



To : Association & Chapter/Section Heads
Cc : Office Holders, HKTDC Regional & Branch Directors &
Federation Co-ordinators, Smilely Lam
From : Irene Hau, Federation Secretary
Date : 20 September 2019
Subject : **20th Anniversary of Hong Kong Forum**



Dear Association & Chapter/Section Heads,

Celebrating the 20th Anniversary of Hong Kong Forum!

We are pleased to share that the Federation's annual flagship forum – The 20th Hong Kong Forum (3-4 December 2019) has opened for registration. This year marks the 20th Anniversary of our Federation – an important moment for all of us to celebrate. On this very special occasion, we are most delighted to share that four of our past chairmen and eight of our past Office Holders have confirmed to join already! Now it is your turn to act and confirm your participation to this meaningful event.

This year's programme will feature a wide array of topics covering Greater Bay Area, Smart and Green Living, Digital Marketing, Creativity and Innovation. A dedicated Young Executive Programme will also be organised to enhance networking opportunities for young entrepreneurs and start-ups from various HKBAs, and to nurture more young members for sustainable development.

We look forward to your support in inviting more of your members to join the Forum. Please register on or before 18 October 2019. Kindly refer to Hong Kong Forum (<https://www.hkfederation.org.hk/hkforum>) and our promotional [eDMs](#) for more details.

Meanwhile, we would like to take this opportunity to share with you that HKTDC's flagship event, **the 4th Belt and Road Summit**, was just concluded successfully in Hong Kong last week. The two-day event featured nearly 90 prominent government and business speakers and gathered more than 5,000 business elites and officials from 67 countries and regions to discuss the opportunities arising from the Belt and Road Initiative. Close to 100 overseas delegations participated and over 700 one-to-

one business matching meetings were arranged. The encouraging attendance and dynamic discussions are a vote of confidence in Hong Kong. You may want to hear what some of our HKBAs' heads had to say after attending the Summit in person (*pls refer to below for a summary of the Summit*).

HKTDC's another two world-class trade fairs, Hong Kong Watch & Clock Fair and CENTRESTAGE, were also smoothly completed in early September, welcoming close to 25,000 buyers from 104 countries and regions. This again showcases that Hong Kong remains vibrant and business as usual.

We sincerely hope we could continue to have your vote of support in the 20th Hong Kong Forum. Should you have any queries, please feel free to contact the Secretariat at hkfederation@hktdc.org.

Best regards,



Irene Hau
Secretary

The 4th Belt and Road Summit

11-12 September 2019 | Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre

About the Summit

The Belt and Road Summit brings together senior government officials, representatives of international institutions, business leaders and industry experts from countries along and beyond the Belt and Road to exchange insights on multilateral collaboration opportunities arising from the Belt and Road Initiative and explore concrete business opportunities.

2019 at a Glance

- ~90 prominent international speakers
- ~5,000 distinguished government officials and business leaders covering 67 countries and regions
- ~100 delegations from Mainland China and overseas
- 240+ investment projects and 700+ one-to-one business matching meetings arranged
- 110 organisations/enterprises showcased their service strengths or investment opportunities at our Exhibition zones
- 250+ partners, sponsors and organisations in support of the Summit
- 191 journalists (local: 115; Mainland China: 30; Overseas: 46) from 98 media attended

Event highlights (video clips)

https://www.linkedin.com/posts/brand-hong-kong_hongkong-brandhongkong-asiasworldcity-activity-6578216854714748929-5_G6/

https://www.linkedin.com/posts/investhk_foreign-government-leaders-shared-their-perspectives-activity-6579906777079480320-u1B1

What business leaders and ministers said about Hong Kong

From speakers

“To turn Belt and Road projects into viable commercial opportunities, Hong Kong is the ideal platform”

Dr Peter K N Lam, GBS, Chairman, The Hong Kong Trade Development Council



<p><i>“We are very pleased to enhance the connectivity with Hong Kong. The biggest challenge of the Belt and Road Initiative is the cultural differences. The key to gaining trust and collaborating together to bridge the differences that will always be there.”</i></p> <p>Mr Gabor Gion, Minister of State for Financial Policy Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Hungary</p>	
<p><i>“Hong Kong is part of the global forum where we push all of us, the countries, the members, for having unified taxation platform. If there is a place which succeeded in having bilateral investment treaties, double tax avoidance treaties, exchange of information, and everything that is current regulation in the globe, this is Hong Kong who managed to be both traditional, stuck to the international principle regulation and legislation, but also modern to show us how to swim and how to make that economic goal they set of the reality today.”</i></p> <p>Ms Dana Meager, Deputy Minister of Finance and Plenipotentiary of the Slovak Government for Negotiations on Belt and Road Initiative</p>	
<p><i>“I think Hong Kong has a very important position and is a key player in the Belt and Road Initiative. The open economy and open society in Hong Kong will advance every structure and it’s easy to connect and do business.”</i></p> <p>HE Abdulla Al Saleh, Under Secretary of the Foreign Trade and Industry, Ministry of Economy, The United Arab Emirates</p>	

<p><i>“Hong Kong has the experience, and has proven time and again that it is a resilient economy and community. It can overcome the challenge it’s facing now. There is no difficulty Hong Kong cannot overcome given its experience. You have in this big city representation from the big multinational companies in the shipping and banking sectors. I am sure you have all you need to overcome the present situation. The fact that there are so many countries represented here today, including from Europe and beyond, is a vote of confidence in Hong Kong.”</i></p> <p>HE Mr Thaung Tun, Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations; Chairman of Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC), the Republic of the Union of Myanmar</p>	
<p><i>“There are opportunities behind the threats of the trade crisis, which will make the future of China more open and more innovative.”</i></p> <p>Mr Dhanin Chearavanont, Senior Chairman, Charoen Pokphand Group</p>	
<p><i>“I’ve been able to expand my business using the Hong Kong capital market and the special geography of Hong Kong has been especially helpful to expand my business. By making use of Lippo Tower in Hong Kong, I invested back to Manila, Malaysia, Singapore, US and Australia. It all started from Hong Kong. Today we’re talking about Belt and Road, in which Hong Kong plays a significant role. If you want to invest in Belt and Road countries, you should come and invest here.”</i></p> <p>Dr Mochtar Riady, Founder and Chairman, Lippo Group</p>	

“The Belt and Road has made China a much more prosperous, dynamic economy. It has provided countless opportunities for Hong Kong and international companies. Hong Kong remains and continues to play a unique role in China’s continuing development and the advancement of the Belt and Road Initiative.”

Mr Victor L L Chu, Chairman & CEO, First Eastern Investment Group



“Don’t underestimate Hong Kong’s importance. [It is] the origin point for a lot of the financing, both loan and equity...Hong Kong is, in fact, among the world’s global centres for fundraising. It currently has roughly 40% of all Renminbi outside [Mainland] China—what we call offshore Renminbi. People here today are quite worried about what they call the social unrest in Hong Kong...Hong Kong now has a great opportunity. It is the best opportunity since 1997 to carry out necessary social, economic reforms that will make Hong Kong even stronger than before...the kind of reforms that will make One Country Two Systems even stronger and more sustainable, bringing benefits to Mainland China, Hong Kong and the world.”

Dato’ Seri Cheah Cheng Hye, Co-Chairman and Co-Chief Investment Officer, Value Partners Group



“We were looking for vibrant markets that allow us to scale quickly into other markets. The Belt and Road is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to scale the company.”

Simon Loong, Founder and CEO, WeLab



From heads of Hong Kong Business Associations

“Really good organisation of the Belt and Road Summit. Hong Kong is very resilient despite some societal unrest and disruptions. Financial strength and growth are in Asia, so member associations should come to Hong Kong to explore the ample business opportunities under the Belt and Road and Greater Bay Area.”

Dennis Chiu, Chairman, Federation of Hong Kong Business Associations Worldwide



“I must congratulate HKTDC for the outstanding calibre of speakers (not only from Ministers from B&R routes, and legal experts, but Chairman, CEOs and MDs of some of the largest corporations like China Everbright Group, First Eastern Investment Group Power Construction Corp of China, etc.) who openly shared their views on the opportunities, the challenges and risks along the B&R route. This certainly sets the scene for those interested in using HK as the platform to springboard their own businesses, can still do so as HK is still the international hub with the rule of law that will protect their intellectual property and rights. I believe the HK community is a resilient one. It is in their DNA to always look for a better alternative in life and also in business, so the future remains bright for HK and with time the wounds will heal and HK will stand tall and be even stronger than ever! It is my first Summit and I certainly recommend it.”

Lucinda Chan, President, Hong Kong Australia Business Association Limited- National



<p><i>"I visited the Watch and Clock Fair last week with good traffic and business results. I appreciated every single arrangement of the Belt and Road Summit from speakers' line-up, programme, business matching meetings to breakout sessions. Hong Kong's role as a super connector and trade fairs hub would remain the same despite the current situation.</i></p> <p>Laszlo Bakonyi, President, Hungary-Hong Kong Business Association</p>	
<p><i>"There are over 100 delegates from Indonesia despite the current political situation in Hong Kong. I noticed that the situation in Hong Kong is much more normal than what I saw from the news. Seeing is believing. I would encourage more Indonesia businessmen to come visit Hong Kong."</i></p> <p>James Budiono, Chairman of Indonesia Hong Kong Business Association</p>	
<p><i>"The Summit is very well organized. Business in Hong Kong is as usual. We simply need to avoid those affected areas (by the protestors)."</i></p> <p>Danny Yu, President of Thai HK Trade Association</p>	

From Exhibitors

"The Summit is a great platform for us to embellish relationships with potential investorssome companies are really interested to invest in Kazakhstan. Kazakhstan plays a strategic role within the Belt and Road Initiative"

Diana Ablyakimova, **Kazakh Invest**

"The Belt and Road Summit is founded on a very strong and powerful initiative, and what brings us to be a part of this is the countless opportunities that you find at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, and meeting a lot of potential partners to take this Initiative forward and find good opportunities to cooperate with them. And we find this very useful, and we would like to be a part of it every year, we've been here since the first year and hopefully will be here in the years to come."

Ahmed Al Suwaidi, **Invest in Sharjah**

"There was a common interest between the French capital and Hong Kong, as both want to become regional hubs of technology, finance and creative industries. With regards to the protests in Hong Kong, in fact, many believed that last year's "Yellow Vests" protests in France is catastrophic, but we know that is not. It was important for us to come to Hong Kong to say that we are not afraid....Belt and Road Summit is the best place to meet the world in the most efficient way."

Boris Tkatchenko, **Greater Paris Investment Agency**

"A place where opportunities meet."

Consulate General of Pakistan Hong Kong