

**“Princess Wencheng” Starts Her Tunnelling Journey
for the Kowloon City Section of the Shatin to Central Link**

Another important milestone for the Shatin to Central Link (SCL) was reached today (8 April 2015) when tunnel boring machine (TBM) “Princess Wencheng” began her mission to construct the tunnel for the Kowloon City Section of the project.

From the launching shaft at the To Kwa Wan Station works site, “Princess Wencheng” will excavate the 1.6-kilometre long down-track tunnel to Ho Man Tin Station while installing the concrete tunnel lining as she progresses. Another TBM “Princess Iron Fan” will be launched for works on the up-track tunnel which are expected to commence in the latter half of 2015.

“The use of tunnel boring machine is the most effective and efficient method of tunnel construction and is widely used both in Hong Kong and worldwide. As the works are done entirely underground, it means that we can minimise impact on the environment and neighbouring communities,” said Dr Philco Wong, Projects Director of MTR Corporation.

“We are excited to commence tunnelling works for the Kowloon City Section as it is one of the critical sections of the SCL project. Though the commencement of this section of tunnelling works has been affected by the extended archaeological survey in To Kwa Wan, our team is making every effort to try to recover most of the time lost,” he added.

Named after a princess who connected the ancient Tang Dynasty with a local kingdom in Tibet through marriage, “Princess Wencheng” symbolically represents a bridge between Shatin and Central that links up different districts through a comprehensive railway network. The name was selected from more than 30,000 entries by 7,000 students in the Shatin to Central Link Tunnel Boring Machine Naming Competition last year.

The 17-kilometre SCL is a territory-wide strategic railway project with 10 stations, of which six will be interchange stations, and will create new East West and North South corridors that will allow for the seamless interchange of passengers heading to and from every corner of Hong Kong.

-End-

Photo Captions:

1. Dr Philco Wong, Projects Director of the MTR Corporation (4th left) officiated at the Tunnel Boring Commencement Ceremony for the Kowloon City Section of the Shatin to Central Link along with Mr Joseph Choi, Managing Director of Hsin Chong (1st left); Mr Cheung Yan-hong, Chairman of Working Group on the Shatin to Central Link under Kowloon City District Council Traffic and Transport Committee (2nd left); Mr Lau Wai-wing, BBS, JP, Chairman of Kowloon City District Council (3rd left); Mr William Yiu-leung Tsui, JP, District Officer (Kowloon City) (4th right); Mr TM Lee, General Manager – SCL (3rd right); Mr Henry Chi-yan Chan, JP, Principal Government Engineer of the Railway Development Office of the Highways Department (2nd right); and Mr Eung Tae Kim, Vice President of Samsung C&T Corporation (1st right).



2. “Princess Wencheng” will construct the railway tunnel between To Kwa Wan Station and Ho Man Tin Station of the Shatin to Central Link.

