

Press Release

27 August 2024

The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Beijing Jiaotong University and MTR Academy Sign a Cooperation Agreement to Nurture Railway Professionals in Belt and Road Countries

The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU), Beijing Jiaotong University (BJTU) and MTR Academy signed a cooperation agreement yesterday (26 August 2024) and announced the launch of the “Belt and Road Advanced Professional Development Programme in Railway Transport”, which aims to facilitate talent development as well as cooperation and exchange in technologies by combining the teaching resources and research capabilities of the two universities together with the practical experience of the railway operator to promote the railway development in Belt and Road countries.

The inaugural “Belt and Road Advanced Professional Development Programme in Railway Transport” will be launched in October this year, offering the “Sustainable Rail Transport: Planning, Operations and New Technologies” training programme which targets about 30 senior executives, scholars, researchers and trainers who are engaged in railway development, planning, policy and operations, as well as future transport advocates who aspire to promote smart mobility initiatives and integrated transportation systems in Belt and Road countries and regions.

The two-week training programme will be conducted in Beijing and Hong Kong, and will include lectures, workshops and discussion forums. Participants will also visit the facilities of railway operators in Beijing and Hong Kong to better understand the industry’s latest developments. The training programme will provide a platform for participants to exchange ideas on the application of emerging technologies and operations with a view to accelerating sustainable development in infrastructure, economics and people’s livelihoods in Belt and Road countries and regions. The parties target to launch at least one training programme annually under the three-year cooperation agreement.

The signing ceremony of the cooperation agreement was held in Beijing, with the agreement being signed by Prof HC Man, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering of PolyU, Prof Meng Lingyun, Dean of the School of Traffic and Transportation of BJTU, and Dr Mark Ho, Dean of MTR Academy.

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Prof HC Man said, "PolyU is committed to supporting the Belt and Road initiative for talent development in the field of engineering. We are pleased to enter into this tripartite partnership with the MTR Academy and Beijing Jiaotong University to organise the "Belt and Road Advanced Professional Development Programme in Railway Transport". PolyU's smart railway technology innovations, already deployed in various countries and regions, demonstrate our commitment to translating research outcomes into practical solutions. Through this programme, PolyU hopes to foster advanced exchanges and knowledge sharing and realise new collaboration opportunities with experts in Hong Kong and Belt and Road countries."

Prof Meng Lingyun said, "Since the introduction of the Belt and Road Initiative, Beijing Jiaotong University has proactively served major strategic needs of the country, fully leveraging its strengths in transportation and promoting educational and research cooperation in the field of railway transportation. We sincerely hope that this "Belt and Road Advanced Professional Development Programme in Railway Transport" will provide an opportunity to work with PolyU and MTR Academy to build a high-level international exchange platform for sharing advanced railway technologies and valuable operational management experience."

Dr Mark Ho said, "Railways play an indispensable role in the sustainable development of urban planning. The "Belt and Road Advanced Professional Development Programme in Railway Transport" is the first to be jointly organised by a railway operator and universities. MTR Academy looks forward to this collaboration to provide a knowledge platform for the Belt and Road countries. Our sharing of MTR's world-class experience in railway operation and management will enable the programme to blend theory and practice, thereby achieving the goal of fostering the sustainable development of mass transit systems and smart cities through regional exchanges."

Initially, the collaboration will focus primarily on training. The three parties will continue to explore other possibilities for long-term cooperation to promote exchanges in the field of railway transportation in support of the Belt and Road Initiative.

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About The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU) aspires to be an innovative world-class university with a strong sense of social responsibility, driven by its motto, “To learn and to apply, for the benefit of mankind”.

The University provides the best holistic education to nurture socially responsible “leaders of tomorrow” who possess a strong sense of national identity and a global perspective, and pursues impactful innovation and interdisciplinary research to address the world’s most pressing challenges. A robust culture of knowledge transfer and entrepreneurship is a cornerstone of the University, ensuring PolyU’s technologies are transformed into practical real-world applications. The University’s unwavering commitment to excellence has earned it international recognition, with PolyU consistently ranking among the top 100 universities worldwide. Based on this solid foundation, the University will continue to make positive contributions in collaboration with its strategic partners for the betterment of Hong Kong, the Nation, and the world.

About Beijing Jiaotong University

Beijing Jiaotong University (BJTU), a national key university under the direct administration of the Ministry of Education, jointly supported by the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Transport, Beijing Municipal Government, and China State Railway Group Co., Ltd, is an active contributor to the development of the “National 211 Project”, the “985 Innovative Platforms for Key Disciplines Project” and the “Double First-Class” construction. Currently, the university has 3,160 faculty and staff members including 2,024 full-time teachers, approximately 30,000 students and over 600,000 graduates.

Actively responding to the appeal of the “Belt and Road Initiative”, BJTU has cooperated with 247 universities and renowned cross-national businesses from 51 countries. BJTU has joined international organizations and alliances such as UIC, OSJD, and China-CEEC Higher Education Institutions Consortium. It has also led the establishment of the China-ASEAN Rail Transit Education and Training Association and the UIC AUHSR. To enhance international research cooperation, the University also created the China-US, China-Russia, China-UK, and China-Indonesia High-speed Railway Research Centers.

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 overseas, including countries along the Belt and Road Initiative.

Since its establishment, MTRA has delivered tailor-made training programmes to over 400 executives from 22 countries and regions across Asia, Europe, the Middle East, and Australia. These countries include Belt and Road nations such as Thailand, Indonesia, Israel, Qatar, Korea, the Philippines, Malaysia, Myanmar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, and India. 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. Prof HC Man, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering of The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (left), Prof Meng Lingyun, Dean of the School of Traffic and Transportation of Beijing Jiaotong University (middle), and Dr Mark Ho, Dean of MTR Academy (right) signed a cooperation agreement of the tripartite partnership on the launch of the “Belt and Road Advanced Professional Development Programme in Railway Transport” to facilitate talent development as well as cooperation and exchange in technologies by combining the teaching resources, research capabilities of the two universities together with the practical experience of the railway operator.

