

Secretary for Development's Blog: Ex-Sham Shui Po Service Reservoir (9 January 2022)
(English translation of the Chinese text version)

Ms CHENG Hoi-yi : Being a part of the then “Kowloon Waterworks
Engineer/ Gravitation Scheme”, the Ex-Sham Shui Po
Kowloon (Headworks), Service Reservoir (Ex-SSPSR) (also known as
Water Supplies Department Kowloon Tong Service Reservoir back then),
(WSD) was built in 1904. Major repairs were carried
out in 1951 to 1952 to rectify a leakage
problem. In 1970, the Ex-SSPSR was
decommissioned when the Shek Kip Mei Fresh
Water Service Reservoir came into operation.
The latter reservoir has a larger storage
capacity. The Ex-SSPSR was accorded as a
Grade 1 historic building by the Antiquities
Advisory Board. Let me highlight three
features of the service reservoir that are worthy
of our appreciation. First is its historic
building features.

Super : Circular appearance

Ms CHENG Hoi-yi : The Ex-SSPSR is the first round-shape
Engineer/ underground service reservoir locally built.
Kowloon (Headworks), WSD

Super : Semi-circular brick arches following the style
of Roman civil engineering works

Ms CHENG Hoi-yi : Its vaulted ceiling is styled to replicate the
(Engineer/ Roman civil engineering works. The concrete
Kowloon (Headworks), WSD vaulted ceiling is supported by rows of semi-

circular brick arches and 108 granite pillars.

Super : Concrete vaulted ceiling

Ms CHENG Hoi-yi : These three structural forms are very efficient
Engineer/ structural design in engineering.
Kowloon (Headworks), WSD

Super : Granite pillars

Ms CHENG Hoi-yi : The second highlight of the service reservoir is
Engineer/ that its underground storage was made of three
Kowloon (Headworks), WSD building materials - granite blocks, red bricks
and concrete.

Thirdly, important functional components are still kept in the service reservoir for visiting by the public.

Ms CHENG Hoi-yi : After seeking heritage conservation advice
Engineer/ from the Antiquities and Monuments Office,
Kowloon (Headworks), WSD the WSD has carried out a number of temporary
works in the service reservoir :

Super : Temporary works

Ms CHENG Hoi-yi : Firstly, to ensure structural stability and
Engineer/ integrity of the service reservoir, temporary
Kowloon (Headworks), WSD bracing has been installed to support concrete
roof slabs that may have risk of dislocation,
and brick arches and other structural parts that
show signs of possible danger. Also, devices
have been installed to monitor the condition of

cracks in the vaulted ceiling of the brick arches.

Secondly, a glass roof has been installed to protect the exposed part of the service reservoir from weathering and bring in natural light and fresh air.

Thirdly, various improvement works have been carried out for the guided tours, including the provision of internal lighting, ventilation and fire service installations, raised floor pathway and access facilities.

Super : Studies on the long-term conservation and revitalisation proposals

Ms CHENG Hoi-yi : The Development Bureau will conduct studies
Engineer/ on the long-term conservation and
Kowloon (Headworks), WSD revitalisation proposals for the service
reservoir, so that members of the public can
benefit from the use of this place.

Super : (In view of the pandemic situation, guided
tours to the Ex-SSPSR are temporarily
suspended)

Ms CHENG Hoi-yi : The WSD has been collecting feedback on the
Engineer/ guided tours, which will be submitted to the
Kowloon (Headworks), WSD Development Bureau for consideration.

Super : Interview filmed earlier
Ms CHAN (Tour participant)

Ms CHAN : The service reservoir is worth visiting, I can learn more about past operation of the WSD and the history of waterworks because of the clear presentation given by the docents. I wish this place could be preserved.

Super : Interview filmed earlier
Mr CHAN (Tour participant)

Mr CHAN : While I have previously watched the video on YouTube introducing the service reservoir, I am much more impressed after seeing it on-site. Young tour participants can understand more about the historical development, population distribution and the difference between the Ex-SSPSR and the present reservoirs.

Super : Interview filmed earlier
Ms YAU (Tour participant)

Ms YAU : Before touring the service reservoir in person, I have checked out its general information on the WSD website and the virtual tour of the service reservoir online. The arrangement of the guided tour was satisfactory and the docents explained the information clearly.

Super : Interview filmed earlier
Mr SO (Tour participant)

Mr SO : Through the guided tour, I have a deeper understanding of the history of the service reservoir. I like the environment, as it is clean here. (The installation of the glass roof) protects the service reservoir from weathering. I also like the design of the glass roof, which allows natural light into the service reservoir, and it is environmentally-friendly.

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