

UK railway mission rolls into Taipei to push sustainability

By Joseph Yeh, The China Post

November 19, 2016, 12:23 am TWN



TAIPEI, Taiwan :

A United Kingdom business delegation regarding sustainable railway development concluded its Taipei trip Friday during which it promoted U.K.'s capabilities in operating and maintaining traditional railways, the country's de facto embassy in Taiwan has said.

Comprising 17 companies and organizations and led by Lord Faulkner, the U.K. Prime Minister's Trade Envoy to Taiwan, the delegation was the biggest railway mission ever to Taiwan, the British Office said in a statement.

The U.K. railway industry currently provides consultancy, signalling, track equipment, maintenance equipment, and certifications to Taiwan's railway sector.

During its two-day tour, the delegation attended three workshops organized by the British Office with the Taiwan Railways Administration (TRA), the Taoyuan City Department of Transport and the Taipei City Government Department of Rapid Transit Systems.

During these workshops, the U.K. representatives showed off their expertise in upgrading and renewing railways through whole life cycle procurement, asset management and maintenance projects.

They also discussed integrated infrastructure, fixed infrastructure asset monitoring, remote monitoring and supply chain operations.

In an opening remarks addressed at the U.K. Sustainable Railway Workshop with the TRA on Thursday, Faulkner said the U.K. Railway Industry Association had been working closely with the U.K.'s Department for International Trade since 2003.

"Through the workshop, U.K. companies are able to introduce the concept of sustainable railways and the importance of "whole life cycle costing" to the TRA as part of their procurement planning."

"We hope to use the theme of traditional railway development to generate more business exchanges between the U.K. railway experts and Taiwan mainline authorities," he added.

According to the British Office, the U.K.'s railway industry contributes 9.3 billion pounds (US\$11.5 billion) per year to the U.K. economy.

Taiwan's mainline railway has been in operation for 129 years. The Taipei metro recently turned 20.