SCED believes Ocean Park redevelopment will boost tourism infrastructure

The Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Mrs Rita Lau, today (October 17) visited Ocean Park to keep abreast of the latest development of the theme park's Redevelopment Plans.

Mrs Lau was pleased to hear from the park management that under the plans Ocean Park would be redeveloped into a world-class marine themed attraction.

"Ocean Park is an important player of Hong Kong's tourism family. It has grown with Hong Kong people and won their love over the years. Its healthy image has been deeply rooted into the hearts of both local residents and tourists, and is an important asset for our city branding. I am particularly impressed with Ocean Park management's unceasing efforts and abundant new ideas to enrich its products and services.

"The Government fully supports the redevelopment plans. Upon completion, it will not only boost the park's tourism appeal but also buttress Hong Kong's position as the preferred destination for family tourists," she said.

Mrs Lau said tourism was a pillar industry of Hong Kong's economy. In 2007, the city welcomed a record of 28 million visitors, an increase of 11.6% over 2006. According to the United Nations World Tourism Organisation, Hong Kong is among Asia Pacific's most popular destinations for tourists.

"To sustain and enhance our competitive edge, we will continue to strengthen our tourism infrastructure, and work closely with our stakeholders to enhance the global promotion strategy and service quality of the tourism industry," Mrs Lau said.

Ends/Friday, October 17, 2008 Issued at HKT 17:49