Top civil servants get big picture on national front

The 23 participants departed for Shanghai on June 7 in the afternoon by high-speed train, where they visited aircraft manufacturing and high-technology industries.

“We learned the country has a strong theoretical foundation in governance, and that it’s crucial to understand not only our own system, but also the nation’s system to make the best of our country, two systems,” Yin said.

Eve Tam Mei-ying, Deputy Director of Leisure and Cultural Services (Culture), said she learned of the environmental problems the nation was facing in 2013 during a training in Beijing, and was impressed to see how much progress can be made within 10 years on such a tough issue” when seeing the clean streets and blue skies 10 years later.

Choi Shu-kwong, the director of investigations in the private sector at the Independent Commission Against Corruption, added they also needed to write an essay to reflect their feelings and gains.

Chief Executive John Lee Ka-chun met Xi at the central government offices in Tiananmen yesterday.

They witnessed the signing of an agreement between the Civil Service Bureau and the academy on the national studies program for senior directorate-level civil servants, marking a new stage of cooperation between the SAR government and the academy.

Xi also delivered a talk to about 350 senior officials, including department secretaries, bureau directors, and other politically appointed officials.

“The talk enabled senior government officials and civil servants to have a deeper understanding of the governance philosophy and mission of the CPC, and to have a more accurate appreciation of the country’s policies of governance, so that the SAR government can play a more active role in supporting the overall development of the country,” Lee said.

Lee thanked the academy for its support in training the SAR government and hoped officials would serve Hong Kong better and leverage the distinct advantages of Hong Kong.

MTR invested HK$70 million to bolster smart railway technology through research with ASTRI

To strengthen smart railway operations management and intelligent maintenance with the latest technology, the MTR Corporation has invested and reserved a total of about HK$70 million to deepen its collaboration with the Hong Kong Applied Science and Technology Research Institute (ASTRI).

Given ASTRI’s rich research and copious experience in applying communication technology, artificial intelligence technology, the Internet of Things (IoT) and data analytics, the collaboration between the two parties will enhance the performance and efficiency of MTR’s railway operations and intelligent maintenance.

This collaboration is marked by the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), which establishes a framework for fostering innovative solutions and technology applications. Officiating at the signing ceremony are Dr Tony Lee, Operations Director of MTR Corporation and Dr Denis Yip, Chief Executive Officer of ASTRI, Mr Chan Hung-keung, Chief of Operations Engineering Service & Innovation of MTR Corporation, and Mr. David Chan, Chief Operating Officer of ASTRI.

MTR has been working with ASTRI since 2011, during which MTR allocated approximately HK$50 million to embark on projects with ASTRI. They kicked-started multiple contracts and projects, including the use of precise automatic optical inspection technology to improve railway safety, joint research and development of a portable escalator gap clearance inspection tool, and the application of digital twin to enhance the operational efficiency of the maintenance centre in the future.

Moving ahead, MTR and ASTRI look forward to further collaboration, jointly researching, developing and applying new technologies such as IoT, artificial intelligence and data analysis to build a smart railway system.

Dr. Tony Lee, Operations Director of the MTR Corporation, noted that MTR spares no effort in applying technology to enhance operational and management performance, and strives for excellence in providing safe and reliable railway services to its passengers. He is grateful for ASTRI being its close partner over the years, assisting MTR to improve its operational and management efficiency with innovative solutions. “We look forward to working with ASTRI’s experts to contribute to ‘industry-academic-research’ collaboration and facilitate the development of Hong Kong’s smart railways,” Lee adds.

Dr. Denis Yip, Chief Executive Officer of ASTRI, is keen on working with MTR to promote the comprehensive application of intelligent railway technology. "ASTRI is pleased to establish a close cooperative relationship with MTR to develop an intelligent railway using advanced technologies, including artificial intelligence, big data, Internet of Things, digital twin, optical inspections and more," says Yip.

Yip adds that as intelligent railway service plays an essential role in building an international smart city, this collaboration will bring epoch-making breakthroughs to smart mobility technology in Hong Kong, continuously providing passengers with better travel experience and services and empowering smart living with technology.

Under the new corporate strategy “Transforming the Future”, the MTR Corporation actively joins hands with research institutions, universities and start-ups to continuously promote smart railway services and operations, while contributing to local scientific research to help Hong Kong get ahead.

Meanwhile, ASTRI will remain steadfast in solidifying Hong Kong’s status as an international smart city. By actively supporting the improvement of the innovation and technology ecosystem, and promoting cooperation among the government, industry, academia and research sectors, ASTRI seeks to transform advanced technology into practical applications, creating intelligent living and business environments for the public.