



香港工業總會
FHKI

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Federation of Hong Kong Industries

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Industry News

Press Release

A/IF/PR/17/07-28-01 (027)

28 July 2017

The FHKI Welcomes and Supports the Co-location Arrangement for the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link

The Federation of Hong Kong Industries (FHKI) welcomes and supports the co-location arrangement announced recently by the HKSAR Government on the customs, immigration and related procedures between Hong Kong and the Mainland at the West Kowloon Station of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link (XRL).

FHKI Chairman Prof Daniel M Cheng says, "Co-location arrangement is key to fully realizing the benefits of the XRL project. Passengers can complete clearance procedures of both Hong Kong and the Mainland in one go, and then directly connect to China's ever-expanding high-speed rail network. It greatly reduces the time required for Hong Kong residents and travelers to travel to major cities in the Mainland. It also provides a more convenient and affordable option for people to travel between the Mainland and Hong Kong for business or leisure, hence further promoting the linkage between the two places."

Apart from the co-location arrangement at the Shenzhen Bay Port connecting Hong Kong and China since 2007, there are also examples of similar arrangements between the UK and France, and between the US and Canada. Such arrangements have proved to be effective and instrumental in enhancing economic activities and people flow.

FHKI Deputy Chairman Jimmy Kwok says, "Besides connecting to the national high-speed rail network, the XRL also enables Hong Kong to link with the ASEAN and Belt and Road countries, which would undoubtedly unlock the immense business opportunities for enterprises in Hong Kong and the Pearl River Delta. Human resources in Hong Kong will also be exposed to more job markets and opportunities."

As of 2016, China's high-speed rail network measured 20,000 kilometers in length. The network is slated to expand to over 30,000 kilometers by 2020 and cover more than 80 per cent of cities in the Mainland. Without a co-location arrangement, passengers may only board or alight at Mainland stations equipped with clearance facilities. They will not be able to benefit from the efficiency and flexibility offered by the XRL.

Prof Cheng adds, "The FHKI hopes that the Government, Legislative Council and all sectors concerned will put the co-location arrangement in place as soon as possible in the overall interest of Hong Kong. We will also continue to reflect the views of the commercial and industrial communities to the SAR Government on issues such as faster and more convenient customs clearance procedures and tax arrangement for the travelling workforce between Hong Kong and the Mainland."

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