

## The Hong Kong Institute of Directors Supports the Express Rail Link Project

(Hong Kong, 14 December 2009) – The Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link (XRL) received support from The Hong Kong Institute of Directors at the Institute’s speaker luncheon meeting today with The Hon Ms Eva Cheng, Secretary for Transport and Housing, delivering a speech on “Express Rail Link: The Fast Track to Our Future Economic Growth”.

“The Hong Kong Institute of Directors has all along supported cross-boundary infrastructure projects and will support the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link (XRL) project,” said Dr Kelvin Wong, Chairman of The Hong Kong Institute of Directors, after the speaker luncheon meeting.

Dr Kelvin Wong added, “The XRL project will enhance the connectivity between Hong Kong and the Mainland, and the Institute believes this will bring about new business opportunities. For example, the ease and hence increase in contacts between Hong Kong and the Mainland will facilitate the integration of the labour and consumer markets in the Pearl River Delta Region.” Dr Wong continued, “The XRL project itself and also the new business opportunities that come along with it will create jobs and provide a timely boost to economic activity.”

The XRL will be the first high-speed railway in Hong Kong. It will connect Hong Kong to the national high-speed rail network, shortening the traveling time from Hong Kong to Guangzhou, Shanghai and Beijing. The Hon Ms Eva Cheng said, “...Our terminus is in West Kowloon, so most commercial districts including Central and Tsim Sha Tsui will be accessible within 15 minutes from the terminus by rail or by road. In other words we are building a domestic airport right in the heart of town that will offer a premium railway service (running at 100m per second) to 16 major mainland cities, but without the hassle of air travel.”

With a mission in promoting corporate governance and director professionalism, the Institute organises regular speaker meetings featuring talks by distinguished government and business leaders as well as authoritative scholars.

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### About The Hong Kong Institute of Directors

The Hong Kong Institute of Directors (“HKIoD”) is Hong Kong’s premier body representing professional directors working together to promote good corporate governance and to contribute towards advancing the status of Hong Kong, both in China and internationally. A non-profit-distributing organisation with membership consisting of directors from listed and non-listed companies, HKIoD is committed to providing directors with educational programmes and information service and establishing an influential voice in representing directors. With international perspectives and a multi-cultural environment, HKIoD conducts business in biliteracy and trilingualism. Website: <http://www.hkiod.com>.

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