

ICLEI 2011 Ecomobility

**Hot, Hilly, and Crowded  
Ecomobility in “difficult” cities**

Waltraut Ritter Hong Kong Foresight Centre

# Ecomobility in Hong Kong?

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Hong Kong is a densely populated city with an efficient public transport system:

Public transportation share 89 %

...but also a city with severe air pollution



# Hong Kong - a city without bikes?

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There are no policies or measures for bicycling in place

<http://www.thb.gov.hk/eng/psp/pressreleases/transport/land/2010/201011031.pdf>





**Transport Department**

The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

GovHK 香港政府一站通

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- ▶ Only 27 % of Hong Kong is “suitable” for biking.
- ▶ HK Island - too hilly?
- ▶ Too densely populated?
- ▶ Too hot?
- ▶ No bicycle culture?



# No bicycle policy?

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“Cycling is mainly a leisure and recreational activity in Hong Kong”

Eva Cheng, Secretary for Transport and Housing,  
on 3 Nov 2010

<http://www.thb.gov.hk/eng/psp/pressreleases/transport/land/2010/201011031.pdf>



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The government estimates that of the 12.3 million traffic movements each weekday in Hong Kong, 62,000, or 0.5 per cent, are by bicycle.

It says 97 per cent of those take place in the New Territories or outlying islands, while only 3 per cent take place on Hong Kong Island or in urban Kowloon.



SCMP 6/12/2005

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# Traditional modes of ecomobility...

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# Transport policy in Hong Kong

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Latest Policy address (2011-12) does not include the notion of ecomobility or sustainable transport

Focus on:

Developing the Infrastructure of Economic Growth  
(more bridges, more highways, more fast trains)

Promotion of HK as international transport and logistics hub

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# HK Transport Policy

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- ▶ To plan for and implement the construction and improvement of our transport infrastructure, with emphasis on railways;
- ▶ To further promote the usage of public transport services by improving their quality and co-ordination;
- ▶ To effectively manage road use, reduce congestion and promote safety;
- ▶ To continue to support environmental improvement measures in transport-related areas;
- ▶ To enhance and promote Hong Kong as an international and regional transportation and logistics hub;
- ▶ To enhance, in partnership with the Airport Authority, the competitiveness of the Hong Kong International Airport and promote Hong Kong as an international and regional aviation centre; and
- ▶ To enhance the competitiveness of the Hong Kong port and to strengthen Hong Kong's position as an international shipping and maritime centre.

<http://www.thb.gov.hk/eng/policy/transport/policy/objective/index.htm>

Last revision December 2007

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Sustainability issues,  
livable city, mobility are  
not used in the  
discourse in Hong Kong

Still focusing on  
transport, not mobility

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A Transport Department spokesman said:

'Cycling is not really a Transport Department issue.'

SCMP 2005

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How to get Ecomobility  
into the public  
discourse?



# No bikes, but lot of pedestrians...

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Focus on ecomobility  
for pedestrians?

Managing pedestrian  
flows and “congestion”



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## High pedestrian traffic

Tendency to put them  
above the street  
(elevated walkways) or  
underneath the street.



# “Caging” pedestrians

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## Can Ecomobility get attention in Hong Kong?

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Getting all mobility stakeholders involved:

citizens, transport companies, different agencies,  
NGO, urban planners...



# Cleantech Exchange GPRD Project

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Contact:

Waltraut Ritter

Research Director

Hong Kong Foresight Centre

[www.hkforesight.org](http://www.hkforesight.org)

Hong Kong

[ritter@knowledgedialogues.com](mailto:ritter@knowledgedialogues.com)

