The Airport City for Hong Kong and the Greater Bay Area

Major airports in the world, including Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA), have evolved into nexuses of intricate connections between people and businesses, both locally and globally. They are pivotal in fuelling economic growth and development. Today, airports have become not only entities to manage the flows of passengers and cargo, but also breeding grounds for much wider networks of interrelated activities and businesses. Such networks, surrounding or radiating from an airport with many functions akin to a city, form a much bigger entity – an Airport City.

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HKIA’s status as an international aviation hub through rigorous development of various segments of the airport – core passenger and cargo services, multimodal regional connectivity, retail, hotels, etc. In recent years, these different segments have notably accelerated their interconnected, synergistic development – culminating in the form of an Airport City that has begun to take real shape. This trend is set to continue over the next decade and beyond.

The development vision of HKIA perfectly echoes the recently promulgated Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA) which has designated Hong Kong’s status as the region’s international aviation hub, reaffirming HKIA’s overall development direction and its strategic function for the GBA and the entire country.

This vision is also in tandem with the Hong Kong Government’s Lantau Tomorrow Vision, which aims to reinforce Lantau’s role as a “Double Gateway” to the world and the GBA.
Development Strategy

Development of the Airport City calls for infrastructural and functional enhancements, as well as a flexible planning approach which allows the airport to be more responsive to market changes and trends, which in many ways are driven by new technologies.

For this reason, a three-pronged development strategy has been mapped out. It is represented by three key words: Infrastructure, Innovation and Destination.

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Infrastructure:
Infrastructure underpins the Airport City. In the coming years, the focus of major infrastructure development at HKIA will remain on the construction of the Three-runway System, targeted for completion and commissioning in 2024. In tandem, a series of expansion projects have been planned and executed in the past few years, including the expansion and refurbishment of Terminal 1, and the building of a new premium logistics centre at the airport’s South Cargo Precinct.
Innovation:
The airport business of today – and increasingly so of tomorrow – is about services and innovation, which are largely driven by developments in technology. Under its smart airport strategy, HKIA has been investing in new technologies to enhance services and operational efficiency.

Destination:
As leading airports around the world all vie to become destinations in themselves, HKIA’s proposition is SKYCITY – an integrated development comprising retail, dining, entertainment, offices as well as hotels. Forming an integral part of the Airport City, it is essential to achieve synergy between SKYCITY and other partners within the Airport City.
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Synergy of Partnership

One of the keys to the Airport City’s development is how the airport organically integrates with related economic activities and planning in the bigger picture. To achieve maximum synergies, HKIA will maintain an active dialogue and close collaboration with key stakeholders in its business and development planning.

AAHK will continue to work closely with the Government, our sole shareholder, on the future development of the Airport City – in particular regarding any major long-term developments, as they will require a holistic, territory-wide study and strategic planning process led by the Government in collaboration with the aviation industry.