Transforming Global Challenges into Asian Growth Opportunities

Welcome remarks at "Conversations with Global Investors" forum of the 2025 Global Financial Leaders' Investment Summit

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The Honourable Mr Paul Chan, Eddie, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, good morning.

Welcome to the "Conversations with Global Investors" forum. This is the final event of the Financial Leaders' Summit, but certainly not the least.

Today marks our fourth edition since the pandemic. Amid all evolving global challenges, Hong Kong stands strong and resilient as an international financial centre.

Global shifts, Asian opportunities

The theme this year is "Trekking through Shifting Terrain". Despite the global change, the collective wisdom of top investment leaders in this hall is vital for us to stay afoot in today's seismic transformation. Your expertise across macro, technology, alternative assets and more is vital for us to navigate today's complexity and chart our way forward.

On one hand, markets now demand caution. Geo-economic fragmentation, rising debt, technological disruption, and concentration risks all put pressure to our resilience.

On the other hand, opportunities persist. As the saying goes: nothing ventured, nothing gained.

Diversification matters more than ever. Spreading out risks across regions and asset classes delivers stability and performance. This strategy remains robust even in uncertain times.

Amid this wave of global diversification, Asian markets shine as an anchor and have stayed resilient, providing growth certainty and effective hedges for investors. The International Monetary Fund expects Asia to be the biggest driver for global economic growth this year and next.

SFC's mission as market guardian and enabler

In Hong Kong, we are making sure our capital markets set the standard for Asian excellence.

As capital market regulator, the Securities and Futures Commission (SFC) remains committed to one clear mission: defend and enhance Hong Kong's status as a leading

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Note: This is the text of the speech as drafted, which may differ from the delivered version.

international financial centre. We are steadfast in implementing effective regulation through our dual mandates of maintaining integrity and fostering development. It is also our essential duty to enhance Hong Kong's market performance and wealth creation capabilities.

And we work together with other regulators including the Hong Kong Monetary Authority to protect investors and build global trust.

This year, progress has been strong, especially in asset and wealth management.

We support growth through a richer product landscape and greater fund market connectivity. We champion innovation through tokenisation and digital assets. We also uphold integrity and trust through an unwavering commitment to international standards.

Hong Kong's unique market opportunities

Most importantly, collaboration with global stakeholders makes our mission and achievements possible.

This year, global investors have shown renewed confidence in Hong Kong, especially as the leading gateway to China. Those who waited before are now returning and are ready to share the vast dividends of the Greater China markets.

As Asia's No.1 financial centre, the city continues to top the global IPO[1] league table. This year, we completed some of the world's largest IPOs, attracting top sovereign funds and institutional investors. Funds raised have more than tripled year-on-year, a testament to the efficiency of our premier listing platform.

As a vibrant asset and wealth management hub, the city's assets under management have doubled over a decade, with Hong Kong-domiciled funds growing even more strongly. This showcases the opportunities from our unparalleled Mainland market access.

Closing

Therefore, you can have full confidence in Hong Kong's world-class financial sector and regulatory frameworks. We will build on this strong momentum and unlock even more new opportunities for global investors.

Finally, I would encourage all of you to make the best use of your time here — this means not just staying in the meeting rooms of Central, but also getting on the city's streets to experience the glamour of the local scene.

Now, let us begin our productive discussions today to shape our strategies for tomorrow. Thank you.

[1] Initial public offering.