

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MTR Corporation supports the 17th Walk21 Hong Kong Conference's "Youth Walkers" in providing training and enhancing employability

HONG KONG, Saturday, 9 April 2016 – Independent public policy think tank Civic Exchange kick-started today a "Youth Walkers Programme", which aims to strengthen functional and soft skills of "Walkers" from various tertiary institutions.

As co-organiser of this year's Walk21 Hong Kong Conference – Hong Kong and Asia's first international conference on walkability, to be held in October 2016 – Civic Exchange with support from the MTR Corporation launched the Youth Walkers Programme to enhance the employability of students at tertiary institutions in Hong Kong through a series of skills- and knowledge-based training exercises and practical applications deriving from the conference themes.

The Programme received 120 applications of which 80 "Walkers" from different disciplines were chosen. The Walkers will undergo training and will be presented with personal development opportunities and a series of practical deliverables to demonstrate their skills. The programme will conclude with students participating in the international Walk 21 conference in October.

Gill Meller, Legal Director and Secretary of MTR Corporation, stated that their Corporate Responsibility initiatives focus on youth because young people are a key part of the community that they connect. "We are excited to see such an overwhelming response! The Corporation launched Youth Connect last year with the goal of empowering young people to achieve their potential and the Youth Walker Programme is one of the initiatives to help us achieve that goal. We hope our Youth Walkers enjoy the programme and find the learning process fulfilling," Meller added.

Through providing young people with both classroom and practical training in event management, programme design, promotion strategies, public presenting and other highly employable skillsets, Civic Exchange hopes that the participants will enjoy the experience of applied learning from the subject matter, and at the same time will be empowered to achieve their long-term career aspirations.

About Civic Exchange:

Civic Exchange is an independent Hong Kong-based public policy think tank established in September 2000. With the vision in shaping a liveable and sustainable Hong Kong to enhance our sense of wellbeing, Civic Exchange undertakes evidence-based research in areas such as air quality, energy, urban planning, climate change, nature conservation and urban environment.

About MTR Corporation

MTR Corporation is regarded as one of the world's leading railway operators for safety, reliability, customer service and cost efficiency. In its home base of Hong Kong, the Corporation operates nine commuter railway lines, a Light Rail network and a high-speed Airport Express link on which more than 5.5 million passenger trips are made on a normal week day. Another 5 million passenger trips are made on the rail services it operates outside Hong Kong in the Mainland of China, the United Kingdom, Sweden and Australia. In addition, the Corporation is involved in a range of railway construction projects as well as railway consultancy and contracting services around the world. Leveraging on its railway expertise, the Corporation is involved in the development of transit-related residential and commercial property projects, property management, shopping malls leasing and management, advertising media and telecommunication services. For more information about MTR Corporation, please visit www.mtr.com.hk.

About the Walk21 Hong Kong Conference:

The "17th International Walk21 Conference on Walking and Liveable Communities in Hong Kong" will be held from 3-7 October 2016 and aims to support government policy towards people-based planning in delivering a low-carbon, age-friendly, inclusive and liveable Hong Kong. Co-organised by Civic Exchange and Walk21, it is the first ever conference in the Walk21 series to be held in Asia and a ground-breaking effort to engage a spectrum of local and international stakeholders on walking, public space and urban planning issues, ranging from government agencies, business leaders, professionals, non-governmental organisations, community groups, and academics to the general public.

Conference website: www.walk21hk.com

Conference welcoming video: <https://youtu.be/FJkqFxOZAlw>

Download co-branding logo, bilingual press release, and photos: <http://bit.ly/09042016ywp>

Media enquiries: press@walk21hk.com