



For immediate release

Green Star Ferry in Service

Powered by Diesel-Electric Propulsion System, First Ever in Hong Kong

(Hong Kong, 9th July 2020) The “Star” Ferry Company, Limited (“Star Ferry”) today announces service resumption of “*Morning Star*” after its undergoing more than six months of retrofit and testing. “*Morning Star*” is the first low emission green ferry in the fleet, powered by diesel-electric propulsion system (“DEPS”), that runs daily service in Victoria Harbour.

Green “*Morning Star*” by Star Ferry Launch Ceremony is held today with officiating guests including Secretary for the Environment Mr. Wong Kam-sing, Commissioner for Transport Ms. Mable Chan, Deputy Secretary for Transport and Housing (Transport) Mr. Kevin Choi, along with The “Star” Ferry Directors Mr. Frankie Yick, Mr. Kevin Hui, General Manager Mr. Jacky Ho and Chief Coxswain Mr. Kwok Cho Tai.

Speaking at the ceremony, Mr. Wong Kam-sing, Secretary for the Environment said, “We are hopeful for Star Ferry’s pilot in converting diesel engine of ‘*Morning Star*’ into DEPS. Such success will not only help improve air quality of Victoria Harbour but also pave the way for the development of fully electric-powered ferries in Hong Kong.”

Ms. Mable Chan, Commissioner for Transport said, “The Star Ferry spares no effort in upgrading their service quality and onboard facilities continuously. Under the renewed franchise, the Company has taken the lead to replace diesel engine of ‘*Morning Star*’ with more environmentally-friendly DEPS yet preserving the appearance of the iconic ferry. I have every confidence that ‘*Morning Star*’ will become a role model of the new-generation green ferry.”

Mr. Frankie Yick, Director of The “Star” Ferry, hosting the Ceremony, said, “For more than a century, Star Ferry has undertaken rounds of upgrade for its fleet, from the first-generation coal-fired steam engine ferries to diesel engine, trial of emulsified diesel a decade ago, to the self-developed wet scrubber and today’s DEPS coupled with the use of low-sulphur fuel to further reduce gas emission. The journey has not been easy.”

N E W S R E L E A S E

“Yet, following ‘*Morning Star*’, subject to the company’s financial position and taking into account the latest proven green technologies available, Star Ferry will look at the retrofit of ‘*Silver Star*’ soon. In the meantime, we are studying the feasibility of fully electric-powered ferry. We look forward to reaching another milestone and contributing to the sustainability of Hong Kong’s first generation of public transport,” Mr Yick added.

Upon resumption of service, the retrofitted “*Morning Star*” will be deployed for Wanchai – Tsim Sha Tsui ferry service, and will be gradually running Central – Tsim Sha Tsui service interchangeably.

“*Morning Star*” was first launched back in 1965. After the DEPS retrofit,

- 1) the traditional two-stroke marine diesel engine is replaced by two diesel-powered main generators which supply electricity to drive the propulsion engine for sailing;
- 2) the two existing smaller generators are retained for powering on-board facilities such as lighting and ventilation;
- 3) the new generators of “*Morning Star*”, same as the ones adopted in the previous retrofit of “*World Star*”, comply with the emission standards of International Maritime Organization (IMO) Tier II and US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Tier III;
- 4) coupled with the use of low sulphur fuel, which substantially reduces black smoke emission as well as other harmful air pollutant.

For more than 120 years, Star Ferry has been offering cross Victoria Harbour ferry services, carrying tremendous collective memories of Hong Kong citizens and giving an unforgettable impression of Hong Kong for tourists. Star Ferry strives to retain the ferry’s originality during design and retrofit, preserving the iconic features such as

- the chimney on top of the ferry with logos of the “Star”,
- the “upper green lower white” ferry hull, the circular lifebuoys hanged around the exterior,
- the reversible wooden benches,
- the red and white life raft on top of the ferry which has retired, was dismantled to restore the ferry to an even more original look.

To comply with the current regulations, two new wider staircases are installed connecting the upper and lower decks. Together with the elimination of standing capacity on the lower deck, the carrying capacity of “*Morning Star*” is reduced from 523 to 399 providing more cabin space with slight re-adjustment of seating layout.

As early as in 2016, Star Ferry retrofitted “*World Star*”, subsidized by Pilot Green Transport Fund of the Environmental Protection Department, to become the first ferry in Hong Kong powered by DEPS running distinctive tour service.

The Star Ferry has also received numerous awards and recognitions from authorities for its unique style and experience. As an awardee of the Certificate of Excellence from TripAdvisor for 5 consecutive years (2015 - 2019), Star Ferry is also qualified for the “Certificate of Excellence Hall of Fame” for the first time. In addition, Star Ferry was listed as one of the “50 places of a lifetime” by National Geographic, it was named among the “31 Reasons We Should All be Living in Hong Kong”, the World’s “Top 10 Most Exciting Ferry Rides”, and “Top Ten Must-see Destinations in Hong Kong” by various international media.

About Star Ferry

The “Star” Ferry Company, Limited has been providing cross-harbour ferry services between Hong Kong Island and Kowloon since its establishment in 1898. Not only is The “Star” Ferry an essential part of Hong Kong transportation system, it has also become one of the most remarkable icon of the city. National Geographic Traveler named the “Star” Ferry crossing as one of 50 ‘places of a lifetime’. For more information, please visit: <http://www.starferry.com.hk>

Photo captions

1&2: (left to right) The “Star” Ferry General Manager Mr. Jacky Ho, Deputy Secretary for Transport and Housing (Transport) Mr. Kevin Choi, Secretary for the Environment Mr. Wong Kam-sing, The “Star” Ferry Director Mr. Frankie Yick, Commissioner for Transport Ms. Mable Chan, The “Star” Ferry Director Mr. Kevin Hui and Chief Coxswain Mr. Kwok Cho Tai make a toast and officiate at ribbon cutting ceremony.





3. “Morning Star”, equipped with diesel-electric propulsion system, becomes the first low emission green ferry running daily service in Hong Kong.



4. The cabin becomes more spacious after slight re-adjustment of seating layout.



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