

News Highlight on Whales and Dolphins

Starting from this issue, HKDCS e-newsletter will feature a collection of important news concerning whales and dolphins. Each piece of news will be summarized and a hyperlink of the original text will be provided in order to give our readers a holistic view on a range of contemporary issues concerning our precious cetaceans.

Locally, the hottest topic must be the launching of the consultation process for the 3rd airport runway construction project in the Hong Kong International Airport.

Support Dolphins by giving comments

Appledaily 2 Jul 2014

A number of environmental groups and interested organizations took part in the July 1st protest and had set up street stations in an effort to rally against the government's plan to build a third runway at the airport. They worried that further developments to Lantau Island would cause detrimental ecological impacts and endanger the Chinese White Dolphins.



It was the first time that the conservation group Hong Kong Dolphin Conservation Society (HKDCS) had organized a campaign called "30 Third Runway Victims" and set up a street station in 7.1 parade. They mobilized about 30 volunteers to distribute society's newsletter to the public, and to collect public's opinions. Chan, a group member, appealed to citizens to fill comment forms on the spot, which would be forwarded to the Environment Protection Department. Chan said over a thousand of filled forms were collected in a few hours.



To read the whole passage (in Chinese) :

<http://hk.apple.nextmedia.com/news/art/20140702/18785065>

25 Thousand Comments Received on 3rd Runway EIA Consultation

Oriental Daily 19 Jul 2014

The consultation period for the EIA report on the construction of a third runway at the Hong Kong International Airport expires today. At 5 pm yesterday, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) received twenty-five thousand comment submissions.

Environmental groups including Friends of the Earth, HKDCS and Green Sense handed in some 20,000 opposing submissions to EPD, to "retaliate" EPD and the Airport Authority Hong Kong (AAHK) who refused to extend the consultation period to allow more time for the public to read EIA report with over 10,000 pages in detail. The groups also criticized that the EIA report contained several misleading information. For instance, the AAHK stated that the two existing runways will likely reach a saturation point earlier than expected; which is a claim that was criticized as a public deception. As a result the group urged the Director of Environment Protection to reject the EIA report.



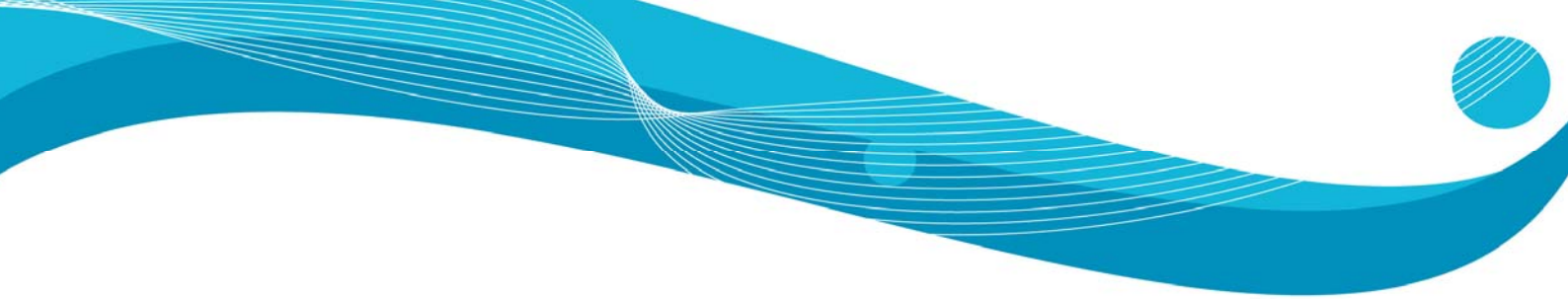
To read the whole passage (in Chinese) :

http://orientaldaily.on.cc/cnt/news/20140719/00176_035.html

ACE advisors criticized 3rd Runway EIA report as careless and unconvincing

Appledaily 19 Aug 2014

EIA Subcommittee under the Advisory Council on the Environment met yesterday to discuss the 3rd Runway EIA study. Advisors continued to express doubts to AAHK



about the effectiveness of the mitigation measures, including re-routing its Skypier high-speed ferry services, limiting the boat traffic during construction period, etc.

Concerning the debatable mainland military restrictions, or so-called “sky wall” issue, AAHK claimed that it did not relate to the airport’s flight capacity, while governments of the mainland, Hong Kong and Macau will improve the airspaces issues by 2020...

...However, advisors still had doubts with the mitigation measures. Prof. Nora Tam Fung-yee queried that the traffic along the water channel would become busier if re-routing the ferry services, and whether AAHK had made further impact assessment after such mitigation.

AAHK replied that assessment upon impact to Chinese white dolphins from the re-routing and speed-limiting had been made, but they had no measure to deal with high-speed vessels not serving the Skypier. Hung Wing-tat, the deputy chairman of the subcommittee, said the report made too many judgments from predictions. It also lacked of predicting the worst case scenarios. He thought that the study was unconvincing.

To read the whole passage (in Chinese) :

<http://hk.apple.nextmedia.com/news/art/20140819/18836749>

HKDCS and the “30 Third Runway Victims” Campaign will follow the issues and provide updates for you:

<https://www.facebook.com/3RWdolphin>



Wrestling between Japan and New Zealand upon whaling is a hot issue worldwide.

Whaling looms large as Japan PM meets NZ leaders

stuff.co.nz 7 July 2014

Labour leader David Cunliffe said New Zealand would have to increase "diplomatic pressure" on Japan if it resumed scientific whaling in the Southern Ocean.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe met with Cunliffe this afternoon during his visit to Auckland, following bilateral negotiations with Prime Minister John Key this morning.

Earlier today Abe avoided answering whether his country would resume whaling in the Southern Ocean.

Abe did not answer directly when questioned this morning following talks with Key. He merely said Japan would abide by the International Court of Justice ruling on its whaling programme.

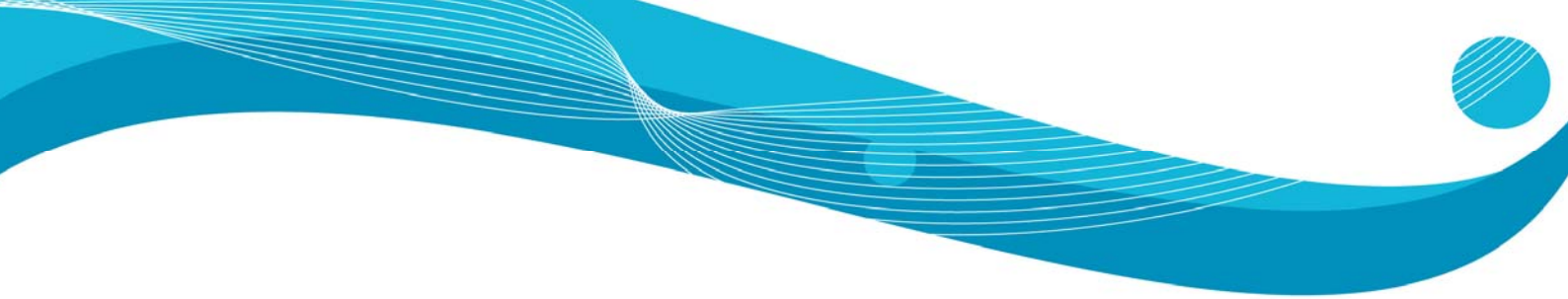
To read the whole passage:

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/national/politics/10239773/Whaling-looms-large-as-Japan-PM-meets-NZ-leaders>

Relating to Japan, the slaughter happening in Taiji next month is a worrying issue:

Groups protested to urge to stop slaughter in the Cove next month

Inmediahk 29 August 2014



Fishermen in Taiji, Japan, hunt thousands of dolphins from September to March annually. The government and villagers refuse to stop dolphin slaughter as it is a centennial cultural tradition. Before the tragic hunt starting next month, groups like Save Japan Dolphins, AELLA East Asia, HKDCS and also about 40 Hongkongers launched a peaceful protest today at the Consulate General of Japan and urge to cease the cruel drive fisheries on dolphins.

To read the whole passage (in Chinese):

<http://www.inmediahk.net/node/1025673>

We will bring to you more news on whaling and dolphins in the upcoming issue. Stay tuned!