



CIHT Hong Kong Delegation Visits Dubai: A Milestone in Global Collaboration

CIHT Dubai had the honor of hosting the CIHT Hong Kong delegation as part of the 40th-anniversary celebrations of CIHT Hong Kong. The delegation's visit to the UAE highlighted the transformative advancements in transport, infrastructure, and sustainability across Abu Dhabi, Dubai, and Sharjah, fostering professional exchange and global collaboration.

The journey began in Abu Dhabi, where the delegation explored the Integrated Transport Centre (ITC). At ITC's headquarters, they gained firsthand insights into Abu Dhabi's innovative approach to smart and sustainable transportation. The visit offered a deep dive into the city's strategies to enhance mobility while reducing environmental impacts. The delegation then visited Masdar City, a global icon of sustainable urban development, showcasing the UAE's commitment to a greener future and carbon-neutral mobility. Their exploration of Abu Dhabi concluded with a tour of CHEC's

Al Mina Project construction site, where they witnessed the scale and complexity of infrastructure development in action, gaining a profound appreciation for the engineering ingenuity driving the UAE's ambitious projects.

In Dubai, the delegation engaged with the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) to understand the city's cutting-edge vision for urban mobility. The RTA's focus on integrated transport systems, smart infrastructure, and sustainable solutions sparked thought-provoking discussions on the shared challenges and opportunities faced by both regions. A visit to the Dubai Metro Depot provided a unique, behind-the-scenes look at one of the world's most advanced driverless metro systems, further underscoring Dubai's leadership in transport innovation.


The final day of the visit took the delegation to Sharjah, where they explored the revolutionary Unitsky Test Centre. Here, they were introduced to sky pod technology, a visionary approach to sustainable, elevated urban



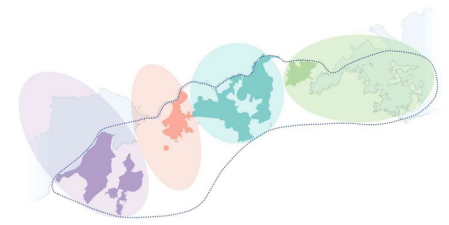
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transportation. The day continued with a visit to the Cavali Tower construction site in Dubai Marina, managed by China State Construction Engineering Corporation (CSCEC). This tour offered a fascinating glimpse into the construction of world-class infrastructure in one of Dubai's most iconic locations.

The delegation then gathered at the University of Wollongong (UoW) Dubai for an inspiring event that brought together CIHT Hong Kong and CIHT Dubai. Discussions centered on "Past Challenges and Future Opportunities in Mobility" for both regions, highlighting the significance of collaboration and the exchange of expertise in tackling global transportation challenges.

CIHT Presented "Northern Metropolis"

initiative, a major development plan in Hong Kong, emphasizing infrastructure-led growth with four key zones: professional services and logistics, innovation and technology, boundary commerce, and conservation/tourism. It highlights the integration of transport systems, including new highways, railway extensions, and sustainable transit options. Cycling and walkability in urban planning are also discussed, alongside innovations like smart mobility and green transit. In the railway projects the scope includes extensions to the Tung Chung Line, Tuen Mun South, and Kwu Tung Station. These projects aims to enhance connectivity, economic growth, and environmental sustainability while integrating Hong Kong with Greater Bay Area development.

The CIHT Hong Kong delegation's visit to Dubai and the UAE exemplified the spirit of partnership, innovation, and shared learning that defines the CIHT community. From groundbreaking technologies to sustainable urban initiatives, the visit reinforced the importance of building bridges across borders to shape a future defined by resilience and progress.

Special thanks to the Integrated Transport Centre, Masdar City, RTA Dubai, uSky Transport FZE, the University of Wollongong Dubai, and CSCEC for their generous hospitality and contributions to this inspiring visit. Together, we continue to drive the transformation of global transport and infrastructure.





Events Roundup

Our committee has been busy hosting a series of dynamic and insightful seminars. We've had the pleasure of welcoming esteemed speakers and enthusiastic participants, making each event informative and memorable. While our events will resume after the summer with a public transport seminar in September, here's a recap of our recent successes.

Acquiring a Chartership in Transport Planning



08 October

Presented by:

- **Cat Goumal** is CIHT's Head of Education and Professional Development
- **Jonathan Spear** is a Fellow of both CIHT and CILT, co-founder and former Chair of CIHT Dubai
- **Prathyush Mukkadekkatt** is a Senior Traffic and Transportation Engineer at Dar Al-Handasah

CIHT's webinar explored the Chartered Transport Planning Professional (CTPP) qualification, detailing its benefits, application process, and routes to achievement. Cat Goumal emphasised its importance as a career milestone, offering recognition and opportunities in transport planning. Established in 2008 by CIHT and TPS, CTPP has gained international interest. The webinar highlighted different pathways, including the Senior Route for experienced professionals and the Standard Route for those demonstrating advanced knowledge. Inspiring journeys from Jonathan Spear and Prathyush Mukkadekkatt underscored the

qualification's value in enhancing skills, credibility, and career prospects. CIHT supports aspiring candidates through resources, training, and mentorship,

making CTPP a transformative credential in the evolving field of transport planning.

Application Components



Portfolio of Evidence
Includes academic certificates, professional CV, organizational chart, project synopsis, competence record forms, CPD record, and a professional development plan.



Professional Review Interview
Conducted remotely, lasting about 90 minutes, involving a presentation and a discussion with two CTPP reviewers.



A Life in Transport Planning - Trials and Tribulations

12 November

Presented by:

Tom Van Vuren, MBE is Head of Digital Transport at Amey. Additionally, he is a Visiting Professor at the Institute for Transport Studies in Leeds, a Board Member of the Transport Planning Society



Tom Van Vuren MBE shared his 40-year journey in transport planning, emphasising adaptability, continuous learning, and mentoring. Beginning his career serendipitously, Tom became a global expert, contributing to projects like the PRISM model. He highlighted the transformative role of AI and big data in transport modelling while advocating for transparency, simplicity, and maintaining core principles. Through humour and insights, Tom underscored the importance of embracing challenges, learning from failures, and building strong stakeholder engagement. His session inspired participants to pursue excellence and adaptability in a rapidly evolving field, balancing technological advancements with human-centric transport solutions.

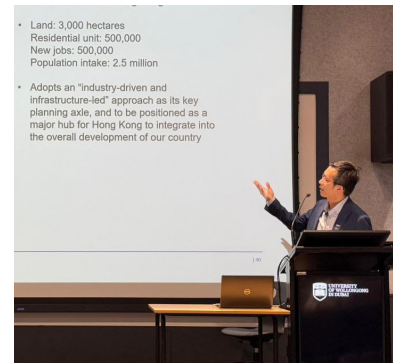
Sharing humorous yet enlightening anecdotes, Tom illustrated moments of awkwardness in his career, emphasizing that mistakes often lead to important insights and growth. He noted the need for continuous professional development to stay abreast of the latest advancements and trends in transport planning and modelling.

Past Challenges and Future Opportunities in Mobility in Hong Kong and the Middle East

13 December

Presented by:

- **Martin Tillman** is Chair of CIHT Dubai
- **Raymond Pau** is Chair of CIHT Hong Kong and Executive Director, AECOM Asia



CIHT Dubai and CIHT Hong Kong's seminar explored urban mobility challenges and innovations in both cities. Martin Tillman highlighted Dubai's efforts to address car dependency and congestion through public transport expansions, micromobility schemes, and futuristic technologies like flying taxis. Raymond Pau outlined Hong Kong's approach to resilience and growth, focusing on infrastructure-led solutions, including high-speed rail and intelligent systems. Both chairs emphasised collaboration in addressing shared challenges such as congestion and sustainability. The seminar showcased how technology, policy, and visionary planning can reshape urban transportation, offering a roadmap for future developments in mobility across diverse urban contexts.

Upcoming Events

EV Fleet Conversion for Net Zero

21 January 2025

Register here,



Inter-Uni Transportation Hackathon

01 February 2025

Register here,



Commencement of Construction of Dubai Metro Blue Line

Dubai RTA has awarded an massive Dh20.5 billion contract for the construction of Dubai Metro Blue Line. The project spans 30 kilometres and includes 14 stations, set to be operational by 2029.

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has announced an exciting new addition to the city's public transport network: the Dubai Metro Blue Line. Announced to open on September 9, 2029, coinciding with the Metro's 20th anniversary, this new line is set to transform the way residents and visitors navigate the city.

Project Overview

The Blue Line project, with an estimated cost of AED 20.5 billion, will span 30 kilometers and feature 14 strategically located stations. Of these, nine stations will be elevated, and five stations will be underground. The blue line will connect nine important areas of the city, including Marsa, Dubai Creek, Festival City, International City, Al Rashidiya, Al Warqa, Mirdif, and urban areas such as Silicon Oasis and Academic City.

Enhanced Connectivity

One of the most significant aspects of the Blue Line is its ability to enhance connectivity across Dubai. The line will link key areas such as Dubai International Airport, Dubai Festival City, and Dubai Silicon Oasis, making it easier for commuters to travel between these hubs. The Blue Line will also feature Dubai Metro's first-ever crossing over Dubai Creek via a 1,300-meter bridge, providing a seamless connection between previously isolated areas.

Two Distinct Routes

The Blue Line will be divided into two main routes. The first route will start at Creek Interchange Station on the Green Line in Al Jaddaf and pass through Dubai Festival City, Dubai Creek Harbour, Ras Al Khor, International City, and Dubai Silicon Oasis before ending at Academic City. This 21-kilometer route will include 10 stations.

The second route will begin at Centrepoint Interchange Station on the Red Line in Al Rashidiya and pass through Mirdif, Al Warqa, and International City before ending at International City One. This 9-kilometer route will include four stations.

Impact on Traffic and Commuting

With the addition of the Blue Line, the total number of Metro and tram stations across the city will rise from 64 to 78. This expansion is expected to significantly reduce traffic congestion and provide a more efficient and quick commuting experience for residents and visitors. The Blue Line is projected to serve 200,000



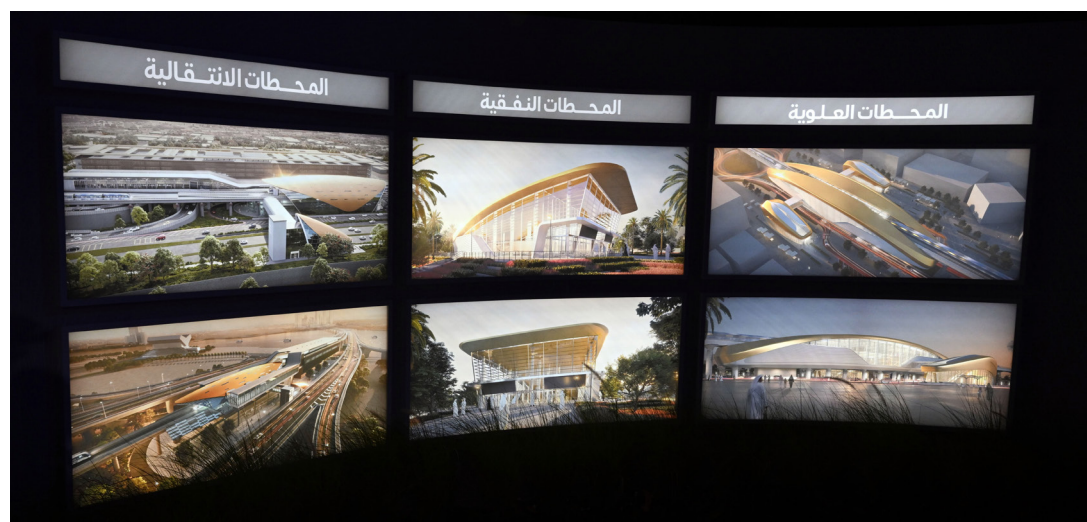
Source: Government of Dubai Media Office

passengers daily, with this number expected to rise to 320,000 by 2040.

Safety and Sustainability

Safety is a top priority for the RTA, and extensive planning has gone into ensuring the safety of city residents during the construction and operation of the Blue Line. The project will also contribute to Dubai's sustainability goals by reducing reliance on private vehicles and promoting the use of public transport.

The upcoming Dubai Metro Blue Line will be a game-changer for the city's public transport system. With its enhanced connectivity, reduced traffic congestion, and focus on safety and sustainability, the metro Blue Line is set to make commuting in Dubai more efficient and enjoyable. As the city continues to grow and evolve, the line will play a crucial role in supporting its development and ensuring a better quality of life for its residents and visitors.



Source: Government of Dubai Media Office

Education & Professional Development



One seminar was delivered in 2024 on Education and Professional Development by the CIHT Dubai Group titled “Acquiring Chartership in Transport Planning”.

The Dubai Group supports applicants through a set of local mentors in the region who are professionally qualified either as Chartered Transport Planning Professional or Chartered Engineers. Our current mentors are Jonathan Spear, Michelle Wood, Andrew Jenkins, Fergal Hands, Sreeram Kollipara and Herve Etave . We

would be delighted to hear from senior professionals who are professionally qualified and willing to act as mentors to others.

Not sure what qualification is right for you? Reach out directly to Michelle Wood, the Professional Development Officer of CIHT Dubai Group and reviewer for the Transport Planning Professional qualification, or any other committee member who can direct you further. More information can also be obtained on the CIHT Professional Development page.

Why Become Professionally Qualified?

- National and international recognition as a professional
- Greater influence within your organisation and industry
- Assists career progression
- Recognition of your knowledge and expertise by colleagues and clients
- Evidence of your commitment to professional standards

What can CIHT Offer?

- Professional Qualifications
 - Transport Planning Professional (TPP)
 - Chartered Engineer (CEng)
 - Incorporated Engineer (IEng)
 - Engineering Technician (EngTech)
 - Road Safety Auditing Certificate of Competency (CoC)
- Continuing Professional Development (CPD)



Membership & Recruitment

CIHT Dubai is working hard to grow overall interest and application for CIHT Membership, including a more equal gender balance and encouraging diversity across ages, membership levels, skills and between the private, academic and private sectors. For more information on how to register for the institution, please visit the CIHT Membership page.

13,000+
Worldwide Members

79
Countries

113
UAE Members

Dinner with CIHT Hong Kong

After three days of cruising through the emirates and deliberation, our CIHT members from Dubai and Hong Kong gathered in the evening for a relaxing dinner. This outing provided an excellent opportunity to strengthen personal relationships and exchange valuable insights in a relaxed setting.



CIHT Dubai Group Committee

The current CIHT Dubai Committee, reappointed in May 2024, is comprised of 18 professionals, mainly from private sector consultancies, but with additional representation from academia and public agencies.



Martin Tillman
(Chair)



Richard Lewis
(Vice-Chair)



Mohamed Al-Mansi
(Secretary)



Samar Nasser
(Young Professionals Representative)



Dr. Stephen Wilkinson
(Events Coordinator)



Brindha Sankari
(Web and Data)



Michelle Wood
(Professional Development Officer)



Jonathan Spear
(Committee Member – Former Chair)



Prasun Mondal
(Treasurer)



Nitish Kalynapad
(Recruitment Officer)



Mohamed Al Khatib
(Committee Member)



Apoorva Mahajan
(Committee Member)



Mohamed Al Taleb
(Committee Member)



Dr. Khalid Nur
(Committee Member)



Kashyap Shukla
(Committee Member)



Sherif Rashad
(Committee Member)



Ahmed Bassyouny
(Committee Member)



Louay Al Hassanieh
(Committee Member)

COMMITTEE MEMBER PROFILE

Samar Nasser

Samar Nasser is an early-career transportation planner who is dedicated to creating future-oriented, sustainable transportation solutions that benefit communities and the environment. Her ability to combine technical perfection with thoughtful insight enables her to approach difficulties with new and multifaceted solutions, and serves as Young Professional Representative of CIHT Dubai.

Tell us something about your journey?

I am a California native, and my family relocated to Ras Al Khaimah, United Arab Emirates (UAE) while I was in high school. Living in the UAE gave me a deep appreciation for its unique blend of cultures and constant drive for progress. I then moved to Beirut and graduated from the American University of Beirut (AUB) with a degree in Civil Engineering and minors in English Literature and Creative Writing. The combination of engineering, literature, and writing allowed me to combine my problem-solving ability with creativity and expression. This has helped me understand the value of storytelling in explaining complex ideas, and these perspectives continue shaping how I approach my work.

Living in Beirut also made me acutely aware of the challenges people face in navigating congested and chaotic traffic systems. It was fascinating to see how, despite poor transportation infrastructure, people always found ways to adapt and keep moving, whether through informal systems or sheer determination. This sparked a deep interest in understanding how mobility systems can better serve communities and how thoughtful planning can transform daily experiences and improve the quality of life for people.

An internship at AUB's transportation department exposed me to the practical side of traffic planning through developing surveys on emergency vehicle alert systems, while another internship with the Ras Al Khaimah Municipality gave me a firsthand look at renewable energy initiatives and emerging technologies.

In 2021, I earned a place in the highly competitive AECOM Graduate Program.

After successfully completing the Graduate Program in 2023, I was promoted to Transport Planner. Throughout my time at AECOM, I have worked on diverse projects that challenge me to apply my technical expertise and creative thinking. Whether it is urban master planning or transport modeling, I have discovered how rewarding it is to contribute to solutions that push the boundaries of mobility and create smarter, more sustainable cities for the future.

Can you describe a typical workday and managing personal time?

My days are always changing—some days I am focused on technical tasks and other days I am coordinating meetings or conducting research. The variety of work keeps me motivated as I thrive on new challenges. Maintaining a healthy work-life balance can be tough, but it all depends on discipline. I like to stick to a schedule, carving out time each day to enhance my skills and stay updated on what is new in global transportation.

Why did you choose to work in the UAE, especially in Dubai?

I chose to work in Dubai because my family lives nearby in Ras al Khaimah, and that is a top priority for me. But even if that were not the case, the UAE, and especially Dubai, is a nexus of incredible expansion and development in the region. It is a place where innovation and growth set a global trend for what the future can look like, and I wanted to be part of that dynamic environment.

Can you briefly summarize your achievements and future career goals?

Last year, I was honored as one of four planners shortlisted for the CIHT Emerging Professional of the Year – the only candidate



from outside of the United Kingdom. I have also had incredible opportunities to work on mega infrastructure projects in the Middle East and to be a key player in multi-million AED pursuits. Looking ahead, I want to shape the future of transport planning in this region by contributing to projects that have a significant impact on how we move and connect.

What motivates you to continue your career as a transport planner?

What motivates me as a transport planner is how deeply mobility is woven into people's lives. It drives economies, shapes communities, and influences individual experiences. By improving mobility, we can create more efficient, connected environments where everyone benefits, and that is what fuels my passion to make a lasting impact.

How do you find your involvement with CIHT Dubai?

My involvement with CIHT Dubai as the Young Professional Representative has been extremely rewarding. It has been great to connect with people from diverse backgrounds—consulting, academia, and governmental authorities—and collaborate to organize technical seminars and events. One of the highlights was planning a transportation hackathon for university students, which gave me the chance to work closely with younger people and encourage them, especially young women, to consider careers in transport planning. It is truly fulfilling to support their growth and inspire the next generation of professionals in the field.

This newsletter is published twice a year by the Dubai Group of the Chartered Institution of Highways and Transportation (CIHT). To subscribe to our newsletter, receive notifications of upcoming seminars, provide feedback, or learn more about CIHT activities, membership and qualifications, contact us via:

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