

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Global Prosperity Summit 2025 highlights Hong Kong's role as a super-connector as experts from around the world convene to discuss space innovation, AI and the trade war

(Hong Kong, 20 May 2025) – Today marked the opening of the 2025 edition of Global Prosperity Summit (GPS2025), Hong Kong's first-ever conference designed to address the most important geopolitical issues facing the world. Following the success of last year's inaugural event, GPS2025 is reinforcing the city's position as a super-connector by bringing together renowned academic and international experts from across the globe to exchange views on subjects that are impacting global prosperity. The co-organisers said they are honoured that Mr Wu Hailong, President of The China Public Diplomacy Association, delivered the keynote address to kick off GPS2025.

Speaking during the keynote address, "China's Worldview", Mr Wu said:

- "There are mainly four trends on the international landscape: the rise of China, the fault line in U.S.-West relations, the rise of the Global South and the shift of the world's centre of gravity to Asia."
- "On Sino-US relations, China will continue to adhere to the principles of mutual respect, peaceful coexistence and win-win cooperation as proposed by President Xi Jinping. At the same time, we hope the United States can recognise the broader trajectory of historical progress and view China's growth objectively."
- "On Sino-EU relations, this year marks the 50th anniversary of China-EU diplomatic relations. China retains its confidence in Europe and believes Europe can be a cooperation partner. The two sides have the capability and wisdom to address existing issues properly and pave the way together for another promising 50 years."
- "Amid the current global transformation, a new force is emerging, and that is the Global South. Today, the Global South accounts for over 40 percent of global economic output and contributes 80 percent of global growth. It is a pivotal force in safeguarding peace, driving development and advancing global governance. It is reshaping the global political and economic landscapes while causing a historical shift in the global balance of power. A trend is taking shape with the 'rise of the South and decline of the North'. Increasingly, Global South countries are gaining voice and influence in international affairs."
- "As long as we uphold the vision of a shared home, remain committed to building a community with a shared future for mankind and approach issues through equal-footed consultation and mutual accommodation, no problem is unsolvable."

Following the keynote address were three panel discussions: "The Promise of Space – Breakthroughs and Potential", "AI and the Future of Work", and "Trade War, Hot Wars and the Global Economy".

During the panel on trade war, speakers said they consider communications and cooperation to be important in managing the issue going forward. (Highlights of the panel discussions are enclosed in the Annex.)

Mrs Regina Ip, a founding member of GPS and Chairperson of the Board of Governors of the Savantas Policy Institute, said, “Global Prosperity Summit is a joint effort by the government, think tanks and chambers of commerce to tell the true story of Hong Kong and help the world recognise the unique role Hong Kong can play in bridging divides and reducing differences.”

In addition to the Savantas Policy Institute and Shanghai Institutes for International Studies, the European Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong has joined as a co-organiser this year. GPS2025 is being held from 19 May to 21 May 2025 at The Fullerton Ocean Park Hotel Hong Kong. Participants include renowned scholars and experts from mainland China, Europe, North America and Asia, who have arrived in Hong Kong to exchange views and share suggestions on the critical issues that are affecting global development the most.

GPS2025 continues tomorrow with two more panel discussions, “Climate Change and Sustainable Development” and “Hong Kong's Bridging Role in a Changing World”.

- Ends -

Photo captions:

	<p>1. Mr Hailong Wu, President of The China Public Diplomacy Association, delivers the keynote speech on “China's Worldview”.</p>
	<p>2. Mrs Regina Ip, Chairperson of the Board of Governors of the Savantas Policy Institute, delivers the welcome remarks to kick off the two-day summit.</p>
	<p>3. Group photo of Panel 1, “The Promise of Space – Breakthroughs and Potential”</p>

	<p>4. Group photo of Panel 2, “AI and the Future of Work”</p>
	<p>5. Group photo of Panel 3, “Trade War, Hot Wars and the Global Economy”</p>
	<p>6. Speakers and participants at the summit feature renowned scholars and international experts from around the world. Guests include (from left to right) Mr Iñaki Amate, Chairman, European Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong; Mrs Regina Ip, founding member of GPS and Chairperson of the Board of Governors of the Savantas Policy Institute; Mr Hailong Wu, President of The China Public Diplomacy Association; Professor Jiemian Yang, Chairman of the Academic Advisory Council of Shanghai Institutes for International Studies; and Mr Li Yongsheng, Deputy Commissioner of the Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China in the HKSAR.</p>

About Global Prosperity Summit

Global Prosperity Summit was initiated by a group of business, academic and experts in Hong Kong to provide a platform for frank, objective and rational discussion of dominant issues impacting global prosperity. The inaugural Summit was held in Hong Kong in 2024.

About Savantas Policy Institute

Savantas Policy Institute (SPI) was founded in 2006 by a group of Hong Kong belongers with overseas experience who care deeply about Hong Kong. The core vision of SPI is to enhance Hong Kong’s transformation into a knowledge-based economy. SPI engages mainly in conducting public policy research and analysis and recommending appropriate long-term developmental strategies, as well as promoting public understanding of and participation in the economic and social development of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

About Shanghai Institutes for International Studies

Established in 1960, Shanghai Institutes for International Studies (SIIS) has played a crucial role in conducting strategic research, providing policy recommendations and contributing to the understanding of international politics, economics, security and other related fields. It has evolved into an important institution informing and shaping China's foreign policy and global engagement and has been accredited as one of the most influential think tanks in China and around the world.

About European Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong

Initiated in 1997, the European Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong (EuroCham) is a non-governmental business interest group. The EuroCham is a 'Chamber of Chambers' with its membership comprising 16 European Chambers based in Hong Kong. The appointed representatives of these chambers make up EuroCham's Board of Directors. Over 1,600 European companies are operating in Hong Kong. In 2019, Europe maintained its position as Hong Kong's second-largest trading partner after mainland China and Hong Kong's second-largest export destination and third-largest import supplier.

Annex: Discussion highlights of Panel Discussions at the GPS2025

Panel 1: The Promise of Space - Breakthroughs and Potential

Moderator: Professor Yang Gao, Professor of Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

Speakers:

- Ms Katherine Courtney, Chair, Global Network on Sustainability in Space
- Professor Xurong Dong, Dean of School of Aerospace and BDS Technology at Guangdong Industries Polytechnic University
- Dr Adam Janikowski, Founder and Managing Director, BDJ Capital

Professor Xurong Dong

- He recommended that Hong Kong leverage its international nature to "establish a joint working group" and create a "Space and Time Intelligence Innovation Hub in Hong Kong" to address space applications and "serve emerging market countries" by providing training aligned with internationally recognized standards and [fostering] academic exchanges."

Dr. Adam Janikowski

- On the pivot from public financing to private financing and the commercialization of space, he stated that Hong Kong is blessed with major advantages, with its rule of law, location, and deep capital markets. he expressed his hope that Hong Kong can "leverage and combine our strengths and advantages as a super connector, between GBA and partnerships and trade alliances." He suggested that Hong Kong and Asia learn from Luxembourg, which "has a very commercial space focus. There is a roadmap for us to take advantage of."

Ms. Katherine Courtney

- Something that Hong Kong really could do that would help support progress for sustainability, which is to provide the bridge for dialogues and host different stakeholders, echoed that Hong Kong can play its role as a “superconnector”
- On space governance and space best practices, she expressed that apart from individual country’s efforts, the world needs something like the 1944 Chicago Convention, which established the International Civil Aviation organization, and can now potentially establish a non-military intergovernmental independent agency for space and that the process of modernizing our regulations for space should be inclusive, for both advanced economies and developing countries
- She added, “China and the US have very complementary technologies for space situational awareness. But there is very little information sharing. That’s something we need to fix.”

Professor Yang Gao

- She concluded that we should "innovate responsibly, collaborate globally, [and] invest strategically on space," and expressed her hope for a "shared vision of a collaborative approach that will involve governments, commercial and academic players" and also create a "long-term sustainable space environment"

Panel 2: AI and the Future of Work

Moderator: Mr James Root, Senior Partner, Bain & Company and Chair, Bain Futures

Speakers:

- Mr Zack Kass, Advisor, Futurist, and Former Head of Go-To-Market at Open AI
- Dr Andrew Ng, Managing General Partner at AI Fund and Founder of DeepLearning.AI (by Zoom)
- Professor Y.C. Richard Wong, Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Philip Wong Kennedy Wong Professor in Political Economy, The University of Hong Kong
- Professor Lan Xue, Dean of Schwarzman College, Tsinghua University

Mr. James Root

- He set the tone for the discussion by proposing three potential scenarios for AI in the workplace - enabling processes and systems and tools; leaving behind less attractive jobs, those that most people don't really want; or a future where there are no jobs left at all. He raised a question - whether AI enabled processes and systems and tools can actually help us in our organisations

Mr Zack Kass

- AI presents a world where life or work is strictly purposeful and mission driven – it will be a world that is economically prosperous, where we have to find meaning in things that is not our job

- He added that the upskilling question is actually much more fundamental when it comes to AI and the future of work, as the rate at which this technology is getting better is much faster than the rate at which people are taking an interest in exploring it.
- He thinks that in the future, we will differentiate not on how intelligent we are, not on how much we know, but on how we make each other feel
- AI can make more jobs become economically more viable because the cost value will go down, and that it will be potentially harder for large employers to connect people deeply to work

Dr Andrew Ng

- He stated that "in the future, the ability to tell a computer exactly what you want so they'll do it for you will be one of the most important skills." Instead of replacing human resources, he argued that AI is "changing the nature of work, taking repetitive tasks off people's plates" and "empowering individuals to do much more."
- He added that "when something becomes easier, this will make individuals much more powerful." From a historical perspective, "when individual productivity goes up, individual wages also go up, [and] people actually do much better when people are much more productive."
- He also suggests everyone to learn coding in order to harness the power of AI

Professor Y.C. Richard Wong

- On the potential of AI and how it might replace jobs, he stated that AI is a tool that we should use "to help ourselves and try to make ourselves useful in the new environment, and therefore" we should not "fear, but to engage and to harness that technology, and to learn it as soon as possible."
- He also added once there is technological progress, you actually have an enormous increase in income or wealth, and this creates new demands for new products and new services
- He also stresses on the importance of creativity and authenticity of human, as these are what AI couldn't do

Professor Lan Xue

- Responding to a question regarding the ethical implications of AI, he agreed that we are going through a stage of transition. However, he pointed out the key question of "who bears the cost of adjustment." He highlighted that the two main groups facing the biggest challenges brought about by AI will be the younger generation who are most recently going into the job market, as well as those who are soon about to retire and are "going to have a huge challenge in adjusting to new jobs."
- Regarding the question of how the Chinese government should approach its workforce development strategies in this world of AI, Xue Lan replied that there are three main policies that the government can pursue. First, the government should get the general public to learn about AI. Second is to "try to really engage people to learn about the skills

like coding," so that "they can use AI in their daily work in a much more efficient way."

Third, the government should "understand what's the impact of AI in the job sectors and what are the new jobs that's going to be created and how to prepare people for those new, potentially new jobs."

- Professor Xue talked about three types of AI risks: the malicious use of AI (like deepfakes); malfunction of the system; and systemic risk (like employment risks). The second type of risk is most closely related to the recent developments in AGI (artificial general intelligence), and Xue argued that this risk should be the priority for governments to address, as the worst scenario "would be the so-called AI system out of control." He noted that this "might create so-called existential risk for human beings," arguing that it is the kind of risk that should be the priority of governments' focus
- He also highlighted the potential of AI in education, that it can transform education from the model built during the era of industrial revolutions to a unique experience for individuals in the future and unlock their potential

Panel 3: Trade War, Hot Wars, and the Global Economy

Moderator: Mr Iñaki Amate, Chairman, European Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong

Speakers:

- Mr Jamil Anderlini, Regional Director, Europe, POLITICO
- Mr John A. Clarke, Fellow of Maastricht University and Fellow of the Royal Asiatic Society, Special Adviser on Trade, Former Head of the EU Delegation to the WTO and UN
- Mr Simon Lacey, Head, Digital Trade and Geopolitics, World Economic Forum
- Professor Jiemian Yang, Chairman of Academic Advisory Council of Shanghai Institutes for International Studies

Mr Iñaki Amate

- Inaki opened the panel by stating that the topic of trade war cannot be more timely and relevant, and has evolved a lot since the topic was first set
- He concluded the panel by stating his hope "that Hong Kong keeps playing an important role as a super connector in a multilateral world, because we really need to get out from the situation where we are today."

Mr Jamil Anderlini

- He described Trump as "a revolutionary president and probably the most consequential president in America in terms of the sort of influence on the tools of government since FDR... since the New Deal." He added that "inside the US, the change feels much more powerful and consequential than under any president in our lifetime."
- Anderlini expressed that he thinks "Hong Kong can be a bridge," particularly as it "remains a very, very important financial centre." He noted that despite the challenges and misperceptions, "Hong Kong needs to continue to play a bridging role."

- He expressed his belief that "Trump represents the biggest crisis that the European Union has ever faced, ever," but that his policies "might end up making Europe great again," as Europe "is really a crisis machine" and only gets its act together whenever a crisis emerges

Mr John A. Clarke

- He highlighted the fact that the trade policy of Trump 2.0 "is all about national security," as the liberation day tariffs were implemented under the Emergency Powers Act and not the US Trade Act. From his point of view, Clarke pointed out that the US has pulled out of the rules-based international order, and noted that doesn't come back quickly
- He pointed out that "Trump's approach is zero-sum game," where "there's a winner and a loser." He noted that as a trade negotiator, "the only agreements that stick are ones which are balanced, where both sides gain to some extent." He stressed that "once trust is lost, it takes a long time to regain, as the singer Rihanna said: Know once a good girl's gone bad, it don't come back."
- He stated that we are in a world where coordination is needed but is missing. He noted that the world needs "a new sort of Congress of Vienna, where the major economies and powers in the world can actually try and find a modus Vivendi."
- He remarked that China "was right to retaliate very strongly because that's the only language that Trump understands." He also commented that "the UK made a big mistake... in negotiating with Trump, accepting a deal which not only maintained tariffs on UK exports," but actually the UK "introduced WTO illegal preferential access to US exporters."
- He added that the EU has to take the lead "in coordinating with China, with Canada, with the ASEAN countries and others to have a coordinated, solid, uniform response to the Trump reciprocal tariff plan fully consistent with international law, WTO law," but added that "the UK has broken ranks even before it started."
- Mrs. Regina Ip asked what levers the WTO has to compel the US to abide by its rules, or to establish a new Congress of Vienna. Clarke replied that "until recently, it was possible in the WTO to resolve trade disputes," but noted that "the USA decapitated the dispute settlement at the appellate body." He emphasized that it is "important to give a public signal that the USA is an international pariah when it comes to its disregard for international law," as "the USA is pulling out of or trying to dismantle" the WHO and the Paris Climate Treaty and many other institutions

Mr Simon Lacey

- He acknowledged that technology is part of trade war and also strategic competition. He drew on history to demonstrate how China understands the importance of technology. He added that the US and China understand how important technology is for national security and competitiveness. But it is the Trump side that is missing the importance of trade in services, while China is moving towards a new service-based economy.

Professor Jiemian Yang

- He emphasized that "China and Europe have their structural foundation for being major players in the world. Both are big enough, rich enough and smart enough and long enough in this world arena." He noted that despite differences and competition, "mutual interdependence and mutual beneficiary still are" the main factors in the China-Europe relationship
- When asked about the strategic way forward for Europe and China, Yang replied that, "China and Europe have to strategically loo[k] at each other as independent major players in the world." He also expressed "hope that Europe could be continuing on its way of unity, of diversity, and also try to move ahead with its strategic autonomy, rather than be interfered by outside forces."
- He also added that China and Europe should continue talking on a subnational level, and that both sides "should and could continue to build up strategic dialogue mechanisms." He noted that "Hong Kong is a special case" as a "super-connector," "super-platform," "super-bridge", and that he is confident that Hong Kong can play a "better role" in 10, 20 years, because "China would be even better and Europe could come back to their unities."
- I think that China and Europe should and could continue to build up strategic mechanism. US is having a crash landing. ... China is working very carefully for a soft landing. Other smaller countries are no landing