

Winners of STAMP 2019 Kochi Data Innovation Challenge Announced

Kochi Metro Rail Limited, WRI India and TMF-led Challenge aims at improving integrated transport in the city with the metro at the nexus

Delhi, India (April 1, 2019) - Kochi Metro Rail Limited (KMRL) in collaboration with WRI India Ross Center and the Toyota Mobility Foundation (TMF) announced the two winners of the Station Access and Mobility Program (STAMP) 2019 Kochi Data Innovation Challenge on March 29, 2019. The open innovation challenge is in its third year and leverages talent from developers, students, urban and transport planners and enterprises to analyze and develop a host of applications that allow an easier understanding of all available transportation and city information.

The STAMP 2019 Kochi Data Innovation Challenge focused on making multiple types of city data available to innovators to be able to develop a host of commuter applications and analytics. The intent here is to enable a deeper understanding of city data to help bridge commuting and access challenges. Appreciating the initiative, **Mr. A.P.M. Mohammad Hanish**, Managing Director, KMRL, said, “Kochi Metro vision is to revolutionize public transport and to get people from all walks of life to utilize public transport. To achieve this vision, KMRL believes that data will play a crucial part to create a truly multi-modal transportation system. Through the Data Innovation Challenge, the teams demonstrated solutions that are both commuter and transit agencies facing, providing the whole picture of the connectivity gaps to be addressed in the city.”

The winning solutions predominantly addressed three areas of intervention: solutions that cater to providing information and improving access to vulnerable commuter segments; solutions that aggregate and disseminate real-time updates for informed commuter journeys; and solutions that map commuter flows to help transit agencies plan and optimized network of services. “Each commuter moves through the city differently, has different travel patterns, and has a specific requirement for first- and last-mile solutions. Data-driven solutions provide an insight into the commuter movement patterns and provide transit agencies with the necessary information to plan and deploy services that are beneficial for seamless integrated passenger movement. By addressing gaps in services and catering to the benefit of the commuter, transit agencies can look forward to improved ridership and use of public transportation. This is what we are trying to address through STAMP,” explained Mr. Madhav Pai, India Director, WRI Ross Center for Sustainable Cities.

“The STAMP 2019 Data Innovation Challenge is the first of its kind. The winners went through an intense review process in three stages in a span of six weeks. A panel of industry experts shortlisted the best

applications to constitute the STAMP 2019 cohorts, who thereafter underwent a two-day tech submission bootcamp in Kochi. Experts from different backgrounds including metro agencies, data scientists, and mobility experts guided the teams to develop the proposed solutions and refine them to the specific needs of Indian cities,” added Mr. Sudeept Maiti, Senior Manager, Integrated Transport, WRI India.

A panel of judges reviewed the pitches made by the cohorts, from which two winning solutions were Team Hyperpro and Team Sukriti.

- **Hyperpro:** The team has developed a platform that is a combination of data-analysis engine and visualization tool for transit agencies to recognize commuter movement through a combination of ticketing data and platform video analysis. This will help in optimization of operations and help better commuting experience.
- **Team Sukriti:** The solution leverages different data sets such as like economic distribution and people movement to help better understand the characteristics of the commuters that are being catered to at each station. The detailed analytics could then be used to customize feeder service models to offer increased physical access, affordability or comfort levels of travel and therefore help make public transport more adapted to commuter needs.

The other teams that pitched at the event were:

- **Team Evelabs:**
In a world of smart phone-based applications, this solution looks to enable trip planning through technologies which are more easily accessed. It proposes an IVR and text message-based system which will help commuters identify buses that can take them from one area to another. It also allows access to auto rickshaws in the vicinity. The system is based on coding the city into different zones, which can be identified by a 2 digit code and allow for more accurate trip planning.
- **Team Neostars:**
The team has created a transit operator dashboard that analyses commuter movement, translating it into a gap analysis sourcing multiple set of available data. This allows agencies to identify connectivity gaps and allow for better first-and-last mile connectivity.
- **Team Siya:** The team is creating a multimodal fare integration engine for transit operators to enable them to customize and create commuter-centric travel payment and fare options. The solution uses fares as an economic instrument to nudge people to use public transport, especially the metro.
- **Team Visual Moves:** The solution uses spatial and economic analysis to identify and measure the access barriers to transit stations. By understanding physical access and plotting it against the economic topography of the city, the agency is equipped with a very powerful information tool that enables them to customize their feeder networks for greater public transport adaptation.

Mr. Shin Aoyama, President of the Secretariat and Chief Operating Officer of TMF, noted, “Kochi has been an incredible city to conduct the STAMP Data Innovation Challenge with KMRL being one of the more proactive transit agencies to adopt the Open Data Initiative and support innovative data-driven solutions to initiate integrated and seamless multi-modal transport. We now look forward to the deserving winners implementing their solutions on the ground and supplementing KMRL efforts. TMF operates under the principles of developing innovative solutions with like-minded partners and thereby leaving a sustainable legacy. We believe that this Kochi STAMP Challenge has amazing potential to not only deliver solutions for the city but also act as a catalyst for more data-driven reforms in other parts of the country.”

Commenting on the overall objective of the STAMP program, Mr. Shekar Viswanathan, Vice Chairman and Whole-time Director of Toyota Kirloskar Motor, said, “It is overwhelming to see the kind of responses and quality of pitches made by the cohorts, which itself is a testament of the popularity and success of the STAMP project. Data sets and technology to improve last mile connectivity has become a very critical aspect for mobility needs as urbanization is increasing rapidly resulting in congestion and pollution problems in our cities. The metro rail is emerging as a popular means of transport for modern India, and developing smart, friendly, affordable, and integrated mobility solutions create a complete public transport system that enables commuters to use the metro more extensively. I congratulate the winners and all the other participants who have made the STAMP challenge reach this magnitude, and I see great potential in the solutions encouraging more commuters to take to the metro in the coming months and years.”

The two winners of the challenge will receive a combined implementation support of INR 200,000 (USD 2,900) to demonstrate their solutions in the city. KMRL and WRI India will also provide mentorship to all the teams for designing and implementing last-mile solutions.

About WRI India Ross Center

WRI India Ross Center is part of WRI Ross Center for Sustainable Cities. WRI Ross Center for Sustainable Cities works to make urban sustainability a reality. Global research and on-the-ground experience in Brazil, China, India, Mexico, Turkey and the United States combine to spur action that improves life for millions of people.

About the Toyota Mobility Foundation

The Toyota Mobility Foundation was established in August 2014 to support the development of a more mobile society. The Foundation aims to support strong mobility systems while eliminating disparities in mobility. It utilizes Toyota’s expertise in technology, safety, and the environment, working in partnership with universities, government, non-profit organizations, research institutions and other organizations to

address mobility issues around the world. Programs include resolving urban transportation problems, expanding the utilization of personal mobility, and developing solutions for next generation mobility.

Contact:

Nitya Kaushik, WRI India

nitya.kaushik@wri.org

+91 9819902763

Toyota Mobility Foundation

info-Bengaluru@toyota-mf.org

(81)-3-38170996