

Research

“Launching of ETH Zurich Transdisciplinary Case Study”

The Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich in collaboration with the University of Seychelles, Seychelles Planning Authority and the Ministry of Transport launched their study of the Seychelles transport system today, Monday 5th June 2021.

by S. Bistolet

A combination of local and international students will be participating in a 3-week exercise starting from Monday 5th July to Friday 23rd July 2021, organized by the ETH Zurich with the permission of various stakeholders in Seychelles. A group of 25 students undertaking their Master's Degree in various fields from the ETH Zurich alongside 14 students from the University of Seychelles, currently studying for their Bachelor's Degree in various fields will be studying the transportation system both public and private, present in Seychelles through the framework of sustainable land use.

The field of study which will be the transport system in Seychelles, was chosen as it is a relevant and pressing issue. The system was built in the 1960s and 1970s and cannot handle the rapidly increas-

ing amount of vehicles. This can be seen through the long hours lost in congestions especially during rush hours, 7am to 8 am and 4pm to 5:30 pm. As quoted by the Co-Director of TdLab, Dr. Pius Krutli in 1999 “there were a few cars but most people travelled by bus or they walked”.

In order to be able to better grasp the challenges faced with the transportation system, these students have been separated in 8 different groups where they will concentrate on various aspects of information gathering. For instance, 4 to 5 groups will be conducting house visits to gather public opinion and any suggestions about the transportation system in Seychelles. One group will focus on the understanding and mapping out of rivers flowing in and around the area, while another on freight movement in Victoria and the possibility of introducing cable cars. Addition-

ally, information will be gathered from scientific reports and interviews with stakeholders. This phase is essential in understanding the needs and perceptions of the public for the students to understand the criteria their suggestions should maintain.

The Co-Director of TdLab, Dr. Pius Krutli stated that “he hopes that the students will take this opportunity to use their previous knowledge and be creative in their suggestions”. He continued by saying that he also hopes that they manage to map out the typical commute used to get from A to B and the optimized version to get from A to B to showcase the diverse routes and options available. The final reports made by the students will be shared with the University of Seychelles, Planning Authority and the Ministry of Transport to aid in future development of roads and infrastructures in Seychelles.



A zoom collage of the ETH team