

Press Release
For Immediate Release

Cyberport FinTech for ESG Conference Attracts 200 Business Community Participants

Leaders from Financial, Industrial, Commercial and Start-up Sectors Explore How FinTech Can Unlock ESG's Commercial Value

Hong Kong, 16 September 2021 – With awareness of Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) concerns growing among the financial, industrial and commercial sectors, the difficulties involved in ESG implementation and value creation are also in the spotlight. To help address these issues, Cyberport today hosted the “**Cyberport FinTech for ESG Conference 2021**”, gathering ESG pioneers from the financial, industrial and commercial sectors together with Cyberport Community start-ups to explore how FinTech can enhance efficiency for companies implementing ESG-related measures, and how companies can enjoy the economic benefits offered by the global ESG trend. The conference attracted 200 participants from the financial, industrial, commercial and innovation and technology sectors.

ESG is an opportunity, not a burden, says Dr. George Lam

In his remarks, **Dr. George Lam, Chairman of Cyberport**, said: “Rather than a burden or an obligation, enterprises should regard ESG as an indispensable part of modern risk management and good corporate governance. ESG represents a huge opportunity, and technology is the key to seizing it. ESG reporting and investment involve significant amounts of data processing, management, analysis and forecasting. Solutions developed with digital technologies such as the Internet of Things (IoT), blockchain, artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning enable us to clearly understand ESG performance and business exploration as well as trends among companies, their business partners and potential investment targets, helping us to better avoid related risks and release potential value.” Dr. Lam added, “ESG and FinTech have become global trends. Hong Kong must combine their complementary capabilities in order to maximise their effectiveness and maintain our advantage as Asia's leading international financial, asset management and risk management centre.”

Enhance ESG Reporting and Gain Operational Advantage with Technology

Many companies see preparation of an ESG report as an initial obstacle. In a discussion session, Cyberport Incubation Programme (CIP) alumnus **ESG Matters** introduced their self-developed data management system, ESG Dashboard, which is designed to allow companies to collect ESG data during daily operations. The collected data can then be compiled according to the HKEX ESG Reporting Guide as well as the companies' areas of focus. This enables employees to minimise the time and resources required for data collection, compilation and

report preparation. It also allows companies to understand more about their current ESG status, helping them to formulate effective measures for meeting HKEX's ESG goal-setting requirement. As a user of the system, Simon Ng, Executive Director of GEM-listed Boltek Holdings Limited, shared his positive experience.

Supply chain management is a crucial component of ESG. In a panel discussion titled "Sustainability and Data Transformation in the Industrial Sector", Clara Chan, Deputy Chair of The Federation of Hong Kong Industries, noted that the industrial sector already addresses environmental and labour-related regulations in manufacturing bases around the globe. ESG takes this compliance a step further, with enterprises needing to review not just companies but their entire supply chains. To this end, more data will be required. Herbert Chia, Convener and Founding Vice Chairman of The Institute of Big Data Governance, agreed that data is a critical factor in promoting ESG. He suggested that it is not easy for companies to exchange data, and that trustworthiness is a challenge. Advanced technology such as blockchain can facilitate reliable and appropriate levels of data exchange. Mark Ho, Co-Founder of **Cyberport start-up ProMEX Limited**, shared his company's digital trading platform for physical commodities – including green metals, which impose less environmental impact during their production processes – with the aim of promoting transparency, fairness and efficiency.

Managing ESG Risks and Uncovering Investment Value

In recent years, many ESG-related incidents – such as ecological disasters triggered in the course of daily operations and deficiencies in corporate governance – have proved that it is not only the companies involved, but also their business and trading partners, which suffer from material, financial and reputational damage. As a result, ESG-related risks have become essential considerations for financial institutions. Angela Wong, Executive Director (Head of Group Portfolio Analytics) of DBS Bank (Hong Kong) Limited, said the financial industry needs a centralised ESG data platform and a consistent ESG standard. **FV Financial Intelligence Group, a member of the Cyberport community** and a credit rating agency licensed by the Securities and Futures Commission, is developing a set of ESG credit rating standards. Trevor Laight, CEO of FV Financial Intelligence, said systemisation of the rating process for enhanced efficiency and transparency is enabled with the help of AI, and makes ratings both timely and available to more companies.

While ESG risk management improves preparedness, ESG investment strategies represent a way to increase profits. Even though institutional investors have increasingly leveraged AI and algorithms to improve the quality of their investment decisions, the use of AI analysis in ESG investment is still in its infancy. In another discussion session, Pru Bennett, a Partner at renowned advisory firm the Brunswick Group, explained that the Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI) were introduced by the United Nations Environment Programme in 2006. The

relevant asset is now over USD 100 trillion and represents a tremendous investment demand. Bennett suggested that climate change and the transition to a low-carbon economy are two major themes. Stephen Jue, President of **Seleya Technologies, a start-up sponsored by the Cyberport Creative Micro Fund (CCMF)**, introduced his company’s self-developed ExpertAI ESG system, designed for the evaluation of ESG performance, financial performance and investment targets’ prospects. The system aims to facilitate ESG product design for financial institutions and investment decision-making for institutional investors.

###

For high-resolution photos, please download via this [link](#)



According to Dr. George Lam, Chairman of Cyberport, businesses should see ESG as an essential aspect of modern risk management as well as a significant source of business opportunities, rather than as merely a burden or an obligation. The key to unlocking this potential is ‘technology’.



Lavin Yeung (right), Assistant Head of Business Development at Cyberport Incubation Programme alumnus ESG Matters, joins with Simon Ng (middle), Executive Director of Boltek Holdings Limited to show how newly developed data management system ESG Dashboard can enhance the efficiency of ESG report preparation.



Herbert Chia (left), Convener and Founding Vice Chairman of The Institute of Big Data Governance; Clara Chan (middle), Deputy Chair of The Federation of Hong Kong Industries; and Mark Ho (right), Co-Founder of Cyberport start-up ProMEX Limited share best practices in sustainability and data transformation for companies in the commercial and industrial sectors.



Trevor Laight (right), CEO of FV Financial Intelligence Group, a member of the Cyberport community, together with Angela Wong (middle), Executive Director (Head of Group Portfolio Analytics) of DBS Bank (Hong Kong) Limited, share how effective ESG credit ratings can assist banks in gauging risk.



Pru Bennett (right), a Partner at renowned advisory firm the Brunswick Group, and Stephen Jue (left), Co-founder and President of Seleya Technologies, a start-up sponsored by the Cyberport Creative Micro Fund, discuss how FinTech can assist institutional investors in adopting ESG investment strategies.

For media enquiry, please contact:

Yuan Tung Financial Relations

Agnes Yiu

T: (852) 3428 5690

E: ayiu@yuantung.com.hk

Cyberport

Billy Ng

T: (852) 3166 3613

E: billyng@cyberport.hk

About Cyberport

Cyberport is an innovative digital community with over 800 on-site 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