



Press Release

For Immediate Release

OHKF International Forum on Progress Through Collaboration Global Experts Explore Hong Kong's Super-Connector Role

(18 April, 2023, Hong Kong, part 1) Our Hong Kong Foundation International Forum on Progress Through Collaboration featuring 18 prominent speakers from foreign affairs, government, business and culture, was held today. The forum explored Hong Kong's new opportunities and new future as an international financial centre and East-West cultural hub against the backdrop of mainland China's long-range national development goals.

Nearly one hundred and twenty thousand attendees, including politicians, chairmen, CEOs, experts, and leaders from different fields, consulate generals, think tanks, and business sectors, joined in person or online.

With Hong Kong – ASEAN Foundation as the supporting partner, the Forum opened with videos addresses by HKSAR Chief Executive the Hon John KC Lee and Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the HKSAR (CPGLO) Director Mr Zheng Yanxiong. Attending in person were HKSAR Government Chief Secretary for Administration the Hon Chan Kwok-ki and CPGLO Deputy Director Ms Lu Xinning, who also addressed the audience with insightful opening remarks. Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China in the HKSAR Deputy Commissioner Mr Yang Yirui also attended the Forum.

In his video speech, Chief Executive **the Hon John KC Lee** shed light on Hong Kong's New Role and New Future. He said, "The National 14th Five-Year Plan looks to Hong Kong to enhance its status as an international financial centre." He added, Hong Kong can play a critical role in building regional economic integration through RCEP. We are, after all, the gateway connecting our motherland to the rest of the world."

CPGLO Director **Mr Zheng Yanxiong** shared his insight about Hong Kong's new opportunities, "President Xi has placed great emphasis on the opportunities for Hong Kong in Chinese modernisation. On this new journey of promoting Chinese modernisation, the Central Government has granted Hong Kong an even more important role and mission than before, elevating the prominence of Hong Kong's unique position and advantages."



In his remark, Chief Secretary for Administration **the Hon Chan Kwok-ki** said, “At the core of our work is collaboration, with the business, academic and research sectors alike, to drive Hong Kong’s eight hubs development as underpinned by the National 14th Five-Year Plan.” He added, “With our motherland’s Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area development and Belt and Road Initiative, Hong Kong actively plays the role as “super-connector” between Mainland China and the rest of the world.”

CPGLO Deputy Director **Ms Lu Xinning** said: “The competition in today’s world ultimately boils down to talent competition, and Hong Kong has unparalleled overall advantages, such as the common law system, “One country, two systems” institutional framework, the support of the motherland, the close connection with the world, and internationalization advantages.”

In his welcoming remarks, OHKF Executive Vice Chairman and M+ Museum Chairman **Mr Bernard Chan** shared his insight about the dominating role collaboration plays in Hong Kong’s progression. He said, “Despite the pandemic and in the eyes of many observers, we are re-emerging onto the world stage, stronger and better than before. Our success is a reflection of the “One country, two systems” framework which provides us with a unique, valuable and very distinct advantage.

This was followed by three keynote sessions.

At the first keynote session, “**Fostering Collaboration for Growth**”, Harvard University Spangler Family Professor of Business Administration, T.M. Chang Professor of China Studies, and University Distinguished Service **Professor William C. Kirby**, Former Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand and Secretary-General of the Asian Peace and Reconciliation Council **H.E. Ambassador Sihasak Phuangketkeow**, and Hang Lung Properties Chair **Mr Ronnie Chan** shared their views.

Professor William C. Kirby said, “Nowhere in the world is there a greater commitment to higher education I witnessed here in Hong Kong and no place in the world is spending more and investing more in the future of higher education than the Mainland China.”



With his years of diplomatic experience, **H.E. Ambassador Sihasak Phuangketkeow** analysed the opportunities presented by the rising Asia and ASEAN. He said, “GBA is the highest growth area in China. And taking together, it is one of the largest economy in the region if not in the world.” He added, “The world is going through a very profound transformative change that changes the shift in the global balance of power from West to the East. And Asia has risen, Asia is rising.”

Mr Ronnie Chan said Hong Kong has transcended its international middleman role. “We have to develop new areas of expertise, we have to develop new businesses, new connections, new relationships around the world in order to keep ourselves economically vibrant.”

This was followed by a thematic session on “**Integrity and Innovation: Hong Kong’s New Strengths as An International Financial Centre**” moderated by Hong Kong-ASEAN Foundation Chairman and Sino Group Deputy Chairman Mr Daryl Ng. Speakers included HKSAR Government Financial Services & the Treasury Under Secretary Mr Joseph Chan, Financial Services Development Council Chairman Laurence Li, Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited Chief Executive Officer Mr Nicolas Aguzin; Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited Co-Chief Executive Mr David Liao, and Citi Global Wealth Head of Asia Ms Angel Ng.

The second panel, themed “**East Meets West: Connecting the World**”, was moderated by OHKF President Dr Jane Lee. Speakers included H.E. Ambassador Sihasak Phuangketkeow, Mr Bernard Chan, Mr Ronnie Chan, John Swire & Sons (H.K.) Limited Chairman Mr Guy Bradley, Nissin Foods Company Limited Executive Director, Chairman, & Chief Executive Officer Mr Kiyotaka Ando, and Hong Kong Sports Institute Limited Chief Executive Dr Trisha Leahy. They shared how culture and sports underpin the construction of a new East-Meets-West stage.

About Our Hong Kong Foundation

Our Hong Kong Foundation (OHKF) is a non-government, non-profit organisation founded in November 2014 by Mr. Tung Chee-hwa, former Vice Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference and former Chief Executive of Hong Kong SAR. OHKF aims to contribute to Hong Kong’s prosperity and stability as well as its sustainable development under the “One Country, Two Systems” principle. The Foundation has three member organisations: the Public



Policy Institute that focuses on public policy research, advocacy, and engagement as a think tank; the Academy of Chinese Studies that promotes traditional Chinese culture and tells the stories of China today, and Hong Kong Chronicles Institute that produces a book series about Hong Kong's development over time for preserving history and educating the people.

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