maintaining and strengthening Hong Kong as an international and regional aviation hub.

AmCham therefore respectfully submits that a balanced approach should be adopted – quickly moving to 3RS but making sure that the Airport Authority delivers on the planned environmental mitigation measures highlighted in the EIA.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Levesque
Chairman 2014

Richard Vuylsteke
President

CC: Legislative Council Secretariat, Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road, Central, Hong Kong

Mr. John Chai
Executive Director, Projects, Airport Authority Hong Kong
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The American Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong is the largest international chamber in Hong Kong and represents a broad and diverse membership.