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for information

Information Paper
on Infrastructure Coordinating Committee

Background

1. The Infrastructure Co-ordinating Committee (ICC) was set up in late 1994. It is a forum for exchange of views and information with the Chinese side and for seeking to reach a common view on coordination and interface in respect of major infrastructure projects straddling the border.
2. At its first meeting in January 1995, the ICC set up four panels to cover respectively railways, roads and bridges, air traffic control, and marine channels. The following is an outline of the work of the ICC and its panels.

Panel on Marine Channels

3. Against the background of port development in China and in Hong Kong, the Committee agreed on the need for further detailed study of a possible new marine channel (Tonggu Channel) to the west of Lantau. It was also agreed that the panel should discuss issues such as the engineering feasibility study of the Tonggu Channel in the next stage.

Roads and Bridges Panel

4. Taking into account the economic development of Hong Kong, Guangdong and the whole of China and from the perspective of long term development, the Committee agreed on the need for additional cross-border transport capacity. The panel was set up to consider two road proposals put forward by the Chinese side: the Lingdingyang Bridge project proposed by the Zhuhai authorities and the Shenzhen Western Corridor project proposed by the Shenzhen authorities.

5. Hong Kong Government has commissioned a study to assess the impact of these two proposals on Hong Kong's environment, land use, traffic and transport infrastructure, and other related aspects. The study commenced in September 1995 and is scheduled for completion by mid-1996. The findings will provide the necessary information for us to assess in detail the viability and feasibility of implementing these proposals. We shall hold further discussions at the ICC before any decision on the next course of action is made.

Air Traffic Control Panel

6. The Committee agreed that experts should work to seek agreement on the coordination of airspace management and air traffic control in respect of Hong Kong's new airport and the adjacent areas.

Railway Panel

7. The Committee agreed on the need to explore ways to enhance the usage of the existing railway crossing at Lo Wu/Shenzhen. The Committee also agreed on the need for a new railway passenger terminal at Lok Ma Chau/Huanggang and to discuss how best this could be implemented.

Planning, Environment and Lands Branch
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