

PR020/18
23 March 2018**Completion of Main Works of Express Rail Link Project
and Announcement of High Speed Rail Train name**

A key milestone for the Hong Kong Section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link ("Express Rail Link") has been achieved with the main works of the Project substantially completed in the first quarter of 2018.

The Main Works Completion Ceremony of the Express Rail Link Project was held at the Hong Kong West Kowloon Station today (23 March 2018). Officiating guests including Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Mrs Carrie Lam, Secretary for Transport and Housing Mr Frank Chan, Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing (Transport) Mr Joseph Lai and Principal Government Engineer of the Railway Development Office of the Highways Department Mr Jimmy Chan, were received by Chairman of the MTR Corporation Professor Frederick Ma, Chief Executive Officer of the MTR Corporation Mr Lincoln Leong and Projects Director of the MTR Corporation Dr Philco Wong. They were joined by representatives of the local community from various districts and relevant Government departments to celebrate the key milestone.

Speaking at today's ceremony, Mrs Carrie Lam said, "We look forward to the completion of the Express Rail Link, a major project which will bring Hong Kong a better future. The project has gone through years of planning and various challenges during its construction. While the completion of the Project is approaching, it is important to remember that it has been a joint effort, with great professionalism and a spirit of striving for excellence being shown by the engineering teams and regulating departments involved, which together have overcome the challenges they faced. With the considerable time and effort invested, we are now in a position to witness their achievements today, and I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to the colleagues of various government departments and the MTR team for their endeavours."

"We are thrilled to see this project coming to fruition. The construction of this cross-boundary railway connection has never been an easy feat. We have overcome various challenges during the past few years and it is exciting to see that the railway is ready to proceed to its trial operations. In the coming months, we will continue to make our best endeavours to get ready for commissioning the rail service this September," said Professor Frederick Ma.

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During today's ceremony, Mrs Carrie Lam also unveiled the winning entry for the High Speed Rail Train Naming Competition - "動感號" (translated as 'Vibrant Express'). In January this year, the Corporation launched the competition to invite members of the public to propose a name for the nine new high-speed trains, which will operate between Hong Kong and Guangzhou South upon the opening of the new high-speed railway. Over 16,000 entries were received and a judging panel was formed to select the winning name which best reflects the unique characteristics of Hong Kong. "Vibrant Express' was selected as it can best demonstrate the Hong Kong's characteristics - a vibrant city bursting with energy," said Professor Frederick Ma.

Before the Ceremony, Mrs Carrie Lam, Mr Frank Chan and the officiating party took a train ride from the Shek Kong Stabling Sidings to Hong Kong West Kowloon Station to have a first-hand experience of the Express Rail journey. "The High Speed Train compartments are very quiet and spacious, and the train ran very smoothly during our ride. The greatest benefit of the Express Rail Link to Hong Kong residents will be their convenient and comfortable access to the Mainland as well as cross-boundary services, and trips to Shenzhen, Guangzhou and other major Mainland cities will be a breeze!" said Mrs Carrie Lam.

The Express Rail Link will connect Hong Kong with the National High-speed Rail Network of over 25,000 km to bring a convenient and comfortable new travelling experience to passengers. With the main works substantially completed, overall the project was 99.2% complete by the end of February 2018.

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About MTR Corporation

MTR Corporation is regarded as one of the world's leading railway operators for safety, reliability, customer service and cost efficiency. In its home base of Hong Kong, the Corporation operates ten commuter railway lines, a Light Rail network and a high-speed Airport Express link on which about 5.8 million passenger trips are made on a normal week day. Another 6.5 million passenger trips are made on the rail services it operates outside Hong Kong in the Mainland of China, the United Kingdom, Sweden and Australia. In addition, the Corporation is involved in a range of railway construction projects as well as railway consultancy and contracting services around the world. Leveraging on its railway expertise, the Corporation is involved in the development of transit-related residential and commercial property projects, property management, shopping malls leasing and management, advertising media and telecommunication services.

For more information about MTR Corporation, please visit www.mtr.com.hk.

Photo Captions:

1. Mrs Carrie Lam, Chief Executive of the HKSAR(4th left), Professor Frederick Ma, Chairman of the MTR Corporation(3rd right), Mr Frank Chan, Secretary for Transport and Housing(3rd left), Mr Joseph Lai, Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing (Transport)(2nd left), Mr Jimmy Chan, Principal Government Engineer of the Railway Development Office of the Highways Department(1st left), Mr Lincoln Leong, Chief Executive Officer of the MTR Corporation(2nd right) and Dr Philco Wong, Projects Director of the MTR Corporation (1st right) officiated at the Main Works Completion Ceremony of the Express Rail Link project at the Hong Kong West Kowloon Station.



2. Accompanied by Professor Frederick Ma, Chairman of the MTR Corporation, Mrs Carrie Lam, Chief Executive of the HKSAR unveiled the winning entry for the High Speed Rail Train Naming Competition.



- Mrs Carrie Lam, Chief Executive of the HKSAR (front row, 2nd left) accompanied by Professor Frederick Ma, Chairman of the MTR Corporation (front row, 2nd right) and other guests experienced the train ride from Shek Kong Stabling Sidings to Hong Kong West Kowloon Station, and they were briefed by Mr Adi Lau, Operations Director of the MTR Corporation.



- The full fleet of the Hong Kong-owned High Speed Trains on the Express Rail Link is named as “動感號” (translated as ‘Vibrant Express’), which can best demonstrate the Hong Kong’s characteristics.



5. The Hong Kong West Kowloon Station is an iconic and modernist structure made of undulating glass panels, exposed concrete and steel columns, which will become a focal point in the West Kowloon area.

