GLOBAL UNIVERSITY Presidents and Leaders Summit

知識全球化 之 產學研一家

全球大學校長及領袖高峰會 2026

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Hong Kong Association for
External Friendship
香港對外交流友好協會

About the Hong Kong Association for External Friendship

The Hong Kong Association for External Friendship was established in fulfilment of the reply of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries ("Friendship" Correspondence [2023] No. 108) on July 11, 2023, pursuant to proposal No. 5843 of the First Session of the 14th National People's Congress. Its establishment was subsequently approved by the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government on October 17, 2023.

The objectives of The Hong Kong Association for External Friendship are as follows:

1. As a non-governmental organisation, The Hong Kong Association for External Friendship is committed to building and deepening friendships with members of the international community, laying and expanding the social foundation for friendly relations between China and other countries, and leveraging the unique role of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region as a super connector.
2. To enhance people-to-people friendships, promote international cooperation that is conducive to maintaining world peace and driving common development.
3. To implement China's independent and peaceful foreign policy, carry out comprehensive, multi-level, and wide-ranging civil friendship work, serve the cause of China's peaceful development and reunification, and build a harmonious world of lasting peace and common prosperity.
4. To organise mutual visits of delegations, hold commemorative activities, initiate and host exchange activities including seminars, lectures, and forums, and conduct civil friendly exchanges between Hong Kong, Mainland China, and other countries and regions to enhance mutual understanding, build trust, and develop friendships.
5. To establish liaison mechanisms, build cooperation platforms, and promote pragmatic cooperation in fields such as economy, environmental protection, science and technology, and talent, thereby fostering international cooperation and creating favourable conditions for achieving win-win results and common development.
6. To promote cultural exchanges by sending or receiving cultural groups or individuals for friendly visits, facilitating mutual learning in the cultural field, enhancing understanding and friendship, and conducting civil cultural exchanges.
7. To promote the establishment and development of friendly relations between the Hong Kong SAR, and other countries and regions, and to foster exchanges and cooperation between their localities and cities.
8. To participate in civil exchange activities of other international non-governmental organisations.
9. To alleviate poverty by providing education, training, and employment opportunities, supporting children and youth from impoverished families, and those living in subdivided flats.
10. To promote the integration and development of local ethnic minority communities in education, culture, and friendship-building to foster external friendships.

GLOBAL UNIVERSITY Presidents and Leaders Summit

知識全球化之產學研一家

全球大學校長及領袖高峰會 2026



Global University Presidents and Leaders Summit 2026

Background

The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) enjoys the unique advantage of "One Country, Two Systems", supported by the mainland while remaining seamlessly connected to the world. Long established as a leading international financial, shipping and trade centre, Hong Kong has in recent years deepened its integration into the nation's development strategy while continuing to expand its global connections — playing an increasingly important role in shaping a broader, deeper and more comprehensive landscape of international engagement for the country.

Hong Kong is committed to positioning itself as an international hub for higher education. It is the only city in the world with five universities ranked among the world's top 100, while all eight of its UGC-funded institutions are placed among Asia's top 100 — a clear sign of the city's rising standing in global academia. At the heart of this ambition is the University Town in the Northern Metropolis, a flagship higher-education initiative designed to support the development of top-tier talent and to deepen industry–research collaboration. Together, these efforts reinforce Hong Kong's role as a "Super-connector" between the nation and the world, in line with the National 15th Five-Year Plan's emphasis on people-to-people diplomacy.

It is against this backdrop that the Global University Presidents and Leaders Summit 2026 (GUPLS 2026) takes place. Organised by the Hong Kong Association for External Friendship (HKAEF), a non-profit organisation established with the support of the State, GUPLS 2026 is convened under the central theme of "Globalisation of Knowledge — How University Education Should Respond to Rapid Global Development and Community Needs". The Summit provides a high-level international platform for university leaders to examine how higher education should evolve to keep pace with a rapidly changing world and the evolving needs of the community. In doing so, GUPLS 2026 will also support the long-term development of the University Town in the Northern Metropolis and advance seven-party collaboration among Government, Industry, Academia, Research, Investment, Financing and Application — propelling university research beyond the "ivory tower" and into society. With knowledge as the bridge, the Summit aims to connect the world's intellectual community in Hong Kong and shape the future direction of higher education together.

Specific Objectives

- Establish GUPLS as the second flagship international education event in Asia.
- Convene global and local academic leaders, knowledge pioneers and outstanding students to strengthen people-to-people ties at the highest level of academia.
- Invite leading international talent to experience Hong Kong and the Guangdong–Hong Kong–Macao Greater Bay Area first-hand, telling the stories of "One Country, Two Systems" and Hong Kong to the world.
- Promote cross-generational, cross-disciplinary and cross-border exchange among top-tier talent, with Hong Kong as the convening point.

Summit Overview

GUPLS 2026 will convene more than 50 university presidents and leaders from around the world, each accompanied by outstanding students — bringing top-tier global academic talent together in Hong Kong. The format gives the next generation of global leaders early cross-sector and cross-disciplinary exposure to industry-leading figures, contributing to Hong Kong's sustainable educational, cultural and economic development.

Welcome Message



Prof. the Hon. Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun

GBS, JP
Barrister-at-law
Member of the Legislative Council of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China;
Founding President and Chief Executive Officer, Hong Kong Association for External Friendship

The world is connected. Knowledge knows no borders.

At a time when ideas, technologies and challenges increasingly transcend borders, this Summit brings together people from different countries, sectors and fields to learn from one another and explore new possibilities together. The future of knowledge will not be shaped by any one nation, institution or generation, but by our collective willingness to share, exchange and grow together.

This spirit of mutual learning is transforming education from a one-way pursuit into a shared journey to discover, exchange and apply knowledge for the betterment of individual lives and the advancement of humankind.

Knowledge is now shared across generations, enhanced by AI, and exchanged across borders and spaces. Through this collective endeavour, we can deepen global understanding, turn knowledge into meaningful action and work towards a brighter future.

As the world changes at unprecedented speed, knowledge can no longer flow in one direction alone. Government, industry, academia, research and investment are no longer separate spheres, but partners within one shared community. This is the spirit of "Government–Industry–Academia–Research–Investment as One": a vision in which different sectors learn from one another, co-create solutions, and together nurture the talent of tomorrow.

The rapid rise of artificial intelligence and emerging technologies has transformed the way we live, work and collaborate. With these pressing challenges that we face together, do we need new laws and new governance frameworks for a high-tech age? How do we prepare our young people to seize the opportunities ahead? How do we turn the promise of this new era into shared progress? How do we ensure the AI era may preserve our invaluable civilisation and values accrued through thousands of years?

These are questions for educators, innovators, lawmakers and leaders alike. This Summit brings together distinguished minds from around the world to exchange ideas, address new challenges and explore new possibilities. Above all, it is a golden opportunity to foster friendship, strengthen partnerships, and work together for a world of harmony and progress.

Let us seize this moment and move forward together.



Prof. Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun
GBS, JP

Message from Guest of Honour



The Hon. John KC LEE

GBM, SBS, PDSM, PMSM
The Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China

It is my great honour to welcome all university presidents, academic leaders, and distinguished delegates from around the world to the Global University Presidents and Leaders Summit 2026. This event brings together leading minds in Hong Kong to explore how universities can respond to the rapid transformations unfolding across East and West, and to shape the future of higher education in an increasingly interconnected world.

Under the central theme of "Globalisation of Knowledge – How Universities Can Respond to Rapid Global Developments and Societal Needs", this year's Summit underscores the importance of advancing collaboration among government, industry, academia, research, and investment. This aligns perfectly with Hong Kong's strategic vision, particularly as we embrace the opportunities within the Northern Metropolis to promote innovation ecosystems and novel investment models and deliberate on the ethics of artificial intelligence and the future of talent development. In doing so, we also address some of the most pressing challenges of our time, including the role of artificial intelligence and the future of talent development – issues that are central to building a more inclusive and educated society.

Notably, this year marks the beginning of our country's 15th Five-Year Plan, which sets out a clear roadmap for the city's continued development as an international hub for high-calibre talent and an international centre for innovation and technology. The Plan emphasises the need for an integrated strategy covering education, technology and talent. In support of this national strategy, the Government has formulated Hong Kong's first Five-Year Plan, with a view to positioning our city at the forefront of global education and innovation.

Our commitment is reflected in tangible actions and deliverables. We have established the Task Force on Study in Hong Kong and allocated dedicated resources to promote our education brand and broader academic partnerships across the globe. Planned around the concept of "One Town, Five Elements", the Northern Metropolis University Town Area integrates education, technology, talent, industry and urban development to create a high-calibre ecosystem for attracting and retaining top-tier talent. With its strategic focus aligning talent cultivation, scientific research, outcome transformation and industrial advancement, the Northern Metropolis University Town Area will reshape Hong Kong's post-secondary education landscape, and advance the integrated development of "industry, academia, and research".

By drawing together the knowledge, expertise and experience of university presidents and leaders from around the world, I am confident we can collectively nurture the next generation talent and build a more prosperous, sustainable future for all.

I wish you all a most productive and insightful Summit.



(John KC LEE)
Chief Executive
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

Congratulatory Messages



The Hon. Kwok-ki CHAN

GBS, IDSM, JP
The Chief Secretary for Administration of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China

「北都大學城」與「政產學研投」之
世界大學校長及學術領袖高峰論壇二零二六

高碩才鱗集
教科論紛陳

政務司司長陳國基



The Hon. Paul CHAN Mo-po

GBM, GBS, MH, JP
Financial Secretary of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China

「北都大學城」與「政產學研投」之
世界大學校長及學術領袖高峰論壇二零二六

教科融政產
才鱗匯學研

財政司司長陳茂波

Congratulatory Messages



The Hon. Paul LAM Ting-kwok

GBS, SC, JP
Secretary for Justice of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China



Dr. the Hon. Starry LEE Wai-king

GBS, JP
President of the Legislative Council of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China

碩真

「北都大學城」與「政產學研投」之世界大學校長及學術領袖高峰論壇二零二六

知睿見

策宏猷

律政司司長林定國



博研

全球大學校長及領袖高峰會二零二六

雅融通

創鼎新

中華人民共和國香港特別行政區
立法會主席李慧琼



Congratulatory Messages



The Hon. CHEUK Wing-hing

GBS, JP
Deputy Chief Secretary for Administration of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China

「北都大學城」與「政產學研投」之
全球大學校長及領袖高峰會二零二六

協博羅明見
勝建未來

政務司副司長卓永興



The Hon. Michael WONG Wai-lun

GBS, JP
Deputy Financial Secretary of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China

「北都大學城」與「政產學研投」之
全球大學校長及領袖高峰會二零二六

獻賢建緒
聚策展猷

財政司副司長黃偉綸

Congratulatory Messages



Dr. the Hon. CHEUNG Kwok-kwan

SBS, JP
Deputy Secretary for Justice, Department of Justice of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China

銳精思遠策
拓灣區

「北都大學城」與「政產學研投」之世界大學校長及學術領袖高峰論壇二零二六

律政司副司長 張國鈞



The Hon. Christopher HUI Ching-yu

GBS, JP
Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China

智通寰宇
合賢明道

「政產學研投」之知識全球化——全球大學校長及各界領袖高峰會二零二六

財經事務及庫務局局長許正宇

Congratulatory Messages



The Hon. TANG Ping-keung

GBS, PDSM, JP
Secretary for Security of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China

「北都大學城」與「政產學研投」之全球大學校長及領袖高峰會二零二六

壯碩彥博匯
北圖宏開

保安局局長鄧炳強



The Hon. TSE Chin-wan

BBS, JP
Secretary for Environment and Ecology of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China

「北都大學城」與「政產學研投」之全球大學校長及領袖高峰會二零二六

北都匯智
產學融通

環境及生態局局長謝展寰

Congratulatory Messages



The Hon. Algernon YAU Ying-wah

JP
Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development
The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China

「北都大學城」與「政產學研投」之
全球大學校長及領袖高峰會二零二六

廣納明識
遠瞻未來

商務及經濟發展局局長丘應樺



The Hon. Bernadette LINN Hon-ho

JP
Secretary for Development of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China

「北都大學城」與「政產學研投」之
全球大學校長及領袖高峰會二零二六誌慶

才傑薈萃
鑄欣榮

發展局局長甯漢豪

Congratulatory Messages



The Hon. Winnie HO Wing-yin

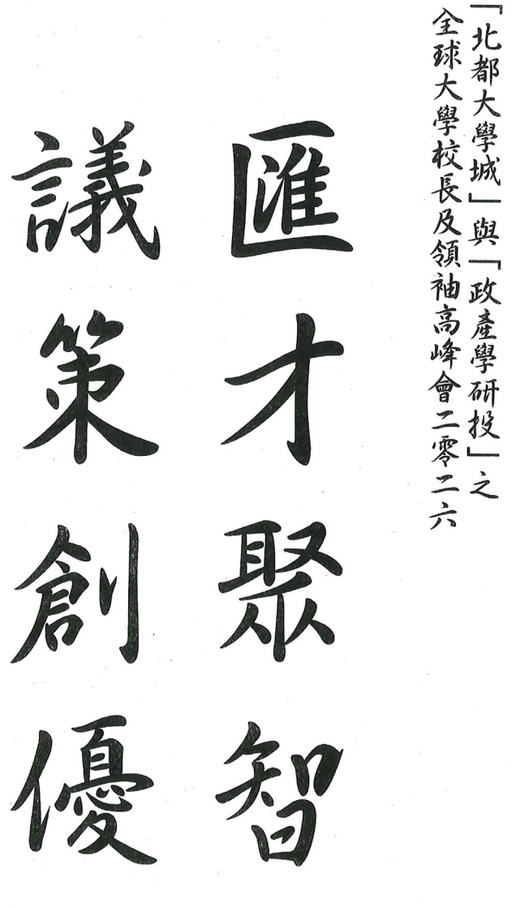
JP
Secretary for Housing of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China





The Hon. Ingrid YEUNG Ho Poi-yan

JP
Secretary for the Civil Service of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China

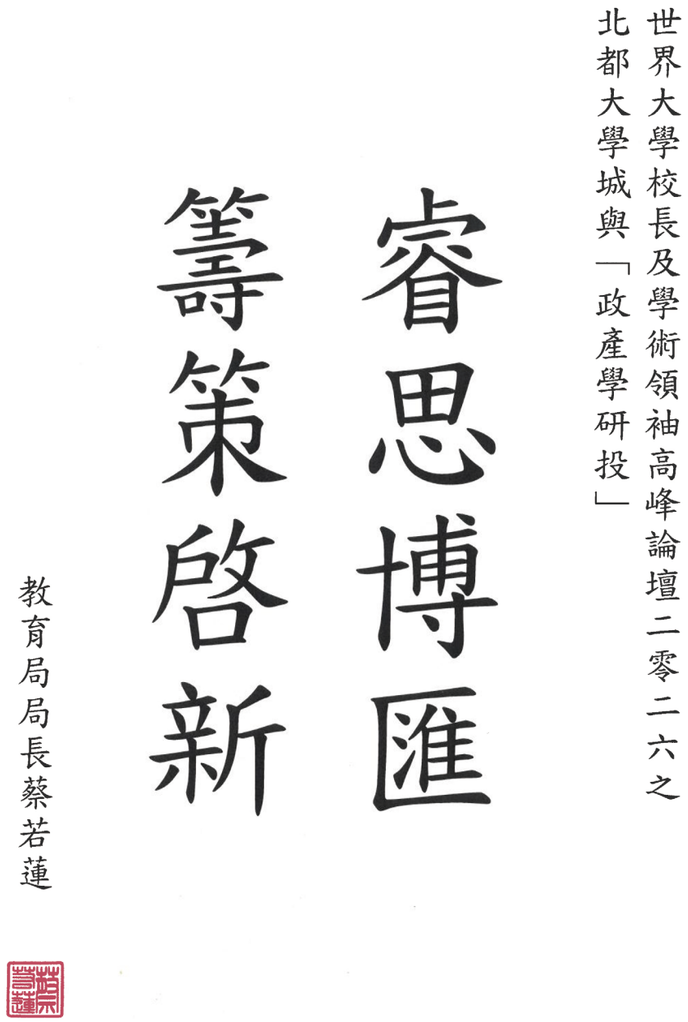


Congratulatory Messages



Dr. the Hon. CHOI Yuk-lin

JP
Secretary for Education of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China





Prof. the Hon. Dong SUN, JP

Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry
Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China

Congratulations to the Hong Kong Association for External Friendship for successfully hosting once again the Global University Presidents and Leaders Summit ("GUPLS") in Hong Kong!

This year marks the beginning of our country's 15th Five-Year Plan, as well as Hong Kong's first Five-Year Plan. With the support of our country, Hong Kong is moving full steam ahead to become an international innovation and technology ("I&T") centre and a global hub for high-calibre talents. We are actively taking forward the development of a comprehensive I&T ecosystem anchored by our outstanding universities, three major I&T Parks and five key research and development institutions. We are also enlarging our talent pool guided by our principle of "promoting technology with talent, leading industries with technology, and attracting talent with industries".

Universities are our key partners in this I&T journey, providing the talents, research excellence, and entrepreneurial spirit required to drive I&T development forward. As a leading multilateral platform for international higher education, the GUPLS brings together the world's finest academic visionaries to foster institutional collaboration, champion the globalisation of knowledge, and shape the future of higher education and innovation, both within Hong Kong and beyond.

I am confident that much like its previous edition, the GUPLS 2026 will lead to more innovative ideas, stronger partnerships, and a renewed commitment to academic excellence worldwide. May this event stand as a testament to our shared vision of a brighter future driven by I&T.

Congratulatory Messages



The Hon. Alice MAK Mei-kuen

SBS, JP
Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China

It gives me great pleasure to extend my warm congratulations on the convening of the Global University Presidents and Leaders Summit 2026 in Hong Kong, where distinguished university presidents, leaders and students worldwide are engaged in high-level dialogues to shape the future of our younger generations through education.

To dovetail with the National 15th Five-Year Plan, the HKSAR Government is committed to formulating Hong Kong's First Five-Year Plan, with youth development as a key priority. Meanwhile, guided by the Youth Development Blueprint which outlines over 160 initiatives, we have put in place some 130 additional youth-related measures to address the evolving needs of our young people. Our vision is to nurture a new generation of young people with a global perspective, a sense of responsibility, and a deep affection for Hong Kong and our country.

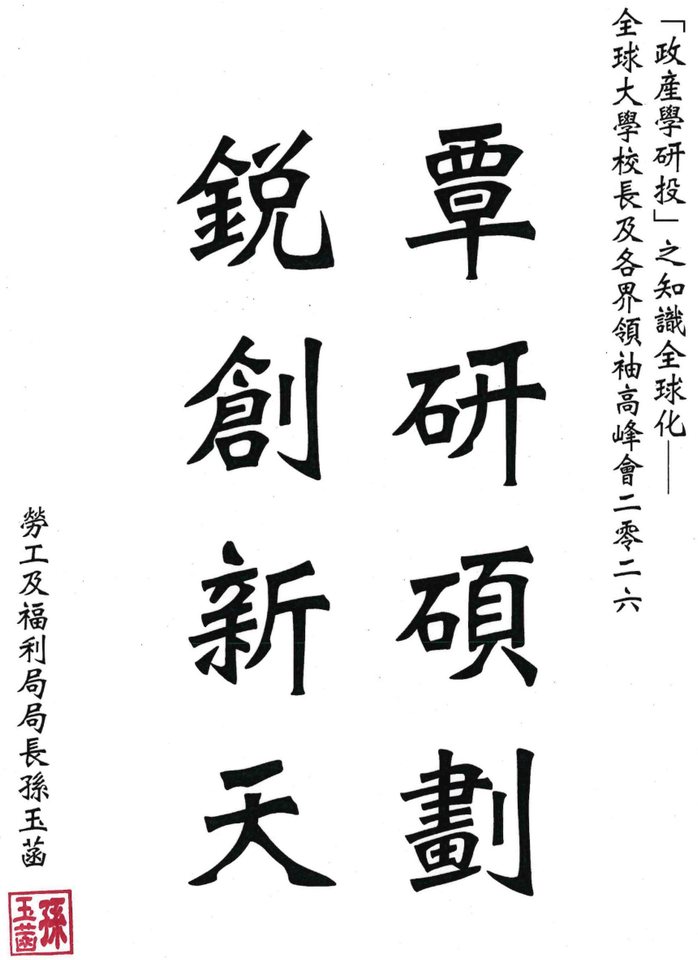
It is always a delight to see our vision being realised, especially through the dynamic panel discussions of this well-received Summit that enable young people to engage in meaningful exchanges with peers and leaders from across the globe, as well as developing friendships and collaborations.

My sincere gratitude goes to the Hong Kong Association for External Friendship for organising this Summit, and to the University Grants Committee and all supporting universities for their dedication. Lastly, I wish the Summit every success and all participants a rewarding and enjoyable stay in Hong Kong.



The Hon. Chris SUN Yuk-han

JP
Secretary for Labour and Welfare
The Government of the
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
of the People's Republic of China



Congratulatory Messages



The Hon. Mable CHAN

JP
Secretary for Transport and Logistics of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China

「北都大學城」與「政產學研投」之
全球大學校長及領袖高峰會二零二六

卓識睿見
碩志宏謨

運輸及物流局局長陳美寶



The Hon. Rosanna LAW Shuk-pui

JP
Secretary for Culture, Sports and Tourism of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China

「北都大學城」與「政產學研投」之
全球大學校長及領袖高峰會二零二六

遠圖共議
學研同興

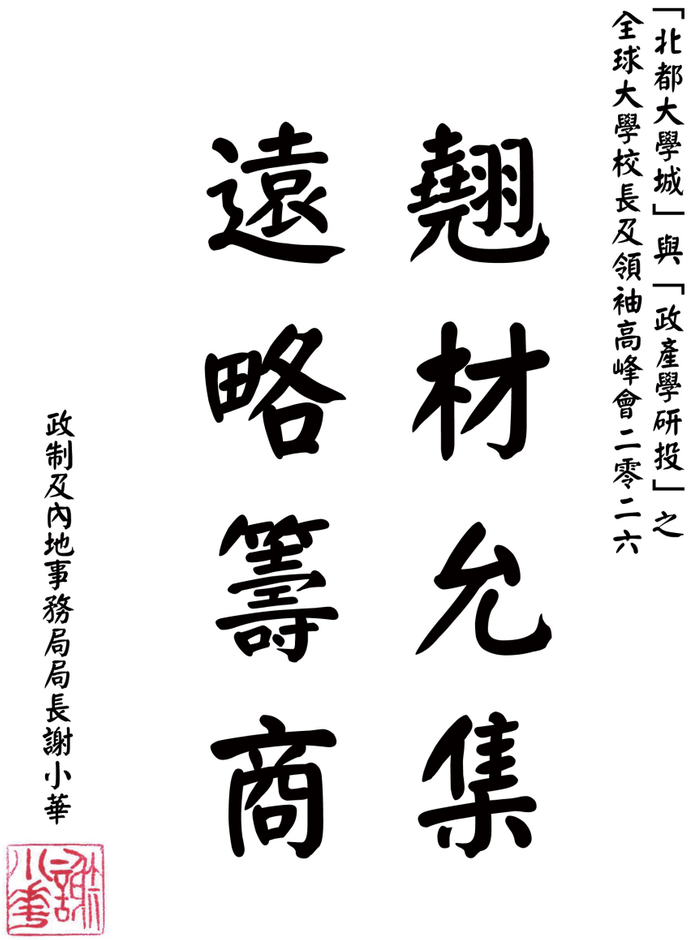
文化體育及旅遊局局長羅淑佩

Congratulatory Messages



The Hon. Janice TSE Siu-wa

GBS, JP
Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China





Mr. Tim LUI Tim-leung

GBS, JP
Chairman, University Grants Committee

On behalf of the University Grants Committee (UGC) and with great pleasure, I would like to extend my warmest congratulations on the opening of the Global University Presidents & Leaders Summit 2026. Building on the remarkable success of the inaugural Summit in 2024, this prestigious gathering once again brings together distinguished higher education leaders and outstanding students from across the globe to Hong Kong for a forward-looking dialogue and the promotion of deeper collaboration.

The UGC and our eight publicly-funded universities fully support the Government's vision of developing Hong Kong as an international education hub and a cradle for future talent. By leveraging Hong Kong's unique advantages and the core strengths of our higher education sector – particularly our academic excellence and world-class research – we are committed to nurturing global talent, driving innovation, and strengthening cross-sectoral and cross-border collaboration in alignment with the National 15th Five-Year Plan.

In drawing up Hong Kong's Five-Year Plan, the Government has identified "advancing the integrated development of education, technology, and talent" as the core strategy of building Hong Kong into an international hub for top talents. The Northern Metropolis University Town (NMUT) is positioned as a strategic fulcrum to drive the deep integration of industry, academia, and research, thereby consolidating Hong Kong's position as an international hub for post-secondary education. The UGC remains steadfast in supporting our universities in advancing academic excellence, fostering innovation and cultivating deeper international partnerships to elevate Hong Kong's higher education sector to new heights.

With higher education global leaders convening in Hong Kong for this Summit, let us harness our collective efforts to drive cross-sectoral and transnational collaborations – bringing together the Government and the industry, as well as the academic, research and investment sectors to realise the unprecedented opportunities offered by the NMUT. May I wish the Global University Presidents & Leaders Summit a resounding success.

Congratulatory Messages



Prof. Chun-sing LEE

Acting President, Provost and Deputy President
City University of Hong Kong

It is with great pleasure that I extend a warm welcome to Hong Kong on the occasion of the Global University Presidents and Leaders Summit 2026. This distinguished gathering of presidents and leaders is a celebration of global partnership, vision, and the shared pursuit of excellence in higher education.

City University of Hong Kong (CityUHK), though a young institution, has swiftly risen as a vibrant and innovative university with a resolutely international outlook. We are proud to have been recognised by Times Higher Education as the Most International University in the world for three consecutive years (2024–2026). Equally, we stand as one of only two universities in Hong Kong ranked among the world's top 100 across all major global league tables — achievements that reflect our determination to connect Hong Kong to the world.

May this Summit be a resounding success, strengthening collaboration, celebrating diversity, and inspiring a shared vision for the future of global higher education.



Prof. Alexander WAI Ping-kong

JP
President and Vice-Chancellor,
Chair Professor of Photonics,
Hong Kong Baptist University

On behalf of Hong Kong Baptist University, I would like to extend my warmest congratulations to the Hong Kong Association for External Friendship and the University Grants Committee on the organisation of the Global University Presidents and Leaders Summit 2026.

Building on the success of the inaugural Summit held in 2024, this important platform continues to bring together university presidents, senior academic leaders and distinguished thinkers from around the world to exchange insights on the future of higher education. At a time when universities are called upon to respond to rapid technological advancement, global challenges and evolving societal needs, meaningful dialogue and collaboration across institutions and borders are more important than ever.

Hong Kong, with its unique strengths as an international city and a bridge between the Chinese Mainland and the world, is well positioned to foster such global academic exchange. HKBU is pleased to support this meaningful initiative and remains committed to advancing excellence in education, research, innovation and societal impact through international partnership.

I wish the Summit every success and look forward to its continued contribution to global higher education collaboration.

Congratulatory Messages



Prof. S. Joe QIN

President and Wai Kee Kau Chair Professor of Data Science
Lingnan University

Since its inception in 2024, the Global University Presidents & Leaders Summit (GUPLS) has rapidly become a catalyst for the future of higher education.

This year's theme, Globalisation of Knowledge — how to run university education to meet the speedy global development and community need, perfectly captures today's fast-moving challenges. In the world of AI, intelligent systems cannot thrive alone. They require vast networks, diverse data inputs, and the ability to adapt in real time. The same applies to modern university education. The pace of global development is accelerating, and our institutions must evolve just as quickly to meet both immediate community needs and long-term global demands.

Faced with these sweeping challenges, no single institution has all the answers, therefore cross-border dialogue is essential. The ultimate value of GUPLS is its ability to connect world-class universities and drive collaborative knowledge sharing across borders.

As we participate in the GUPLS again this year alongside fellow global university leaders, Lingnan University proudly supports the HKSAR Government's "Study in Hong Kong" initiative, further advancing our shared vision to establish the city as a leading international education hub. We look forward to learning from your breakthroughs and sharing our own insights.

I wish the GUPLS 2026 a resounding success. I am confident that our dialogues will inspire lasting partnerships that benefit both our global network and local communities alike.



Prof. Dennis LO Yuk-ming

GBS, SBS, JP
Vice-Chancellor and President
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Congratulations to the Hong Kong Association for External Friendship for organising the second Global University Presidents and Leaders Summit. I am honoured to be part of this gathering of university leaders from around the world, where we will exchange ideas on how universities can adapt to meet the needs of a rapidly changing world.

The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) was established with a mission to combine tradition with modernity and to bring together China and the West. Today, it is ranked among the world's top 20 universities, leading seminal research in areas including biomedicine, artificial intelligence, medical robotics, sustainable agriculture, green energy, and China studies, while nurturing leaders of tomorrow.

With our deep commitment to education, research, and global engagement, I look forward to contributing to important dialogues and exploring how universities around the world can work together to address some of the most pressing challenges facing our societies.

I wish the Summit every success and extend my warmest welcome to all participants.

Congratulatory Messages



Prof. John LEE Chi-kin

JP
President and Chair Professor of Curriculum and Instruction
The Education University of Hong Kong

On behalf of The Education University of Hong Kong (EdUHK), we extend our sincerest congratulations to the Hong Kong Association for External Friendship on hosting Global University Presidents and Leaders Summit 2026.

This landmark summit addresses a suite of forward-looking themes central to contemporary global development and higher education, covering global knowledge exchange, ethical governance of artificial intelligence, data science, demographic transformation, and university-industry integrated collaboration. It provides an invaluable cross-sector platform for delegates to deliberate on core challenges reshaping higher education worldwide.

With a century-long legacy nurturing local, national and global talent, EdUHK celebrates the 10th anniversary of its retitling this year, having evolved into an education-focused, research-strong and multidisciplinary university while upholding our unwavering pursuit of educational excellence.

Bringing together university academics, industrial practitioners and government stakeholders, this summit creates rare opportunities for insight exchange and cross-border collaborative initiatives. EdUHK stands ready to share our decades of research and pedagogical expertise, and to join hands with all participants to advance sustainable, human-centric higher education for local, national and global progress.

We thank and appreciate Professor Priscilla Leung's able leadership in initiating this important dialogue.



Prof. Jin-guang TENG

BBS, JP
President
The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

On behalf of The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU), I would like to extend my congratulations to the Hong Kong Association for External Friendship on organising this year's Global University Presidents & Leaders Summit, an important gathering for Hong Kong and the international higher education community.

This Summit reflects the vital role of dialogue, collaboration and shared purpose in advancing higher education. By bringing together distinguished university leaders from across the world, it provides an exceptional platform for exchanging perspectives, exploring collaborative opportunities in education and research, and fostering meaningful institutional partnerships that transcend borders.

Situated at the crossroads of East and West, Hong Kong embodies the global connectivity and collaborative spirit that define academic excellence. We hope that participants will leave not only with new ideas and partnerships, but also with a deeper appreciation of our remarkable city.

I am confident that the conversations sparked at this Summit will yield lasting impact, strengthening ties among participating institutions and advancing the shared mission of higher education worldwide. May the Summit inspire meaningful collaboration and lasting contributions, in the spirit of PolyU's motto: "To learn and to apply, for the benefit of mankind."

Congratulatory Messages



Prof. Nancy Y. IP

SBS, BBS, MH, JP
President
The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

On behalf of The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST), I am delighted to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Hong Kong Association for External Friendship on the successful organization of the second Global University Presidents and Leaders Summit.

Building on the momentum of its inaugural edition in 2024, the Summit has become an important platform that convenes academic leaders and innovators from around the world to exchange insights and foster meaningful partnerships. At a time of rapid societal transformation, this year's Summit addresses pressing issues of our time, including technological transformation, geopolitical complexities, and sustainability challenges. These timely discussions underscore the critical role of universities in generating knowledge, fostering innovation and developing talent, and highlight the importance of strengthening collaboration across sectors and borders to advance shared progress.

At HKUST, we believe the world's most complex challenges require collective wisdom and international collaboration. As a young, dynamic and forward-looking institution, HKUST stands ready to work alongside peer institutions and partners worldwide to co-create a more inclusive and prosperous future.

I trust that this year's Summit will provide invaluable opportunities for thought leaders to deepen mutual understanding and explore new pathways for cooperation, and I wish the event every success.



Prof. Xiang ZHANG

JP
President and Vice-Chancellor
The University of Hong Kong

The University of Hong Kong (HKU) is delighted once again to support and participate in the Global University Presidents & Leaders Summit. We recognise the vital role this biennial event plays in fostering international dialogue, exchanging innovative ideas, and addressing the pressing challenges facing higher education, society, and the global community.

As a leading global university rooted in Asia, HKU is committed to embracing a truly international perspective in all our endeavours, demonstrating the agility and adaptability needed in a rapidly evolving global setting. This Summit resonates deeply with our newly launched "Vision for 2026-2035: Leadership for Impact," which guides our community in advancing knowledge with purpose, nurturing talent for a changing world, and strengthening global partnerships that generate real-world impact.

The Summit's wide-ranging themes – spanning AI ethics, sustainable economic growth, future skills development, green finance, and university-industry-government collaboration – reflect our strategic priorities of interdisciplinary innovation, societal responsibility, and international engagement. We look forward to connecting with university leaders worldwide to co-create strategic solutions and contribute to a shared vision of impactful, forward-looking higher education for the benefit of society and the world.

Congratulatory Messages



Prof. Paul LAM Kwan-sing

SBS, JP
President and Chair Professor of Environmental Chemistry
Hong Kong Metropolitan University

It is our honour to once again support and participate in the Global University Presidents and Leaders Summit. This year's themes—the globalisation of knowledge and industry-academic-research collaboration—resonate deeply with Hong Kong Metropolitan University, especially given our role in leading the development of universities of applied sciences in Hong Kong. We believe that universities serve as vital bridges between scholarship, industry and research, and that collaboration fosters the creation, sharing and application of knowledge to address the challenges of a rapidly evolving world. We are confident that the Summit will serve as a valuable platform for such exchange among academic leaders from around the world, while also reflecting Hong Kong's steadfast commitment to academic excellence and diplomacy.

We extend our sincere congratulations to the Hong Kong Association for External Friendship for its continued vision and leadership in organising this event, and we look forward to the dialogue and synergies that will emerge from this Summit.



Prof. Joshua MOK Ka-ho

President,
Chair Professor of Comparative Policy,
The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong

On behalf of The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong, I extend our warmest congratulations on the convening of the Global University Presidents and Leaders Summit 2026.

We gather at a time of rapid transformation that calls for deeper reflection on the purpose and responsibility of higher education. Universities are increasingly expected to go beyond the transmission of knowledge, focusing instead on the cultivation of minds that can judge with care, act with integrity, and uphold the common good amid uncertainty. In this spirit, forums such as this carry lasting significance, providing a platform for meaningful dialogue among those entrusted with shaping future generations.

At HSUHK, we are committed to nurturing individuals who navigate complexity with both competence and conscience. We seek to blend academic rigour with intellectual wisdom, while remaining attentive to the human dimensions of progress and the broader needs of society.

True excellence, we believe, lies in fostering members who contribute meaningfully to their communities and to our shared global future. May this Summit spark candid dialogue, forge enduring partnerships, and renew our shared resolve to illuminate thoughtful pathways toward a more reflective, inclusive and resilient future.



Programme Overview

27.10.2026 (Tuesday)

Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre
Theatre 1

Time	Programme
08:30 – 09:15	Registration & Welcome
Opening Ceremony	
09:15 – 10:00	**Welcome Speech** • Prof. the Hon. Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun, GBS, JP, Barrister-at-law, Member of the Legislative Council of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China; Founding President and Chief Executive Officer, Hong Kong Association for External Friendship **Speech by Guest of Honour** • The Hon. John KC LEE, GBM, SBS, PDSM, PMSM, The Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China **Officiating Guests** • The Hon. John KC LEE, GBM, SBS, PDSM, PMSM, The Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China • Dr. the Hon. Starry LEE Wai-king, GBS, JP, President of the Legislative Council of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China • Mr. Shangwu SUN, Deputy Director of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region • Mr. Changwei ZHANG, Deputy Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region • Mr. Mindao YUAN, Vice President of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries • Prof. the Hon. Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun, GBS, JP, Barrister-at-law, Member of the Legislative Council of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China; Founding President and Chief Executive Officer, Hong Kong Association for External Friendship • Mr. Tim LUI Tim-leung, GBS, JP, Chairman, University Grants Committee **Officiating Ceremony and Group Photo**
Session 1 – Connecting Global Knowledge and Shared Value: Empowering Industry–Academia Collaboration in the Northern Metropolis University Town	
10:10 – 11:15	**Guest of Honour** • Dr. the Hon. CHOI Yuk-lin, JP, Secretary for Education of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China **Session Chair** • Prof. Xiang ZHANG, JP, President and Vice-Chancellor, The University of Hong Kong (Hong Kong SAR, China) **Speakers** • Prof. Khin Yong LAM, Senior Advisor (International Engagements), Singapore Institute of Technology, Special Advisor (Europe), Nanyang Technological University (Singapore) • Dr. Bolat TILEP, Chairman of the Board – Rector, Abai Kazakh National Pedagogical University (Kazakhstan) • Prof. S Bruce DOWTON, Vice-Chancellor & President, Macquarie University (Australia) • Prof. Yugang MA, President, East China Normal University (China) **Special Guest** • Mr. Yu SUN, Vice Chairman and Chief Executive, Bank of China (Hong Kong) Limited (Hong Kong SAR, China)
11:15 – 11:25	**Coffee Break**

Session 2 – Opportunities for International Education and Public-Private Partnerships in Hong Kong's Northern Metropolis University Town: Exploring Innovation Ecosystems and Investment Models

11:25 – 12:30	**Session Chair** • Prof. Nancy Y. IP, SBS, BBS, MH, JP, President, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (Hong Kong SAR, China) **Speakers** • Prof. Nicola PHILLIPS, Vice-Chancellor and President, Adelaide University (Australia) • Prof. Bill FLANAGAN, President and Vice-Chancellor, University of Alberta (Canada) • Prof. Sibrandes POPPEMA, President and Vice-Chancellor, Sunway University (Malaysia) • Prof. Shijun TONG, Chancellor, NYU Shanghai (China) **Special Guest** • Mr. Chun-fan YEUNG, BBS, Vice-chairman and General Manager, Glorious Sun Group (Hong Kong SAR, China)
12:45 – 14:15	**Luncheon (By Invitation Only)**

Session 3 – Fostering Synergy Between Policy, Entrepreneurship, and Education for Sustainable Growth: Innovative Governance, Intellectual Property Protection, and Industry Collaboration

14:30 – 15:30	**Guest of Honour** • The Hon. Christopher HUI Ching-yu, GBS, JP, Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China **Session Chair** • Prof. Dennis LO Yuk-ming, GBS, SBS, JP, Vice-Chancellor and President, The Chinese University of Hong Kong (Hong Kong SAR, China) **Speakers** • Prof. Trevor YOUNG, Vice President and Provost, University of Toronto (Canada) • Prof. Mosa MOSHABELA, Vice-Chancellor and Principal, University of Cape Town (South Africa) • Prof. Shearer WEST CBE, Vice-Chancellor and President, University of Leeds (U.K.) • Prof. Yonghua SONG, Rector, University of Macau (Macau SAR, China) • Prof. Moaddi bin Muhammad AAL MADH-HAB, President, Umm Al-Qura University (Saudi Arabia)

Session 4 – Corporate Social Responsibility in Higher Education: Curriculum Design and Talent Development for Industry Needs

15:30 – 16:30	**Session Chair** • Prof. Jin-guang TENG, BBS, JP, President, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (Hong Kong SAR, China) **Speakers** • Prof. Lan JIANG, President, Beijing Institute of Technology (China) • Prof. Yong SHUAI, Vice President, Harbin Institute of Technology (China) • Prof. Dr. Jan S. HESTHAVEN, President, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (Germany) • Prof. So Young KIM, Vice President of International Office, Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST) (Republic of Korea) • Prof. Weisheng ZHAO, Vice President, Beihang University (China)
16:30 – 16:45	**Coffee Break**

Session 5 – Globalisation of Knowledge and Social Sustainability

16:45 – 17:45	**Session Chair** • Prof. Paul LAM Kwan-sing, SBS, JP, President and Chair Professor of Environmental Chemistry, Hong Kong Metropolitan University (Hong Kong SAR, China) **Co-Session Chair** • Dr. Rajesh SHARMA, Associate Professor in Legal and Dispute Studies, RMIT University (Australia), Associate Director of the Hong Kong WTO Research Institute **Speakers** • Prof. Girish MENON, President, Lucy Cavendish College, University of Cambridge (U.K.) • Prof. Nonie LESAUX, Dean of the Harvard Graduate School of Education, Harvard University (U.S.) • Prof. Mayumi ISHIZUKA, Executive Vice President (International Affairs, Sustainability, Compliance, and Diversity, Equity & Inclusion), Hokkaido University (Japan) • Prof. Michle ACUTO, Vice President & Pro Vice-Chancellor (Global Engagement), University of Bristol (U.K.)
19:00 – 21:30	**High Table Banquet (By Invitation Only)**

Programme Overview

28.10.2026 (Wednesday)

Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre
Theatre 1

Time	Programme
08:30 – 09:15	Registration & Welcome
Session 6 – Cultivating Future Talent in the Big Data Era: An Academia-Industry-Government Approach Across Sustainability, Green Finance, Space Economy, Biomedical Innovation, and Arts & Creative Industries	
09:15 – 10:30	**Guest of Honour** • Prof. the Hon. Dong SUN, JP, Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry, Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China **Session Chair** • Prof. Xin YAO, Vice-President (Research and Innovations) and Tong Tin Sun Chair Professor of Machine Learning, Lingnan University (Hong Kong SAR, China) **Speakers** • Prof. Dr. Enrico SCHLEIFF, President, Goethe University Frankfurt (Germany) • Prof. Vassilis VASDEKIS, Rector, Athens University of Economics and Business (Greece) • Prof. Meng-shan REN, Vice-President for Undergraduate and Postgraduate Education, Communication University of China (China) • Prof. Xinye ZHENG, Vice President, Renmin University of China (China)
10:30 – 10:45	**Coffee Break**
Session 7 – Connecting Knowledge, Talent and Market Needs: Advancing University–Industry–Government Collaboration	
10:45 – 12:00	**Session Chair** • Prof. Wen-jung LI, Vice-President (Talent and International Strategy), City University of Hong Kong (Hong Kong SAR, China) **Speakers** • Prof. Dr. J. (Jouke) de VRIES, President, University of Groningen (The Netherlands) • Prof. Osamu TABATA, Executive Vice President, Kyoto University of Advanced Science (Japan) • Dr. Rajesh SHARMA, Associate Professor in Legal and Dispute Studies, RMIT University (Australia), Associate Director of the Hong Kong WTO Research Institute • Mr. Gary WONG Chi-him, MH, JP, Chief Hong Kong and Macao Liaison Expert, The Authority of Qianhai Shenzhen-Hong Kong Modern Service Industry Cooperation Zone of Shenzhen (China) • Ms. Fanny LAU, Chairman, Manpower Committee, Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce (Hong Kong SAR, China)
12:30 – 13:45	**Luncheon (By Invitation Only)**

Session 8 – Demographic Changes and Future Skills Development: Building Human Capital for Industry Readiness	
14:00 – 15:00	**Guest of Honour** • The Hon. Chris SUN Yuk-han, JP, Secretary for Labour and Welfare, The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China **Session Chair** • Prof. Alexander WAI Ping-kong, JP, President and Vice-Chancellor, Chair Professor of Photonics, Hong Kong Baptist University (Hong Kong SAR, China) **Speakers** • Prof. Hongrong LIU, Vice President, Hunan Normal University (China) • Mr. Patrick LAU, Vice President (Professional & Continuing Education), Singapore Management University (Singapore) • Prof. Jane NORMAN, President, University of Nottingham (U.K.) • Prof. Nohyoung PARK, Former Vice-President and Dean of School of Law, Korea University (Republic of Korea) • Dr. Ellis WONG, Vice President, The Chinese Manufacturers' Association of Hong Kong (Hong Kong SAR, China)
Session 9 – Ethics, Values, and Social Responsibility of AI in High-Tech Innovation	
15:00 – 16:00	**Session Chair** • Prof. John LEE Chi-kin, JP, President and Chair Professor of Curriculum and Instruction, The Education University of Hong Kong (Hong Kong SAR, China) **Speakers** • Prof. Chunlong LU, President, China University of Political Science and Law (China) • Prof. Dame Sally MAPSTONE, Principal and Vice-Chancellor, University of St. Andrews (U.K.) • Prof. Dr. Farhana Helal MEHTAB, Dean, School of Law and Professor, Southeast University (Bangladesh) • Datuk Manickham SUPPERAMANIAM, Former Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the World Trade Organization (Malaysia) • Prof. the Hon. Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun, GBS, JP, Barrister-at-law, Member of the Legislative Council of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China; Founding President and Chief Executive Officer, Hong Kong Association for External Friendship
16:00 – 16:15	**Coffee Break**

Session 10 – The Role of Private and Public Universities in Serving Community Needs and Driving Innovation in the AI Era	
16:15 – 17:15	**Session Chair** • Prof. Joshua MOK Ka-ho, President, Chair Professor of Comparative Policy, The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong (Hong Kong SAR, China) **Speakers** • Mr. Stephen PHILLIPS, Vice-President (Operations), University of Wollongong (Australia) • Prof. Alojzy Z. NOWAK, Rector, University of Warsaw (Poland) • Prof. Dr. (Anthony) Shun Fung CHIU, Vice President for External Relations and Internationalization, De La Salle University (Philippines) • Mr. Pablo Emilio Iturralde BAQUERO, Director of the FDR Advanced Engineering School of Technological Leadership, Moscow Polytechnic University (Russian Federation) • The Hon. Fei TANG, MH, Member of the Legislative Council of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China
Closing Remarks	
17:20 – 17:30	**Guest of Honour** • Mr. Tim LUI Tim-leung, GBS, JP, Chairman, University Grants Committee
19:00 – 21:30	**Celebration Dinner (By Invitation Only)**

Side Session 1

Hong Kong as an International Legal Hub Under One Country, Two Systems

Main Organisers
International Academy of the Belt and Road (IABR)
Hong Kong Association for External Friendship (HKAEF)

Co-Organisers
Hong Kong Basic Law Education Association
Hong Kong WTO Research Institute

Sponsor
Hylands Law Firm

Programme Overview

28.10.2026 (Wednesday)

Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre
Theatre 2

Time	Programme
Legal Session 1: The Rule of Law as a New Driver of Economic Development: The Contribution of 'One Country, Two Systems' to China's National Development	
11:00 – 12:15	**Opening Remarks** • Prof. Guiguo WANG, President of the Academy of International Strategy and Law, Zhejiang University (China); President of International Academy of the Belt and Road Initiatives **Session Chairs** • Prof. Feng LIN, Dean & Chair Professor of Basic Law, City University of Hong Kong (Hong Kong SAR, China) • Prof. Chao XI, Dean of the Faculty of Law, The Chinese University of Hong Kong (Hong Kong SAR, China)

Legal Session 1: The Rule of Law as a New Driver of Economic Development: The Contribution of 'One Country, Two Systems' to China's National Development

11:00 – 12:15

Topic: Role of International Organization for Mediation for the Belt and Road Initiative and the World

Speaker
- Prof. the Hon. Teresa CHENG, GBM, GBS, SC, JP, Secretary General of The International Organization for Mediation (IOMed), Former Secretary for Justice of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

Topic: The Legal Attraction of the Special Law of Northern Metropolis Development in Hong Kong under One Country Two Systems

Speaker
- Prof. the Hon. Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun, GBS, JP, Barrister-at-law, Chairman of The Bills Committee on Northern Metropolis Development Bill in Hong Kong, Legislator & Member of Hong Kong Basic Law, Committee of NPCSC

Topic: How Can Legal Professionals in the Guangdong–Hong Kong–Macao Greater Bay Area Join Forces to Go Global

Speaker
- Ms. Sophie ZHOU, Vice President, Guangdong Lawyers Association (China)

Topic: Role of Hong Kong in the Belt and Road Initiative and Global Development

Speaker
- Datuk Manickham SUPPERAMANIAM, Former Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the World Trade Organization (Malaysia)

Topic: Alternative Dispute Resolution under the Belt and Road vis-à-vis International Organization for Mediation in Hong Kong

Speaker
- Prof. Dr. Farhana Helal MEHTAB, Dean, School of Law and Professor, Southeast University (Bangladesh)

Topic: Insights from Hong Kong's Legal System Innovations for Hainan's Free Trade Port Law

Speaker
- Prof. the Hon. Alex FAN Hoi-kit, MH, JP, President of the Hainan International Arbitration Court (China)

Open Discussion

Legal Session 2: Hong Kong as an International Legal Hub along the Belt and Road Initiative

14:00 – 15:15

Opening Remarks
- Prof. the Hon. Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun, GBS, JP, Barrister-at-law, Chairman of The Bills Committee on Northern Metropolis Development Bill in Hong Kong, Legislator & Member of Hong Kong Basic Law, Committee of NPCSC

Topic: Hong Kong as an International Legal Hub under One Country, Two Systems

Welcoming Speech by Guest of Honour
- Dr. the Hon. CHEUNG Kwok-kwan, SBS, JP, Deputy Secretary for Justice, Department of Justice of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China

Session Chair
- Prof. Guiguo WANG, President of the Academy of International Strategy and Law, Zhejiang University (China); President of International Academy of the Belt and Road Initiatives

Topic: The Role of ADR of Hong Kong for the Belt and Road Initiative and the World

Speaker
- Dr. Rajesh SHARMA, Associate Professor in Legal and Dispute Studies, RMIT University (Australia), Associate Director of the Hong Kong WTO Research Institute

Topic: Attraction of Hong Kong Common Law for Overseas Investment

Speaker
- Prof. Y.C. Richard Wong, SBS, JP, Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor, The University of Hong Kong (Hong Kong SAR, China)

Topic: Hong Kong–Pakistan Legal Collaboration: Serving the Belt and Road Initiative and Global Development

Speaker
- Prof. Kashif Imran ZADI, Former Director and Associate Professor, School of Law & Policy, University of Management and Technology, Lahore (Pakistan)

Topic: Hong Kong–Nepal Legal Collaboration: Serving the Belt and Road Initiative and Global Development

Speaker
- Prof. Bipin ADHIKARI, Professor, School of Law, Kathmandu University (Nepal)

Open Discussion

Round Table Discussion: The Emerging Need for New Legislation and Capital Venture Opportunities in a Fast-Evolving High-Tech World	
15:15 – 17:00	**Session Chairs** • Prof. Bipin ADHIKARI, Professor, School of Law, Kathmandu University (Nepal) • Dr. Brian WONG, HKU-100 Assistant Professor in Philosophy, The University of Hong Kong (Hong Kong SAR, China) **Speakers** • Prof. Yun ZHAO, Henry Cheng Professor in International Law and Associate Dean (Mainland Affairs), Faculty of Law, The University of Hong Kong (Hong Kong SAR, China) • Prof. Nohyoung PARK, Former Vice-President and Dean of School of Law, Korea University (Republic of Korea) • Prof. Garvin Percy DIAS, Associate Professor of Business Education, School of Business and Management, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (Hong Kong SAR, China) • Dr. Wing-lok HUNG, Lecturer, School of Governance and Policy Science, The Chinese University of Hong Kong (Hong Kong SAR, China) **Commentator** • Mr. Cody WANG Chenxi, President of the Stanford Space Law Society, Stanford University
17:20 – 17:30	**Closing Remarks in Theatre 1**

Side Session 2

Intergenerational High-Level Talent Dialogue

Programme Overview

28.10.2026 (Wednesday)

Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre
Theatre 2

Time	Programme
08:30 – 09:00	Registration & Welcome
09:00 – 09:05	**Guests of Honour** **Opening Remarks** • Dr. the Hon. Starry LEE Wai-king, GBS, JP, President of the Legislative Council of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China
10:00 – 10:20	**Dialogue with Prominent Students from Local and Overseas** • The Hon Alice MAK Mei-kuen, SBS, JP, Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China
Building Tomorrow's Talent: A Dialogue on Youth Opportunities in Hong Kong and the Greater Bay Area	
09:05 – 10:00	**Session Chair** • Mr. Cody WANG Chenxi, President of the Stanford Space Law Society, Stanford University **Speakers** • Mr. Xingxing WANG, Founder and CEO, Unitree Robotics (China) • The Hon. Vivian KONG Man-wai, SBS, MH, Member of the Legislative Council of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China • Mr. Laurence BRAHM, Author of "Zhu Rongji and the Transformation of Modern China" & "China as No. 1: The New Superpower Takes Centre Stage" (Hong Kong SAR, China) • Dr. Brian WONG, HKU-100 Assistant Professor in Philosophy, The University of Hong Kong (Hong Kong SAR, China) **Open Question Session (Q&A)**
10:00 – 10:30	**Dialogue with Prominent Students from Local and Overseas**

DAY 1

Programme

27.10.2026

(Tuesday)

Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre

Theatre 1

Session 1

Connecting Global Knowledge and Shared Value: Empowering Industry–Academia Collaboration in the Northern Metropolis University Town

As global knowledge becomes an increasingly shared resource, the ability to connect ideas, talent, and industry across borders has emerged as a defining force in shaping our collective progress. This session will explore how the convergence of global knowledge and shared value can empower deeper collaboration between industry and academia, with the Northern Metropolis University Town serving as a living platform for this vision. Anchored in the belief that knowledge creates its greatest impact when translated into shared societal and economic value, the University Town represents a new model of interconnected learning, research, and innovation — one where universities, enterprises, and communities co-create solutions to common challenges. Universities play a central role in this ecosystem through their research excellence, talent cultivation, technology transfer, and capacity to align academic inquiry with real-world needs.

In this session, speakers will discuss how industry–academia collaboration can be sustained and scaled in a rapidly evolving landscape, emphasising the importance of cross-sector partnership, open innovation, and the free flow of knowledge and talent. The Northern Metropolis University Town offers a unique opportunity to reimagine how physical proximity, shared infrastructure, and collaborative governance can accelerate the exchange of ideas and the commercialisation of research. Beyond economic outcomes, the discussion will highlight how such collaboration advances shared value — fostering inclusive growth, nurturing future-ready talent, and contributing to the wellbeing of society. We will delve deeper into these themes, offering valuable insights into how connecting global knowledge and shared value can empower a new era of industry–academia collaboration and position the University Town as a catalyst for regional and global impact.

Dr. the Hon. CHOI Yuk-lin

JP
Secretary for Education of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China



Dr Choi joined the political team of the Education Bureau as Under Secretary for Education in 2017 and assumed the office of Secretary for Education in 2022.

Dr Choi has worked in the education sector for nearly 40 years. She began her teaching career in secondary schools in 1988, serving for more than a decade before joining the Education Bureau's Curriculum Development Institute, after which she became a secondary school principal. Throughout the years, she actively engaged in community and educational services dedicated to enhancing teacher professionalism and promoting a culture of respect for teachers. Her notable initiatives included organising the Outstanding Teacher Awards and establishing the Hong Kong Teachers Dream Fund. She also served as a member of the Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee, the Fight Crime Committee and the Commission on Youth.

Prof. Xiang ZHANG

JP
President and Vice-Chancellor,
The University of Hong Kong (Hong Kong SAR, China)

香 港 大 學
THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG



Professor Xiang Zhang is HKU's President and Vice-Chancellor. He is the sixteenth leader appointed to this role, beginning in July 2018.

Born in Nanjing in China's Jiangsu province, he credits his parents for embedding discovery and divergent thinking at the center of his learning experience. He studied at Nanjing University (BS and MS), then moved to the United States where he earned further degrees at the University of Minnesota (MS) and University of California, Berkeley (PhD). He taught as an assistant professor at Pennsylvania State University, and associate professor and full professor at the University of California, Los Angeles.

In 2004, he returned to UC Berkeley. At Berkeley, he served as the inaugural Edward S. Kuh Endowed Chair Professor, Director of the Nanoscale Science and Engineering Center, and Director of the Material Science Division at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. XLab, his team of students, researchers, and visiting scientists, was so named "not because we're mutants, but because we've searched deeply for non-traditional research topics", he says. "X stands for explore, for experiment, and for excellence."

A world leader in nanophotonics and material physics, Professor Zhang developed the first optical superlens — breaking the diffraction limit and transforming understanding of imaging technology. He also pioneered the field of plasmonic lithography with important implications for microelectronics and data storage.

Notably, he invented the world's first optical "invisibility cloak", achieving a historic leap from imagination to reality. This earned him a place on TIME's "Top 10 Scientific Discoveries" of 2008 alongside NASA's Phoenix Mars Lander and China's first spacewalk.

Professor Zhang sees his role not only as President and Vice-Chancellor, but as "mentor, colleague, and friend". He is committed to fostering an intellectually vibrant landscape at HKU that is underpinned by curiosity, critical thinking, and compassionate values. This, he says, will allow students, staff, and faculty to thrive together in a new and complex global century.

Among others, he is a recipient of the Fitzroy Medal, Julius Springer Prize, Max Born Award, and the Eringen Medal which includes five Nobel laureates among its past winners. He is an elected member of the U.S. National Academy of Engineering, and an elected foreign member of organizations including the Chinese Academy of Sciences and Academia Sinica.

Prof. Khin Yong LAM

Senior Advisor (International Engagements),
Singapore Institute of Technology,
Special Advisor (Europe), Nanyang Technological University (Singapore)



Professor Khin Yong Lam is Senior Advisor (International Engagements) at the Singapore Institute of Technology and Special Advisor (Europe) at Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. He brings extensive leadership experience in advancing global academic and industry partnerships, with a strong track record in international research collaboration, student mobility, and industry-driven innovation.

Prior to joining SIT, Professor Lam served as Nanyang Technological University Singapore's first Vice President (Industry), where he led the development of strategic industry partnerships. Earlier, as Senior Vice President (Research) from 2014 to 2022, he guided NTU's university-wide research strategy and implementation. In these roles, he led major research initiatives, strengthened university–industry collaborations, established joint and corporate laboratories with global partners, and fostered research alliances with leading universities worldwide. He also played a strategic role in deepening NTU's industry engagement through corporate and joint laboratories with partners including HP Inc., Rolls-Royce, Singtel, Alibaba and Hyundai.

Professor Lam has held numerous research and academic leadership appointments across the National University of Singapore (NUS), the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR), and Nanyang Technological University (NTU). Before joining NTU, he was Founding Director of the NUS Centre for Computational Mechanics and the NUS–MINDEF Underwater Shock Laboratory, Programme Director of the IHPC–MINDEF High Performance Computing Centre, Founding Executive Director of the Institute of High Performance Computing, and Founding Executive Director of the A*STAR Graduate Academy.

For his contributions, he was awarded the French National Order of the Legion of Honor (2017), the Singapore President's Science and Technology Medal (2018), the Guangzhou Honorary Citizen Award (2021), Honorary Senator of the Technical University of Munich (2024), and Honorary Professor of Shandong University.

As a scholar and researcher, Professor Lam has published over 300 papers in international refereed journals with a citation count of over 12,000 and H-index of 58. His main research area is computational mechanics. He is also a Fellow of the Academy of Engineering Singapore.

Dr. Bolat TILEP

Chairman of the Board – Rector,
Abai Kazakh National Pedagogical University
(Kazakhstan)



Tilep Bolat was born in 1978 in Kazakhstan. In 2000, he graduated from Al-Farabi Kazakh State National University with a specialization in Political Science and qualification as a Lecturer in Political Science. He later obtained the academic degree of Candidate of Political Science.

From 2001 to 2005, Tilep Bolat worked as an expert at the "Strategy" Analytical Centre public foundation and held research positions at the Research Institute for Socio-Political Studies and the Centre for Political Technologies. In 2005–2006, he served as Acting Head and later Head of the Secretariat of the Small Assembly of the People of Kazakhstan under the Office of the Mayor of Almaty.

Between 2008 and 2014, he held senior positions in the domestic policy departments of Astana and Almaty, including Head of the National Policy Directorate and Head of the Astana Internal Policy Department. He also worked in the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Kazakhstan and served as Adviser to the Deputy Prime Minister and the Embassy of Kazakhstan in Russia.

From 2020 to 2022, he was Deputy Minister of Information and Social Development. Since September 18, 2023, he has been serving as Chairman of the Board - Rector of Abai Kazakh National Pedagogical University.



Prof. S Bruce DOWTON

Vice-Chancellor & President,
Macquarie University (Australia)

Bruce Dowton, paediatrician, geneticist, molecular biologist and leader joined Macquarie University in 2012 as 5th Vice-Chancellor. Previously Dowton served as a senior medical executive in university, healthcare and consulting settings. He also served as Clinical Professor of Pediatrics at Harvard Medical School. His global work in many cultures and contexts has improved health care and universities at many levels. Since 2012, Macquarie University has built global renown in education, discovery, healthcare and innovation. With ~$1.5B investment, Macquarie campus is now highly sought after by students, staff and partner organisations alike as one of Australia's most dynamic global university communities.





Prof. Yugang MA

President,
East China Normal University (China)

Yu-Gang Ma is President of East China Normal University, Academician of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), and Fellow of the American Physical Society.

He once held key posts including Deputy Director of Shanghai Institute of Applied Physics, Dean of School of Science and Technology, Dean of Graduate School and Vice President of Fudan University, and assumed office as President of East China Normal University in December 2025.

His research focuses on experimental and phenomenological heavy-ion nuclear physics, with landmark achievements in medium-to-high energy and ultrarelativistic heavy-ion collision studies. His antimatter research twice ranked among China's Top Ten Science Advances, and he was elected a CAS Academician in 2017. He has received the National Science Fund for Distinguished Young Scholars and led multiple national key research programs. He has also won major academic honors including the National Natural Science Award Second Prize and OCPA Achievement in Asia Award (Robert T. Poe Prize).





Mr. Yu SUN

Vice Chairman and Chief Executive,
Bank of China (Hong Kong) Limited
(Hong Kong SAR, China)



Mr SUN is Vice Chairman and Chief Executive of Bank of China (Hong Kong) Limited ("BOCHK"). He is a member of each of the Strategy and Budget Committee as well as the Sustainability Committee, Chairman of BOCHK Charitable Foundation, and Chairman of BOC Group Life Assurance Company Limited. Mr SUN joined Bank of China Limited ("BOC") in 1998. He served as the Executive Vice President of BOC, Chief Overseas Business Officer of BOC, General Manager of London Branch of BOC, General Manager of Global Markets of BOCHK, etc. He was also Chairman of the Board of Directors of Bank of China (UK) Limited, Chairman of the Board of Directors of BOC Aviation Limited, President of Shanghai RMB Trading Unit of BOC and General Manager of Beijing Branch of BOC.

Mr SUN holds a number of public offices in Hong Kong. He is Chairman of the Hong Kong Association of Banks, Honorary President of the Hong Kong Chinese Enterprises Association, Chairman of the Chinese Banking Association of Hong Kong, and sits on the Exchange Fund Advisory Committee, the Banking Advisory Committee, and the Council of the Treasury Markets Association. Mr SUN sits on the Advisory Committee on the Northern Metropolis and the Advisory Committee on Attracting Strategic Enterprises of the Government of the HKSAR. He is Co-Chairman of Guangdong-HK-Macao Bay Area Entrepreneurs Union, Advisor of Hong Kong Alliance of Technology and Innovation, and sits on the General Committee of the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce, the Council of the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, the Risk Management Committee of the Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited, etc. He is also a Shareholder-Affiliated Non-Executive Director of the Supervisory Board of the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (Swift).

Session 2

Opportunities for International Education and Public-Private Partnerships in Hong Kong's Northern Metropolis University Town: Exploring Innovation Ecosystems and Investment Models

Hong Kong's Northern Metropolis University Town represents more than a physical development project; it is a strategic initiative to strengthen the city's role as an international hub for post-secondary education and high-calibre talent. Situated within the Northern Metropolis and closely connected with the wider Greater Bay Area, the University Town offers an opportunity to expand the capacity, quality, and international reach of Hong Kong's higher education sector. More importantly, it provides a platform for rethinking how universities can attract global academic resources, support cross-boundary collaboration, cultivate future talent, and anchor a vibrant innovation ecosystem that connects education more closely with technology, research, and industry.

This session will examine the opportunities created by the Northern Metropolis University Town in advancing international education, talent development, and knowledge exchange. The discussion will address how Hong Kong can strengthen its appeal to leading universities, research institutes, scholars, and students from the Mainland and overseas, while developing more flexible models of inter-institutional, interdisciplinary, and cross-boundary collaboration. Speakers will also explore how public-private partnerships — including new investment models and industry-academia engagement — can support applied research, knowledge transfer, and the long-term growth of innovation-driven industries within this broader education strategy. Through these perspectives, the session will offer insights into how the University Town can contribute to sustainable educational innovation, regional connectivity, and human capital development.

Prof. Nancy Y. IP

SBS, BBS, MH, JP
President, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (Hong Kong SAR, China)

香港科技大學 THE HONG KONG UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



Nancy Ip is President of HKUST and the Morningside Professor of Life Science. Taking office in October 2022, she is the first female president of a publicly funded university in Hong Kong. She joined HKUST in 1993, holding various roles including Vice-President for Research and Development and Dean of Science.

Ip is world-renowned for her significant contributions to the field of neuroscience. Her outstanding research has resulted in 352 scientific papers and 144 granted patents. She has been elected to the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the US National Academy of Sciences, among other academies, and has received numerous awards, including the National Natural Science Awards and the L'OREAL-UNESCO for Women in Science Award.

Ip plays a significant role in shaping research policy on a global scale. She is currently a member of the Leadership Group of the Davos Alzheimer's Collaborative and the World Dementia Council. Additionally, she plays a key role in steering science and technology in Hong Kong. She currently serves as a member of the Chief Executive's Council of Advisers. A strong advocate for global collaboration and exchange among scientists, she was a key driver in establishing both the Greater Bay Area Association of Academicians and the International Alliance of Academicians, serving as the founding council chair and the founding chair, respectively.



Prof. Nicola PHILLIPS

Vice Chancellor and President,
Adelaide University (Australia)

Adelaide University



Professor Nicola Phillips is the Vice Chancellor and President of Adelaide University, commencing in the role on 12 January 2026.

An esteemed leader and academic, Professor Phillips has some 30 years of experience in the higher education sector across Australia and the United Kingdom. She completed her undergraduate studies at King's College London, and holds both a Master's degree in Comparative Government and a PhD in International Relations from the London School of Economics and Political Science.

A distinguished scholar in global political economy, she held academic and leadership positions at the Universities of Warwick, Manchester, and Sheffield, before returning to King's College London in 2017 as Vice-President and Vice-Principal (Education). She subsequently moved to the University of Melbourne to take up the role of Provost from September 2021 to July 2025.

Over the course of her career, Professor Phillips has held visiting fellowships and professorships at several leading institutions around the world, including the Australian National University, the University of British Columbia, and the Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México.

She is a Fellow of the UK Academy of Social Sciences, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts (RSA), and a Member of Chief Executive Women.



Prof. Bill FLANAGAN

President and Vice-Chancellor,
University of Alberta (Canada)

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA



Bill Flanagan became the 14th president and vice-chancellor of the University of Alberta in July 2020. Born and raised in Alberta, he has been recognized for his transformative and entrepreneurial leadership.

Upon appointment, President Flanagan launched the largest and most ambitious program of academic and administrative restructuring ever undertaken by a Canadian university. Thanks to President Flanagan's leadership, an entirely new university-wide was established, dramatically enhancing the efficiency of administrative services by establishing shared service centres, introducing new technologies and reducing administrative costs by over $100 million annually.

He also led the creation of the university's new strategic plan, Shape 2023-2033, which sets the university on an ambitious path toward enrollment growth and even greater research impact.

Prior to his appointment at the U of A, President Flanagan served as dean of law from 2005 to 2019 at Queen's University.

President Flanagan holds a BA (English and Philosophy) from Carleton University, a JD from the University of Toronto, a DEA in International Economic Law from Université Paris I-Sorbonne, and an LLM from Columbia University.



Prof. Sibrandes POPPEMA

President and Vice-Chancellor,
Sunway University (Malaysia)

SUNWAY UNIVERSITY



Professor Sibrandes Poppema has served as President and Vice-Chancellor of Sunway University, Malaysia since January 2021. He studied Medicine, specialised in Pathology, and earned a PhD in Immunopathology from the University of Groningen in the Netherlands. He held postdoctoral positions at the University of Kiel and Harvard University. His research in immunology places him among the top 2% most cited authors globally. He served as Director of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology at the Cross Cancer Institute in Canada from 1987-1995, Chair of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine University from 1995-1999, Dean of Medicine from 1999-2008, and President of the University of Groningen from 2008-2018.

Honors

- Knighthood in the Order of the Netherlands Lion for his scientific achievements.
- Officer's Cross in the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany for strengthening scientific and educational ties between Germany and the Netherlands.
- Medal of Honor of the City of Groningen and Medal of Honor of the Carl von Ossietzky University Oldenburg, Germany.



Prof. Shijun TONG

Chancellor,
NYU Shanghai (China)



Tong Shijun was born in Shanghai in September 1958 and became Chancellor of NYU Shanghai in 2020 after holding a long-term position as Professor of Philosophy at East China Normal University (ECNU) since 1994. He has been a member of the Social Science Committee of China's Ministry of Education (MOE) since 2004 and a Foreign Member of the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters (Det Norske Videnskaps-Akademi) since 2010.

Tong joined ECNU first as a student in 1978, after having spent three years as a farm worker on Chongming Island from 1975-1978. At ECNU he earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in philosophy in 1982 and a Master of Arts degree in philosophy in 1984—the same year he began his career teaching at the university. In 1988 Tong took his first trip to Norway as a visiting scholar, and then he went on an academic journey leading to a doctoral degree at the University of Bergen in 1994.

As an administrator, Tong was Chair of ECNU's Department of Philosophy from 1995-1997, Deputy Dean of Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences (SASS) from 2004-2011, Director of Philosophical Institute of SASS from 2009-2011, and ECNU's University Council Chairman from 2011-2019. As a philosopher, Tong specializes in epistemology, ethics, political philosophy, and comparative philosophy.



Mr. Chun-fan YEUNG

BBS
Vice-chairman and General Manager,
Glorious Sun Group (Hong Kong SAR, China)



Mr. Yeung Fan and his elder brother, Mr. Charles Yeung, founded Glorious Sun Garment Factory. The Glorious Sun Group was formally established the following year. He serves as Vice Chairman and General Manager of Glorious Sun Group, Chairman of Jeanswest International (Hong Kong) Limited. In 1974, Mr. Yeung. Over the ensuing half century, the Group evolved from a small jeans processing operation into a multi-nationals enterprise and a mainstay of Hong Kong's textile and garment industry through a series of strategic transformations. JEANSWEST is one of their famous fashion brands. The Group's core business comprises property development, financial investments, hotel, retail and export of casual wear.

Mr. Yeung served as a member of the 13th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference. He serves as the National Association of Enterprises with Foreign Investment, Special Vice President of the China National Textile and Apparel Council and Chairman of Hong Kong General Chamber of Textiles, acting as an important bridge between the textile and garment industries of Hong Kong and Chinese Mainland.

Mr. Yeung received the "Most Caring Individual Donor" honour in the China Charity Award from the Ministry of Civil Affairs of the People's Republic of China for four consecutive terms, was awarded the Bronze Bauhinia Star by the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government in 2023 and University Fellow by The Hong Kong Polytechnic University in 2025.

Session 3

Fostering Synergy Between Policy, Entrepreneurship, and Education for Sustainable Growth: Innovative Governance, Intellectual Property Protection, and Industry Collaboration

Sustainable growth increasingly depends on the ability of different systems to interact productively rather than operate in isolation. Policy, entrepreneurship, and education each represent a different form of capacity, but their value is fully realised only when they are connected through effective governance, well-designed incentives, and robust pathways for knowledge translation and protection.

This session will examine the conditions required to turn cross-sector collaboration into a functioning innovation ecosystem. The discussion will move beyond general alignment and consider how innovative governance, entrepreneurial culture, and education systems can reinforce one another, with intellectual property protection serving as a critical enabler of trust, investment, and long-term industry collaboration. Speakers will address the institutional mechanisms, incentives, and pathways needed to translate ideas from discovery to application, from academic insight to market adoption, and from short-term innovation to enduring public value. The session will offer insights into how these different forms of capacity can be brought together to strengthen competitiveness, resilience, and sustainable growth.

The Hon. Christopher HUI Ching-yu

GBS, JP
Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China



Mr Hui has been Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury since 2020. He serves on the boards of Mass Transit Railway Corporation Limited, Hong Kong Airport Authority and also as the Chairman of the Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation.

He was an Administrative Officer in the Government from 1999 to 2003 and served in the Economic Development Branch, the Office of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region in Beijing and the Home Affairs Department. After leaving the Government, Mr Hui spent 13 years at the Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited, having been the Managing Director for Market Development and Head of Project Management and also in various senior roles in Listing and Market Development. He worked for a number of multi-national companies in the private sector as well. He was appointed the Executive Director of the Hong Kong Financial Services Development Council from 2019 to 2020.

Mr Hui previously held a number of public roles including Councillor of the City University of Hong Kong, Member of the Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes Authority Process Review Panel, Hong Kong Stock Exchange Listing Review Committee and also Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants Disciplinary Panel.

Mr Hui holds Bachelor and Master (Hon) Degrees in Philosophy, Politics and Economics from the University of Oxford, and Master of Business Administration Degree from INSEAD. He also attended the Stanford Executive Programme (SEP).

Prof. Dennis LO Yuk-ming

GBS, SBS, JP
Vice-Chancellor and President
The Chinese University of Hong Kong
(Hong Kong SAR, China)



Prof. Dennis Lo is the ninth Vice-Chancellor and President and the Li Ka Shing Professor of Medicine of The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK). He is also the President of the Hong Kong Academy of Sciences. His research interests focus on the biology and diagnostic applications of cell-free nucleic acids in plasma. In particular, he discovered the presence of cell-free fetal DNA in maternal plasma in 1997 and has since then been pioneering non-invasive prenatal diagnosis using this technology. This technology has been adopted globally and has created a paradigm shift in prenatal medicine. He has also made many innovations using circulating nucleic acids for cancer detection, including the screening of early stage nasopharyngeal cancer.

In recognition of his research, Prof. Lo has been elected as Member of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), Founding Member of the Hong Kong Academy of Sciences, Fellow of the Royal Society, Foreign Associate of the US National Academy of Sciences and Foreign member of the Academia Europaea. Prof. Lo has won numerous awards, including the 2014 King Faisal International Prize in Medicine, the 2016 Future Science Prize in Life Science, the 2019 Fudan-Zhongzhi Science Award, the 2021 Breakthrough Prize in Life Sciences, the 2021 Royal Medal, the 2021 ESHG Mendel Award, the 2022 ISPD Pioneer Award, the 2022 Lasker~DeBakey Clinical Medical Research Award, the 2023 inaugural Tengchong Science Prize, the 2024 Jiménez Díaz Lecture Award, the 2025 Richard B. Johnston, Jr., MD Prize in Developmental Biology by March of Dimes and the 2026 AACR-Irving Weinstein Foundation Distinguished Lectureship.



Prof. Trevor YOUNG

Vice President and Provost,
University of Toronto (Canada)



Prof. Trevor Young is Vice-President and Provost at the University of Toronto. He was previously Vice-Provost, Relations with Health Care Institutions and Dean of the Temerty Faculty of Medicine, overseeing the University's relationships across the Toronto Academic Health Science Network, a thriving research enterprise of nine fully affiliated teaching hospitals and four associate member hospitals.

Prof. Young is former Chair of the Department of Psychiatry, a Professor in the Departments of Psychiatry and Pharmacology and Toxicology, and Senior Scientist at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health. He received the Colvin Prize for Outstanding Achievement in Mood Disorders Research in 2015 and the Canadian College of Neuropsychopharmacology Medal in 2013. He also led the mood disorders programme at the Hamilton Psychiatric Hospital, which received the American Psychiatric Services Gold Achievement Award. Prof. Young is a Fellow and the Past President of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences.



Prof. Mosa MOSHABELA

Vice-Chancellor and Principal,
University of Cape Town (South Africa)

Prof. Mosa Moshabela assumed office as ViceChancellor and Principal of the University of Cape Town (UCT) on 1 August 2024. He serves as a member of the UCT Council and Chair of the Senate. His leadership vision is centred on strengthening UCT's core missions of teaching, research, and transformation, while advancing a fourth mission that positions the university as a catalyst for innovation in Africa, underpinned by the values of ubuntu. Among his key initiatives is the ViceChancellor's Campus Conversations series, designed to create safe and constructive spaces for dialogue on complex issues affecting the university community.

Prof. Moshabela is the current Chair of the International Alliance of Research until 2026. He previously served as Chairperson of the Governing Board of the National Research Foundation (2022-2025), a Member of the Board of the South African Medical Research Council, and Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Health of the Academy of Science of South Africa. On the global stage, he contributed to several highlevel bodies, including the international advisory board for The Lancet Healthy Longevity, the Lancet Commission on synergies between Health Promotion, Universal Healthcare Access and Global Health Security, and the Commission of the US National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine on the Global Roadmap to Healthy Longevity.



A Professor of Public Health, Prof. Moshabela holds an MBChB from the University of KwaZulu-Natal and a PhD from the University of the Witwatersrand, amongst others. His research has focused on improving access and quality of healthcare to combat infectious diseases, particularly HIV and TB, as well as on health systems, services, and policy.



Prof. Shearer WEST CBE

Vice-Chancellor and President,
University of Leeds (U.K.)

Professor Shearer West joined the University of Leeds in 2024 as the fourteenth Vice-Chancellor and President. Previously, she spent seven years serving as the Vice-Chancellor and President of the University of Nottingham.

An expert in Art History, Professor West has held influential leadership roles and was awarded a CBE in the 2021 Queen's New Year's Honours List for services to higher education.

She obtained her BA degree in Art History and English at the College of William and Mary in the United States of America, and her PhD in Art History at the University of St Andrews in Scotland.

Professor West is a board member of the Russell Group, which provides representation for the UK's 24 leading research-intensive universities.

Professor West has served in numerous international roles, including acting as the main panel chair for the national research assessment exercise for Humanities in Norway and serving on the steering group to introduce impact into the Excellence in Research (ERA) exercise in Australia.

She is former Chair of the Universitas 21 global network of universities and is currently a board member of the Association



of Commonwealth Universities and a member of the University Grants Committee of Hong Kong.

She has represented the UK on the Science Europe Humanities Scientific Committee and has been a jurist for the Spinoza and Gravitation Prizes in the Netherlands and the Odysseus and Solvay Prizes in Belgium.



Prof. Yonghua SONG

Rector,
University of Macau (Macau SAR, China)

澳門大學
UNIVERSIDADE DE MACAU
UNIVERSITY OF MACAU



Professor Yonghua Song has long been engaged in electrical power system research & has held a number of leadership positions at British and Chinese universities. He is the Rector (President) of the University of Macau, Director of the State Key Laboratory of Internet of Things for Smart City and Director of the Institute of Smart City Technologies. He is also serving as Vice President of the China Association of Higher Education and President of the Macao Association for Higher Education Development. He was Pro-Vice-Chancellor of Brunel University, Pro-Vice Chancellor of University of Liverpool, Assistant President of Tsinghua University and Executive Vice President of Zhejiang University. He is a fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering (UK), a member of Academia Europaea and IEEE fellow. He received honorary doctorates from the University of Edinburgh, the University of Bath, and Brunel University of London. He won a second prize of the State Scientific and Technological Progress Award and four provincial level first prizes; the prize for Scientific and Technological Progress from the Ho Leung Ho Lee Foundation; the Guanghua Engineering Science and Technology Prize and the National Innovation Excellence Award. In 2023, he was awarded the Medal of Merit – Education by the Macao Special Administrative Region Government.



Prof. Moaddi bin Muhammad AAL MADH-HAB

President,
Umm Al-Qura University (Saudi Arabia)

جامعة أم القرى
UMM AL-QURA UNIVERSITY



Moaddi bin Muhammad Aal Madh-hab is the President of Umm Al-Qura University and a Saudi academic specializing in public administration and higher education leadership. He was appointed to the position by royal decree in 2020 and has since contributed to the university's academic and institutional development initiatives.

He earned a bachelor's degree in Administrative Sciences from King Saud University, a master's degree in Public Administration from American University, and a PhD in Public Administration from Virginia Commonwealth University. Throughout his career, he has held several senior academic and administrative positions, including dean of the College of Business Administration at King Saud University. He also served as a member of the Shura Council, where he contributed to national discussions on education and development.

His academic and professional interests include public administration, organizational leadership, higher education policy, and human resource development.



Session 4

Corporate Social Responsibility in Higher Education: Curriculum Design and Talent Development for Industry Needs

Corporate social responsibility in higher education is not limited to community service or institutional engagement, but is increasingly connected to how universities design learning, shape values, and prepare talent for a changing society. As industries face technological disruption, sustainability demands, demographic shifts, and global competition, higher education institutions are expected to nurture graduates who are not only professionally competent, but also ethically aware, socially responsive, and capable of contributing to the public good. This requires curriculum design that links academic knowledge with real-world challenges and integrates future skills, interdisciplinary learning, sustainability thinking, and practical industry exposure into the student learning experience.

Speakers will address the role of higher education in shaping graduates who are professionally capable, ethically aware, socially responsive, and prepared for changing industry needs. The discussion will highlight work-integrated learning, future skills, sustainability thinking, ethical leadership, and community engagement as important elements of responsible education. It will also consider how universities can align employability with wider social responsibility and public value. The session will connect the employability agenda with the broader responsibility of higher education to shape ethical, capable, and socially responsive graduates.

Prof. Jin-guang TENG

THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY 香港理工大學

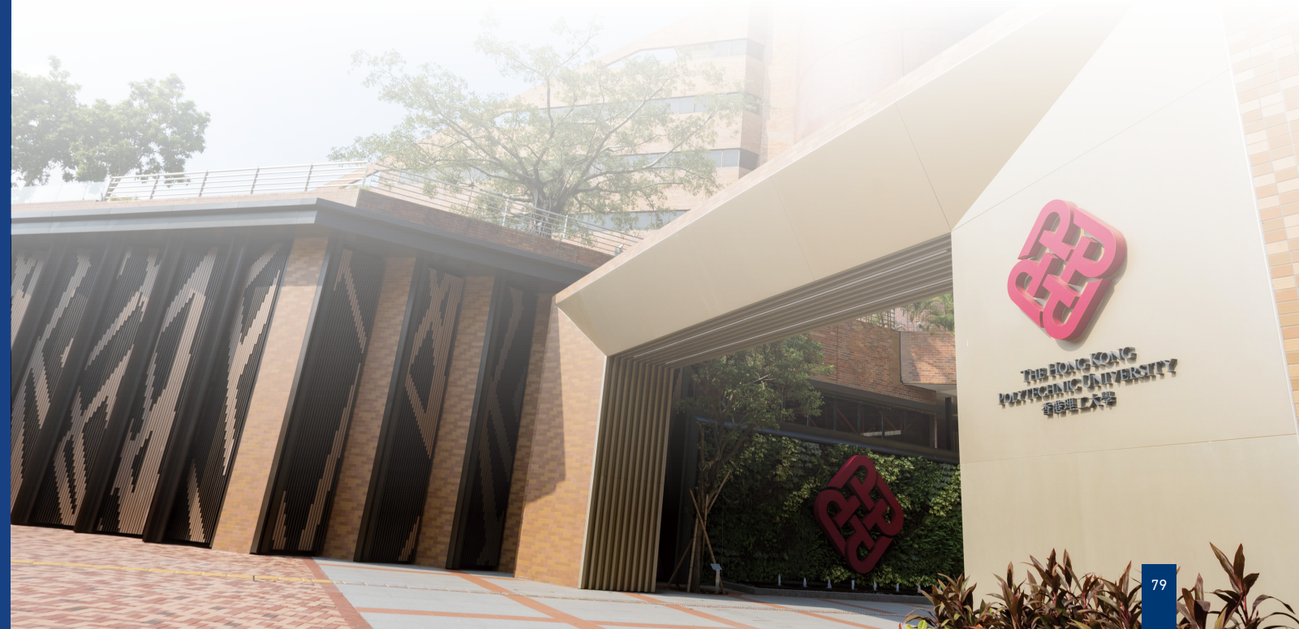
BBS, JP
President,
The Hong Kong Polytechnic University
(Hong Kong SAR, China)



Professor Jin-guang Teng is President and Chair Professor of Structural Engineering at The Hong Kong Polytechnic University. He is also a Member of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, an International Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering, an International Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, a Member of the Hong Kong Academy of Sciences and a Fellow of the Hong Kong Academy of Engineering. He obtained an engineering degree from Zhejiang University in 1983 and a PhD degree from the University of Sydney in 1990.

Professor Teng's main research areas include the structural use of fibre-reinforced polymer (FRP) composites in construction and steel structures. He has authored/co-authored one book and over 200 SCI journal papers. His publications have been widely cited by researchers globally: on the Stanford University list of top 2% most-cited scientists, Prof. Teng has ranked 7th or 8th globally and first or second nationally in the field of civil engineering from 2019 to 2025 based on career-long citation impact. Furthermore, many of his research findings have been adopted in relevant design codes or guidelines in China, the United States, Europe, the United Kingdom and Australia, thereby helping engineers around the world produce safe and cost-effective structural designs.

The awards he has received include the State Natural Science Award of China (Second Class), the Distinguished Young Scholar Award from the National Natural Science Foundation of China, and the inaugural IIFC Medal from the International Institute for FRP in Construction (IIFC).



Prof. Lan JIANG

President,
Beijing Institute of Technology (China)



Professor Lan JIANG has long been engaged in research on femtosecond laser manufacturing and is one of the foremost scholars in China's laser manufacturing sector. He has led projects that won the Second Prize of the National Natural Science Award, the Second Prize of the National Scientific and Technological Progress Award, the First Prize of the Ministry of Education's Technological Invention Award, and the First Prize of the Guangdong Science and Technology Progress Award. He has also been honored with the Ho Leung Ho Lee Foundation Science and Technology Innovation Award and the National Scientific Innovation and Pioneer Award. He currently chairs the General Expert Group for the National Key R&D Program on "Additive Manufacturing and Laser Manufacturing".

He articulated the educational philosophy of "Dedication and Perseverance, Teaching as the Priority". He conceived the Five-Element Education Model of "Teacher–Student–AI–Environment–Culture", promoting personalized talent development for the AI era rooted in the principle of "Morality First, with Emphasis on Competence". He has advanced deeper integration of science with education and industry with education. By reshaping foundational teaching and research units through science-education centers, institutes and cross-disciplinary teams, he has driven the redesign of interdisciplinary curricula, offering students immersive training grounded in real-world contexts, authentic challenges and hands-on practice.



Prof. Yong SHUAI

Vice President,
Harbin Institute of Technology (China)



Shuai Yong, Vice President of Harbin Institute of Technology. He received the B.S. degree in 2001 and Ph.D. degree in 2006, from Harbin Institute of Technology, both in Engineering Thermophysics. In October 2004, he joined the faculty of Harbin Institute of Technology, China. From April 2011 to April 2012, he was a Visiting Scientist at the Georgia Institute of Technology, USA.

His current research interests are in the areas of low-carbon energy and advanced energy storage technologies, optical thermal regulation via Metamaterial and smart thermal management, and advanced thermal measurement technique and instrument development. He has authored and co-authored about 160 journal papers and has 30 patented inventions in solar energy utilization and thermal radiation measurement.

He also serves as a regular reviewer of many international journals on radiation heat transfer, optics, and solar energy. In addition, he serves on the Editorial Board of the Solar Energy, Energy Storage and Saving, Carbon Neutrality, and Science China: Technological Sciences. Prof. Shuai was a recipient of the 2013 Program for New Century Excellent Talents in the Ministry of Education of China, the 2015 Outstanding Youth Science Foundation of NSFC, the 2016 Youth Yangtze River scholar, and the 2019 Yangtze River scholar.



Prof. Dr. Jan S. HESTHAVEN

President,
Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (Germany)



Professor Dr. Jan S. Hesthaven, born in 1965, studied Computational Physics and earned his doctorate in Numerical Analysis at the Technical University of Denmark. Between 1995 and 2013, he was a faculty member at Brown University in the USA, where he was Founding Director of the Center for Computation and Visualization (2006 to 2013) and Founding Deputy Director of the Institute for Computational and Experimental Research in Mathematics. From 2013, Hesthaven had been Professor of Mathematics of the École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL) in Switzerland, and from 2021 to 2024, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs of EPFL. His scope of responsibility included strong integration of research and academic education, all appointment and promotion procedures, as well as close cooperation with the President of EPFL on the university's strategic orientation.

Hesthaven is Fellow of the Royal Danish Academy of Sciences and Letters, the American Mathematical Society, and the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics. He also is member of the European Academy of Sciences and Academia Europaea. In May 2024, the Technical University of Denmark awarded him an honorary doctorate.

On October 1, 2024, Jan S. Hesthaven took office as President of KIT.



Prof. So Young KIM

Vice President of International Office,
Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology
(KAIST) (Republic of Korea)



Professor So Young Kim is the Vice President of International Office of KAIST and a former head of the Graduate School of S&T of KAIST. Specializing in R&D policy, she has led large S&T policy projects on research funding, basic science, S&T workforce, science ODA, and technology governance. At KAIST, she has held various positions including director of the Korea Policy Center for the Fourth Industrial Revolution, project manager of the Establishment of Kenya-AIST Project, president of the Women's Faculty Council, and chair of the 50th History Publication Committee. As a public intellectual, she has chaired several governmental committees including Special S&T Committee of the Presidential Commission on National Integration and the Spent Nuclear Fuel Policy Review Committee. Her honors include: Minister's Award for National Strategic Technology from the Ministry of Science and ICT and the National Assembly Award for Service in S&T. Professor Kim has also provided consulting and advisory services for international organizations such as World Bank, AfDB, WHO, UNDP, UNEP, UNIDO, OECD, WEF. Elected to the Korea Academy of Science and Technology, Professor Kim received her B.A. and M.A. from Seoul National University and her Ph.D. and M.S. from Northwestern University with Fulbright Scholarship.



Prof. Weisheng ZHAO

Vice President,
Beihang University (China)

北京航空航天大學
BEIHANG UNIVERSITY

Professor Zhao Weisheng (IEEE Fellow 2019) is currently the Vice President for International Affairs at Beihang University. He is also a member of the Standing Committee of the 11th National Committee of the China Association for Science and Technology, the Executive Deputy Director of the National Key Laboratory of Spintronics, and the founding Editor-in-Chief of Integrated Circuits and Embedded Systems. He has been elected as an IEEE Fellow and a Cheung Kong Scholar by the Ministry of Education of China. He has received the first prize of the Natural Science Award from the China Electronics Society, the first prize of the Technical Invention Award from the China Instrument and Control Society, the Science Exploration Award, and the Huawei Olympus Pioneer Award.





Session 5

Globalisation of Knowledge and Social Sustainability

Globalisation has become an essential force in shaping our collective future, fostering interconnectedness and interdependence across nations while raising important questions about social sustainability, particularly diversity, inclusion, and ethical responsibility within a global community. Universities play a central role in shaping these values, advancing the globalisation of knowledge through research, curriculum development, knowledge dissemination, and advocacy.

In this session, speakers will explore the philosophies, values, and priorities underpinning globalisation, its intersection with social sustainability, and how international cooperation among academic institutions contributes to, and or shapes, these values. Particular attention will be given to virtual collaboration, innovative knowledge exchange, and partnership models that transcend resilient across geographic and institutional boundaries. The discussion will offering insights into how the globalisation of knowledge can drive human progress and foster sustain meaningful collaboration in an increasingly an interconnected world.

Prof. Paul LAM Kwan-sing

SBS, JP
President and Chair Professor of Environmental Chemistry, Hong Kong Metropolitan University (Hong Kong SAR, China)



Professor Paul Lam Kwan-sing is President of Hong Kong Metropolitan University (HKMU) and Chair Professor of Environmental Chemistry. He received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees from the University of Hong Kong and completed his doctorate at the University of Sheffield, UK.

Prior to joining HKMU, Professor Lam was Executive Director of Special Projects, Jeanie Hu Professor of Science, and Chair Professor of Chemistry at City University of Hong Kong (CityU). He also served in several senior roles during his tenure at CityU, including Acting Vice-President (Undergraduate Education), Vice-President (Student Affairs), Chief-of-Staff, and Director of the State Key Laboratory of Marine Pollution.

A renowned expert in environmental chemistry, ecotoxicology, and environmental risk assessment, Professor Lam has published over 500 scientific papers and led over 35 government consultancy projects. He is a three-time recipient of the Ministry of Education Natural Science Award (Second Class) in 2011, 2012, and 2019.

Professor Lam is also actively involved in community service, serving as Chairman of the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority, Ex-officio Member of the Education Commission, Member of the Advisory Committee on the Northern Metropolis and more. He was appointed Justice of the Peace in 2008 and awarded the Silver Bauhinia Star in 2014.



Dr. Rajesh SHARMA

Associate Professor in Legal and Dispute Studies, RMIT University (Australia), Associate Director of the Hong Kong WTO Research Institute



Dr. Rajesh Sharma is currently teaching at RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia. Before coming to Australia, he was Assistant Professor at School of Law, City University of Hong Kong.

Dr. Sharma has given training and taught courses on arbitration, mediation, negotiation, foreign investment arbitration, WTO Law, international trade, banking law, foreign investment in Hong Kong, Macao, India, Australia, China, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Papua New Guinea, Nepal, Mauritius, and Africa (where he is associated with the African Centre for Legal Excellence in Uganda). He has served as the Legal Advisor to the Macau University of Science and Technology. He has advised transnational companies on trade and investment policy in China and has done training courses with and for the WTO and UNITAR. Dr. Sharma is the Winner of the ADR Teacher Award 2022, 2024 and 2026 in Australia.

Dr. Sharma is the first Indian to hold PhD in Law from China. He holds PhD from the China University of Political Science and Law, Beijing, a Master of Business Law from Monash University, Australia, an M.Phil from City University of Hong Kong and the Bachelor of Laws from the University of Delhi. He has received training for arbitrators from the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), Geneva; and International Chamber of Commerce and Chartered Institute of Arbitrators. Dr. Sharma has received training of a mediator for community conflict resolution by the Plowshares Institute, USA and the Accord Group of Australia. He has also obtained professional training in negotiation at Harvard Law School. He has received training for teachers of WTO organized by UNU-IAS.

*This speaker also features in Theatre 1 Session 7 and Theatre 2 Side Session 1 - Legal Session 2.

Prof. Girish MENON

President,
Lucy Cavendish College, University of Cambridge (U.K.)



Girish became the 10th President of Lucy Cavendish College, University of Cambridge, on 1st October 2025.

Girish is an experienced charity sector leader. His most recent executive role was as Interim CEO of UNICEF UK. Prior to this, he was the CEO of STiR Education for over 3 years after serving ActionAid UK as Chief Executive for over 5 years. He brings almost 40 years' experience as a leader in the international development sector, having previously held roles as International Programmes Director and Deputy CEO at WaterAid UK, where he was responsible for programmes across 22 countries in South Asia and sub Saharan Africa.

Girish was born and brought up in India, and started his career with the Aga Khan Rural Support Programme. He has also worked at ActionAid, Plan International and the UK's Department for International Development (DFID) in India. Since moving to London in 2005, he has also served on the boards of various not-for-profit organisations including the Disasters Emergency Committee and Plan International UK. He is currently on the board of Hope and Homes for Children, UK and the Fundraising Regulator UK. He is a member of the Programme and Partnerships Committee of the British Asian Trust and on the Management Board of Cambridge MasterCard Foundation. He has also been a consultant, adviser and mentor in the social sector.

Prof. Nonie LESAUX

Dean of the Harvard Graduate School of Education,
Harvard University (U.S.)



Nonie K. Lesaux is the dean of the Harvard Graduate School of Education (HGSE) and the Roy E. Larsen Professor of Education and Human Development. A member of the HGSE faculty since 2003, she previously served as academic dean from 2017 to 2021. Before her appointment to the Larsen chair in 2021, she held the Juliana W. and William Foss Thompson Professorship of Education and Society.

Lesaux's research focuses on strategies and innovations to improve learning opportunities and literacy outcomes for children and youth. Her teaching centers on literacy development and reform, early learning, and leading system-level change. She works largely through partnerships with school districts, states, and communities; her research-practice collaborations to improve literacy rates include seven years with the San Diego Unified School District and ten years with the New York City Department of Education. With Stephanie Jones, Lesaux leads the Saul Zaentz Early Education Initiative, which addresses the widespread global challenge of simultaneously expanding access to and improving the quality of early education.

A member of the National Academy of Education, Lesaux serves on the board of the Spencer Foundation and is an expert consultant to the U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, Educational Opportunities Section.





Prof. Mayumi ISHIZUKA

Executive Vice President (International Affairs, Sustainability, Compliance, and Diversity, Equity & Inclusion), Hokkaido University (Japan)



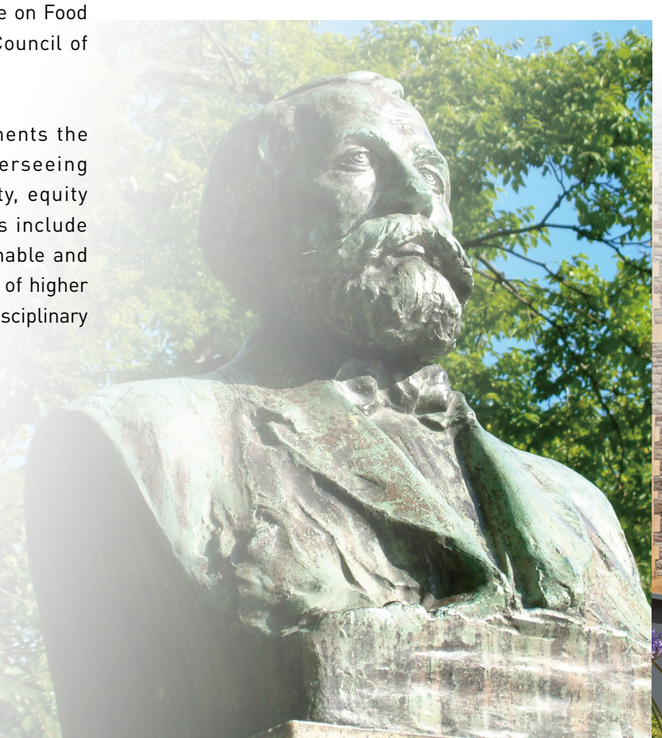
Prof. ISHIZUKA has served as Executive Vice President in charge of International Affairs, Sustainability, Compliance, and Diversity, Equity & Inclusion at Hokkaido University since April 2026.

She received her DVM and PhD in Veterinary Medicine from Hokkaido University and has served as Professor of Toxicology at the university since 2010.

Throughout her academic career, she has led numerous international collaborative research projects across Africa and Asia in the fields of environmental toxicology, One Health, environmental health, chemical safety, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable development. Her work has contributed to a deeper understanding of the impacts of environmental contaminants on humans, wildlife, and ecosystems.

Professor Ishizuka has also contributed extensively to science-based policymaking through service on national and international expert committees, including the Food Safety Commission of Japan, the Central Environment Council of the Ministry of the Environment, and the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA). She is a member of the Science Council of Japan.

As Executive Vice President, she leads and implements the university's international strategy, while also overseeing its sustainability strategy, compliance, and diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) initiatives. Her current priorities include strengthening global partnerships, advancing sustainable and inclusive university governance, and enhancing the role of higher education in addressing global challenges through interdisciplinary and international collaboration.



Prof. Michele ACUTO

Vice President & Pro Vice-Chancellor (Global Engagement), University of Bristol (U.K.)



Professor Michele Acuto is Vice President and Pro Vice-Chancellor for Global Engagement at the University of Bristol, UK. Michele is also Professor of Urban Resilience in the School of Geographical Sciences holding a joint UCT-Bristol professorial fellowship with the University of Cape Town, South Africa, and working in Bristol's Planetary Urban Sciences Lab (+Lab).

A keen researcher and practitioner of urban policy and innovation and a renowned voice on the international dimensions of city leadership, Michele's work centres on how we mobilise urban science and policy to respond to crises on a global scale, for which he was elected Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences (FAcSS) in the UK.

Michele has held professorships and senior leadership roles at the University of Melbourne and University College London, and prior faculty appointments at USC, Australian National University, and the University of Oxford, and he is currently editor-in-chief of Urban Studies. Outside of academia, Michele has worked extensively as a diplomat in the multilateral sector including at the World Bank, with national and local governments such as the City of Melbourne, and in international philanthropy, currently serving as a trustee for Fondation Botnar.



DAY 2

Programme

28.10.2026

(Wednesday)

Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre

Theatre 1

Session 6

Cultivating Future Talent in the Big Data Era: An Academia-Industry-Government Approach Across Sustainability, Green Finance, Space Economy, Biomedical Innovation, and Arts & Creative Industries

The Big Data era is transforming the way knowledge is generated, shared, and applied across different sectors of society. With the rapid growth of digital technologies, artificial intelligence, cloud computing, and data analytics, vast amounts of information can now be collected and interpreted to support better decision-making, innovation, and long-term development. From environmental sustainability and green finance to the space economy, biomedical innovation, and the arts and creative industries, data has become a critical resource for identifying new opportunities, addressing complex challenges, and creating social and economic value. In this evolving landscape, academia, industry, and government must work in concert to equip the next generation with the knowledge, skills, and ethical grounding needed to thrive.

This session will examine how a tripartite approach across academia, industry, and government can cultivate future talent capable of harnessing Big Data across these key areas of innovation. Speakers will address curriculum design, interdisciplinary learning, industry-academia engagement, and supportive policy frameworks that prepare students for data-driven work in climate action, sustainable finance, scientific discovery, health care development, cultural creativity, and industry transformation. The discussion will also bring attention to shared responsibilities around data governance, privacy, ethics, digital inclusion, and the cross-disciplinary capabilities required of tomorrow's workforce. By considering both opportunities and safeguards, the session will offer insights into how cross-sector collaboration — anchored by universities, energised by industry, and enabled by sound policy — can nurture responsible, future-ready talent to support innovation, sustainability, and long-term growth.

Prof. the Hon. Dong SUN, JP

Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry
Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China



Professor Dong SUN was appointed as the Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry on 1 July 2022.

Professor Sun is a world-renowned scholar and scientist. He is a pioneer in robotic manipulation of biological cells and robot control. His research has led to breakthroughs in the use of robotics combined with various micro-engineering tools. He has also received numerous awards.

Professor Sun was elected as Fellow of Canadian Academy of Engineering, Member of the European Academy of Sciences and Arts, Fellow of the International Academy of Medical and Biological Engineering, Fellow of IEEE, and Fellow of ASME.

Prior to his appointment, Professor Sun was the Chair Professor and Head of the Department of Biomedical Engineering at City University of Hong Kong, and the Legislative Council Member (Election Committee).

Prof. Xin YAO

Vice-President (Research and Innovations)
Tong Tin Sun Chair Professor of Machine Learning,
Lingnan University (Hong Kong SAR, China)



Prof Xin YAO is the Vice-President (Research and Innovations) and the Tong Tin Sun Chair Professor of Machine Learning at Lingnan University, Hong Kong. Previously, he held academic positions at the Southern University of Science and Technology (China), the University of Birmingham (UK), Australian Defence Force Academy at the University of New South Wales (Australia), and the University of Science and Technology of China (China). Prof Yao was elected as an IEEE Fellow in 2003 and an HKAE Fellow in 2025. He served as the Editor-in-Chief of IEEE Transactions on Evolutionary Computation in 2003-08 and the President of the IEEE Computational Intelligence Society in 2014-15. He won the Royal Society Wolfson Research Merit Award in 2012, the IEEE Computational Intelligence Society Evolutionary Computation Pioneer Award in 2013, and the prestigious IEEE Frank Rosenblatt Award in 2020. His main research interests include evolutionary computation, machine learning and their applications. His work has won three IEEE Transactions on Evolutionary Computation Outstanding Paper Awards, the IEEE Transactions on Neural Networks Outstanding Paper Award, the IEEE Donald G. Fink Prize Paper Award, among other journals and conferences. He has been a Clarivate Highly Cited Researcher since 2022.



Prof. Dr. Enrico SCHLEIFF

President,
Goethe University Frankfurt (Germany)



Prof. Dr. Enrico Schleiff became President of Goethe University Frankfurt in January 2021. In addition to these duties, he also holds the chair of the "Molecular Cell Biology of Plants" Department at the University's Faculty of Biological Sciences – a function he has held since 2007.

Prof. Dr. Schleiff held numerous other positions in the past, including Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Frankfurt Institute for Advanced Studies FIAS (2018-2020) and Director of the Buchmann Institute for Molecular Life Sciences (2014-2019). He was Goethe University's Vice President for Diversity and Talent Management from 2012 to 2018, and also held several positions in the field of collaborative research, including Chair of a Marie Curie Initial Training Network (2012-2017) and vice-spokesperson of the Macromolecular Complexes Cluster of Excellence (2012-2019).

Prof. Vassilis VASDEKIS

Rector,
Athens University of Economics and Business (Greece)



Vassilis Vasdekis is a Professor of Statistics at the Athens University of Economics and Business (AUEB), where he currently serves as Rector. He holds an M.Sc in Applied Statistics and a D.Phil in Statistics from the University of Oxford, and has been a faculty member of AUEB's Department of Statistics since 1999. Before assuming the role of Rector, he served as Vice Rector of Academic Affairs and Personnel at AUEB from 2020 to 2024, and as Head of the Department of Statistics from 2016 to 2020. His research focuses on the modeling and analysis of longitudinal data using latent variables, with applications in clinical trials and medical statistics.





Prof. Meng-shan REN

Vice President for Undergraduate and Postgraduate Education, Communication University of China (China)



Prof. REN Mengshan has been engaged in studies about Global Communication, Political Communication, and Internet Politics.

He is the author of six monographs, including Globalized Communication Research: International Communication and State Sovereignty and Studies on Iran's Media: Political Development and Social Transformation. He has also translated books, including Global Communication, Internet Politics: State, Citizen and New Communication Technology, and Media Imperialism, etc. In addition, he has published dozens of academic papers in journals including Journal of International Communication, Mass Communication Research, Modern Communication, Open Times, China Books Review, etc. He is also a prolific columnist with over 1,500 editorials for newspapers and periodicals.

Prof. REN Mengshan used to be a Visiting Scholar at the Annenberg School for Communication, University of Pennsylvania, USA. He is also a regular participant at international conferences, including the Annual Conference of the International Communication Association and the World Association for Public Opinion Research, etc.

Prof. Xinye ZHENG

Vice President,
Renmin University of China (China)



Professor Zheng Xinye holds a PhD in Philosophy. He currently serves as a member of the Standing Committee of the CPC Committee of Renmin University of China (RUC) and the Vice President of RUC. He has been recognized as a leading talent in philosophy and social sciences under the "National High-Level Personnel of Special Support Program" of China, a cultural figure in the "Four Batches" talent project by the Publicity Department of the CPC Central Committee, a chief expert for major projects in the Central Marxist Theory Research and Construction Project, and a recipient of the special government allowance awarded by the State Council.

His main research interests include socialist market economy theory and theory of peace and development. He has led several national and provincial research projects, including those funded by the National Natural Science Foundation of China, the National Social Science Foundation of China, and various projects under the National Development and Reform Commission, the Ministry of Finance, and the National Energy Administration. He has published multiple academic works, including "The Origin, Goals, and Implementation Paths of China's Energy Revolution," and has authored over 60 papers in academic journals such as Social Sciences in China, Economic Research Journal, and Nature Energy.





Session 7

Connecting Knowledge, Talent and Market Needs: Advancing University–Industry–Government Collaboration

The relationship between universities, industries, and governments is being redefined in a rapidly changing world. While universities have traditionally served as centres of knowledge creation and talent development, industries bring practical experience, market insight, and innovation capacity, and governments provide policy direction and public support. As technological, economic, and social challenges become more complex, knowledge can no longer flow in only one direction. Instead, universities, industries, and governments can benefit from closer knowledge exchange and co-creation in developing solutions for the future.

This session will examine how universities, industries, and governments can work more closely together to bridge talent and market needs in a changing knowledge economy. The discussion will move beyond traditional models of knowledge transfer and consider how academic research, market practice, policy priorities, and social needs can inform one another. Speakers will share perspectives on future talent development, work-integrated learning, joint research, technology transfer, entrepreneurship, upskilling, and lifelong learning. The session will highlight how stronger university-industry-government collaboration can enhance employability, strengthen innovation capacity, respond to market transformation, and contribute to sustainable social and economic development.

Prof. Wen-jung LI

Vice-President (Talent and International Strategy),
City University of Hong Kong (Hong Kong SAR, China)



Professor Li is Vice-President (Talent and International Strategy) and Chair Professor of Biomedical Engineering at City University of Hong Kong (CityUHK). He leads the University's global faculty recruitment and development initiatives, strengthens its international academic talent base, and advances strategic research collaboration and talent exchange worldwide. He also plays a key role in shaping CityUHK's internationalisation strategy, expanding partnerships and engagement with emerging higher education ecosystems, including Central Asia and the Middle East. Previously, he served as Associate Provost from 2018 to 2023, overseeing major institutional initiatives and resource planning.

With 30 years of experience across academia, research, and innovation, Professor Li has made significant contributions to micro- and nanosystems, robotics, and AI. He has led around 50 research projects and holds more than 25 patents across the United States, China, and Hong Kong. He has also co-founded several companies with former students in the fields of smart sensors for gaming, sports, aerospace, and autonomous vehicle applications. Collectively, these ventures have created more than 300 high-tech jobs and served over 6,000 customers in more than 50 countries. One of them has deployed a sports education platform in over 600 schools, benefiting more than 800,000 students and teachers. Most recently, Professor Li and his students at CityUHK received major support under the Research, Academic and Industry Sectors One-plus Scheme (RAISe+) of the Innovation and Technology Commission of the Hong Kong SAR Government to commercialise advanced sensors for embodied-intelligence robotic systems.

Professor Li is an elected Member of the National Academy of Artificial Intelligence (US) and the European Academy of Engineering, and an International Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Engineering. He is also a Distinguished Overseas Scholar of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, a Fellow of IEEE and ASME, and a former President of the IEEE Nanotechnology Council. Earlier in his career, he worked at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory and The Aerospace Corporation, where he received distinctions including a NASA Technical Innovation Award. He earned his degrees in aerospace engineering from the University of Southern California and UCLA.



Prof. Dr. J. (Jouke) de VRIES

President,
University of Groningen (The Netherlands)

Prof. Dr. Jouke de Vries is the current President of the Board at the University of Groningen. After studying political sciences in Amsterdam, Jouke became a professor of Public Administration at the University of Leiden back in 1999. In May 2015, De Vries was appointed professor of Governance and public policy at the University of Groningen. For several years he was dean of the eleventh faculty of this university (the Campus Fryslân) in Leeuwarden. Since October 2018, he has been president of the Executive Board of the University of Groningen.

university of groningen





Prof. Osamu TABATA

Executive Vice President,
Kyoto University of Advanced Science (Japan)

Osamu Tabata received his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from Nagoya Institute of Technology, in 1981 and 1993, respectively. In 1981, he joined the Toyota Central Research and Development Laboratories, Inc. In 1996, he joined the Department of Mechanical Engineering at Ritsumeikan University. In 2003, he moved to the Graduate School of Engineering, Kyoto University. In October 2019, he moved to Kyoto University of Advanced Science as the founding Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and the Graduate School of Engineering, and continued until March 2025. From December 2022, he has been the Executive Vice President.

KUAS
KYOTO UNIVERSITY of ADVANCED SCIENCE
京都先端科学大学





Dr. Rajesh SHARMA

Associate Professor in Legal and Dispute Studies, RMIT University (Australia), Associate Director of the Hong Kong WTO Research Institute



Dr. Rajesh Sharma is currently teaching at RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia. Before coming to Australia, he was Assistant Professor at School of Law, City University of Hong Kong.

Dr. Sharma has given training and taught courses on arbitration, mediation, negotiation, foreign investment arbitration, WTO Law, international trade, banking law, foreign investment in Hong Kong, Macao, India, Australia, China, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Papua New Guinea, Nepal, Mauritius, and Africa (where he is associated with the African Centre for Legal Excellence in Uganda). He has served as the Legal Advisor to the Macau University of Science and Technology. He has advised transnational companies on trade and investment policy in China and has done training courses with and for the WTO and UNITAR. Dr. Sharma is the Winner of the ADR Teacher Award 2022, 2024 and 2026 in Australia.

Dr. Sharma is the first Indian to hold PhD in Law from China. He holds PhD from the China University of Political Science and Law, Beijing, a Master of Business Law from Monash University, Australia, an M.Phil from City University of Hong Kong and the Bachelor of Laws from the University of Delhi. He has received training for arbitrators from the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), Geneva; and International Chamber of Commerce and Chartered Institute of Arbitrators. Dr. Sharma has received training of a mediator for community conflict resolution by the Plowshares Institute, USA and the Accord Group of Australia. He has also obtained professional training in negotiation at Harvard Law School. He has received training for teachers of WTO organized by UNU-IAS.

Mr. Gary WONG Chi-him

MH, JP
Chief Hong Kong and Macao Liaison Expert, The Authority of Qianhai Shenzhen-Hong Kong Modern Service Industry Cooperation Zone of Shenzhen (China)



Gary Wong Chi-him, MH, JP, has served as Chief Hong Kong and Macao Liaison Expert of Qianhai Authority of Shenzhen Municipality since December 2024. He is the first specially-appointed expert engaged by Qianhai Authority since its establishment, focusing on Shenzhen-Hong Kong cooperation, rule alignment and institutional connectivity in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, and the development of Hong Kong people and Hong Kong enterprises in Qianhai. Before entering public service, he held senior executive positions at private-sector organisations, including Gaw Capital, GLG and Yip's Chemical.

In recognition of his contributions, Gary was appointed as Justice of the Peace (JP) and awarded the Medal of Honour (MH) by the Hong Kong SAR Government in 2022 and 2024, respectively. He served on several committees and public bodies in Hong Kong, such as Commission on Children, Equal Opportunities Commission and Lump Sum Grant Complaint Handling Committee, while also holding political consultative roles and board memberships in the Chinese Mainland, such as with China Overseas Friendship Association, Chinese Association of Hong Kong and Macao Studies, Guangzhou People's Political Consultative Conference and Beijing Youth Federation. He loves his hometown Shanwei and serves as Executive Vice President and Executive Deputy Secretary-General of Confederacy of Hong Kong Shanwei Clansmen Limited.

He is deeply passionate about charitable work. He founded InspiringHK Sports Foundation in 2012, served as its inaugural Board Chairman, and currently acts as an advisor. Through the foundation, over 10,000 underprivileged children in Hong Kong have been provided with long-term sports training and learning experience activities, with the aim of creating equal opportunities and promoting gender equality,social inclusion and healthy living.

Gary is reading for a doctoral degree in Sociology at Tsinghua University and was awarded as a Student of the Year in 2021. He graduated from the University of Hong Kong with a BA majoring in Translation and then obtained an LLB from the University of London. He was a British Chevening Scholar and received a Master of Studies (MSt) in Diplomatic Studies at the University of Oxford, concentrating on China-US relations.

*This speaker also features in Theatre 1 Session 5 and Theatre 2 Side Session 1 - Legal Session 2.

Ms. Fanny LAU

Chairman, Manpower Committee, Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce (Hong Kong SAR, China)

HKGCC Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce 香港總商會1861 | 165
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Fanny Lau is a seasoned human resources leader with over 25 years of experience spanning HR consulting and senior in-house leadership roles across Asia. Throughout her career, she has advised organizations on human capital strategy, organizational development, talent acquisition, performance management, leadership development, and HR transformation. Her background also includes corporate strategy, business transformation, and mergers and acquisitions, enabling her to align people strategies with business objectives and growth.

Having worked extensively across Hong Kong, Chinese Mainland, Singapore, Vietnam, and other Southeast Asia markets, Fanny brings strong cross-cultural and regional expertise in addressing complex workforce and organizational challenges. She is passionate about leveraging innovation, digital transformation, and emerging technologies to enhance organizational effectiveness and employee experience.

Fanny joined New World Development in 2020 and currently serves as Head of Human Resources and Central Administration for New World Development and K11 Hong Kong. She leads the Group's people strategy, talent development, HR operations, and administration functions. Fanny is also a frequent speaker, moderator, and panelist on HR transformation, AI and the future of work, talent strategy, and leadership development.

Session 8

Demographic Changes and Future Skills Development: Building Human Capital for Industry Readiness

Demographic changes are reshaping the future of education and workforce development, presenting both challenges and opportunities for building human capital in a rapidly changing world. Falling birth rates, ageing societies, urbanisation, and shifting patterns of migration are influencing the composition of student populations, labour markets, and industry needs. At the same time, technological advancement, digital transformation, and artificial intelligence are creating new demands for future skills. These developments highlight the importance of preparing students and the current workforce with the knowledge, capabilities, and adaptability required for future industries.

This session will examine the relationship between demographic transformation, future skills development, and human capital planning. Speakers will address the changing expectations placed on education systems as labour markets become more technology-driven, diverse, and skills-intensive. The discussion will highlight the need for stronger pathways in lifelong learning, upskilling and reskilling, interdisciplinary education, digital literacy, creativity, and problem-solving. It will also consider how education systems can better prepare students and workers for industry transition while supporting a more resilient and adaptable workforce.

The Hon. Chris SUN Yuk-han

JP
Secretary for Labour and Welfare
The Government of the
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
of the People's Republic of China

Mr Sun joined the Administrative Service in 1994 and rose to the rank of Administrative Officer Staff Grade A in 2022. He has served in various bureaux and departments, including the former Finance Branch, the former Constitutional Affairs Bureau, the former Finance Bureau, the Home Affairs Department, the former Home Affairs Bureau, the Civil Service Bureau and the former Food and Health Bureau. He was appointed as Deputy Secretary for Food and Health (Health) in 2011, Head (Healthcare Planning and Development Office) in 2012, Deputy Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Financial Services) in 2017, and the Commissioner for Labour in 2020.



Prof. Alexander WAI Ping-kong

香港浸會大學
HONG KONG BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

JP
President and Vice-Chancellor,
Chair Professor of Photonics,
Hong Kong Baptist University (Hong Kong SAR, China)

Professor Wai is the President and Vice-Chancellor and Chair Professor of Photonics of Hong Kong Baptist University (HKBU). Over the years, he has spared no effort in education, academia and research. He is committed to pioneering innovation and technology and translational research as well as making contributions to the development of Hong Kong, the Nation and the world.



Since his appointment as President and Vice-Chancellor of HKBU in February 2021, Professor Wai has spearheaded initiatives that advance technology and digitalization in Chinese medicine. He actively promotes the standardization and internationalization of Chinese medicine, aiming to elevate Hong Kong's Chinese medicine service and scientific research to the world stage.

Under his leadership, HKBU has also emerged as a pioneer in the development of art and technology. One of the most significant initiatives was a visionary art-tech project funded by the Innovation and Technology Support Program of the Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC) of the HKSAR Government. The project received HK$34.5 million, the largest amount ever approved by the ITC for an art-tech initiative.

Professor Wai received a bachelor's degree, majoring in Physics, from The University of Hong Kong in 1981, followed by a master's degree and a doctoral degree in Physics from the University of Maryland, College Park in the US in 1985 and 1988 respectively. With academic interests in the field of optical fibre communications, Professor Wai has a rich array of impactful and patented research achievements to his name. He has been elected as a Fellow of the Optical Society of America (OSA), a Fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) and a Fellow of Hong Kong Academy of Engineering (HKAE). With the approval of the State Ministry of Science and Technology, he is also listed as one of the experts in the National Science and Technology Programme Expert Database.



Prof. Hongrong LIU

Vice President,
Hunan Normal University (China)

湖南師範大學
HUNAN NORMAL UNIVERSITY



Liu Hongrong is currently Vice President of Hunan Normal University, where he is also a professor and doctoral supervisor. A nationally recognized high-caliber talent, he leads the Huang Danian-style Teaching Team of Physics at Hunan Normal University, a national model team designated by the Ministry of Education. He additionally serves as Director of the Hunan Provincial Key Laboratory of Matter Microstructure and Function and Director of the Hunan Provincial Basic Discipline Research Center of Quantum Effects and Quantum Technology. His research focuses on three-dimensional electron microscopy reconstruction theories and methodologies, as well as virus structure and function. He has published more than 100 papers in leading journals, including Science, PNAS, and Nature Communications.



Mr. Patrick LAU

Vice President (Professional & Continuing Education),
Singapore Management University (Singapore)

SMU
SINGAPORE MANAGEMENT UNIVERSITY



Patrick Lau is Vice President, Professional & Continuing Education, at Singapore Management University (SMU), where he leads the university's strategy for lifelong learning and professional education. He oversees SMU's efforts to design and deliver high-impact programmes for working adults and professionals, with a focus on achieving meaningful employment, career, and organisational outcomes in a rapidly changing economy.

Patrick brings more than three decades of senior leadership experience across Singapore's public and private sectors, with deep expertise in strategy, digital transformation, leadership development, and public administration. Prior to joining SMU, he served as Assistant Chief Executive of Civil Service College Singapore, the central learning institution for the Singapore Public Service.

At SMU, he works closely with academic schools, industry partners, and government stakeholders to develop innovative learning solutions that address emerging skills needs, particularly in digital transformation, leadership, sustainability and AI. Under his leadership, SMU continues to strengthen its role as a key partner in Singapore's lifelong learning ecosystem.

A strong advocate for reimagining the role of universities in adult and continuing education, Patrick champions a shift from programme-based delivery to a more integrated, ecosystem-driven approach that supports adult learners across their careers. He is particularly interested in how universities can better align education with industry demand, and how data and technology can enable more personalised and flexible learning pathways.



Prof. Jane NORMAN

President,
University of Nottingham (U.K.)



Jane Norman has been President and Vice Chancellor at the University of Nottingham since Jan 2025. Her previous executive roles include Deputy Vice Chancellor at the University of Nottingham 2022 – 2024, Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Bristol 2019– 2022, and Vice Principal (PVC) People and Culture University of Edinburgh 2013-19.

Jane's Non-Executive roles include Board Membership of UKRI (UK Research and Innovation, the UK's largest public funding body for science, research and innovation) 2024 onwards; University Hospitals Bristol and Weston, 2021 – 2024; and the Equality Challenge Unit 2014 - 2018.

Jane graduated in medicine from the University of Edinburgh in 1986. From 2008 to 2019 she was Director of the Tommy's Centre for Maternal & Fetal Health and Honorary Consultant Obstetrician in Edinburgh. Her research investigated factors responsible for the initiation of normal parturition and developed strategies for the prevention of preterm birth and stillbirth. She was awarded the quinquennial Eardley Holland Medal by the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists in 2020.

Jane chaired grant award committees internationally, and nationally for the Wellcome Trust and the National Institute for Health Research. She has chaired working groups for the MHRA and for National Institute for Health and Care Excellence. She was a member of the clinical medicine panel for REF2021 and the Scotland A National Multicentre Research Ethics committee. She has held leadership positions in health-related UK societies, including council membership of the Academy of Medical Sciences.

She is Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, the Academy of Medical Sciences, and the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists.



Prof. Nohyoung PARK

Former Vice-President and Dean of School of Law,
Korea University (Republic of Korea)



Nohyoung Park is Professor Emeritus at Korea University School of Law. He served as Professor of Law at Korea University from September 1990 to February 2024. His primary field of specialization is international economic law, with a particular focus on the WTO. He has also conducted extensive research and professional work in cybersecurity, data privacy, artificial intelligence, negotiation, and mediation.

He currently serves as President of International Cyber Law Studies in Korea and Chairman of the Korea International Mediation Centre (KIMC). He has advised governments and businesses on a wide range of international legal matters. His experience includes participation in the negotiations of the Korea-Chile Free Trade Agreement, Korea's first FTA, and attendance at the meetings of the Fourth and Fifth United Nations Groups of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security from 2014 to 2017.

Professor Park received his LL.B. from Korea University College of Law in 1981, his LL.M. from Korea University Graduate School in 1983, his LL.M. from Harvard Law School in 1985, and his Ph.D. in International Law from the University of Cambridge in 1990. In October 2018, he was awarded an honorary doctorate in law by Far Eastern Federal University in Vladivostok, Russia. In June 2026, he was appointed Chen An Chair Professor of International Law.



*This speaker also features in Theatre 2 Side Session 1 - Round Table Discussion.

Dr. Ellis WONG

Vice President,
The Chinese Manufacturers' Association of Hong Kong
(Hong Kong SAR, China)

香港中華廠商聯合會
The Chinese Manufacturers' Association of Hong Kong



Dr. Ellis Wong brings 35 years of expertise in food and beverage manufacturing, brand building, and trading across 39 countries. He developed "EDO Pack" as Hong Kong's most popular boxed crackers and created several award-winning brands, including " 巨浪大切 " (the most popular brand for potato chips), "AMEYOKOCHO" (Japanese-Korean snack retail chain), "Dessert Duet" sweet confectioneries and "Takeya" traditional foods. These products are exported to Chinese Mainland and numerous overseas markets, earning top honours such as Hong Kong Premier Brand, Star Brand Enterprise, and Most Popular Snack Brand.

Beyond entrepreneurship, Dr. Wong is a dedicated industry leader. He serves as Vice President of the Chinese Manufacturers' Association of Hong Kong, Vice Chairman of the Hong Kong Brand Development Council, and a member of the SME Council and BUD Fund Management Committee. He also holds the perpetual vice chairmanship of CCFT under the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade, serves as Director of the China Overseas Friendship Association, and is a member of the Changchun Committee of CPPCC. Through these roles, he actively enhances the overall competitiveness of Hong Kong SMEs and promotes strategic branding development.

His outstanding contributions have earned numerous personal awards, including Pioneer of the Country, Asian Chinese Leadership Award, Outstanding Figures of Today's Chinese, Top Ten Leadership of Excellence, and Capital Leaders of Excellence Award. Dr. Wong exemplifies how entrepreneurial vision and public service can build human capital and drive industry readiness in a rapidly changing world.

Session 9

Ethics, Values, and Social Responsibility of AI in High-Tech Innovation

Artificial intelligence has significantly transformed our society. As AI systems become more integrated into daily life, concerns are rising about issues such as algorithmic bias, data privacy, and the lack of accountability and transparency. Given the societal impact of these technologies, it is crucial to establish ethical frameworks for AI to ensure its development aligns with societal values like equity and inclusivity. Additionally, AI's role in decision-making, from healthcare to criminal justice, underscores the importance of building AI systems that reflect ethical standards and avoid perpetuating harmful biases.

This session will explore the ethics and value-building surrounding AI technology in society. Speakers will discuss the critical need for transparent AI governance, responsible innovation, and collaborative efforts between policymakers, technologists, and civil society to ensure AI's development benefits humanity while upholding ethical principles. Through these discussions, we will gain valuable insights into shaping the future of AI to serve the common good responsibly and equitably.

Prof. John LEE Chi-kin

JP
President and Chair Professor of Curriculum and Instruction, The Education University of Hong Kong (Hong Kong SAR, China)



Professor Lee's research interests focus on curriculum and instruction, geographical and environmental education, life and values education, and teacher development and school improvement. He is active in leading education research and development projects and has a solid track record in securing external grants. Professor Lee was named among the top 1% most-cited scientists in the world in the latest list released by Stanford University (2025). He was a Fellow of the Hong Kong Primary Educational Research Association.

Professor Lee has actively participated in education and social service in Hong Kong, Chinese Mainland and overseas. He has held many visiting, guest and adjunct professorships at universities overseas and in Chinese Mainland. He has served as Changjiang Scholar Chair Professor, conferred by the Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China. He had also served as a Member of the Academic Committee of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Primary and Secondary Schools Principal Federation and Chairman of the Academic Committee of the Center for Hong Kong and Macao Research of South China Normal University. In addition, he was appointed by the Hong Kong SAR Government as a Justice of the Peace (JP).

Professor Lee is a member of the 14th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, the UNESCO Chair in Regional Education Development and Lifelong Learning, a Research Fellow of The Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO), and Director of the Academy for Applied Policy Studies and Education Futures, Academy for Educational Development and Innovation at EdUHK.



Prof. Chunlong LU

President,
China University of Political Science and Law (China)



Prof. Chunlong Lu, male, Han ethnicity, born in April 1976 in Hai'an, Jiangsu Province, began his professional career in September 2007. He graduated from Old Dominion University, USA, with a postgraduate degree and a Ph.D. in Political Science. He is a professor, doctoral supervisor, and a distinguished scholar whose primary research areas include theories of political science, state governance, and theories of discipline inspection and supervision.

Since joining the China University of Political Science and Law in 2007, Prof. Lu has served in several leadership roles, including Director of the Academic Affairs Office, Executive Dean of the Graduate School, and Member of the University Party Standing Committee, as well as Vice President.

He currently serves as the President of the China University of Political Science and Law and Deputy Secretary of the University Party Committee, overseeing all administrative operations.



Prof. Dame Sally MAPSTONE

Principal and Vice-Chancellor,
University of St. Andrews (U.K.)

University of St Andrews



Professor Dame Sally Mapstone FRSE is the Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University of St Andrews in Scotland, a position she took up in 2016. During Dame Sally's tenure, the University attained a historic "double first", ranking top of the two leading University league tables in the UK: the Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2024 and the Guardian University Guide 2024.

At a national and international level, Professor Mapstone has also served as President of Universities UK for the period 2023-25, the Convener of Universities Scotland, Vice-Chair of the Carnegie Trust for the Universities of Scotland, and as Chair of the International Advisory Board for the University of Helsinki. She is also currently Universities Scotland's newly created Lead Member for International, the Chair of the Higher Education Policy Institute (HEPI) board, and a trustee of the Europaeum.

Before St Andrews, Dame Sally's career was spent at the University of Oxford, where she was latterly Pro-Vice Chancellor for Education in the University, and Professor of Older Scots Literature in its Faculty of English, as well as a Fellow of St Hilda's College.



Prof. Dr. Farhana Helal MEHTAB

Dean, School of Law and Professor,
Southeast University (Bangladesh)

SOUTHEAST UNIVERSITY
Meeting the Challenges of Time



Professor Dr. Farhana Helal Mehtab is a distinguished academician and the first female Dean of the Faculty of Law among private universities in Bangladesh. She currently serves as Dean of the School of Law at Southeast University. She has 25 years of leadership experience, including roles as Chairperson of the Department of Law at three universities and as Dean of the Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences at two universities.

Prof. Farhana earned her LL.B. (Honors), LL.M., and Ph.D. from University of Dhaka. She has received professional training in collaborative arbitration from the Bangladesh International Arbitration Centre (BIAC) and the International Law Institute, Washington D.C. She is the author of four significant legal publications on Terrorism & Counterterrorism, Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Mechanisms, Human Trafficking, and Legal English.

She has significant international engagement as a speaker, expert, and session chair at conferences and policy forums across Asia, and has contributed to UNODC and IOM initiatives on trafficking, migrant smuggling, legal education, gender equality, and safeguarding across universities.

Prof. Farhana is a member of the Asian Association of Law Professors (AALP). She serves on the International Advisory Board of the International Academy of the Belt and Road, China. She also holds academic affiliations as a Visiting Faculty Member at Chandigarh University, India, and as an Academic Council Member of the Bangladesh Army International University of Science and Technology (BAIUST).

Professor Dr. Farhana Helal Mehtab continues to be a leading voice in legal education and academic leadership, inspiring progress in legal academia both within Bangladesh and internationally.

*This speaker also features in Theatre 2 Side Session 1 – Legal Session 1.



Datuk Manickham SUPPERAMANIAM

Former Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the World Trade Organization (Malaysia)



Datuk M. Supperamaniam is a distinguished Malaysian diplomat and international trade expert, best known for his landmark tenure as Malaysia's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the World Trade Organization (WTO) from 2000 to 2004.

He began his career in the Malaysian Administrative and Diplomatic Service in 1970. Over more than three decades at the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI), he served in high-level capacities, including Senior Trade Commissioner to Hong Kong and China, and ultimately Deputy Secretary-General of MITI. At the WTO, Ambassador Supperamaniam became a prominent, vocal advocate for the Global South, consistently championing fair market access and pushing for practical trade rules that support developing nations.

Following his public retirement, he has remained an active advisor, consultant, and academic. He has served as a Distinguished Fellow at the Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia, an advisor to the Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers (FMM), and an Adjunct Professor sharing his practical expertise at institutions like the International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM). Today, he remains one of the region's foremost authorities on global trade negotiations, international trade law, and multilateral policy.

*This speaker also features in Theatre 2 Side Session 1 – Legal Session 1.

Prof. the Hon. Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun

GBS, JP
Barrister-at-law
Member of the Legislative Council of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China; Founding President and Chief Executive Officer, Hong Kong Association for External Friendship



Prof. Priscilla Leung is a member of the Hong Kong SAR Basic Law Committee under NPCSC. She is a legislator in the HKSAR and has been a practising barrister in Hong Kong since 1997. She is a qualified lawyer for the Greater Bay Area and has also been appointed as an expert assessor on foreign law applications to the Higher People's Court of Guangdong Province in 2023. She is an active advocate of alternative dispute resolution along the Belt and Road Initiative. She has recently been appointed as a mediator at the International Mediation Court.

Prof. Leung served as the chairman of the Panel of the Judicial and Legal Affairs Committee of the Legislative Council in Hong Kong for 7 years. From 2020 to 2024, she served as the chairman of the Education Panel at the Legislative Council.

Prof. Leung is specialised in handling cross-border disputes between Hong Kong and the mainland of China and has handled hundreds of cases in relation of such nature. She has been appointed as an arbitrator of the China International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission (CIETAC) since 2015 and has been appointed as a panel expert of the CIETAC Online Dispute Resolution Centre for years. She has been admitted to the Panel of Arbitrators of AALCO Hong Kong Regional Arbitration Centre (AALCO) and appointed as a Senior Certified International Arbitrator by the International Dispute Resolution and Risk Management Institute (IDRRMI) this year.

Prof. Leung is actively engaged in public services. She received the Ten Outstanding Young Persons Award of the year 2000. She has served as the founding chairman of the Green Council from 2000 to 2018. Prof. Leung is also one of the founders of the Hong Kong World Trade Organization Research Institute, dedicated to advancing understanding and innovation within the World Trade Organization (WTO) framework focusing on China's development after its entry. With a commitment to fostering evidence-based legal insights and promoting fair trade practices, she has spearheaded initiatives that bring together researchers, industry stakeholders, and policymakers to address pressing challenges in law and global trade.

She has taught at the Law School of City University of Hong Kong for three decades and is specialised in Chinese Law, Hong Kong Basic Law and the conflict of law amongst Mainland China, Hong Kong and Taiwan.

Prof. Leung published a number of articles and books on the aforementioned areas both in English and Chinese including the voluminous Hong Kong SAR Basic Law: From Theory to Practice (Chinese, 2015); the China Law Reports series (English, 1992–2015); the China International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission Awards Series (English) and The Hong Kong Basic Law: Hybrid of Chinese Law and Common Law (English, 2007). Her publications also include Comparative Studies of Family Law between Mainland China, Taiwan and Hong Kong (Chinese, Joint Publishing (H.K.), June 2003) and Legal Reform of China (co-editor, 1994).

*This speaker also features in Theatre 2 Side Session 1 – Legal Session 1.

Session 10

The Role of Private and Public Universities in Serving Community Needs and Driving Innovation in the AI Era

Private and public universities each play a distinctive yet complementary role within a diversified higher education system. Public universities anchor the system through their scale, research depth, and long-standing public mission, while private universities add agility, diversity, and institutional models that can respond quickly to changing community needs, labour market demands, and emerging areas of knowledge. Together, by widening access to higher education, supporting social mobility, and working closely with community organisations, industries, and public-sector partners, universities across both sectors help translate knowledge into practical solutions and generate wider social impact.

This session will examine the respective and complementary roles of private and public universities in serving community needs and driving innovation within a more diversified higher education landscape. The discussion will consider how the two sectors can reinforce one another — public universities providing research strength and system stability, private universities widening learning pathways, supporting mature and non-traditional learners, and responding more directly to community and labour market transformation. Speakers will address the value of both institutional agility and research capacity in curriculum development, applied learning, community engagement, and industry-facing innovation. The session will also consider how public and private universities can collaborate to contribute not only to individual opportunity, but also to social mobility, community resilience, and the development of a more adaptive and innovation-driven education ecosystem.

Prof. Joshua MOK Ka-ho

President, Chair Professor of Comparative Policy,
The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong
(Hong Kong SAR, China)

香港恒生大學
THE HANG SENG UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG



Professor Joshua Ka-Ho Mok is President of The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong (HSUHK). A distinguished scholar-leader in higher education, he is internationally recognised for his work in comparative education policy, higher education governance, social policy and Asian development studies. Prior to assuming the presidency, he served at HSUHK as Provost and Vice-President (Academic and Research), Dean of Graduate School, Director of Transdisciplinary Studies, and Chair Professor of Comparative Policy.

Professor Mok has held senior academic leadership appointments across Hong Kong and the United Kingdom, including Vice-President at Lingnan University; Vice-President (Research and Development) and Dean at The Education University of Hong Kong; Associate Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences at The University of Hong Kong; and Founding Chair Professor and Director of the Centre for East Asian Studies at the University of Bristol.

He also serves as Deputy Director of the Centre for Global Higher Education, based at the University of Oxford. His academic distinctions include recognition among Stanford/Elsevier's world's top 2% scientists, Research.com and ScholarGPS rankings, and appointment as Changjiang Chair Professor by China's Ministry of Education. His research advances understanding of higher education reform, university governance and social development in East Asia.



Mr. Stephen PHILLIPS

Vice-President (Operations),
University of Wollongong (Australia)

UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG AUSTRALIA



Mr Stephen Phillips is the Vice-President (Operations) at the University of Wollongong (UOW), where he leads the University's operational performance to support UOW's strategic objectives.

Mr Phillips oversees UOW's financial, people and culture, and infrastructure strategies, aligning these functions with the University's mission and 2030 strategy. He plays a critical role in driving digital transformation, sustainability and corporate services, including legal, risk, marketing and communications.

With more than two decades of senior executive experience, Mr Phillips previously served as Vice-Principal Operations at the University of Sydney, where he led large-scale service functions and spearheaded transformative projects across financial management, compliance and culture change.

His leadership is anchored in a commitment to operational excellence, collaboration and inclusion – aligning people, systems and resources to improve service quality, stakeholder engagement and organisational culture.



Prof. Alojzy Z. NOWAK

Rector,
University of Warsaw (Poland)

UNIVERSITY OF WARSAW



Prof. Alojzy Z. Nowak graduated from the SGH Warsaw School of Economics in 1984. He is affiliated to UW as of 1984.

In 1991, he earned his doctoral degree in Economic Sciences at the University of Warsaw. He received tenure in Economic Sciences in 1995 there. Between 1996 and 2002, he held the position of an associate professor. By the decision of Poland's President, he received professor degree in 2002.

Prof. Alojzy Z. Nowak has held a variety of leadership roles including Head of the Academic Subunit for International Economics and the Academic Unit for Economics at the Faculty of Management, Director of European Center. In years 1999-2006, Prof. Nowak was Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Management, and in 2006-2012 Dean of this unit. Next four years, he spent at UW working as Vice-Rector in charge of research and cooperation. In 2016, he was elected as Dean of the Faculty of Management. During his academic career, he was delivering lectures at universities in France, UK, USA, Russia, China and Korea. He also studied at the University of Illinois at Urbana – Champaign (USA), the University of Exeter (UK), in Antwerp and the Free University of Berlin (Germany). He is currently Rector at the University of Warsaw.

As of 2018, Prof. Alojzy Z. Nowak chairs the Academic Sports Association (Akademicki Związek Sportowy, AZS) – a mass students' sport organisation, one of the biggest sports associations in Poland, consisting of approximately 96000 members.



Prof. Dr. (Anthony) Shun Fung CHIU

Vice President for External Relations and
Internationalization,
De La Salle University (Philippines)



Anthony SF Chiu is the Vice President for External Relations and Internationalization, Presidential Adviser on Sustainability, University Fellow, and Paterno and Natividad Bacani Chair Professor in Engineering at De La Salle University. He co-authored more than 200 UN development project manuscripts and indexed journal articles in the SDG12 (Sustainable Consumption and Production) area, including Nature and PNAS articles. Anthony also has served the national government as the Pollution Adjudication Board Member since 2004 to present. He is an official delegate of the Philippine government in various UN summits, i.e. Rio+20, CSD18/19, UNEA-6 and SDG Roadmap. He was a member of the UN International Resource Panel [2016-2025], and the founding editor-in-chief of the Elsevier Journal of Cleaner and Responsible Consumption. He is currently president of the International Foundation for Production Research. Anthony served in editorial board and guest editorship in more than fifteen (15) Q1 journals and judge in the Elsevier Atlas Award.

Currently, Dr. Anthony's duty is on internationalization program of De La Salle University, and coordinating (for Asia and the Pacific) the internationalization network of the International Association of La Salle Universities (IALU) composed of 76 La Salle higher education institutions worldwide. Anthony has been consecutively named Top 2% researcher in the Stanford list, and nationally ranked #1 in social science in the research.com.



Mr. Pablo Emilio Iturralde BAQUERO

Director of the FDR Advanced Engineering School of
Technological Leadership,
Moscow Polytechnic University (Russian Federation)



Pablo Emilio Iturralde Baquero graduated in «Automobiles and Tractors» Moscow State University of Mechanical Engineering «MAMI» and earned a degree in design engineering in 2009. He is currently the Director of the FDR (Formula Dram Russia) Advanced Engineering School of Technological Leadership (Moscow Polytech).

During his 23 years of living in Russia, Pablo has received many awards, including the "National Expert 2024" and "National Expert 2025" awards. He founded five professional engineering racing teams and implemented more than 100 engineering projects, such as the "Smart Shuttle" drone line and the electrification of the Stels quad bike.

Pablo and his engineering team also made a significant contribution to the development and creation of platform solutions for compact and large electric vehicles, as well as to the localization of certain auto components on behalf of major industrial partner companies in the automotive and machine-building industries.

Under Pablo's leadership, the professional engineering racing team EMP Moscow built the MIG R electric motorcycle, which set a record at the Baikal Mile ice speed festival. He is also the head of the team that completed the project to create Russia's first CN-class sports prototype, the FDR12, with a hybrid powertrain and a domestically produced carbon monocoque.

In addition to being the Director of FDR Advanced Engineering School, Pablo is the head of the only educational program in Russia that trains true racing engineers for various motorsport disciplines.

Pablo Iturralde emphasizes the importance of a systematic approach in engineering education. He came to this conclusion while serving as a judge at Formula Student competitions in Germany. In his view, Russian engineering education develops the ability to solve a wide range of tasks, and new educational formats should provide students with opportunities for further growth.

Looking at the development of the automotive industry, he sees the active introduction of autonomous and potentially flying vehicles as a possible next stage. He believes that developing the creative abilities of young engineers in various fields is essential for turning ideas into practical technological progress.



The Hon. Fei TANG

MH
Member of the Legislative Council of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China

Currently serving as a Legislative Council Member for the Education Functional Constituency, Chairman of the Legislative Council Panel on Manpower, and Vice President of the Hong Kong Federation of Education Workers. In addition, other public offices held include Member of the Chief Executive's Policy Unit Expert Group, Member of the Chongqing Municipal Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), Honorary Advisor to the Hong Kong Police College, Member of the Hong Kong Council on Smoking and Health, Member of the Committee on Home-School Co-operation, and Member of the Chinese Association of Hong Kong and Macao Studies.



DAY 2

Programme

28.10.2026

(Wednesday)

Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre

Theatre 2

Side Session 1

Legal Session 1:
The Rule of Law as a New Driver of Economic Development: The Contribution of "One Country, Two Systems" to China's National Development

The rule of law is no longer merely a safeguard for commerce—it has become a driver of economic development in its own right. Under "One Country, Two Systems", Hong Kong sustains an independent common law system whose certainty, transparency and predictability underpin investor confidence, facilitate capital formation, and provide a stable foundation for long-term growth. Anchored in the constitutional protections of the Basic Law, this distinctive arrangement allows two legal systems to operate as complementary strengths, contributing not only to Hong Kong's own prosperity but also to the nation's broader development strategy.

This session examines how a robust rule of law functions as a catalyst for high-quality economic development within the national framework. Speakers will consider how strong legal institutions support strategic initiatives such as the development of the Northern Metropolis, how the Basic Law's investment protections reinforce market confidence, and how the common law tradition adds enduring value under "One Country, Two Systems". The discussion will illustrate how Hong Kong's legal advantages translate into tangible economic momentum for both the city and the country.

Prof. Feng LIN

Dean and Chair Professor of Basic Law,
City University of Hong Kong (Hong Kong SAR, China)



Professor LIN is Dean of the School of Law at City University of Hong Kong (CityUHK) and Director of the Centre for Judicial Education and Research cum Identification of Hong Kong Law, as well as three training programmes for Chinese judges. He holds an LLB from Fudan University (1987), an LLM from Victoria University of Wellington (1992), and a PhD from Peking University (1998). He was called to the Bar of England and Wales in 1998 and admitted to the Hong Kong Bar in 2000.

He joined CityUHK in 1992 as a lecturer and rose to full professor. He served as Associate Dean for eight years and directed the Centre for Chinese and Comparative Law. He was a Council member of the Hong Kong Bar Association (4 years) and a member of the Law Reform Commission (6 years). Currently, he serves on the IPCC and the HKSAR Election Committee.

His research focuses on Chinese and Hong Kong legal systems, comparative constitutional law, judicial systems, and environmental law. He has over 100 publications, including monographs, edited books, journal articles, and book chapters.



Prof. Chao XI

Dean of the Faculty of Law,
The Chinese University of Hong Kong
(Hong Kong SAR, China)

香港中文大學
The Chinese University of Hong Kong



Professor Chao Xi is Dean and Professor at the Faculty of Law, The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK). He is internationally recognised for his research and scholarship in corporate law and governance, securities regulation, financial regulation, and empirical legal studies, with a particular focus on China and comparative law.

He has secured numerous competitive research grants, including several prestigious awards from Hong Kong's Research Grants Council. He is a recipient of the CUHK Young Researcher Award and the CUHK Research Excellence Award. In recognition of his sustained commitment to excellence in teaching, Professor Xi has received the CUHK Vice-Chancellor's Exemplary Teaching Award on three occasions.

Professor Xi is also deeply committed to public service and has contributed to a number of significant legal reform initiatives. He has held a range of public appointments in the Hong Kong SAR, including as a member of the Law Reform Commission, the Department of Justice's Greater Bay Area Task Force, and the Board of Review (Inland Revenue).



Prof. the Hon. Teresa CHENG

GBM, GBS, SC, JP
Secretary General of The International Organization for Mediation (IOMed), Former Secretary for Justice of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region



Professor Teresa Cheng is the inaugural Secretary-General of the International Organization for Mediation (IOMed). She was the former Secretary for Justice of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region from January 2018 to June 2022.

Professor Cheng served as the Vice Chairman of the Court of Arbitration of the International Chamber of Commerce and of the International Council for Commercial Arbitration. In 2008, she was elected as the world-wide President of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators and was the first Asian female to take that role. She served as a member of the World Bank Sanctions Board. She was the President of the 59th AALCO Annual Session held in 2021.

Professor Cheng has vast experience in dispute resolution and has been involved in complex international commercial and international investment cases as counsel, arbitrator and mediator. She was a member of the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) Panel of Arbitrators designated by Chairman of ICSID Administrative Council in 2011 and designated by China in 2017. She has sat as arbitrator in investor-state disputes administered by ICSID and the PCA and as member of ad hoc committees in ICSID annulment proceedings. Academically, she is an Adjunct Professor of Tsinghua University.

Prof. the Hon. Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun

GBS, JP
Barrister-at-law
Chairman of The Bills Committee on Northern Metropolis Development Bill in Hong Kong, Legislator & Member of Hong Kong Basic Law, Committee of NPCSC



Prof. Priscilla Leung is a member of the Hong Kong SAR Basic Law Committee under NPCSC. She is a legislator in the HKSAR and has been a practising barrister in Hong Kong since 1997. She is a qualified lawyer for the Greater Bay Area and has also been appointed as an expert assessor on foreign law applications to the Higher People's Court of Guangdong Province in 2023. She is an active advocate of alternative dispute resolution along the Belt and Road Initiative. She has recently been appointed as a mediator at the International Mediation Court.

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She has taught at the Law School of City University of Hong Kong for three decades and is specialised in Chinese Law, Hong Kong Basic Law and the conflict of law amongst Mainland China, Hong Kong and Taiwan.

Prof. Leung published a number of articles and books on the aforementioned areas both in English and Chinese including the voluminous Hong Kong SAR Basic Law: From Theory to Practice (Chinese, 2015); the China Law Reports series (English, 1992–2015); the China International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission Awards Series (English) and The Hong Kong Basic Law: Hybrid of Chinese Law and Common Law (English, 2007). Her publications also include Comparative Studies of Family Law between Mainland China, Taiwan and Hong Kong (Chinese, Joint Publishing (H.K.), June 2003) and Legal Reform of China (co-editor, 1994).

*This speaker also features in Theatre 1 Session 9.

Ms. Sophie ZHOU

Vice President,
Guangdong Lawyers Association (China)



Sophie Zhou is a Senior Partner at Jingtian & Gongcheng. She also serves as Council Member, Belt and Road International Legal Services Alliance (BRILSA), Vice Chair of the Financial Law Committee of the All China Lawyers Association, Vice President of the Guangdong Lawyers Association, and a Member of the Shenzhen Municipal Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC).

With 27 years of legal practice, Ms. Zhou specializes in domestic and international capital markets and cross-border mergers and acquisitions. She has advised on nearly 100 domestic and overseas IPOs and cross-border M&A transactions.

Ms. Zhou has received numerous prestigious professional awards and recognitions, including LEGALBAND's "Top 15 Female Lawyers", "Top 15 Lawyers for State-Owned Enterprises" and "Top 15 Capital Markets Lawyers", as well as "ALB China Top 15 Female Lawyers". She has also been recognized by China's Ministry of Justice as one of the "National Top 1,000 Lawyers with Expertise in Foreign-Related Legal Matters."

Datuk Manickham SUPPERAMANIAM

Former Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the World Trade Organization (Malaysia)



Datuk M. Supperamaniam is a distinguished Malaysian diplomat and international trade expert, best known for his landmark tenure as Malaysia's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the World Trade Organization (WTO) from 2000 to 2004.

He began his career in the Malaysian Administrative and Diplomatic Service in 1970. Over more than three decades at the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI), he served in high-level capacities, including Senior Trade Commissioner to Hong Kong and China, and ultimately Deputy Secretary-General of MITI. At the WTO, Ambassador Supperamaniam became a prominent, vocal advocate for the Global South, consistently championing fair market access and pushing for practical trade rules that support developing nations.

Following his public retirement, he has remained an active advisor, consultant, and academic. He has served as a Distinguished Fellow at the Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia, an advisor to the Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers (FMM), and an Adjunct Professor sharing his practical expertise at institutions like the International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM). Today, he remains one of the region's foremost authorities on global trade negotiations, international trade law, and multilateral policy.

*This speaker also features in Theatre 1 Session 9.

Prof. Dr. Farhana Helal MEHTAB

Dean, School of Law and Professor,
Southeast University (Bangladesh)



Professor Dr. Farhana Helal Mehtab is a distinguished academician and the first female Dean of the Faculty of Law among private universities in Bangladesh. She currently serves as Dean of the School of Law at Southeast University. She has 25 years of leadership experience, including roles as Chairperson of the Department of Law at three universities and as Dean of the Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences at two universities.

Prof. Farhana earned her LL.B. (Honors), LL.M., and Ph.D. from University of Dhaka. She has received professional training in collaborative arbitration from the Bangladesh International Arbitration Centre (BIAC) and the International Law Institute, Washington D.C. She is the author of four significant legal publications on Terrorism & Counterterrorism, Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Mechanisms, Human Trafficking, and Legal English.

She has significant international engagement as a speaker, expert, and session chair at conferences and policy forums across Asia, and has contributed to UNODC and IOM initiatives on trafficking, migrant smuggling, legal education, gender equality, and safeguarding across universities.

Prof. Farhana is a member of the Asian Association of Law Professors (AALP). She serves on the International Advisory Board of the International Academy of the Belt and Road, China. She also holds academic affiliations as a Visiting Faculty Member at Chandigarh University, India, and as an Academic Council Member of the Bangladesh Army International University of Science and Technology (BAIUST).

Professor Dr. Farhana Helal Mehtab continues to be a leading voice in legal education and academic leadership, inspiring progress in legal academia both within Bangladesh and internationally.



*This speaker also features in Theatre 1 Session 9.

Prof. the Hon. Alex FAN Hoi-kit

MH, JP
President,
Hainan International Arbitration Court (China)



Prof Alex Fan, MH, JP is Member of the Legislative Council of the HKSAR, practising barrister (Hong Kong), Greater Bay Area lawyer, arbitrator, and mediator. He is also the President of Hainan International Arbitration Court and Adjunct Professor of Hong Kong Baptist University.

He serves as a Member of the Expert Committee on Foreign Related Arbitration of the Ministry of Justice, PRC as well as Standing Committee Member of CPPCC Hainan Provincial Committee. Prof Fan has received various appointments by the HKSAR Government. Among others, he is appointed as Chairperson of Traffic Accident Victims Assistance Advisory Committee, Deputy Chairman of Appeal Boards Panel (Education), Member of Social Workers Registration Board, Member of Property Management Services Authority, Member of Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education, Member of Expert Advisory Group on Legal and Dispute Resolution Services, and Member of the Coordination and Liaison Working Group of the Steering Committee on Rule of Law Education.

Side Session 1

Legal Session 2: Hong Kong as an International Legal Hub along the Belt and Road Initiative

As the Belt and Road Initiative deepens economic integration across diverse jurisdictions, the demand for a trusted, neutral and internationally recognised legal platform has never been greater. Anchored in the common law, supported by an independent judiciary, and connected to both the Mainland and global markets, Hong Kong is uniquely placed to serve as the legal hub for cross-border cooperation along the Initiative— connecting different legal systems and providing the certainty and institutional trust that large-scale cross-border projects demand.

This session explores how Hong Kong can strengthen and extend that role. Speakers will examine the city's standing as a centre for international mediation and arbitration, its capacity to resolve complex multi-jurisdictional disputes, and the opportunities for its legal profession to partner with Mainland counterparts in expanding into overseas markets. The discussion will also address the practical challenges of harmonising diverse legal systems, affirming how Hong Kong's rule-of-law foundation can support sustainable regional development and global commercial confidence.

Dr. the Hon. CHEUNG Kwok-kwan

SBS, JP
Deputy Secretary for Justice, Department of Justice of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China



Dr Cheung Kwok-kwan has been the Deputy Secretary for Justice since 1 July 2022.

Dr Cheung was a solicitor in private practice in Hong Kong with the qualifications of China-appointed Attesting Officer and Civil Celebrant of Marriages before joining the Department of Justice. He was a Non-Official Member of the Executive Council, and a member of the Legislative Council as well as the District Council.

He has also served as a member of Hong Kong Housing Authority, the Non-Executive Director of Hong Kong Mortgage Corporation Limited, the court member of the University of Hong Kong, a member of Standing Committee on Disciplined Services Salaries and Conditions of Service, and the Chairman of Practice and Examination Committee of Hong Kong Estate Agents Authority.

Prof. Guiguo WANG

President of the Academy of International Strategy and Law, Zhejiang University (China); President of International Academy of the Belt and Road Initiatives



Wang Guiguo is a professor and President of the Academy of International Strategy and Law at Zhejiang University. Prof. Wang is also President of International Academy of the Belt and Road, Chair and Member of the International Commercial Expert Committee of the Intermediate People's Court of Suzhou, China, Eason-Weinmann Chair of International and Comparative Law Emeritus, School of Law, Tulane University, New Orleans, USA. Prof. Wang worked at City University of Hong Kong for more than 25 years, serving as Dean of Law School, Chair Professor of Chinese and Comparative Law and Director of the Centre for Judicial Education and Research at different times until 2015 when he left the University. He also worked at Tulane University Law School in the United States, serving as Eason-Weinmann Chair of International and Comparative Law.

Prof. Wang is currently serving as Chairman of the Hong Kong WTO Research Institute, Chairman of the National Committee (HK) and Titular Member of the International Academy of Comparative Law, Vice President of the Chinese Society of International Economic Law. Prof. Wang is an experienced arbitrator and on the arbitrators' list of China International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission, Beijing Arbitration Commission, Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre, Panel of Arbitrators of Korean Commercial Arbitration Board, etc.

Dr. Rajesh SHARMA

Associate Professor in Legal and Dispute Studies, RMIT University (Australia), Associate Director of the Hong Kong WTO Research Institute



Dr. Rajesh Sharma is currently teaching at RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia. Before coming to Australia, he was Assistant Professor at School of Law, City University of Hong Kong.

Dr. Sharma has given training and taught courses on arbitration, mediation, negotiation, foreign investment arbitration, WTO Law, international trade, banking law, foreign investment in Hong Kong, Macao, India, Australia, China, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Papua New Guinea, Nepal, Mauritius, and Africa (where he is associated with the African Centre for Legal Excellence in Uganda). He has served as the Legal Advisor to the Macau University of Science and Technology. He has advised transnational companies on trade and investment policy in China and has done training courses with and for the WTO and UNITAR. Dr. Sharma is the Winner of the ADR Teacher Award 2022, 2024 and 2026 in Australia.

Dr. Sharma is the first Indian to hold PhD in Law from China. He holds PhD from the China University of Political Science and Law, Beijing, a Master of Business Law from Monash University, Australia, an M.Phil from City University of Hong Kong and the Bachelor of Laws from the University of Delhi. He has received training for arbitrators from the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), Geneva; and International Chamber of Commerce and Chartered Institute of Arbitrators. Dr. Sharma has received training of a mediator for community conflict resolution by the Plowshares Institute, USA and the Accord Group of Australia. He has also obtained professional training in negotiation at Harvard Law School. He has received training for teachers of WTO organized by UNU-IAS.

*This speaker also features in Theatre 1 Session 5 and 7.

Prof. Y.C. Richard Wong

SBS, JP
Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor,
The University of Hong Kong (Hong Kong SAR, China)

香 港 大 學
THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG



Professor Y.C. Richard Wong is currently Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (2019-), Chair of Economics and Philip Wong Kennedy Wong Professor in Political Economy at The University of Hong Kong. He joined the University of Hong Kong in 1992, served as Director of the School of Business from 1997 to 2001, founding Dean of the Faculty of Business and Economics from 2001 to 2007, and Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor during 2004-2010.

Professor Wong was educated at the University of Chicago. He taught at the Chinese University of Hong Kong from 1976 to 1992.

His main research interest is in economic policy analysis and regional economic development. He is principal investigator of the University Grants Committee's Area of Excellence award for research in economic policy and business strategy. He had served on numerous professional and public bodies and was awarded the Silver Bauhinia Star in 1999 for his contributions in education, housing, industry and technology development and was appointed a Justice of the Peace in 2000 by the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.



Prof. Kashif Imran ZADI

Former Director and Associate Professor, School of Law & Policy, University of Management and Technology, Lahore (Pakistan)



Dr. Kashif Imran Zadi is a distinguished legal scholar, global policy commentator, and academic leader specializing in international trade law, transnational dispute resolution, and regional economic integration.He has provided strategic and institutional leadership as Executive Dean and Director of the School of Law and Policy (SLP) at the University of Management and Technology (UMT), Lahore. Throughout his administrative tenure, he was instrumental in advancing legal pedagogy, fostering high-impact faculty research, and launching comprehensive student mentorship initiatives in advocacy and scholarly publishing. Recently, Dr Zadi joined the Faculty of Law at Punjab University Law College (University of the Punjab, Lahore)— one of the subcontinent's oldest and most prestigious institutions for legal education.He earned his Doctor of Legal Sciences (S.J.D.) from the renowned Guanghua Law School at Zhejiang University in Hangzhou, China. Reflecting his specialized academic background, his research focuses on the cross-border disputes under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and legal aspects of Belt and Road Initiative(BRI). His broader research and teaching portfolio encompasses intellectual property rights, international economic law, and domestic law reforms across emerging markets. A prominent voice in transnational legal and policy dialogues, Dr. Zadi is a frequent guest speaker at leading international institutions across Mainland China, Hong Kong SAR, Europe, the UK, Nepal, Qatar, the UAE, and Turkey. Beyond his research, he actively engages with global educational forums to advocate for curriculum modernization, institutional governance, and the integration of emerging technologies across the legal sector.



Prof. Bipin ADHIKARI

Professor,
School of Law, Kathmandu University (Nepal)



Professor Bipin Adhikari is a senior legal expert of Nepal. He teaches Constitutional Law, Federalism, Legal Research, Analysis & Writing, and Professional Ethics to the law students. Adhikari is involved with many legal reform and institution building issues in Nepal. He is also the leading resource person in the School advising on curriculums at all levels including in the area of corporate law, international trade law, international investment law, intellectual property law and energy and infrastructure law. Adhikari has keen interest in legal aspects of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) their implications for Nepal and its prospect for further development.

Adhikari has a legal career of more than thirty years. Before accepting the appointment as Founding Dean (December 2013 – April 2019) of Kathmandu University School of Law, Adhikari worked as a constitutional jurisconsult as the owner of Nepal Consulting Lawyers Inc - a group of legal professionals in Kathmandu, and gave leadership to Nepal Constitution Foundation, which used to be a foremost not-for-profit think tank in Nepal in the area of constitutional law and public policy analysis, as its chairperson.

Adhikari's career in the past has involved assignments with national and international agencies which include United Nations entities like the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the UN Development Programme (UNDP), and the UN peacekeeping missions in Liberia and Timor-Leste. He has also worked as the UNDP-appointed Advisor to the National Human Rights Commission in Nepal for two years.
Adhikari is an active participant in the constitutional affairs in Nepal as an independent constitutional expert. He also has expertise in the area of institution building, human rights, access to justice, legal reform initiatives, legislative business of parliament and democratization process. He is also a senior advocate attached to the Supreme Court Bar Association.

*This speaker also features in Theatre 2 Side Session 1 - Round Table Discussion.

Side Session 1

Round Table Discussion: The Emerging Need for New Legislation and Capital Venture Opportunities in a Fast-Evolving High-Tech World

Rapid advances in artificial intelligence, digital assets, biotechnology and the data economy are outpacing the legal frameworks designed to govern them. Closing this gap calls for legislation that is forward-looking enough to protect the public interest, yet agile enough to foster innovation and attract investment. For a jurisdiction built on the common law, the challenge is to adapt established principles to novel questions of liability, intellectual property and cross-border data flows—turning legal certainty into a competitive advantage rather than a constraint.

This round table brings together legal, academic and industry leaders to consider how Hong Kong can meet that challenge. Participants will explore the most urgent regulatory gaps in fast-moving technology sectors, the balance between investor protection and entrepreneurial freedom, and the capital-venture opportunities that a clear and responsive legal environment can unlock. Through open exchange, the discussion aims to identify the legislative and institutional steps needed to position Hong Kong as a place where legal certainty and technological ambition reinforce one another.

Prof. Bipin ADHIKARI

Professor,
School of Law, Kathmandu University (Nepal)



Professor Bipin Adhikari is a senior legal expert of Nepal. He teaches Constitutional Law, Federalism, Legal Research, Analysis & Writing, and Professional Ethics to the law students. Adhikari is involved with many legal reform and institution building issues in Nepal. He is also the leading resource person in the School advising on curriculums at all levels including in the area of corporate law, international trade law, international investment law, intellectual property law and energy and infrastructure law. Adhikari has keen interest in legal aspects of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) their implications for Nepal and its prospect for further development.

Adhikari has a legal career of more than thirty years. Before accepting the appointment as Founding Dean (December 2013 – April 2019) of Kathmandu University School of Law, Adhikari worked as a constitutional jurisconsult as the owner of Nepal Consulting Lawyers Inc - a group of legal professionals in Kathmandu, and gave leadership to Nepal Constitution Foundation, which used to be a foremost not-for-profit think tank in Nepal in the area of constitutional law and public policy analysis, as its chairperson.

Adhikari's career in the past has involved assignments with national and international agencies which include United Nations entities like the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the UN Development Programme (UNDP), and the UN peacekeeping missions in Liberia and Timor-Leste. He has also worked as the UNDP-appointed Advisor to the National Human Rights Commission in Nepal for two years.
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*This speaker also features in Theatre 2 Side Session 1 - Legal Session 2.

Dr. Brian WONG

HKU-100 Assistant Professor in Philosophy,
The University of Hong Kong (Hong Kong SAR, China)

香 港 大 學
THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG



Dr. Brian WONG is an HKU-100 Assistant Professor in Philosophy at the University of Hong Kong. His research examines the intersection of geopolitics, political and moral philosophy, and technology, with particular interests in the ethics and dynamics of authoritarian regimes and their foreign policies, responding to historical and colonial injustices, and the impact of automation on labour and human societies. He serves as the Director of the newly established Hong Kong Global AI Governance Hub, and sits on the Steering Committee for the Hong Kong Ethics Lab. As the Chief Strategy Officer of the HK-ASEAN Foundation, he advises multi-national corporations, family offices, and leading think-tanks on geopolitical affairs and macro risks throughout Asia. Having co-founded and served as the inaugural Editor-in-Chief at the Oxford Political Review, a publication aspiring to bridge the theory-practice gap, Brian serves as a columnist at the Hong Kong Economic Journal. His writings on Chinese political economy, Asian geopolitics, and public philosophy have been featured in publications such as TIME, Foreign Policy, Aeon, Financial Times, Diplomat, Fortune, The Hindu, South China Morning Post, Nikkei, Japan Times, and the US-Asia Law Institute. He has also been interviewed by CNN, Al Jazeera, and CGTN for his views on Chinese foreign policy. Brian is also a Non-resident Honorary Fellow at the Center for China Analysis at the Asia Society. A Rhodes Scholar (HKSAR, 2020), Brian holds a DPhil in Politics, an MPhil in Political Theory (Distinction), and an MA in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics from the University of Oxford.

*This speaker also features in Theatre 2 Side Session 2.

Prof. Yun ZHAO

MH, JP
Henry Cheng Professor in International Law and
Associate Dean (Mainland Affairs), Faculty of Law,
The University of Hong Kong (Hong Kong SAR, China)

HKU LAW



Prof. Yun ZHAO is Henry Cheng Professor in International Law and Associate Dean (Mainland Affairs), Faculty of Law at the University of Hong Kong (HKU); PhD (Erasmus University Rotterdam); LLM (Leiden University); LLM & LLB (China University of Political Science and Law). He is appointed as Justice of the Peace of the HKSAR Government.

Prof. Zhao is currently Representative of Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP) of the Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH); Expert Committee Member of the Hong Kong International Legal Talents Training Academy of the Department of Justice; Director of the International Institute of Space Law; Standing Council Member of Chinese Society of International Law, Chinese Society of Private International Law, and Chinese Institute of Space Law; Council Member of Chinese Law Society; Council Member of Zhuhai International Court of Arbitration, Hainan International Arbitration Court and Tianjin Arbitration Commission; Vice President of the Hong Kong Institute of Arbitrators; Chair Professor at Xiamen University, Secretary-General of Xiamen Academy of International Law. He is listed as mediator at International Organization for Mediation; arbitrator in several international arbitration commissions.

He sits in the editorial teams of several academic journals, including Hong Kong Law Journal, Journal of East Asia and International Law (as Executive Editor). He is winner of Prof.Dr. I.H.Ph. Diederiks-Verschoor Award 2006 by International Institute of Space Law, the first winner of Isa Diederiks-Verschoor Prize in the Netherlands, and also first winner of SATA Prize by the Foundation of Development of International Law in Asia (DILA). He has published widely on various topics including particularly Dispute Resolution and Space Law. His sole-authored monographs include Dispute Resolution in Electronic Commerce (Martinus Nijhoff, 2005), Liberalization of Electronic Commerce and Law (Peking University Press, 2005), Space Commercialization and the Development of Space Law (Intellectual Property Press, 2008), Mediation Practice and Skills (Tsinghua University Press, 2011), National Space Legislation in China: An Overview of the Current Situation and Outlook for the Future (Brill, 2015), Mediation and Alternative Dispute Resolution in Modern China (Springer, 2022).

Prof. Nohyoung PARK

Former Vice-President and Dean of School of Law,
Korea University (Republic of Korea)



Nohyoung Park is Professor Emeritus at Korea University School of Law. He served as Professor of Law at Korea University from September 1990 to February 2024. His primary field of specialization is international economic law, with a particular focus on the WTO. He has also conducted extensive research and professional work in cybersecurity, data privacy, artificial intelligence, negotiation, and mediation.

He currently serves as President of International Cyber Law Studies in Korea and Chairman of the Korea International Mediation Centre (KIMC). He has advised governments and businesses on a wide range of international legal matters. His experience includes participation in the negotiations of the Korea-Chile Free Trade Agreement, Korea's first FTA, and attendance at the meetings of the Fourth and Fifth United Nations Groups of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security from 2014 to 2017.

Professor Park received his LL.B. from Korea University College of Law in 1981, his LL.M. from Korea University Graduate School in 1983, his LL.M. from Harvard Law School in 1985, and his Ph.D. in International Law from the University of Cambridge in 1990. In October 2018, he was awarded an honorary doctorate in law by Far Eastern Federal University in Vladivostok, Russia. In June 2026, he was appointed Chen An Chair Professor of International Law.



*This speaker also features in Theatre 1 Session 8.

Prof. Garvin Percy DIAS

Associate Professor of Business Education,
School of Business and Management
The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
(Hong Kong SAR, China)



Prof. Percy Garvin DIAS is the Associate Professor of Business Education, & Information Systems, Business Statistics and Operations Management Department (ISOM) of the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST). He is also the Director of Center for Business Education. He was accredited as the Expert Level Instructor (top 10% of instructors globally) by Cisco Networking Academy, and the winner of Michael G Gale Gold Medal for Distinguished Teaching in 2017, 6 times winner of the Franklin Prize for Teaching Excellence & University Teaching Innovation Award in 2004 by the HKUST. He was also elected twice in the Best Ten Lecturers Election which was an independent student-led initiative to express their appreciation of the teacher's good work.



Dr. Wing-lok HUNG

Lecturer, School of Governance and Policy Science,
The Chinese University of Hong Kong (Hong Kong SAR, China)

香港中文大學
The Chinese University of Hong Kong



Dr. Hung earned his PhD in International Relations from Tsinghua University in Beijing, following an MPhil from the University of Cambridge and a Bachelor's degree in Government and Public Administration from the Chinese University of Hong Kong. His international academic experience also includes a research exchange at the University of Groningen in the Netherlands and as a Visiting Scholar at the University of Warsaw in Poland.

Dr. Hung has served as a Managing Editor for Bandung: Journal of the Global South, an interdisciplinary humanities and social sciences journal. His work has been widely published in peer-reviewed journals, with research interests focusing on global political economy, regionalism, and economic integration.



Mr. Cody WANG Chenxi

President, The Stanford Space Law Society,
Stanford University



Cody is a Doctor of Jurisprudence (JD) student at Stanford Law School, President of Stanford Space Law Society and former Editor-in-Chief of the Stanford Journal of International Law. He is passionate about the intersection between technology, law, and policy, particularly how governance is keeping pace with commercial companies in the New Space Economy. He launched the Space Law & Policy Lab, the first course at Stanford jointly held between the Law School and the Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics, in partnership with The Aerospace Corporation as the lab client. Over the past summer, he worked at an international law firm in Los Angeles.

Cody's journey into space governance was shaped by more grounded frontiers. Earlier, he was stationed in the Office of the President of French Polynesia to study the implications of deep-sea mining governance on future outer space resource management. He also served as an Administrative Officer for the Hong Kong Government, working across policy areas such as public housing, maritime and port development, tax reform, social welfare for low-income households, and property market regulation. His interest in public policy began shortly after university when he interned in a rural village government in Northern China. There, he conducted pollution inspections and mediated conflicts between villagers and the government over land disputes.

Cody holds a Master of Public Policy from the University of Oxford Blavatnik School of Government and a Bachelor of Science in Politics and Philosophy from the London School of Economics and Political Science.

*This speaker also features in Theatre 2 Side Session 2.

Side Session 2

Building Tomorrow's Talent: A Dialogue on Youth Opportunities in Hong Kong and the Greater Bay Area

The globalisation of knowledge is changing what it takes to prepare young people for work. Technology moves quickly, industries rise and fall, and the old routes from classroom to career no longer hold. So what the next generation needs is an education ambitious enough for a global economy, yet close enough to the industries and communities that will actually employ them. For Hong Kong and the Greater Bay Area, the question is how to turn closer integration into real openings for individual young people—giving them a gateway to the world through Hong Kong, and the industries, markets and of the Greater Bay Area in which to build something.

This dialogue brings together university leaders, policymakers, students and industry voices to ask how that can be done. The conversation looks at the growing gap between what students learn and what employers now need, the pull between chasing global opportunity and staying rooted at home, and the cross-boundary openings that closer ties in education and enterprise can create. The aim is practical: to name the steps that universities, government and business can take together to raise a generation ready to move confidently between Hong Kong, the mainland and the wider world.

The Hon. Alice MAK Mei-kuen

SBS, JP
Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China



Miss Alice Mak was appointed the Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs on 1 July 2022.

Prior to joining the Government, Miss Mak has been actively participating in public affairs for many years. She is well-acquainted with district and community affairs for having served as Legislative Council Member from 2012 to 2022 and in six terms of the Kwai Tsing District Council. Miss Mak was also the Vice President of the Hong Kong Federation of Trade Unions, the Chairman of Hong Kong Ladies Dynamic Association and Member of the Council of The Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Miss Mak holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from The Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Mr. Cody WANG Chenxi

President, The Stanford Space Law Society,
Stanford University



Cody is a Doctor of Jurisprudence (JD) student at Stanford Law School, President of Stanford Space Law Society and former Editor-in-Chief of the Stanford Journal of International Law. He is passionate about the intersection between technology, law, and policy, particularly how governance is keeping pace with commercial companies in the New Space Economy. He launched the Space Law & Policy Lab, the first course at Stanford jointly held between the Law School and the Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics, in partnership with The Aerospace Corporation as the lab client. Over the past summer, he worked at an international law firm in Los Angeles.

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Cody holds a Master of Public Policy from the University of Oxford Blavatnik School of Government and a Bachelor of Science in Politics and Philosophy from the London School of Economics and Political Science.

The Hon. Vivian KONG Man-wai

SBS, MH
Member of the Legislative Council of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China



Vivian Kong is a three-time Asian Champion and Olympian, and the Gold Medalist in the individual women's epee event at the 2024 Paris Olympic Games. Ranked number one in the world in 2018–2019 and 2023–2024, Ms. Kong holds a Bachelor's degree in International Relations from Stanford University and a Master of Laws in Chinese Law from Renmin University of China. She currently serves as a Member of the Legislative Council of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, representing the Tourism Functional Constituency.

Ms. Kong received the Medal of Honour (2024) and the Silver Bauhinia Star (2025) from the Hong Kong SAR Government for her distinguished community service and charitable contributions. Her previous accolades include the JCI Ten Outstanding Young Persons of Hong Kong Award (2021) and Sing Tao Leader of the Year (2019). After the 2024 Paris Olympics, Ms. Kong joined The Hong Kong Jockey Club as an Assistant External Affairs Manager, focusing on social betterment, youth, and sports development. She also serves as a Consultant to Tsinghua University's Executive Master of Public Administration Programme (Hong Kong Programme) and as an Ambassador for the Laureus Sport for Good Foundation.

*This speaker also features in Theatre 2 Side Session 1.

Mr. Laurence BRAHM

Author of "Zhu Rongji and the Transformation of Modern China" & "China as No. 1: The New Superpower Takes Centre Stage" (Hong Kong SAR, China)



Laurence Brahm is a lawyer, economist, explorer, author, and international award-winning film director and producer. His films related to Himalaya culture and Asian martial arts have received over fifty international film festival awards. He has authored over forty books on Asia ranging from economic development to culture. He is a recipient of the Chinese Government Friendship Award and the Special Book Award of China, the two highest recognitions given to a foreigner by the Chinese government.

He is: a Senior International Fellow at the Center for China and Globalization, a National Geographic explorer, International Fellow of the Explorer Club in New York. He is a Six Degree Karate Blackbelt, and lineage holder in Zhangjia Kungfu.

A member of China's Foreign Experts Bureau he has advised issues from state-owned enterprise reform to Renminbi globalization. Serving as a senior advisor to China's Ministry of Environmental Protection in drafting Ecological Civilization. He served as member of the Himalayan Third Pole Circle chaired by former Icelandic President Olavr Ragnar Grimsson and Bhutan's Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay; UN Poverty and Inequality Task Force; received the UNDP Award for the Protection of Biodiversity and Cultural Sustainable Development.

Dr. Brian WONG

HKU-100 Assistant Professor in Philosophy,
The University of Hong Kong (Hong Kong SAR, China)

香 港 大 學
THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG



Dr. Brian WONG is an HKU-100 Assistant Professor in Philosophy at the University of Hong Kong. His research examines the intersection of geopolitics, political and moral philosophy, and technology, with particular interests in the ethics and dynamics of authoritarian regimes and their foreign policies, responding to historical and colonial injustices, and the impact of automation on labour and human societies. He serves as the Director of the newly established Hong Kong Global AI Governance Hub, and sits on the Steering Committee for the Hong Kong Ethics Lab. As the Chief Strategy Officer of the HK-ASEAN Foundation, he advises multi-national corporations, family offices, and leading think-tanks on geopolitical affairs and macro risks throughout Asia. Having co-founded and served as the inaugural Editor-in-Chief at the Oxford Political Review, a publication aspiring to bridge the theory-practice gap, Brian serves as a columnist at the Hong Kong Economic Journal. His writings on Chinese political economy, Asian geopolitics, and public philosophy have been featured in publications such as TIME, Foreign Policy, Aeon, Financial Times, Diplomat, Fortune, The Hindu, South China Morning Post, Nikkei, Japan Times, and the US-Asia Law Institute. He has also been interviewed by CNN, Al Jazeera, and CGTN for his views on Chinese foreign policy. Brian is also a Non-resident Honorary Fellow at the Center for China Analysis at the Asia Society. A Rhodes Scholar (HKSAR, 2020), Brian holds a DPhil in Politics, an MPhil in Political Theory (Distinction), and an MA in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics from the University of Oxford.



*This speaker also features in Theatre 2 Side Session 1 - Round Table Discussion.

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香港科技大學 THE HONG KONG UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

香港大學 THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

香港都會大學 HONG KONG METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY

香港恒生大學 THE HANG SENG UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

