



Click [here](#) to download high-res photos

Press Release

For Immediate Release

Japan-Hong Kong Innovation and Technology Forum Ushers in a New Chapter for Bilateral Innovation and Technology Collaboration

(Hong Kong, 31 October 2025) – The Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation (HKSTP) joins hands with the Consulate-General of Japan in Hong Kong, DEFTA Partners, and the Alliance Forum Foundation in Special Consultative Status with the United Nations ECOSOC to co-host today’s Japan-Hong Kong Innovation and Technology Forum. The event successfully concluded as it convened distinguished leaders from government, academia, and industry, reaffirming Hong Kong’s position as a world-class launchpad for innovation and a strategic bridge between Japan’s deep tech capabilities and Hong Kong’s globally connected innovation and technology (I&T) ecosystem.

Among the distinguished guests were Ambassador Jun Miura, Consul-General of Japan in Hong Kong; Ms Lillian Cheong, Under Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry of HKSAR; Ambassador George Hara, founder of DEFTA Partners and advisor to HKSTP; Mr Terry Wong, CEO of HKSTP; and global AI expert Professor Yutaka Matsuo of the University of Tokyo.

At the forum, panel discussions explored topics including artificial intelligence, investment, business collaboration, and bio-related technologies. These sessions brought together entrepreneurs, scientists, and industry leaders from Japan and Hong Kong to share insights and explore opportunities for mutual growth.

The Japan-Hong Kong Innovation and Technology Forum laid a strong foundation for future bilateral engagement, fostering ongoing collaboration and shared success. HKSTP continues to drive global expansion for Hong Kong startups through its “Attract In and Expand Out” strategy, and remains committed to deepening its alliance with Japanese stakeholders, leveraging collective strengths to drive innovation and co-create a dynamic I&T ecosystem that addresses global challenges and supports sustainable growth.



Photo 1: HKSTP joins hands with the Consulate-General of Japan in Hong Kong, DEFTA Partners, and the Alliance Forum Foundation in Special Consultative Status with the United Nations ECOSOC to co-host today's Japan-Hong Kong Innovation and Technology Forum. Amb Jun Miura, Consul-General of Japan in Hong Kong (Centre), Amb George Hara, Group Chairman & CEO, DEFTA Partners (2nd from left), Ms Lillian Cheong, Under Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry of the HKSAR (2nd from right), Prof Yutaka Matsuo, University of Tokyo (1st from left, and Mr Terry Wong, Chief Executive Officer of HKSTP (1st from right), officiates the event.



Photo 2: Amb Jun Miura, Consul-General of Japan in Hong Kong, said: “The increasing importance of Hong Kong and HK-Shenzhen-Guangzhou cluster as a hub for innovation and technology based on their capital, information, universities and talent is becoming clear, especially as the pace of technological advancement, including AI, and changes in the business environment, accelerates.” He added: “Now is the time for Japan and Hong Kong to explore opportunities of collaboration in innovation and technology, based on their longstanding relationship. “,” I hope that the startups of Hong Kong will visit various parts of Japan and deepen their understanding of the various opportunities that Japanese local cities provide. Likewise, I would like to see more Japanese startups come to Hong Kong to seize opportunities. By doing so, hopefully both Japan and Hong Kong can grow together in the field of innovation and technology.”



Photo 3: Ms Lillian Cheong, Under Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry of the HKSAR, said that the Government has spared no efforts in devising support measures to promote the development of start-up ecosystem in Hong Kong, citing the \$10 billion Research, Academic and Industry Sectors One-plus Scheme, the launch of the \$180 million Pilot I&T Accelerator Scheme as well as the setting up of a \$10 billion Innovation and Technology Industry-Oriented Fund and the relaxation of application threshold for the New Industrialisation Acceleration Scheme. She expressed confidence that Japanese I&T enterprises can benefit greatly from setting up footholds in Hong Kong with a view to tapping the vast Mainland and overseas markets.



Photo 4: Mr Terry Wong, CEO of HKSTP, said, “Our forum today exemplifies this spirit, bringing together Japan’s deep tech strength and Hong Kong’s global platform to unlock a new era of collaboration. At HKSTP, we are committed to enabling startups to go global while attracting international innovation leaders to land and scale in Hong Kong. To date, more than 150 tech enterprises have participated in nine major innovation events across Japan, generating over USD 5 million in commercialisation value through increased exposure and strategic partnerships.” He added that HKSTP is fast-tracking the development of INNOPOLE, a new 20-hectare San Tin Technopole campus within the Northern Metropolis. This strategic initiative is designed to create a powerful

economic engine, providing expansive space for AI development and Greater Bay Area collaboration. INNOPOLE will solidify Hong Kong's position as the world's premier gateway for innovation.



Photo 5: Amb George Hara, Group Chairman & CEO, DEFTA Partners, shared insights at the keynote speech, and said: “The momentum from today's forum is a clear signal that the future of tech will be written through collaboration. We are committed to bring strategic alliance with Japanese corporates, leveraging DEFTA's expertise to turn the promising sciences and technologies out of Hong Kong into the groundbreaking enterprises of tomorrow.”

As Chairman of the Alliance Forum Foundation, he said “Hong Kong serves as a pivotal junction between Japan, China and the United States, holding significant geopolitical importance. Should Japan's industrial sector contribute to growth by commercialising new technologies emerging in Hong Kong universities and establishing technology industries, while introducing the concept of public-benefit capitalism to cultivate a prosperous middle class, Hong Kong could become a model city for the 21st century and set an example for many Asian cities. Fostering a prosperous middle class also contributes significantly to building democracy and peace. Everything hinges on what kind of city Hong Kong's business leaders envision for its future”.



Photo 6 – 7: At the forum, panel discussions explored topics including artificial intelligence, investment, business collaboration, and bio-related technologies.

###

About DEFTA Partners

DEFTA Partners is a venture capital firm founded in 1985 in California. Since the 1980s, DEFTA Partners has identified, nurtured, and funded companies with innovative technologies in the areas of biotech, healthcare, software, telecommunication, semiconductor, new materials and new energy. Over decades of her history, with its mission to establish a thick layer of healthy and educated middle class, DEFTA established a remarkable track record through industrializing many advanced fundamental research achievements, growing the startups, and expanding their businesses to eventually become world-renowned corporations, such as Fortinet, Polycom, Zoran, Microcosm, IONIS. Currently DEFTA Partners operates offices in San Francisco, Tokyo, and Hong Kong, with investment footprints covering the U.S., U.K., Europe, Israel, Japan and now Hong Kong.

About Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation

Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation (HKSTP) was established in 2001 to create a thriving I&T ecosystem grooming 13 unicorns, more than 15,000 research professionals and over 2,500 technology companies from 26 countries and regions focused on developing healthtech, AI and robotics, fintech and smart city technologies, etc.

Our growing innovation ecosystem offers comprehensive support to attract and nurture talent, accelerate and commercialise innovation for technology ventures, with the I&T journey built around our key locations of Hong Kong Science Park in Pak Shek Kok, InnoCentre in Kowloon Tong and three modern InnoParks in Tai Po, Tseung Kwan O and Yuen Long realising a vision of new industrialisation for Hong Kong, where sectors including advanced manufacturing, micro-electronics and biotechnology are being reimaged.

Hong Kong Science Park Shenzhen Branch in Futian, Shenzhen plays positive roles in connecting the world and the mainland with our proximity, strengthening cross-border exchange to bring advantages in attracting global talent and allowing possibilities for the development of technology companies in seven key areas: Medtech, big data and AI, robotics, new materials, microelectronics, fintech and sustainability, with both dry and wet laboratories, co-working space, conference and exhibition facilities, and more.

Through our R&D infrastructure, startup support and enterprise services, commercialisation and investment expertise, partnership networks and talent traction, HKSTP continues contribute in establishing I&T as a pillar of growth for Hong Kong.

More information about HKSTP is available at www.hkstp.org.

Media Contact:

Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation

Angela Lau

Tel: +852 2629 6633

Email: angela.lau@hkstp.org