

## Superb Connectivity

### Overview

Located 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 China – the world's most populous consumer market and largest manufacturing base.

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 International Airport (HKIA) is one of the world's busiest airports for passenger and cargo traffic. Hong Kong is also one of the world's busiest container ports.

Hong Kong has a highly efficient transport network and state-of-the-art telecommunications facilities.

### Best Airport

Hong Kong is a major international and regional aviation hub. HKIA, which has won more than 50 best airport awards from various international and regional organisations since its opening, has pledged to become the world's greenest airport in the world – the first airport to make such a promise.

Over 100 airlines operate flight services at HKIA to and from about 180 destinations worldwide, including around 50 cities in the Mainland through about 1 000 daily flights. In 2012, the airport welcomed a total of 56.5 million passengers and handled 352 000 aircraft movements, representing annual growth of 4.7 per cent and 5.3 per cent respectively. Cargo handled rose 2.2 per cent to four million tonnes.

The Government has approved in principle the expansion of HKIA into a three-runway system.

Every day, cross-boundary coaches carry passengers on about 550 scheduled trips, linking HKIA with over 110 cities and towns in the Pearl River Delta (PRD). SkyPier, a cross-boundary ferry terminal, provides high-speed ferry services for transit passengers travelling to and from eight ports in the PRD and Macao.

### Busy Port

Strategically located on the Far East trade routes and at the centre of the fast developing Asia-Pacific Region, Hong Kong is one of the world's busiest container ports and a premier regional hub port.

On average, around 410 container vessel sailings connect to about 520 destinations worldwide every week. The number of vessel arrivals in Hong Kong in 2012 is about 190 900. Among them, about 28 300 were ocean-going cargo vessels and 78 100 river-trade cargo vessels. These vessels handled 269.3 million tonnes of cargo.

Renowned for their efficiency, the nine container terminals in 24 berths offer round-the-clock service. In 2012, Hong Kong port handled 23.1 million TEUs (20-foot equivalent units) of containers, making it one of the world's busiest container ports.

There are over 700 shipping-related companies operating in Hong Kong, providing a great variety of quality maritime services, ranging from ship agency and management, ship finance, maritime law and arbitration services, ship broking, marine insurance to port-related operations. Hong Kong is developing further its value-added maritime services.

### Logistics

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. A major logistics hub for over 50 years, Hong Kong has about 14 200 logistics companies.

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. Hong Kong's logistics enterprises are unrivalled at creating and managing highly flexible supply networks.

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 reasonable cost.

### Connections to the Mainland

Hong Kong offers a wide choice of multi-modal transportation links providing excellent connectivity with the Mainland. There are seven land control points between Hong Kong and the Mainland. Two new land-based control points, the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge and Liantang / Heung Yuen Wai, are expected to open not later than 2016 and 2018 respectively. The Hong Kong section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link is also under construction.

### Railways

The Mass Transit Railway's (MTR) territory-wide network comprises nine lines, the Airport Express line and a Light Rail system serving the north-western New Territories. These railways carry an average of around five million passengers daily.

A number of major railway projects are set to enhance the network and passenger capacity, with five new rail lines under construction – 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. When these lines start operating in succession between 2014 and 2020, more than 70 per cent of Hong Kong's population will be brought into the railway catchment area.

Together, these five rail lines will cost over US\$13 billion. Upon their completion, Hong Kong's railway network will expand to over 270 kilometres, while the railways' share in the public transport system will increase to 43 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. In fact, Hong Kong is one of the least car-dependent cities, with only about 710 000 registered vehicles for a population of seven million.

Hong Kong's roads span 2 091 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 further upgrade transport infrastructure.

About US\$5.1 billion will be spent on road projects between the 2007-08 and 2012-13 financial years.

The 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.

When it opens in 2016, the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge will enhance Hong Kong's links to western Guangdong province, thereby expanding our cargo hinterland, attracting more investment and offering new opportunities to our logistics sector.

## New Cruise Terminal

The first berth of the ultra-modern Kai Tak Cruise Terminal, capable of handling two large 360-metre vessels, opened in June 2013. Together with the Ocean Terminal in Tsim Sha Tsui, it will make Hong Kong a premier cruise hub in the Asia-Pacific.

## Connecting People

The region's most advanced telecommunications hub, Hong Kong has one of the world's most sophisticated telecommunications systems, connected to the rest of the globe through multiple submarine and overland cable systems. In March 2013, the activated external capacity reached 7 424 Gbps.

Hong Kong's telecommunications network is fully liberalised, fully digitalised and highly competitive. There are seven major fixed telecommunications operators and five mobile network operators. All mobile operators offer 2G, 3G and 4G services.

Hong Kong's telecommunications rates are among the lowest in the world.

Hong Kong also has one of the world's highest density networks, with nearly all commercial and residential buildings, and all schools linked up.

As at January 2013, there were 2.3 million registered customers using fixed broadband services, whilst the household fixed broadband penetration rate is 86 per cent. Hong Kong's average broadband

speed of 57.5 megabits per second is the fastest in the world, according to the State of the Internet report issued by Akamai Technologies.

There are more mobile phones than people in Hong Kong – the penetration rate of 229 per cent is among the world's highest.

With the increasing popularity of smart phones, Hong Kong's mobile data usage surged to 7 660 Terabytes (7 659 717 Gigabytes) in February 2013 or an average of 712 Mbytes per 2.5G/3G/4G mobile user. This represents 1.7 times the mobile data usage over the same period in 2012.

Hong Kong has over 18 900 commercial and government Wi-Fi hotspots across the territory. The Next Generation Government Wi-Fi programme, launched in December 2012, provides over 2 000 Wi-Fi hotspots at about 400 government premises, offering access in all public libraries, job centres, key cultural and recreational centres, community centres, tourist spots, major parks and government offices. Every day, 20 000 people access the internet through this free service.

The government has given a strong impetus for the development of data centres by reserving an area for the purpose and through various incentives. More than 10 major data centres are in operation or under construction, including the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, HSBC, China Mobile, Google, NTT, Digital Realty Trust and Savvis, and Global Switch.

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