

Welcome Remarks at the Symposium on Personal Information Protection in China: Online Privacy and Data Ethics

2 October 2025

Lee Ping Yuen Chamber, Lee Quo Wei Academic Building, Yuen Campus, HSUHK

Good morning, President WU, renowned scholars, leading experts, colleagues and students,

On behalf of The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong, it is my great honor to extend a warm welcome to each of you to our beautiful campus for this “Symposium on Personal Information Protection in China: Online Privacy and Data Ethics.”

A special welcome to the scholars and experts who have traveled far from the United Kingdom and the United States. Thank you for making the long journey to join us.

We are living in a world being radically reshaped by data. The digital technologies that connect us, empower us, and drive innovations are also generating profound legal, ethical and social issues we have never faced. Questions of data ownership, consent, security, and algorithmic fairness are the defining challenges of our digital age.

In today’s AI age, the protection of personal information has become a critical concern for individuals, organizations, and governments alike, woven with our thoughts, actions, and interactions. Cybersecurity threats, data breaches, and the ethical implications of data usage are issues that cannot be ignored. As we gather here today, we are not just discussing the principles of personal privacy and data ethics; we are exploring the very foundations of trust and responsibility in our increasingly interconnected world, thus creating a safer online environment for everyone.

As a researcher in corporate governance myself, I have observed recent regulatory developments in the internet and AI industry. It is clear that corporations focusing solely on short-term profits and maximizing shareholder value will prove unsustainable. The business community must rethink how to create sustainable values to different stakeholders while maintaining a good balance among them. Based on the social contract concept, we advocate a “stakeholder-based” governance approach.

It is this commitment to stakeholder trust, accountability and sustainability that makes this symposium’s focus on online privacy and data ethics very timely and essential. As we navigate these discussions, let us keep in mind the human element behind every data point—each individual has a story, a right to privacy, and a desire for security.

Finally, on behalf of the University, I extend my sincere gratitude to all speakers, participants and colleagues of our School of Communication as organizer, who have made this symposium possible. Your commitment to this important cause is commendable. I am confident that our discussions will lead to actionable insights and meaningful advancements in the field of personal data protection.

I wish the symposium every success and wish you all a very joyful Mid-Autumn Festival ahead. Thank you!