

Digital Economy Summit 2023 Highlights Innovation and Technology Supercharging Economic Growth and a Smarter Future

Speaker line-up includes leaders from Alibaba, ARUP, Cisco, Huawei, Microsoft, Panasonic, SenseTime and Tencent, alongside government leaders from Hong Kong and the Mainland

HONG KONG, April 13, 2023 – Asia’s flagship innovation and technology event, the Digital Economy Summit (DES) 2023, kicked off today at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre (HKCEC). Jointly organised by the HKSAR Government and Cyberport, the two-day summit held in hybrid format gathers the world’s influential leaders in technology, business, academia and government, to explore the significance of technological innovations in boosting economic growth and accelerating the formation of resilient and futureproof digital societies.

DES 2023 aims to inspire regional and global visions for a better digital future. More than 100 renowned international speakers share their insights over the two days in eight specialist forums anchored around the central theme “Emerging with Resilience: Fostering a Smarter Future”.

Mr John Lee, Chief Executive of the HKSAR; **Professor Sun Dong**, Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry of the HKSAR Government; **Ms Shumin Cao**, Deputy Director, Cyberspace Administration of China and **Mr Dong Chen**, Deputy Minister, The Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the HKSAR, officiated the opening ceremony.

Mr John Lee, Chief Executive of the HKSAR, said, “Our country’s key strategies of the National 14th Five-Year Plan and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area development support Hong Kong’s development into an international innovation and technology (I&T) centre. We are now poised to start a new chapter of digital economy development through our persistent pursuit of I&T advancement. To echo the theme of today’s Summit, we must embrace the sweeping changes brought about by the digital revolution, in order to emerge stronger than ever in a smarter future. As the only city in the world where the global advantages and the China advantage converge, Hong Kong will continue to be the ideal base for Mainland enterprises to develop their global reach and a launchpad for foreign companies to gain access to the Mainland Chinese market. It is our top priority to ensure that business and investment prospects in Hong Kong will continue to flourish in the years to come.”

Professor Sun Dong, Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry of the HKSAR Government, said, “To achieve high-quality economic development, digitalisation is an inevitable trend. On this journey of transformation, I&T is one of the key driving forces. The wider adoption of I&T could revitalise traditional industries, spawn new businesses, foster a diversified economy and create quality employment

opportunities in Hong Kong. This term of Government has accorded high priority to I&T development with promoting digital economy development and developing Hong Kong into a smart city as one of the key directions. We will continue to roll out more initiatives in spearheading the development of our digital economy and smart city. I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to Cyberport, all the co-organisers and partners, as well as my colleagues in Office of the Government Chief Information Officer, for bringing this year's extraordinary Summit to us all."

Mr Simon Chan, Chairman of Cyberport, said, "The pandemic has accelerated global digital adoption and unleashed a wave of transformation that will continue to reshape people's lives, smart city development, and industries in the years ahead. DES 2023 creates a platform for leading thinkers and decision makers from government, business, and academia to come together and explore the exciting possibilities the future may hold. I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all speakers and guests for joining us at DES 2023 and presenting us with fruitful discussions that inspire business leaders and entrepreneurs, as well as contributing to Hong Kong's development into an international innovation and technology centre."

Technologies Shaping the Future

On Day One, DES 2023 offered attendees numerous opportunities to envision how digital innovations are defining the new post-pandemic normal and helping to create more sustainable societies and more competitive businesses.

The Visionary Forum was a highly anticipated highlight of DES 2023, where global industry experts spoke about the impact and potential of various technologies under the theme "Re-create Future Sustainable Societies". The audience heard from **Mr Yang Peng-fei**, Director-General of the Guangdong Provincial Administration of Government Service and Data; **William Xu**, Chair of Scientist Advisory Committee, Huawei; **Dr Will Cavendish**, Global Leader of Digital Services, Arup; **Ms Selina Yuan**, President for International Business, Alibaba Cloud Intelligence; **Mr Raymond Janse van Rensburg**, Vice President, Systems Engineering, APJC, Cisco; **Ms Gabrielle Inzirillo**, Head of Ecosystem Development, Financial Services Regulatory Authority at Abu Dhabi Global Market; and **Dr Luyi Mo**, Vice President and Head of Guangzhou-Shenzhen R&D Center, Pony.ai. These leaders covered a vast range of topics, including digital government development, the provision of new immersive viewing experiences enabled by cloud-based systems at international sports events, low-carbon development and smart urban transformation driven by digital innovation, as well as the latest developments in autonomous driving technology.

In the afternoon sessions, experts and attendees took an in-depth look at the application of technology in the digital economy. The Chambers Forum, supported by six major chambers of commerce, addressed how enterprises are integrating traditional and new economy to drive business transformation and stay ahead of the

curve, while the Smart City Forum organised by Smart City Consortium focused on how Hong Kong and the Greater Bay Area (GBA) are leading the way in developing and driving smart city developments. The stage featured high-level representatives from tech giants such as Microsoft, Panasonic, SenseTime, Tencent Cloud and Dmall, as well as speakers from organisations in Finland, France, Singapore and the GBA. Concurrent with these events, Huawei's Digital Government Symposium identified and discussed the key elements of e-government and discuss how they are being implemented in the Greater Bay Area and overseas.

Experience the Smart Future

In addition to specialist forums, an experience zone has been set up to showcase the latest technology solutions from Cyberport community start-ups, partners, and more, giving attendees the opportunity to experience technological solutions first-hand. Applications revolve around the digital economy, smart city, smart mobility, and new industrialisation, which are aligned with the main directions of the Hong Kong I&T Development Blueprint. The showcased solutions span the essential smart living domains of medical, food, living, mobility, and many other aspects. Participating companies include smart retail solution provider Dmall and HealthTech start-up Gense Technologies, which offers affordable portable medical imaging devices, smart mobile farm developer Pharmacy, and many more.

The second day of DES 2023 will feature four specialist forums of substantial impact on the future of digital economy, namely FinTech Forum, Beyond Web3 Forum, Smart Mobility Forum and New Industrialisation Forum.

For more details on DES 2023, including the complete agenda and speaker line-up, please visit: www.digitaleconomysummit.hk

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The first day of DES 2023 featured keynote and panel discussions by a stellar line up of representatives from tech giants, thought leaders, technologists, and government officials.

About Cyberport

<http://www.cyberport.hk/>

Cyberport is Hong Kong's digital technology flagship and incubator for entrepreneurship with over 1,900 members including over 800 onsite and close to 1,100 offsite start-ups and technology companies. It is managed by Hong Kong Cyberport Management Company Limited, wholly owned by the Hong Kong SAR Government. With a vision to be the hub for digital technology, thereby creating a new economic driver for Hong Kong, Cyberport is committed to nurturing a vibrant tech ecosystem by cultivating talent, promoting entrepreneurship among youth, supporting start-ups, fostering industry development by promoting strategic collaboration with local and international partners, and integrating new and traditional economies by accelerating digital transformation in public and private sectors.

For more information, please visit www.cyberport.hk

For media enquiries, please contact:

Karen Kwok

Phone: +852 3166 3993

Email: karenkwokky@cyberport.hk



Carmen Yu/ Bryan Leung/ Dennis Ma

Phone: +852 2530 0228

Email: hkg.cyberport@fleishman.com