



It gives me great pleasure to congratulate the Drainage Services Department (DSD) on its 30th anniversary.

Established in 1989, the DSD is committed to providing professional wastewater and stormwater drainage services, striving to create a better living environment for the community. Over the past three decades, the DSD has adopted multi-pronged strategies to prepare for the challenges ahead. By undertaking infrastructure projects with careful planning and advanced technologies, the DSD has substantially enhanced Hong Kong's flood prevention capacity and helped reduce pollution, contributing significantly to improving our environment.

Hong Kong's complex topography and dense population, coupled with the increasing occurrence of extreme weather conditions, pose great challenges to the DSD's flood prevention work. Thanks to the hard work of colleagues, the DSD has developed a comprehensive flood prevention strategy for Hong Kong and carried out effective flood prevention works despite all difficulties. The DSD also launched the Harbour Area Treatment Scheme (HATS) in the 1990s, which is by far the largest sewerage infrastructure project in Hong Kong. Since the implementation of the HATS, we have seen marked improvement in the water quality of the Victoria Harbour. In June 2018, the HATS was awarded the 15th Tien-yow Jeme Civil Engineering Prize under the Municipal Engineering Category in recognition of its outstanding achievements in technological innovation and application.

Innovation and technology, which tops the policy agenda of the current-term Government, is also the key to the DSD's success over the years. Apart from developing new technologies on its own, the DSD has conducted research projects in collaboration with local research experts to meet the city's development needs. In recent years, the DSD has put into practice new concepts of sustainable development, such as "sponge city" and "blue-green infrastructure". It has incorporated more environmentally friendly and green elements into its facilities, enhancing our city's flood resilience while conserving the ecological environment. All these demonstrate the DSD's innovative spirit and dedication to providing quality services for the community.

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all colleagues in the DSD for their unwavering commitment to serving the public with professionalism over the years. Looking ahead, I am sure that the DSD will continue to strive for excellence and innovation in providing world-class wastewater and stormwater drainage services for the public, promoting the sustainable development of Hong Kong and making Hong Kong a more liveable city.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which reads "Carrie Lam". The signature is fluid and cursive.

(Mrs Carrie Lam)
Chief Executive

Hong Kong Special Administrative Region



The Drainage Services Department (DSD) has been committed to providing world-class sewage treatment and stormwater drainage services in Hong Kong. This year marks the 30th anniversary of the DSD. To commemorate this historical moment, we have published this monograph which not only provides an opportunity to learn from the changes and challenges in the past, but also sets out a vision of the future for passing on our mission. With the inclusion of extracts from the 20th anniversary monograph “Sewerage and Flood Protection — Drainage Services 1841–2008” and a newly-written account of DSD’s development and achievements in the past decade, this monograph records a history of drainage services in Hong Kong for well more than a century (i.e. from 1841 to 2018), which has been closely associated with the development of Hong Kong society. Cherishing good memories of the bygone era, I would like to take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt gratitude to each and every person who has engaged in and contributed to the development of our drainage services.

In the past 30 years, the DSD has made steady strides forward, striving to raise sewage treatment and flood prevention standards in Hong Kong. During the period, the DSD successfully completed numerous challenging flood prevention and sewage treatment projects, such as mega-size stormwater tunnels, underground stormwater storage schemes, deep sewage tunnel systems and large-scale sewage treatment works. Besides, the DSD spared no effort to promote the “development of blue-green infrastructure” and “revitalisation of water bodies”, bringing Hong Kong’s flood protection and sewage treatment systems up to world-class standard. Meanwhile, we collaborated with the Shenzhen Municipal Government to regulate the Shenzhen River for the purpose of turning Shenzhen River into a quality water environment with multi-functions pertaining to flood relief, navigation and ecology.

The results of our work to date have indeed been encouraging. We have been honoured with various awards for our projects. The credit must go to all of our colleagues, who are committed to serving the community with dedication and professionalism, upholding our motto “Do it from the Heart”. With the DSD’s major projects completed and put into operation one after another in recent years, achievements have been secured in flood protection and sewerage treatment. Meanwhile, we shall stay alert at all times to the challenges resulting from climate change, seize the opportunities arising from the overall development of Hong Kong and collaborate with various departments and professionals, with a view to developing Hong Kong into a livable, green and low-carbon smart city.

Looking to the future, we will unswervingly uphold our vision, mission and values, maintain our traditions, and encourage continuous innovation to keep up with the times. Further, we will develop and introduce new technologies and ideas to improve our services, as well as keeping on shouldering the responsibility for protecting the pleasant environment in Hong Kong.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kelvin K W LO', written in a cursive style.

Mr Kelvin K W LO
Director of Drainage Services