

International Aviation Hub

Extracts from the National 14th Five-Year Plan

National Development Strategy

“...expedite the construction of world-class port and airport clusters...” (Section 2, Chapter 11)

“...co-ordinate the functional layout of ports and airports, and optimise the allocation of shipping and aviation resources...” (Section 3, Chapter 31)

Central Government's Support for Hong Kong

“Support Hong Kong to enhance its status as an international aviation hub...” (Section 1, Chapter 61)

Hong Kong's Strengths

- Under the framework of “One Country, Two Systems” and the Basic Law, Hong Kong can independently negotiate and sign air services agreements (“ASAs”) with its aviation partners, offering the greatest flexibility for Hong Kong to make use of its strengths to expand air passenger and cargo business.
- Located in the heart of Asia, within a four-hour flight of most major Asian markets and a five-hour flight from more than half the world's population.
- Under the Airport Authority Hong Kong's leadership, the Hong Kong International Airport (“HKIA”) has adopted advanced management concepts and built world-class facilities.

Present Situation

- The HKIA has been the world's busiest international air cargo gateway and the world's fourth busiest international passenger airport (after Dubai, London Heathrow and Amsterdam). Despite the impact of COVID-19, the HKIA remained the world's busiest international cargo airport in 2020, with its high air cargo throughput at 4.5 million tonnes.
- Around 120 airlines operate flights between the HKIA and over 200 destinations worldwide, including some 40 destinations in the Mainland.
- Hong Kong has signed ASAs with 67 aviation partners. Of the some 140 countries along the Belt and Road corridors, Hong Kong has signed ASAs/Air Services Transit Agreements with about 50 countries.

Third Runway commissions next year



Strategy and Measures

- Commences operation of the Third Runway in 2022. Upon the full commissioning of the three runway system in 2024, the HKIA will have the increased capacity to handle annual passenger and cargo volume of around 100 million passengers and 9 million tonnes respectively.
- Enhance competitiveness of air cargo business, including taking forward the expansion of the Central Asia Hub of DHL Express and development of a premium logistics centre.
- Strive to attain International Air Transport Association (“IATA”)’s accreditations to handle high-value air cargo. So far, HKIA has been accredited to handle pharmaceutical products, perishable goods and live animals.

HKIA has attained the certification of Centre of Excellence for Perishable Logistics



- Continue to develop intermodal transport networks to allow passengers and cargo from the Greater Bay Area (“GBA”) to connect seamlessly with the HKIA for onward connections with overseas destinations through the HKIA’s international aviation network.
- Construct the Intermodal Transfer Terminal, targeted for completion in 2022, and pursue the construction of automated carparks in order to facilitate the use of transfer services at the HKIA by passengers from Macao and the Mainland.
- Actively develop sea-air cargo transshipment between the HKIA and the GBA, and conduct a pilot scheme for such intermodal transshipment between Hong Kong and Dongguan in end 2021 in order to expand the catchment of the HKIA.

- Actively discuss equity injection into Zhuhai Airport with relevant Mainland authorities, while endeavouring to co-develop with the Guangdong Province a high-end aviation industrial cluster in Zhuhai.
- Hong Kong International Aviation Academy (“HKIAA”) actively collaborates with local training institutions, International Civil Aviation Organization (“ICAO”), Ecole Nationale de l’Aviation Civile and others in offering training courses, and strives to become an ICAO “Regional Training Centre of Excellence”.

HKIAA Certificate Course Completion Ceremony in 2017



- Build the permanent campus (including dormitories) of HKIAA on the Hong Kong Boundary Crossing Facilities Island of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge to help Hong Kong develop into a leading aviation training hub in the GBA and the region.

Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government October 2021

