

FOREWORD

Air transport makes a unique and vital contribution to the sustainable development of Hong Kong. The connection for Hong Kong to the world it provides underpins Hong Kong's trade and tourism, sustains thousands of jobs and facilitates social and cultural exchanges. In 2007, the number of flights to and from Hong Kong rose to 295,342, a rise of 5.3% compared to 2006.

While striving to meet the growing demand, we remain constantly mindful to limit air transport's environmental impact. To this end, we continue to manage the aircraft noise problem using the "Balanced Approach" developed by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO). The goal is to address the problem in the most cost-effective manner through an exploration of the following:

- Reduction of noise at its source
- Keeping noise-sensitive receivers away from the airport by appropriate land use planning and management measures
- Noise abatement operational procedures for take-off and approach – including the preferred usage of runways and routes least likely to be heard by people in neighboring communities
- Aircraft operating restrictions

We fully understand the importance of communicating with local communities and concerned District Councils on matters relating to aircraft noise, and we are committed to maintaining dialogue with them. To this end, aircraft noise data and information on the performance of noise-mitigating measures are regularly uploaded to our web-page at http://www.cad.gov.hk/english/ac_noise.html.

In our daily operations, we also fully support green measures in saving resources and reducing waste. In particular, we continue to measure our electricity consumption and to implement measures that improve electricity efficiency at our operational centres and offices.

In this report, we have reviewed our performance in the year 2007 and outlined our targets for 2008. As always, readers are invited to offer their comments and feedback to help us improve further.

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