

Successful conclusion of the 27th Annual Conference of the International Railway Safety Council

The 27th Annual Conference of the International Railway Safety Council (IRSC) jointly organised by the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department and the Mass Transit Railway Corporation Limited (MTRC) successfully concluded today (October 27). The five-day conference, themed "Railway Safety – Innovation and Collaboration", attracted more than 300 attendees from 40 countries/regions who belong to the government sector and the railway industry. They shared their experience in various aspects such as securing railway safety, challenges of railway regulation, development of high speed rail and innovative railway designs

Participants include the Secretary-General of the IRSC, and heads of the National Railway Administration of the People's Republic of China and the China Railway Corporation. The Minister of Transport of Thailand, Mr Arkhom Termppittayapaisith, and the Minister of Public Works and Transport of Laos, Dr Bounchanh Sinthavong, also attended a discussion forum to share the latest developments and challenges of the China-Thailand Railway and the China-Laos Railway.

Apart from taking part in the conference and exchange sessions held in the past four days by railway experts from across the globe, some also visited the Shek Kong Stabling Sidings of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link (XRL), and the High Speed Rail facilities in Guangzhou to gain an in-depth understanding of the development of high speed rail in the Mainland of China.

The IRSC this year achieved a fruitful result and has enhanced the global awareness in railway safety in which it also echoes what the Chief Executive, Mrs Carrie Lam, said at the opening of the IRSC, "The IRSC is a global network, which connects international railway regulators, operators, and experts to exchange experience and lesson learnt for improving railway safety around the world," the Chief Executive, Mrs Carrie Lam, said in her welcome speech. "In Hong Kong, rail has long been a critical – and critically acclaimed – component of our transport mix. For the past eight years in a row, Hong Kong has topped the infrastructure ranking in the World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Report. We are determined to develop, and maintain, an affordable, accessible, efficient and eco-friendly mass transport system. And we have singled out railways as the best way to realise that community-wide goal."

The Chairman of the MTRC, Professor Frederick Ma, also remarked that the long-term collaboration between railway operators and regulators will help maintain a safe and efficient railway operation as well as promoting sustainable urban development.

About International Railway Safety Council

IRSC, originated in 1990, now comprises 28 core members from 16 countries and regions worldwide. The Council has promoted railway safety and facilitated information exchange between members through annual conferences held in different parts of the world. For more details about the annual conference this year, please visit IRSC's website: <https://irsc2017.org/>

** This is a joint press release of the HKSAR Government and the MTR Corporation.*

-End-

Photo captions:

1. The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department and the Mass Transit Railway Corporation Limited (MTRC) jointly organised the 27th Annual Conference of the International Railway Safety Council from October 23 to 27. Photo shows the Chief Executive, Mrs Carrie Lam (centre); the Secretary for Transport and Housing, Mr Frank Chan (fourth left); the Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services, Mr Alfred Sit (third left); and the Chairman of the MTR Corporation, Professor Frederick Ma (fourth right) with other guests at the conference on October 23.



2. The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department and the Mass Transit Railway Corporation Limited (MTRC) jointly organised the 27th Annual Conference of the International Railway Safety Council from October 23 to 27. Photo shows the Chief Executive, Mrs Carrie Lam, delivering a welcome address at the conference on October 23.



- The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department and the Mass Transit Railway Corporation Limited (MTRC) jointly organised the 27th Annual Conference of the International Railway Safety Council from October 23 to 27. Photo shows the Chairman of the MTRC, Professor Frederick Ma, delivering a welcome address at the conference on October 23.



- The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department and the Mass Transit Railway Corporation Limited (MTRC) jointly organised the 27th Annual Conference of the International Railway Safety Council (IRSC) from October 23 to 27. Photo shows the Chief Executive, Mrs Carrie Lam (front row centre); the Secretary for Transport and Housing, Mr Frank Chan (front row fifth right); the Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services, Mr Alfred Sit (front row fifth right); and the Chairman of the MTR Corporation, Professor Frederick Ma (front row eighth left) with 22 IRSC Core Group members from 13 countries/regions at the conference on October 23.



5. The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department and the Mass Transit Railway Corporation Limited jointly organised the 27th Annual Conference of the International Railway Safety Council from October 23 to 27. Photo shows the Minister of Transport of Thailand, Mr Arkhom Termpittayapaisith (left); the Minister of Public Works and Transport of Laos, Dr Bounchanh Sinthavong (centre); and the President of MTR Academy, Mr Morris Cheung (right) at the “Belt and Road Forum” on October 23.



6. The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department and the Mass Transit Railway Corporation Limited jointly organised the 27th Annual Conference of the International Railway Safety Council from October 23 to 27. Photo shows conference participants paying a site visit to High Speed Rail facilities in Guangzhou on October 26.



7. The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department and the Mass Transit Railway Corporation Limited jointly organised the 27th Annual Conference of the International Railway Safety Council from October 23 to 27. Photo shows conference participants paying a site visit to Shek Kong Stabling Sidings of the Express Rail Link on October 26.

