

For Immediate Release

**Positive response to tramplus' "Smart City and Innovation Scholarship"
20 students enrolled in MIT Node courses to stimulate their creativities**

(Hong Kong, December 20, 2022) Tram Plus Limited ("**tramplus**"), a sister company of HK Tramways, has always encouraged students to learn beyond the boundaries of a classroom through hosting CSR activities. Last month, tramplus launched its first "**Smart City and Innovation Scholarship**" for 20 secondary students to participate in "Design for Sustainable Urban Mobility Program", a course co-developed with MIT Hong Kong Innovation Node ("**MIT Node**"). Presented with the theme of "Urban Mobility", students were guided through a design thinking approach to explore possibilities of sustainability and urban mobility from multiple perspectives.



Since applications for the scholarship exceeded expectations, the selection committee was faced with a tough decision, but eventually selected 20 top F.3 and F.4 students from 14 different secondary schools. The schools are (in no particular sequence): King George V School, St. Stephen's Girls' College, St. Joseph's College, St. Joseph's Anglo-Chinese School, Ying Wa Girls' School, Lung Kong WFSL Lau Wong Fat Secondary School, SKH Lam Kau Mow Secondary School, CNEC Christian College, Pentecostal School, Po Leung Kuk Mrs. Ma Kam Ming-Cheung Fook Sien College, Jockey Club Ti-I College, Carmel Alison Lam Foundation Secondary School, Shun Tak Fraternal Association Tam Pak Yu College, Rosaryhill Secondary School.

Throughout the 20 hours of the course, the students underwent an intensive design thinking training. Design thinking is a user-centric problem-solving approach through five different phases, which are: understanding of the user (Empathy), definition of the problem (Define), idea generation (Ideate), validating the solution (Prototype) and testing the solution (Testing). Not only does this framework empower the students to take initiative, the students were also greatly motivated to learn as they are able to take ownership of their own ideas and express their creativity. Being submerged in a hands-on environment, the students embrace their innovative spirit and test their ideas through trial and error.



In this scholarship, the students were also given the incredible opportunity to witness the production of “made in Hong Kong” trams within the depot, gaining insight and inspiration of its role towards a smarter city. Towards the end, the students presented their pitches detailing the problem and solution they have identified. Each group had compelling and creative solutions that incorporated coding, technology and 3D modelling elements. For example: an IoT in-tram and tram shelter displays, AI travel concierge, “Ding Ding Cat” robotic AI assistant, VR historic tram journey experience and AR filters.

“The students’ creativity and talent speak for themselves,” said Joseph Lin, Head of Curriculum Development at trampus and instructor of the “Design for Sustainable Urban Mobility Program”, “but what impressed me the most was their readiness to test a new idea, fail, and try something else again. It’s so important for students to move away from the traditional mindset of avoiding mistakes or following model answers, and what we saw during this program proved that Hong Kong students do have what it takes to innovate at the highest level, if we just give them the opportunity to shine.”

All participated students graduated on November 26, and were awarded with a certificate of completion from MIT Node.



Scholarship Highlights Video: <https://youtu.be/4npCudB9G2Q>

The feedback from the students were positive. Cheuk Hei from St. Joseph's College states that "The program is very meaningful and inspiring. I have been rewarded with new skills and knowledge as well as friendship. In addition I have gained valuable insight into Design Thinking. I look forward to joining more programs like this in the future."

For more details of next tramplus x MIT Node smart city and sustainability STEAM course, please visit [Aspirers](https://theaspirers.com) or email to marketing@theaspirers.com.

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About tramplus

Founded in 2021, **tramplus** is a sister company of HK Tramways and owned by the RATP Dev Group.

With the vision to advocate local STEM education, **tramplus** teams up with the world's leading institutions and educators to provide easy access to the world-class online and in-curriculum STEM education, by blending in the rich legacy of tram engineering wisdom with modern tech knowledge.

tramplus focuses on STEM-related curricula including basic science, mechanical and electrical engineering, coding and urban development. By approaching these topics from a daily life perspective, **tramplus** hopes to inspire students to adopt a radical mindset and equip them with a STEM foundation. Hence, equip them with the knowledge and skills to develop a smarter and a more sustainable future for the city.

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