

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Global Prosperity Summit 2025 successfully concludes

Event underscores Hong Kong's bridging role, contributions in people-to-people diplomacy

(Hong Kong, 21 May 2025) – Global Prosperity Summit 2025 (GPS2025), jointly organised by Savantas Policy Institute, the Shanghai Institutes for International Studies and the European Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong, came to a close today following two days of insightful discussions by distinguished leaders and experts from around the world on the most pressing issues impacting global prosperity. The event also underscored Hong Kong's bridging role and soft power in advancing people-to-people diplomacy and facilitating dialogue for addressing geopolitical issues.

Mrs Regina Ip, Chairperson of the Board of Governors of the Savantas Policy Institute, said that the final two panel discussions at this year's Global Prosperity Summit focused on climate change and sustainable development, as well as Hong Kong's role. Quoting speakers at the event, she underscored the importance of enhancing efforts to showcase Hong Kong's cultural richness and achievements to the global audience, for the world to see the city's diverse identity, so that Hong Kong can fully demonstrate its role as a bridge, and continue to play a unique role on the international stage.

Today's programme began with the first panel discussion on "Climate Change and Sustainable Development", a panel that brought together international experts for an in-depth exploration of issues such as climate change and green transformation. The Summit then concluded with "Hong Kong's Bridging Role in a Changing World", where international relations experts from the United Kingdom and United States shared their unique perspectives and insights. (Key points from these discussions can be found in the Annex.)

Regarding the many strengths of Hong Kong, Ambassador Craig Allen, Senior Counselor, The Cohen Group, noted that "Hong Kong has some of the greatest entrepreneurs in the world"; "The financial markets are superb"; and "diversity is Hong Kong's strength".

Sir Sherard Cowper-Coles KCMG LVO, Chair, China-Britain Business Council and Senior Adviser to the Group, HSBC Holdings plc, also pointed out that "I've always thought that Hong Kong undersells itself, not realizing its extraordinary assets, which in this time and this world, make it exceptionally well-placed. I think I'm right in saying that 70% of the foreign direct investment coming out of China goes through Hong Kong, 60% of the incoming investment into China comes through this territory. Britain does about as much trade with Hong Kong as we do with Japan."

He also said “You only have to walk through Central, dance in Lan Kwai Fong, do what you always do in Hong Kong, to know that it is special and different and will remain so. So I say to my friends from Hong Kong here - keep selling Hong Kong. Be confident that it is what the mainland wants, it is what the leadership wants, and it is what the leadership will support.”

The organisers of GPS2025 said they are grateful to the speakers and experts who came to Hong Kong from the mainland and countries across the globe to share their profound insights and forward-thinking perspectives. They added that the summit will continue to invite renowned experts with a view to fostering global prosperity and strengthening cross-region and cross-sector collaboration.

- Ends -

Photo Captions:

	<p>1. Group photo of Panel 4 “Climate Change and Sustainable Development”.</p>
	<p>2. Group photo of Panel 5 “Hong Kong's Bridging Role in a Changing World”.</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 4: Climate Change and Sustainable Development

Moderator: Professor Peng Gong, Chair Professor of Global Sustainability and Vice President of Academic Development, The University of Hong Kong

Speakers:

- Mr Haibo Gou, Vice President of the China Institute of International Studies and Former Special Representative for Climate Change Negotiations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Mrs Deepali Khanna, Vice President, The Rockefeller Foundation
- Dr Elena Xoplaki, Acting Head of the Climatology, Climate Dynamics and Climate Change Group at the Department of Geography, Justus Liebig University Giessen

Professor Peng Gong

- Professor Peng Gong opened the panel by addressing the significance of climate change for mankind and global prosperity, emphasized the link between climate change, health and sustainable development.
- On how other nations can work together more effectively to continue to accelerate progress on tackling climate change, with the climate skepticism skeptics in the Trump administration, he said, "I think this is not an issue whether or not the United States as a whole not participating in tackling the climate change issue, even though President Trump in his government made some decisions. Philanthropy is also making more efforts to combat the issue we are facing today, so not to mention the whole world under certain negative pushes, we are gaining more positive action. We are all optimistic that we work together. Even though there are different opinions, we can still push ahead and solve our problem into the future."

Mr. Haibo Gou

- On the broader relationship between human beings and nature, Gou cited "Xi Jinping Thought on Ecological Civilization," which emphasizes "harmonious coexistence" and regards "the relationship between humans and nature as a dialectical and unified whole and... constituting a community of life." He added that green transformation means we need to coordinate multiple goals, including environmental protection, economic development, job creation and poverty elevation.
- He stated that at COP 20 in Paris 10 years ago, there was a wish "to trim the global warming to be under 1.5°." However, after nine years, the Earth's temperature is exceeding 1.5° before the pre-industrial time, a trend he warned that "is very dangerous."
- He highlighted four climate challenges: First, "from the scientific perspective, climate change poses a serious risk to humanity." Second, "from a political perspective," "President Trump ordered withdrawal from Paris agreement," and "has implemented 145 executive orders, weakening environment regulations and increasing fossil fuel production and use." Third, from an implementation perspective, "lack of capacity has been preventing developing countries from meaningful climate actions," particularly in

terms of financing. Fourth, he pointed out a "manifest gap in climate change which needs to be filled in a timely manner." He noted that "the global ambition to triple renewable energy and double energy efficiency implies significant increase of the requirement for critical energy transition mineral, the minerals necessary to construct, to produce, to store and to distribute renewable energies." However, while critical minerals are critical opportunities for developing countries, as it means "more jobs, diversified economies and boosted revenue," at the same time they also bring about possible challenges such as "escalated environmental degradation and social instability, geopolitical tensions."

- He put forward four suggestions to improve international governance for closer cooperation and collaboration. First, he noted that "we need to adhere to the path of green development and transform to a new model that will lead to global prosperity." Second, he noted that we must "safeguard open and inclusive economic globalization." Third, he pointed out that we need to improve climate multilateral governance. Fourth, he addressed the need to "improve governance on critical minerals."

Mrs. Deepali Khanna

- Khanna emphasized the importance of philanthropy in sustainable development, as it is transforming the lives of millions of people who are facing the impacts of the climate crisis. She explained that the Rockefeller Foundation is trying to see how it can "create pathways to get people out of the vulnerabilities by them having dignified jobs and building up resilient systems."
- Looking to the future, Khanna reiterated the need for stronger public-private philanthropic partnerships, as "sustainable action on the ground" requires everybody to collaborate and "take risks." Asian philanthropists are stepping up, and Hong Kong is doing a phenomenal job. She expressed her optimism that Asia can lead the path.

Dr. Elena Xoplaki

- Xoplaki highlighted the need to develop an early warning system for natural disasters and discussed the use of AI to support disaster management, stressing there is a strong need for the use of AI in "addressing challenges and gaps... along the whole disaster management value chain," but that in order to do so, the research community, governments and local authorities "have to harmonise and provide information broadly."
- She noted that there are efforts "trying to leverage as much the abilities of AI and addressing challenges and gaps actually along the whole disaster management value chain," and emphasized that "the high quality of the AI tools that are currently available do require the need of standardization in order to allow governments to integrate those standards into their national laws."

Panel 5: Hong Kong's Bridging Role in a Changing World

Moderator: Mr Vikram Channa, Vice President and Head of Content & Products Greater China and South East Asia, Warner Bros. Discovery

Speakers:

- Ambassador Craig Allen, Senior Counselor, The Cohen Group
- Sir Sherard Cowper-Coles KCMG LVO, Chair, China-Britain Business Council and Senior Adviser to the Group, HSBC Holdings plc
- Professor Howard W. French, Professor of Journalism, Columbia Journalism School, Columbia University

Mr. Vikram Channa

- He opened the panel by stating that the world is entering a “reset” and perhaps Hong Kong may well be positioned to share its experiences via its DNA of “One Country, Two Systems,” and take the opportunity to “play a very unique role again.”
- He shared his experience of filming a series with one of the hottest TV stars of China called Wang Yibo. In his interview, the young star shared that he is “not threatened by AI,” and Channa noted this reflected how young people in China embrace technology and how it is different from the West.

Ambassador Craig Allen

- Allen was very much struck by Mrs. Regina Ip's opening comments that Hong Kong will “stand by our country and our unwavering dedication to the multinational order.” He echoed her statement, emphasizing that “Hong Kong's strengths are indeed undergirded by the economic openness and free trade spirit of this great city.”
- Regarding the many strengths of Hong Kong, he noted that “Hong Kong has some of the greatest entrepreneurs in the world”; “The financial markets are superb”; and “diversity is Hong Kong's strength.”
- He stressed that for the prosperity of China, for the prosperity of Hong Kong, for the prosperity of the world, the current disequilibrium in economy should be corrected.
- On the vibrancy of Hong Kong's culture characterized by One Country, Two Systems, he reflected that the cultural elements of the Hong Kong blend well with “Chinese traditional Han virtues, color, creativity, dynamism, and outward vibrancy.” He expressed hope that Hong Kong will utilize “that deep well of cultural wealth to better inform Hong Kong's place in the world and to drive Hong Kong's status and prestige going forward.”
- Regarding advice to the Hong Kong Government, Allen suggested “to approach the world with confidence. And to send out your cultural ambassadors, your film, your food, your video, it is deeply, deeply welcome and we want to see more of Hong Kong all around the world.”

Sir Sherard Cowper-Coles KCMG LVO

- Sir Sherard expressed that he felt everyone who benefited from Hong Kong need to repay the debt by helping Hong Kong on the next stage of its remarkable journey. He suggested that Hong Kong should keep being confident as that it is what the mainland wants. "It is what the leadership wants, and it is what the leadership will support" because having this place that is special and different is in everybody's interests, the world's interests, and also in the US's interest.
- He explained how UK-China trade is demonstrating comparative advantage and mutual benefit. He added "in the end, global trade is about the wealth and happiness of ordinary people, and that's why global commerce [matters] so much, and why putting up barriers, whether it's leaving the European Union or tariffs or whatever it may be, it's so bad for ordinary people."
- On his interactions with Chief Executive John Lee, He noted that "the more I see him the more I admire him because I see him listening. I see him leading in a quiet and determined way, doing the right thing for Hong Kong and its people, and so I wouldn't presume to offer advice except to carry on doing what you're already doing." He concluded by emphasizing that "everyone benefits from a successful Hong Kong."
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- You only have to walk through Central, dance in Lan Kwai Fong, do what you always do in Hong Kong, to know that it is special and different and will remain so. So I say to my friends from Hong Kong here, keep selling Hong Kong. Be confident that it is what the mainland wants, it is what the leadership wants, and it is what the leadership will support.

Professor Howard W. French

- French drew an analogy between Hong Kong's adjustment to the growing wealth of Mainland China and the United States' current adjustment to China's growing wealth and power. He noted that "Hong Kong has had to adjust to this disruption," and emphasized that "Hong Kong has correctly understood that its opportunities lie not in bemoaning, not in regretting, not in looking back to this momentary position that it enjoyed in the not so distant past, but looking forward and understanding that the prosperity, this new stirring prosperity of Mainland is in fact an opportunity for Hong Kong," and added that the United States should also attempt to "see ourselves gaining something by the rise of China's wealth and the sort of enlargement of China's place in the world."
- Regarding the success of the Greater Bay Area, French suggested that in the future, Hong Kong "has a tremendous amount to teach to places where you have emerging mega regions about integration, about trade, about innovation, about banking and investment, about infrastructure, about the soft sides of all of these things as well which get into culture."