

28th October 2006**Press Release****Re: The promise of protecting the front line staff from being layoff in the rails' merger**

Since the pass of the draft of the merger of the two rails by LEGCO this year, the five unions met with the rails' administration three times. For the same matter, our association met with the administration of KCRC numerous times with neither concrete results nor serious discussions. Agenda were given to the representative of our association one day before or on the day of the meeting. Minutes were not guaranteed we received them. All our inquiries were never directly responded, such as, (1) How does the consulting company evaluate the staff levels and salaries? (2) When will the consulting company finish the report? And (3) when will the administration announce the staff levels and salaries? We were only told that the consulting company has conducted the number of staff interviews. We want informative discussion and not informative meeting.

MCOM(Management Committee) has issued a restriction on usage of email for the ordinary staff which has direct impact on our communication. We urge this restriction to be lifted immediately.

Job position is the guideline for drawing the line for the frontline staff. And yet the administration does not want to identify the frontline staff. This conduct is a behaviour of segregation, false promise, deception and cover-up the unrest of the employees. In the cases of the Link REIT and the Dragon Air, a major layoff occurred as a result of the merger. In order to preserve a reasonable benefit, we urge to government to issue a letter of commitment no layoffs after the merger to every individual employee. 'Push and Pop' fashion should be exercised for position rearrangement, redundancy, and eliminations. All staffs of both rails should be treated equally without discretion.

Our association plea that you from the view point of the employees will take action to protect the mid-level staff and to eliminate the power struggle and worries among the staff of both rails in the merger.



Rainbow

Chairman of Kowloon-Canton Railway Operating Staff Association