

**South Island Line Extends the Convenience of MTR Service to Southern District
from 28 December 2016**

Commuters travelling to and from the Southern District on Hong Kong Island will be able to enjoy the comfort and convenience of MTR railway service from Wednesday, 28 December 2016.

With green lights received from relevant authorities that all of the required statutory inspections and tests having been successfully completed, the MTR Corporation today (5 December 2016) announced that the Fully Automatic Operation train service of the MTR South Island Line (SIL) will begin on 28 December 2016. Meanwhile, extensive pre-operation trials are being conducted in advance of the opening.

“With the opening of the South Island Line, MTR’s railway service will reach all 18 districts of Hong Kong. Passengers can then enjoy more seamless and convenient journeys as they travel to different corners of the city. We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all relevant parties, including our project team, operations team, contractors and Government departments in overcoming the challenges we have faced along the way. I also take pride in being able to witness the transformation of Admiralty Station into a strategic railway interchange station for four MTR lines, namely the existing Island Line and Tsuen Wan Line as well as the new South Island Line and the future Shatin to Central Link,” said Mr Lincoln Leong, Chief Executive Officer of MTR Corporation.

To make it easier and more convenient for passengers to find their way to the SIL platforms at Admiralty Station, giant eye-catching directional signs with a light green colour will be displayed in prominent positions from concourse to platform levels, including on the floor, columns and escalator portals. Additional directional signs indicating the Tsuen Wan Line in red and the Island Line in blue will also be installed at the interchange platforms to provide information for passengers to connect to these existing lines.

To allow passengers to seamlessly interchange with SIL and other MTR lines, 17 additional escalators and five new lifts will be provided in the station with clear directional signage. Passengers can go to other platforms quickly and conveniently with the additional escalators. Customers are encouraged to give priority to passengers with special needs when using the lifts. The Corporation will also deploy more staff at the station to provide assistance to passengers to ensure smooth passenger flow between the platforms.

With four new stations, Ocean Park, Wong Chuk Hang, Lei Tung and South Horizons connecting to the existing Admiralty Station, the 7-kilometre SIL will extend MTR’s convenient service to 350,000 people living and working in the Southern District.

“We are very excited that the local community of Southern District will soon be able to enjoy MTR’s safe, reliable and efficient railway service. We want to thank the community for their immense support and patience throughout the planning and construction of the project,” said Dr Philco Wong, Projects Director of MTR Corporation.

-more-

The frequency of train service during peak periods¹ for SIL will be approximately 3 minutes. Due to the expansion of the railway network with the opening of SIL and the Kwun Tong Line Extension, the train service during non-peak hours for the existing Kwun Tong Line and Island Line will be further enhanced starting from 11 and 12 December respectively (Please refer to Annex I).

The South Island Line is a new railway line with Fully Automatic Operation, which is different from the existing railway lines in various aspects including the train design, signalling system as well as the operations mode.

“There would be a transitional period for MTR staff and passengers to adapt to and familiarise themselves with the new mode of operation. The Corporation will deploy experienced staff to the SIL, closely monitor the performance of the train service and station facilities, and make every effort to minimise any inconvenience that may arise during early stages of the operations,” said Mr Adi Lau, Operations Director of MTR Corporation. “We ask for the public’s understanding for teething problems that may occur.”

Prior to the commencement of the new railway service, an Open Day will be held on Saturday, 24 December at Admiralty Station and the four new SIL stations at Ocean Park, Wong Chuk Hang, Lei Tung and South Horizons. Local residents and members of the public are welcomed to visit and familiarise themselves with the new station facilities, and to share the excitement in the run up to the opening of the new railway line on 28 December.

To celebrate and share the happiness of the successful opening of the SIL, a special “South Island Line” Souvenir Ticket Set will be launched after the opening of the new service. Details of the ticket set will be announced closer to the opening date.

-End-

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 Peak hours on weekdays (7:00am to 9:30 am and 4:30pm to 7:00pm), 7:15am to 8:00pm on Saturdays, 8:40am to 8:00pm on Sundays and public holidays.

Photo Caption:

1. (From left) Mr Adi Lau, Operations Director, Mr Lincoln Leong, Chief Executive Officer and Dr Philco Wong, Projects Director of MTR Corporation announce that the MTR South Island Line service will commence on 28 December.



2. (From left) Mr Francis Li, Chief of Operating, Mr Adi Lau, Operations Director, Mr Lincoln Leong, Chief Executive Officer, Dr Philco Wong, Projects Director, Mr Ken Wong, General Manager – SIL and Ms Linda So, Corporate Affairs Director of MTR Corporation welcome passengers to take the South Island Line train upon opening.



3. Mr Adi Lau, Operations Director of MTR Corporation shows members of the media the giant eye-catching directional signs in Admiralty Station, which will help passengers easily find their way around.



4. Five new lifts are installed in Admiralty Station to allow passengers to seamlessly interchange with SIL and other MTR lines. One of them is a new external lift at Entrance E, built as part of the SCL project, that will be opened upon SIL service commencement to facilitate people in need to access the concourse and platforms from outside the station.



5. A special series of "South Island Line" Souvenir Ticket Sets, with four different designs, will be launched after the opening of the new service.



Train Service on Kwun Tong Line and Island Line will be enhanced starting from 11 & 12 December 2016 respectively with details as follows:

Effective Date	Line	Day	Period	New Frequency (Existing Frequency) (min & sec)	Additional Train Trips (Weekly)
11 December 2016	Kwun Tong Line	Sunday	8:45am – 12:00nn	2 min 45sec (3 min 5 sec)	26
			8:30pm – 11:00pm	4 min 10 sec (5 min)	
12 December 2016	Island Line	Monday to Thursday	12:00nn – 4:00pm	3 min 33 sec (4 min 5 sec)	72