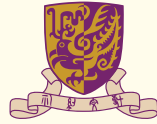


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Global Conference on Sustainable Development



4–5 October 2023 (Wed & Thu)

Conference Booklet





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About the Conference



Introduction

The Global Conference on Sustainable Development is the first international conference organized by the Hong Kong Chapter of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Solutions Network.

It aims to enable exchanges among academia, philanthropy, civil society institutions, the government and the private sector on the challenges and opportunities, as well as the way forward, in achieving the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

Organizers



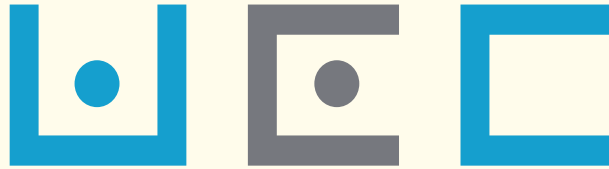
The global network of the United Nations' (UN) Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) currently draws upon the knowledge and educational capacity of 1,800 member institutions to accelerate the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the 17 Sustainable Development Goals that seek to eradicate poverty, fight inequalities and tackle climate change.

The Hong Kong Chapter of SDSN (SDSN Hong Kong), launched in January 2018 and co-hosted by The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) and The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust, aims to mobilize the expertise, information and resources from the academic, philanthropic, government, business and non-profit sectors in Hong Kong to create transformative solutions to tackle the most pressing environmental, social and economic issues of the day and advance sustainable development.



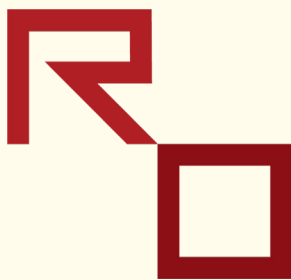
The Institute of Environment, Energy and Sustainability (IEES), established in 2011, aims to promote multidisciplinary environmental research and education at CUHK. Through integrating CUHK's strengths of various cognate disciplines, IEES aspires to build synergy to address some of the most pressing issues confronting the long-term sustainability of human society. IEES endeavours to work in collaboration with industrial, government and non-government organizations as well as different community stakeholders to build a better environment for our future generations.

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港燈
HK Electric



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization
聯合國教育科學及文化組織



Hong Kong Institute of
Education for Sustainable Development
香港可持續發展教育學院
The Movement of Centres of UNESCO



香港戶外生態教育協會
Outdoor Wildlife Learning Hong Kong



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Conference Agenda



Day 1

09:00	Opening
09:30–10:15	Keynote Speeches  17 SDGs
10:15–11:00	Networking Break
11:00–12:30	Plenary Session 1 Sustainable Development Governance: Government, Civil Society and Business  
12:30–14:00	Lunch Break
14:00–15:30	Plenary Session 2 University Sustainability Index: Model Good Practices in Higher Education  17 SDGs
15:30–16:00	Networking Break
16:00–17:00	Breakout Session 1 Sustainable Finance and Green Investment  Breakout Session 2 Building an age-friendly city in Hong Kong  

Day 2

08:30–10:00	<p>Plenary Session 3 Geospatial Information and Human Health</p>  
10:00–10:30	Networking Break
10:30–11:30	<p>Breakout Session 3 Strengthening Regional Partnership in Advancing the SDG Agenda</p>   <p>Breakout Session 4 Building Resilience through Biodiversity Conservation</p>  
11:30–12:30	<p>Breakout Session 5 Carbon Neutrality</p>     <p>Breakout Session 6 Sustainable Food Systems under Global Change</p>  
12:30–14:00	Lunch Break
14:00–15:00	<p>Breakout Session 7 Sustainable Tourism</p>   <p>Breakout Session 8 Education for Sustainable Development</p> 
15:00–15:30	Networking Break
15:30–17:00	<p>Plenary Session 4 Climate Crisis and Science</p> 
17:00–17:20	<p>Closing</p>  17 SDGs
17:20	Post-conference Networking Coffee



Day 1





Welcome Address



Professor Rocky S Tuan

Vice-Chancellor and President,
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Biography

Alongside his leadership role at The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Professor Rocky Tuan is Lee Quo Wei and Lee Yick Hoi Lun professor of tissue engineering and regenerative medicine. He is a world-leading biomedical scientist specialising in stem cell science and regenerative medicine. His work covers basic science and engineering, as well as translational and clinical applications. Prior to joining CUHK, he held several key appointments at the University of Pittsburgh, including distinguished professor of orthopaedic surgery and director of the Center for Cellular and Molecular Engineering in the School of Medicine.

Opening Remarks



Professor Lam Hon-ming

Convenor, Organizing Committee of Global
Conference on Sustainable Development

Biography

Professor Lam Hon-ming obtained his BSc and MPhil in Biology from The Chinese University of Hong Kong in 1985 and 1987, respectively. After receiving his PhD degree in molecular biology from Northwestern University in the USA, he worked as a post-doctoral fellow at New York University from 1992 to 1996. Professor Lam is currently the Choh-Ming Li Professor of Life Sciences at The Chinese University of Hong Kong. He is concurrently the Director of the Molecular Biotechnology Programme in School of Life Sciences, the Director of State Key Laboratory of Agrobiotechnology (CUHK), and the Director of RGC-Areas of Excellence Center for Genomic Studies on Plant-Environment Interaction for Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security.

Guest of Honour Address



The Hon Tse Chin-wan, GBS, JP

Secretary for the Environment and Ecology,
The Government of the Hong Kong Special
Administrative Region

Biography

Mr Tse joined the former Environmental Protection Agency in 1985 which was subsequently reorganised in 1986 to become the current Environmental Protection Department (EPD). Throughout the service with EPD, Mr Tse had taken up a wide range of duties at professional and senior managerial levels. He was appointed as a Deputy Director of Environmental Protection in 2013 and subsequently as the Under Secretary for the Environment in August 2017. Mr Tse possesses a broad spectrum of experience in various areas of environmental protection, including law enforcement, computer modelling, environmental impact assessment and cross-boundary cooperation with the Mainland. During his tenure as the Under Secretary for the Environment, he helped spearhead the formulation of policies on air quality, waste management, climate actions and conservation.

Sustainable Development in a Changing World: Challenges and Pathways



Biography

Ban Ki-moon is a South Korean diplomat who was the eighth Secretary-General of the United Nations (UNSG) from January 2007 to December 2016. Before becoming UNSG, Mr. Ban was a career diplomat in South Korea's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and in the United Nations. As the eighth UNSG, Ban Ki-moon's priorities were to mobilize world leaders around a set of new global challenges, from climate change and economic upheaval to pandemics and increasing pressures involving food, energy, and water. He led the efforts for the landmark Paris Climate Agreement and, under his leadership, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the 2030 Agenda were created.

Ban Ki-moon currently serves as the Co-Chair of the Ban Ki-moon Centre for Global Citizens which seeks to empower youth and women to become active global citizens in creating a sustainable future for all. In addition, he currently holds over 20 positions, including the Presidency and the Chairmanship of the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), and Chairmanships of the Global Commission on Adaptation, the Ethics Commission of the International Olympic Committee, and the BOAO Forum in Asia.



Mr Ban Ki-moon

Former United Nations Secretary General, and Co-Chair, Ban Ki-moon Centre for Global Citizens

Abstract

The keynote address will focus on the challenges and opportunities we face in achieving Agenda 2030 at a time when our world is at a critical juncture. It will, in particular, stress the importance of Global Solidarity, Inclusivity, Sustainability, Innovation, and Youth Engagement and conclude that achieving the SDGs is not just a goal but a moral imperative and a shared responsibility.

The World in 2050

Biography

Jeffrey D. Sachs is University Professor and Director of the Center for Sustainable Development at Columbia University, where he directed the Earth Institute from 2002 until 2016. He is President of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network, Co-Chair of the Council of Engineers for the Energy Transition, Commissioner of the UN Broadband Commission for Development, academician of the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences at the Vatican, and Tan Sri Jeffrey Cheah Honorary Distinguished Professor at Sunway University. He has been Special Advisor to three United Nations Secretaries-General, and currently serves as an SDG Advocate under Secretary General António Guterres. He spent over twenty years as a professor at Harvard University, where he received his B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. degrees. Sachs has received 42 honorary doctorates, and his recent awards include the 2022 Tang Prize in Sustainable Development, the Legion of Honor by decree of the President of the Republic of France, and the Order of the Cross from the President of Estonia. His most recent books are *The Ages of Globalization: Geography, Technology, and Institutions* (2020) and *Ethics in Action for Sustainable Development* (2022).



Professor Jeffrey Sachs

President, United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network, and Director, Center for Sustainable Development, Columbia University

Abstract

What is the pathway to sustainability in 2050? This presentation will discuss the technical, fiscal, political, demographic, and social pathways to the future we want.



Sustainable Development Governance: Government, Civil Society and Business

Synopsis

Sustainable development governance is essential in achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and ensuring that social, economic, and environmental factors are taken into account in policy and decision-making. However, various stakeholders face challenges in implementing sustainable development policies and practices, including limited resources, competing priorities, and regulatory barriers.

Effective governance structures and partnerships with civil society and the private sector are crucial to overcoming these challenges. Governments must develop comprehensive sustainable development policies and strategies that consider the interests of all stakeholders. Civil society organizations must advocate for policy change, mobilize public support, and hold governments and businesses accountable for their actions. Businesses must adopt sustainable practices and technologies, invest in renewable energy and resource efficiency, and promote social and environmental responsibility.

The plenary session on 'Sustainable Development Governance: Government, Civil Society and Business' will provide insights into the critical role of different stakeholders in promoting sustainable development and how they can collaborate to overcome challenges and achieve common goals. Effective governance structures, partnerships, and stakeholder collaboration are essential in promoting sustainable development governance and ensuring a more sustainable future for all.



Session Chair

Professor John Burns

Emeritus Professor of Politics and Public Administration,
The University of Hong Kong

Panellists



Professor Danny Lam

Director, Center for Civil Society and Governance,
The University of Hong Kong



Professor Christine Loh

Chief Development Strategist,
Division of Environment and Sustainability,
The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology



Ms Ada Wong

Founder and Chair,
Make A Difference Institute and
Executive Chair,
Good Lab Foundation

University Sustainability Index: Model Good Practices in Higher Education



Synopsis

This plenary session will share the understanding of university social responsibility and its importance. On this basis, it will consider how universities should engage in USR practices in order to achieve university sustainable development. Finally, it will explore how to track USR performance and assess its impacts for continuing improvement with an University Sustainability Index.



Session Chair

Professor Carlos Lo

Director of Centre for Business Sustainability, and Chairman of Department of Government and Public Administration, The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Panellists



Professor Carolyn Egri

Professor
Beedie School of Business
Simon Fraser University



Dr Pang Xue

Assistant Professor
Faculty of Business
City University of Macau



Dr Su Yu Min

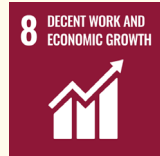
Postdoctoral Fellow
Center for University Social
Responsibility Ministry of
Education
National Chi Nan University



Professor Junming Zhu

Associate Professor and
Associate Dean
School of Public Policy and
Management
Tsinghua University

Sustainable Finance and Green Investment



Synopsis

SDG 8 emphasises inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all. This session will explore the role of sustainable finance and green investment in attaining this goal amid the current climate crisis. With global environmental disasters increasing in frequency and intensity, rising global temperatures - underscored by July 2023 being the hottest month ever recorded globally, threats of the AMOC ocean systems' collapse, and alarming biodiversity loss, the need for urgent action is clear. Moreover, the social implications of climate change, compounded by the public health and occupational safety risks posed by COVID-19, demand our immediate attention.

The panel aims to explore how sustainable finance can direct investments to adapt and mitigate these pressing environmental and social issues. Despite the return on investments for green finance not meeting expectations in the past two years, the conference will examine the way forward.

Key questions to be addressed include: Where should we direct capital for green investing, whether the focus should be on short-term or long-term solutions, such as continuous education, and how corporations can be encouraged to engage with ESG solutions. By facilitating dialogues among global leaders and experts, the conference seeks to advance the implementation of sustainable finance as a tool for combating the climate crisis and promoting global sustainability.



Session Chair
Dr William Yu
CEO,
World Green Organisation

Panellists



Mr Alpha Chia

Manager,
Risk advisory services,
BDO Limited



Mr Ken Chui

Head of Carbon and ESG Products,
Hong Kong Exchange and Clearing
Limited



Mr Neil Mascarenhas

Asia Lead,
Sustainable Investing & Innovation at
Goldman Sachs Asset Management



Dr Angus Yip

Founding Chairman,
International Chamber of
Sustainable Development (ICSD)

Building an Age-friendly city in Hong Kong



Synopsis

The Sustainable Development Goals are intertwined and have differential impacts on the health of people. The session will discuss the impact of climate change to older people in Hong Kong, how physical and social environment affects their unequal healthy aging and why such environment is important to building an age-friendly city in Hong Kong.



Session Chair

Professor Jean Woo

Director, CUHK Jockey Club Institute of Ageing, and
Co-Director, CUHK Institute of Health Equity,
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Panellists



Professor Helene Fung

Professor,
Department of Psychology,
The Chinese University of Hong Kong



Dr Eric Lai

Research Assistant Professor,
CUHK Institute of Health Equity,
The Chinese University of Hong Kong



Day 2



Geospatial Information and Human Health



Synopsis

Climate change has become a pressing global challenge that significantly impacts human health. Geospatial data and technologies are useful in examining the impact of the environment on health. This session aims to provide a platform for experts in various fields to collaborate and exchange knowledge, leading to the development of novel research agendas and cross-disciplinary solutions by harnessing the power of geospatial data and analysis.



Session Chair

Professor Kwan Mei-po

Choh-Ming Li Professor of Geography and Resource Management, The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Panellists



Dr Zihan Kan

Assistant Professor,
Department of Geography and
Resource Management,



Professor Shelly Lap-ah Tse

Director,
Center for Occupational and
Environmental Health Studies,
The Chinese University of Hong Kong



Dr Lou Wei

Assistant Professor,
Department of Geography,
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and
Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health,
National University of Singapore

Strengthening Regional Partnership in Advancing the SDG Agenda



Synopsis

Attainment of SDGs may require or benefit from economies of scale. For example, a regional power grid that connects countries can reduce the overall reserve capacity requirement, improve system reliability, remove transmission bottlenecks, and transmit cheaper power from one country to another, thus optimising the power networks and advancing regional socio-economic and environmental goals. Regional cooperation also offers stronger bargaining power in global negotiations on green financing. Even in Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), countries learn from each other's successes and obstacles. For this reason, good initiatives at the national level should go regional whenever possible.

Located in Kuala Lumpur Malaysia, the Asia Headquarters of UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) is working on three regional projects involving most or some ASEAN countries, the ASEAN Green Future (AGF) which works on decarbonisation of the technical systems and recarbonisation of ecosystems, for example through improving soil fertility across Southeast Asia; the Science Panel for Southeast Asia Biodiversity (SP-SEA), which starts with the Borneo rainforest; and the Malaysian initiative of the global Mission 4.7 project, which aims to embed ESD in public education systems. This panel presents the experiences, both achievements and challenges, in regional collaboration in AGF and Mission 4.7.



Session Chair

Professor Wong Chin-huat

Deputy Head (Strategy), UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network Asia Headquarters

Panellists



Miss Karen Chand

Director,
Education Studies,
UN Sustainable Development Solutions
Network Asia Headquarters



Professor Leong Yuen Yoong

Director,
Sustainability Studies,
UN Sustainable Development
Solutions Network

Building Resilience through Biodiversity Conservation



Synopsis

Biodiversity forms the fundamental base of our natural world, as it contains all the different kinds of life on our planet. These life forms ranging from animals, bacteria, fungi, and plants work together in the ecosystems to maintain balance and support all life on Earth. Nevertheless, it is becoming clear that the biodiversity lost is now occurring at a much higher rate than its natural status. Protecting and preserving the wealth and variety of species, habitats, ecosystems, and genetic diversity, as well as promoting their sustainable utilisation or use, are of utmost and undeniable importance. In this session, the four speakers will showcase their research and work relating to biodiversity conservation, followed by discussion of ways to move forward in a collaborative manner for our current and future generations.



Session Chair

Professor Jerome Hui

Director, Biology Programme,
School of Life Sciences,
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Panellists



Mr Chan Kin-fung

Assistant Director (Conservation),
Agriculture, Fisheries and
Conservation Department,
HKSAR Government



Professor Apple Chui

Research Assistant Professor,
School of Life Sciences,
The Chinese University of Hong Kong



Professor Lam Hon-ming

Director,
Institute of Environment,
Energy and Sustainability,
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Carbon Neutrality



Synopsis

Carbon neutrality has gained crucial momentum in the past three years with all major economies and over 90% of global greenhouse gas emissions now falling under national pledges. China aims to reach the goal by 2060, while as China’s most advanced metropolitan, Hong Kong targets 2050. The ongoing US-China trade war and de-globalization are imposing new challenges in the deployment of carbon-neutral technologies and possible supply-chain disruptions to affect China’s relevant industries. The Russia-Ukraine war further exposes the energy security challenges of fossil fuels as China’s foreign dependency of oil and natural gas reaches alarming levels. This panel aims to explore the challenges and opportunities of carbon neutrality with the megatrends and geopolitical contexts.



Session Chair
Professor Xu Yuan

Programme Leader, Environmental Policy and Governance, Institute of Environment, Energy and Sustainability, The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Panellists



Professor Anatole Boute

Professor,
Faculty of Law,
The Chinese University of Hong Kong



Professor Liugang Sheng

Associate Professor,
Department of Economics,
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Sustainable Food Systems under Global Change



Synopsis

The current global food system is a major driver of environmental change, contributing to nearly 40% of the global greenhouse gas emissions and a plethora of pollution and resource depletion problems. In this session, experts and practitioners from across science, policy and development will share their insights, and discuss how agricultural production and food systems can be made more environmentally sustainable while ensuring people's secure and equitable access to food.



Session Chair
Professor Amos Tai

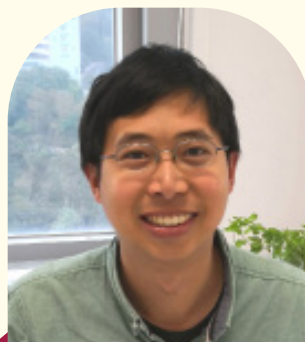
Co-Director, The Chinese University of Hong Kong – University of Exeter Joint Centre for Environmental Sustainability and Resilience

Panellists



Dr May Chu

Assistant Professor,
School of Government,
University of Birmingham



Dr Felix Leung

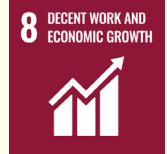
Climate Change Fellow,
The Nature Conservancy (Hong Kong)



Professor Lin Zhang

Associate Professor,
Department of Atmospheric and
Oceanic Sciences,
Peking University

Sustainable Tourism



Synopsis

Hospitality and tourism businesses have a significant impact on the environment. For instance, both tourists and hotels tend to overuse energy for lighting, fuel, and water, leading to the generation of substantial food and plastic waste. In response to urgent global concerns about environmental degradation and climate change, raising awareness about environmental sustainability and conserving natural heritage and biodiversity become crucial for maintaining sustainable tourism. In this forum, we will delve into practical insights on how to promote tourists' awareness of pro-environmental practices/ behaviors, motivate hotels and tourism businesses to adopt sustainable practices, and explore the potential of green technology to enhance the operational efficiency of tourism enterprises. This will showcase their dedication to a more sustainable future.



Session Chair
Professor Lisa Wan

Acting Director, School of Hotel and Tourism Management, and
Co-Director, Centre for Hospitality and Real Estate Research,
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Panellists



Professor Elisa Chan

Assistant Professor,
School of Hotel and Tourism Management, The Chinese University of Hong Kong



Mr Desmond Ho

Associate Director,
Arup



Mr Li Kin Wah, Chris

Registered Professional Surveyor,
Synergis Management

Education for Sustainable Development



Synopsis

Education has been cited as a key enabler of the U.N.'s 2030 Agenda. To achieve the ambitious range of the SDGs, education is perhaps one of our greatest tools to advance progress. The SDG Academy at SDSN has embarked on a mission to support the global development goals through the creation and delivery of high-quality resources, accredited degree programs, training initiatives, thought leadership, and communities of practice. In this session, SDG Academy leaders and affiliates will discuss the wide range of our initiatives enriching the movement to achieve sustainable development.



Session Chair
Professor Patrick Paul Walsh

Director,
SDSN SDG Academy

Panellists



Professor Charles Hopkins

UNESCO Chair,
York University and Member,
High Level Advisory Council,
SDG Academy



Ms Sherlina Kaur

Education Manager,
Sustainable Development Solutions Network

Climate Crisis and Science



Synopsis

Climate change has led to global impacts and sometimes could result in disasters. Based on the advancement of science and data accumulated data, we could now achieve a more accurate projection and forecasting. While climate change is a global issue, the impacts could be differential for people in different geographic regions and in different economic statuses. There is a growing trend of adopting the ESG (Environment, Social and Governance) concept in the business sector, as part of their social responsibility. However, engaging of the general public will form the essential foundation to combat climate change, which is heavily influenced by human activities and choices. The experts in this panel will guide the audience to investigate into these issues.



Session Chair

Professor Lam Hon-ming

Director,
Institute of Environment,
Energy and Sustainability,
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Speaker



Ms Sandy Song

Assistant Director,
Hong Kong Observatory



Ms Lydia Siu

Research Director (Qualitative),
Ipsos

Panellists



Professor Amos Tai

Co-Director,
The Chinese University of Hong
Kong – University of Exeter
Joint Centre for Environmental
Sustainability and Resilience



Dr William Yu

CEO,
World Green Organisation

Closing Keynote



Biography

Professor Schneider was elected as APRU's 5th Chief Executive and took up the role from January 2023. A native of Germany, Professor Schneider studied at the University of Zurich, the University of Basel and the École Pratique des Hautes Études in Paris. He earned his degrees (Lizentiat 1990; Dr. phil. 1996; Habilitation 1999), all in Egyptology, from the University of Basel. Throughout his career, he has held academic and administrative positions in four global regions – North America; Asia; Europe; the Middle East. He was a Lecturer in Egyptology at the University of Zurich (2000-3), a Junior Research Professor of the Swiss National Science Foundation at the University of Basel (2001-5), Professor and inaugural holder of the Chair in Egyptology at Swansea University, Wales (2005-7), before joining the University of British Columbia. He held Visiting Professorships at the University of Vienna (1999), the University of Heidelberg (2003-4) and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (2018). He was a Visiting Scholar at New York University (2006), the University of California, Berkeley (2012), the Institute of Archaeology of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences in Beijing (2016) and Shanghai University (2018, International Masters Program). And from 2018-20, Professor Schneider served the Southern University of Science and Technology (SUSTech) in Shenzhen, China's fastest-rising new STEM university, as Associate Vice President (International), spearheading its internationalization efforts. Recently, Professor Schneider has founded PALAC – a new consortium of liberal arts colleges focused on experimental learning in the liberal arts across multiple economies in Asia and North America.



Professor Thomas Schneider

Chief Executive,
The Association of Pacific Rim Universities

Closing Remarks

Biography

Professor Mai Har Sham is a Pro-Vice-Chancellor of The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) and Choh-Ming Li Professor of Biomedical Sciences. Professor Sham obtained her BSc and MPhil degrees in Biology at CUHK. She was awarded a Croucher Foundation Scholarship and pursued her PhD in Biochemistry in the University of Cambridge. She received her postdoctoral training in Developmental Genetics in the National Institute for Medical Research in London, U.K. Professor Sham joined the University of Hong Kong as a lecturer and progressed to full professor. She headed the Department of Biochemistry, where she promoted not only excellent research, but also good practice in teaching. She was dedicated to medical and science curriculum development, she led the design and establishment of the first Bachelor of Biomedical Sciences curriculum in Hong Kong.



Professor Sham Mai-har

Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Vice-President
(Research),
The Chinese University of Hong Kong



**More about
the conference**