Futures and Foresight for Cities: The Case of Hong Kong

Futures Conference Turku 2017

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Hong Kong S.A.R.

Special administrative region S.A.R of China

High degree of autonomy

7.3 million inhabitants
6.544 people/sq. km
Hong Kong S.A.R.

Sino-British agreement (1984)
- with effect from 1 July 1997, and the UK Government declared that it would hand over Hong Kong to the PRC with effect from 1 July 1997
Freedom of expression
Civil rights
Rule of Law
One country, two systems

ONE COUNTRY, TWO SYSTEMS
Hong Kong got special rights when it returned to Chinese rule from Britain in 1997, the reason it’s allowing protests of a kind that would not be seen in mainland China.

1.36 billion
Mainland China’s population

7.2 million
Hong Kong’s population

SOURCE: World Bank
The border marking the two systems
System Integration through Infrastructure
Greater Pearl River Delta Bay Area
Top-down planning from Beijing

The GPRD Bay Area “provides a policy space whereby different policy actors can explore their opportunities for coordinated development with the support and sponsorship of the central authorities”
Hong Kong 2030+: Planning for a sustainable city

...updating the territorial development strategy to guide planning, land and infrastructure development and the shaping of the built environment of Hong Kong beyond 2030.
The large-scale celebrations come despite increased concerns over Beijing meddling in the semi-autonomous city and deep political divisions between Hong Kong’s pro-democracy and pro-China camps.
Exploring futures

“The Basic Law has no sunset clause. It doesn't automatically cease to effect on June 30, 1947.”

“I see no advantage for Hong Kong to be subject to the same system as the mainland as this may well jeopardise its status as a financial centre.”

Andrew Li, SCMP 1June 2017, former chief justice
Exploring futures

The challenge of trust, legitimacy and sustainability of policy plans: engagement, accountability, transparency etc.
Crowdsourcing the future

TELL THE HONG KONG STORY

On 1 July 2017, What will you be doing?
What will you be thinking? What story will you have to share?

With a smartphone and a story about Hong Kong, you can become a part of history

1 July 2017—A Day in Transition is a documentary film project that aims to portray Hong Kong on 1 July 2017—a day born of transition and change. We want your stories and perspectives on this historical occasion: your moments, recollections and musings will be the basis for a crowdsourced production.
Hong Kong S.A.R.

The world most competitive place: without planning for its future?