

SCED speaks on Kai Tak Cruise Terminal

The following is the transcript of remarks (English portion) made by the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Mrs Rita Lau, to the media after attending the ground-breaking ceremony of the site formation for the Kai Tak Cruise Terminal today (December 23):

Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development: We are very pleased to witness the commencement of the site formation works for the Kai Tak Cruise Terminal. The commencement signifies a very big and major step forward in the development of cruise tourism in Hong Kong. Work is also being undertaken to proceed with the design and construction of the cruise terminal building. We are hoping to get our proposal to the Legislative Council for funding support probably in the middle of next year. This will be an iconic building not only in Hong Kong, but also in this whole part of the region. Passengers on board will be able to enjoy the beautiful scenery of our Victoria Harbour. The terminal facilities will of course be on a par with the best of international facilities. The hospitality services that Hong Kong are renowned for will be offered in this new cruise terminal building.

Reporter: Singapore is also going to be developing its own cruise terminal. But because of delay, it is going to open before Hong Kong. Are you concerned about Hong Kong being overshadowed by other regions' lead?

Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development: We have our own development plan to promote the tourism industry in Hong Kong. We are aware of the developments in the region. Each city or each economic entity may have its own plan for development. The important thing for Hong Kong and the tourism industry is to really try to enhance its strength so that we remain a very competitive and attractive tourist destination, not only within this region but also around the world.

(Please also refer to the Chinese portion of the transcript)

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