Major Emergency Drill Tests Operational Readiness of MTR Kwun Tong Line Extension

As part of the pre-opening preparations for the MTR Kwun Tong Line Extension, a joint exercise involving MTR, Fire Services Department and Hong Kong Police was held in the small hours of this morning (27 August 2016) to test emergency responses and evacuation procedures.

Under the observation by Transport Department, Electrical and Mechanical Services Department and Buildings Department representatives, the drill simulated a scenario in which a fault in the air conditioning system caused dense smoke to spread through a train when it was running from Yau Ma Tei to Ho Man Tin stations. At the same time, the train lost power and stopped in the tunnel.

With around 130 people taking part in the joint exercise to act as passengers on board, they had to evacuate from the train via the driving cab’s detrainment ramp and walk along the tunnel to Ho Man Tin Station as fire engines and police arrived. Fire Services personnel rescued three “injured” passengers and one passenger in wheelchair.

Mr Alan Cheng, Head of Operating- South Region of the MTR Corporation, said, “Railway safety is of paramount importance to the Corporation. The joint exercise demonstrates the full cooperation between MTR and emergency service agencies and the good preparedness of the team, especially as it was held in a new environment.”

The joint exercise, which aimed at enhancing coordination and communication among emergency services personnel and MTR operations staff under contingency scenarios, is one of several emergency drills being undertaken in preparation for the opening of the Kwun Tong Line Extension to ensure safety, reliability and security of the new railway extension. Over 60 exercises simulating various scenarios of different scales will have been carried out before service commencement.

Passenger service of the Kwun Tong Line Extension is expected to start in October this year, extending MTR’s convenient, reliable and efficient railway service to serve commuters living in and travelling to the Ho Man Tin and Whampoa areas. With two new stations, the extension is expected to serve about 146,000 people living in and working in the areas. Ho Man Tin Station will also serve as the largest interchange station in the MTR network between the Kwun Tong Line and the future Shatin to Central Link. As at end of July 2016, the Kwun Tong Line Extension project was over 99% complete.

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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 nine commuter railway lines, a Light Rail network and a high-speed Airport Express link on which more than 5.5 million passenger trips are made on a normal week day. Another 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.
1 Emergency service personnel rescued “injured passengers” to safe locations in Ho Man Tin Station.
During the joint emergency exercise, “passengers” were required to detrain onto the track via the driving cab’s detrainment ramp and walk to MTR Ho Man Tin Station.

Mr Alan Cheng, Head of Operating- South Region of the MTR Corporation said the exercise provided a very good opportunity for emergency services personnel and MTR operations staff to enhance coordination and communication.