



Alumni UK  
Symposium 2025:  
Shaping your future

—  
**6 – 7 March 2025,  
Hong Kong**

#AlumniUK

# East Asia Alumni UK Symposium 2025 Programme

Latest update: 26 February 2025

# Introduction

The Alumni UK Symposium was first hosted in Malaysia in 2023 attracting over 500 participants from Malaysia and neighbouring countries. Building on the success of the event, the East Asia Alumni UK Symposium 2025 in Hong Kong is an exclusive conference for all UK alumni in East Asia to come together and exchange insights on culture, economic, development and organisational issues that impact our world today.

The Symposium is a forum for all UK alumni, fresh graduates and mid-career, in East Asia to enhance professional networking, knowledge sharing, and offers positive insights for driving positive change in their communities.

## Shaping your future

Under the theme ‘Shaping your future’, this Symposium aims to explore the unique opportunities and challenges that exist in East Asia and how UK alumni can leverage their diverse backgrounds, experiences, and expertise to make a meaningful impact. The symposium theme underscores the essential role that UK alumni can play in fostering connections, collaboration, and growth between East Asia and the UK.

Through a series of insightful discussions, and networking sessions, this event will provide a platform for alumni to exchange ideas, collaborate on innovative projects, and build connections with key stakeholder in East Asia. From exploring emerging trends in technology, business, and culture to discussing the importance of cross-cultural understanding and collaboration, attendees will gain valuable insights into how they can contribute to shaping the future of the region and the world.

Participants will have the chance to hear from and, be inspired by the stories and expertise from our list of distinguished speakers, industry leaders, and successful alumni.

## Date, Venue, and Method of Delivery

Date : 6-7 March 2025  
Venue : Rayson Huang Hall, The University of Hong Kong, Pok Fu Lam  
Method of delivery : Face-to-face

## Programme Overview

| Day, date              | Time (GMT +8) | Activity                           |
|------------------------|---------------|------------------------------------|
| Thursday, 6 March 2025 | 18:30 – 20:30 | Welcome Reception and Networking   |
| Friday, 7 March 2025   | 09:30 – 11.30 | Business site visit in Hong Kong   |
|                        | 13.00 – 18.15 | East Asia Alumni UK Symposium 2025 |

# Programme

## Day 1: Thursday 6 March 2025

| Time          | Activity                         | Location   |
|---------------|----------------------------------|--|
| 18:30 – 20:30 | Welcome Reception and Networking | Concord Room, 8F, Renaissance Hong Kong Harbour View Hotel |

## Day 2: Friday 7 March 2025

### Business Site Visit

| Time          | Activity  | Location(s)   |
|---------------|---|---|
| 09.30 – 11.30 | <p><b>Business site visit</b></p> <p>Track 1: Visit to West Kowloon Cultural District</p> <p>Track 2: Visit to InvestHK</p> <p>Track 3: Visit to The Hong Kong Stock Exchange (HKEX)</p> <p><i>Please note: These business site visits are exclusively available to pre-registered alumni. Participants are required to meet at the respective venues in the morning. Transportation will be provided back to HKU after the visits.</i></p> | <p>Track 1: West Kowloon Cultural District – <a href="#">address</a></p> <p>Track 2: Invest HK – <a href="#">address</a></p> <p>Track 3: HKEX - <a href="#">address</a></p> |

### Alumni UK Symposium

| Time          | Activity   | Location                                   |
|---------------|--|--|
| 11.00 – 12.30 | Lunch  | Loke Yew Hall, The University of Hong Kong |
| 12.00 – 13.00 | Registration and networking  | Rayson Huang Hall,                         |
| 13.00 – 13.15 | Opening and welcome remarks<br><i>Leighton Ernsberger, Regional Education Director, British Council</i>  | The University of Hong Kong                |
| 13.15 – 13.30 | Keynote: Age of Discovery<br><i>Dr Chris Kurtana, Distinguished author, political scientist and TED Speaker and author of the international bestseller, Age of Discovery</i> |  |
| 13.30 – 14.15 | Regional Strategic Forecast<br><i>Nick Marro, Principal Economist for Asia &amp; Lead for Global Trade, Economist Intelligence Unit</i>                                      |  |

| Time          | Activity  | Location  |
|---------------|---|---|
| 14.15 – 15.15 | <p>Panel discussion: Future of Work - Trends and Predictions</p> <p><i>Panellist:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Dato' Kathleen Chew Wai Lin, Group Legal Counsel, YTL Corporation Berhad</i></li> <li>- <i>Adrienne Lee, Director of Insights, Planning and Strategy, Starbucks Asia Pacific</i></li> <li>- <i>Paul McComb, Executive Director, The British Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong</i></li> <li>- <i>Haslam Preston, Chief People &amp; Culture Officer, CapitaLand Investment Limited</i></li> <li>- <i>Jeremy Sargent, OBE, Partner, JS Associates Guangzhou Office; Chairman Emeritus of the British Chamber South China</i></li> </ul> <p><i>Moderator: Jazreel Goh, Country Director, British Council Malaysia</i></p>   | Rayson Huang Hall,<br>The University of Hong Kong |
| 15.15 – 15.45 | Coffee break  |   |
| 15.45 – 16.30 | <p>Panel discussion: Unleashing Entrepreneurial Potential: Navigating Opportunities and Overcoming Challenges</p> <p><i>Panellist:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Dinh Thuy Phuong, CEO, Bio-Advances JSC</i></li> <li>- <i>Krizia Li, Founder, Vermillion Lifestyle &amp; Head of SCMP Learn, South China Morning Post</i></li> <li>- <i>Zaim Mohzani, Co-Founder, Nation Building School &amp; Regional Coordinator, Chevening Alumni Southeast Asian Network (CASEAN)</i></li> <li>- <i>Jirayut (Topp) Srupsrisopa, Founder and Group CEO, Bitkub Group</i></li> <li>- <i>Yijing Wang, Founder, 2060 Advisory</i></li> <li>- <i>Ahmad Subarkah Yuniarto, Alumnus of Said Business School, University of Oxford, and former CEO of Schlumberger Indonesia and Pertamina Geothermal Energy</i></li> </ul> <p><i>Moderator: Jeremy Sargent, OBE, Partner, JS Associates Guangzhou Office; Chairman Emeritus of the British Chamber South China</i></p> |   |

| Time          | Activity   | Location  |
|---------------|--|---|
| 16.30 – 17.15 | <p>Panel discussion: Amplifying Impact: Leveraging Alumni Networks for Personal and Institutional Advancement</p> <p><i>Panellist:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Jee Kwan Ng, Vice-President, Imperial College London Alumni Association of Malaysia (ICAAM), Region Manager APAC, Petromac</i></li> <li>- <i>Prof Nguyen Khanh Dieu Hong, Principal of TH Schools and the CEO of the non-profit Go-Green Vietnam Foundation</i></li> <li>- <i>Michael Chi On Wong, Board Member, Oxford University Alumni Board</i></li> <li>- <i>Ryan Chong-Geng Xi, President of the University of Cambridge Alumni Society of Guangdong</i></li> </ul> <p><i>Moderator: Catriona Mccarthy, Global Head, Student Mobility and Internationalisation of UK education, British Council</i></p> | Rayson Huang Hall,<br>The University of Hong Kong |
| 17.15 – 18.00 | <p>Adaptability and Resilience</p> <p><i>Rob Lilwall, Nat Geo TV Adventurer &amp; Resilience Expert</i></p>  |   |
| 18.00 –18.15  | <p>Closing</p> <p><i>Leighton Ernsberger, Regional Education Director, British Council</i></p>   |   |

## About the sessions

### Opening Keynote: Age of Discovery

The symposium will open with a session from Dr Chris Kutarna, author of the international bestseller *Age of Discovery*, who will discuss the principles of exploration, adaptability, and courage to guide and inspire participants as we navigate the uncertainties in a rapidly evolving world.

### Regional Strategic Forecast

2025 has already started off with a bang, with the new US president, Donald Trump, ushering in a new era of global uncertainty and geopolitical risk. How should we navigate the change in US administration, particularly from our vantage point in Asia? Join Nick Marro, EIU's Principal Economist for Asia and Lead Analyst for Global Trade, as he discusses the outlook for the year ahead, particularly in regards to what the new US administration means for both Hong Kong and the world.

### Panel discussion: Future of Work – Trends and Predictions

This session aims to delve into the complex and evolving landscape of work in the coming years, highlighting the key obstacles, barriers, and opportunities that individuals and organizations are likely to face. Our panel of experts will discuss the key issues that we need to address to support future generations to thrive in increasingly mobile and digital societies; explore the dynamic landscape of work in the upcoming years, delving into the shifts, key trends and predictions shaping the future of work, along with strategies to navigate the evolving landscape successfully.

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## **Panel discussion: Unleashing Entrepreneurial Potential: Navigating Opportunities and Overcoming Challenges**

This session will explore the unique opportunities available to entrepreneurs today and the essential skills and strategies required to seize them. Panellists will identify emerging trends and opportunities in various sectors, discuss the essential skills, mindsets, and resources needed to thrive in today's competitive landscape and share success stories and lessons learned from alumni who have successfully navigated their entrepreneurial journeys.

## **Panel discussion: Amplifying Impact: Leveraging Alumni Networks for Personal and Institutional Advancement**

Alumni networks serve as a vital resource for personal and professional growth. This session will focus on how alumni can cultivate stronger connections within their communities, leverage in-country activities, and ultimately enhance their own trajectories while raising the status of their alma mater. The session will aim to explore the critical role of alumni networks in personal development and career progression, identify strategies for alumni to engage in meaningful in-country activities that foster collaboration and growth and discuss how individual alumni efforts can collectively elevate the reputation and visibility of their institution.

## **Adaptability and Resilience**

This session will be delivered by Rob Lilwall, NatGeo TV Adventurer. We will hear about Rob's exciting, stories of adventure – such as surviving at -40, getting lost in jungles, and pedalling across Afghanistan. Grounded in the models of *The Resilient Agility Meter* and *The Eight Spokes of Resilient Agility* Rob weaves in powerful reflections about the mindset shifts and behavioural change he has nurtured in order to thrive amid the fear, the uncertainty and the opportunity which he has faced. These mindsets and changes involve embracing challenge, understanding fear, practicing self-care and having a collaborative mindset – all highly relevant for today's fast changing and unpredictable business environment. For beyond our IQ, qualifications and experience, it is having the right mindsets that can make all the difference.

## **Register to join the event**

The event is free of charge for all UK Alumni. Register for the event here:

<https://www.britishcouncil.hk/en/programmes/education/east-asia-alumni-uk-symposium-2025>

## **Website**

Visit our website here <https://www.britishcouncil.hk/en/programmes/education/british-council-east-asia-education-week-2025>

## **Contact**

For any enquiries, please contact us at [education\\_eastasia@britishcouncil.org](mailto:education_eastasia@britishcouncil.org)