

Question on the Hong Kong International Airport
(Paper T&TC 26/2016)
and
Question on takeoff and landing schedules of flights
at the Hong Kong International Airport
(Paper T&TC 28/2016)

Written reply of Airport Authority Hong Kong

Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA) has two runways and operates around the clock. In 2015, HKIA handled 68.5 million passengers and 4.38 million tonnes of cargo. The maximum handling capacity of the South and the North runways is 68 movements per hour.

The Airport Authority Hong Kong (AA) will carry out maintenance works to ensure that the runway is in good condition for safe take-off and landing. While one of the runways will be closed during night time for maintenance, airlines and airport stakeholders will be notified of the runway maintenance schedule. Over the years, the overnight runway maintenance works begin at 0130 and end at 0800. In other words, the operation hour of the two runways is from 0800 to 0130.

The existing two-runway system will likely reach its maximum practical capacity soon. In view of that, AA has been studying whether it is possible to marginally increase the number of flight movements under the two-runway system (2RS). One of the possible ways is, subject to flight safety and compliance with environment-related requirements, to enhance the runway maintenance efficiency during night time and thus slightly advance its resumption of 2RS operation before 0800. However, with HKIA's packed maintenance schedule, the number of flight movement can be increased is very limited.

AA will continuously study different ways to increase runway capacity before the implementation of the three-runway system (3RS). In the long term, the runway capacity of HKIA can only be significantly increased after the commissioning of the 3RS.

May 2016