

Press Release

6 January 2025

CityUHK, MTR and MTR Academy sign MoU on Railway Innovation Collaboration and Talent Development

City University of Hong Kong (CityUHK), MTR Corporation (MTR) and MTR Academy (MTRA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) today (6 January 2025). This MoU aims to establish a partnership to focus on advanced railway-related research, talent development, and innovation while fostering a railway-related I&T (innovation & technology) ecosystem through collaborative efforts and knowledge exchange.

Leveraging the strengths of CityUHK, MTR and MTRA, the MoU establishes a framework for exploring collaborative research on railway-related solutions, facilitating the exchange of knowledge and fostering the development of I&T ecosystem. MTR and MTRA will identify potential partnerships with the University on railway-related innovations, particularly those under the HK Tech 300, the flagship innovation and entrepreneurship programme launched by CityUHK, transforming innovative ideas into practical applications and jointly propelling the development of “smart mobility”.

CityUHK, MTR, and MTRA will also establish talent-nurturing collaboration to explore opportunities for exchange of researchers, students, and faculty members. This includes exploring the possibility of CityUHK offering railway-related research topics, and MTR and MTRA recommending eligible staff to attend training programmes offered by CityUHK including the PhD by Innovation degree programme under the CityU Academy of Innovation (CAI).

Witnessed by Professor Freddy Boey, President of CityUHK, and Dr Jacob Kam, Chief Executive Officer of MTR Corporation, the MoU was signed by Professor Michael Yang Meng-su, Senior Vice-President (Innovation and Enterprise) of CityUHK, Professor Johnny Ho Chung-yin, Associate Vice-President (Enterprise) of CityUHK, Ms Jeny Yeung, Managing Director – Hong Kong Transport Services of MTR Corporation and Ms Margaret Cheng, President of MTR Academy.

“This industry-academia-research collaboration marks a remarkable fusion of MTR and MTRA’s expertise with CityUHK’s dynamic innovation and entrepreneurial ecosystem,” said Professor Boey, President of CityUHK. “I am confident that our joint efforts will empower our future leaders to develop advanced railway technologies and provide a positive societal impact through applications.”

“MTR Corporation is committed to fostering ‘industry, academia, research’ and application of innovative solutions to continuously enhance MTR operations and service with the aim of advancing to a smart railway. We look forward to this MoU deepening the exchange of expertise and further advancing the development of the railway I&T ecosystem in Hong Kong through collaboration between the University and MTR,” said Dr Jacob Kam, Chief Executive Officer of MTR Corporation.

Based in Hong Kong for 45 years, MTR is committed to delivering high quality railway services, expanding the railway network and building communities. With extensive experience in railway operations, asset management and maintenance, MTR firmly believes that adopting and developing innovative technologies is essential for enhancing service and operational efficiency.

MTR actively collaborates with universities, research institutions and start-ups to promote smart railway services, contribute to local scientific research and cultivate a rail-tech ecosystem.

CityUHK launched HK Tech 300 programme in 2021 to build an extensive start-up ecosystem, for aspiring entrepreneurs among CityU students, alumni, research staff and others to launch start-ups and ignite their entrepreneurship journey. This programme has provided seed fund to launch over 700 start-ups projects and invested in over 190 start-ups with an angel fund investment of up to HK\$1 million each. The programme has attracted over 230 experienced industrialists and entrepreneurs to serve as mentors and engaged more than 90 public and private institutions as the strategic partners, co-investment partners and supporting organisations. In 2024, CityUHK established the CityU Academy of Innovation (CAI) that offers a comprehensive range of degree and non-degree programmes for future entrepreneurs to develop deep-tech start-ups, reaffirming the University's position as a leading university in innovation and entrepreneurship education.

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About City University of Hong Kong

City University of Hong Kong (CityUHK) is an innovative hub for world-class research and education. We have 11 Colleges and Schools: Biomedicine, Business, Computing, Engineering, Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, Science, Veterinary Medicine and Life Sciences, Creative Media, Energy and Environment, Law, and Graduate Studies, together with 28 academic units. CityUHK is the most International University in the world, ranked in the top 100 globally, top 10 in Asia and top 5 young universities under 50 years of history.

We aim to unleash our students' passion for learning through inspirational learning, help them to work as a team through inspirational, interactive, and innovative learning, and encourage them to explore outside the academic world and embrace their inspiration and inventions through innovative learning. Moreover, we pursue research that has a scientific, technological and social impact. For more information about CityUHK, please visit: www.cityu.edu.hk.

About MTR Corporation

To Keep Cities Moving, MTR makes encounters happen and rendezvous for a more connected tomorrow. As a recognised world-class operator of sustainable rail transport services, we are a leader in safety, reliability, customer service and efficiency.

MTR has extensive end-to-end railway expertise with over 45 years of railway projects experience from design to planning and construction through to commissioning, maintenance and operations. Going beyond railway delivery and operation, MTR also creates and manages dynamic communities around its network through seamless integration of rail, commercial and property development.

With more than 50,000 dedicated staff*, MTR carries over 10 million passenger journeys worldwide every weekday in Hong Kong, Mainland China, Australia, the United Kingdom and Sweden. Together, we Go Smart and Go Beyond.

For more information about MTR Corporation, please visit www.mtr.com.hk.

*includes our subsidiaries and associates in Hong Kong and worldwide

About MTR Academy

Backed by over 40 years of experience in advanced railway operations and management in Hong Kong and overseas, the MTR Academy (MTRA), a wholly owned subsidiary of MTR Corporation Limited, was set up in 2016, with an aim to share MTR's competency and experience with railway operators and authorities worldwide to pursue a common set of goals for service excellence and sustainable operations.

The vision of MTRA is to be a recognized railway management and engineering centre of excellence in providing programmes for MTR staff, Hong Kong community and the railway industry in the Mainland of China and oversea, including countries along the Belt and Road Initiative.

Through these programmes, MTRA fosters a new generation of railway leaders dedicated to service excellence and sustainable operations.

For more information about MTRA, please visit www.mtracademy.com

Photo Caption:

1. The Memorandum of Understanding was witnessed by Professor Freddy Boey, President of CityUHK (second row, right) and Dr Jacob Kam, Chief Executive Officer of MTR Corporation (second row, left). Professor Michael Yang Meng-su, Senior Vice-President (Innovation and Enterprise) of CityUHK (front row, 2nd from right), Professor Johnny Ho Chung-yin, Associate Vice-President (Enterprise) of CityUHK (front row, 1st from right), Ms Jeny Yeung, Managing Director – Hong Kong Transport Services of MTR Corporation (front row, 2nd from left) and Ms Margaret Cheng, President of MTR Academy (front row, 1st from left) signed the MoU.

