

CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

POLICY DIALOGUE SERIES 2024-25

LEADERSHIP AND PUBLIC POLICY SEMINAR

GLOBAL OUTREACH & EXCHANGE:
BELT AND ROAD INITIATIVE SEMINARS





POLICY DIALOGUE SERIES 2024-25

Hong Kong Is Not Over, Why and How?: Economic Reset and International Impact

On October 19, 2024, the Policy Dialogue Series commenced with an engaging session titled “Hong Kong Is Not Over, Why and How?: Economic Reset and International Impact.” Organized by the Division of Public Policy at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) in collaboration with the Department of Social Sciences and Policy Studies at The Education University of Hong Kong (EdUHK), this event aimed to address the current economic challenges facing Hong Kong in the post-COVID landscape.

The distinguished panel included Professor Anthony Cheung, Chair Professor and Advisor (Public Administration) at EdUHK, and Adjunct Professor at HKUST; Professor Sung Yun-wing, Associate Director of the Joint Shanghai-Hong Kong Development Institute (CUHK and Fudan University), and Associate Director of the Economic Research Centre at the Hong Kong Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies; Professor Heiwei Tang, Victor and William Fung Professor in Economics, Associate Dean (External Relations), and Director of the Asia Global Institute at HKU; Associate Professor Wang Xiangwei, Associate Professor of Practice in the Department of

Journalism at HKBU; and Professor Lui Tai-lok, Adjunct Research Chair Professor at EdUHK. The session was moderated by Professor Naubahar Sharif, Head and Professor of Public Policy at HKUST. They discussed the need for strategic repositioning to secure an economic reset for Hong Kong.

Professor Anthony Cheung highlighted signs of growth but noted significant challenges remain, including slowing service growth and declining consumer spending. He emphasized that recovery relies heavily on external demand amidst trade tensions and geopolitical issues, labeling the situation a “triple whammy” of past protests, COVID-19, and US-China tensions. Cheung proposed a strategy to redefine Hong Kong’s value and improve governance to enhance competitiveness.

Professor Yun-Wing Sung examined the economy’s state, stating that while it’s stabilizing, it isn’t thriving. Although the population has rebounded slightly, growth is slow compared to China and Singapore. He expressed concerns about declining private investment and the importance of creating a stable environment to attract talent.



Professor Tai-Lok Lui addressed Hong Kong’s international profile, stressing the need to adapt to reduced connections with the US while exploring partnerships with ASEAN and European nations. He introduced the idea of “city diplomacy” to enhance Hong Kong’s global presence through cultural initiatives.

Mr. Wang Xiangwei argued for a four- or six-year planning approach for Hong Kong, akin to China’s five-year plan. He emphasized the need for a collaborative strategy that empowers citizens and effectively communicates Hong Kong’s narrative to the international community.

Professor Heiwai Tang provided an overview of Hong Kong’s economic landscape, noting GDP fluctuations and the importance of key sectors like financial services and tourism. He highlighted the recovery in business formation and the gradual rebound of tourism, while also addressing challenges in retail and fiscal sustainability.

Overall, the discussions underscored the need for strategic planning, collaboration, and innovative approaches to enhance Hong Kong’s economic resilience and international standing.

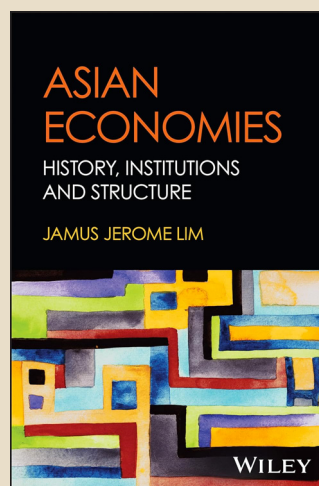
LEADERSHIP AND PUBLIC POLICY SEMINAR

In a recent seminar, seasoned economist and professor Jamus Lim provided an in-depth analysis of the dynamic economies of Asia. His lecture, titled “In Asian Economies: History, Institutions and Structure,” shed light on the sharp contrasts between the region’s three major economies—China, India, and Japan—highlighting their unique historical trajectories and institutional frameworks.

Prof. Lim began by examining the historical context that has shaped these economies, discussing how past policies and events have influenced their current structures. He emphasized the rise of the so-called “Dragon economies” in East Asia, which have significantly contributed to the region’s economic landscape. Additionally, he explored the resource-rich economies in the West and how they interact with their eastern counterparts.

A core focus of the seminar was the factors that led to the re-emergence of Asian economies on the global stage. Prof. Lim pointed out key

elements such as technological advancements, globalization, and strategic economic policies that have fueled growth. However, he also addressed the challenges these economies have faced, particularly in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, including supply chain disruptions and shifts in consumer behavior.



Looking ahead, Prof. Lim discussed the long-term prospects for Asian economies, emphasizing the importance of adaptability and resilience. He raised critical questions about the region’s political economy, including the impacts of geopolitical tensions,

trade relationships, and domestic governance on future growth.

Overall, the seminar provided attendees with valuable insights into the complexities and interconnections of Asian economies, equipping them with a better understanding of both the opportunities.

GLOBAL OUTREACH & EXCHANGE: BELT AND ROAD INITIATIVE

The HKUST Belt and Road Forum, themed “Navigating New Frontiers: The Future of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI),” was successfully held on October 7, attracting nearly 100 participants from across the university community, including students, faculty, staff, and alumni. This gathering provided a critical platform to discuss the BRI’s ongoing impact on international cooperation, connectivity, and regional prosperity.

We were privileged to have Mr. Nicholas Ho, the Belt and Road Commissioner of the HKSAR Government, as our keynote speaker. His Opening Remarks set a collaborative tone for the event, emphasizing the importance of the BRI in strengthening economic ties and fostering mutual understanding among participating nations.

The forum featured an esteemed panel of diplomats from several Belt and Road countries, including:

Mr. Chaturont Chaiyakam, Consul General of Thailand in Hong Kong

Mr. Kerim Evcin, Consul General of the Republic of Turkiye in Hong Kong

Mr. Muzambli Markam, Consul General of Malaysia in Hong Kong and Macau

Mr. Riaz Shaikh, Consul General of Pakistan to Hong Kong

Mrs. Endah Yulianti, Consul for Information and Socio-Cultural Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia in Hong Kong

These diplomats shared valuable insights into their respective countries’ experiences and contributions to the BRI, highlighting the initiative’s role in facilitating trade, investment, and cultural exchanges.

The panel discussion, expertly moderated by Prof. Naubahar Sharif, Head of the Division of Public Policy at HKUST, explored a range of topics, including:

Infrastructure Development: How BRI projects have transformed regional landscapes and improved connectivity.

Trade Dynamics: The effects of the BRI on trade flows and economic collaboration among participating nations.

Educational Collaborations: Opportunities for academic exchange and partnerships that arise from BRI initiatives.

Cultural Connectivity: The importance of cultural exchange in building lasting relationships between countries.

Prof. Sharif encouraged an engaging dialogue among panelists and attendees, fostering a rich exchange of ideas and perspectives on the future of the BRI.

As we reflect on the success of this forum, we are excited about the potential for future collaborations and deeper engagements with the Consulates General of BRI countries. We look forward to building on these connections to enhance our collective efforts in promoting international cooperation and understanding.





PPOL SEMINAR

“Network Analysis of Scientific Papers’ Policy Impact”

Speaker: Dr. Kimitaka Asatani,
Department of Technology Management
for Innovation, School of Engineering,
The University of Tokyo

AIS SUSTAINABILITY SEMINAR

“Transdisciplinary Learning in Real-World Laboratories to Foster Sustainability Transformations of Socio-Technical Systems”

Speaker: Prof. Dr. Daniel J. Lang, Institute for Technology Assessment and Systems Analysis (ITAS) at Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT), Germany

“Measuring Sustainability and Wellbeing”

Speaker: Prof. Shunsuke Managi, Distinguished Professor of Technology and Policy and Director of Urban Institute, Kyushu University, Japan