

[Press Release]

## **Digital Economy Summit 2024: Driving Sustainable Development in the Asian Digital Economy Era**

### *Cyberport's Innovation and Technology Flagship Event Explores the Transformative Power of Smart Cities*

**HONG KONG SAR – 25 March 2024** – Asia's annual flagship innovation and technology event, the Digital Economy Summit (DES) 2024 will be held on 12-13 April at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre (HKCEC). Co-organised by the HKSAR Government and Cyberport, DES 2024 brings together the world's influential leaders in technology, business, academia, and government to explore how cutting-edge technologies and innovative applications are reshaping the urban landscape and modern digital economy through the lenses of sustainability, connectivity, and resilience. The summit also aims to explore visions and directions for smart cities, co-creating a more dynamic, forward-thinking, and sustainable future.

With theme of "Smarter Technovation for All: Forging a Sustainable Future", the two-day event will feature renowned international speakers, including Chris Tung, President of Alibaba Group, Strategic Development; Sean Yang, Global Cyber and Privacy Officer, Huawei; Nando Gil de Bernabe, Chief Operating Officer, Cisco (Asia Pacific, Japan, and Greater China); Nadia Omer, CEO, AirAsia MOVE; Ricky Leung, Executive Director (Engineering & Technology), Airport Authority Hong Kong; Loretta Fong, Mainland China and Hong Kong Sustainability Deputy Leader, PwC; Anne Thiesen, Representative Hong Kong, GBA and South East Asia, Port of Hamburg Marketing; Suzanne Murtha, Vice President, Advanced Mobility, Payments Systems and Automation, AECOM; Pariwat Kanithasen, Deputy Director, Payments & Fintech Policy Department, Bank of Thailand; Daryl Ho, Executive Director (Monetary Management), Hong Kong Monetary Authority; Jennifer Yu Cheng, Group President & Deputy Vice Chairwoman, CTF Education Group among others. They will share their insights through keynote speeches and panel discussions in a total of eight thematic forums. Industry decision-makers, entrepreneurs, and investors from various countries and regions are expected to attend this annual important innovation and technology event.

The Hon Paul Chan Mo-po, Financial Secretary of the HKSAR Government; Michael Wong Wai-lun, Deputy Financial Secretary of the HKSAR Government; and Prof the Hon Dong Sun, Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry, are among HKSAR Government Officials set to address the audience at the two-day event. InnoEX, jointly organised by the HKSAR Government and the Hong Kong Trade Development Council will also be held concurrently at the HKCEC.

**Ir Tony Wong, Government Chief Information Officer** said, "With the rapid development of digital technology, it has become an important new quality productive force for economic development. The digital economy is revolutionising traditional industries and business models, and creating multifold opportunities for the high-quality development of Hong Kong. The Digital Policy Office, to be established within this year, will be responsible for formulating policies on digital government,

data governance and information technology, as well as co-ordinating with departments to offer more digital services, in order to support the long-term development of digital economy. The 'Digital Economy Summit' also provides a good opportunity to promote the development and innovation of digital economy in Hong Kong. I look forward to exploring the potential and opportunity on digital economy with industry elites and business leaders at the annual flagship mega event."

**Peter Yan, Chief Executive Officer of Cyberport** said, "We are in a new era defined by digitalisation and green transformation, where innovative technology is crucial in building a sustainable society. The smart economy, intelligent industrialisation and supply chain, AI, and Web3 play crucial roles in this. Supported by the Hong Kong SAR government, the 'Digital Transformation Support Pilot Programme' will begin inviting SMEs from the catering and retail sectors at the start of the year. They will be able to select suitable off-the-shelf digital solutions and apply for matching grants, with at least 8,000 eligible SMEs expected to benefit. Green technology and finance, driven by digitalisation and green transformation, present tremendous opportunities and will form a thriving industry cluster, contributing to stable and sustainable economic growth and transforming the vision of a sustainable society into a tangible reality. The annual DES event, jointly organised by the government and Cyberport, provides a platform for the world's influential leaders in technology, business, academia, and government to share insights and collaborate enabling them to delve deep into areas such as innovative technology applications and the digital economy, and discuss how to achieve a sustainable future. It also helps realise Hong Kong's role as a 'super-connector' between the Greater Bay Area and the world in fields such as green finance and green technology."

DES 2024 will be showcasing an impressive line-up of industry leaders. They will share forward-looking insights and engage in interactive discussions with attendees to exchange ideas, and explore the development and strategies of innovative technology and applications, working together towards a sustainable future. The summit will also include a live online session. For more details of the DES and to register, please visit <https://www.digitaleconomysummit.hk>.

Highlights from the eight thematic forums include:

### **12 April**

- **Visionary Forum: Embracing a New Era of Innovation**

Smart technology is the catalyst that transforms cities into sustainable powerhouses to fuel economic growth. Government officials, global tech leaders, and renowned industry experts will exchange actionable insights on how disruptive technology enables cities to transition rapidly into a digital-first, collaborative data-driven economy, and a people-centric innovative ecosystem.

Officiating guests and key speakers include:

- Chris Tung, President of Alibaba Group, Strategic Development
- Sean Yang, Global Cyber and Privacy Officer, Huawei
- Nando Gil de Bernabe, Chief Operating Officer, Cisco (Asia Pacific, Japan, and Greater China)

- Nadia Omer, CEO, AirAsia MOVE

- **Smart Economy & Business Innovation Forum: Innovators of the Digital Economy, Enterprises of the Future**

To stand out in the digital economy, businesses should stay ahead of tech and innovation trends. Industry experts from the private and public sectors will unpack the trends in business transformation accelerated by the data-driven economy, and share how they reinvent their products and solutions to keep up with the ever-evolving needs of the market.

Key speakers include:

- Ricky Leung, Executive Director (Engineering & Technology), Airport Authority Hong Kong
- Peter Brewin, Partner, Crypto and Blockchain, PwC Hong Kong
- Tim Fu, Market Leader (Hong Kong, Korea & Taiwan), PayPal Hong Kong Limited
- Ryan Lai, Chief Executive Officer, foodpanda Hong Kong

- **Smart Industrialisation & Supply Chain Forum: Transformative Technologies for Smart Manufacturing & Supply Chain Optimisation**

Cutting-edge technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), extended reality (XR), and smart ports are revolutionising the manufacturing industry and supply chains. This forum explores how these technology breakthroughs can optimise efficiency, agility, and sustainability in manufacturing.

Key speakers include:

- Anne Thiesen, Representative Hong Kong, GBA and South East Asia, Port of Hamburg Marketing
- Prof Ma Peifeng, Vice-Chancellor Assistant Professor, The Chinese University of Hong Kong
- Dr Tan Chaolin, Senior Scientist, Singapore Institute of Manufacturing Technology (SIMTech), A\*STAR Research Entities
- Makoto Ito, Regional Director, North Asia, Realwear, Inc.

- **Energy, Environment & Mobility Forum: Innovate and Invest for a Better Future – The Roadmap to Smart Mobility and a Sustainable Future**

Industry experts will explore the transformative potential of smart mobility in promoting energy-saving practices and fostering a greener environment by integrating innovative technologies. They will also delve into the latest advancements in electric and autonomous vehicles, intelligent transportation systems, and sustainable infrastructure.

Key speakers include:

- Suzanne Murtha, Vice President, Advanced Mobility, Payments Systems and

Automation, AECOM

- Loretta Fong, Mainland China and Hong Kong Sustainability Deputy Leader, PwC
- Damien Wu, Managing Director of Corporate Development, Chinachem Group

### **13 April**

- **Smart Finance Forum: Tech-empowered Digital Finance for a Sustainable Future**

Industry leaders, financial experts, and policymakers will engage in discussions around the latest disruptive developments in artificial intelligence (AI), green finance, and Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDC). Speakers will share valuable insights on government strategies, regulatory frameworks, green investment opportunities, and other aspects with the ambition of achieving a greener future.

Officiating guests and key speakers include:

- Pariwat Kanithasen, Deputy Director, Payments & Fintech Policy Department, Bank of Thailand
- Trevor Cheung, Chief Digital Officer, Corporate Banking, Bank of China (Hong Kong)
- Derrick Loi, General Manager, International Business, Ant Group, Digital Technologies

- **AI & Web3 Forum: Digital Revolution Reinventing Businesses & Communities**

The fusion of blockchain, Web3.0, and artificial intelligence (AI) are revolutionising industries. Industry leaders and experts will inspire innovative developments and provide deep insights into stablecoin regulations, mass adoption strategies, decentralised physical infrastructure (DePIN), real-world assets (RWA), and the synergies between AI and Web3.0.

Key speakers include:

- Daryl Ho, JP, Executive Director (Monetary Management), Hong Kong Monetary Authority
- Dr Xiao Feng, Chairman & CEO, HashKey Group

- **Living and Inclusion Forum – Inclusive Tech: Empowering Lives and Strengthening Communities**

This session will bring together experts, policymakers, and stakeholders to explore how collaboration across sectors included Tourism, Cultural & Leisure, Food Tech, Social Innovation, Healthcare & Aging, Education & Talent Cultivation and Greentech, can address complex challenges and accelerate progress towards sustainable development goals.

Key speakers include:

- The Hon Bernard Charnwut Chan, GBM, GBS, JP, Chairman, M Plus Museum Ltd
- Jennifer Yu Cheng, Group President & Deputy Vice Chairwoman, CTF Education Group
- David Yeung, Founder & CEO, Green Monday
- Tommie Lo, Founder & CEO, Preface

- **Elite Innovators Forum – Data Innovations: Pioneering the Digital Frontier**

This forum showcases how the brightest minds and cutting-edge technologies can work together to harness the power of data. With that they can pioneer innovative frontiers and drive digital transformation towards a smart city, and catalyse the development of both public and private sectors.

Highlight events:

- IOT Data Hackathon 2024 Award Presentation Ceremony
- Hong Kong / Shanghai Co-operation Open Data Challenge 2024 Kick-off Ceremony

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



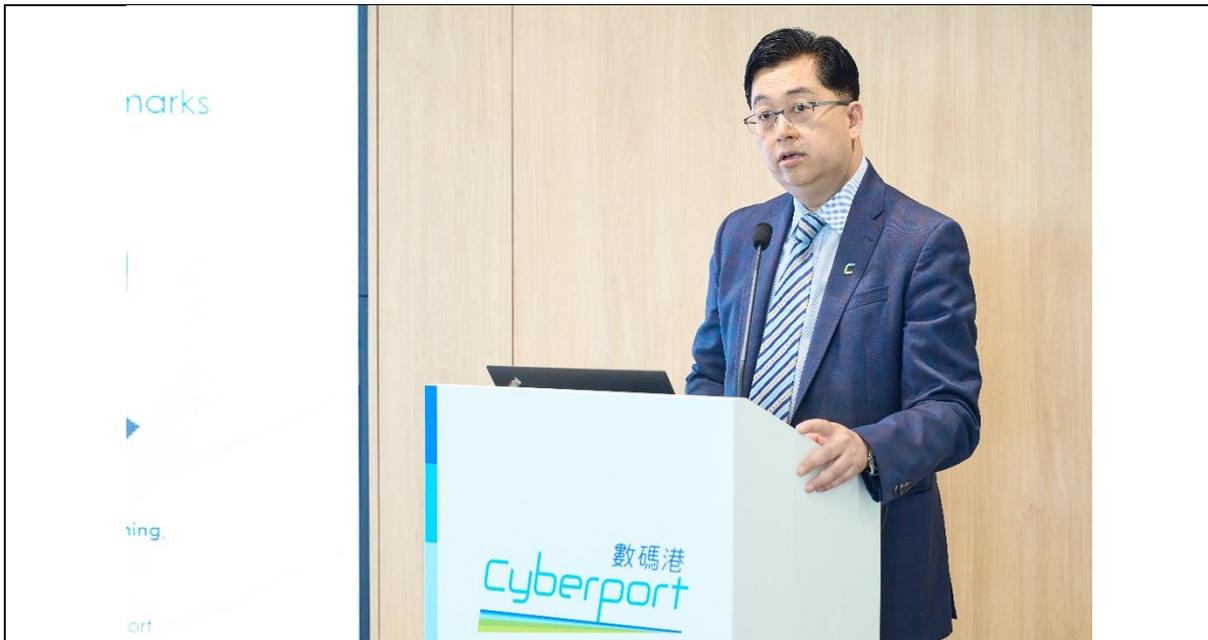
**Peter Yan, Chief Executive Officer of Cyberport (left) and Ir Tony Wong, Government Chief Information Officer (right), sharing insights ahead of the Digital Economy Summit 2024. The Summit will bring together leaders from technology, business, academia, and government to envision how smart city technologies can supercharge economic growth at global and regional levels, for the development of a smarter society.**



**Ir Tony Wong, Government Chief Information Officer** said, “the ‘Digital Economy Summit’ provides a good opportunity to promote the development and innovation of digital economy in Hong Kong. He looks forward to exploring the potential and opportunity on digital economy with industry elites and business leaders at the annual flagship mega event.”



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**Mr Eric Chan, Chief Public Mission Officer of Cyberport** introduces the key topics of the eight thematic forums at DES 2024. The summit is expected to gather over 100 representatives from overseas, mainland China, and Hong Kong, exchange insights on smart cities and sustainable future development to accelerate technological innovation, and foster a more dynamic, forward-thinking, and sustainable future.



**Georgina Chu, Chief Corporate Development Officer, Hong Kong Cyberport** (first left); **Tommie Lo, Founder & CEO, Preface**; **Loretta Fong, Mainland China and Hong Kong Sustainability Deputy Leader, PwC** (centre); and **Arthur Lam, Co-founder & CEO, Negawatt Utility Limited** (first right), took part in a panel discussion at the briefing, focusing on strategies to foster a sustainable future within the emerging digital economy.

**For media enquiries, please contact:**

Cyberport

Cindy Fung

Phone: (852) 3166 3841

Email: [cindyfung@cyberport.hk](mailto:cindyfung@cyberport.hk)

Weber Shandwick

Tommy Ho

Phone: (852) 2533 9913

Email: [tho@webershandwick.com](mailto:tho@webershandwick.com)

Jennifer Yiu

Phone: (852) 2533 9942

Email: [jyi@webershandwick.com](mailto:jyi@webershandwick.com)

**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).