

Director's Message

It is my pleasure to present to you our Environmental Report 2014 which summarises the efforts we have made in the past year and introduces our environmental targets and initiatives for 2015.

We are committed to carrying out works projects with due consideration for our environment. The construction of the artificial island of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge - Hong Kong Boundary Crossing Facilities has adopted the non-dredged method in reclamation and seawall construction, which is the first of its kind in Hong Kong. With this method, dredging and disposal of marine mud are avoided; backfilling material, marine traffic and the amount of released suspended particles at sea during reclamation can be significantly reduced.

While the implementation of the Central-Wan Chai Bypass and Island Eastern Corridor Link project is in full swing, we have not given in the due emphasis in sustainable development. To this, we endeavour in increasing the survival rate for the transplantation of 289 trees within the site boundary, and retaining two registered Old and Valuable Trees by excluding construction works in the tree protection zone. To compensate for the unavoidable felled trees, there have been compensatory planting and some felled trees are reused as planters and training material to maximise their value.

In 2014, we have announced the Railway Development Strategy 2014 recommending new railway projects in the planning horizon up to 2031. Being the backbone for mass public transportation, we strive to develop an environmentally friendly railway system to world-class standards. We have taken the lead for the first large-scale deployment of the Automatic Noise Data Management E-system (ANDANTE) in the Hong Kong Section of Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link project. ANDANTE is an innovative web-based noise monitoring system that alerts users automatically for any breaches on noise level which would greatly facilitate prompt follow-ups.

In pursuit of excellence in our daily works, we conduct researches and trials with a focus on environmentally friendly technology, including the adoption of mechanical ventilation in lieu of air-conditioning in lift installations, the use of recycled aggregates for full depth sub-base in carriageways and polymer modified stone mastic asphalt.

We uphold our mission to serve the public and to strive to meet users' expectation. To this end, we value the views from both internal and external stakeholders. Internally, we continue to organise training courses and green activities, and provide green advice to staff with a view to heightening staff awareness in environmental management. Externally, we have conducted a bi-annual customer satisfaction measurement exercise in 2013 to measure the degree of satisfaction among the public towards our services. The results of the survey were released in early 2014 and we are pleased to note that 79% of the general public are "quite/very satisfied" with the overall performance of the Department. In addition, we maintain close ties with the community and collect their views through outreaching, public engagements and other information dissemination channels such as project newsletters and websites.

To identify opportunities of continual improvement, we set clear annual environmental objectives and targets. We are honoured to conclude that our environmental targets for 2014 were achieved and our efforts were recognised by receiving five Outstanding Environmental Management and Performance Awards, seven Considerate Contractors Site Awards, the "Grand Award for Outstanding Exhibit (Landscape Display)" in the Hong Kong Flower Show 2014, the "Award of Excellence" in the 2014 International Federation of Landscape Architects - Asia Pacific Region, and a Merit Award by the Hong Kong Institute of Landscape Architects.

Notwithstanding our efforts made in 2014, we will continue to strive for new heights in environmental management in coming year. With the collective efforts of my colleagues, we endeavour to pave for a better and greener environment for our society.



K.K. LAU
Director of Highways
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