

Career Expo for Railway Construction Starts Today Over 2,400 Jobs on Offer

The MTR Corporation today (29 June 2013) launched a two-day “Career Expo for Railway Construction 2013” with more than 2,400 career opportunities being offered by contractors for construction of the five new railway projects currently underway.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the Career Expo, Mr T C Chew, Projects Director of the MTR Corporation, said there are bright prospects for young people who join the construction industry. “Construction work does not just involve physical strength, but it is also a profession that requires proper training, special knowledge, skills and qualifications. In recent years, the industry has made significant advances in raising standards and setting new benchmarks,” said Mr Chew.

“The government has said that railways will continue to be the backbone of Hong Kong’s public transport system. There are 10 new rail lines now on the drawing board under the updated Railway Development Strategy 2000 and more talented people will be needed in the industry to turn them into reality,” Mr Chew added.

At today’s Career Expo, a wide range of career opportunities are available in civil construction and electrical and mechanical engineering, spanning more than 40 trades for frontline workers as well as professional, engineering and managerial candidates. A total of 17 leading contractors are represented at the Career Expo being held at Fortune Metropolis in Hung Hom. The event also serves to promote the career prospects offered by the railway construction industry to the public, especially the younger generation.

Construction of the five new rail projects – the West Island Line, the South Island Line (East), the Express Rail Link (Hong Kong Section), the Shatin to Central Link and the Kwun Tong Line Extension – is expected to reach a climax later this year, with over 16,000 frontline workers and around 6,000 managerial, supervisory and technical professionals required.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the Career Expo, the Secretary for Transport and Housing, Professor Anthony Cheung Bing-leung, said that upon completion of the five railway projects, the railway network would serve areas inhabited by more than 70% of the population in Hong Kong.

Professor Cheung said that to facilitate early planning for future railway network, the Government had commissioned a consultant to conduct a study for the “Review and Update of the Railway Development Strategy 2000”, with a view to drawing up the long-term railway development blueprint of Hong Kong. Two stages of Public Engagement exercise were conducted from April to July last year, and from February to May this year.

“The consultant is optimising the proposals for major regional railway corridors and local enhancement schemes based on the views collected at both stages of the exercise. The entire study is expected to be completed this year,” he added.

“There has already been strong demand for construction workforce in the recent years. A number of mega-scale railway infrastructure projects that I mentioned would additionally provide a huge number of job opportunities, suitable for construction workers of different trades. This Expo is a good opportunity to let citizens, especially those who have interest in joining the railway construction industry, learn about the requirements, development and prospect of the industry, with a view to considering joining the industry and building our home jointly. We said ‘Our Home: Hong Kong’. The future of Hong Kong will be built upon the major infrastructure projects that we undertake from now on.”

Singer and artiste Ms Ella Koon supported the event as the Youth Ambassador for the Construction Industry. “I am very pleased to be the Ambassador for this meaningful event to give young people a better understanding of the railway construction industry and I hope that they can develop a life-long promising career in the industry,” she said.

The “Career Expo for Railway Construction 2013” is the third job fair organised by the MTR Corporation for its railway contractors to recruit construction-related workers and professionals. Today’s event is the largest in terms of the number of vacancies available. Contractors are offering on-the-spot interviews to interested candidates.

The event is part of MTR Corporation’s continuous efforts to promote a sustainable construction industry in Hong Kong. The Career Expo is supported by the Construction Industry Council, Hong Kong Construction Association, HKCA Young Members Society, Hong Kong Federation of Electrical and Mechanical Contractors Limited, Hong Kong Institution of Engineers and the Labour Department of the HKSAR Government.

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Photo Captions:

1. (From left) Ir Raymond Chan Kin-sek, President of Hong Kong Institution of Engineers, Ir Dr Otto Poon, BBS, OBE, President of Hong Kong Federation of Electrical and Mechanical Contractors, Prof Anthony Cheung Bing-leung, GBS, JP, Secretary for Transport and Housing, Mr T C Chew, Projects Director of MTR Corporation, Ms Ella Koon, Artiste and Youth Ambassador for the Construction Industry, Mr Lee Shing-see, GBS, OBE, JP, Chairman of Construction Industry Council, Mr Allan S K Chan, First Vice-President of Hong Kong Construction Association and Mr Derrick Pang, Chairman of HKCA Young Members Society, officiate at the Opening Ceremony of the "Career Expo for Railway Construction 2013".



2. Job seekers visit the Career Expo today to learn more about the career prospects of the construction industry and trades involved in railway projects.



- Singer and artiste Ms Ella Koon attends the opening ceremony as the Youth Ambassador for the Construction Industry.

