2019 Environmental Report of the Transport Branch

Transport Branch
Transport and Housing Bureau
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INTRODUCTION

The Transport and Housing Bureau (THB) headed by the Secretary for Transport and Housing (STH) is responsible for transport and housing policy matters. This environmental report covers the environmental performance of its Transport Branch (TB).

Under the Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing (Transport), TB oversees the operation of four departments, namely, the Civil Aviation Department (CAD), the Highways Department (HyD), the Marine Department (MD) and the Transport Department (TD).
KEY RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TRANSPORT BRANCH

We are responsible for the formulation of policies relating to the development of transport infrastructure, provision of transport services, traffic management, maritime transport and logistics, air services and civil aviation management. In the process of policy formulation, sustainability is a key consideration.

The major areas of policy responsibilities include –

- planning for and implementing the construction and improvement of our transport infrastructure, with emphasis on railways;
- promoting the use of public transport services by improving their quality and co-ordination;
- improving cross-boundary rail and road interchanges;
- managing road use, reducing traffic congestion and promoting road safety;
- supporting environmental improvement measures in transport-related areas;
- enhancing and promoting Hong Kong as an international transportation and regional logistics hub;
- enhancing, in partnership with the Airport Authority Hong Kong (AA), the competitiveness of the Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA) and promoting Hong Kong as an international and regional aviation centre;
- promoting shipping safety and ensuring continued compliance with relevant international standards of vessels registered in or visiting Hong Kong; and
- enhancing the competitiveness of the Hong Kong Port and strengthening Hong Kong’s position as an international shipping and maritime centre.
ENVIRONMENTAL GOALS OF THE TRANSPORT BRANCH

We are committed to –

- ensuring that our policies are environment friendly;
- ensuring that all programmes and operations under our purview are conducted in an environmentally responsible manner; and
- enhancing environmental awareness of staff.

We have set the following objectives in order to achieve the above committed goals -

LAND AND WATERBORNE TRANSPORT

- We will continue to provide transport infrastructure and promote uses of transport services in an environment friendly manner.

CIVIL AVIATION

- We aim to ensure that the legislative framework and administrative measures are effective in minimising the environmental impact of airport operations.
- We will continue to work with AA and CAD to ensure that the environmental impact of airport development and operations is minimised and that parties concerned are proactive in minimising pollution and disturbance from activities at HKIA.
LOGISTICS, PORT AND MARITIME SERVICES

- We will continue to work, in conjunction with the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) and the logistics, port and maritime community, to minimise the environmental impact generated from logistics, shipping, port development and operations.
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

To achieve the environmental goals of the Transport Branch, we continue to take forward various environmental management initiatives together with our housekeeping departments, and in collaboration with our partners in the transport, aviation and maritime industries.

LAND AND WATERBORNE TRANSPORT

Hong Kong is one of the most densely populated cities in the world. A safe, efficient, reliable and environment friendly transport system is important to the sustainable development of the city. On environmental management, we continue to press ahead with the following initiatives -

- Promotion of Environment Friendly Transport Modes

Railways are the backbone of our public transport system. They are environment friendly, safe and efficient mass carriers in Hong Kong, carrying some 42% of our public transport passengers. The total length of our railways under operation is about 263 kilometres (km), with a total track length of 759 km. Upon the completion of the Shatin to Central Link, the total length of railways in operation in Hong Kong will be more than 270 km.

Having regard to transport demand, cost effectiveness and the development needs of New Development Areas and other new development projects, the Railway Development Strategy 2014 (RDS-2014) recommended seven new railway projects to be completed in the planning horizon up to 2031. When all the new projects recommended in RDS-2014 are completed, the total length of the railways will increase to over 300 km.
Alleviation of Traffic Congestion and Better Inter-modal Co-ordination

The Government coordinates the roles played by the various public transport modes, including the rail, bus, tram, public light bus, taxi, ferry, etc, so as to achieve the highest possible overall efficiency of the public transport system. This includes rationalising public transport services to improve accessibility whilst avoiding duplication and raising the level of service to improve attractiveness.

Various measures such as rationalisation of bus routes, provision of bus-bus interchange schemes, bus-rail interchange and green minibus (GMB)-rail interchange schemes, GMB-GMB interchange schemes, and provision of Park-and-Ride Schemes have been implemented. In the end, it helps to reduce vehicular traffic and mitigate air pollution.

The Government attaches great importance to alleviating road traffic congestion. It has been taking forward progressively a host of short, medium and long-term measures recommended by the Transport Advisory Committee in its Report on Study of Road Traffic Congestion in Hong Kong. Examples in this regard include the study on Electronic Road Pricing Pilot Scheme in Central, the study on using technology to facilitate enforcement against illegal parking and other traffic offences as well as the consultancy study on commercial vehicle parking with an aim to formulating measures for meeting the demands from commercial vehicles.

Promotion of Non-mechanised Transport Mode

The Government endeavours to foster a green community by promoting cycling and walking for short-distance commuting between public transport stations and living places or offices where road safety and conditions permit, thereby minimizing the need for mechanized transport for “first mile” and “last mile” connections.

The Government fosters a “bicycle-friendly” environment, particularly in new towns and new development areas. Following a consultancy study completed in 2017 on improving the existing cycle track networks in nine new towns, the Government has been implementing improvement measures by phases, including providing more public bicycle parking spaces and additional

1 The nine new towns are Shatin / Ma On Shan, Tai Po, Sheung Shui / Fanling, Yuen Long, Tin Shui Wan, Tuen Mun, Tsuen Wan, Tung Chung and Tseung Kwan O.
safety facilities at some sharp bends, steep ramps and pedestrian crossings in order to ensure the safety of cyclists and pedestrians.

We will continue to take forward “Walk in HK” and encourage people to walk more by launching a series of measures under four themes:

- “Make it smart” by providing user-friendly information on walking routes;
- “Make it connected” by enhancing pedestrian networks;
- “Make it enjoyable” by making walking a pleasant experience; and
- “Make it safe” by providing a safe and quality pedestrian environment.

For example, the Government will continue to take forward various Hillside Escalator links and Elevator systems (HEL) projects which can improve pedestrian accessibility to uphill areas and to reduce dependence on vehicular access to these areas via congested, steep and narrow access roads.

Our aim is to enhance the overall walkability of our city for people to commute, connect and enjoy, making walking an integral part of Hong Kong as a sustainable city. Promoting walkability is not only a key element in the Government’s efforts to combat climate change, but will also help encourage a healthy lifestyle, strengthen community interaction and build an age-friendly environment.

Application of Innovation and Technology in Traffic Management

We aim to reduce the journey times of motorists, and hence the consumption of vehicle fuel and emission of air pollutants from vehicles, through the enhancement of the efficiency of the transport network by promoting the application of intelligent transport systems.

The Government has been developing the Intelligent Transport Systems under a three-pronged approach: dissemination of traffic information to the public, traffic control and supporting traffic enforcement. Examples of such systems include Journey Time Indication System, Area Traffic Control System, Speed Map Panels, Traffic and Incident Management Systems. By 2020, with a view to disseminating additional traffic information to the public, all strategic routes and major roads will be equipped with traffic detectors, enhancing TD’s capability and efficiency in monitoring and handling traffic incidents.
The Government has also been taking forward the Smart Mobility initiatives stated in the Smart City Blueprint for Hong Kong published in December 2017. To help passengers, motorists and other road users better plan their journeys, we have been providing information on road network, traffic conditions and public transport services on the Internet and mobile applications. The mobile application “HKeMobility” enables one-stop and more convenient search for traffic and transport information, including routes, fares and estimated time of arrival of various transportation modes, driving routes, real-time parking vacancy information and walking route information.

CIVIL AVIATION

We strive to minimize the disturbance caused by aircraft operations to the local communities.

☐ Aircraft Noise Mitigation

Being conscious of the impact of aircraft noise on the community, a series of noise mitigating measures, such as Continuous Descent Approach procedures, arrivals from Southwest over water to reduce the number of aircraft overflying populated areas, and noise abatement departure procedures stipulated by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), have been implemented in a bid for quieter arrivals and departures.

Besides, only aircraft meeting stipulated requirements in Chapter 3 of Annex 16, Volume 1, Part II, to the Convention on International Civil Aviation (“Chapter 3 noise standards”) are allowed to operate at HKIA. Starting from March 2019, CAD has taken the initiative further to impose more stringent requirements with additional operating restrictions on aircraft which do not comply with the noise standards in Chapter 4 of Volume I, Part II of Annex 16 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation (Chapter 4 Noise Standards), or equivalent, to operate at the HKIA from 10 pm to 7 am.

☐ Carbon Reduction

ICAO decided in October 2016 to implement a Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation as one of the measures to contribute to carbon neutral growth from 2020 onwards. The scheme is expected
to complement a broader package of measures to be implemented by the aviation sector including the technological advancement on fuel efficient aircraft, improvement on operational procedures to reduce fuel consumption and promotion of the use of sustainable alternative fuels. CAD has been making suitable preparation in consultation with stakeholders for the implementation of the scheme. CAD and AA will also closely monitor the developments.

☐ **Green Airport**

We, in partnership with AA, strive to enhance the competitiveness of the Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA) and promoting Hong Kong as an international and regional aviation centre. HKIA is committed to long-term sustainable growth and becoming a leading environmental performer in Hong Kong. AA has pledged to make HKIA the world’s greenest airport. AA’s environmental policy focuses on management, measurement and continuous improvement in HKIA’s environmental performance. AA adopts an airport-wide approach to work closely with its business partners, suppliers and contractors, passengers, the local community, regulators and other stakeholders to accelerate the rate of environmental footprint reduction across HKIA. Details of AA’s environmental management approach, programmes and performance are available in the “Greenest Airport” section of its Sustainability Report at [www.hongkongairport.com](http://www.hongkongairport.com).

**LOGISTICS, PORT AND MARITIME SERVICES**

We recognise that the protection of the marine environment is not only important in its own right but also instrumental in enhancing Hong Kong’s position as a world-class port. In the course of port planning and development, we will continue to work with EPD and the Sustainable Development Unit to comply with relevant environmental impacts and sustainability assessment requirements.

☐ **Proactive Port Control**

MD monitors and regulates the movement of vessels within Hong Kong waters round-the-clock through an advanced vessel traffic surveillance system to protect the marine environment from pollution caused by marine traffic accidents. In addition, MD patrols Hong Kong waters to ensure that all vessels navigating in Hong Kong and in compliance with our marine legislation, which includes
detection of offences that may cause pollution to the environment, such as littering, illegal discharge of oil, and dark smoke emission from vessels.

☐ International Conventions and Local Legislation

MD implements relevant international conventions on marine pollution prevention through the enactment and enforcement of legislation. These conventions include the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, the International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation, 1990 and the Protocol on Preparedness, Response and Co-operation to Pollution Incidents by Hazardous and Noxious Substances, 2000.

We also work closely with operators of container terminals, mid-stream and river trade operators to preserve a clean and safe environment for sea transport.

More information about the environmental management initiatives and performance in respect of transport portfolio under the purview of TB can be found in the homepage of TD (www.td.gov.hk), HyD (www.hyd.gov.hk), CAD (www.cad.gov.hk), and MD (www.mardept.gov.hk).
GREEN OFFICE MANAGEMENT

PAPER SAVING, ENERGY SAVING AND RECYCLING

It is our mission to improve and conserve our environment, and to optimise the use of resources to reduce pollution and waste. We strive to implement various green housekeeping measures in daily office operation with a view to maintaining a green workplace. We would minimise waste creation and recycle as far as practicable.

With the advocacy of environmental conservation over the past few years, staff awareness in this respect has been greatly enhanced and staff members have developed good practices by adopting the following green initiatives -

- **Paper Saving**
  - to use recycled paper in office operation;
  - to print and photocopy on both sides of paper;
  - to reuse single-side used paper for drafting, printing and receiving fax;
  - to reuse envelopes and loose minute jackets for internal transmission of documents and correspondence;
  - to communicate and disseminate information by electronic means within bureaux / departments as well as with members of the public;
  - to re-use decorations and backdrops for festive events;
  - to avoid printing or photocopying unless hard copy is absolutely necessary;
  - to use virtual fax;
  - to distribute soft copies by emails or CD-ROMs instead of print-outs;
  - to upload reports, circulars and other publicity materials on e-bulletin board, intranet and internet websites for general reference;
  - to serve drinks in glasses or reusable cups; and
➢ to use electronic greeting cards.

**Energy Saving**

➢ to turn off some lighting when the occupancy is low, e.g. during lunch and after office hours;
➢ to turn off air-conditioning and lighting in conference rooms immediately after use;
➢ to use motion sensors for lighting control in office and public communal areas such as reception counters, corridors, lift lobbies, etc.;
➢ to maintain office temperature at 25.5°C during the summer time;
➢ to activate the standby or hibernation mode features of personal computers;
➢ to switch off personal computers (including both monitor and computer processing unit) after office hours;
➢ to switch off non-essential servers at night, on Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays;
➢ to use electric lamps / tubes with Energy Efficiency label and sensor-controlled water taps;
➢ to check the effectiveness of energy saving measures regularly; and
➢ to encourage staff to use staircase instead of taking the lift for inter-floor traffic.

**Recycling**

➢ to collect used fluorescent lamps, batteries and CD-ROM discs for recycling; and
➢ to dispose of all recyclables, such as waste paper and plastics, in separate recycling boxes.
GREEN PURCHASING

“Green” stationery items supplied by designated contractors of the Government Logistics Department (GLD), such as clutch pencils, refillable ball pens, recycled pencils and box files made of recycled paper, are now widely used in TB.

For items not available from the GLD designated contractors, we would source for green items by issuing quotation invitations with the green specifications promulgated by EPD to potential suppliers.

In procuring Information Technology related equipment, we would also source for green items such as recyclable printer toner cartridges, photocopiers and printers with Energy Efficiency labels.

CLEAN AIR CHARTER

The Government has endorsed and signed the Clean Air Charter to join forces with the business sector and the community to reduce emissions. To implement the commitment under the Charter, we have adopted the following measures in our operation -

- Drivers of our departmental vehicles are required to switch off engines while waiting in order to avoid idling emission and achieve fuel saving; and
- Our departmental vehicles use unleaded petrol as specified in the GLD’s contract.

STAFF AWARENESS

The support and co-operation of staff members are always the key to the success of our green office management. We will continue to work closely with colleagues with a view to fostering a green culture and ensuring that our offices operate in an environmentally responsible manner.
IEWS AND SUGGESTIONS

Views or suggestions in connection with this Environmental Report can be sent to us via email at environmentalreport@thb.gov.hk, by fax (fax no.: 2868 4643), or in writing to 20/F, East Wing, Central Government Offices, 2 Tim Mei Avenue, Tamar, Hong Kong.