

International Conference on Roads and Railways 2025 unites global experts to shape Hong Kong’s sustainable transport future

- Debuting in Hong Kong, the conference was celebrated as a dynamic platform for knowledge exchange and networking, bringing together over 30 global experts and more than 800 attendees.
- The two-day event (June 12 to 13) also showcased cutting-edge transport infrastructure technologies and was followed by exclusive site visits to two major projects in the city.

The International Conference on Roads and Railways 2025 (ICRR 2025), themed “Building Smart and Green Transport Infrastructure,” convened Mainland, overseas and local industry leaders, policymakers, Consuls General, academics and representatives from international engineering firms. This landmark event showcased cutting-edge global practices, technological breakthroughs, and Hong Kong’s strategies in shaping a sustainable transport infrastructure blueprint beyond 2030.

Hong Kong has consistently demonstrated excellence in public transport network and infrastructure development. It ranked 1st as the World’s Best Public Transport City in an international survey in 2025, 2nd in another renowned transportation index in 2024, and 9th in Infrastructure and 3rd in Basic Infrastructure respectively in the IMD World Competitiveness Ranking 2024, reflecting the efficiency of its public transit system and its commitment to world-class development.

The conference was co-organised by the Highways Department (HyD) and the Hong Kong Institution of Highways and Transportation (HKIHT). Through dynamic speeches and collaborative discussions, the ICRR 2025 fostered innovation and strengthened Hong Kong’s international network in construction, operation, and investment of the next-generation transport systems.

In his welcoming address, Mr Alfred Leung, the President of the HKIHT, set the tone by highlighting the transformative impact of advanced technologies on transportation management and sustainability, emphasising that these advancements create exciting opportunities for professionals while necessitating cross-disciplinary collaborations to tackle emerging challenges.

Driving economic growth through smarter infrastructure

Officiating at the conference, the Financial Secretary, Mr Paul Chan, stressed the critical role of roads and railways in driving economic growth and social progress. With rapid technological advancements and pressing environmental concerns, infrastructure must evolve to become both smarter and greener. One key strategy in this transformation is transit-



The International Conference on Roads and Railways 2025 was supported by top government officials: Financial Secretary, Mr Paul Chan (centre), posed with other guests at the opening ceremony of the conference.

oriented development, which integrates high-density urban planning with efficient public transportation networks. He also highlighted that the Northern Metropolis, positioned as a future innovation and technology hub, leverages an infrastructure-led and capacity-building development model for robust transport networks and sustainable urban planning.

In her keynote speech, the Secretary for Transport and Logistics, Ms Mable Chan, reiterated the Government’s dedication to a highly efficient and diversified public transport system. A core focus is the cross-boundary integration with the Greater Bay Area aimed at fostering smoother regional connectivity. To achieve this, the Government has embraced a dual-innovation approach, combining policy and technological advancements. It is actively optimising regulatory frameworks, administrative procedures, design standards and guidelines to enhance transport infrastructure efficiency.

Ir Tony Yau, the Director of Highways, echoed these sentiments, underscoring the commitment of both public and private sectors to future-proofing Hong Kong’s transport through forward planning, policy innovation, new transport mode and technology innovation.

Financing green infrastructure

Hong Kong has emerged as a leading debt financing hub, playing a vital role in infrastructure expansions locally and internationally. Mr Darryl Chan, Deputy Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Monetary Fund, highlighted the city’s expertise in funding large-scale developments. The public sector leverages debt financing to drive infrastructure growth sustainably. A prime example is the Hong Kong Government’s bond programmes, which focus on green initiatives and infrastructure development.

Ir Hon Chi Keung, the Chairperson of the Building Technology Research Institute, shared experience on effectively advancing transport infrastructure through innovations.

During the conference, Ms Mable Chan, alongside Mr Yau and Mr Leung, interacted with young engineers to understand their perspectives and expectations on infrastructure development. Ms Chan also toured the exhibition section, exploring the latest transport infrastructure construction and maintenance technologies.

Successful conclusion

The second day commenced with a speech by Mr Wang Shuiyin, Vice President of the Research Institute of Highway at the Ministry of



Secretary for Transport and Logistics, Ms Mable Chan (centre), visited the exhibition held concurrently at ICRR 2025.

Transport of the People’s Republic of China, which inspired participants to explore practical approaches for smart and green road construction.

Following this, industry experts shared perspectives on planning, design and construction of transport infrastructure, focusing on innovative designs, advanced materials, smart monitoring systems and solutions for extreme weather resilience.

In closing, Deputy Director of Highways, Mr Richard Ng, emphasised how the conference had inspired Hong Kong to pursue sustainable solutions through policy and technological innovation. He stressed the importance of international co-operation in overcoming transport infrastructure challenges.

First trial of the significant project - CKR

To align with the conference theme, approximately 60 participants were arranged in two delegations to visit the major infrastructure projects respectively on June 14 - the Central Kowloon Route (CKR) and the MTRCL Tung Chung Line Extension (TUE) - witnessing firsthand Hong Kong’s advancements in transport infrastructure.

The CKR has entered the final stage of construction works and is expected to reach readiness for official commissioning by December 2025 and will be named as the Central Kowloon Bypass (Yau Ma Tei Section) by



During their visit, the delegation posed with the Central Kowloon Route project team of the Highways Department at the Kai Tak Interchange works site.



The delegation visited the works site of MTRCL Tung Chung Line Extension.

then. The delegation was offered the first crossing of the Central Kowloon Bypass (Yau Ma Tei Section) and visited the Kai Tak Interchange, Kai Tak Depressed Road and entrance of Yau Ma Tei Tunnel, as well as the works site at Kansu Street in Yau Ma Tei to understand how the project team had overcome the challenges encountered during construction in the dense urban areas. The delegation also visited the Former Yau Ma Tei Police Station to gain a deep understanding of its history and conservation engineering technology. The project team of the HyD introduced to the delegation their self-invented and multi-international award-winning Smart Site Management Hub, which effectively monitors the works progress of the entire project under different works contracts in a unified manner by integrating various data of innovative technologies.

Another delegation visited the MTRCL TUE project composed of Tung Chung East and Tung Chung West Sections. The project is targeted for completion by 2029 and will effectively enhance Tung Chung’s internal and external connectivity, and promote sustainable community development upon commissioning. The project team shared and exchanged experiences on integrating innovative technologies and infrastructure construction with the delegation and arranged visits to the two works sites to gain a deeper understanding of the works progress.

Following the success of the conference, planning for the upcoming conference to be held in two years’ time has already commenced.

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Secretary for Transport and Logistics, Ms Mable Chan, interacted with young engineers during the conference.