

[Latest test results of opening-up investigation in second stage of holistic assessment strategy for Hung Hom Station Extension under Shatin to Central Link Project](#)

The latest test results of the opening-up investigation in the second stage of the holistic assessment strategy for the Hung Hom Station Extension under the Shatin to Central Link (SCL) project (as at January 21) are now available at the Highways Department's website for the SCL project (www.hyd.gov.hk/en/road_and_railway/railway_projects/scl/index.html) for reference by the public.

[SEN visits Kowloon City District](#)

The Secretary for the Environment, Mr Wong Kam-sing, visited Kowloon City District this afternoon (January 21) and exchanged views with District Council members on environmental issues. He also called at a secondary school in the district and at Trade and Industry Tower in the Kai Tak Development Area (KTDA) to learn more about its green facilities.

Accompanied by the Chairman of the Kowloon City District Council (KCDC), Mr Pun Kwok-wah, and the District Officer (Kowloon City), Mr Franco Kwok, Mr Wong first visited a secondary school in the district to learn about the achievements of environmental research projects carried out by its students, including scientific analysis on tree monitoring and energy systems. During the visit, Mr Wong chatted with students and environmental ambassadors to learn more about their studies and green activities at school. He also encouraged them to continue practising energy saving and waste reduction in their daily lives to foster a low-carbon lifestyle.

Mr Wong then visited Trade and Industry Tower in the KTDA. In line with the concept of sustainable development, the tower is well equipped with energy-saving facilities and greening, plus the adoption of renewable energy technology. It is anticipated that the total electricity consumption of the tower will be about one-fourth less than that of a normal office building. The office tower has achieved the Platinum rating under BEAM Plus and the Platinum level under the LEED certificate programme of the United States, i.e. the highest level of green building certification under the local and international systems. The overall greening ratio is over 40 per cent.

Mr Wong also called at Kai Tak Community Hall to see its various energy-saving and greening facilities. The green roof of the hall is equipped with solar-tracking optical fibre light pipes to divert daylight for indoor lighting, thereby saving energy.

Before concluding his itinerary, Mr Wong paid a visit to the KCDC to meet with Mr Pun and District Council members to listen to their views on the Government's environmental policies and learn more about their concerns on district environmental issues.

Employers and workers of construction industry urged to observe work-at-height safety

The Labour Department (LD) is highly concerned about the recent spate of serious accidents related to work-at-height in the construction industry and reminds those working at height to pay special attention to work safety.

A spokesman for the LD said today (January 21), "Four workers fell and unfortunately died while working at height in the past few weeks. The LD is highly concerned about the situation. Apart from issuing Work Safety Alerts and Suspension Notices to stop the related work processes, the LD has launched a special enforcement operation focusing particularly on high-risk operations such as scaffolding work."

"The LD, jointly with the Occupational Safety and Health Council and other stakeholders of the industry, is actively organising a seminar on work-at-height safety. We will invite various stakeholder groups from the construction industry to take part in order to alert them to the potential risks involved in work-at-height and remind them of the necessary safety measures. Furthermore, the Department will continue to promote work-at-height safety messages through various media channels and platforms," the spokesman added.

To prevent workers from falling from height while working, employers shall appoint a competent person to conduct task-specific risk assessments to identify all potential hazards associated with the work, taking into account the nature of work and the work environment and, according to the results of the risk assessments, formulate safe systems of work which comply with the relevant safety legislation. Main considerations include:

- Ladders should generally be used for ascending and descending only. Using them for other work is unsafe and should be avoided;

- Provide workers with suitable working platforms and ensure their proper use by workers. Use of boatswain's chairs is strictly prohibited;
- Workers should put on suitable safety harnesses, which shall be attached continuously to a suitable and secure anchor point, an independent lifeline or a fall-arresting system, when erecting, dismantling and using a truss-out bamboo scaffold; and
- Safeguard all unprotected floor openings or other void spaces at construction sites by erecting suitable guard-rails or placing coverings to prevent workers from falling through them inadvertently.

Both employers and employees are responsible for ensuring work safety to prevent accidents from happening. Employers are required to comply with the relevant safety regulations and implement safety systems of work, including providing workers with sufficient safety equipment and ensuring its proper use by workers. At the same time, workers are also required to follow the safety work procedures as stipulated by employers, including proper use of safety equipment. Workers should report any unsafe working condition to the LD (telephone number: 2542 2172) as soon as possible. The LD will take follow-up action as soon as possible to ensure workers' safety.

SED to visit Zhuhai

The Secretary for Education, Mr Kevin Yeung, will pay a duty visit to Zhuhai tomorrow (January 22) to look into the participation of Hong Kong's universities in higher education development in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area.

The Beijing Normal University-Hong Kong Baptist University United International College (UIC), founded in Zhuhai in 2005, is the first university jointly established by the higher education sectors of the Mainland and Hong Kong. With the opening of its new campus and the establishment of its graduate school in 2017, the institution has entered a new stage.

During his visit to UIC, Mr Yeung will tour some of its facilities, including the studios of the Division of Culture and Creativity, the laboratory of the Division of Business and Management, the Food Safety Testing Centre and the Whole Person Education Experiential Learning Base. He will also attend a discussion session and other gatherings for exchanges with the management, teaching staff, students and alumni of the institution.

Mr Yeung will return to Hong Kong in the evening on the same day.

Effective Exchange Rate Index

The effective exchange rate index for the Hong Kong dollar on Monday, January 21, 2019 is 103.9 (down 0.1 against last Saturday's index).

The effective exchange rate index for the Hong Kong dollar on Saturday, January 19, 2019 was 104 (up 0.3 against last Friday's index).