

香 港 建 造 商 會
Hong Kong Construction Association

Panel on Transport Subcommittee on Matters Relating to Railways
Meeting on 14 May 2009

Views of The Hong Kong Construction Association, Ltd.
In respect of
The Hong Kong Section of
Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link Project

Since our last submission to the Panel on Transport Subcommittee at the end of March 2009, the industry unemployment has risen sharply from 9.8 in Feb. 2009 to 11.2 in Mar. 2009. This is solid proof of the desperate situation of the construction industry. Lack of investments from both private developers and public expenditures are the root causes. HKCA has voiced out, in many occasions, on our deepest concerns of the state of our industry and plead for investment in infrastructure to link up with neighbouring cities.

We fully appreciate the public expenditure funding approval systems and understand the Panel on Transport is doing its upmost to consider many of railway issues. However all these public work initiatives need to materialize before the local economy can yield benefits. By endorsing the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link Project now, the construction industry and the local economy can be given a fresh breath of hope. The regional express link project will no doubt, upon its completion, provide an effective channel to tap into the huge resources of China and bring about the much needed commercial activities that could make the local economy sustainable. This could well be a live line of Hong Kong's future.

Many other industries are also suffering, unemployment for the transportation sector is resting at 5.5% and unemployment for import and export sector is at 4.6%. These figures are at their highest in many years and are expecting to further worsen in the immediate future.

The local economy needs investment. A lot of other countries are investing in infrastructure and construction to bring their economy out of the current economical crisis and Hong Kong should be no exception. Quick and decisive actions are needed now.

Hong Kong needs to complete the Hong Kong section of the express rail project in time to match the construction activities of our mainland counterparts. We all know that the Guangzhou-Shenzhen sections of the express rail are well underway and concerns are dealt with in the due process. Hong Kong needs to complete the Hong Kong section of the express rail project in time to match the construction activities of our mainland counterparts. We believe that we could still achieve this goal with the backing of the Panel by endorsing this project at the meeting and immediately.