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	Hong Kong-ASEAN Foundation, PwC, Lan Kwai Fong Group, CLP Power
Supporting Organizations	Hong Kong Tourism Board, Chinese General 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, and a private VIP dinner. An optional program for international delegates will be offered on 21 November.
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

19:00 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 International Secretariat and APYEA, and MoU Signing Ceremony

1.Welcome addresses set out the Summit's purpose and the place of young entrepreneurs in the region's growth agenda.

Eduardo Pedrosa, Executive Director, APEC Secretariat

The Hon John Lee Ka-chiu, GBM, SBS, PDSM, PMSM, Chief Executive,Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China (Video Address)

Antonio I. Basilio, Director, ABAC International Secretariat

Xiaoning Lyu, President, Asia Pacific Young Entrepreneurs Alliance (APYEA)

2. APYEA and The Y.Elites Association sign a Memorandum of Understanding to deepen collaboration in support of young entrepreneurs.

Alice Mak, SBS, JP, Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China

Sze Wine Him Jaime, SBS, JP, Founding Chairman, The Y.Elites Association

Wong Chun Tat, JP, Chairman, The Y.Elites Association

Conrad Ho, MH, Executive Vice-Chairman, The Y.Elites Association

3. Officiating guests join together on stage for the Kick-off Ceremony to officially open the Summit, followed by a group photo.

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

Scaling across the Asia-Pacific requires young ventures to navigate diverse regulatory and market environments while capturing regional growth opportunities. This keynote explores the forces shaping regional growth and APEC's role in fostering economic cooperation, with a focus on how Hong Kong can serve as a strategic base for reaching opportunities across the region.

Dr. Jonathan K S Choi, GBM, GBS, BBS, JP, Standing Committee Member of National Committee of Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, Chairman of Guangdong-HK-Macao Bay Area Entrepreneurs Alliance, Permanent Honorary Senior President of the Chinese General Chamber of Commerce

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.

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

The Hon. Andrew Yao, SBS, JP, Chairman, Hong Kong Shanghai Alliance Holdings Limited; Vice Chairman, The Chinese General Chamber of Commerce

Matthew Khalil, Founder, Ode Hotels and Residences; Co-Founder, Happier Grocery

Darmen Sadvakassov, Chairman & CEO, Dasco Capital Ltd

Moderator: **Charmaine Co**, President, Philippine Young Entrepreneurs Association (PYEA)

11:30 – 12:15 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.

Poman Lo, Founder, One Earth Institute; Vice Chairman and Managing Director, Regal Hotels International

Yeung Ching Loong Alexander, JP, Vice Chairman, Emperor Group

Quynh Anh Dang, Member of the Board of Directors, Kinh Bac City Development Holding Corporation (KBC); ABAC Viet Nam Alternate Member

Xiaobin Benjamin Chen, AI investor

Moderator: **Peter Brewin,** Partner, PwC Hong Kong

12:15 – 14:15 Lunch Break

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.

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

Manaka Inoue, Corporate Planning Executive Officer, PAL GROUP HOLDINGS

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

Hanyuan Wang, Founder & CEO, Climind Limited

Moderator: **Saniza Othman**, Vice Chair, Malaysian Chamber of Commerce; Chief Legal and Growth Officer, APInvest Partners

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.

Dr the Hon. Allan Zeman, GBM, GBS, JP, Chairman, Lan Kwai Fong Group

Moderator: **Yamilette Cano**, Chairperson, The Mexican Chamber of Commerce

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.

Kasemsit Pathomsak, Executive Chairman, Merchant Partners Securities PCL.; ABAC Thailand Member Chairman

Geoffrey Edward Kao, Executive Director, Wah Ming Hong Limited; ABAC Hong Kong, China Alternate Member

Nguyen Vu Kien, Expert, International Relations Department, Viet Nam Chamber of Commerce and Industry; ABAC Viet Nam Secretariat

Patty Yang, Founder, NOTJUSTAGENCY Limited

Moderator: **Sinclair Lyu,** CEO and Co-founder, Hurun Group

16:15 – 16:45 Launch of the Asia Pacific Young Entrepreneurs Report Initiative

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 partners.

Shaoxuan Liu, Executive Dean, SJTU-BOC Institute of Technology and Finance; Associate Dean of the Antai College of Economics and Management, Shanghai Jiao Tong University

Charles Lee, Vice Chair and Managing Partner, PwC China

16:45 – 17:30 Inter-Generational Dialogue — Promise and Practice: What Regional Integration Delivers to the Next Generation

Two perspectives that have shaped three decades of Asia-Pacific development take questions from the generation that will inherit it: one from the institutional framework built to facilitate trade and investment across the region, the other from the enterprises that grew up within it and tested in practice what it does and does not make possible. The questions come from a young leader working across the region on entrepreneurship and social impact, asking what young founders most want to know: how the institutions shaping the region see this generation's place on their agenda, what regional integration has actually delivered to those building companies today, where expectation still outpaces practice, and what the next three decades must get right, including the climate commitments this generation will live with.

Eduardo Pedrosa, Executive Director, APEC Secretariat

The Hon. Bernard Charnwut Chan, GBM, GBS, JP, Chairman & President, Asia Financial Holdings Limited; Member, Hong Kong-ASEAN Foundation Advisory Council

Moderator: **Alice Ho,** Chief Youth Officer, Global Alliance of Universities on Climate

17:30 – 17:50 Launch of the Asia Pacific Young Entrepreneurs Mentorship Program

A regional mentorship program, launched by APYEA together with the Hong Kong United Youth Association, pairing next-generation founders across the APEC economies with mentors drawn from business, investment and policy..

Li Pak Chuen, Patrick, JP, Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China

Mak Yung Pan Andrew, MH, Chairman, Hong Kong United Youth Association (HKUYA)

The Hon. Kenneth Fok Kai Kong, BBS, JP, Vice President of the Fok Ying Tung Group (Video Remarks)

Sze Chun Hong Johnny, Vice Chairman, Hong Kong United Youth Association; Chairman, HKUYA Student Network Affairs Committee

17:50 – 18:00 Closing Session

18:30 – 21:00 VIP Dinner

19:00 onwards Hong Kong Night at Lan Kwai Fong (open to all participants)

Saturday, 21 November 2026

Dive Deeper into Hong Kong (Optional, RSVP required)

10:00 – 11:30 Guided Visit to the Legislative Council

14:00 – 15:00 Guided Tour of CLP Pulse

16:00 – 17:00 Visit to the Hong Kong Jockey Club

19:00 onwards Hong Kong Night at Lan Kwai Fong (open to all participants)

3. Confirmed Speakers & VIP Guests (Partial List)

Eduardo Pedrosa, Executive Director, APEC Secretariat

Antonio I. Basilio, Director, ABAC International Secretariat

The Hon. Mrs Regina Ip Lau Suk-yee, GBM, GBS, JP, Convenor, Non-official Members of the Executive Council, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

Dr the Hon. Eliza Chan Ching-har, GBS, JP, Non-official Member, Executive Council of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region; Chairperson, Women's Commission

Alice Mak, SBS, JP, Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

Li Pak Chuen, Patrick, JP, Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China

The Hon. Bernard Charnwut Chan, GBM, GBS, JP, Chairman & President, Asia Financial Holdings Limited; Member, Hong Kong-ASEAN Foundation Advisory Council

Dr. Jonathan K S Choi, GBM, GBS, BBS, JP, Standing Committee Member of National Committee of Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, Chairman of Guangdong-HK-Macao Bay Area Entrepreneurs Alliance, Permanent Honorary Senior President of the Chinese General Chamber of Commerce

Dr the Hon. Allan Zeman, GBM, GBS, JP, Chairman, Lan Kwai Fong Group

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

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

The Hon. Andrew Yao, SBS, JP, Chairman, Hong Kong Shanghai Alliance Holdings Limited; Vice Chairman, The Chinese General Chamber of Commerce

Kasemsit Pathomsak, Executive Chairman, Merchant Partners Securities PCL.; ABAC Thailand Chairman

Geoffrey Edward Kao, Executive Director, Wah Ming Hong Limited; ABAC Hong Kong, China Alternate Member

Quynh Anh Dang, Member of the Board of Directors, Kinh Bac City Development Holding Corporation (KBC); ABAC Viet Nam Alternate Member

Nguyen Vu Kien, Expert, International Relations Department, Viet Nam Chamber of Commerce and Industry; ABAC Viet Nam Secretariat

The Hon. Kenneth Fok Kai Kong, BBS, JP, Vice President of the Fok Ying Tung Group (Video remarks)

Poman Lo, Founder, One Earth Institute; Vice Chairman and Managing Director, Regal Hotels International

Yeung Ching Loong Alexander, JP, Vice Chairman, Emperor Group

Alice Ho, Chief Youth Officer, Global Alliance of Universities on Climate

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

Charles Lee, Vice Chair and Managing Partner, PwC China

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Shaoxuan Liu, Executive Dean, SJTU-BOC Institute of Technology and Finance; Associate Dean of the Antai College of Economics and Management, Shanghai Jiao Tong University

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