

[Press release]

## **Digital Economy Summit 2024 Concludes Successfully with Over 4,000 Participants**

*Leaders and industry experts gather on second day of the Summit to focus on inspirational innovations and technology trends*

**Hong Kong, 13 April, 2024** – The Digital Economy Summit 2024 marked its successful conclusion today. The two-day Summit attracted over 4,000 in-person and virtual participants, bringing together top innovators, industry pioneers, and business leaders from approximately 40 countries and regions. With a focus on smart city development, the Summit covered a wide range of groundbreaking topics, providing participants with insights into how smart city initiatives enhance the quality of urban life and create a healthier and more sustainable environment.

The second day of the Summit kicked off with the "Smart Finance Forum," where industry leaders, financial experts, and policymakers participated in in-depth discussions on topics such as digital payments, artificial intelligence (AI), green finance, and Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDCs), exchanging valuable insights on policies, regulatory frameworks, and green investment opportunities. **Michael Wong**, Deputy Financial Secretary, and **Simon Chan**, Chairman of Cyberport Hong Kong, officiated the opening ceremony.

**Michael Wong, Deputy Financial Secretary said:** "Transformative potential could be unleashed in Smart Finance, where digital innovation and the financial industry converge. The various initiatives which the Government has undertaken in the three key areas of FinTech, International Green Finance Centre, as well as Green Fintech ecosystem, show its commitment to embracing innovation, promoting sustainable finance and developing the digital economy."

**Simon Chan, Chairman of Cyberport Hong Kong said:** "Tech-empowered digital finance is a key in our hands to unlock a sustainable future. Enabling sustainable finance with GreenTech and Green Finance solutions is pivotal in fostering financial market resilience and shaping a more inclusive and sustainable digital finance landscape within the smart city. The acceleration of sustainable finance also serves to support the transition to net zero carbon goals in Hong Kong and beyond, consolidating the role of our city as an international GreenTech and GreenFi hub. Cyberport looks forward to continuing collaboration with industry, academia and research sectors to take our green commitments forward through financial innovation."

There are insightful keynotes and panel discussions held today, including **Pariwat Kanithasen**, Deputy Director, Payments & Fintech Policy Department, Bank of Thailand, spoke about how digital payments strengthen interpersonal connections. **Derrick Loi**, General Manager, International Business, Ant Group Digital Technologies, highlighted how to innovate Fintech inclusion, bridge the digital divide, and drive the digital economy. **Trevor Cheung**, Chief Digital Officer, Corporate Banking, Bank of China (Hong Kong) Limited, shared views on the digitalisation of the banking industry and the business value of AI transformation.

This afternoon, the Digital Economy Summit 2024 concurrently held three thematic forums: "AI & Web3 Forum", "Living and Inclusion Forum", and "Elite Innovators Forum". Each forum explored cutting-edge technologies, social integration, and open data, leading proactive industry dialogues and successfully attracting broad attention from participants.

For the first time, the Summit was opened to secondary and tertiary students in the form of guided tours to stimulate their interest in the digital economy and ultimately strengthen Hong Kong's pool of innovation and technology talents.

### **Digital revolution reshapes enterprise and community**

The "AI & Web3 Forum" explored how blockchain, Web3, and AI collaboration is redefining the interactions between enterprise, community, and technology. Speakers provided in-depth insights into innovative technological developments, discussing Stablecoins, Decentralised Physical Infrastructure Networks (DePIN), Real World Assets (RWA), and the synergy between AI and Web3. **Jupiter Zheng**, Partner, Liquid Funds and Research, HashKey Capital shared trends of the integration of Web3.0, artificial intelligence, and the real economy, and the exploration of their development potential and future prospects. **Teddy Liu**, Vice President, JD Technology shared the applications, opportunities and challenges of real-world assets including stablecoins and tokenised assets, as well as their impact on various industries.

### **Inclusive technology strengthens community development**

The "Living and Inclusion Forum" brought together industry experts, policymakers, and stakeholders to delve into the integrated development of tourism, culture and leisure, food technology, social innovation, healthcare and aging, education and talent cultivation, and green technology.

**Lillian Cheong Man-lei, Under Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry** said, "The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government has long been striving to promote digital inclusion through such measures as the injection of HK\$1 billion into the Innovation and Technology Fund for Application in Elderly and Rehabilitation Care, as well as the allocation of HK\$100 million under the Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Fund to provide elderly people with digital training courses and technical support. We look forward to collaborating with all in the community to bridge the digital divide and build a future where technology serves as a tool for empowerment, equality and shared prosperity."

The Hon **Bernard Charnwut Chan**, Chairman, M Plus Museum Ltd shared the trends of integrating technology and art, and the experiences it brings to visitors. **Jennifer Yu Cheng**, Group President & Deputy Vice Chairwoman, CTF Education Group shared education requires a collective effort to nurture talents together, such as inviting industry professionals to enter the classroom and educate students.

### **Elite innovators drive digital transformation**

The "Elite Innovators Forum" showcased how the integration of elite innovators and cutting-edge technologies harnesses the immense power of data, discussing how digital transformation drives smart cities and accelerates the development of the public and private sectors. **Ir Tony Wong Chi-kwong, Government Chief Information Officer**, stating in his opening remarks at the forum, "Hong

Kong fully recognises the pressing need to nurture a pool of skilled innovation and technology (I&T) talent capable of effectively leveraging the emerging technologies. With numerous major I&T projects and infrastructures in the pipeline in coming years, coupled with our vision to develop Hong Kong into an International I&T Centre, the Hong Kong SAR Government is committed to continuously stepping up our efforts in enlarging our I&T talent pool.”

Following the forum, the award ceremony for the "IoT Data Hackathon 2024" was held, recognising the efforts of event participants. Meanwhile, the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer and Shanghai Municipal Bureau of Data also officiated the opening ceremony of the "Hong Kong/Shanghai Co-operation Open Data Challenge 2024," showcasing the latest developments in the joint exploration of data innovation applications between Hong Kong and Shanghai.

The Digital Economy Summit 2024 also highlighted Cyberport's effort in promoting Hong Kong as an international hub for green technology and finance, further consolidating Hong Kong's role as a "super-connector." Cyberport will continue to drive the AI industry, foster the development of the digital economy, and cultivate innovation talent, contributing high-quality capabilities and economic value to Hong Kong's technological advancement and overall development.

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For more high-res event photos, please download [here](#).



The second day of the Digital Economy Summit 2024 kicked off with the “Smart Finance Forum”, bringing together industry leaders, financial experts, and policymakers to discuss topics surrounding artificial intelligence (AI), green finance, and more.



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**Simon Chan, Chairman of Cyberport Hong Kong said:** enabling sustainable finance with GreenTech and Green Finance solutions is pivotal in fostering financial market resilience and shaping a more inclusive and sustainable digital finance landscape within the smart city.



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Innovation experts, entrepreneurs, thought leaders, and policymakers from around the world gathered to explore groundbreaking technologies, artificial intelligence (AI), the third generation of the Internet, inclusive technology, green technology, and other smart city topics.



The Digital Economy Summit 2024 concluded successfully today with over 4,000 participants attending, both in-person and virtually.

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**About Cyberport**

Cyberport is Hong Kong's digital technology flagship and incubator for entrepreneurship with over 2,000 members including over 900 onsite and over 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](http://www.cyberport.hk).