

Sustainability

The concept of corporate “sustainability” continues its evolution, combining risk management with stakeholder engagement. As a company committed to sustainability, MTR continues to learn from both internal and external experience, engage in dialogue with the full range of stakeholders and ensure a robust infrastructure of internal governance and management systems.

Focus on sustainability infrastructure

During the year, particular emphasis was placed on a review of the sustainability infrastructure and subsequent strengthening of systems to ensure that we adopt future best practices and have the ability to meet with challenges posed by the Company’s strategic initiatives.

In the area of reporting, we aimed to ensure the integrity of necessary information and data for decision-making through the adoption of an assurance programme devised by PricewaterhouseCoopers and the development of a new Enterprise-Wide Risk Management System. These systems enable effective monitoring and tracking of best practices across MTR businesses and operations.

We also enhanced our processes to engage with stakeholders, by initiating extensive consultations on the proposed WIL and SIL and establishing a Sustainability Advisory Board in connection with the Tung Chung Cable Car project.

Sustainability overseas

MTR’s overseas businesses, especially those in the Mainland, are bringing new challenges to sustainable practices and we are reviewing the best ways of embedding best practices into overseas projects. During the year, we continued to adapt existing business models, codes of conduct, training and best practices for integration into such projects, as well as developing our own practices as a member of the supply chain.

Achievements in best practice

MTR’s environmental impact remained fully compliant with all of Hong Kong’s pollution ordinances. More broadly, MTR continued to participate in global industry efforts to improve sustainability practice and in benchmarking exercises that provide objective measurements for our progress and practices. We continued our contribution to the UITP Working Group on Sustainable Development and gained international recognition for our efforts in this area. MTR continued to be included in the Dow Jones Sustainability and FSTE4Good indices.

Our Sustainability Report, for the third year adhering to the GRI guidelines, was included in the GRI’s top 100 reports and named Best Sustainability Report by the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants. The complete report is available on our corporate website at www.mtr.com.hk.

The way forward

Looking ahead, we recognise that we must be prepared for challenges that may change the footprint of the organisation as it is today. This will require a systemised yet flexible approach to best practice in the event of a merger and in relation to the further internationalisation of the Company’s businesses, especially in developing countries.

MTR’s Sustainability Report will also have to evolve as both an internal and external guideline and benchmark for formulating best practices to meet these challenges, risks and opportunities.