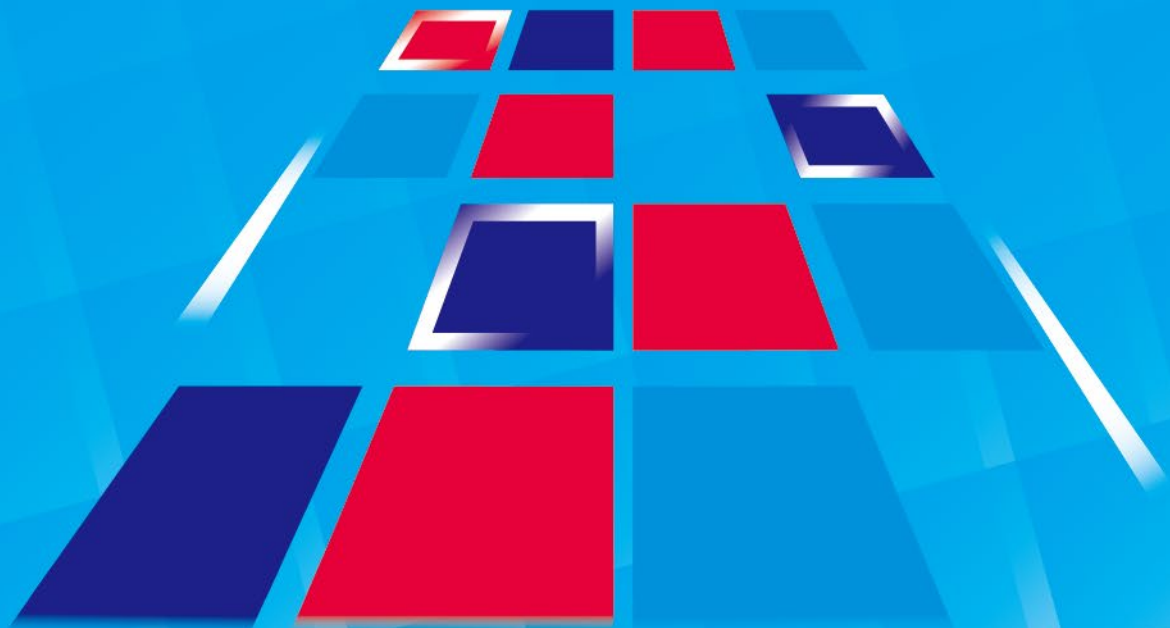


Fore Sight Journal

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Foresight 2022

- Theme: “Dare to Innovate, Capture the Opportunities”
- 17 political, business and innovation and technology heavyweights and industry leaders joined forces
- Four forums exploring upcoming market trends, outlook for I&T development and business opportunities with a forward-looking vision

Organised by Hong Kong Productivity Council (HKPC), “ForeSight 2022” online forum was held under the theme of “Dare to Innovate, Capture the Opportunities” on 18 - 19 November 2021. 17 political, business and innovation and technology heavyweights and industry leaders joined together to help local SMEs capture major development trends in the year ahead. Four thematic panel discussion sessions covered the topics of macroeconomic outlook, opportunities and challenges in the National 14th Five-Year Plan and Greater Bay Area, reindustrialisation, and strategies on net zero carbon emissions. The four panel discussions had stimulated participating companies to think ahead and get set for new horizons revealed from the trends, opportunities, successful cases and practical business tips shared by the keynote speakers, and during their interaction with guests.

“ForeSight Series” is a thought-provoking signature event featuring government, business and I&T leaders, industry heavyweights and technology experts, with the aim to help local companies capture the essence of impending economic development and technology trends in the year ahead. Made its debut in 2020, Foresight 2022 was the second edition of the event.

Panel Highlights

Panel 1

Macroeconomic Outlook: Opportunities under the Innovative Normal

18 November 2021, 11:30 – 12:30

Speakers:

- Honourable Bernard Chan, Convenor of the Non-Official Members of the Executive Council (ExCo) of the HKSAR
- Mr George Leung, CEO of the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce (HKGCC)
- Professor Francis Lui, Adjunct Professor, Professor Emeritus and University Honorary Fellow, Department of Economics of the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST)
- Mr Willy Lin, Chairman of HKPC

Forum's emcee: Mr Vincent Wong, Media Veteran

At the opening forum of “Foresight 2022”, speakers shared their thoughts on Hong Kong’s macro economy and discussed how to help SMEs to turn challenges into opportunities under the new normal, grasp future economic trends, and support the focused efforts of the Policy Address 2021 to develop I&T into a driver of economic growth together with finance, creating a new economy with new technology.



Please click [here](#) to watch the replay video of Panel 1.
(In Chinese only)

Speaker Insights

Mr Willy Lin, Chairman of HKPC, said, “After two years of the epidemic, more and more companies are realising that under the ‘New Normal’ they need to improve their business models through I&T, and accelerate the investment of resources on developing smart manufacturing and digital transformation to enhance productivity and competitiveness, expand sustainable business, actively integrate into the overall national development, and make best use of Hong Kong’s advantages in international connections to successfully create more business opportunities on the road to recovery. HKPC is committed to providing all-round support for Hong Kong SMEs and Startups. The ‘ForeSight Series’ was launched last year with top political, business and I&T leaders joining together to help local companies capture the essence of impending economic development and technology trends in the year ahead. In the future, HKPC will continue to provide support in technology, financing and talent development and work hand-in-hand with SMEs to accelerate digital upgrading and transformation and widen the use of technology, enhance operation and strengthen business sustainability so as to support the development of Hong Kong as an international I&T hub as set out under the national plan.”

The Honourable Bernard Chan, Convenor of the Non-Official Members of ExCo of the HKSAR, said, “Hong Kong being an international financial centre, the development of technology and other industries is an irreversible future trend, in order to complement the support of the Central Authorities for the city’s development as international I&T and aviation hubs, etc. Hong Kong should make good use of its R&D strengths and financing functions, actively think about how to create synergy with Shenzhen, further develop its I&T sector, and accelerate its integration into the national plan. As the Mainland’s customs and quarantine measures are expected to be relaxed, Hong Kong SMEs should gear themselves up for customs clearance in order to embrace new opportunities in trade and tourism, and help the economy to return to a steady upward path.”

Mr George Leung, CEO of HKGCC, said, “With Hong Kong’s success in keeping COVID-19 at bay and our vaccination rate increasing, we expect a significant economic rebound in 2021. The biggest impediments facing local companies in the past year have been the severe limits on cross-border travel and social-distancing measures. We hope to see a progressive easing of these restrictions before the Lunar New Year holiday, which will help facilitate a return to normalcy for many of the city’s smaller businesses. SMEs would also benefit from more funding support to upgrade their technological capabilities, so they can better compete in a digitally driven landscape as the pandemic threat recedes.”

Professor Francis Lui, Adjunct Professor, Professor Emeritus and University Honorary Fellow, Department of Economics of HKUST, said, “Just seven days in the mountains and the world has passed a thousand years. The epidemic in the last two years has seen an effective barrier separating Hong Kong from the Mainland. Looking back, the popularisation of high tech in the Mainland has taken deep root during the period. Hong Kong has already lagged behind. But this also implies that there is room for Hong Kong to catch up, which can help raise productivity in Hong Kong and its GDP as a result.”

Panel 2

Future Blueprint Analysis: Manage Opportunities and Challenges of 14th Five-Year Plan and Greater Bay Area

18 November 2021, 14:30 – 15:30

Speakers:

- Mr Joseph Yam, Non-official Member of ExCo of the HKSAR
- Professor Witman Hung, Deputy to the 13th National People Congress of the People's Republic of China and Principal Liaison Officer for Hong Kong of The Shenzhen Qianhai Authority
- Ms Pam Mak, President of the Hong Kong Small and Medium Enterprises Association
- Mr Mohamed Butt, Executive Director of HKPC

Forum's emcee: Ms June Lam, Veteran Journalist

The second forum titled “Future Blueprint Analysis: Manage Opportunities and Challenges of 14th Five-Year Plan and Greater Bay Area” deconstructed how SMEs could integrate into the overall development of the country on various fronts, and featured in-depth discussions on the necessary strategic thinking for Hong Kong; policies and opportunities beneficial for collaboration between Hong Kong and Shenzhen collaboration such as the Qianhai Shenzhen-Hong Kong Modern Service Industry Cooperation Zone; development prospects of SMEs; and support for the development of innovation and technology (I&T), etc., with the aim of helping SMEs find business opportunities to open up markets and inject new impetus into the economy.



Please click [here](#) to watch the replay video of Panel 2.
(In Chinese only)

Speaker Insights

Mr Mohamed Butt, Executive Director of HKPC, said, “In the new development pattern of China, Hong Kong plays an important role in promoting technological innovation and realising high-end industries. Together with the government’s firm support for the planning of the Northern Metropolis, Hong Kong companies will certainly be able to further integrate into the overall national development and contribute to Hong Kong’s development as an international I&T hub. HKPC has been committed to providing comprehensive support for SMEs with R&D technology, talent development, and financing, assisting Hong Kong in the development of high value-added industries, and complementing with the development of San Tin Technopole, to achieve Hong Kong’s industrial intelligence by leveraging intelligent and comprehensive technology. HKPC understands that not every industry is suitable for development in Hong Kong, so it is actively assisting Hong Kong enterprises to upgrade and transform in the Mainland and the Greater Bay Area. Through our subsidiaries in Shenzhen’s Futian and Dongguan, and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Productivity Promotion

Service Alliance, HKPC also builds a bridge of communication between alliance members and SMEs to deepen the exchanges and collaboration in innovative services among Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao to enhance the overall competitiveness of enterprises in the GBA. At the same time, HKPC is committed to cooperating with the government's customs clearance roadmap, continues to organise worker exchanges and study missions in GBA and the Mainland, and organises and participates in various technical studies, seminars and exhibitions, etc., striving to promote the exchange of talent in order to expand the R&D talent pool of Hong Kong."

The Honourable Joseph Yam, Non-official Member of ExCo of the HKSAR, said, "Under the country's changes over the past century, the 14th Five-Year Plan is particularly forward-looking. In addition to paying attention to the Hong Kong part and the eight centres mentioned, Hong Kong needs strategic thinking to devise what role we can play. The 14th Five-Year Plan has given Hong Kong ample room for imagination to think deeply about how to better integrate into the overall development of our country. In this regard, I have the following three suggestions. First, Hong Kong must establish a strong theoretical basis when formulating policies. For example, the point mentioned in the 14th Five-Year Plan of 'breaking down institutional obstacles that impede economic circulation and promoting the circulation of factors of production'. Capital is one of the essential elements for production. Hong Kong and the Mainland can create synergies and learn from each other to promote the flow of capital and currency exchange. In addition, Hong Kong must understand the characteristics of the socialist market economy in the Mainland, and better assist in managing risks such as quota management, unit management, project management and regional management. Lastly, the Leading Group for Development of Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area can set up a professional and dedicated financial expert group with exclusive powers to promote the effective implementation of policies to accelerate the integration of Hong Kong into the overall development of the country."

Professor Witman Hung, Deputy to the 13th NPC of the People's Republic of China and Principal Liaison Officer for Hong Kong of The Shenzhen Qianhai Authority, said, "2021 marks the beginning of the National 14th Five Year Plan as well as the issuing of more policies supporting the development of the GBA, of which the 'Qianhai Plan' catches wide public attention. Hong Kong companies should leverage digital technologies as well as new infrastructure such as AI, Big Data, Cloud computing and 5G to enable their business transformation into intelligent enterprises. Hong Kong companies should foster more university-research-industry collaborations and build stronger competitiveness through innovation and technology."

Ms Pam Mak, President of the Hong Kong Small and Medium Enterprises Association, said, "Under the effects of the epidemic or the global situation, Hong Kong SMEs are facing many business challenges. However, as China launches a new 'dual cycle' development pattern, it is believed that SMEs can use the GBA as the best entry point to grasp the vast business opportunities of the Mainland, open up the domestic market, and at the same time take the opportunity to upgrade and transform. In addition, the government's gradual opening of

customs clearance is expected to immensely help small and medium-sized enterprises to tide over the difficulties and restore the business environment to the pre-epidemic period.”

Panel 3

Dreams Come True: Realisation and Development of Reindustrialisation

19 November 2021, 11:00 – 12:00

Speakers:

- Ms Rebecca Pun, Commissioner for Innovation and Technology of the HKSAR Government
- Dr Joseph Wong, Executive Director of the Hong Kong Design Centre
- Dr Alex Wong, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of King's Flair International (Holdings) Limited
- Mr Artist Wong, Founder of Arts and Design Consultancy Limited and CK One Limited
- Mr Edmond Lai, Chief Digital Officer of HKPC

Forum's emcee: Mr Vincent Wong, Media Veteran

Speakers of this panel analysed the pain points and opportunities faced by the traditional industries under advanced manufacturing and the integration of design into these industries to help enterprises develop high value-added businesses with Industry 4.0 (i4.0). They also revealed the development and opportunities of the emerging industry of the new generation of semiconductors.



Please click [here](#) to watch the replay video of Panel 3.
(In Chinese only)

Speaker Insights

Ms Rebecca Pun, Commissioner for Innovation and Technology of the HKSAR Government, said, “Hong Kong’s industry has a solid foundation, and innovation and technology brings new opportunities for Hong Kong’s industry to reach new heights. In recent years, we have been creating favourable conditions for ‘reindustrialisation’ in different areas, and developing advanced manufacturing based on new technologies and smart production, which is less land- or labour-intensive. We have been actively promoting ‘reindustrialisation’ in five areas, namely infrastructure, financial support, talent training, technological upgrading, and research and development, to assist the industries in upgrading and transforming with a view to enhancing Hong Kong’s competitiveness.”

Dr Joseph Wong, Executive Director of the Hong Kong Design Centre, said, “Hong Kong has no shortage of creative young design talent – HKDI Higher Diploma students in Product Design were bestowed the internationally acclaimed “Red Dot: Best of the Best” twice in three years, surpassing the achievements of even professional designers. The key is to encourage them to think out of the box and actively seize new opportunities brought on by the industry chain revolution under i4.0. Young people nowadays care deeply for the society, and creating shared

value would be an excellent starting point to attract young designers to join the emerging intelligent manufacturing and product development industries, and play a vital role.”

Dr Alex Wong, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of King's Flair International (Holdings) Limited, said, “The key to ‘reindustrialisation’ not only lies in the use of new technologies and innovative concepts to simplify production procedure. It also places a strong emphasis on the upstream movement of Hong Kong’s traditional manufacturing industry, in the hope that through premium raw materials and products, it can re-establish its high-tech label and positioning in the global arena. In the long run, ‘reindustrialisation’ can promote economic diversification, creating quality employment opportunities, and injecting new impetus into the local economy. We believe ‘reindustrialisation’ is becoming an important growth engine, and Hong Kong should leverage its advantage in research and development, education, and technology development and to make ‘Made in Hong Kong’ shine again.”

Mr Artist Wong, Founder of Arts and Design Consultancy Limited and CK One Limited, said, “‘Reindustrialisation’ emphasises on new technology and smart production to minimise plant size and labour. The provision of dedicated funding re-vitalises the food industry, enhances trade reputation, strengthens the promotion of industry-related information, and offers more job opportunities to the new generation.”

Mr Edmond Lai, Chief Digital Officer of HKPC, said, “The Reindustrialisation Study – Hong Kong conducted by HKPC earlier found that the ‘new generation of semiconductors’ is an emerging industry with great potential. At present, as the world is facing the problem of chip shortage and China also intends to develop its own new generation of semiconductor technology and a complete supply chain, Hong Kong can target the market demand to actively attract semiconductor-related companies from all over the world to settle in Hong Kong through promotion. As a highly export-oriented and open economy, and a free port with unrestricted capital access, Hong Kong is blessed with a complete intellectual property protection system, a firm R&D foundation in local universities, and local traditional industries with international marketing, sales and international customer base advantages. Together with the country’s 14th Five-Year Plan, which clearly supports Hong Kong’s development as an international I&T hub, Hong Kong can use the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area as an entry point to integrate into the overall national development and give full play to its advantages in domestic and external cycles. In addition, the HKSAR Government has proposed to expand the Innovation and Technology Bureau into the Innovation, Technology and Industry Bureau. HKPC welcomes the move and believes it can significantly assist the acceleration of the development of emerging industries such as the new generation of semiconductors.”

Mr Lai added, “The Study also focuses on the conditions, feasibility and challenges for ‘reindustrialisation’ in Hong Kong’s food technology, health technology and green technology found that half of the companies surveyed are aware of i4.0, and more than half of them said they have invested in R&D. HKPC will continue provide companies with ‘one-stop’ world-class comprehensive technical support. In addition to the preliminary feasibility study, it will also address the pain points of plant space shortage. Based on its layout as well as applying i4.0,

HKPC will design and tailor-make intelligent production lines. It will also match relevant government funding funds and train talents for enterprises to assist their upgrading and transformation on all fronts. Moreover, HKPC's world-class R&D achievements have been widely recognised, winning an array of local and international accolades. HKPC will continue to benefit the industry through innovative ideas.”

Panel 4

Going Green: Carbon Neutral Strategies and Measures to Reduce Carbon Emissions

19 November 2021, 14:30 – 15:00

Speakers:

- Mr Wong Kam-sing, Secretary for the Environment of the HKSAR
- Ms Clara Chan, Deputy Chairman of the Federation of Hong Kong Industries (FHKI)
- Ms Grace Hui, Head of Green and Sustainable Finance of the Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited (HKEX)
- Dr Lawrence Cheung, Chief Innovation Officer of HKPC

Forum's emcee: Ms June Lam, Veteran Journalist

Speakers of this panel engaged in a lively discussion on the carbon neutrality strategic goals of the Hong Kong's Climate Action Plan 2050 proposed by the Government and the increasingly important corporate environmental, social and governance (ESG) areas for enterprises, and an in-depth analysis from the Government's and industries' perspectives on the emerging trend of "carbon neutrality" to enable companies to achieve sustainability and enhance competitiveness.



Please click [here](#) to watch the replay video of Panel 4.
(In Chinese only)

Speaker Insights

Mr Wong Kam-sing, Secretary for the Environment, said, "Hong Kong strives to achieve carbon neutrality before 2050. The Hong Kong's Climate Action Plan 2050 promulgated by the Government in October this year sets out four major decarbonisation strategies covering net-zero electricity generation, energy saving and green buildings, green transport and waste reduction. Full public participation is needed in combating the challenge of climate change. For example, we have upgraded the '4T' partners as 'Carbon Neutrality' partners. About 60 partners from sectors including property development, public utilities, finance and professional bodies participate to deepen and accelerate their pace in pursuing low-carbon transformation. They set examples by devising their targets and timetables to support renewable energy development, energy saving and green buildings, green transport popularisation, waste reduction and more, in order to jointly implement climate action and support Hong Kong to achieve carbon neutrality."

Dr Lawrence Cheung, Chief Innovation Officer of HKPC, said, "Both large and small enterprises have an obligation to contribute to Hong Kong's progress towards carbon neutrality. The world's attention to ESG is growing day by day. Outstanding ESG performance can help companies meet supply chain requirements and contribute to the environment. ESG

is expected to be the key to success for SMEs to break through in the coming year. ‘Smart and Green Living’ is one of the six development priorities of HKPC which provides SMEs with advanced technology and smart manufacturing support. A highly automated and intelligent production process not only can increase production capacity, but also helps reduce carbon emissions and energy consumption, bringing various opportunities and returns to enterprises in the long run.”

Ms Clara Chan, Deputy Chairman of FHKI, said, “FHKI has always encouraged the industrial and commercial sectors to introduce systematic ESG management, which plays a significant role in managing operational risks, maintaining competitiveness and attracting investors and business partners. We believe that through the co-operation and interaction of the Government, large corporations and small and medium enterprises, green transformation can be promoted more effectively among various industries to achieve the global carbon neutrality target.”

Ms Grace Hui, Head of Green and Sustainable Finance of HKEX, said, “The global sustainable finance journey has already begun, and Asia needs to catch up in this evolution. In recent years we have already seen significant growth in investment on green and sustainability-linked products in the region, and we will undoubtedly see more in the future. As a global financial markets leader, HKEX is committed to helping investors, issuers and market participants embark on their low-carbon transition journey. We see ourselves as a change agent providing the framework, guidance, resources and support needed for the long-term development of a robust sustainable finance ecosystem, and establish the city as a global sustainable finance hub. Together, as investors, issuers and market operators, we can realise our sustainability goals and address the most pressing challenge of our generation.”

Event Response

The two-day “ForeSight 2022” was well received by industry professionals and the public with full houses for all four forums on-site and many more watching the simulcasts online from different parts of the world, including the Greater Bay Area (GBA).



To recap all four forums online, please click [here](#).
(In Chinese only)

Looking Forward

“ForeSight Series” is set to be held as an annual event of HKPC. The “ForeSight 2023” will be held in the second half of the year of 2022.

Foresight 2022

Edition: 2nd

Date: 18 - 19 November 2021

Venue: HKPC Building, 78 Tat Chee Avenue, Kowloon, Hong Kong

Free Admission

Organiser: Hong Kong Productivity Council

