

From Airport and New Town
To World Class Travel Destination and Liveable City
- A Vision for Lantau –

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1. Lantau's Strategic Location

Lantau's unique rural-urban landscape has made the island one of most fascinating neighborhoods in Hong Kong. Once a rather remote district, it is now a highly strategic area sitting at the heart of the Greater Bay Area (GBA). Leveraging Mainland China's robust development and economic achievements as well as future development plans, Lantau is presented with a golden opportunity to be transformed into a world-class tourism destination.

Situated at the center of the one-hour living circle, Lantau is blessed with the enormously populated market of Mainland China; top-notch airport facilities that serves millions of international visitors; and local citizens that are actively expanding their living circle towards rural areas. Lantau will have the opportunity to become a premium hub that serves one of the most diverse group of customers.

2. A Place Planned for Sustainable Growth

Lantau is one of the most strategically well-placed districts in Hong Kong planned for sustainable future. Through 2016 to 2030, some of Hong Kong's biggest projects kick-started and will commence in Lantau, such as the 3rd airport runway system and the SkyCity project, namely 11 Skies, under the Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA) Master Plan; Tung Chung

New Town Extension that expands and optimises the living landscape of Tung Chung; and Lantau Tomorrow Vision which aims at building a solid foundation for a sustainable growth for Hong Kong. These projects will re-shape Lantau while preserving the core identity of the district -- a versatile entertainment hub and a liveable city that promotes green and sustainable development.

3. Perfect Timing

Some of the core concepts of the Greater Bay Area (GBA) development under the National 14th Five-Year Plan focus on developing tourism, culture and Mainland-Hong Kong integration. The directions of developing Lantau completely align with the Plan's visions, such as "Development in the North, Conservation in the South" in the Sustainable Lantau Blueprint in 2017. The current social stability of Hong Kong also provides a favorable environment for the Government including Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTB) to review the branding of the city and the promotion strategy on tourism.

LaDA fully supports the idea of establishing a new policy bureau of the Government to oversee tourism and cultural matters. We believe this would help promote the long-term tourism development of Hong Kong and establish with neighboring cities and regions gradually a comprehensive world-class tourism zone in the GBA.

4. Building Hong Kong's Capacity for Tourism

Lantau is the key to rejuvenation of Hong Kong's tourism landscape. Traditionally, Central Business Districts (CBD) are always overloaded with visitors while non CBDs have less attention from tourists. With its large receiving capacity, strong connectivity and excellent infrastructure, Lantau stands ready to be a new travel destination of Hong Kong. Lantau's planning and tourism capabilities can facilitate the spacing out of tourists' activities and local's, bringing disturbance to residents in the community to a minimum level, thus reducing concerns about crowdedness caused by expansion of tourist activities, which have been experienced by many districts on both sides of the harbour in Hong Kong.

5. A Transport Hub in GBA Connecting the World

Lantau is equipped with multiple world-class transportation infrastructures – well-executed inter-city transit planning; infrastructures that offer quick and accessible connections to 9 cities and 2 SARs in GBA; a world-class international airport; and less than 30 minutes away from the High Speed Rail station in West Kowloon. The colossal demographic that the GBA market can offer is right at Lantau's fingertips.

6. Base for Conservation and Education

Supported by dedicated preservation programmes, Lantau's countryside is an organic gem in Hong Kong – long beaches, hiking trails, historical sites, highly accessible outdoor leisure and recreational areas. Not to forget the seaside villages and towns – they are the epitomes of Lantau's rich cultural and religious atmosphere.

7. Planned Strategic Growth

The Lantau Tomorrow Vision programme is a complete package that will fully unleash Lantau's unparalleled potential. On top of that, we would also like to propose the strengthening of rail connections to Northwest New Territories, East Lantau Metropolis as well as Hong Kong Island.

8. Proposals

A. Tourism Development

a. Overall Goal

We seek the Government's attention in policy and resources support to unlock Lantau's full potential as a world-class travel destination and resort area. The constant high traffic flow of visitors from Mainland China and overseas will make Lantau a perfect ambassador of Hong Kong's vibrant city culture.

Like Dubai, the multi-destination itineraries of the Hong Kong International Airport creates ample opportunity for Lantau. Maximising Lantau's capability to offer various tourism products will allow the area to cater for the diverse needs and interests of tourists from around the globe, attracting high-end and overnight tourists.

It would also relieve the tremendous traffic pressure of CBD and downtown.

b. Strategy

The tourism development strategy will be a long-term commitment that requires a policy and plan for developing the tourism and MICE industries.

The magnificent scenery, eco and cultural tourism are the backbones of Lantau's tourism development. Lantau has plenty to offer but it requires new attractions and entertainment, in addition to promotions of the Lantau theme to create incentives.

Lantau South is a gem waiting to be explored and developed, supported by well-planned preservation programmes, including conservation of seaside villages and towns.

Coordination is crucial for fostering collaboration amongst the Government, local community leaders, NGOs and tourism stakeholders on Lantau. A centralised coordination system set up by the Government will allow the group to work in an organised and progressive manner.

A well-established B2B platform will allow tourism stakeholders in the GBA to establish sales networks, share and collaborate on premium events organised by HKTB.

c. Specific Suggestions

Lantau needs to take advantage of its natural landscape: great location for outdoor sports, trail walking, camping, etc. Extending existing routes to Lantau South, designing and building facilities that promote adventurous and educational activities; renovating present facilities; organising more MICE activities and events in AsiaWorld-Expo (AWE); constructing vista points for Hongkong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge (HZMB) are some of the practical suggestions to start with.

We need to further strengthen these facilities and also the Boundary Crossing Facility (BCF), SkyCity and Tung Chung Town Centre by building tourism information centres and providing transportation support.

Hiking trails and cycling tracks should be further extended with upgraded accessibility features. New routes, new entry and exit points and new campsites will enrich the rural experience of hikers and cyclists.

Engagement with the community and general public is also important so as to collect their valuable opinions and suggestions on how the resources of Lantau can be better utilised.

B. Transport Improvement

a. Overall Goal

Transport has always been the focal point of Lantau's development. Without a well-designed transportation network, we cannot fully utilise Lantau's valuable assets. Internally, we need an efficient, convenient, and green transport system serving the residents of Tung Chung. Externally, we ought to provide direct transportation for visitors to travel to and from Lantau attractions and Airport / BCF.

b. Strategy

A comprehensive study of Lantau's transportation landscape is essential for the development of a holistic plan. A thorough research that assembles the voices of hotels, attractions, investors and employers will help enhance the transportation network including exploring new bus routes.

The Government should also study topics such as the implementation of electric buses on Lantau and more effective usage of HZMB.

c. Specific Suggestions

i. Road Infrastructure

Traffic congestion at Tung Chung town centre has been an issue waiting to be alleviated. Measures should be taken to eliminate bottlenecks of the Tuen Mun-Chek Lap Kok Link (TM-CLKL) and optimise the use of Cheung Tung Road.

ii. Transport Services for Residents and Workers

Direct transportation is the key in organising the transport system within the district. It would benefit the locals minimising the interchanging requirements of traveling within the new town through city-planning, as well as providing on-demand district based services such as taxi and licenced limousines. For employees working at the Airport and Tung Chung, we should provide them with direct transportation between Tung Chung and other districts outside Lantau, such as the arrangement of employee buses. East-West transport development should also be in line with town expansion schemes.

iii. Car Parking Space

In light of the expected population growth and the opening of Tuen Mun-Chek Lap Lok Tunnel, advanced planning of parking space expansion is necessary. Facilities such as park-and-ride at the upcoming Tung Chung Line Stations, and extra parking spaces for lorries, container trucks, buses and coaches will reduce illegal parking, improve traffic conditions and benefit both residents and workers.

iv. Boundary Cross Facility (BCF) Links

The transport system of BCF should offer flexibility: carparks for travellers, point-to-point transport service web connecting BCF, SkyCity, Airport and Lantau attractions. Comprehensive tour coach service facilities and booking arrangements should be further enhanced; and future bus routes connecting Lantau South should be implemented as well.

- v. External Transport for Discovery Bay
More options should be offered for both residents and visitors of Discovery Bay. Enhanced land transport facilities and services, such as introducing night-time taxi rides would offer great flexibility. Public transportation covering Cheung Tung Road and connection to the future Siu Ho Wan development should also be provided.
- vi. Transport for Lantau South
Lantau South roads should be upgraded to support electric double-deck buses, embracing the theme of conservation within the area. Increasing the number of one-day permits issued for private and hired vehicles will boost visitor traffics; while the issuing of special car permits for hotel limousines would further attract tourists.
- vii. Sea Link
Allowing the usage of SkyPier for local residents and visitors will bolster the connectivity between Lantau and GBA coastal cities.
- viii. Railway
The capacity of the MTR Tung Chung Line requires further review in light of the foreseeable population growth. The construction of a monorail system circling around BCF, SkyCity, Airport and Tung Chung will solidify the transit network in Lantau.
- ix. Smart and Green Transport
Electric motor vehicles and driverless cars and coaches are two of the major trends in the field of transport innovation. But the development of both technologies requires a smart traffic management system and a passenger-driver information system, which needs support of the Hong Kong Government.
- x. Fares Adjustments
The toll cancellation of Tsing Ma Bridge should be reflected through the reduction of fares by bus operators.
- xi. Tung Chung Interchange
A more effective interchange system should be implemented to facilitate hotel guests and tourists to travel between BCF, SkyCity and town centre.

C. Community Growth

a. Overall Goal

To develop Tung Chung New Town into a top-notch liveable city requires efforts and executions from multiple parties in multiple areas. The goal is to turn Tung Chung into a liveable city for both employees and residents.

Self-sustainability is essential to the development of the community. Well-balanced supporting facilities should be in place to cater for the needs of residents and tourists. To fulfill the role as a sub-metropolitan city of Hong Kong within the GBA one-hour living circle, the community will need to embrace its identity as a green and smart city, while strengthening community cohesion and its sense of belonging.

b. Strategy

A blueprint for the provision of community facilities with implementation timeline should be constructed with Lantau's green identity in mind. The concepts of walkability and cycling, 3R – recycling, reuse and reduce should be taken into account while maintaining a proper separation between tourist and residential areas.

c. Specific Suggestions

Construction of a waterfront promenade covering the east and west of Tung Chung, along with the development of nightlife hotspots, such as pubs and night markets will attract both locals and tourists, injecting the city with a new vibe and energy.

Development of local community facilities such as cultural centre, library and central park can promote the well-being of residents. Collaborations between local schools and Lantau attractions can provide students with one-of-a-kind STEM programmes that can take advantage of the rich cultural resources on Lantau Island.

D. Employment Enhancement

a. Overall Goal

There is an urgent need of manpower at all levels coping with the rapid expansion of the tourism, MICE and transport industries on Lantau. How Lantau can attract tourism and hospitality talents to live and work within the area is pivotal to local corporates. The development of tourism and MICE-related services will provide a wider industry spectrum of employment. Along with a proficient education and training system that builds strengths in the local workforce, the employability of Lantau residents will receive a significant boost.

b. Strategy

Transport subsidy is the most direct and effective measure that the government can orchestrate to relieve the shortage of manpower in Lantau. Along with better transport services between Northwest New Territories and Chek Lap Kok, the expansion of

manpower sourcing network will provide incentives for workers from other districts joining corporates located in Lantau.

For Lantau residents, a reinforced internal transport system providing direct and convenient transit would encourage local employment. But education is also key in training local talents joining the community's workforce in a sustainable manner.

c. Specific Suggestions

There are several areas that the public transport system can improve upon. Monthly tickets and discounted fares for long-distance travelling workers to and from Lantau is essential. Transport arrangements during peak hours, shift-changing hours and night-time can further be optimised to cater for the needs of Lantau employees.

To relieve some of the pressure off public transport, increasing the number of Passenger Service Licenses will allow Lantau companies to arrange more shuttle services for their employees.

To support the sustainability of local talents, vocational training schools and tertiary institutions on Lantau will prepare the city with a group of professionals that specialise in aviation, transport and property management, customer service, hospitality, IT, engineering, etc. The workforce will also be prepared to support the blooming entertainment businesses on Lantau.