

Communications and Education

Industry outreach

We are proactive in explaining our policy initiatives through industry events and other engagements. During the quarter, our senior executives spoke at over 15 local and international events on topics ranging from virtual assets to asset management and mutual market access. We were a supporting organisation for two industry events.

At a July forum on doing business in Hong Kong organised by the Law Society of Hong Kong, our Chairman Mr Tim Lui highlighted the significance of our agile regulatory approach in supporting market developments and keeping pace with new market trends.



Chairman Mr Tim Lui speaks at the Law Society of Hong Kong's forum

Also in July, when speaking at a Hong Kong Securities and Investment Institute regulatory roundtable luncheon, our Chief Executive Officer Ms Julia Leung emphasised the need to maintain a healthy ecosystem for small-cap stocks and highlighted the problems prevalent in the small and medium enterprise segment of the listing market. She also elaborated the SFC's efforts to tackle market manipulation and other misconduct particularly in that segment. In the same month, Ms Leung discussed the importance of adopting global sustainability standards in Hong Kong and taking a steady and proportionate approach relevant to local circumstances, as she spoke

at the CPA Congress hosted by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants. In addition, she spoke on how the Mainland and Hong Kong can navigate a challenging global environment by expanding mutual market access and deepening cross-boundary financial collaboration at the 2023 Bund Summit held in Shanghai in September.

In a July interview with the official publication of the Hong Kong Securities Association, Ms Leung shared the SFC's priorities and approach to addressing emerging issues, including licensing of virtual asset trading platforms (VATPs), security tokens and risk management controls for futures brokers.

Our other senior executives also shared their views on specific topics on various occasions in the period. Executive Director of Investment Products Ms Christina Choi explained the SFC's approach to enabling innovation in the asset management industry at the Bloomberg Buy-Side Forum Hong Kong 2023. At the ISDA Derivatives Trading Forum, Executive Director of Supervision of Markets Mr Rico Leung spoke about how Mainland-Hong Kong mutual market access schemes supported the growth of the city's derivatives market. At the Directors' Symposium 2023 organised by the Hong Kong Institute of Directors, Mr Christopher Wilson, Executive Director of Enforcement, highlighted company directors' duties in promoting effective corporate governance and a management culture that reduces misconduct. Mr Wilson also elaborated the SFC's holistic strategy to combat market misconduct in an interview with the official publication of the Law Society of Hong Kong.



Industry publication interviews

Communications and Education

Other publications and communications

We provide stakeholders with regulatory updates and explain our work through a variety of publications. During the quarter, we released the SFC's *April-June 2023 Quarterly Report* which summarised our key regulatory work, corporate developments and financial information. In August, we published the report on our annual *Asset and Wealth Management Activities Survey*, which found that Hong Kong's asset and wealth management business remained resilient in 2022 amid the challenges faced by the industry globally. In our *Half-yearly Review of the Global and Local Securities Markets* published in August, we provided reviews of global and local securities market performances during the first half of 2023 and an update on trading activity and short positions in Hong Kong. We also published in September the *Financial Review of the Securities Industry* for the first half of 2023 and the quarterly *Takeovers Bulletin*.

We published 55 posts on the SFC's social media platforms to promote awareness and bring the public's attention to a range of matters, including unregulated and suspicious VATPs, sustainable finance and mutual market access initiatives.

Explaining VATP regulation

To help market participants understand the new licensing regime for VATPs which took effect on 1 June 2023, we keep up our outreach and investor education efforts to inform stakeholders of the regulatory requirements under the new regime and remind the public of the risks of trading on unregulated platforms.

We participated in a wide range of conferences and seminars to engage with local and international industry participants including those at the events organised by the Hong Kong Financial Services Development Council, InvestHK and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Seoul. We also met with industry associations to explain our requirements.

In a televised interview by Phoenix TV in August, we explained the investor guardrails embedded in the new regime. Through a media briefing and an accompanying press release in September, we communicated our plans and measures to reinforce information dissemination and investor education to further raise awareness about unregulated VATPs.

Publications and other communications

	Quarter ended 30.9.2023	Six months ended 30.9.2023
Press releases	41	85
Policy statements and announcements	5	5
Consultation papers	0	2
Consultation conclusions	4	7
Industry-related publications	7	8
Codes and guidelines ^a	3	10
Circulars to industry	13	23
Corporate website average daily page views ^b	64,769	65,060
General enquiries	1,021	1,786

^a Includes updates to previous versions.

^b The average number of webpages browsed per day during the reporting period.

