

## 新聞稿

### Press Release

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#### **MTR Welcomes the Addition of Eight Individual Visit Scheme Cities Dedicated to Providing High Quality and Convenient Cross-boundary Services**

MTR Corporation welcomes the announcement made by the State Council today (11 May 2024), that starting from the 27th of this month, an additional eight Mainland cities will be included in the Individual Visit Scheme. This new arrangement is expected to inject new vitality into the local economy and tourism, further fostering the enhancement of cross-boundary service of the High Speed Rail (Hong Kong Section) (HSR).

Hong Kong is known as an international metropolis with high efficiency and convenience, and reliable, convenient, and comfortable railway services are an indispensable part of the visitors' experience in Hong Kong. MTR will closely monitor the travel situation of passengers and continue to enhance its services for better travel experience.

MTR Corporation will also closely monitor the operation of cross-boundary railway services and passenger demand, and closely liaise with the governments of the two sides and relevant Mainland railway authorities and continue to explore various arrangements for enhancing services for the High Speed Rail (Hong Kong Section) (HSR) which connects with the national high-speed rail network, with a view to facilitating exchanges between the two sides.

Dr. Jacob Kam, Chief Executive Officer of MTR Corporation said, "This arrangement will attract more tourists from different cities to Hong Kong, and as Hong Kong's overall economic development will benefit, MTR looks forward to contributing in the process and actively exploring new opportunities, including the continuous enhancement of the HSR cross-boundary services."

The addition of cities in the Individual Visit Scheme include Taiyuan, Hohhot, Harbin, Lhasa, Lanzhou, Xining, Yinchuan, and Urumqi. In addition to providing convenient railway services for local residents and visitors, the HSR as operated by MTR Corporation connects to the national high speed rail network. Passengers can directly access to 73 destinations in the Mainland with HSR, and interchange to other trains, enabling cross-boundary travelers to travel round the entire country comfortably and conveniently. They can also benefit from the advantages of the co-location arrangement at the Hong Kong West Kowloon Station. In 2023, the HSR has served over 20 million passengers, about half of them were Mainland visitors. Since the service resumption of the HSR last year, the Corporation has been continuously improving its services,

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including the opening of 3 new routes and the addition of 16 short-haul and long-haul destinations. The number of daily train trips was also increased to 188 so as to meet the passenger demand. Starting from last year, the HSR has also introduced the "Flexi-trip Arrangement" for Futian and Shenzhenbei stations, and the multi-ride tickets that cover 10 stations along Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong. These service enhancements were well received by passengers, providing greater flexibility, convenience and fare discounts for cross-boundary travelers, and further supporting the concept of "One-hour Living Circle" in the Greater Bay Area.

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#### About MTR Corporation

To Keep Cities Moving, MTR makes encounters happen and rendezvous for a more connected tomorrow. As a recognised world-class operator of sustainable rail transport services, we are a leader in safety, reliability, customer service and efficiency.

MTR has extensive end-to-end railway expertise with 45 years of railway projects experience from design to planning and construction through to commissioning, maintenance and operations. Going beyond railway delivery and operation, MTR also creates and manages dynamic communities around its network through seamless integration of rail, commercial and property development.

With more than 50,000 dedicated staff\*, MTR carries over 10 million passenger journeys worldwide every weekday in Hong Kong, Mainland China, Australia, the United Kingdom and Sweden. Together, we Go Smart and Go Beyond.

For more information about MTR Corporation, please visit [www.mtr.com.hk](http://www.mtr.com.hk).

\*includes our subsidiaries, associates and joint ventures in Hong Kong and worldwide