HKSAR

Games on

Athletes practice on Thursday at Victoria Park's new beach volleyball courts, built over hard-surface soccer pitches, for the 15th National Games. The venue features two competition courts with seating capacities of 1,300 and 400 respectively, along with two warm-up areas, and three training courts. From Friday through Nov 10, it will host over 50 teams from across the nation. ANDY CHONG / CHINA DAILY

APEC 2025

HK helps shape AI governance

Experts emphasize standards, digital inclusion, and cross-border innovation

By **WILLIAM XU** in Gyeongju
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Hong Kong officials and experts expressed high hopes that the upcoming APEC meeting will forge constructive consensus on aligning artificial intelligence governance standards and bridging the technology divide, while highlighting the city's potential to make significant contributions.

The 32nd APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting opens today in Gyeongju, Republic of Korea. Set against the backdrop of AI's explosive growth, this year's meeting calls for deeper cooperation on AI among its 21 member economies.

"Given the inherent openness and rapid diffusion of AI technology, international cooperation is essential for AI governance," said Hendrick Sin, chairman of the Committee of the AI Subsidy Scheme, an initiative by the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region government to support the AI industry.

Sin added that APEC, as the most influential economic cooperation platform in the Asia-Pacific region, is uniquely positioned to foster dialogue and build consensus.

"We hope to see substantive progress in AI cooperation at the APEC meeting, particularly in advancing regional standards, narrowing the digital divide, and creating cooperation opportunities for Hong Kong's AI sector to flourish," Sin said.

Sin, who is also a Hong Kong deputy to the National People's Congress — the nation's top legislature — said that AI governance is closely linked to everyone's daily lives. "Data privacy, algorithm transparency, and liability clarification are the cornerstones of trustworthy AI," he said.

Hong Kong has taken the lead in regulating AI practices, issuing an official guideline in April. This outlines the scope and limitations of AI applications, addresses potential risks such as data leakage and model bias, and sets out governance principles for generative AI technology.

Sin described the guideline as a "flexible and pragmatic reference framework", offering suggestions for sectors such as finance, healthcare and education.

However, Sin said that for further industry growth, Hong Kong must pursue cross-border data and application collaboration to offset the constraints of its own market. This requires advancing the alignment of AI governance standards across regions.

Beyond regulations, the APEC meeting also emphasizes the importance of promoting innovative AI governance solutions among developing economies and narrowing the global digital gap.

Nick Chan Hiu-fung, a lawyer and director of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization Hong Kong Regional Arbitration Centre, highlighted Hong Kong's unique strengths in leading these efforts. In July, he cofounded the AI for Human International Foundation in Hong Kong, aiming to leverage the city's global network to formulate practical AI governance solutions.

Chan, who is also an NPC deputy, said Hong Kong can leverage cutting-edge AI technologies from the Chinese mainland, while connecting with diverse global AI application scenarios, such as tropical agriculture, archipelago logistics, and inclusive finance, especially in developing economies.

He envisions the APEC meeting evolving from an event focused on "discussing AI" to a community dedicated to "building AI". Chan also suggested APEC members intensify collaboration on talent cultivation and AI-related research to boost regional competitiveness.

At the APEC Finance Ministers' Meeting session on Oct 22, Hong Kong Financial Secretary Paul Chan Mo-po outlined the city's "dual strategy": developing AI as a core industry and using AI to upgrade other sectors. He also cited local efforts in computing power, algorithms, application scenarios, data, and funding.

Paul Chan urged APEC to enhance cooperation through capacity building, knowledge-sharing, and technical support to narrow the digital divide. He also called on the region to facilitate dialogue on AI regulations, cross-border data flows and digital trade, and to strengthen the regional innovation and technology ecosystem for startups and researchers.

Journalists from around the world prepare for the 32nd APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting at the International Media Center in Gyeongju, Republic of Korea, on Thursday. IDA XUE / CHINA DAILY

Firm eyes city as cultural bridge for global reach

By **WILLIAM XU**

Vobile, a Silicon Valley-based company specializing in digital content intellectual-property protection, sees great potential in the global expansion of Chinese cultural products, and its recent entry into Hong Kong serves as a crucial piece of its strategic puzzle, the company's CEO said.

Speaking to China Daily on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation CEO Summit in Gyeongju, Republic of Korea, Wang Yangbin said Vobile has increased its focus on Hong Kong, drawn not only by the city's capital market but also its creativity and close ties with the Chinese mainland.

Earlier this month, Vobile announced an expansion into Hong Kong, in collaboration with the city's Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises, which is dedicated to attracting enterprises from industries of strategic importance to Hong Kong.

"We have long banked on the city's capital market since we listed on the Hong Kong stock exchange in 2018," Wang said. "But now we also see its substantial potential in the culture and creative industries."

Vobile mainly serves copyright holders of films, television programs, and music, helping them identify unauthorized reposting of their works on digital platforms. Its clients include YouTube, Netflix, and Hollywood studios.

Wang said that one of Vobile's core missions is to help content creators control and profit from their works. "Once infringement is detected, copyright holders can either require platforms to remove infringing content, or demand a share of revenue obtained from unauthorized plays," he said.

Through its office in Hangzhou, Zhejiang province, Vobile has been supporting the mainland cultural works' "go global" efforts for years. In the first half of 2025, its mainland businesses grossed HK$727 million ($93.6 million) in revenue, a 20.1 percent year-on-year increase.

Multipronged strengths

Citing minidramas and the blockbuster *Ne Zha 2* as examples of mainland works gaining global exposure, Wang envisions Hong Kong becoming a unique catalyst in this trend.

Since films and music are now distributed online, their cross-border dissemination is essentially a flow of data, he said. "In this regard, Hong Kong is well-positioned to be a data-transit hub between the mainland and overseas, much like its long-standing role as a trade entrepot."

He added that Hong Kong should also capitalize on the digital economy boom to revive its own culture and creative industries, with copyright protection efforts serving as a key booster.

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>
> **Wang Yangbin,** CEO of Vobile

Wang recalled a Hong Kong director who produced a popular film and sold the copyright to a United States company years ago. Although clips of the film have now amassed over 2 billion views on YouTube and generated "millions of US dollars in revenue", Wang said, "not a single nickel goes to the director."

He added that AI and other smart tools have lowered barriers to creation, further influencing Hong Kong's creative industry.

Reflecting on Hong Kong's golden era of film and music, Wang expressed confidence that the city's rich legacy of creative talent can continue producing top-tier work. This optimism has prompted Vobile to expand its presence to better serve local creators.

"We hope our services can enable more creators to monetize their work, which in turn supports continuous creativity and a virtuous cycle," Wang said.

The company also values Hong Kong's robust legal services, highlighted by its internationally recognized, bilingual common law system. The recently inaugurated International Mediation Organization in Hong Kong also elevates the city's capacity to resolve disputes, benefiting copyright protection and transactions, Wang said.

To better nurture local creative industries, Wang suggests that Hong Kong optimize legal procedures to enhance copyright protection. For example, he called for the swift resolution of disputes or lawsuits, because "a minidrama may lose its popularity within a few months". He also advises referencing the mainland's internet courts, which have expedited cases involving digital assets, intellectual property and personal information.

Beijing, Hong Kong to cement financial ties

By **GABY LIN** in Hong Kong
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Beijing and Hong Kong have committed to deepening connectivity between their capital markets and fostering a high-quality financial ecosystem — aiming to bolster the nation's development as a global financial powerhouse, according to speakers at a forum on Thursday.

During the Beijing-Hong Kong Financial Cooperation Forum, Sun Shuo, deputy mayor of Beijing, highlighted the importance of the capital's enduring financial ties with the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

Currently, 226 enterprises from Beijing are listed on the Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing, accounting for nearly 30 percent of all Beijing firms that have gone public, according to Sun.

He said Beijing will actively promote the use of offshore renminbi and make cross-border payments more convenient by strengthening financial infrastructure links between the two cities, including deeper integration with Hong Kong's official instant payment service, the Faster Payment System.

Beijing also aims to support the commercialization of scientific and technological achievements, drive industrial upgrading in both cities, and facilitate the exchange of top-tier talent, he added.

At the same event, Hong Kong Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury Christopher Hui Ching-yu highlighted Beijing's role as a financial management center, headquarters for key regulators and leading enterprises, and a hub for policy and innovation. He added that Hong Kong, an international financial center, is an ideal gateway for linking the domestic and overseas markets.

"With complementary strengths and unlimited potential for cooperation, Beijing and Hong Kong will jointly inject new impetus into the openness of China's financial sector and the development of the Belt and Road Initiative," he said.

China is stepping up efforts to strengthen its financial position. In its recommendations for formulating the country's next five-year development plan, the Communist Party of China's Central Committee emphasized the importance of developing technological finance and digital finance, improving the financial institution system, and ensuring the implementation of secure and efficient financial infrastructure.

Zhang Xiaojing, director of the National Institution for Finance and Development, said that financial cooperation between Beijing and Hong Kong should go beyond market connectivity and complementarity; it should focus on building a forward-looking financial ecosystem centered on technological innovation.

The two cities can serve as testing grounds and incubators for innovative institutional tools and market solutions, supporting the country's strategic agenda of technological self-reliance and developing into a financial powerhouse, Zhang added.

"Hong Kong has already made strides in integrating traditional financial services with blockchain technology," he said.

"By jointly developing blockchain infrastructure and digital asset trading standards that are scalable and can be regulated, Beijing and Hong Kong can not only accelerate the digital upgrade of financial infrastructure, but also contribute Chinese solutions to the global digital finance race," he added.

The forum was part of the Annual Conference of Financial Street Forum 2025, held in Beijing from Monday through Thursday, with subvenues in places including the HKSAR, Spain, and the United Arab Emirates.

Speaking via video link at the conference's closing ceremony, Hong Kong Chief Executive John Lee Ka-chiu said that the SAR has proactively acted as a two-way springboard for businesses "going global and attracting foreign investment".

"We will strengthen Hong Kong's advantages as a platform for going global, and join hands with more Chinese mainland enterprises to generate business opportunities," he added.

Forum calls for efforts to build global tech hub

By **WANG ZHEN** in Hong Kong
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Hong Kong should step up its efforts to become a "world-class" artificial intelligence city, actively participating in the nation's AI technological advancements, officials and analysts said at a forum on generative AI governance and cultural co-creation organized by the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) on Thursday.

The central government recently reaffirmed its support for Hong Kong's goal of "building an international innovation and technology center", said Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry Sun Dong.

The Recommendations of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China for Formulating the 15th Five-Year Plan for National Economic and Social Development state that Hong Kong's advantages — supported by the backing of the motherland and its close connections with the rest of the world — should be further leveraged. The recommendations also endorse Hong Kong's ambitions to become an international I&T center.

Furthermore, the recommendations identified AI as a key component of national development, calling for the advancement of "AI Plus" initiative across the board.

The global AI market is flourishing, and expected to reach a value of about $4.8 trillion by 2033, a 25-fold increase from its current size, according to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

"We are standing at the forefront of a global technological shift," Sun said, adding that strong and adaptive governance is essential for cultivating the AI ecosystem.

He said that this remarkable growth underscores the urgent need for economies worldwide to formulate and implement policies that can balance AI's immense potential against its underlying risks, ensuring sustainable and inclusive development.

The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region government has already established a dedicated AI Efficacy Enhancement Team to promote AI applications across government departments and explore process reengineering to elevate public services.

Guo Yike, provost of HKUST and head of the Hong Kong Generative AI Research and Development Center, proposed transforming Hong Kong into a Chinese AI city that is closely connected to the world.

He said that Hong Kong is well-placed to capitalize on the mainland's rapid AI ecosystem development while retaining strong global connections.

Guo added that the city's comprehensive political and legal frameworks, robust government support, multicultural environment, together with its distinctive innovation framework, reinforce its competitive edge.

According to Guo, the Hong Kong SAR government has been financing the establishment of research and development institutions aimed at creating regionally sovereign AI systems, ensuring sovereignty over data, models, and hardware.

This sovereign AI system will facilitate the transformation of public services in Hong Kong, including applications in data analysis, customer service, and document processing, he said.