



Press Release – For Immediate Release

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

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HSUHK hosts IIDS Conference to foster academic-industry collaboration and advance ESG excellence in Hong Kong and beyond

The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong (HSUHK) hosted the Inter-Institutional Development Scheme (IIDS) Conference on 24 September 2026 on campus, under the theme “Bridging Theory and Industry Practice: Advancing ESG Excellence in Hong Kong and Beyond”. The conference brought together academics, government officials, regulators, and industry leaders to exchange perspectives on the latest developments in environmental, social, and governance (ESG) practices in Hong Kong and beyond.

The conference was supported by a grant from the Research Grants Council of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (Project No. UGC/IIDS14/B01/25). Dr Pauline Wong, Assistant Professor of the Department of Accountancy at HSUHK, is the Principal Investigator of the project, with Professor Phyllis Mo, Head and Professor of the Department of Accountancy, serving as the Co-Investigator.

In her welcoming remarks, Dr Wong highlighted the HSUHK’s commitment to fostering knowledge exchange and closer collaboration between academia and industry in addressing sustainability challenges. She said, “At HSUHK, we believe in the power of collaboration to tackle the world’s most pressing challenges. Today’s conference serves as a vital platform to unite diverse perspectives and translate ESG theory into actionable strategies, driving sustainable growth for Hong Kong, the Greater Bay Area and beyond.”

Guest of Honour, Mr Joseph Chan, Under Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury of the HKSAR Government, delivered a keynote address highlighting Hong Kong’s role as an international financial centre and the importance of cross-sector collaboration in advancing green and sustainable finance. He said, “Being Asia’s leading international financial centre, Hong Kong is also rising as the international green finance hub of the region. The Government is committed to creating a robust ecosystem that encourages ESG integration, and forums like this are crucial for fostering the public-private collaboration needed to achieve our green and sustainable finance ambitions.”

The conference also featured keynote presentations by Professor Agnes Tai, Adjunct Professor at the Centre for Civil Society and Governance at The University of Hong Kong and Director of Great Glory Investment Corporation, on “The HK/China Regulatory Landscape”, and Professor Kerstin Lopatta, Chair Professor of Financial Accounting, Auditing and Sustainability at the University of Hamburg, on “EU’s Role in Sustainability”. Their presentations examined regulatory developments



in Hong Kong, the Chinese Mainland and the European Union, as well as the implications of these trends on sustainability reporting and corporate strategy.

Four panel sessions explored key aspects of ESG, including evolving global and local regulatory requirements, AI-enabled ESG disclosure, assurance and compliance, and the integration of academic research with business practice. Speakers exchanged views on how regulation, technology and cross-sector collaboration can support more effective ESG practices.

In her closing remarks, Professor Phyllis Mo reflected on the key themes arising from the conference and emphasised the importance of sustained collaboration across academia, regulators, industry, and the professional community. She said, “The wealth of knowledge shared today demonstrates a collective commitment to advancing the ESG agenda. This is not the end of the conversation, but a catalyst for continued partnership.”

The conference successfully provided a platform for knowledge exchange and professional engagement, further demonstrating HSUHK’s role in connecting academic research with industry practice, while promoting sustainable and responsible business practices in Hong Kong and beyond.

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Photos:



Photo 1: Mr Joseph Chan says this forum is crucial for fostering the public-private collaboration.



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



Photo 2: HSUHK hosts the Inter-Institutional Development Scheme Conference under the theme “Bridging Theory and Industry Practice: Advancing ESG Excellence in Hong Kong and Beyond”.

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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 six Schools (Business, Communication, Decision Sciences, Humanities and Social Science, Translation and Foreign Languages, and Transdisciplinary Studies), and around 9,000 full-time undergraduate and postgraduate students. With its unique “Liberal + Professional” education model, HSUHK nurtures caring professionals with a global vision and responsible leadership.

Aspiring to be a leading private university in the region, HSUHK prioritises stellar undergraduate education and research informed postgraduate education, supported by excellent student learning experience, impactful research and purposeful engagement. HSUHK places strategic importance on regional engagement and international partnership, which create a productive learning and research environment for students and scholars working creatively and innovatively with a strong interdisciplinary orientation.

HSUHK has earned various international recognitions. In the AppliedEdu’s ALL ASIA Private University Ranking 2026, it secured 7th place across Chinese Mainland, Hong Kong and Macau. HSUHK ranked 23rd in both Business and Management and Economics and Finance and 24th in Social Sciences and Humanities among this region’s top universities in the Research.com Top Universities and Top Scientists Rankings 2026. The MSc in Global Supply Chain Management programme achieved 84th place globally in the QS International Trade Rankings 2025. Additionally, HSUHK’s School of Business obtained AACSB International accreditation in 2023, a mark of excellence held by only 6% of the world’s leading business schools. HSUHK was also ranked among the top 200 worldwide on “Quality Education” and “Decent Work and Economic Growth” in the Times Higher Education University Impact Rankings 2021.