

In the next 20 years, Hong Kong will invest \$38 billion to expand its rail network by over 70%, from the present 143 km to more than 250 km. When the work is completed, about 70% of the population and 80% of jobs will be within walking distance of railway stations. Rail is projected to increase its share of Hong Kong's public transportation from the present 30% to approximately 45%.

The new rail links will help reduce reliance on road transportation and thus cut vehicle emissions. Hong Kong will further consolidate its strategic and economic position in Asia and in the Pearl River Delta region. And it will take steps toward sustainable development.

#### Projects within the next five years

Six railway projects are now at various stages of implementation.

## Sapporo congress

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#### Other hotels

The following include breakfast and a service charge. A consumption tax of 5% will be added.

##### \* Sapporo Grand Hotel

Tel.: (011-81-11) 261-3311.

##### \* ANA Hotel Sapporo

Tel.: (011-81-11) 221-4411

fax: (011-81-11) 222-7624.

##### \* Royton Sapporo

Tel.: (011-81-11) 211-3675,

fax: (011-81-11) 232-3833.

Fees for Congress registration, tours and accommodation must be in Japanese yen and can be paid by major credit card or bank transfer.

For more information and to confirm your participation, contact:

- Réjean Day, Senior Manager, Contributions Agreements, Transport Canada, tel.: (613) 998-1901, e-mail: DAYR@tc.gc.ca
- Jean-Pierre Petit, Japan Division, DFAIT, tel.: (613) 996-4267, fax: (613) 944-2397, e-mail: jeanpierre.petit@dfait-maeci.gc.ca Web site: www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/ni-ka/

Construction has started on the West Rail and the Tseung Kwan O Extension (TKE), with the participation of Canadian companies. To be completed by 2003, the West Rail will serve the 900,000 people of the western New Territories.

Priorities are the Sha Tin to Central Link, the Island Line Extensions and the Kowloon Southern Link, to be completed by 2013. Tender specifications for the Sha Tin to Central Link are being drafted; the Kowloon Canton Railway Corporation and the

# Hong Kong expands its railway system

The TKE was given top priority in the government's Railway Development Strategy, published in 1994. The 12.5-km line will serve Tseung Kwan O new town and Yau Tong. It is expected to start operation in late 2002.

The government has given approval for the Ma On Shan to Tai Wai Rail Link and the KCR Tsim Sha Tsui Extension. Construction will start soon.

Last, two projects — the Sheung Shui to Lok Ma Chau Spur Line and Penny's Bay Rail Link — are in the statutory planning phase.

#### The longer term

The next stage is already being planned: another six railway lines to be built between 2008 and 2016.

Mass Transit Railway Corporation are invited to submit their bids in early 2001. The government planned to invite the two companies to submit separate proposals for the Island Line Extensions and the Kowloon Southern Link.

Meanwhile, the government is closely monitoring transportation needs to set the timetable for building other lines, such as the Northern Link, the Regional Express and the Port Rail Line.

For more information, contact Endy Chung, Commercial Officer, Canadian Consulate General, Hong Kong, fax: (011-852) 2847-7441, e-mail: endy.chung@dfait-maeci.gc.ca Web site: www.hongkong.gc.ca



## Slovakia's agriculture and food production

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#### Market access considerations

Working with a local partner is essential when conducting business in Slovakia. In general, manufactured goods require a local agent, representative or distributor who understands local business practices, market characteristics and strategies, as well as the legal, financial and import procedures.

#### Useful Web sites

- Ministry of Agriculture SR: www.mpsr.sk

- Research Institute of Agricultural and Food Economy: www.vuepp.sk

For more information, contact Milan Harustiak, Commercial Officer, Office of the Canadian Embassy, Slovak Republic, tel.: (011-421-2) 5244-2175, fax: (011-421-2) 5249-9995, e-mail: harustiak@canemb.sk Web site: www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/prague

(For the unabridged version, see www.infoexport.gc.ca/canadexport and click on "The European Advantage.")