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SMRT INTRODUCES SOUTHEAST ASIA'S FIRST FULL LOW FLOOR EURO 5 BUS - PROVIDING GREATER ACCESSIBILITY FOR PASSENGERS

1. Commuters can look forward to riding on Southeast Asia's first full low floor, easy access bus – the Euro 5 Mercedes-Benz Citaro O530. This new bus is also greener due to its greater fuel efficiency. It will be put on the road for a one-year trial starting 16 March 2010 and will ply various trunk and feeder service routes. Passengers are welcome to give their feedback to SMRT.
2. The Citaro's unique low floor feature is made possible because of its smaller rear, side-mounted engine. This, combined with a lighter bus weight, has enhanced fuel efficiency, making it an even more environmentally-friendly bus. Being a Euro 5 bus, the Citaro O530 meets higher emission standards, with 42 per cent less harmful nitrous oxide pollutants in compared to Euro 4 buses. The Citaro also has full side kneeling capability – 240mm at the front door and rear doors – allowing for smooth passenger entry and exit.
3. Vice President, SMRT Buses Ms Kang Huey Ling (江慧玲, SMRT 巴士副总裁) shared: "SMRT is constantly finding ways to improve commuter experience. We work with manufacturers to bring in vehicles that are best-in-class to suit our customers' needs. Since we launched Southeast Asia's first Euro 5 wheelchair accessible bus in April 2008, we have received positive feedback from commuters, and also suggestions on how their travel experience can be improved. With this new bus and its fully low floor, it will allow passengers like the elderly easier access to seats at the back of the bus, thus ensuring smoother passenger flow. We hope this will make our commuters' journey more enjoyable."
4. The Citaro bus was unveiled in a ceremony this afternoon at SMRT Ang Mo Kio Depot, when it was handed over to SMRT President & CEO Ms Saw Phaik Hwa (苏碧华, SMRT 总裁兼首席执行官) by Daimler Bus (戴姆勒巴士) (Germany) Executive Managing Director Mr Michael Gopfarth. The event was graced by guests from Mercedes-Benz (马赛地), Cycle and Carriage (怡和合发), Friends of SMRT (SMRT 之友) and green organizations such as the National Environment Agency (国家环境局).
5. SMRT welcomes feedback from passengers on the new Citaro bus at www.smrt.com.sg/citaro.

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Media Release



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SMRT Euro 5 Mercedes-Benz Citaro O530 bus Southeast Asia's first full low floor bus

SMRT is always looking for ways to enhance customer travel experience while keeping in mind its commitment to the environment. On 16 March 2010, SMRT Buses will roll out a one-year trial for the Euro 5 Mercedes-Benz Citaro O530 (Citaro), a full low floor bus that provides greater accessibility for passengers. The bus, which is also greener, is made and assembled in Germany, with a fully-integrated, light-weight body, allowing for lesser vibration and a quieter and more comfortable journey on the road.

The bus can accommodate around 80 passengers (37 seating, 44 standing) and one passenger-in-wheelchair (PIW). SMRT will rotate the bus to ply both trunk and feeder service routes to gather feedback from passengers.

Touted as the world's best selling city bus, there are currently over 20,000 units of Citaro buses operating at major cities such as Madrid, London, Paris, Rome and Istanbul.

Key Features

(a) Full low floor with elderly and wheelchair-friendly attributes for smoother ride

The Citaro has a full low floor right through its rear, with low steps at the entrance and exit and full side kneeling capability, which allow passengers to board and move to the back of the bus easily and swiftly. The full low floor is made possible due to a rear side-mounted engine that is smaller and takes up less space. This engine has a 6.4-litre capacity which generates 286 hp.

For PIW, the bus offers one specially allocated space near the exit. This helps to minimise movement so that getting on and off the bus can be done effortlessly. The space for the PIW lot comes with a fold-down seat for two.

(b) Quieter bus for a more comfortable ride

The Citaro has a quieter interior due to better body insulation. Moreover, its modular design features a fully-integrated, light-weight body, allowing for lesser vibration. Both factors provide passengers with a more comfortable and smoother journey on the road.

Its light-weight body with reinforced longitudinal steel parts at the side walls also provides greater safety for passengers.



(c) Greener bus with greater fuel efficiency and lower emissions

The weight of the Citaro is 10.98 ton, almost 1 ton lighter than the OC500LE. This increases the mileage and improves fuel efficiency by about seven per cent.

The bus operates on BlueTec® SCR engine technology, which converts harmful nitrous oxide emissions into mostly nitrogen and water vapour. This makes emission from the bus cleaner and safer.

One-year trial welcomes passenger feedback

For customers' benefit, SMRT takes proactive measures to ensure buses brought in are best-in-class in comfort, safety, reliability and environmental impact.

The Citaro will be tested on various trunk and feeder services over a one-year trial period. Commuters are welcome to provide their feedback at www.smrt.com.sg/citaro on:

- (a) Equipment on board (e.g. air-conditioning, lighting),
- (b) Passenger usability (e.g. grab poles, door closing speed),
- (c) Interior aesthetics (e.g. layout), and
- (d) Overall impression of the bus.

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