

Immediate release

Saturday, 17 September 2022

ACCA Hong Kong Annual Conference outlines ‘the future’ of the financial industry by focusing on the sustainability development, latest regulatory requirements, HR investments as well as the new normal in workplaces

ACCA (the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants) Hong Kong held its Annual Conference 2022 today with the theme ‘Accounting for a better world: Risks and opportunities defining 2022 and beyond’. The Conference was attended by over 400 ACCA members and guests. ACCA Hong Kong was pleased to have invited Paul Chan, Financial Secretary of the HKSAR Government to be the officiating guest, and George Leung, CEO of the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce as the keynote speaker.

ACCA Annual Conference, one of the highlights of ACCA Hong Kong as well as the local accounting industry, was conducted both physically and online for the first time. Business leaders and professionals were invited to share their insights on different topics, including how Hong Kong enterprises maintain their advantages when facing the challenges brought by the pandemic, the tense political situation, the increasing demands of sustainable development and the change in work culture in the post-pandemic era, in addition to how accounting and finance professionals fulfil the new compliance requirements by international and local regulators. The Conference also aims to gather thought leaders in the accounting and finance sector to promote the exchange of ideas on various critical issues.

Paul Chan, Financial Secretary of the HKSAR Government, said in his opening address, ‘Having a global vision and proactively integrating into the National Development are the basics for the development of Hong Kong. There will be a wide range of opportunities in the accounting and financial industry under this circumstance. The new-term Government fully recognised the challenges faced by Hong Kong, understanding that overcoming the pandemic is the key to short-term economic recovery. Emphasising scientific and evidence-based principles, together with the precise and differentiated strategies in the prevention and control of the pandemic, the government strives to enhance the effectiveness of epidemic prevention with minimum social and economic costs. We are committed to reconnecting with overseas countries to stabilise the economy, maintain competitiveness and give fresh impetus to the economy. I believe that we can overcome the current adversity in the soon future.’ At the same time, he proposed seven major directions for the future development of Hong Kong’s financial industry, including: (1) promoting diversity in the development of Hong Kong as an international financial centre; (2) supporting the internationalisation of RMB; (3) boosting green and sustainable finance; (4) urging multinational and mainland enterprises to utilise Hong Kong as their finance and treasury Centre; (5) developing Hong Kong into an international asset management

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centre; (6) enhancing Hong Kong's role as a risk management centre; (7) exploring new opportunities such as Fintech and virtual asset.

George Leung, CEO of the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce and the Conference's keynote speaker, said that manpower shortage, underinvestment, and the eroding tax advantage were some of the key issues that Hong Kong must address as a matter of urgency and priority if it were to sustain growth. 'While the global business environment has become increasingly complex, the fundamentals to post-Covid recovery remains simple: Continue to invest in people, skills, infrastructure and technology,' he said.

Jennifer Tan, Chairman of ACCA Hong Kong, said, 'During the post-pandemic era, there are full of uncertainties regarding economic recovery. However, the epidemic will come to an end eventually, so that we should be well prepared for the future. It is the reason why we use "the Future" as the lead-in of the Conference, inviting professionals to share their insights on major trends, such as ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) and sustainability development, regulatory requirements and market changes, as well as human resources investment and the new normal of the workplace. The business community could then explore how to improve its responsiveness to resolve uncertainty, seize opportunities, and utilise its advantages. Also, our ACCA professionals can add value to enterprises and reshape a better world of sustainable development with their own knowledge.'

Besides, the Conference includes different panel discussion forums, where experts and leaders from different fields shared their insights. Guest speakers and moderators are as follows:

Get prepared for compliance with ESG and sustainability

- Clarence T'ao, Co-Founder, GolImpact Capital Partners (cum Moderator)
- Dr Ma Jun, Chairman and President, Hong Kong Green Finance Association
- Carrie Ng, Head of Sustainable Finance, Commercial Banking The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited
- Dennis Wu, Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director, AEC Group

Get prepared for regulatory changes in Hong Kong

- Stanley Ho, Co-chairman, Tax Sub-committee ACCA Hong Kong, Tax Partner KPMG (cum Moderator)
- Barry Chan, Managing Director, Head of Asia-Australia Region Head of Investment Banking – HK, China International Capital Corporation Ltd
- Angelina Kwan, Chief Executive Officer, Stratford Finance Ltd
- Ken Lo, Deputy Chairman, BC Technology Group
- Simon Luk, Partner and Chairman, Winston & Strawn LLP

Get prepared for the future of work

- Eric Ng, Chief Strategy Officer, KOS International Holdings Limited (cum Moderator)
- Stark Chan, Chief Executive Officer and Founder, Bull.B Technology Limited
- Haywood Shum, Chief Executive Officer and Co-Founder, Binery

ACCA Annual Conference aims to connect thought leaders from the market to identify key global and local trends and discuss how these trends influence the accounting professionals. They also share valuable insights that inspire the participants to develop strategies to navigate the fast-changing business landscape.

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Description:



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About ACCA

ACCA (the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants) is the global professional body for professional accountants.

We're a thriving global community of **241,000** members and **542,000** future members based in **178** countries and regions, who work across a wide range of sectors and industries. We uphold the highest professional and ethical values.

ACCA now has **29,000** members and **169,000** future members in China, with **11** offices in Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Chengdu, Shenyang, Qingdao, Wuhan, Changsha, Hong Kong SAR and Macau SAR.

We offer everyone everywhere the opportunity to experience a rewarding career in accountancy, finance and management. Our qualifications and learning opportunities develop strategic business leaders, forward-thinking professionals with the financial, business and digital expertise essential for the creation of sustainable organisations and flourishing societies.

Since 1904, being a force for public good has been embedded in [our purpose](#). In December 2020, we made commitments to [the UN Sustainable Development Goals](#) which we are measuring and will report on in our annual integrated report. We believe that accountancy is a cornerstone profession of society and is vital in helping economies, organisations and individuals to grow and prosper. It does this by creating robust trusted financial and business management, combating corruption, ensuring organisations are managed ethically, driving sustainability, and providing rewarding career opportunities.

And through our cutting-edge research, we lead the profession by answering today's questions and preparing for the future. We're a not-for-profit organisation. Find out more at accaglobal.com/hk or follow ACCA Hong Kong on social media: www.facebook.com/ACCA.HongKong | www.instagram.com/acca_hk | www.linkedin.com/showcase/acca-hong-kong | WeChat ID: ACCA_HK