

For immediate release

The 17th Annual Banking Conference focuses on next-generation banking transformation; explores new pathways for development in the digital era

Deputy Financial Secretary Michael WONG Wai-lun, GBS, JP, speaks on the ongoing commitment to financial innovation

Recognition for banking industry leaders with prestigious 'Honorary Certified Banker' titles for the fifth consecutive year

26 September 2025, Hong Kong – The Hong Kong Institute of Bankers (HKIB) today successfully concluded its Annual Banking Conference 2025, held at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre. This year's event attracted over 800 delegates attending in-person or virtually. In his opening address, The Honourable Michael WONG Wai-lun, GBS, JP, Deputy Financial Secretary of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, emphasised Hong Kong's crucial role in the international financial landscape and the key importance of innovation within the banking sector. During the event, HKIB also conferred the 'Honorary Certified Banker' title and the 'HKIB Talent Development Excellence Award' on industry leaders and institutions, in recognition of their contributions to promoting industry development and their efforts to nurture professional talent.

Now in its seventeenth year, the conference focused on the theme '**NextGen Banking: Adapting, Innovating, Thriving**'. It explored the opportunities and challenges arising from digital transformation, global uncertainty and evolving customer demands. The event also facilitated in-depth discussions on how the banking industry can maintain competitiveness and achieve sustainable growth as the financial system evolves, through technological innovation, strategic restructuring and leadership transformation.

Addressing the conference, **The Honourable Michael WONG Wai-lun, GBS, JP, Deputy Financial Secretary of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region**, said that the Global Financial Centres Index (GFCI) 38 Report published yesterday continued to recognise Hong Kong as a top global financial centre, now ranked third worldwide and first in Asia. Hong Kong's ranking in Fintech offerings has also leapt from fourth place to first in the world. This reflects the collaborative efforts of all stakeholders, including The Hong Kong Institute of Bankers, to promote innovation and technology, especially in the financial arena, which are beginning to bear fruit. The Government will continue to make the sustained efforts necessary so that Hong Kong will become even better and stronger as an international financial centre, serving not just Hong Kong, but also Mainland China and the rest of the world."

Arthur YUEN, JP, FHKIB, Hon. Certified Banker, Deputy Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority, and Chairman of the Executive Committee of HKIB, stated during the regulatory update, "In today's rapidly evolving banking landscape, building trust through innovative technologies is paramount. At the HKMA, we are committed to fostering an environment where banks can responsibly embrace innovation, adapt to new financial paradigms, and thrive amid change. By integrating traditional frameworks with cutting-edge advancements such as artificial intelligence (AI) and distributed ledger technology (DLT), we aim to enhance system security, customer protection, and operational resilience. Collaboration among banks, Fintech, and market participants is essential to harness emerging opportunities while managing associated risks prudently. Our supportive approach, including the use of sandboxes, incubators, and rigorous due diligence, ensures that the future of banking is not only innovative but also safe, sound, and sustainable for all stakeholders. I would like to call on your support to continue

enhancing the skills of bankers and adapting to evolving roles through the training services offered by HKIB.”

In her welcoming remarks, **Carrie LEUNG, Chief Executive Officer of The Hong Kong Institute of Bankers**, said, “Hong Kong’s position in the World Talent Ranking leapt markedly to fourth globally and first in Asia. This validates the effectiveness of our strategies to cultivate and aggregate talent. As one of the pillars of Hong Kong’s position as an international financial centre, the banking industry needs to continuously enhance its capabilities in digital transformation and innovation to attract and retain professionals with an innovative mindset and international financial vision. To address the industry’s need to attract talent and transform skills, the HKMA, The Hong Kong Association of Banks, and HKIB jointly issued the ‘Capacity Building for Future Banking 2026 – 2030’ study. The study introduces the ‘A.S.C.E.N.D.’ framework, which aims to systematically strengthen capacity building through advocating for local professional training, skills development and upskilling, and promoting continuous learning. In doing so, it can help consolidate Hong Kong’s global competitive advantage.”

This year’s Chief Executive Officer panel featured representatives from DBS Bank (Hong Kong) Limited, Hang Seng Bank Limited, OCBC Bank (Hong Kong) Limited and WeLab Bank to discuss how banks are actively advancing developments in areas such as digital assets, Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG), cross-boundary business, and talent transformation. The dialogue explored how to reshape next-generation banking business models and leadership paradigms against a backdrop of rising customer expectations, accelerating technological development and macroeconomic volatility.

A specially featured Chief Technology Officer panel was another key highlight. Representatives from DBS Bank (Hong Kong) Limited, J.P. Morgan, Shanghai Commercial Bank Limited and Standard Chartered Bank (Hong Kong) Limited shared insights on driving infrastructure modernisation and leveraging artificial intelligence to tackle increasingly complex operational challenges.

HKIB awarded the ‘Honorary Certified Banker’ title to several industry leaders at the conference, marking the fifth consecutive year of honouring outstanding contributions by bankers to nurture talent in the financial sector. HKIB also conferred the ‘HKIB Talent Development Excellence Award’ on nine financial institutions, acknowledging their outstanding achievements in formulating forward-looking talent strategies, building sustainable training systems and making long-term investments in nurturing professionals for the financial and business sectors.

Additionally, the conference also featured a new Green Fintech Pavilion, showcasing solutions from the finalists of the 2025 Green Fintech Competition, co-organised by the HKMA and HKIB.

The afternoon session featured three parallel streams, where over 60 industry leaders engaged in deep-dive discussions on green banking and future banking skills, digital banking and next-generation technologies, banking compliance and Regtech solutions.

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Photo captions :



Photo 1: The Honourable Michael WONG Wai-lun, *GBS, JP*, Deputy Financial Secretary of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, delivering a keynote speech at the HKIB Annual Banking Conference 2025.



Photo 2: Arthur YUEN, JP, FHKIB, Hon. Certified Banker, Deputy Chief Executive of the HKMA and Chairman, Executive Committee of HKIB, making a speech at the HKIB Annual Banking Conference 2025.



Photo 3: Diana CESAR, *JP, Hon. Certified Banker*, Executive Director and Chief Executive, Hang Seng Bank Limited, and Vice President of Council of HKIB (second from left); Tat LEE, *Hon. Certified Banker*, Chief Executive, WeLab Bank (centre); Sebastian PAREDES, *CHKIB, Hon. Certified Banker*, DBS Head of North Asia & Chief Executive Officer, DBS Bank (Hong Kong) Limited, and Vice President of Council of HKIB (second from right); and WANG Ke, Head of Greater China and CEO, OCBC Bank (Hong Kong) Limited, and Vice President of Council of HKIB (first from right), discussing how to leverage technology to reshape the new generation of banking business models at the CEO panel of the HKIB Annual Banking Conference 2025.



Photo 4: Ryan FUNG, Deputy Chief Executive, Chief of Retail & Digital Strategy, Shanghai Commercial Bank Limited (second from left); Herbert LAM, Executive Director, Head of Digital Sales and Acquisition, Standard Chartered Bank (Hong Kong) Limited (centre); Alfian Michael SHARIFUDDIN, Managing Director & Head of Technology and Operations, Hong Kong and Mainland China, DBS Bank (Hong Kong) Limited (second from right); and Cindy XU, Managing Director, Head of Asia Fintech and China FIG, J.P. Morgan (first from right), exploring how to promote infrastructure modernisation and leverage artificial intelligence to address the increasingly complex challenges in the operational environment at the CTO panel of the HKIB Annual Banking Conference 2025.



Photo 5: The Honourable Michael WONG Wai-lun, *GBS, JP*, Deputy Financial Secretary of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Regions (centre); Arthur YUEN, *JP, FHKIB, Hon. Certified Banker*, Deputy Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority, and Chairman of the Executive Committee of HKIB (fourth from right); Carrie LEUNG, Chief Executive Officer of The Hong Kong Institute of Bankers (first from left), stand for a group photo on stage with the Honorary Certified Banker awardees, including:

- Dr Jimmy JIM, *Hon. Certified Banker*, Managing Executive Officer and Head of Global Markets Department, Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (Asia) Limited, and Member of Executive Committee of HKIB (second from left)
- Rannie LEE, *Hon. Certified Banker*, Head of Wealth and Personal Banking, Hang Seng Bank Limited, and Member of Executive Committee of HKIB (third from left)
- Sebastian PAREDES, *FHKIB, Hon. Certified Banker*, DBS Head of North Asia & Chief Executive Officer, DBS Bank (Hong Kong) Limited, and Vice President of Council of HKIB (the Honorary Certified Banker 2021 title) (fourth from left)
- Wallace W T LAM, *Hon. Certified Banker*, Chief Executive, Shanghai Commercial Bank Limited, and Member of Executive Committee of HKIB (third from right)
- Annie CHEN, *Hon. Certified Banker*, Deputy Chief Executive, China Construction Bank (Asia) Corporation Limited, and Member of Executive Committee of HKIB (second from right)
- Phoebe WONG, *Hon. Certified Banker*, Deputy Chief Executive, Senior Executive Director & Group Head of Personal Banking, Dah Sing Bank Limited, and Member of Executive Committee of HKIB (first from right)



Photo 6: Harold T H WONG, JP, Hon. Certified Banker, Managing Director and Chief Executive of Dah Sing Bank Limited (fifth from left), Carrie LEUNG, Chief Executive Officer of The Hong Kong Institute of Bankers (first from right) stand for a group photo on stage with the HKIB Talent Development Excellence Award 2025 awardees, including: Luso International Banking Ltd (first from left), Nanyang Commercial Bank Limited (second from left), Standard Chartered Bank (Hong Kong) Limited (third from left), The Bank of East Asia Limited (fourth from left), DBS Bank (Hong Kong) Limited (fifth from right), The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited (fourth from right), Bank of Singapore Limited (third from right), China Construction Bank (Asia) Corporation Limited (second from right).

Appendix:

The HKIB Talent Development Excellence Award 2025 winner list:

Awards	Winner
Grand Award	DBS Bank (Hong Kong) Limited
Star Award – Career Development Framework	The Bank of East Asia, Limited
Star Award – HR Strategy	The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited
Star Award – Social Innovation	Standard Chartered Bank (Hong Kong) Limited
Star Award – Human Capital Investment	Bank of Singapore Limited
Star Award – Adoption of AI	DBS Bank (Hong Kong) Limited
Special Mention Award – Social Enrichment	China Construction Bank (Asia) Corporation Limited
Special Mention Award – Strategic Focus (State Policy-Driven Talent Development)	Luso International Banking Ltd
Special Mention Award – Strategic Focus (Cross-Border Talent Development)	Nanyang Commercial Bank, 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 in Hong Kong dedicated to advancing banking excellence in the region. As a trusted learning and certification hub, HKIB is the first professional body in the city to offer banking qualifications comparable to a Master's degree. HKIB serves as an advocate for capacity building and is committed to cultivating a future-ready workforce. Through knowledge exchange, professional networking, and talent development, HKIB supports local talent and the next generation of professionals, contributing to the long-term stability and effectiveness of the banking industry.

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