

Belt and Road Summit

Themed "Hong Kong IN: Creating and Realising Opportunities", the fourth Belt and Road Summit jointly organised by the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government and the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC) opened in Hong Kong on September 11, 2019. Around 5,000 government officials, entrepreneurs and professionals from 69 countries gathered in the Asia's World City to explore and discuss collaboration opportunities under the Belt and Road Initiative.

The two-day Summit comprised an opening session, two policy dialogue sessions, two plenary sessions, eight thematic breakout forums, a series of open forums, three project pitching sessions and over 700 one-on-one business-matching meetings for more than 240 projects. The first Belt and Road Week was also being staged.



CE Mrs Carrie Lam (first row, sixth left), pictured with senior Mainland officials and major representatives of HKTDC, at the Belt and Road Summit

The Chief Executive (CE), Mrs Carrie Lam, spoke at the opening session, highlighting how Hong Kong was well positioned to serve as the gateway to the Belt and Road and its manifold prospects and possibilities, especially in respect of capacity building, green finance, professional services and business matching. She added that Hong Kong would embark on a programme for interactive exchanges on practices and experiences with Mainland ministries in areas including finance, commerce, foreign-related legal matters, dispute resolution and city management, noting that such collaboration would realise green and sustainable Belt and Road projects.

To facilitate business matching, the CE shared with the participants that business delegations had been organised to explore opportunities in Belt and Road-related countries and regions, new free trade and investment protection agreements had been forged with trading partners, and Hong Kong's Economic and Trade Office network was being expanded. Mrs Lam expressed confidence that given the spirit of Hong Kong, the city could find its place along the Belt and Road.

The Financial Secretary, Mr Paul Chan, in a policy dialogue session, spoke with the participants on Hong Kong's edge in professional risk management services and insurance services. The Secretary for Justice, Ms Teresa Cheng, SC, delivered welcome remarks at the thematic breakout forum entitled "Towards a Greater Success of Belt and Road Projects for Sustainable Investment – Hong Kong Can Lead".



MAJOR EVENTS



The Secretary for Economic Development, Mr Edward Yau (first left in both photos), chaired two policy dialogue sessions, which were joined by the Under Secretary of the Foreign Trade and Industry of the Ministry of Economy of the United Arab Emirates, Mr Abdulla Al Saleh; the Minister of State for Financial Policy Affairs of the Ministry of Finance of Hungary, Mr Gábor Gion; the Secretary of State of the Ministry of Commerce of Cambodia, Mr Sok Sopheak; the Deputy Minister of Finance and Plenipotentiary of the Slovak Government for Negotiations on Belt and Road Initiative, Ms Dana Meager; the Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations and Chairman of the Myanmar Investment Commission, U Thaug Tun; and the Assistant Secretary of the Department of Trade and Industry of the Philippines, Mr Angelo B Taningco.

Asian Logistics and Maritime Conference

Themed "Connect and Innovate: Navigating Challenging Times", Asia's largest logistics and maritime industry gathering "Asian Logistics and Maritime Conference" was held in Hong Kong from November 19 to 20, 2019. Some 2,000 people, including 60 expert speakers, from 25 countries/regions gathered in Hong Kong to discuss Asian connectivity, e-commerce customer experience and logistics technology at the event, which was jointly organised by the HKSAR Government and HKTDC.

The Chairman of the Hong Kong Maritime and Port Board and Secretary for Transport and Housing (STH), Mr Frank Chan Fan, addressed the opening session of the Conference. Citing the impressive hardware for Hong Kong to be a global trade and logistics hub, including the world's busiest international air cargo airport, top 10 busiest container ports, a large cluster of maritime service providers, Mr Chan said that the city's logistical capability would be further enhanced by the third runway of the Hong Kong International Airport, expansion of the express air cargo terminal, and the development of the premium logistics on the airport island. The STH concluded that Hong Kong's logistics and maritime industries were well placed for success with a host of newly rolled out facilitating measures, such as tax concessions for ship leasing companies and marine insurance providers, as well as the setting up of regional desks to support ship owners.



(Top right) Mr Frank Chan Fan (centre), pictured with the Executive Director of the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, Ms Margaret Fong (third left); the Senior Economist of the Economic Research and Statistics Division of the World Trade Organization, Mr Coleman Nee (third right); the Senior Vice President and Head of Asia Pacific Region of Maersk, Mr Robbert van Trooijen (second left); the Partner and Chief Executive Officer of HOPU Investments, Mr Lau Teck Sien (second right); the Senior Executive Officer of Yamato Holdings Co Ltd, Mr Katsuhiko Umetsu (first left); and the Managing Director of Li & Fung Development (China) Limited and Fung Business Intelligence, Mr Chang Ka-mun (first right), at the Asian Logistics and Maritime Conference.

