

~~\$~~135m approved for wind warning system

By LOUIS NG

THE Legislative Council Public Works Sub-Committee yesterday approved a \$135.6 million wind-shear warning system for the Chek Lap Kok airport.

Despite their earlier challenge that the system was only required because of the administration's negligence in choosing Chek Lap Kok, most of the legislators attending the meeting were convinced the sophisticated system was essential in ensuring safety.

The warning system will alert pilots of strong head winds or turbulence which could put aircraft at risk.

The cost of the project includes \$120.8 million for a consultancy study, \$12.3 million for contingencies and \$2.5 million for site investigations and surveys.

United Democrat legislator Albert Chan Wai-yip asked yesterday if the consultancy study for determining safety conditions was necessary as no such study had been required for Kai Tak.

But officials of the Royal Observatory said the study was necessary to form the data base for the sophisticated warning system.

They said Kai Tak did not have such a complex system because the technology had not been available when it was built.

Meanwhile, Legislative Councilors also approved the \$1.3 billion funding proposal to build an extra lane at the four uphill sections of the Tuen Mun Highway.

The project, expected to be completed by 1997, will increase the capacity of the highway's Kowloon-bound traffic by about 15 per cent.