

Our Collective Memory – Tram

Trams, the vehicles driven by electricity, run on rails along the streets in Hong Kong Island everyday. They have witnessed the changes of Hong Kong over a century and become tourists' attraction for Hong Kong. Some, who fail to discover the important of trams, argue that trams should be eliminated in this fast –paced society. Others, however, urge the government to pressure this prodigious asset. To me, I would support the latter for the following reasons.

It is patent that trams in Hong Kong possesses uniqueness and in –depth meaning of the history of Hong Kong. Trams are the earliest types of transport in Hong Kong for a century. Just looking at some earlier Hong Kong stamps, you will discover their traces. They are the composition of Hong Kong on the minds of citizens, especially the older generation, who used to go to work and date their beloved one by trams. For me, without the tram, Hong Kong is no longer a vivid place where I grew, but a concrete jungle without its soul. This is because the existences of trams do enhance our sense of belonging to Hong Kong. We can proudly tell the foreigners that we have a unique type of transport. Tram is a dynamic heritage in Hong Kong, which is unique and special.

Besides its uniqueness, trams win citizens' heart because they can boost our local tourism. Flipping through a travel guide, one can find that taking trams is a part of the tourists' itinerary during their visit to Hong Kong. Trams make Hong Kong different from other countries not because they are exceptionally slower than other means of transport, but because they carry cultural values which cannot be found in the other means of transport.

More importantly, this unique transport means can promote our history education. Trams can ignite my interest in exploring Hong Kong transport development of history and give me a chance to know more about the place where I grew up. Therefore, the importance of trams should not hinge on whether they are quick or not, but the history they represent.

Meaningful though trams are, I must admit that trams are not an efficient transport means in Hong Kong. Being slow and inefficiency are the main points objector always criticize, but I think these can also be the advantage of trams. When trams go on at a slow pace, the risk of accidents can be lowered. According to some survey, trams are transport means in Hong Kong which causes the smallest number of death and casualty. Moreover, moving slowly can also allow our tourists to take some photos of Hong Kong streets and the shops. Therefore, if somebody asks me about my opinion towards the trams, I would say that being slow is actually the advantage of trams.

Granted, trams are not the most efficient transport means in Hong Kong. However, should trams necessarily be weeded out just because their inefficiency cannot live up to the demand of society? People who persist in eliminating the trams from society show that they smack of a lack of cultural vision. So, please let our collective memories, trams, be able to survive in a foreseeable future.