

Foreword



I congratulate the Drainage Services Department (DSD) on the 25th anniversary of its establishment.

Hong Kong is renowned for its superior infrastructure. In particular, wastewater and stormwater management facilities play an essential and indispensable role in our urban development. Since its inception in 1989, the DSD has committed itself to providing quality services in flood prevention and sewage treatment for the community. The success it has achieved is for all to see.

The complicated terrain and dense population of the city bring challenges to the DSD. Yet colleagues of the DSD are undaunted. They embrace the challenges and have turned many into opportunities throughout the years. They are the unsung heroes who have helped make Hong Kong a great place to live and work in.


Rainstorms in Hong Kong have become more frequent and intense in recent years as a result of global climate change. Thanks to the DSD's various flood prevention projects and innovative stormwater interception measures, flooding in various districts has been alleviated and the number of flooding blackspots has been gradually reduced. While the growing population produces more sewage, the water quality of our harbour has not deteriorated but improved significantly since the commissioning of several sewage treatment facilities. A number of beaches in Tsuen Wan closed for years because of concern over water quality are now reopened, and the cross-harbour swimming race was revived in 2011 after a hiatus of more than 30 years. None of these would have been possible without the foresight and hard work of our DSD colleagues. My appreciation and gratitude go to all of them.

Looking ahead, I am sure that the DSD and its team will continue to excel and move with the times, living up to their motto of "Do it from the Heart". We shall see more of their devotion and innovation in the provision of first-class flood and sewage management facilities and their further contribution to the sustainable development of Hong Kong.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Carrie Lam". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

(Mrs Carrie Lam)

Chief Secretary for Administration



The Drainage Services Department (DSD) published this monograph in celebration of its 25th anniversary. The monograph looks back on the drainage developments in Hong Kong and outlines the endeavours, achievements and prospect of DSD in the provision of stormwater drainage and sewage treatment services. Flood prevention strategies are developed to cater for local circumstances as well as future climate change. DSD constructs effective sewerage networks, expands sewage treatment facilities, upgrades technologies and promotes greening, for achieving the objectives of environmental protection and sustainable development. In taking forward new projects, DSD endeavours to engage the public in order to strike a balance among the environmental, developmental and social needs. Besides, DSD boosts team spirit through initiatives on partnership and staff care. This monograph also features interviews with members of the public, staff, stakeholders and professionals who shared with readers their reminiscences and expectations, which help learn from the past and build for the future.

This monograph consists of seven chapters. **Chapter 1** introduces the background on drainage development in Hong Kong and outlines the embryonic framework for drainage planning (e.g. pioneering the separation of drainage and sewerage systems and studies on sewage treatment and drainage strategies), and the establishment and mission of DSD. **Chapter 2** elaborates the services on sewage treatment, in particular the planning, commissioning, and management of sewage collection, treatment and disposal, as well as on the implementation and effectiveness of the Harbour Area Treatment Scheme. **Chapter 3** explains the mapping out of flood prevention plans and provision of flood prevention facilities in Hong Kong by adapting the strategies of stormwater interception, storage and conveyance. These facilities help eliminate flooding blackspots and better equip us for the challenges arising from climate change. **Chapter 4** focuses on DSD's commitment in environmental protection and sustainable development, depicting enhanced ecological conservation of watercourses, full implementation of low-carbon and energy-efficient measures, greening, and cavern development, etc. **Chapter 5** highlights how public engagement activities can enable us to gather views of the public and how various platforms can foster our exchanges and deliberations with industries and stakeholders. All these facilitated the promotion of our services to the community. **Chapter 6** lists DSD's award-winning projects with innovative designs, construction methods and green technologies.

Chapter 7 concludes that we are able to provide quality public drainage services due to team spirit and collaboration. We believe that staff care, cooperation with our partners and close communication are the keys to strong cohesion and continuous improvement of the Department.