

**For immediate release**

**The 16th Annual Banking Conference spotlights emerging development trends for the banking industry in the new era**

*New thematic panel session on sustainability delves into the sector's latest green finance development*

*Recognition for banking industry leaders with prestigious 'Honorary Certified Banker' titles*

**27 September 2024, Hong Kong** – The Hong Kong Institute of Bankers (HKIB) today successfully concluded its Annual Banking Conference 2024, held at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre. This year's event attracted nearly 900 delegates attending either in-person or virtually. During the event HKIB also conferred the 'Honorary Certified Banker' title to two industry leaders, in recognition of their contribution promoting the development of the industry and their efforts to nurture professional talent.

Now in its sixteenth year, this year's conference focused on the theme '**The Next Wave: Unlocking Potential, Fostering Success**'. The event explored how banks can use innovation to enhance customer experiences and operational efficiency in a new era of challenges and opportunities, while seizing the growth potential presented by sustainable development and digital banking. The event also featured an exhibition zone that gave delegates a glimpse into the cutting-edge technologies and leading solutions being embraced by the banking sector.

In his opening keynote speech, **The Honourable Michael WONG Wai-lun, GBS, JP, Acting Financial Secretary of The Government of the HKSAR**, said he was pleased to see Hong Kong rise to third place globally in the latest 'Global Financial Centres Index' report, and ranked first in the Asia-Pacific region. The report affirmed Hong Kong's status and strengths as a leading financial centre. It also showed that the Government's efforts and measures to promote high-quality development of the financial sector are effective and beginning to bear fruit. He said that the banking industry has achieved significant progress and has huge growth potential across different areas, for instance, in family office businesses, Fintech development and so on. Moreover, the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area is a huge market which presented immense potential for our financial sector. Mr WONG added that the Government will continue to work closely with the banking sector to support its development.

**Arthur YUEN, JP, FHKIB, Hon. Certified Banker, Deputy Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority, and Chairman of the Executive Committee of HKIB**, "As we explore the major driving forces in the next wave of banking, we are seeing AI adoption and green finance development as key strategic themes in the industry. The Hong Kong Monetary Authority wishes to be an enabler, to establish a robust ecosystem to foster growth in these areas, while taking a proactive approach to safeguard the interests of our stakeholders, including the interests and protection of consumers." He also emphasised the important joint effort of the regulator and the industry ramping up support for the transformation journey of SMEs in the territory.

The conference also heard from keynote speaker, **Tim LUI, GBS, JP, Chairman of the Securities and Futures Commission**, "In these times of uncertainty, it is important for Hong Kong to innovate and move fast without losing sight of its core advantages. As the capital market regulator, the SFC is ready to collaborate with the financial industry to navigate challenges in full confidence. We are dedicated to providing regulatory clarity, certainty, and consistency to our stakeholders."

In her welcoming remarks, **Carrie LEUNG, Chief Executive Officer of The Hong Kong Institute of Bankers** said, “The conference this year is timely with the recent news that Hong Kong has regained its position as Asia's leading financial centre and returned to the top 10 in the World Talent Ranking. This means the discussion today on what we need to do to attract, strengthen and retain our talent to support the city's leadership position is even more exciting and important.”

With a growing focus on sustainable development within the industry, this year's conference introduced the inaugural Chief Sustainability Officer panel session in which representatives from the Bank of China (Hong Kong), Hang Seng Bank and UOB Hong Kong discussed the latest trends and operational challenges in green finance and sustainability. This panel aimed to connect industry and its stakeholders through best practice sharing, and further promote Hong Kong as a global green finance hub.

The Chief Executive Officer panel this year featured top industry leaders from Ant Bank (Hong Kong), Bank of East Asia, Citibank and Deutsche Bank AG who discussed the industry's key business areas and its latest trends, including RMB internationalisation, innovative technology applications and wealth management. The panellists also explored how to empower industry practitioners with continuous learning opportunities to strengthen the overall capacity building of the banking sector and help banks achieve further business growth.

HKIB awarded the ‘Honorary Certified Banker’ title to two industry leaders at the conference, marking the fourth consecutive year of honouring the outstanding contributions made by bankers to nurture talent in the financial sector.

During the afternoon streams, three breakout sessions took place with 40 industry leaders engaged in discussions on diverse sectors and key trends. Conversations spanned topics such as green banking and future banking skills, digital banking and next-gen technologies, as well as banking compliance and Regtech solutions.

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**Photo captions :**



**Photo 1:** The Honourable Michael WONG, Acting Financial Secretary of The Government of the HKSAR, delivers a keynote speech at the HKIB Annual Banking Conference 2024.



**Photo 2:** Arthur YUEN, Deputy Chief Executive of HKMA and Chairman, Executive Committee of HKIB, presenting a regulatory update at the HKIB Annual Banking Conference 2024.



**Photo 3:** Tim LUI, Chairman of the Securities and Futures Commission delivers the keynote speech at the HKiB Annual Banking Conference 2024.



**Photo 4:** (Second from left) Joe LAI, CEO, HKSAR and Chairman of Investment Bank Asia, Deutsche Bank AG, Yvonne LEUNG, Chief Executive of Ant Bank (Hong Kong), Adrian LI, Co-Chief Executive of Bank of East Asia and Vice President of Council and Deputy Chairman of Executive Committee of HKIB and Aveline SAN, Chief Executive Officer and Head of Banking of Citi Hong Kong and Macau and Vice President of Council of HKIB, share their insights into how banks can strengthen risk management and build resilience amidst uncertain market environment at the CEO panel of the HKIB Annual Banking Conference 2024.



**Photo 5:** (Second from left) Brian LAM, Chief Sustainability Officer and Chief Financial Officer of UOB Hong Kong, Dr Kang QU, Managing Director of Sustainability Strategy of Bank of China (Hong Kong) and Ir Dr Shelley ZHOU, Head of Corporate Sustainability of Hang Seng Bank, discuss the latest trends and operational challenges in sustainability at the CSO panel of the HKiB Annual Banking Conference 2024.





**Photo 6:** The Honourable Michael WONG, Acting Financial Secretary of The Government of the HKSAR (third from left), Arthur YUEN, Deputy Chief Executive of HKMA and Chairman, Executive Committee of HKIB (second from left) and Carrie LEUNG, Chief Executive Officer of HKIB (first from right), stand for a group photo on stage with the two 2024 'Honorary Certified Banker' awardees, including:

- Aveline SAN, Chief Executive Officer and Head of Banking, Citi Hong Kong and Macau (first from left)
- CAI Mingjie, Chief Executive of China Everbright Bank Co., Ltd., Hong Kong Branch (second from right)

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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 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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