



Press Release

To: Assignment Editor/Editor of Education and Local News Sections

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HSUHK Research Centre for ESG organises sustainability leadership symposium

The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong (HSUHK)'s Research Centre for ESG (CESG) organised the Sustainability Leadership Symposium to discuss how sustainability leadership is being practiced in the business world with a focus on stakeholders' perspective. The symposium was led by Professor Louis Cheng, Director of CESG. Professor Simon S M Ho, President of HSUHK, spoke on "The Objective of a Corporation: Optimising Sustainable Values for Different Stakeholders" and presented a stakeholder-based "Responsible Management" conceptual framework. Two discussion panels on ESG Leadership, one on financial services and the other on NGOs were also held at the symposium.

Professor Ho and participants proactively exchanged opinions on the role of stakeholders in ESG practices in Hong Kong. They recognised that investors are the main targets for listed companies to raise funds and are the main stakeholders in the Hong Kong market. The Hong Kong Stock Exchange mandates ESG disclosure by companies, and investors have become the main focus of ESG reporting.

Participants addressed that ESG reporting should consider multiple perspectives but not be mandatory due to possible conflicts in stakeholder values, and balancing different requests is challenging without a clear framework. It is also agreed that ESG reporting is crucial for listed companies as it provides a forward-looking perspective for investors, because financial reports show current performance, but ESG reports reveal future prospects. Participants also suggested the education sector to put more effort in educating members of the Board to understand more about ESG, to pursue cost-effective and impactful ESG strategies as the Board plays a leadership role in ESG reporting, determining materiality assessment and identifying informational needs for different stakeholders.

Participants of the Symposium included academics from other universities, and industry leaders from the Securities and Futures Commission, Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants, Hong Kong Chartered Governance Institute, CFA Society Hong Kong, The Hong Kong Institute of Bankers, Hong Kong Securities and Investment Institute, UN ESCAP Sustainable Business Network and others.



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Photo:



Professor Simon Ho speaks on “The Objective of a Corporation: Optimising Sustainable Values for Different Stakeholders”.

Photo Download: <https://bit.ly/48vqXmh>

About The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong

The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong (HSUHK) is a non-profit private liberal-arts oriented university with five Schools (Business, Communication, Decision Sciences, Humanities and Social Science, and Translation and Foreign Languages) and over 6,000 full-time students. Adopting the unique “Liberal + Professional” education model, HSUHK aims to nurture young talent with critical thinking, innovative minds, caring attitudes, moral values and social responsibility.

Aspiring to be a leading private university in the region, HSUHK features a primary focus on undergraduate education, top-quality faculty members, award-winning green campus facilities, innovative degree programmes, unique residential college system combining living and learning, interactive small class teaching, very close student-teacher relationship, RGC-funded impactful research, and excellent student development/support services. HSUHK is listed the 7th (overall) in the ASEAN+ region, the 1st in the Greater China region, and the 1st in Employability as per the 2023 AppliedHE ASEAN+ private university assessment by the Singapore-based AppliedHE. It is also listed among the top 200 worldwide on “Quality Education” and “Decent Work and Economic Growth” in the Times Higher Education University Impact Rankings 2021.