

## 新聞稿

## Press Release

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### **Light Rail Marks 20 years of Service With Vehicle Modernisation Programme**

In September this year, Light Rail will celebrate 20 years of serving residents of the Northwest New Territories. Today, the Light Rail system is not only a convenient means of transport within the district, but is also an important connection to the West Rail Line. Some 380,000 passengers on an average weekday ride on the Light Rail, one-third of them use the service to connect with the West Rail Line for journeys into the urban areas.

As part of the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary activities, the MTR Corporation has planned a HK\$90 million modernisation programme for 69 first-generation Light Rail vehicles. Works will begin later this year and will be completed in 2011.

A fresher and more vibrant colour scheme will be used to reflect the youth and energy of the new towns. Nature will be prominently featured through the green colour widely used in the vehicles' interior, underlying the environmental friendliness of the electrified Light Rail system.

"The interior of the modernised Light Rail vehicles will have a lighter and more relaxed feel with the use of softer lines. The Light Rail route map was the inspiration behind the more dynamic colour scheme as it reflects the transport convenience to the residents," explained Mr Wilfred Yeung, Chief Architect of MTR Corporation.

"In our aim to create a more comfortable travelling environment for passengers, the seating will be rearranged so that they all face forward. In addition, the position of grab poles and handles will be moved to create more room and improve the flow of passengers boarding and alighting vehicles."

The Corporation will also take advantage of the modernisation project to provide better facilities for the disabled: provision of dedicated wheelchair parking area; brightly coloured stickers applied to grab poles and outer edges of vehicle doors, and light-coloured floor patterns at doorways to make it easier for the visually impaired.

At the same time, new static inverters will be installed to power on-board equipments. The new static inverters will bring even quieter Light Rail operations and greater reliability at higher energy efficiency.

In addition to the modernisation of the 69 first-generation Light Rail vehicles, the Corporation is also buying 22 new vehicles. They will come into service next year to meet the anticipated increase in passengers when the Kowloon Southern Link opens. The new vehicles will adopt the same interior design of the modernised vehicles.

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Photo Caption:

1. Mr Wilfred Yeung, Chief Architect of MTR Corporation unveils the new design of a modernization programme for the 69 first-generation Light Rail vehicles to be carried out later this year.



2. Photomontage of the interior of the modernised Light Rail vehicle.

