

A person is seen from the side, wearing a light-colored jacket and glasses, speaking into a microphone. The background is dark with several bright stage lights. A blue banner with white text is overlaid on the right side. A white geometric pattern of interconnected hexagons covers the lower half of the image.

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PPOL Hosts the Data for Policy 2022 Conference in Hong Kong

Hosted by PPOL, Data for Policy 2022 Conference Asia-Pacific was a great success, with more than 100 participants joining in-person and online.

This year the Data for Policy Conference were organized in three locations - Hong Kong, Seattle, and Brussels - in close collaboration with University College London, The Alan Turing Institute, University of Cambridge, New York University, University of Washington, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Lisbon Council, European Commission, OECD, and HKUST. PPOL hosted the first conference on Monday, 5 December, at HKUST's Jockey Club Institute for Advanced Study Lecture Theatre. The theme of this year's conference was "Ecosystems of Innovation and Virtual-Physical Interactions." In the opening remarks, Professor Masaru Yarime, Chair of the Asia-Pacific conference, highlighted the overall trend and challenges related to data and policy, and Professor Naubahar Sharif, Acting Head of the Division of Public Policy, addressed the challenges and barriers faced by policy-makers due to political, socio-economic and legislative constraints. The keynote speech by Professor Noboru Koshizuka from the University of Tokyo provided stimulating insights into the democratization of



data-driven innovation, decreasing cost in data access, data security across the border and the implementation of data-sharing platforms to establish autonomous distributed societies. Distinguished researchers, experts, and scholars participated in the conference from local and international leading universities and research institutes, including HKUST, CityU, CUHK, University of Tokyo, Seoul National University, Georgia Institute of Technology, University College London, Nanyang Technological University, University of Melbourne, Tsinghua University, Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University, Research Institute of Innovative Technology for

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the Earth, and United Nations University Institute in Macau. Innovative ideas were introduced, and diverse perspectives were exchanged on a wide range of issues in two plenary sessions and four presentation sessions. Among the topics discussed at the conference include smart cities, data governance, artificial intelligence, e-government, public participation, and the use of data for addressing sustainability challenges. Case studies in China, EU, United States, Japan, the Philippines, Russia, Singapore and United Kingdom were

presented to illuminate key opportunities and challenges in data and policy in different institutional environments. The audience both online and onsite actively participated in the discussion and raised thought-provoking questions to explore significant implications for public policy in the future. Some of the papers presented at the conference are expected to be included in a special collection of articles in the journal *Data & Policy* published by Cambridge University Press.



PPOL Co-hosts the Climate Adaptation and Resilience Conference (CARE 2022)

The Division of Public Policy is delighted to be a part of hosting the CARE conference with the Institute for the Environment, the Division of Environment and Sustainability, the Business School, the Center for Slope Safety, and the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering.

Climate Adaptation and Resilience Conference (CARE2022) was a three-day climate and policy feast held at HKUST from 10 to 12 December 2022. Senior government officers, business representatives, industry leaders, investors, and academics were invited to talk about adaptation and resilience planning for climate change in Hong Kong.

Day 1 was Science and Policy Day, kick-started with a welcome speech by Prof.



GUO Yike, the Provost of HKUST. It was followed by a quick update on climate science by two authoritative experts, Prof. Petteri TAALAS, the Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), and Prof. Panmao ZHAI, the Co-chair, Working Group I, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate change (IPCC). Head and directors from nine governmental bureaus and departments, including Hong Kong Observatory, the Environment and Ecology Bureau, the Development Bureau, the Civil Engineering and Development Department, the Drainage Services Department, the Agriculture, Fisheries, and Conservation Department, Architectural Services Department, the Water Supplies Department, the Housing Department, presented the Hong Kong government's efforts on climate adaptation policies, plans, and projects. The presentation from the government officials set the stage for in-depth deliberations for the two concurrent afternoon workshops.

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Workshop A combined a range of climate change policies, adaptation, mitigation, risk, and finance issues that are infrequently discussed and are closely related. It focused on decarbonization and adaptation into account in the government's major development plan. In Workshop B, urban planning, academic, healthcare, and community service experts shared how to prepare and counteract the significant impact of extreme weather, such as urban heat island issues and extreme heat and uncharted waters in the future.

Day 2 was the academic day focused on excess water challenges, forestry, heat stress, infrastructure, and health issues. Academics from Tsinghua University, HKUST, HKU, and CUHK, participated in discussions on important aspects of adaptation and resilience. Mr. Ye PAN, an MPhil student of PPOL, presented his work titled "City-level & international collaborative projects for climate

adaptation in China" in the "Forestry, Heat Stress, Infrastructure, and Health" session. Since there is an urgent need to improve urban resilience worldwide, particularly in China, he used a qualitative database method to study China's international collaborative projects on climate change adaptation.

Day 3 was a half-day Policy and Green Finance Forum that invited government representatives, business and finance leaders, investors, and scholars to deliberate on climate policy, risk management, talent, and finance for adaptation.