



# **Asia-Pacific Business Forum (APBF) 2018**

Harnessing Business to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals  
through Technology, Innovation and Financing

Cyberport, Hong Kong, China, 10-11 April 2018

## **Overview and objectives:**

The Asia-Pacific Business Forum 2018 aims to identify how business engagement in achieving inclusive and sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region can be strengthened. Specifically, the Forum will discuss how private sector-led innovation, technology and financing can enhance efforts towards achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and associated Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The transformative power of technology and innovation can support concrete actions towards realizing the aspirations of the SDGs. The private sector is at the core of developing affordable technology and innovation. With its cross-cutting, multi-sectoral and multidisciplinary approaches, technology and innovation are powerful means of implementation of the sustainable development agenda.

Improving access to financing is one area where technology and innovation can make a significant contribution through the development of alternative business models and utilizing the power of the Internet. The Asia-Pacific region has a high-level of unbanked people, with many of them women. Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) account for most of all enterprises, yet receive a low level of total bank lending. Financial inclusion is crucial to advance the 2030 Agenda forward. Technology and innovation, coupled with financing services could offer leapfrog solutions for both business and people in need. For example, micro-finance and social investment establishments that offer basic financial services and FinTech companies that are leveraging information technology to enhance access to finance to those that currently rely on informal markets would contribute to more business, employment, income generation and, hence, less poverty.

The Asia-Pacific Business Forum 2018, jointly organized by ESCAP and Cyberport, with the support from the Innovation and Technology Bureau of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, and in cooperation with the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network (ESBN), will be held on 10 and 11 April 2018 in Hong Kong, China which is at the cutting edge of developing digital solutions and alternative business models for sustainable development. The Forum will witness the participation of multi-stakeholders, in particular governments, business, civil society and academics from all over the region to foster dialogue and identify innovative solutions to address the challenges and utilize the opportunities for business in realizing and achieving the SDGs.



## TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

<b>Tuesday, 10 April 2018: Function Rooms, Cyberport 3 (Core E)</b>	
08:30-09:00	<i>Registration</i>
09:00-10:30	<p><b>Inaugural Session</b></p> <p><b>Welcome Statement</b> by Mr. Mahbubur Rahman, President, ICC Bangladesh; Chairman, ETBL Holdings; President, ESCAP Sustainable Business Network Executive Council</p> <p><b>Opening Address</b> by Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCAP</p> <p><b>Inaugural Address</b> by Mr. Paul CHAN Mo-po, GBM, GBS, MH, JP, Financial Secretary, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, China</p> <p><i>Photo session with guests of honours and dignitaries</i></p> <p><b>Welcome statement</b> by Dr. Lee George Lam, Chairman, Hong Kong Cyberport Management Company; Vice-President, ESCAP Sustainable Business Network Executive Council</p> <p><b>Keynote speech on:</b> “Economic transformation through innovation and technology” by Mr. N.R. Narayana Murthy, Founder, Infosys</p> <p><b>Keynote speech on:</b> “The Role of Companies in Growth and Innovation” by Mr. Ben Way, Chief Executive Officer, Macquarie Group Asia</p>
10:30-11:00	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:00-12:30	<p><b>Plenary Session 1</b></p> <p><b>Responsible investment: how can governments and business work together to scale up sustainable investment?</b></p> <p>Sustainable or responsible investment considers environmental, social and corporate governance (ESG) criteria to generate long-term competitive financial returns and positive societal impact. Impact investments, considered as part of responsible investment, are investments made into companies, organizations and funds with the intention to generate social and environmental impacts alongside a financial return.</p> <p>The session will address how governments, private sector and other actors can work together to scale up sustainable, responsible and impact investment. It will discuss some of the key first steps to be considered by governments and investment communities, especially those from economies that are at earlier stages in developing policies and strategies in this area. The session will also discuss some tools that government has at its disposal for responsible investment, such as legislation and regulation, funding and finance, tax, business development, research and development and education.</p> <p>Moderator: Prof. Wong Yue Chim, Richard, SBS, JP, Professor of Economics and Philip Wong Kennedy Wong Professor in Political Economy, The University of Hong Kong</p>



	<p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Tristan Ace, Global Social Enterprise Strategy Lead, British Council</li> <li>• Dr. Ma Jun, Director of the Center for Finance and Development, Tsinghua National Institute of Financial Research</li> <li>• Ms. Angela Bai, General Secretary, China Alliance of Social Value Investment (CASVI)</li> <li>• Ms. Tihana Bule, Economist/Policy Analyst, Responsible Business Conduct, Directorate for Financial and Enterprise Affairs, International Investment Division, OECD</li> <li>• Mr. Stephen Wong, Deputy Executive Director and Head of Public Policy Institute, Our Hong Kong Foundation</li> </ul>
<p>12:30-14:00</p>	<p><i>Networking Lunch</i></p>
<p>14:00-15:30</p>	<p><b>Plenary session 2</b> <b>Fintech: Unleashing a sustainable development revolution</b></p> <p>Fintech is not only about disrupting the existing financial system, but also about providing access to a large number of people to financial services that were previously unavailable to them. There are tremendous business opportunities in bringing about financial inclusion in developing countries, allowing the underbanked and underinsured to access finance through digital tools at lower transaction costs. These vulnerable groups can now have access to support in ways that the traditional financial institutions were not able to provide. However, the development of fintech currently lacks structure and adequate regulations, which carries potential risks, security and regulatory concerns.</p> <p>The session will focus on fintech and its role in contributing to sustainable economic development by addressing the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How can fintech help developing countries leapfrog into the new economy?</li> <li>• What regulatory developments are there with regards to Fintech?</li> <li>• What would be the desirable outcomes of new developments?</li> </ul> <p>Moderator and presentation of Conference Special Publication: Mr. Pat Woo, Partner, KPMG</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Nurlan Kussainov, CEO, Astana International Financial Centre (AIFC), Kazakhstan</li> <li>• Mr. Phang Yew Kiat, Vice Chairman &amp; CEO, Chong Sing Holdings FinTech Group Ltd.</li> <li>• Mr. Frank Tong, Global Head of Innovation and Technology Investment, HSBC</li> <li>• Mr. Alex Kong, Founder and Chairman, TNG FinTech Group</li> </ul>



15:30-17:00	<p><b>Plenary session 3</b> <b>The Artificial Intelligence Revolution: implications for work and society</b></p> <p>Current developments in the world of artificial intelligence (AI) are possibly the most important topic for the future of human civilization. And that future may come very soon given the rapid developments in technology in general and AI in particular. Currently, AI development is still in an infancy stage but is progressing at an exponential rate. AI will revolutionize society and economic production, unlock opportunities for humanity but also create unimaginable disruptions. Looking ahead, this session will address the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ What does AI mean for work and inclusion?</li> <li>▪ What can be done to ensure that no one will be left behind in the age of continuous disruption?</li> <li>▪ What will be the impact of AI on inequalities among countries and within countries?</li> <li>▪ How can AI be deployed to contribute to a sustainable future, specifically towards achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda?</li> <li>▪ What kind of society can be envisaged by 2030?</li> </ul> <p>Moderator: Prof. Barbara Meynert, Senior Advisor, Fung Group; Chair, ESNB Task Force on Digital Economy</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Andy Chun, Associate Professor, Department of Computer Science, City University of Hong Kong</li> <li>• Mr. Yam Ki Chan, Head of Public Policy and Government Affairs, Hong Kong and South Asia Frontier, Google</li> <li>• Mr. Scott Likens, Emerging Technology Lead, US &amp; China, PwC</li> <li>• Mr. D. Christopher Keil, Managing Partner, Tranzcip</li> </ul>
17:00-17:15	<p><b>Introduction to Day 2</b> by Ir. Allen Yeung, Government Chief Information Officer, Innovation and Technology Bureau, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, China</p>
17:15-20:00	<p><i>Cocktail Reception followed by Gala Dinner</i></p>



**Wednesday, 11 April 2018: Function Rooms & Training Rooms, Cyberport 3 (Core E)**

08:30– 09:00	<i>Registration</i>	
09:00– 10:00	<p><b>Special Session: Digital Silk Road</b> <b>Fostering regional cooperation in technology and finance for the Belt and Road Initiative</b></p> <p>The Belt and Road initiative is a powerful platform for cross-country collaboration to drive sustainable development and prosperity. The key to success lies with the use of digital technology to connect tangible projects, serious investors and knowledgeable professionals, and facilitate complex developments into commercially viable and financially manageable projects. Digital technology transcends geographic boundaries and ease market entry, enables SMEs to capture countless opportunities in the new economy and growth of employment opportunities across countries. Hence, the Digital Silk Road is the force that paves the way for reshaping societies across the region.</p> <p>This session will focus on 3 dimensions for propelling the Digital Silk Road:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional trade development</li> <li>• Big data hub facilitation</li> <li>• Redefining the supply chain</li> </ul> <p>Session Intro by: Mr. Zhou Li, Publisher &amp; Editor-in-Chief, China Daily Asia Pacific Moderator: Mr. Alfred Romann, Contributing Editor, China Daily Asia Pacific</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Li Shan, CEO, Silk Road Finance Corporations Ltd.</li> <li>• Dr. Margit Molnar, Chief China Economist, OECD</li> <li>• Mr. Carson Wen, Founder and Chairman, Bank of Asia, British Virgin Islands and BOA Financial Group, Hong Kong, China</li> </ul>	
10:00– 11:00	<p><b>Information session 1:</b> <b>Satellite Technology for Business Resilience in the Asia-Pacific region</b></p> <p>Mr. Zhang Zu Xin, Chairman, BD International Technology Group Ltd.</p>	<p><b>Information session 3:</b> <b>Economic outlook and key policy challenges in emerging Asia: Fostering Growth Through Digitalisation</b></p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Marc Proksch, Chief, Investment and Enterprise Development Section, Trade, Investment and Innovation Division, ESCAP</p> <p><b>Presentation on OECD Economic Outlook for Southeast Asia, China and India 2018</b> by Dr. Kensuke Tanaka, Head of Asia Desk, OECD Development Centre</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Aung Naing Oo, Director General, Directorate of Investment and Company Administration, Ministry of Planning and Finance</li> <li>• Ms. Pamela Mar, Director, Supply Chain Future - Fung Academy, Fung Group</li> </ul>
11:00–	<i>Coffee break</i>	



11:30		
11:30-13:00	<p><b>Parallel session 1</b> <b>Impact entrepreneurship – leapfrogging into the innovative future and nurturing AP-based entrepreneurial ecosystems</b></p> <p>With reference to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), 5 (Gender Equality) and 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), this session will discuss impact entrepreneurship, convening entrepreneurs and experts in the field that are actively contributing to the Asia-Pacific impact entrepreneurial ecosystems. It will also focus on the ability of young entrepreneurs to leapfrog leveraging technology and innovation. This session will also celebrate achievements in different sectors that are aligned with impact entrepreneurship and with the SDGs.</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Pedro Eloy, Chief Executive Officer, Pelham Grey; Founder, Businesslab HKU MBA; Chair, ESNB Taskforce Youth &amp; Women Entrepreneurship</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Ron Kwok, Partner Channel Development at Microsoft</li> <li>• Mr. Miguel Cordeiro, CEO at Media Invest</li> <li>• Mr. Joe Sung, CEO and Founder, HobaBike, Grand State International (HK) Limited</li> <li>• Ms. Zha Agabe-Granfar, Director at VERGE Ltd</li> <li>• Mr. David Yeung, Founder of Green Monday</li> <li>• Ms. Adriana Lica, Lead at HSBC PayMe</li> <li>• Dr. Garrath T. Wilson (PhD), Lecturer in Industrial Design, Loughborough Design School</li> <li>• Dr. Val Mitchell, Senior Lecturer, Programme Director for MA User Experience Design, Loughborough Design School</li> <li>• Mr. Andre Brito, Associate Lecturer at Loughborough Design School and Loughborough University London</li> </ul>	<p><b>Parallel session 2</b> <b>Business innovations in disaster risk reduction</b></p> <p>The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction calls for the improvement of regulations and incentives for private disaster risk reduction investment and for business to integrate disaster risk into their management practices. Addressing underlying disaster risk factors through disaster risk-informed public and private investments is more cost-effective than mere reliance on post-disaster response and recovery. The ESCAP Regional Road Map for Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific outlines the need to facilitate regional dialogue on integrating disaster risk reduction strategies in development frameworks. Therefore, this session seeks to answer the question of “How the private sector can contribute to disaster risk reduction through innovates strategies and solutions to manage disaster risks in capital investments, supply chains and operations?”.</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Asif Ibrahim, Vice Chairman, Newage Group of Industries; Chair, ESNB Task Force on Disaster and Climate Risk Reduction</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Puji Pujiono, Senior Programme Officer, ESCAP Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management</li> <li>• Mr. Heru Prasetyo, Founder and Chairman of the Board of Patrons, Indonesia Business Link</li> <li>• Mr. Shazali Sulaiman, Chairman, The Brunei Darussalam International Chamber of Commerce and Industry</li> <li>• Mr. Richard Welford, Chairman, CSR-Asia, member of Private Sector Alliance for Disaster Resilient Societies</li> <li>• Ms. Winnie Koh, Business Development Manager, Asia Pacific, DHL Resilience360, DHL Customer Solutions &amp; Innovation, Deutsche Post DHL Group</li> <li>• Mr. M. Emdadul Haque, Executive Member, Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority, Prime Minister’s Office, Bangladesh</li> </ul>
13:00-14:30	Networking Lunch	



<p>14:30-16:00</p>	<p><b>Parallel session 3</b> <b>Enhancing social inclusion through disruptive innovations</b></p> <p>Social Inclusion is a major challenge for countries in the Asia Pacific Region. In recognition of this, a panel will discuss best practices, ideas &amp; approaches with a focus on enhancing social inclusion &amp; increasing productivity through innovation. Innovation can indeed be an engine of growth, driving a virtuous circle where growth translates into enhanced well-being for all and where inclusion underpins stronger growth in a sustainable manner leaving no one behind.</p> <p>This session explores best practices, ideas &amp; approaches with regard to disruptive innovations for enhancing social inclusion and the strategies that could be implemented by governments, business and other organizations.</p> <p>Moderator: Akash Bhavsar, Managing Director, Skyquest Technology Group; Chair, ESNB Task Force on Innovation and Competitiveness</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Jeong Hyop Lee, Senior Advisor, Science Technology and Innovation Policy Institute (STIPI), King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi (KMUTT), Thailand</li> <li>• Mr. Daniel O'Connor, Consultant Principal, Incub8IP.com</li> <li>• Mr. Francis Ngai, Founder &amp; CEO, Social Ventures Hong Kong</li> <li>• Ms. Shriya Damani, Founder &amp; Z Chief, SDGZ</li> </ul>	<p><b>Parallel session 4</b> <b>Smart Energy – Innovation, Transformation and Disruption</b></p> <p>Current modalities to supply energy are changing. For more than a hundred years, electricity has been produced on a large scale by centralized power plants and distributed over transmission lines to meet the demand where it is needed. Today significant changes can be observed in the way energy is produced and distributed driven by new technology, and demands for more efficient and cleaner energy and overall market liberalization.</p> <p>This session will consider how energy production and supply is evolving: renewable vs. conventional technologies, distributed vs. centralized production, energy storage, energy trading, demand management, market liberalization and other factors that are driving this evolution. The session will further consider the opportunities that this disruption is creating for new/evolving energy infrastructure and more sustainable development in the Asia Pacific region and what is needed from industry, government and the community to realize these opportunities.</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Bruce Hicks, Chairman, Asia Clean Capital Ltd.</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Lena Hansen, Managing Director, Rocky Mountain Institute</li> <li>• Mr. Geert Peeters, Executive Director &amp; Chief Financial Officer of CLP Holdings</li> <li>• Mr. Guruprakash Sastry, Regional Head – Infrastructure &amp; Green Initiatives, Infosys Limited</li> </ul>
<p>16:00 – 17:00</p>	<p><b>Closing Session - Way Forward: Technology, innovation and finance for sustainable development</b></p> <p><b>Closing Address</b> by Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCAP</p> <p><b>Closing keynote speech</b> by Dr. Victor K. Fung, Group Chairman, Fung Group</p> <p><b>Closing Remarks</b> by Dr. Lee George Lam, Chairman, Hong Kong Cyberport Management Company; Vice-President, ESCAP Sustainable Business Network Executive Council</p>	