

Press Release
For Immediate Release

Cyberport Hosts Asia MENA Culture Technology Economic Collaboration Forum

Hong Kong, 19 December 2022 – The “Asia MENA Culture Technology Economic Collaboration Forum”, organised by the Asia Content Business Summit (ACBS), and co-organised by Cyberport, Manga Productions, Salon Films, and Salon Media Lab, was held today at Cyberport. Representatives from Hong Kong's cultural and creative industry as well as the digital entertainment sector met with a delegation from Saudi Arabia to explore how Hong Kong can become a gateway fostering exchanges between MENA and Asia, as well as mapping out a blueprint to generate synergy between MENA and Asia in technology development, content co-production, and talent exchange. The Forum also promotes international finance and culture collaboration for a more diverse and inclusive society. The Forum is the first cultural exchange between Saudi Arabia and Hong Kong since President Xi's visit to Saudi Arabia earlier this month.

Simon Chan, Chairman of Cyberport said, “The fruitful interchange we had today has allowed us to co-generate ideas for Hong Kong to act as a gateway connecting MENA and Asia through digital entertainment. Cyberport is Hong Kong’s digital technology flagship and key incubator for entrepreneurship, with over 160 digital entertainment start-ups forming an influential cluster in Hong Kong. In addition, at least 10 of our start-ups have developed solid presence in the Middle East market with Cyberport’s extensive support. Going onwards, riding on the new outlook brought by the Belt and Road Initiative, we look forward to furthering our collaborations in the creative industries for strengthened synergy and cultural influence.”

Fred Wang, Chairman, Salon Films, also Chairman of ACBS, said, “President Xi’s visit to Saudi Arabia kick starts the collaborative discussion between the Middle East countries and Asia. The Saudi Japanese anime film ‘The Journey’ to be premiered today also remarks the 5,000 years of history linking between Middle East and Asia. I am glad to see the intellectual conversation we had today and we look forward to the future collaboration between the two regions especially in nurturing young talents with the new digital initiative. ”

The first section of the Forum was dedicated to keynote speeches by **Mr. Peter Yan, CEO of Cyberport**; Prof. Alexander Wai, President and Vice-chancellor of Hong Kong Baptist University; Dr. Essam Bukhary, CEO of Manga Productions; Mr. Raymond Yip, Chief Liaison Officer of Nansha New Area & Vice Chairman, Belt & Road Global Development Alliance; and Mr. Victor Tsang, Head of CreateHK.

Peter Yan, CEO of Cyberport introduced Cyberport’s role in nurturing young talents and start-ups in innovation & technology, and its plans in promoting content related technology in the future. Over the years, Cyberport has been committed to promoting application of digital entertainment and working closely with the Government in this regard to roll out relevant industry facilitation schemes and internship schemes. Prof. Alexander Wai, President and Vice-chancellor of Hong Kong Baptist University shared how Hong Kong’s tertiary institutions and international co-operations support talent development and research

in the creative industry. Dr. Essam Bukhary, CEO of Manga Productions, referred to the movie “The Journey” to illustrate the collaboration between Saudi Arabia and Asia in content production. In addition, he also mentioned his aspiration for Saudi Arabia to evolve from consumers of content, to exporters of content. On the other hand, the speech by Mr. Raymond Yip, Chief Liaison Officer of Nansha New Area & Vice Chairman, Belt & Road Global Development Alliance, touched on Hong Kong’s edge in facilitating culture, technology and economic cooperation with Asia and MENA countries. Mr. Victor Tsang, Head of CreateHK closed the first section by reiterating Hong Kong Government’s support in content production and the future plans to promote Asian co-productions.

Eric Chan, Chief Public Mission Officer of Cyberport, facilitated a panel discussion further to the keynote speeches, with representatives from renowned local cultural and creative corporates and digital entertainment enterprises on how to harness technology to drive and promote the cultural creative industry. Members of the panel included Mr. Abdulaziz Alnaghmoosh, Marketing and Business Development Director of Manga Productions; Mr. Ignious Yong, Senior Advisor of Bingo Group Holdings Ltd, of which Stephen Chow is the major shareholder; Ms. Caroline York, Marketing Director of Gusto Collective; Mr. Ivan Ng, Project Director of Mei Ah Tmeng Ltd; Mr. Gabriel Pang, Managing Director of Firedog Creative Company Ltd; and Mr. Gordon Chin Kwok Tung, CEO of Asia Animation, Puzzle Animation.

During the discussion, the panelists agreed the use of new technology in Web3 era, such as blockchain, has advanced the development of creative industry. Commercialisation of movies were also discussed at the session. At the end of the discussion, Mr. Abdulaziz Alnaghmoosh expressed his hope that there would be more collaborations between MENA and Asia in exchanging content amongst the two regions in future with a view to promoting cultural exchange.

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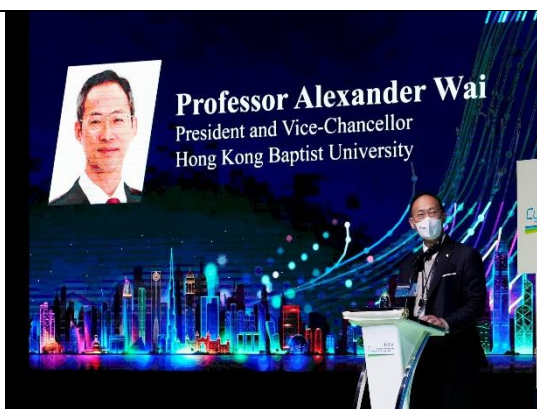
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Simon Chan, Chairman of Cyberport said in his opening speech, “Going onwards, riding on the new outlook brought by the Belt and Road Initiative, we look forward to furthering our collaborations in the creative industries for strengthened synergy and cultural influence.”



Fred Wang, Chairman, Salon Films, also Chairman of ACBS, organiser of the Forum, said, “I am glad to see the intellectual conversation we had today and we look forward to the future collaboration between the two regions especially in nurturing young talents with the new digital initiative.”



Prof. Alexander Wai, President and Vice-chancellor of Hong Kong Baptist University (left), and Dr. Essam Bukhary, CEO of Manga Productions (right) made keynote speeches at the forum.



Eric Chan, Chief Public Mission Officer of Cyberport (left), facilitated a panel discussion further to the keynote speeches, with representatives from renowned local cultural and creative corporates and digital entertainment enterprises on how to harness technology to drive and promote the cultural creative industry.

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About Cyberport

Cyberport is an innovative digital community with over 1,900 members including over 800 onsite and 1,000 offsite start-ups and technology companies. It is managed by Hong Kong Cyberport Management Company Limited, wholly owned by the Hong Kong SAR Government. With a vision to be the hub for digital technology, thereby creating a new economic driver for Hong Kong, Cyberport is committed to nurturing a vibrant tech ecosystem by cultivating talent, promoting entrepreneurship among youth, supporting start-ups, fostering industry development by promoting strategic collaboration with local and international partners, and integrating new and traditional economies by accelerating digital transformation in public and private sectors.

For more information, please visit www.cyberport.hk