

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Silk Road Forum on Green Finance 2019**

*(19 July 2019, Xi'an) Hong Kong Quality Assurance Agency (HKQAA), Shaanxi Provincial Local Financial Supervision and Administration, Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of Shaanxi Province, and the Xi'an Municipal People's Government successfully held the **Silk Road Forum on Green Finance 2019** in Xi'an today. The Xi'an Municipal Bureau of Financial Work and the Administrative Committee of Chan-Ba Ecological District were the executive organisers.*

Green Finance is a strategic tool for promoting economic development and regional cooperation in the Greater Bay Area and along the Belt and Road. The Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, promulgated by the Central Government recently, supports the development of Hong Kong into a green finance centre in the region, and the establishment of an internationally recognised green bond certification institution. Hong Kong will become a service centre for resolving investment and commercial matters relating to Belt and Road projects, and will hold forums in connection with the Belt and Road Initiative. After the Initiative was proposed, Xi'an became one of the cooperation and economic development centres in the region.

### **Forge Relationships between Shaanxi and Hong Kong to build the Green Silk Road**

To foster the development of Green Finance in Hong Kong and Shaanxi, on 19 July 2019, HKQAA, Shaanxi Provincial Local Financial Supervision and Administration, Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of Shaanxi Province, and the Xi'an Municipal People's Government successfully held the **Silk Road Forum on Green Finance 2019** in Xi'an.

The Xi'an Municipal Bureau of Financial Work and the Administrative Committee of Chan-Ba Ecological District were the executive organisers. Shaanxi Liaison Unit, the Government of the HKSAR, and the Management Office of Xi'an Financial Business District were the co-organisers.

The Forum aimed to forge relationships between Shaanxi and Hong Kong, encourage environmentally friendly investment and the development of the industry, build the Green Silk Road and contribute to environmental protection.

Senior officials from Shaanxi and Hong Kong, leaders from renowned enterprises and senior executives from financial institutions shared their insights with the aim of fostering regional and international cooperation in green finance. The Forum was attended by more than 300 representatives from different organisations.

Mr Su Hu-chao, Director of the Shaanxi Provincial Local Financial Supervision and Administration; Mr Ji Wen-kui, Deputy Inspector of the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of Shaanxi Province; Mr Wang Yong, Vice Mayor of the Xi'an Municipal People's Government; Mr Yang Liu-qi, Secretary of the Party Working Committee of the Chan-Ba Ecological District; and Miss Tang Sau Han, Director of Shaanxi Liaison Unit, the Government of the HKSAR, delivered speeches in the Forum. Mr Pang Bo, Deputy Director of the Xi'an Municipal Bureau of Financial Work; Ms Zhou Xiao-peng, Deputy Director of the Administrative Committee of Chan-Ba Ecological District, also attended the event.

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Ir Dr Hon Lo Wai Kwok, SBS, MH, JP, Member of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, and Chairman of HKQAA, said, "I sincerely hope that today's event can encourage more organisations to participate in environmentally friendly investment along the Belt and Road, and help speed up the pace of development of the green finance market, paving the way to a sustainable future for Hong Kong and Shaanxi, our nation and the world."

Guest speakers and participants in panel discussions were Ms Zhu Wen-qin, Principal Country Officer in International Finance Corporation (IFC)'s Beijing office; Mr Ronald Wu, Head of Green Building Finance and Advisory Services for IFC in China and Mongolia; Ms Meng Meng, Secretary General of Guangdong Green Finance Committee and President of China Emissions Exchange; Mr Albert Wong, Head of China, Capital Markets Asia, Coöperatieve Rabobank U.A., Hong Kong Branch; Mr Bill Yu, Head of TCF, China, Coöperatieve Rabobank U.A., Shanghai Branch; Mr Li Bin, General Manager of Xi'an Financial Holding Company Limited; Mr Li Sheng, General Manager of Xi'an Sewage Treatment Company Limited; Mr Ma Hong Zhou, President of Xi'an Enterprise Environment Federation; Mr Deng Zhao-xian, Vice General Manager of the Fend Xian New City Development And Construction (Group) Company Limited; and Ir C S Ho, Chairman of the Green Finance Certification Scheme Technical Committee and Deputy Chairman of HKQAA.

To cope with the thriving development of mainland enterprises and green finance, and expand our support network across the region, HKQAA has opened an office in Xi'an. The new office will further promote cooperation with Shaanxi business community.



1. Ir Dr Hon Lo Wai Kwok, SBS, MH, JP, Member of National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, Chairman of HKQAA.



2. Mr Su Hu-chao, Director of the Shaanxi Provincial Local Financial Supervision and Administration (Left photo), Mr Ji Wen-kui, Deputy Inspector of the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of Shaanxi Province (Middle photo), Mr Wang Yong, Vice Mayor of the Xi'an Municipal People's Government (Right photo).



3. Miss Tang Sau Han, Director of Shaanxi Liaison Unit, the Government of the HKSAR (Left photo) and Mr Yang Liu-qi, Secretary of the Party Working Committee of Chan-Ba Ecological District (Right photo).



4. Ms Zhu Wen-qin, Principal Country Officer in International Finance Corporation (IFC)'s Beijing office (Left photo) and Ir C S Ho, Chairman of the Green Finance Certification Scheme Technical Committee and Deputy Chairman of HKQAA (Right photo).



5. Mr Ronald Wu, Head of Green Building Finance and Advisory Services for IFC in China and Mongolia (Right 2), Ms Meng Meng, Secretary General of Guangdong Green Finance Committee and President of China Emissions Exchange (Right 1), Mr Albert Wong, Head of China, Capital Markets Asia, Coöperatieve Rabobank U.A., Hong Kong Branch (Right 3), Mr Li Bin, General Manager of Xi'an Financial Holding Company Limited (Left 4), Mr Li Sheng, General Manager of Xi'an Sewage Treatment Company Limited (Right 4), Mr Ma Hong Zhou, President Of Xi'an Enterprise Environment Federation (Left 3), Mr Deng Zhao-xian, Vice General Manager of the Fend Xian New City Development and Construction (Group) Company Limited (Left 2), participated in the panel discussion. Mr P C Chan, Chief Operating Officer of HKQAA (Left 1), was the facilitator.



6. Dr Nigel H Croft, Associate Technical Director of HKQAA and Chairman of the ISO Technical Subcommittee on Quality Systems (ISO/TC 176/SC2), introduced the latest developments in the ISO 14030 standard, the first ISO standard for green debt instruments, via video presentation.



7. Representatives of the Forum's organisers, executive organisers, co-organisers and supporting organisations, guest speakers, HKQAA Governing Councils members and special guests took a photo.



8. The Forum was attended by more than 300 industry leaders and experts from Hong Kong and Shaanxi.

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**For enquiries, please contact:**

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**HKQAA Background**

Hong Kong Quality Assurance Agency (HKQAA) is a non-profit organisation established by Hong Kong Government in 1989. As one of the leading conformity organisations in the Asia-Pacific region, HKQAA is committed to providing certification and assessment services. Through knowledge sharing and technology transfer, HKQAA helps enterprises enhance management performance and competitiveness.

**Promoting Sustainable Finance through Experience and Knowledge**

As well as introducing world-class management systems, HKQAA has also launched a wide range of innovative services to cope with increasingly diversified market demands and the growing need for sustainable development, bringing benefits to the community. HKQAA has developed diverse services and has ample experience in the fields of social responsibility, environmental protection, sustainability and responsible investment:

- HKQAA is **the only Hong Kong organisation accredited as the Designated Operational Entity (DOE)** by the Executive Board of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to deliver CDM validation and verification services (since 2011);
- HKQAA has been providing assessment and rating services on listed companies' sustainability performance for the **Hang Seng Corporate Sustainability Index Series** since 2014;
- Since 2017, our expert has been nominated by the **Innovation and Technology Commission of the HKSAR Government** and the **China National Institute of Standardization** respectively to directly take part in the technical committee of ISO/TC 207/SC 4 and the working group of **ISO/TC 207/SC 4/ WG 7** to develop **ISO 14030 Green Debt Instruments – Environmental performance of nominated projects and assets**;
- Since 2018, HKQAA has been admitted as an **Observer of the Green Bond Principles (GBP) under the International Capital Market Association (ICMA)**, taking part in the development of international standards on Green Finance;
- Since 2018, HKQAA has been an **approved verifier under the Climate Bonds Standard**;
- In December 2018, the expert from HKQAA was nominated by the Innovation and Technology Commission of the HKSAR Government to directly take part in the technical committee for ISO/TC 322, which is developing the **ISO standard for sustainable finance**.

**Strategic Partnerships to Foster Exchange within the Industry**

In order to promote the development of green finance in the region, HKQAA has signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) with a number of organisations, including:

- International Finance Corporation (IFC), a member of the World Bank Group
- Shaanxi Provincial Local Financial Supervision and Administration
- Guangzhou Municipal Local Financial Supervision and Administration
- Bureau of Financial Affairs, Huadu, Guangzhou
- The Authority of Qianhai
- Shanghai Zhixin Low-Carbon Technology Research Center
- The CECEP (Hong Kong) Investment Co. Ltd.
- GuangDong Financial Association

Please visit <http://www.hkqaa.org> for further information.