

Challenges and Opportunities

Hong Kong's Role as a super-connector

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Hong Kong has a solid foundation as a “connector” between mainland China and overseas countries. Can it upgrade to a “super-connector” by effective use of the competencies which promote economic co-operation with Belt and Road countries?



Comments from Employment & Economic Development Think Tank members

Jess Yeung, convener “The policy of One Country, Two Systems can enable Hong Kong to maintain its international status and benefit from close ties with mainland China and its excellent, effective financial, commercial, and professional services can empower it as a super-connector.”

Cheney Cheng, deputy convener “Young people need to develop strong international perspective and better understanding of society and culture in Belt and Road countries will help them.”

Ernest Chan, member “Hong Kong’s international connections should be strengthened and better use of existing networks with young residents in South Asian and Southeast Asian countries should be made.”

Key findings

- 51.2 % of respondents think that deteriorating international status would be the most serious setback for Hong Kong as a connector.
- 47.9% agree that more co-operation and exchange between China, Asia, Europe and Africa can benefit Hong Kong’s economy.
- 36.1% are interested in courses relevant to the Belt and Road initiative.
- 35.2% say they wanted more information about Belt and Road issues.
- 29.8% think the Belt and Road initiative can be helpful for developing careers.
- Fewer than 10% are interested in learning the languages of Belt and Road countries.
- Lack of familiarity with those countries is the biggest challenge.

Suggestions and recommendations

- Set up a “Multicultural Exchange Fund” for non-profit organizations.
- Enrich types of exchange activities available.
- Strengthen international elements in education, such as global geopolitics and Islamic commercial law.
- Provide training and employment for young South Asian and Southeast Asian Hong Kong residents to maximize potential and build networks.
- Connect young entrepreneurs in Hong Kong and Belt and Road countries for joint business ventures.

The report is based on 543 responses to an online survey of 18-34 year-old HKFYG members. Conducted in February 2016 the survey was supplemented by focus group discussions and interviews with experts or specialist scholars.

Full details and tables goo.gl/tMZwOv