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International High Speed Rail Experience Shared at the High Speed Rail Symposium

High speed rail experts from Europe and the Mainland of China shared the latest developments around the world at a symposium organized by the MTR Corporation today (9 October). More than 200 participants, including senior officials of the HKSAR Government, legislators, university professors, engineers and representatives from the business sector joined the forum.

"The increased mobility provided by high speed railways brings numerous benefits economically, socially and environmentally to the city. How can we capture the opportunities offered by the emergence of the 16,000 km high speed national railway network and the potential for connections to and from Hong Kong? I hope this symposium will help us to answer some of these questions," said Mr CK Chow, CEO of the MTR Corporation, in his welcome remarks.

The event was also graced by the presence of Ms Eva Cheng, Secretary for Transport and Housing of the HKSAR Government, who gave a keynote speech at the luncheon.

"Hong Kong is often held up as an example of what can be achieved by efficient railways. Today, our rail network is the beating heart of the city's public and cross-boundary transport systems. But we also stand the risk being left behind if we fail to continue moving with the times. The strategic value of our proposed high speed railway project, the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link, cannot be understated," said Ms Eva Cheng, Secretary for Transport and Housing.

Recalling Hong Kong's successful experience of the building the mass transit railway systems and the new airport at Chek Lap Kok, the Secretary concluded that "planning major infrastructure well ahead into sufficient future has been part of Hong Kong's own success stories for decades."

Speaking at the symposium were Mr Terry Hill, Chairman - Global Transport Market of Arup Group Ltd., who had participated in the Channel Tunnel Link project in the UK, Mr Jacques Rabouël, Expert Consultant Director of SYSTRA, who had served in French Railways (SNCF) for many years, Mr Qi Zhenming, Deputy General Manager of Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Dedicated Passenger Line Co. Ltd., and Mr Wang Haichao, Vice Chief Engineer of China Railway SIYUAN Survey and Design Group Co., Ltd.

Mr Terry Hill, Chairman - Global Transport Market of Arup Group Ltd., took the audience through high speed rail development in the UK and Europe, in the United States and in the Mainland of China, and the benefits brought about by high speed rail and community integration.

Mr Jacques Rabouël, Expert Consultant Director of SYSTRA, exchanged with the audience the history and growth of high speed rail, as well as the social and economic impacts generated by high speed rail in France, Korea and other different parts of the world.

Mr Qi Zhenming, Deputy General Manager of Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Dedicated Passenger Line Co. Ltd., provided an update on the planning and design of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Dedicated Passenger Line and its connectivity with the national high speed rail network.

An overview of the National High Speed Rail development was presented by Mr Wang Haichao, Vice Chief Engineer of China Railway SIYUAN Survey and Design Group Co., Ltd.

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