

**MTR Island Line Extends to HKU and Kennedy Town Stations
From 28 December 2014**

Commuters travelling to and from Western District on Hong Kong Island will be able to start enjoying the convenience of railway service from Sunday, 28 December 2014.

After receiving green lights from the relevant authorities that all the required statutory inspections and tests have been successfully completed, the MTR Corporation today (10 December 2014) announced that MTR Island Line trains will begin serving HKU and Kennedy Town stations on 28 December 2014. The first train from Kennedy Town Station will depart at 6:00 am for Chai Wan. Train service frequencies will be the same as the existing Island Line, with departures every two minutes during peak periods and every four minutes in the non-peak.

“There are only 18 days left before passenger service begins on the Island Line extension. We want to thank the community for their immense support and patience throughout the planning and construction of the project. Indeed we are excited about bringing the convenience of safe, reliable and efficient railway service to the community in Western District,” said Dr Jacob Kam, Operations Director of MTR Corporation as he turned on a countdown clock at Sheung Wan Station to share with passengers the excitement of the new extension's imminent opening. Countdown clocks have also been installed at Central, Admiralty and North Point stations.

“Sai Ying Pun Station Pre-opening Special Discount Promotion”

Due to difficult ground conditions in Sai Ying Pun Station, the required number of entrances will not be completed in time to open the station in December. Instead, Sai Ying Pun Station is expected to open at the end of the first quarter in 2015.

To encourage commuters living and working in the vicinity of Sai Ying Pun Station to use the new rail service from Sheung Wan Station or HKU Station, a special HK\$2 “Sai Ying Pun Station Pre-opening Special Discount” will be offered to Adult Octopus users (HK\$1 discount for concession Octopus) from 28 December until the opening of Sai Ying Pun Station. The discount can be obtained at self-service machines located inside four 7-Eleven convenience stores in the Sai Ying Pun area as follows:

- Shop E, Tai Hing Building, 125 Des Voeux Road West, Sai Ying Pun
- Shop A, Kaiser Centre, 18 Centre Street, Sai Ying Pun
- 55 Bonham Road, Sai Ying Pun
- 240 Queen's Road West, Sai Ying Pun

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In preparation for the new railway service, trial train operations according to the Island Line timetable, stress tests on the new railway facilities, drills and exercises will continue up to 28 December.

"As is the case for all new railways, teething problems and fine-tuning adjustments are always expected in the initial period of operations. Of course we will closely monitor the performance of the train service and station facilities to minimise any inconvenience caused. We would like to thank passengers in advance for their patience and understanding in the event of any delays," added Dr Kam.

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Photo caption:

Dr Jacob Kam, Operations Director of MTR Corporation, announces that MTR Island Line service will extend to HKU and Kennedy Town stations in Western District on Sunday, 28 December 2014. To look forward to the big day with passengers, Dr Kam turns on a countdown clock at Sheung Wan Station. Countdown clocks are also located at Central, Admiralty and North Point Stations.

