

**Cross Boundary Ferry Service Linking the Hong Kong
International Airport and Pearl River Delta Ports**

At the meeting of the Legislative Council Panel on Economic Services held on 15 January 2004, Members asked for information regarding the operation of the cross boundary ferry service between the Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA) and ports in the Pearl River Delta (PRD). This paper aims to provide such information for Members' information.

2. The cross boundary ferry service for transit passengers commenced on 29 September 2003. The ferry service provides speedy air-to-sea connection between the HKIA and four PRD ports, including Shenzhen (Fuyong), Dongguan, Shekou and Macau. It has significantly extended the passenger catchment area of the HKIA into the PRD region and also strengthened Hong Kong's position as an air transportation hub.

3. Transit passengers are the target customers of the ferry service. Like transit passengers at the airport, cross boundary ferry customers arriving in Hong Kong have to stay within the restricted area of the airport while transiting and therefore do not have to be subject to customs and immigration clearance. This arrangement reduces considerably the time for traveling between overseas and PRD via the HKIA, bringing much convenience to passengers.

4. Following the commissioning of the ferry service, the initial passenger throughput was about 3,800 passengers per week. As at 1 February 2004, the passenger throughput has increased to about 11,000 passengers per week, representing about 25% of the current handling capacity of the ferry service (i.e. 44,100 passengers per week). The Airport Authority (AA) therefore expects that there is still ample room for the ferry service to further develop.

5. AA expects that the ferry service will be further extended to three more PRD ports, e.g. Guangzhou, Zhuhai and Zhongshan. Among these three ports, good progress has been made regarding Guangzhou and the relevant ferry route could be opened in the first half of this year. As regards the remaining ports, there is no concrete timetable yet for their respective ferry service, which is subject to

market demand as well as progress in discussion with the relevant authorities of the PRD ports.

Economic Development and Labour Bureau
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