

By post and by fax at 2978 7569

12 April 2016

Clerk to Panel on Development
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central Hong Kong

[Attn: Ms Christina SHIU]

Dear Ms SHIU,

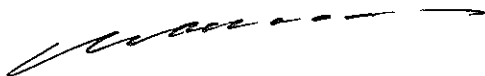
Views to Panel on Development on Proposed Development Strategy for Lantau

Thank you for inviting the Institution to put forth our views on the captioned subject.

In response to your invitation, the Institution is pleased to provide herewith our views and suggestions on the subject for your consideration.

Thank you for your attention.

Yours sincerely



Ir CHAN Chi Chiu
President
The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers

Enc

Enclosure

**Legislative Council - Panel on Development
Views from the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers on
Proposed Development Strategy for Lantau**

The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers (HKIE) supports the vision of Lantau development and agrees in general the major proposals of Lantau Development Advisory Committee. In recent years, the HKIE has been advocating to the Administration for enhancing long-term land and housing supply as well as the infrastructures and facilities in transportation, logistics, business, meetings/conventions and tourism. We find that the initiatives on Lantau development echo with our expectations, which target on realising long-term benefits for the livelihood of people and development of Hong Kong. Certainly, the development of Lantau should be a sustainable one with balance among economic development, community betterment, and protection of environment.

2. In consideration of its development scale and timeframe that would span a few decades, as well as the significance of Lantau development to the Hong Kong society and economy, the HKIE believes that the blueprint of Lantau development should nest into the framework of the overall planning of Hong Kong. We should carefully address resources allocation/ financial commitment, and strive to synchronise Lantau development initiatives with other essential strategies such as railway development and manpower planning (including provision of sufficient engineering professionals and skilled labour to carry out the construction projects). The Lantau development projects should also tie in with the scheduling of the long-term infrastructural construction plan in Hong Kong so that these projects would be launched in an orderly manner without causing excessive fluctuations in resources and manpower demand.

3. We appreciate Lantau as a garden in Hong Kong's backyard. Hence, any plan for the development of Lantau should not jeopardize its uniqueness and distinctive values/ quality. The HKIE regards that pursuing sustainable development, environment protection and ecology conservation should be on the top agenda of Lantau development. The Administration would need to trek carefully to ensure that there is sufficient capacity to accommodate the possible impacts of increasing tourism activities at the various natural scenic sites in Lantau. At the same time of pursuing better utilisation of natural resources in Lantau, the HKIE suggests the Administration to spend no less effort on enriching the ecological values and enhancing the environment protection.

4. The HKIE supports driving for the development of the artificial island in Hong Kong middle waters as the East Lantau Metropolis (ELM). We believe that creating a large piece of flat land can facilitate better planning and enhance land supply for residential, commercial and community purposes. The future ELM should position itself as a truly low-carbon smart city in Hong Kong. While we agree that it should be developed into a new platform of economic hub, the Administration should take a step further for developing new pillar industries in the ELM as a bridge to multimodal development of Hong Kong economy in future decades.

5. The HKIE believes that the ELM should match the North Lantau transportation hub (with the airport, link to Tuen Mun, and HongKong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge) to have multiple transport links connecting with various parts of the territory. We agree that railway should be the backbone of these transport links, while overburdening/overreliance on a particular transportation trunk should be avoided.

6. Taking the previous experiences of new towns development, the HKIE is concerned that there should be proactive design for Lantau, with well-planned schedule of providing employment opportunities, medical facilities and other community settings to better serve the needs of the current and future residents and working population under the LOHAS (lifestyle of health and sustainability) concept.

7. Considering the scope and impact of Lantau development, the HKIE welcomes the Administration to set up a stronger consultation mechanism to incorporate the voices and interests of all stakeholders, without losing sight of the needs of the local residents. To facilitate better preparedness for timely launching the project initiatives, the HKIE supports that the Administration is to commence further feasibility studies and formulate projections as soon as possible, so as to enable the public to have more information for articulating and deliberating the directions for Lantau development strategy.