

Press Release

Hong Kong promotes intelligent mobility

The City of Magdeburg, state capital of Sachsen-Anhalt in Germany, hosted the “*Green Cities – Green Industries – Magdeburg*” conference from 24 to 26 November for the third time. The conference, held at the Town Hall of Magdeburg, was attended by government representatives, researchers and entrepreneurs from Europe and Asia, together with the expert audience, to discuss future scenarios of green and smart cities worldwide and exchange ideas about new technologies and innovative models with which cities can shape global climate change positively.

Ms Betty Ho, Director of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office, Berlin (HKETO Berlin), was invited to deliver a keynote presentation at the panel “Low Emission due to intelligent mobility”, focusing on alternative automotive engineering and intelligent traffic-routing in urban areas. In Hong Kong, 90 percent of the 7.2 million inhabitants in an area of 1,104 square kilometres rely on the public transport system of which 39 percent are railways. People take more than 12.7 million journeys per day.

Ms Ho outlined the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government’s (HKSARG) vision of creating a healthy, pleasant and sustainable city where the community places a premium on sustaining its environment for both themselves and future generations, and pursues sustainable development: “Hong Kong’s major source of roadside air pollution are buses. That is why the ultimate policy objective is to have zero emission buses running across the territory. The HKSARG has started a subsidised trial of hybrid and electric buses and offers financial incentives to owners of electric vehicles.”

Using the example of Kowloon East where Hong Kong’s former airport was located, Ms Ho elaborated on the environmentally friendly linkage system which is planned in this new central business district. An elevated nine kilometres monorail system will be the backbone of an integrated multi-model linkage system in the district to alleviate road congestion and roadside emissions. The ultimate aim is to provide reliable, efficient, comfortable and green connections within the district and with the rest of Hong Kong.

Hong Kong has also started a pilot green transport fund, supporting the testing of green and innovation transport technologies with EUR 30 million. Ms Ho closed by emphasising the government’s commitment to

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make Hong Kong a greener city: “The HKSARG is adopting a multi-pronged approach to turn the city into a greener and cleaner metropolis.”

About Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office, Berlin

HKETO Berlin is the official HKSAR Government representative in commercial relations and other economic and trade matters in Germany as well as Austria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia and Switzerland.

Photo Captions

1. Ms Ho delivering her keynote presentation
2. Hong Kong’s Mass Transit Railway (MTR)

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