

20 NOVEMBER · HONG KONG, CHINA

APEC Next-Gen

Young Entrepreneurs Summit

20 November 2026 · Hong Kong, China

1. Event Details

Title	APEC Next-Gen Young Entrepreneurs Summit
Theme	From Ideas to Impact: Young Entrepreneurs Driving Asia-Pacific Growth
Date	20 November 2026
Location	Hong Kong, China
Venue	Hong Kong Palace Museum
Organizer	Asia Pacific Young Entrepreneurs Alliance (APYEA)
HK Co-organizer	The Y. Elites Association (Hong Kong)
Partners	Sino Group, Lan Kwai Fong Group, CLP Group, YoungDAB
Supporting Organizations	Hong Kong Tourism Board, Chinese Chamber of Commerce, Chinese Manufacturers' Association of Hong Kong
Format	VIP Welcome Reception on the evening of 19 November, followed by a full-day summit on 20 November comprising keynote sessions, panel discussions, an inter-generational fireside chat, a networking reception, and a private VIP dinner. An optional program for international delegates will be offered on 21 November.

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Participants	Approximately 400 invited participants from across the APEC economies: young entrepreneurs, next-generation family business leaders and other emerging leaders under 45, together with business leaders, investors and policymakers. Sectors range from technology, finance and advanced manufacturing to healthcare, green industries, agrifood and the creative economy.

2. Agenda

Thursday, 19 November 2026

18:00 onwards VIP Welcome Reception & Dinner

18:00 onwards Hong Kong Night at Lan Kwai Fong (open to all participants)

Friday, 20 November 2026

09:00 – 09:30 Guest Registration

09:30 – 10:30 Opening Session — Welcome Addresses by the Hong Kong SAR Government, the APEC Secretariat, the ABAC Secretariat and APYEA, and MoU Signing Ceremony

Welcome addresses set out the Summit's purpose and the place of young entrepreneurs in the region's growth agenda, followed by the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between APYEA and The Y. Elites Association (Hong Kong).

10:30 – 10:45 Keynote I — Scaling Young Ventures Across Asia-Pacific Markets

How the Asia-Pacific's trade architecture — its agreements, standards and regulatory coordination — reaches a company of twenty people trying to sell into a second market: where it opens doors, where it still does not, and what small firms can expect from it.

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10:45 – 11:30 Panel I — Openness · Cross-Border Market Access: Standards, Partners and the Realities of Entry

Founders from different APEC economies compare what outsiders most often misjudge about their markets: what earns trust, what a local partner is really for, and how much of a business must be rebuilt rather than translated. The focus is the gap between a market open on paper and one open in practice.

11:30 – 11:45 Keynote II — AI and the Digital Economy: Capability and Constraint at the Frontier

Every company in this room is deciding what artificial intelligence means for its own business. This keynote offers the view from the other side: what a company building the technology sees as genuinely possible today, where the gap between demonstration and deployment remains widest, and what those adapting to it most often misread.

11:45 – 12:30 Panel II — Innovation · AI in Established Industries: Data, Workforce and the Pace of Adoption

Most companies are not AI companies; they are established businesses deciding what artificial intelligence means for work they already do. Operators from manufacturing, consumer, healthcare, property and the creative industries compare what they have been able to put into production, what it demanded of their data and their workforce, and which promised gains proved further off than expected. The comparison runs across economies as well as industries: the same tool meets different legacy systems, talent costs and customer expectations in each market.

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch Break

14:00 – 14:15 Keynote III — Sustainable Growth in Emerging Asia: First Choices in Food Systems, Cities and Infrastructure

Much of the Asia-Pacific is making first choices in food systems, cities and infrastructure that will hold for decades. Drawing on four decades of building across Southeast Asia, this keynote looks at where the region's environmental future is actually decided — and the opening it creates for young companies willing to build the better version the first time.

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14:15 – 15:00 Panel III — Cooperation · Green and Circular Ventures: Commercial Viability and the Distribution of Cost

Building a business that is better for the environment is rarely rewarded straight away. Founders compare what has proved commercially viable across the region, who ends up carrying the cost, and what would need to change — in procurement, financing or regulation — for the better option to also be the easier one.

15:00 – 15:30 In Conversation — Empowering the Next Generation: Networks, Credibility and the Conditions for Enterprise

An interview with an entrepreneur who arrived as an outsider and went on to help shape the city this Summit is held in. The conversation turns on what young founders need that money alone does not supply — access, networks, credibility, and a market willing to let them try — and on the other side of that exchange: what makes an experienced operator decide to back a young company, what he looks for, what he has learned to discount, and which of his own early assumptions proved wrong.

15:30 – 16:15 Panel IV — Inclusive Growth · Financing the Next Generation: Access to Capital Beyond the Region's Hubs

Capital concentrates in a handful of hubs, while most of the region's founders live elsewhere. The panel examines what raising money, valuation and exits really look like beyond those hubs, the growing role of next-generation business leaders as investors, and what would meaningfully widen access to capital.

16:15 – 17:00 Inter-Generational Fireside Chat — Dialogue between an established regional leader and a young entrepreneur on leadership and the future of the Asia-Pacific

An exchange between the institutions that shape the region, the businesses built within them, and the generation now inheriting both: what the regional framework has actually delivered for a small company, what four decades of Asia-Pacific growth have and have not changed, and what a founder starting out today still needs. Less advice in one direction than an exchange of expectations in both.

17:00 – 17:30 Launch of the Asia Pacific Young Entrepreneurs Report Initiative

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The Report Initiative is a multi-year program to build a comparable evidence base on next-generation entrepreneurship across the APEC economies: what founders actually encounter when they raise capital, recruit, and expand beyond their home market, and how sharply those conditions differ from one economy to the next. The first edition will draw on the perspectives raised across the four thematic sessions and on input from delegates, and is intended as a reference for policymakers, business organizations, and investors across the region. This session sets out the Initiative's scope and timetable, followed by the signing of its founding partners.

17:30 – 18:00 Closing Session

Signing of memoranda of understanding with partner organizations, acknowledgment of the Summit's partners and supporters, and closing remarks.

18:30 – 21:00 Private VIP Dinner

18:30 onwards Hong Kong Night at Lan Kwai Fong (open to all participants)

Saturday, 21 November 2026

Morning Visit to the Legislative Council (optional, RSVP required)

18:00 onwards Hong Kong Night at Lan Kwai Fong (open to all participants)

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3. Confirmed Speakers & VIP Guests (Partial List)

Eduardo Pedrosa, Executive Director, APEC Secretariat

Antonio I. Basilio, Director, APEC Business Advisory Council Secretariat

The honorable Bernard Charnwut Chan, GBM, GBS, JP, Chairman & President, Asia Financial Holdings Limited; Chairman, Asia Insurance Company Limited; Chairman, Hong Kong–Thailand Business Council

Dr. Allan Zeman, Founder and Chairman, Lan Kwai Fong Group; Chairman and Independent Non-Executive Director, Wynn Macau Limited

The honorable Sunny Tan, BBS, Member, Legislative Council of the HKSAR; Chairman, Hong Kong Productivity Council

Kasemsit Pathomsak, Member, APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC), Thailand; Executive Chairman, Merchant Partners Limited

Nicholas Ho, Commissioner for Belt and Road, HKSAR Government

The honorable Albert Chuang, BBS, JP, Chairman and Managing Director, Chuang's Consortium International Limited; Member, Legislative Council of the Hong Kong SAR

Alex Yeung, JP, Vice Chairman, Emperor Group

Poman Lo, Vice Chairman and Managing Director, Regal Hotels International

The honorable Kenneth Fok, BBS, JP, Vice President, Fok Ying Tung Group (video remark)

Geoffrey Kao, Alternate Representative, APEC Business Advisory Council - Hong Kong, China

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Antonio Vives, Former Deputy Mayor of Barcelona

Alessandro Somaschini, Vice President, European Confederation of Young Entrepreneurs; Member, National Council for Cooperation and Development, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Italy

Manaka Inoue, CEO, Freegate Shirahama; Corporate Planning Manager, PAL GROUP

Darmen Sadvakassov, Managing Partner Dasco Group, Five-time Kazakhstan Chess Champion

Hendrik Rosenthal, Director, Group Sustainability, CLP Holdings Ltd.