

## **Appointment of Chief Officer of Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation**

The Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation (KCRC) today (26 October 2012) announced the appointment of Ir. Edmund Leung Kwong-ho, SBS, OBE, JP, as the new Chief Officer for a three-year contract with effect from 1 January 2013. This follows an open recruitment exercise conducted by the Managing Board of the Corporation.

Chairman of the KCRC, Professor K C Chan, the Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury, welcomed the appointment. He expressed full confidence in Mr. Leung for leading the Corporation in its day-to-day management. Professor Chan said, “Mr. Leung’s rich experience at a senior managerial level in the private sector makes him eminently suitable to lead the Corporation, particularly having regard to its legal obligation to operate in a commercially prudent manner. He will join the Corporation as Chief Officer (Designate) in early November to ensure a smooth transition.”

Mr. Leung, whose experience is in the consulting and construction industry, is well known within engineering circles in Hong Kong, and has been a frequent public spokesperson on railway matters. He is also an active participant in public service and community activities, and is currently Deputy Chairman of the Institute of Directors, Chairman of the Process Review Committee of the Financial Reporting Council and Vice Chairman of the Council of the Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra.

The Corporation is not only the owner of substantial railway assets which generate revenue under the service concession granted to the MTR Corporation Limited in 2007, but through its subsidiary, West Rail Property Development Limited, is also responsible for undertaking a number of residential development projects along West Rail.

Professor Chan also paid tribute to the outgoing Chief Officer, Ir. James Blake, GBS, OBE, JP, for his valuable contributions to the Corporation’s major expansion of its railway infrastructure over the past fifteen years, and especially as the Chief Executive Officer during the railway operations merger in 2007. He thanked Mr. Blake, as the Chief Officer of the Corporation and Chairman of West Rail Property Development Limited, for successfully leading the Corporation and the WRPDL Board through the challenging subsequent five year transition period to today.

Over the years, Mr. Blake had successfully overseen the Corporation raising some \$15 billion in refinancing to cover the Corporation's pre-merger investment in major railway projects. More recently, Mr. Blake had overseen the timely and successful completion of tendering for residential property development sites along the West Rail.

Ends

26 October 2012