

# HONG KONG: HARBOUR RECLAMATIONS AND URBAN GROWTH STUDY

- **Client:**  
Lands Department,  
Hong Kong Government
- **SWK appointment:**  
1982-1983
- **Scope of work:**  
Urban study, including land  
reclamation
- **Study cost (1983) :**  
HK\$ 22 million

Fast developing Hong Kong is a territory with an acute land shortage.

In 1982, SWK together with firms of planners, economists and chartered surveyors were commissioned to assess the development potential of Hong Kong Island, Kowloon peninsula and Victoria Harbour. The study area contains some of the most commercially valuable land in the world, an extremely high density population of almost 4 million, busy port facilities and the international airport.

The study's objective was to appraise the development potential of the area by making a broad-brush assessment

of its population and employment capacities and to establish practical levels for further development by the year 2001. There were two major options: one with the airport retained at its present site and the other with the airport relocated outside the study area.

It was found that there was substantial potential for development. Extensive reclamation of parts of the harbour was found to be feasible following broad-scale geotechnical investigations and mathematical modelling of tidal flows and associated water quality.

Two combined development and transport strategies were developed by the study team. Both involved the reclamation of large areas of land, the extension of the Mass Transit Railway system, new immersed tube tunnel road crossings of the harbour and a major extension of public utilities and port facilities.

Recommendations, which have been adopted as the framework for urban infrastructure development for the 1990s and beyond, involved the most imaginative, large-scale development concepts in Hong Kong's history.

The recommendations included the creation of major new areas of land for commercial and residential use at Hung Hom Bay, Central and Wanchai, Green Island and West Kowloon, and a totally new strategic approach to the disposal of sewage from the main urban area. They also included the creation of a comprehensive Mass Transit Railway network and a major expansion of port facilities including new container terminals at Kwai Chung and Tsing Yi ■

