

Hong Kong West Drainage Tunnel Newsletter

Issue 1 July 2008

Our Vision

To provide world-class stormwater drainage services enabling the sustainable development of Hong Kong.

The Project

The majority of the existing drainage systems of the lower catchment of Northern Hong Kong Island were built decades ago. The protection standards are no longer sufficient to cope with the requirements of rapid urbanization and changes in land use over the years. During heavy rainstorms, the low-lying urban areas, in particular, the reclaimed lands around the lower catchment area, often experience flooding. To alleviate flooding in the long run, Drainage Services Department is now implementing a major flood prevention project, namely Drainage Improvement in Northern Hong Kong Island - Hong Kong West Drainage Tunnel. The Project consists of building a main drainage tunnel of about 11km long extending from Tai Hang to Cyberport, 34 intakes and a total of about 8km adits connecting the intakes with the drainage tunnel. The drainage tunnel will intercept stormwater collected from Mid-Levels and discharge it into the sea directly.

The construction work of Hong Kong West Drainage Tunnel commenced in November 2007. The Project is being carried out in phases and is due for completion in 2012. To keep the public well-informed of the construction progress, we will publish this newsletter every six months to provide up-to-date information on the construction works and related matters.



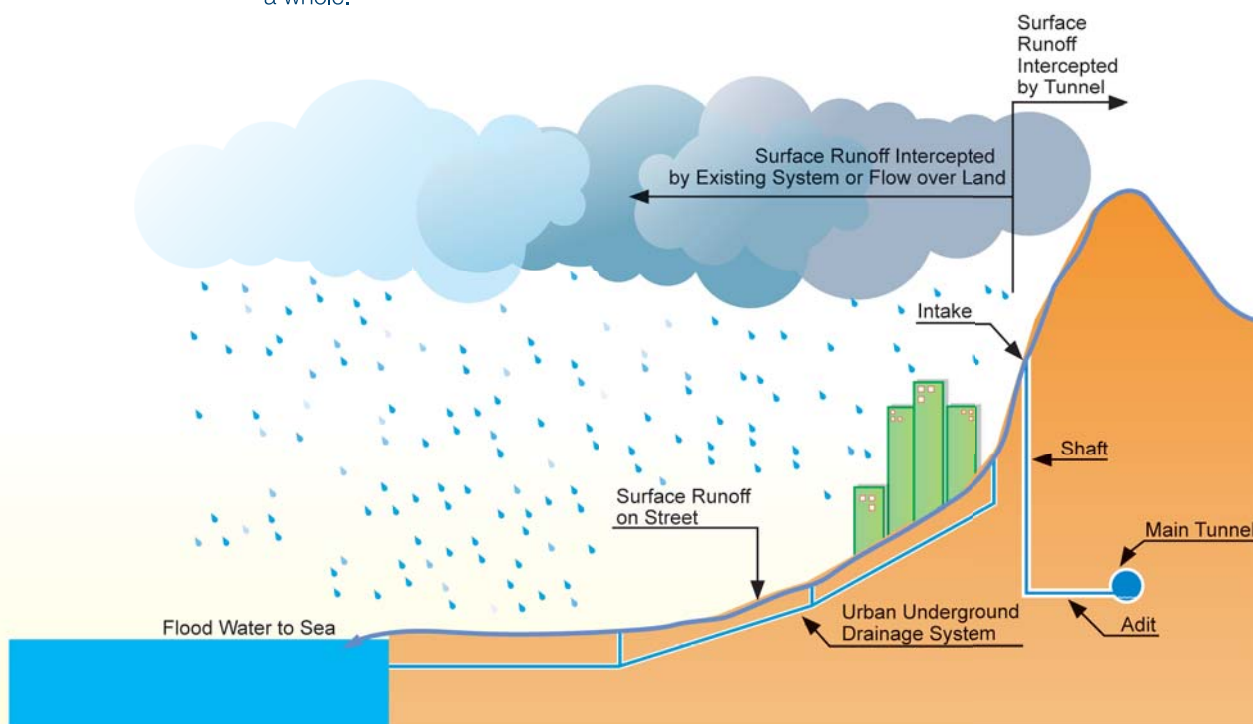
Connaught Road Central during the black rainstorm on 7 June 2008



Flooding at Des Voeux Road Central on 7 June 2008

Major Benefits

Upon completion of the Project, the newly-built drainage tunnel will intercept stormwater from uphill at Mid-Levels, thus reducing the discharge load of the existing drainage systems at downstream considerably. The Project, in effect, will relieve flooding in Northern Hong Kong Island, in particular the low-lying areas along Central, Admiralty and Wan Chai. It will also improve the overall flood protection standard of Northern Hong Kong Island. Most importantly, the potential nuisance to the public, impact to economic activities and disruption to traffic during heavy rainstorm will be much reduced. In the long run, it will benefit Hong Kong as a whole.



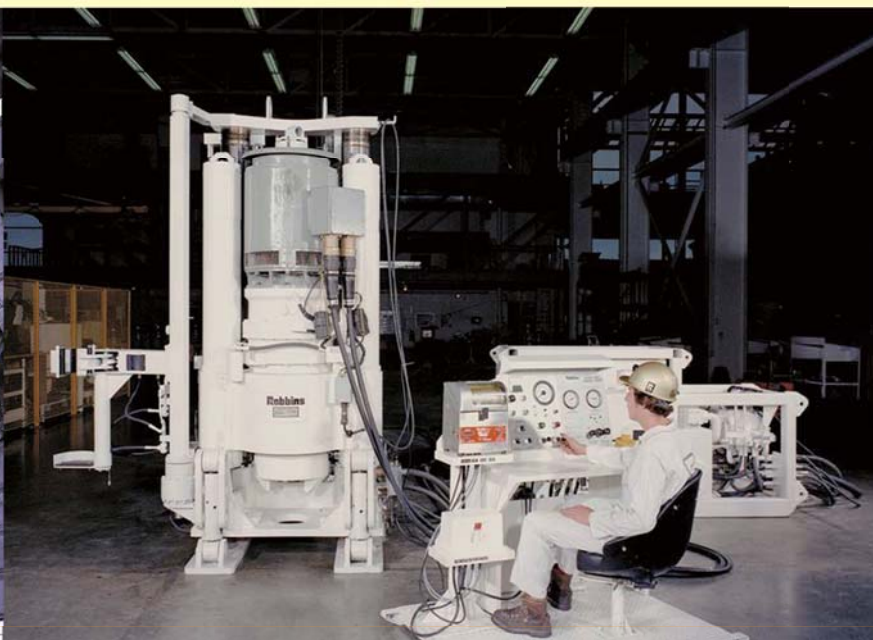
Drainage Tunnel Scheme

Being Environmentally Conscious

One of our primary tasks during construction is to minimize impact to environment as well as daily lives of the public. To contain the construction's impact below the ground, we will use Tunnel Boring Machines and Raise Boring Machines in the main tunnel works and most of the intakes shaft boring works respectively. The adoption of the advance construction technology will facilitate the completion and avoid prolonged and extensive excavation works in the urban area, especially the commercial and financial centres in Central, Admiralty and Wan Chai. Thus traffic disruption and disturbances to the public and business operations will be minimized.



Drilling head of Tunnel Boring Machine



Raise Boring Machine

Latest Progress

Our Contractor is now carrying out preparation works at Eastern Portal near Tai Hang Road and Western Portal adjacent to Cyberport Sewage Treatment Works at Cyberport.

Eastern Portal

To prepare for the assembly of the Tunnel Boring Machine at the Eastern Portal, we plan to carry out minor tunneling work from mid 2008 to early 2009 by drill and blast method.

Western Portal

At the Western Portal construction site, we are now building a temporary pier adjacent to Cyberport Sewage Treatment Works for completion in end December 2008. The temporary pier is to provide a loading and unloading point for transportation of Tunnel Boring Machine equipment, precast tunnel lining segments and the excavated materials by sea, thus minimizing the traffic impact on the nearby road networks.

Intake

According to the Project program, our contractor is carrying out ground investigation works at 19 intakes at Wan Chai and Central and Western Districts between mid June 2008 and end December 2008.



Eastern Portal works area



Western Portal works area



Eastern Portal -
Tunnel excavation by
mechanical method



Eastern Portal -
Works area entrance



Western Portal -
Temporary pier
construction works



Western Portal -
Slope works

Staying in Touch

Over the past years, we have consulted the Wan Chai, Central & Western and Southern District Councils, which have given us valuable opinions on the Project. We understand that the public expect the contractor to minimize disruptions to the environment, traffic and daily lives of the public during construction and to complete the works as soon as possible. Thus we will closely monitor the construction progress. Our team will be in close contact and communication with the public.

You are welcome to tell us your comments or views on this newsletter as well as our works. Please contact Ms Ashley Au, Public Relations Officer of our contractor Dragages – Nishimatsu Joint Venture, by mail, fax or our 24-hour enquiry hotline 2671 8600.

Join us at Hong Kong West Drainage Tunnel Exhibition

To give you a better understanding of the Project, we are holding an exhibition for the Hong Kong West Drainage Tunnel Construction project at the Hong Kong Planning and Infrastructure Exhibition Gallery between 7 May 2008 and 31 July 2008. You are welcome to visit the exhibition. For details, please visit the Hong Kong Planning and Infrastructure Exhibition Gallery website at <http://www.infrastructuregallery.gov.hk>.

Key Facts

The Employer: Drainage Services Department
Consultant: Ove Arup & Partners Hong Kong Ltd.
Contractor: Dragages - Nishimatsu Joint Venture
Project Commencement Date: November 2007
Anticipated Completion Date: 2012

Contact Us

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