

Hong Kong West Kowloon Station of High Speed Rail as New Gateway to Mainland China

A focal point of the Kowloon skyline, the Hong Kong West Kowloon Station will soon become a new gateway to Mainland China upon the commencement of Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong High Speed Rail (Hong Kong Section) service in September 2018. Trial operations are now in full swing which include a number of exercises simulating various operating scenarios together with major emergency drills encompassing relevant Government parties.

“Since 1 April 2018, our staff have been conducting tests on various station facilities to identify any teething issues and to make improvements. For example, over 50,000 cycles of testing were carried out at the 75 entry/exit gates in the Hong Kong West Kowloon Station. In July, trial operations entered the extensive testing stage which covers all station facilities and train services to ensure that we are truly prepared to provide quality services to our customers under this brand new High Speed Rail,” said Mr Adi Lau, Operations Director of MTR Corporation.

As at the end of June 2018, the project was 99.9% complete. Major road works and pedestrian links surrounding the Station have been substantially completed to provide safe and convenient passage for passengers and pedestrians travelling between the Hong Kong West Kowloon Station and areas in the vicinity.

Seven footbridges and two pedestrian subways have been built to connect the Station with the local transport network and nearby developments. The Hong Kong West Kowloon Station is just a few minutes’ walk from the MTR Tung Chung Line, Airport Express and West Rail Line. Commuters from different areas in Hong Kong can access the Station through a wide range of transport options together with the comprehensive pedestrian network connecting to the Station.

“With the nearby railway network, the travelling time from Hong Kong West Kowloon Station to the major business areas in the city, like Central, will take less than 15 minutes,” said Mr Francis Li, Chief of Operating - High Speed Rail of MTR Corporation. “Commuters can also use other public transport modes such as franchised buses and minibuses, as well as coaches with pick-up and drop-offs either at the ground level of the Station or at the newly built West Kowloon Station Bus Terminus north of the Station,” added Mr Li.

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Other than the footbridges and pedestrian subways, a new road system has been built to separate vehicles heading to the Station from traffic by-passing the West Kowloon area through three levels of underground carriageways. This frees up the ground level to form a large barrier-free pedestrian area allowing easy access between the Hong Kong West Kowloon Station, the West Kowloon Cultural District and nearby developments. With the plant-covered station roof and pedestrian corridors, a pedestrian-friendly urban oasis surrounding the Station has been created for the convenience and enjoyment of passengers and the general public.

The Corporation will continue to press on with the trial operations with the objective of commissioning the High Speed Rail in September this year. Connecting with the 25,000km National High-speed Rail Network, the High Speed Rail (Hong Kong Section) will provide a brand new travelling experience for cross-boundary passengers.

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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.

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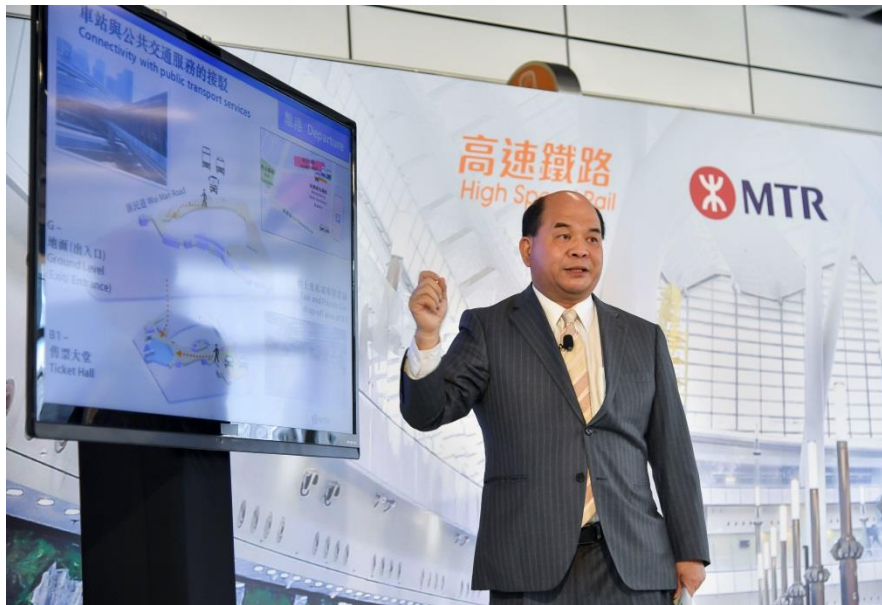
1. (From left) Ms Linda So, Corporate Affairs Director, Mr Adi Lau, Operations Director, and Mr Francis Li, Chief of Operating - High Speed Rail of MTR Corporation introduce the comprehensive pedestrian network connecting to Hong Kong West Kowloon Station.



2. Mr Adi Lau, Operations Director states that the trial operations of High Speed Rail (Hong Kong Section) are generally proceeding smoothly.



- Mr Francis Li, Chief of Operating - High Speed Rail states that seven footbridges and two subways have been built to provide a seamless pedestrian network connecting the Hong Kong West Kowloon Station.



4. Footbridges are built with shelters and decorated with plants to create a pleasant and comfortable environment for pedestrians walking to and from the Station.



5. A pedestrian subway connects Hong Kong West Kowloon Station with Austin Station, which is just a walk of about 4 minutes away.

