

City Talk



The MTRC oversees, clockwise from above left, the Elizabeth line in London, Stockholm Metro, Macau Light Rail and the Sydney Metro.

RUNNING IMPRESSIVELY ON LINES AROUND THE WORLD

The 25th anniversary celebrations of Hong Kong's reunification with the motherland saw us welcome President Xi Jinping.



Nuts and bolts

Edmund Leung

That he chose to arrive in a special train at the West Kowloon terminal of the high-speed rail line instead of the usual aircraft shows the effectiveness and high security inherently available in our railway facilities.

No doubt this is due to the planning of the security forces, but the proven expertise of the team at the MTR Corp was also a key element to this success.

The MTRC is renowned for its efficient and reliable railway operations, but the people of Hong Kong may not notice that it is well known internationally.

A shining example of this success was its opening recently of a new route in central London called the Elizabeth line.

This is an east-west rail connection across central London, spanning over 100 kilometers and serving 41 stations.

It was opened in May to celebrate Queen Elizabeth's 75 years on the throne.

We are pleased to see the British capital trusted a Hong Kong firm to operate and maintain this major railway line.

It is a major milestone for the MTRC, built on its success with a few other lines, including the Docklands Railway and recently South Western Railway Lines.

Indeed, the MTRC already has a lustrous record in operating and maintaining railways overseas.

The corporation started its O&M business with Stockholm Metro in Sweden in 2009. This line covers some 108 kilometers and has 100 stations.

In bare figures the two may be comparable, but I guess patronage for the Elizabeth line must be many times busier than the one in Stockholm.

The MTRC has since won O&M contracts for two other lines in Sweden, confirming confidence in our expertise.

In Australia, Melbourne's

Metropolitan Rail Service has been operated by the MTRC since 2009 and Sydney Metro since 2019.

Their success led to its being awarded the O&M contract for Sydney's North West and City & Southwest lines scheduled to commence operations in 2024.

Nearer home, it began assisting with Beijing Metro line 4 from 2009. It was involved in a public-private-partnership consortium, effectively acting as an owner in addition to the O&M activities.

Since then such arrangements have extended to Beijing lines 14, 16 and 17, though some involve O&M deals only.

In Shenzhen and Hangzhou, there are various PPP and O&M metro projects, setting a high standard for railway construction and operations.

Recently, the Macau Light Rail also asked the MTRC to operate and maintain its system, further establishing our railway company as a world-class operator.

Inheriting the long experience of Kowloon-Canton Railway Corp in suburban and light rail operations and armed with its recent experience in high-speed rail operations, the MTRC can now apply its wide scope and deep knowledge in operating railway systems in many parts of the world, offering state-of-the-art O&M technology at competitive costs.

Our engineers and associated railway operation professionals are proud to be associated with this hard-earned success but must continuously improve and advance our technology to allow us to maintain our lead in this field for the benefit of Hong Kong and many other parts of the world.

Veteran engineer Edmund Leung Kwong-ho casts an expert eye over features of modern life