

## Meet Our People

At the SFC, professionals in the early stages of their careers have opportunities to contribute to initiatives which have a significant impact on the markets, the financial industry and the wider world. Our people talk about what motivates them and the satisfaction of being part of our work to protect investors, safeguard markets and advance Hong Kong's position as an international financial centre.

### Making connections

Shelley Huang witnessed the launch of Shanghai-Hong Kong Stock Connect, the first mutual market access scheme between the Mainland and Hong Kong<sup>1</sup>, and is proud to have played a role in this milestone in Hong Kong's financial development. "This was one of the highlights of my career at the SFC and I was inspired by the dedication, diligence and professionalism of the senior leaders and working staff from both the Hong Kong and Mainland regulators," she reflected. She not only cemented close friendships with her Mainland counterparts and gained a deeper understanding of the Mainland's policies and regulatory environment, she also strengthened her communication and management skills as a result of collaborating with people from different authorities.

Contributing to the development of Shanghai-Hong Kong Stock Connect was a memorable experience for Sophia Wang, who also worked on other important milestones such as the later launch of the Shenzhen link and the introduction of A-share index futures in Hong Kong.

These experiences helped her develop the habit of embracing different views and finding common ground when handling challenging issues, she related. "It was a valuable experience working on these projects, and I am fortunate to be part of them."

### Tackling climate change

Samuel Kwan helps develop global policy recommendations for sustainable finance and contributes to local initiatives to advance Hong Kong's position as a green finance hub within the Greater Bay Area and internationally<sup>2</sup>. "It has been a challenge to develop effective regulatory frameworks for green and sustainable finance, considering the jurisdictional and sectoral differences and the need to move quickly to address the urgent issue of climate change," he said. "This is an invaluable opportunity for me to play a big part in the green transition and help protect the planet."

When Kenneth Chan was assigned to develop the SFC's first guidelines for disclosures by environmental, social and governance (ESG) funds, he faced a steep learning curve. Not only was it a new area for him, at the time there was little precedent for a regulator to issue this kind of guidance. "This was highly motivating and a great learning experience," he said. "It has been inspiring to see the improvement in these disclosures after our guidance was issued, and very satisfying to see other regulators in the region make reference to it."



Kenneth Chan, Senior Manager, Investment Products  
Ammon Lee, Associate Director, Information Technology,  
Corporate Affairs  
Shelley Huang, Manager, Mainland Affairs, CEO's Office



Kelly Mak, Manager, Enforcement  
William Chung, Associate Director, Information Technology,  
Corporate Affairs  
Tim Kwok, Assistant Manager, Enforcement

1 Mutual market access between Hong Kong and Shanghai was launched in November 2014 and expanded with Shenzhen-Hong Kong Stock Connect in December 2016.

2 See Green and Sustainable Finance on pages 36-39.

### Cracking down on scammers

As a member of the SFC's frontline investigation team, Kelly Mak's top priority is combating ramp and dump schemes<sup>3</sup>, which are often conducted by sophisticated syndicates operating across different jurisdictions.

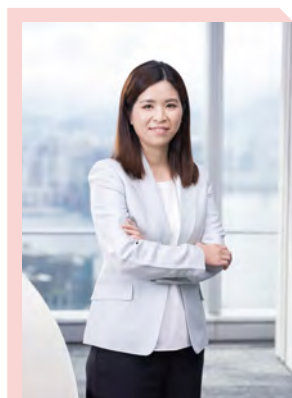
Tracking down the "masterminds behind the scenes" can be a huge challenge, she explained, and close cooperation with local and overseas regulators and law enforcement agencies is essential. "Curbing these scam syndicates has helped preserve the integrity of our markets and protect investors," she added.

Tim Kwok agreed, adding that the most rewarding aspect for him was knowing he has helped raise public awareness so investors would be less likely to fall for these schemes. "This reminds me that what we do in all of our work is to protect the interests of investors and uphold the reputation of Hong Kong as an international financial centre," he concluded.

### Innovation for the future

The introduction of our new digitalised licensing platform on WINGS<sup>4</sup> was a proud moment for Emily Tse, who took part in the project from the very beginning. "The new platform helps the industry manage licensing matters in a more flexible, seamless manner while streamlining the SFC's work and providing transparency," she explained.

William Chung, who was responsible for delivering the external interface, added that "this new system will help thousands of our licensees, and that is the most rewarding thing to me."



Emily Tse, Manager, Licensing, Intermediaries



Sophia Wang, Associate Director, Supervision of Markets



Alpha Lau, Manager, Intermediaries Supervision, Intermediaries  
Erica Lai, Manager, Licensing, Intermediaries  
Samuel Kwan, Assistant Manager, International Affairs and Sustainable Finance, CEO's Office  
Lewis Wong, Senior Manager, Information Technology, Corporate Affairs

Alpha Lau explained that our licensing and intermediaries supervision functions are crucial for gatekeeping and monitoring Hong Kong's securities and futures markets. Cooperating with colleagues from other parts of the organisation taught him a lot, and this has helped his career development. "The challenges I faced motivated me to learn more," he said.

Erica Lai stressed that the rollout of the new system came just at the right time to enable us to handle all our licensing work remotely when staff could not come to the office. "Though the project was challenging, I was excited to see all our hard work pay off when I saw how well the system worked," she said. "And it was most rewarding to hear the positive feedback from the industry, including my former colleagues who told me how convenient the new features are."

For Ammon Lee, the project's technical lead, the greatest challenge was keeping up the team's spirit under the adverse conditions during the pandemic. "We managed to overcome unprecedented difficulties with excellent teamwork, and this gave us a great sense of achievement."

Reflecting our people's sense of mission and dedication, Lewis Wong related that the team was very happy when the project was delivered according to plan, knowing that it provided a foundation for future innovations. In the words of Kelly Mak, "the most fulfilling thing is knowing that our work has a positive impact."

<sup>3</sup> See Enforcement on pages 79-88.

<sup>4</sup> See Intermediaries on pages 61-67.