200 MTR Staff and Youth Take Part in Emergency Drill at Hong Kong Station

A Tung Chung Line train was en route from Kowloon Station to Hong Kong Station when an air-conditioning fault caused “dense smoke” to be emitted from the sixth car of the train and spread to other carriages. The train lost power and stopped in the tunnel.

This scenario was created in an exercise in the small hours of this morning (24 September 2016) to test MTR Corporation’s evacuation procedures for handling an emergency situation in the railway system with the Fire Services Department and Hong Kong Police.

As part of the drill, around 200 “passengers” on board had to evacuate from the train via the driving cab’s detrainment ramp and walk along the tunnel to Hong Kong Station. Fire Services personnel subsequently rescued three “injured” passengers from the train.

The joint exercise took place at 2:00 am with the participation of about 160 MTR staff and over 30 volunteers from the Youth Forum*, JA Asia Pacific and Customer Service Ambassador Alumni together with emergency services personnel.

“Railway safety and service reliability are MTR’s top priorities. We carry over 5.5 million passengers in our network every weekday and ensuring their safety is our foremost responsibility. We have established comprehensive procedures and contingency plans for handling crowd management and evacuations under various emergency scenarios,” said Mr Adi Lau, Operations Director of MTR Corporation.

“Thanks to the involvement of young people in today’s exercise, we received helpful feedback on further enhancing our contingency plans from a youth perspective. It has also been a very good opportunity for them to gain a better understanding on how to react during an emergency situation in the MTR. We sincerely hope that they can share their experience with their friends and relatives to help raise public awareness,” added Mr Lau.

The Corporation conducts major emergency drills with the emergency services at least 12 times a year to validate emergency procedures and to ensure the proper functioning of equipment and systems. The exercises also help in enhancing the preparedness of MTR staff and emergency services personnel to respond quickly and effectively in handling emergency situations in a coordinated manner in the event of a real emergency.

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* Launched in July 2015, the Youth Forum is a platform for the Corporation to exchange views with young people and gain their perspective on initiatives and ideas. Youth Forum members contribute to the way the Corporation works with the wider community and gain professional training opportunities and unique exposure to MTR in the process.

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.
Photo Caption:

1. “Passengers” evacuate safely from the train and walk to an emergency access point at Hong Kong Station.
2. The MTR, Fire Services Department and Hong Kong Police join hands to test emergency response and evacuation procedures in the railway system.
3. Emergency services personnel rescues “injured” passengers.