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## **Two-day Global Prosperity Summit 2026 officially opens Highlights include keynote on “China’s Global Governance Initiative”, two timely panel discussions**

**(Hong Kong, 19 May 2026)** – The organisers of Global Prosperity Summit 2026 (GPS 2026) announced that the event’s third consecutive edition opened today, shining spotlights on issues critical to Hong Kong’s future development and global prosperity. Ambassador Han Zhiqiang, Vice President of the China Public Diplomacy Association, delivered a keynote address that offered profound and forward-looking insights into China’s Global Governance Initiative. The opening day also featured two thematic panel discussions led by renowned scholars and international experts.

In his keynote speech entitled “China’s Global Governance Initiative”, Ambassador Han Zhiqiang said:

- The international landscape is beset by mounting instability and uncertainty. Unilateralism and protectionism are on the rise. Geopolitical conflicts continue to flare up, development gaps are widening, and global challenges are emerging one after another. These developments have made reform and improvement of global governance an urgent task for all countries and peoples.
- The Global Governance Initiative has been launched in response to the needs of the world with the following emphasis:
  - ***The most unequivocal message:*** a call for strong solidarity. Blind worship of might, power politics and bullying will only push the world back to the law of the jungle and seriously undermine the foundation of the international system and rules. Countries must come together to meet challenges and forge a consensus and a force for solidarity and cooperation to overcome division and confrontation.
  - ***The most steadfast position:*** upholding multilateralism. Global affairs should be discussed by all, the global governance system built by all, and the governance outcomes shared by all. All acts of unilateralism must be rejected.
  - ***The most cherished vision:*** a future of fairness and justice. It calls for greater representation and voice for developing countries and rejects bullying of the small and weak. It calls for closing the North-South gap as soon as possible.
- Today, international cooperation on development is losing steam. We should put development back at the center of international agenda, mobilise global resources for development, and foster an equal and balanced global development partnership.
- Last week’s meeting between President Xi Jinping and U.S. President Donald Trump in Beijing has achieved important common understandings on maintaining stable economic and trade ties, expanding practical cooperation in all fields and handling mutual concerns in a proper manner.
- As we all advance toward a brighter future of a community with a shared future for humanity, China is ready to work with the international community to ensure that the Initiative takes root and yields fruitful outcomes.

In her welcome remarks, Mrs Regina Ip, Founder of the Global Prosperity Summit and Chairperson of the Board of Governors of the Savantas Policy Institute, said, “Hong Kong stands at the intersection of East and West, tradition and innovation, global capital and national development. It can serve as a platform for dialogue, exchange and pragmatic cooperation. Our discussions will focus on the profound economic, technological and scientific transformations reshaping the world before our eyes. Amid uncertainties, Hong Kong continues to stand out as an oasis of stability, connectivity and opportunity.”

Mrs Regina Ip and Professor Kaisheng Li, Vice-President of the Shanghai Institutes for International Studies, also delivered a joint briefing titled “‘APEC+’ vs ‘+APEC’: A Collaborative Initiative from Shanghai and Hong Kong Think Tanks”, with the following key points:

- Professor Kaisheng Li:
  - President Trump finished his state visit to China days ago, a very important event for the world economic order, for the China-U.S. relations. [This was] a critical moment to re-calibrate the world economic order and the China-U.S. relations.
- Mrs Regina Ip:
  - APEC has several layers. In addition to the leaders’ level, ministerial level, senior officials’ level and the city level, there could be more cooperation, [such as] at the level of think tanks, which have been generating many new ideas. Think tanks have the capacity to do research and generate forward-looking ideas. So that’s why we together authored a paper on the future of APEC cooperation at different levels, [proposing the] APEC Global Cities Network, APEC Chinese Cities’ network that has all the Chinese cities which have hosted APEC meetings, and a council of APEC think tanks that could include us (SPI and SIIS) and Dr. Faiz’s Institute of Strategic and International Studies in Malaysia. So we can look forward to more cooperation, more networking, paving the foundation for building greater global regional cooperation and prosperity.

The opening day of GPS 2026 also featured two panel discussions: “Innovative Drug Development in the Guangdong–Hong Kong–Macao Greater Bay Area” and “Hong Kong as a Sports, Cultural and Recreational Hub”. These sessions explored strategies to unlock the Greater Bay Area’s potential in advancing global health objectives and further consolidating Hong Kong’s position as the premier destination for hosting sports, cultural and leisure events. (Discussion highlights are provided in the attached Annex.)

In addition, Mr Septime Webre, Artistic Director of the Hong Kong Ballet, gave a presentation on “Telling Hong Kong’s Story through Art”.

The Summit will continue tomorrow with three panel discussions: "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly in the Crypto World", "International Trade in a Changing World Order" and “Hong Kong as a Facilitator of Aerospace Development”.

Jointly organised by the Savantas Policy Institute, the Shanghai Institutes for International Studies, and the European Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong, GPS 2026 features a dynamic programme of forward-looking discussions. Now in its third consecutive year, the Summit continues to strengthen Hong Kong’s role as a leading platform for cross-disciplinary exchange — fostering collaboration, driving innovation and advancing sustainable global prosperity.

– Ends –

Photo captions:

 <p><b>Mr. Han Zhiqiang</b> Vice President, China Public Diplomacy Association</p>	<p>1. Ambassador Han Zhiqiang, Vice President of the China Public Diplomacy Association, delivers the keynote speech on “China’s Global Governance Initiative”.</p>
 <p><b>GPS2026 全球繁榮峰會</b></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><b>GPS2026 全球繁榮峰會</b></p> <p>“APEC+” vs “+APEC”: A Collaborative Initiative from Shanghai and Hong Kong Think Tanks 「APEC+」與「+APEC」：來自滬港智庫的倡議</p>	<p>3. Mrs Regina Ip and Professor Kaisheng Li, Vice-President of the Shanghai Institutes for International Studies, delivered a joint briefing titled “‘APEC+’ vs ‘+APEC’: A Collaborative Initiative from Shanghai and Hong Kong Think Tanks”.</p>

	<p>4. Group photo of Panel 1: “Innovative Drug Development in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area”</p>
	<p>5. Group photo of Panel 2: “Hong Kong as a Sports, Cultural and Recreational Hub”</p>

**About Global Prosperity Summit**

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

**About Savantas Policy Institute**

The Savantas Policy Institute (SPI) was established in 2006 by a group of Hong Kong residents with international experience who are committed to the city’s future development. SPI’s mission is to support Hong Kong’s transition into a knowledge-based economy through public policy research, strategic recommendations, and the promotion of public understanding and participation in economic and social development.

**About Shanghai Institutes for International Studies**

Established in 1960, the Shanghai Institutes for International Studies (SIIS) is a leading think tank dedicated to research on international politics, economics and security. It plays an important role in providing policy recommendations and advancing understanding of global affairs and is widely recognised as one of China’s most influential research institutions.

**About European Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong**

Established in 1997, the European Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong (EuroCham) is a non-governmental business interest group comprising 16 European chambers based in Hong Kong. Representing over 1,600 European companies operating in the city, EuroCham promotes European business interests and strengthens economic ties between Europe and Hong Kong. Europe is Hong Kong’s second-largest trading partner after the Chinese Mainland.

**Annex: Discussion highlights of the first day at GPS2026**

**Panel 1: Innovative Drug Development in the Guangdong–Hong Kong–Macao Greater Bay Area**

Dr Cecilia Yuen-man Fan, Acting Secretary for Health, the Government of the HKSAR, provided a sharing on Health Bureau's work

**Moderator:**

- Dr Hon David Tzit-yuen Lam, Member (Functional Constituency – Medical and Health Services) of the Legislative Council of the HKSAR

**Speakers:**

- Mr Frank Ling-fung Chan, Assistant Director of Health, the Department of Health, the Government of the HKSAR
- Ms Sabrina Chan, Senior Executive Director, The Hong Kong Association of the Pharmaceutical Industry (HKAPI)
- Professor Tony Mok, Professor, Faculty of Medicine at The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Mr Frank Ling-fung Chan

- Hong Kong's robustness and resilience in introducing and delivering innovative drugs is based on the trust and reliability the city has gained internationally over the years in conducting high-quality clinical trials and research.
- Hong Kong can gain trust of other jurisdictions (e.g., Singapore) because we are transparent and efficient; these jurisdictions know our internationally recognised standards and understand our thinking, thereby allowing us to serve as a super connector.

Ms Sabrina Chan

- We encourage Hong Kong to set up an independent authority that enables us (the pharmaceutical industry) to participate in joint evaluation group or harmonisation group (like the International Council for Harmonisation) of other jurisdictions, allowing Hong Kong to collaborate with other Asian countries.
- Regarding the advantages of conducting clinical trials in Hong Kong, HKAPI conducted a survey on why Hong Kong was chosen for conducting clinical trials. The results showed that Hong Kong scored the highest among countries in Asia for having very good, internationally renowned principal investigators. This places Hong Kong in a strong position.

Professor Tony Mok

- If Hong Kong can sell the "1+" concept to neighbouring countries, we will be winning. In the initial years, "Primary Registration" may not immediately have a huge impact, as Hong Kong's mechanism will need time to build its reputation. However, the "1+" mechanism will help drive the development of the National Medical Products Administration (NMPA).

## Panel 2: Hong Kong as a Sports, Cultural, and Recreational Hub

### Moderator:

- Mr Vikram Channa, Vice President and Head of Content & Products, Greater China and Southeast Asia, Warner Bros. Discovery

### Speakers:

- Mr Andre Blumberg, Founder and Challenge Director, Hong Kong Four Trails Ultra Challenge
- Mr Adrian Pang, Commodore of the Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club
- Mr Casper Stylsvig, Executive Director, Sports Business of The Hong Kong Jockey Club
- Mrs Bonnie Chan Woo, CEO and Founder of Complex Asia and SV Vision Limited

#### Mr Andre Blumberg

- There are 40% of the total landmass in Hong Kong that are protected country parks. Hong Kong's unique position is our convenient proximity between the hustle and bustle of a major cosmopolitan city and very quiet country trails.
- That being said, the trails are getting increasingly overcrowded, especially on weekends and public holidays. We've probably gone too far. And I think we need to find a balance, maybe through a quota system, so that more people can enjoy the nature. It's important that we strike a balance because this natural asset of the country side that we have is very difficult to recreate and we want future generations to also enjoy it.

#### Mr Adrian Pang

- SailGP has been hosted in cities such as Sydney, Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Singapore. It has never been to Hong Kong. Why do they pick Hong Kong? It is because SailGP has great viewership e.g. a record breaking total global broadcast viewership of 193 million for its season 4 campaign in 2024. They want their audience to see Hong Kong as a backdrop. The hustling and bustling city scene; the skyscrapers, when they are competing in this circuit. This will be spectacular and attract lots of viewers around the world.
- We are going to host the ICOYC International Council Of Yacht Clubs conference in Nov 2026 in Hong Kong.

#### Mr Casper Stylsvig

- I definitely think that we are a sports destination. The World Economic Forum believes that the biggest travel increase globally is actually destination travel, meaning that you travel with a purpose, you travel to an event. And that's an opportunity for Hong Kong to be a part of that – once we have the infrastructure readily in place, we will be able to receive more visitors from different parts of the world. Coming here to experience something which is much more just than a hotel, restaurant, or conference.
- We will complement the government's efforts in developing Hong Kong as a sports destination. We hope that the future of sports may be less about competition and much more about belonging and identity.

Mrs Bonnie Chan Woo

- The pop culture is run by youth creativity, run by youth energy. The global demand for music experiences, cultural experiences, live experiences has never grown so fast. The World Economic Forum data shows that music tourism is delivering US\$9 billion globally. How much is Hong Kong delivering? How strategically are we positioned in the world to capture part of this?
- When we are a city (Hong Kong) that has that cultural DNA, and you have a city that is bold enough to invest into world-class facilities like Kai Tak Stadium, that even within its first year has become top three in ticket sales globally and number one in Asia. That's just a phenomenal success. And it's telling all of us and, hopefully, for visitors coming to Hong Kong - that Hong Kong is not just participating in this global growth. We are claiming a role as the global cultural stage.