

Opening Remarks at the Student Leader Global Summit

7 July 2026

Yip Kit Chuen and Yuen Yuk Hing Hall, Yuen Campus, HSUHK

Good evening, everyone,

On behalf of The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong, a very warm welcome to Hong Kong and to our campus. It is a great honour for the Hang Seng University and its Honours Academy to host the International Association of Student Affairs and Services (IASAS) Student Leader Global Summit 2026.

First, my sincere thanks to our IASAS organising team, including especially Dr Kathleen Callahan, Dr Lisa Bardill Moscaritolo and Mr Giacomo Baccarelli. Your leadership, coordination, and care have made this Summit possible.

To our dedicated staff delegates, thank you for your commitment. And to our brilliant student global leaders from over 10 locales, from the moment you arrived, I've felt the passion and energy radiating from each of you. Your enthusiasm sets the perfect tone for what promises to be an exciting and impactful summit.

You have arrived in a city that embodies the very spirit of our summit. Our theme, **"Global City, Local Soul — Student Leadership for Sustainable, Inclusive, and Resilient Communities"**, finds its perfect home right here. Hong Kong, a dynamic world city where East meets West, offers an unparalleled backdrop for our discussions. Over the next four days, you will experience firsthand how our vibrant global and local cultures intertwine to shape student leadership and sustainable urban living.

This Summit is also strongly aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, especially SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities and SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals. These goals are not just ideas on paper; they are the blueprint for the future we collectively aspire to build.

What excites me most is that this is not designed as a "sit and listen" conference. It is an immersive, field-based and dialogue-driven programme, bringing you into the city, into conversations with different sectors, and into spaces where student voices can lead. You will explore timely questions that matter everywhere: How can universities nurture civic-minded and globally competent leaders? How can we build communities that are inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable, starting now?

I would also like to acknowledge the institutional support behind this Summit, especially from our Honours Academy and the Office of the Vice President (Learning and Student Experience). At the Hang Seng University, we are proud of our unique “Liberal + Professional” education model, one that equips students with broad perspectives, core transferrable competencies, and prepares them to lead with empathy and professional competence.

And to our Honours Academy students, you hold the future keys to our city, and you are lucky to have this opportunity to meet and engage with new friends from across the globe. Please, embrace your role as ambassadors. Show them the beauty of Hong Kong, from its breathtaking skyline and bustling markets to its ancient temples and hidden natural gems. Share our culture, our stories, and our hospitality.

Once again, welcome to the Hang Seng University, and welcome to the IASAS Student Leader Global Summit 2026. I am genuinely excited to witness the insights, innovations, and collaborations that will emerge from this unique Summit.

Thank you, and now, let the adventure begin!