

Speech by CS at "Old Town Central" Launch Ceremony

Following is the speech by the Chief Secretary for Administration, Mr Matthew Cheung Kin-chung, at the "Old Town Central" Launch Ceremony today (April 26):

Let me say a few words in English.

First of all, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to the Hong Kong Tourism Board, led by Dr Peter Lam, for launching this brand-new "Old Town Central" programme, and to our trade partners and all the participating parties for your staunch support.

The Central district is not only an important part of this modern metropolis and global financial centre, but also a unique neighbourhood, where East meets West, and where the old coexists harmoniously with the new. This vibrant and colourful community is clustered with heritage sites, landmarks, modern architecture, religious buildings, designer boutiques and trendy shops, as well as a diverse mix of dining and entertainment outlets.

The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government has put together a series of innovative projects to conserve and revitalise the Central district over the years. The launch of several key revitalisation schemes in the area, such as the Old Central Police Station, Central Magistracy and the Victoria Prison, forming the cluster called "Tai Kwun", undergoing a facelift, and PMQ, has provided a good opportunity to repackage the fabulous elements of the district in order to rejuvenate the dynamic tourism appeal of the area. We hope that the "Old Town Central" programme will showcase the city's unique and diverse travel experiences to visitors and enhance their in-town experience.

I earnestly invite visitors, both local and overseas, to come and explore the hidden treasures in this unique neighbourhood, and wish them a memorable stay in Hong Kong.

Thank you very much.

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