

For immediate release

The 15th Annual Banking Conference addresses challenges of diversification and transformation

HKIB enters into MOU addendum with the China Banking Association on mutual recognition of qualifications, recognises several industry leaders with 'Honorary Certified Bankers' title

27 September 2023, Hong Kong – The Hong Kong Institute of Bankers (HKIB) successfully concluded its Annual Banking Conference 2023, with this year's event attended by nearly 1,000 participants in-person and virtually. HKIB signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) addendum on mutual recognition of qualifications with the China Banking Association and conferred the 'Honorary Certified Banker' title on industry leaders at the event, continuing to support the development of local banking industry talent.

Focused on the theme '**Transforming Finance in an Uncertain Landscape**', the conference explored how geopolitical uncertainty, evolving consumer demands and changes in the regulatory environment are changing the global financial landscape. Industry leaders and experts at the event also shared insights and strategies for financial institutions and banks to tackle these challenges. The afternoon session of the conference featured seminars focusing on digital transformation, big data, compliance technology and ESG.

In his opening keynote speech, **Michael WONG, GBS, JP, Acting Financial Secretary of the Government of the HKSAR**, encouraged the banking and financial services industries to continue leveraging Hong Kong's advantages to maintain leadership in various emerging fields. He mentioned that the past few years have been rather challenging for financial markets, with high interest rates and geopolitical uncertainty leading people to worry about a global economic recession. However, he said, Hong Kong's banking industry is still very resilient and the Government is committed to establishing a talent pool to support Fintech. It will also establish professional qualifications specific to the financial services sector, aiming to provide banking practitioners with a firmer career ladder while enhancing Fintech expertise.

Arthur YUEN, JP, FHKIB, Hon. Certified Banker, Deputy Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority and Chairman, Executive Committee of the Hong Kong Institute of Bankers, said, "As the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Hong Kong Institute of Bankers, I hope the banking industry can continue to strengthen its support for the development of talent among banking professionals. The Hong Kong Monetary Authority has been working together with the banking industry to introduce an industry-wide competency framework – the Enhanced Competency Framework (ECF) for Banking Practitioners. Next, we shall further enhance the Enhanced Competency Framework on Green and Sustainable Finance (ECF-GSF) to facilitate capability building and talent upskilling for the banking industry in Hong Kong, ensuring it is well-equipped for the evolving financial landscape."

Coinciding with the 15th anniversary of the conference, the Hong Kong Institute of Bankers also signed a MOU addendum on mutual recognition of qualifications with the China Banking Association, laying a new foundation for the development and exchange of financial and banking talent in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. **XING Wei, Chief Executive Officer of the China Banking Association**, and **Carrie LEUNG, CEO of the Hong Kong Institute of Bankers**, signed the addendum in front of delegates, witnessed by Michael WONG.

In her welcoming remarks, **LEUNG** said, “This year, as we celebrate the 60th anniversary of HKIB’s establishment, it is a true honour and recognition of the work that HKIB has done in nurturing great talent in the banking industry that the Annual Banking Conference 2023 is graced by the presence of Mr. Michael WONG, Acting Financial Secretary of the Government of the HKSAR, as well as leaders from the banking industry, who have provided valuable insights on tackling the challenges of diversification and transformation for the financial sector. HKIB will continue to provide more professional courses that are relevant to the latest developments in the financial industry and to assist in formulating the professional qualification structure to build the local financial talent pool.”

The CEO panel sessions featured top industry leaders from BNP Paribas, Hang Seng Bank, United Overseas Bank and ZA Bank, who shared their insights on how the industry can remain resilient in the face of factors such as geopolitical uncertainty, shifting consumer demands and regulation.

Five industry leaders were granted the ‘Honorary Certified Bankers’ title at the conference, marking the third consecutive year of honouring the outstanding contributions made by bankers in nurturing talent in the financial sector. At the conference, HKIB also announced the awardees of the Talent Development Excellence Award, with financial institutions commended for their outstanding achievements in talent development and practitioners encouraged to enhance their professional knowledge. Please refer to the Appendix for the detailed list of winners.

Three discussion panels took place at the conference, featuring 48 industry leaders. The panels covered topics including ESG, sustainable development, digital innovation, Web 3.0, digital currencies, anti-money laundering, Regtech, compliance and risk management.

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Photo captions:

Photo 1:



Michael WONG, Acting Financial Secretary of the HKSAR Government, delivers a keynote speech at the Annual Banking Conference hosted by HKIB.

Photo 2:



Michael WONG, Acting Financial Secretary of the HKSAR Government (fourth right), Arthur YUEN, Deputy Chief Executive of HKMA and Chairman, Executive Committee of HKIB (fourth left) and Carrie LEUNG, Chief Executive Officer of HKIB (first right), stand for a group photo on stage with the 'Honorary Certified Banker' 2023 awardees, including:

- Mr Tat LEE, Chief Executive Officer, WeLab Bank Limited (first left)
- Mrs Helen KAN, Deputy Chief Executive, China CITIC Bank International Limited (second left)
- Ms Julia LEUNG, Chief Executive Officer, Securities and Futures Commission (third left)
- Mr David SUN, Chief Executive Officer, LIVI Bank Limited (third right)
- Mr Barbaros UYGUN, Chief Executive Officer, Mox Bank Limited (second right)

Photo 3:



Arthur YUEN, Deputy Chief Executive of HKMA and Chairman, Executive Committee of HKIB, presenting a regulatory update at the Annual Banking Conference 2023.

Photo 4:



(Second from left) Diana CESAR, Chief Executive of Hang Seng Bank Limited; Christine IP, Chief Executive Officer – Greater China of United Overseas Bank Limited; Ronald IU, Chief Executive Officer of ZA Bank Limited; and Hugo LEUNG, Chief Executive Officer Hong Kong of BNP Paribas, share their insights on how to drive green finance and digital development by implementing customer-centric solutions and providing sustainable training for professional talent in the banking industry at the CEO panel of the Annual Banking Conference hosted by HKIB.

Appendix

Winners of the 2023 Talent Development Excellence Award

Award	Winner
Grand Award	China Construction Bank (Asia) Corporation Limited
Star Award – Career Development Framework	Bank of China (Hong Kong) Limited
Star Award – HR Strategy	Standard Chartered Bank (Hong Kong) Limited
Star Award – Social Innovation	China Everbright Bank Co., Ltd. Hong Kong Branch
Star Award – Human Capital Investment	Bank of Singapore Limited
Special Mention Award – Learning Infrastructure	DBS Bank (Hong Kong) Limited

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Notes to editors:

About The Hong Kong Institute of Bankers

Established in 1963, The Hong Kong Institute of Bankers (“HKIB”) is the first not-for-profit organisation that provides training and certification services to the banking community in Hong Kong. It is also the first professional body in the territory to offer banking qualifications equivalent to a Master’s degree level. For six decades, HKIB has been helping practitioners and young graduates who aspired to join the industry to equip themselves with the essential banking skills and knowledge, playing a critical role in the banking industry’s talent and professional development.

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