

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

Seventh Meeting of Professional Liaison Group

Notes of Meeting

The seventh meeting of the Professional Liaison Group (PLG) was held on 21st December 2018. The Airport Authority Hong Kong (AAHK) and their consultants presented an update on the Expansion of Hong Kong International Airport into a Three-Runway System (3RS Project), including an overview of the 3RS works progress, a summary of environmental monitoring and audit (EM&A) results since the last PLG meeting, details on the implementation of the Marine Ecology and Fisheries Enhancement Strategy (MEFES) and updates on the designation of the 3RS Marine Park.

Members present:

Dr Helen CHIU	American Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong
Ir Gordon CHO	Dashun Policy Research Centre
Prof Jackson HO	Hong Kong Airline Service Providers Association
Dr Brian KOT	Jockey Club College of Veterinary Medicine and Life Sciences, City University of Hong Kong
Ir LEE Ping Kuen	The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers
Dr LUI Sun Wing	The Hong Kong Association for the Advancement of Science and Technology
Dr Simon WONG	Ocean Park Conservation Foundation Hong Kong
Ir Prof Steve WONG	The Environment & Sustainability Committee, The Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce

Members absent with apologies:

Prof CHENG Li	Department of Mechanical Engineering, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University
Mr Ken CHING	Eco-Education and Resources Centre
Mr CHONG Dee Hwa	Ichthyological Society of Hong Kong
Prof CHU Ka Hou	School of Life Sciences, The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Ms Helen COCHRANE	Environment & Energy Committee, The British Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong
Ms Suzanne GENDRON	Ocean Park Conservation Foundation Hong Kong
Ms Yvonne HO	International Air Transport Association
Prof Alexis LAU	Division of Environment, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
Mr Ken LAU	Airports Council International, Asia-Pacific Region
Ir Kenny WONG Siu Wai	The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers
Mr Philip WONG	Ocean Park Corporation
Dr Cynthia YAU	Marine and Fisheries Ecologist

In attendance:

Ir Kevin POOLE	Airport Authority Hong Kong (AAHK)
Mr Peter LEE	Airport Authority Hong Kong (AAHK)

Mr Eric CHING	Mott MacDonald (MM)
Ms Julia CHAN	Mott MacDonald (MM)
Dr Jasmine NG	Environmental Resources Management (ERM)

1.0 Welcome and Introduction

1.1 Airport Authority Hong Kong (AAHK) welcomed members and thanked them for attending the meeting. AAHK provided an overview and updates on the latest 3RS Project progress. Environmental consultants assisting in various aspects of 3RS Project implementation were also introduced. Particular emphasis was made on the PLG meeting being a two-way communication platform with members encouraged to raise questions and make comments at any time during the presentation.

2.0 Presentation by AAHK's Consultants – MM and ERM

2.1 MM presented the latest progress on the 3RS Project including:

- Monitoring and implementation status of the EM&A Programme
- Monitoring results for Chinese White Dolphins (CWDs) and the audit results from the implementation of Marine Traffic Route and Management Plan for High Speed Ferries of SkyPier (SkyPier Plan)
- Update on review of impact on CWD due to fisheries activities

2.2 ERM presented the latest information on the MEFES and the proposed 3RS Marine Park including:

- Update on progress of the Marine Ecology Enhancement Fund (MEEF) and Fisheries Enhancement Fund (FEF)
- Update on progress of the measures and pilot tests under MEFES
- Update on the 3RS Marine Park designation

3.0 Questions and comments from PLG members

3.1 Members raised questions after the presentation and the discussion items were summarised as follows.

3.2 A question was raised regarding the source of filling materials. The AAHK team responded that the filling materials were marine sand and manufactured sand, supplemented by public fill obtained from local public fill banks.

3.3 A suggestion was made for MEEF funded projects to involve more collaboration works with other researchers on CWD in the Pearl River Delta region. The AAHK team responded that collaboration works were encouraged and interested stakeholders and organisations are welcome to apply for MEEF for projects matching the fund's objectives. Completion reports for funded projects would be released and uploaded to the 3RS dedicated website for the general public's information and interested parties were encouraged to develop their

project scopes with reference to the findings / recommendations of the completed projects.

3.4 A question was raised concerning the location for the deployment of artificial reefs (ARs). The AAHK team replied that preparatory works for the pilot test on AR design was in progress and the deployment would be within the airport's marine exclusion zone, i.e. the existing Hong Kong International Airport Approach Area (HKIAAA) at the west end of the South Runway. Furthermore, pilot test for fish fry release and monitoring works would also be conducted to assess the potential values of ARs and fish fry restocking as marine ecological and fisheries enhancement measures.

3.5 A question was raised on whether there would be any recommended fish species for release in the proposed 3RS Marine Park. The AAHK team replied that the results from the pilot tests would help to identify the diversity of the fish species to be released.

A question was raised on the designation timeline of the proposed 3RS Marine Park. The AAHK team replied that the designation timeline would tie in with the operation of the 3RS Project.

3.6 A question was raised on whether there would be any arrangements to encourage sharing of information between the proposed 3RS Marine Park and the adjacent marine park in Pearl River Estuary region regarding the monitoring of CWDs and illegal fishing activities. The AAHK team replied that the MEEF had been supporting projects in the Pearl River Estuary region related to CWD monitoring. Completion reports of the funded projects would be released and uploaded to the 3RS dedicated website and the results could be useful for further researches. The AAHK team would also discuss with the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) on potential ways to facilitate the efficient monitoring of vessel activities.

3.7 A suggestion was made on the use of smart technologies, e.g. unmanned vessels, to facilitate monitoring / surveillance in the proposed 3RS Marine Park 24 hours a day. The AAHK team replied that the use of smart technologies could be explored for future management of the proposed 3RS Marine Park.

3.8 A comment was raised that the use of CWD stranding data for evaluating the impact on CWD due to fisheries activities after trawl ban might not be sufficient, as trawl ban is probably affecting the diet and quantity of prey for CWD. It was suggested to also analyse the stomach contents of CWDs for detailed assessment. The AAHK team responded that the use of stranding data was one of the available information that could be used to observe the trend of CWD stranding over the years; and interviews with fishermen and fishery surveys would help supplement information to identify whether a change in the use of fishing gears and activities might affect CWDs. Having said that, with

limited observations and data available, no conclusive findings could be deduced from the review.

- 3.9 A comment was raised that there is a lack of research on the impact of fisheries activities on CWD and more research efforts should be encouraged. The AAHK team replied that one of the MEEF funded projects was studying the relationship between fisheries activities and CWDs.
- 3.10 A comment was raised that the impact of trawl ban on CWDs might be related to their distribution with reference to other published information. It was suggested that other sources of data and additional information might be required for further analysis of the impact. The AAHK team responded that the review was desktop-based with the purpose to identify if there was any correlation between trawl ban and CWD activities. No correlation was identified from the review.
- 3.11 A question was raised on whether fishing activities would be allowed in the proposed 3RS Marine Park. The AAHK team replied that the proposed 3RS Marine Park would follow the government fisheries policy. Core area, where fishing activities were prohibited, would be explored in consultation with relevant stakeholders. The AAHK team added that the existing and proposed HKIAAA, located adjacent to the proposed 3RS Marine Park, would effectively be “no-take” zone as entry of vessels into the HKIAAA was restricted.
- 3.12 A question was raised concerning whether quarantine and health screening would be arranged for the fish fry sourced from the Mainland. The AAHK team replied that quarantine and health screening would be arranged before the fish release operation.
- 4.0 Conclusion**
- 4.1 AAHK thanked PLG members for their attendance, expert insights and recommendations.

Airport Authority Hong Kong
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