

For Information

Legislative Council Panel on Transport Subcommittee on Matters Relating to the Implementation of Railway Development Projects

Purpose

At the meeting of the Subcommittee on 8 March 2001, Members were briefed on the progress of the Tseung Kwan O Extension project. Members asked the MTR Corporation Limited ("the Corporation") to provide information on :-

- (a) safety performance during the implementation of the Tseung Kwan O Project;
 - (b) art initiatives of the Corporation; and
 - (c) the possibility of providing radio reception on board MTR trains.
2. This paper provides the information set out in (a) to (c) above.

Safety Performance during the Implementation of the Tseung Kwan O Project

3. The Corporation has adopted a proactive safety management system in managing the Tseung Kwan O Extension project. Safety performance on MTR construction sites has been maintained at a high standard. Our safety performance has been maintained on par with the standard of the public works projects and is better than the local construction industry as a whole. Please see **Annex I** for a comparison of accident rates between Tseung Kwan O Extension Project and the Hong Kong industry average.

Art Initiatives

4. A summary of the Corporation's art initiatives at MTR stations is enclosed at **Annex II** for members' reference.

Radio Reception on Board MTR Trains

5. Over the years, customer surveys have been conducted. List of added value services that most of the customers would like the Corporation to provide have been identified. Radio reception may have been mentioned occasionally but it has never been on the priority list. Nevertheless, to enable FM transmission on board MTR trains inside tunnels, the Corporation had carried out a number of technical feasibility studies starting a few years ago.

6. As technology develops, we are exploring a more cost effective alternative to modify one of our existing communication channels with a view to providing some spare capacity for FM radio reception. The initial capital cost of the modification works has yet to be worked out.

7. We must consider the possible safety implications this service may cause to passengers boarding MTR trains and in MTR stations. Passengers wearing their ear-phones and concentrating on radio programme may risk missing station or public address messages which include important safety messages. Other possible hazard such as mis-stepping at platforms or on escalators, etc will also be evaluated.

8. In evaluating the priority of the radio reception project, the Corporation will take all the above factors into consideration before a way forward is developed.

MTR Corporation Limited

April 2001

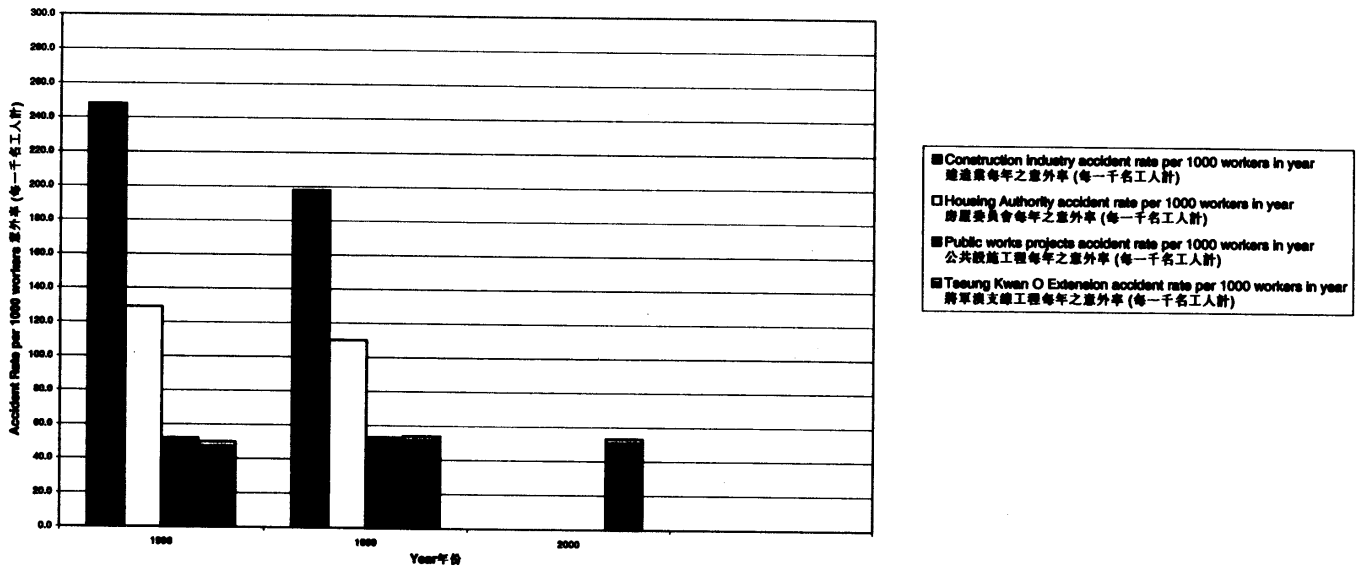
Annex I

Comparison of accident rate between TKE Extension Project and Hong Kong Industry
 地鐵將軍澳支線工程及香港建造業工業意外率之比較

Source : Construction Industry Review Committee Report January 2001
 Construction work of Tsung Kwan O Extension Project commenced in Jan 98
 資料來源: 建造業檢討委員會報告書(2001年1月)
 將軍澳支線建造工程於九八年一月展開



Accident Rate per 1000 workers 意外率(每一千名工人計)



Annex II

MTR Corporation - Art in Stations Initiative

Introduction

1. Art has had a constant presence in the MTR system since 1998 under an Art in Stations Initiative which demonstrates the MTR Corporation's commitment to not only providing fast and reliable train service but also an enjoyable travelling environment for its passengers.
2. The Initiative began with the creation of original artwork for Airport Express stations opened to the public in 1998 which sets a distinct identity for the premier new Airport Express service and reflects the dynamic qualities of Hong Kong.
3. In 1999, the Art in Stations Initiative began to take hold at stations on the Kwun Tong, Tsuen Wan and Island Lines. A number of different elements under the Initiative have been introduced over the years. They include live performances, temporary exhibitions, permanent displays and the innovative use of audio systems to create art by sound.
4. The Corporation's Art in Stations Initiative serves to promote art in Hong Kong by bringing art to passengers who may otherwise not have time to search it out. At the same time, the Corporation is providing a stage for professional and amateur Hong Kong artists to showcase their talents.

Airport Express Artwork Programme

5. The Airport Express Artwork Programme was unveiled in conjunction with the opening of the Airport Express in 1998. Three giant pieces of original artwork by renowned Hong Kong and international artists were commissioned for the modern and spacious Hong Kong Station, the Central Subway and Tsing Yi Station. The Programme, sponsored by a number of major companies, was the first of its kind in Hong Kong.
6. "Flight of Fancy" by Larry Kirkland of the USA comprises two sculptures of painted aluminum rods suspended over the In-town Check-in Hall of Hong Kong Station, bringing colour and drama to the station.

7. "Swift and Safe" by Gaylord Chan of Hong Kong is a colourful wall mounted motif which provides commuters with a light-hearted and joyful encounter when they pass through the Central Subway.
8. "Birds of a Feather" by Neil Dawson of New Zealand is a 35-metre long aluminum and stainless steel sculpture in the shape of a feather suspended from the ceiling of the Departure Hall of Tsing Yi Station. A computer controlled lighting system integrated with the sculpture provides an ever-changing combination of colours.

Living Art in Stations

9. Live musical and theatrical performances are featured in the Living Art in Stations Programme. The live performances are held approximately once every two months, each time at a different MTR station. For three to five days of a selected week, passengers can enjoy performances by professional and student groups during the morning and evening peak travel periods. The Programme is aimed at brightening up journeys for MTR passengers while allowing students and professional artists to perform within their own communities.
10. The Living Art in Stations Programme was launched in December 1999 and has since been featured at the Central Subway, Lam Tin, Wan Chai, Central, Tsuen Wan and Kwun Tong Stations. Performances from local students have been particularly popular.

Roving Art

11. The Roving Art Series of Exhibitions features temporary art exhibitions in MTR stations. Organisations in proximity to MTR stations are invited to exhibit their works. The aim of the Series is to promote community art by providing an avenue for local artists to showcase their work.
12. The inaugural Roving Art in July 2000 featured a variety of works by disabled artists lined up by Arts with the Disabled Association Hong Kong. The Series has since showcased popular local ink-wash painter *Ah Chung* as well as the lesser-known Chun Hau-ching.
13. In November 2000, the Corporation teamed up with the Berlin in Hong Kong Art Festival to hold an element of the Art Festival at Admiralty Station entitled "Test Tube Bears".
14. Roving Art exhibitions are held approximately once every two months at different MTR stations.

MTR Open Gallery

15. Unveiled in August 2000, the Island Line MTR Open Gallery features 14 giant reproductions of paintings by renowned Hong Kong artists in 13 stations, each presenting a different aspect of local life and culture. Through the vivid colours and powerful brushstrokes of the works, the heart and soul of the artists are brought alive, adding a spark to passengers' journeys.
16. A year earlier, the Corporation had opened a window on nature for passengers passing the newly refurbished Kwun Tong Station by putting up three giant photographs of Hong Kong's natural habitat captured on film by landscape photographer Edward Stokes.

Community Art Gallery

17. Two footbridges adjoining MTR Lam Tin Station have been converted into a Community Art Gallery. Young artists attending school in the Lam Tin area are invited to show off their "masterpieces". At the first showing in February 2000, more than 100 paintings and drawings were submitted for display.
18. Working with the Leisure and Cultural Services Department, the Corporation successfully combined the Community Art Gallery and the Roving Art Series in December 2000 to facilitate the exhibition more than 100 visions of the Year 2000 as seen through the eyes of Hong Kong children. The images, on display for the first time ever, were among the finest submitted for the "Happy Birthday 2000" Mural Painting Competition organised by the Hong Kong Heritage Museum.
19. As an extension of the Community Art Gallery, lifts at 15 MTR stations have been fitted with exhibition panels, providing yet another channel for young artists to have their works displayed.

Conclusion

20. Since its beginnings in 1998, the MTR Corporation's Art in Stations Initiative has developed and evolved to become a part of the stations' fabric.
21. In the second half of 2001, an "Artists in Neighbourhood" Roving Art Series will be held in collaboration with the Leisure and Cultural Services Department.

22. The second half of 2001 will also see the introduction of yet another new element, Art in Architecture, where art will be incorporated into the walls and fixtures of new and newly refurbished stations.

23. The MTR Corporation is committed to pushing forward with the Initiative for the benefit and enjoyment of both passengers and the art community. It will continue to work with the Government, artists, art groups and associations as well as schools to bring art to the people.

MTR Corporation Limited
April 2001