



BHKS

Belgium Hong Kong Society

SPRING 2022 #14

HONG KONG

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BHKS

NEWSLETTER#14

SPRING 2022

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Chairman's Message

Dear Friends of Hong Kong,

First the good news: Hong Kong remains in first place in the ranking of the freest economy in the world. It also remains in 3rd place as a global financial centre behind New York and London. Since the beginning of 2021, domestic demand has risen by 5% and the unemployment rate has come down to 4.3%. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, Hong Kong has recovered from the 2020 lockdowns and is back where it was before the crisis.

Hong Kong is indeed a free and open economy, governed by the rule of law and an independent judiciary. It has an international business environment with a low and simple tax regime. There are now almost 2 600 listed companies in Hong Kong, and over 3 700 start-ups in 2020, an increase of 68% compared to 2017. About 75% of the global offshore RMB payments are processed via Hong Kong.

Our beloved city is not only a business centre, it also plays a leading role in culture in Asia. The M+ Museum in the West Kowloon Cultural District, with an ambition to rival Tate Modern and Centre Pompidou in terms of the breadth and importance

BHKS Background

Founded in 1986, the objective of the Belgium-Hong Kong Society (BHKS) is to promote bilateral economic, social and cultural exchanges between Belgium and Hong Kong through the organisation of a variety of business and cultural activities. BHKS is also a member of the Federation of Hong Kong Business Associations Worldwide.

Our focus is to promote Hong Kong as an economic gateway into the Mainland China, a hub of the modern lifestyle and a model of good governance. We offer unique networking opportunities and first-hand information.

Our Members all share the passion for Hong Kong. As a member, you will be invited to the annual

Chinese New Year Reception in Brussels, a highlight of the Brussels' social calendar. We celebrate the Chinese New Year in style with additional Chinese entertainment and authentic Chinese food, together with many friends of Hong Kong, officials of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Brussels (HKETO, Brussels) and the EU diplomatic corps. This is just one of our many attractive activities throughout the year.

We are truly grateful to the HKETO, Brussels for their continued support in co-organising a variety of Hong Kong events in Belgium.

BHKS belongs to all friends of Hong Kong and your participation is essential in helping us to improve. Please do contact us directly if you have any feedback or comments on the newsletter or on the BHKS as a whole.

of its collection, was opened on 12 November 2021. It houses one of the largest collection of Chinese contemporary art works in the world, including works by Ai Wei Wei and Liu Heung Shing.

The programming of the BHKS in 2021 has, for the second consecutive year, been hindered by COVID-19. We therefore continued in an online modus with our webinar on electric vehicles and waste management on March 19th and the Fintech webinar on March 30th. Both webinars were well attended. Our Hong Kong movie night was cancelled and we had to wait until September 28th for a live event. Our annual "End of Summer" business seminar was held at The Hotel Brussels. With spectacular views of the Brussels skyline, we received Mr Luc Lammens who shared his insight on why Hong Kong, in just three years' time, has become the second largest listing venue for biotech companies. It was a glorious evening with all guests in very good spirits, toasting and seeing each other again after such a long period of time.

That evening, we were also introduced to Ms Sam Vleminx from the Thomas More University of Applied Sciences in Antwerp, our first student since 2016 who received a grant from the BHKS Education Fund. She made a brief presentation about herself and will be now be going to The

Education University of Hong Kong in October 2022 for her exchange and clinical internship.

Unfortunately, by the time we were looking to organise our Christmas cocktail on December 7th, COVID-19 measures were back in force and we had to cancel the event.

I would like to come back to the BHKS Education Fund and the importance of exchanging students between our countries. I strongly believe that friendships made at a young age leads to mutual understanding of people and cultures and eventually brings peace in this world. The BHKS wants to promote these exchanges by financially supporting young students who want to study in Hong Kong. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you recognize yourself in the above. We are ready to talk and help.

In 2022, the BHKS will continue its mission to promote culture, education and business activities between Belgium and Hong Kong. We look forward to seeing many of you in person very soon!

***I wish you a happy
and healthy Year of the Tiger!***

Alexander De Beir, *Chairman, Belgium-Hong Kong Society*

BHKS Activities 2021

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic in Belgium over the past year, the BHKS has kept up its momentum in strengthening the bilateral ties between Belgium and Hong Kong through organising, co-organising and supporting a wide range of activities.

Among the year's highlights were the online Chinese New Year celebration on 16 February 2021 and the "End of Summer" Business Seminar on 28 September 2021. The BHKS also organised/co-organised a few webinars on various topics, with distinguished speakers from both Belgium and Hong Kong, including the Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), Mrs Carrie Lam.

We would like to take the opportunity to thank all our members who participated in these events and for their unfailing support

Direct Dialogue with Mrs Carrie Lam, the Chief Executive of the HKSAR February 5, 2021



Join us live on

February 5, 2021
10:00 am - 11:00 am
(CET)

Direct Dialogue with Mrs Carrie Lam the Chief Executive of HKSAR

To be moderated by Dr **Fabian ZULEEG**, European Policy Centre, and including a Q&A Session with:

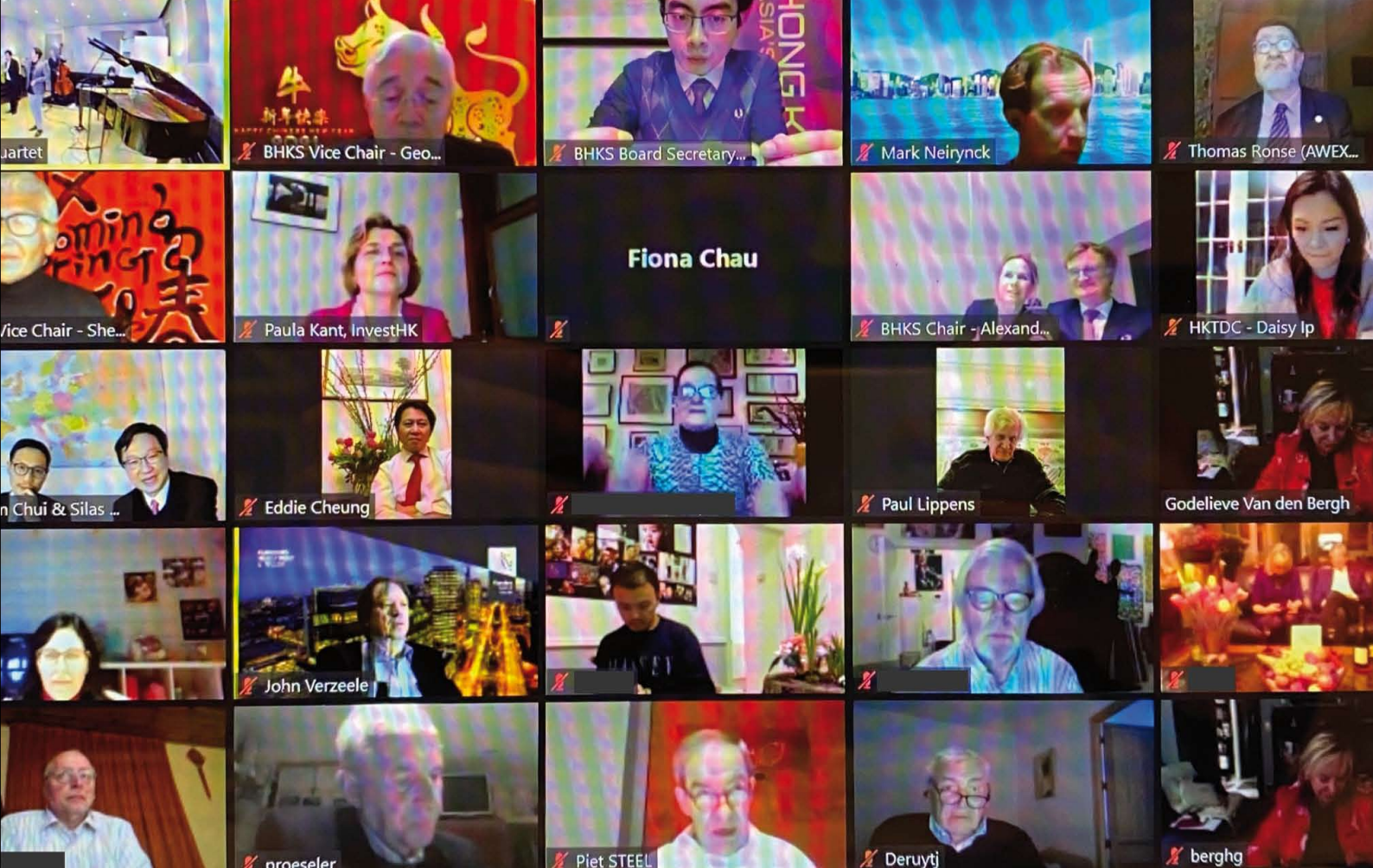
- Mr **Edward YAU**, Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development
- Mr **WONG Kam-sing**, Secretary for the Environment
- Mr **Christopher HUI**, Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury

The graphic includes a background image of a modern city skyline, a circular portrait of Mrs Carrie Lam, and a photo of her in a purple jacket sitting in a red chair during a live session. A blue banner in the background reads 'Perspectives Hong Kong WELCOME' and 'WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM Davos 2020'. Three circular portraits of the moderators are shown at the bottom left.

Co-organised with HKETO, Brussels, HKETO, Berlin and other business chambers in various European countries, the webinar was held on 5 February 2021. Mrs Lam was joined by the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Mr Edward Yau, the Secretary for the Environment, Mr Wong Kam-sing, and the Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury, Mr Christopher Hui, of

the HKSAR Government, who all offered valuable, first-hand updates on the latest situation in different aspects of Hong Kong, its economic prospects and impetus for future developments.

Over 700 entrepreneurs and business executives from different corners of continental Europe joined the webinar.



Online Chinese New Year Celebration Reception

February 16, 2021

The BHKS, together with HKETO, Brussels and the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC), jointly organised a lively online Chinese New Year celebration on 16 February 2021, to celebrate the arrival of the Year of the Ox.

Each BHKS Member received a Chinese New Year hamper before the reception, which included a bottle of Belgian sparkling wine and souvenirs of the Year of the Ox. Despite being online, all participating members clearly had an enjoyable evening.



The online event attracted around 60 BHKS members and friends of Hong Kong in Belgium. Ms Sophie Wilmes, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belgium, sent a written message to grace the event. A jazz quartet based in the Netherlands, comprising two Hong Kong musicians, also staged a lively professional jazz performance featuring some traditional Chinese New Year festive songs.





The “Legends of Lion Dance” Exhibition

February 5 – 28, 2021

To celebrate the Chinese New Year, a special and colourful exhibition was held at the Permeke Bibliotheek, in Antwerp: the “Legends of Lion Dance” exhibition.

Supported by the BHKS, the exhibition celebrated its fifth edition in 2021. 15 unique lionheads made and embroidered in Hong Kong were displayed at the exhibition. Visitors learned how lion heads are made, the traditions of Chinese New Year and their importance in Hong Kong culture. The exhibition also displayed Cantonese Opera costumes and traditional Chinese music instruments made in Hong Kong.



Webinar on Electric Vehicles and Waste Management

March 19, 2021

European technology for a greener and carbon neutral Hong Kong - Electric vehicles and waste management

Date: March 19, 2021 (Friday)
Time: 10:00 am - 11:00 am CET

Register Now!

Speakers:

- Mr WONG Kam-sing, Secretary for the Environment of the HKSAR Government
- Mr Ivan CHRISTIAENS, General Manager, Keppel Seghers Belgium NV
- Dr Axel SCHWEITZER, Chief Executive Officer, ALBA Group plc & Co. KG

Organisers:

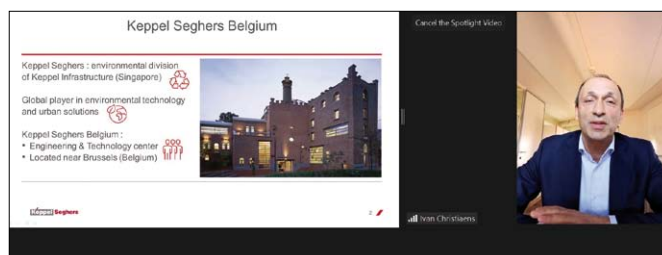
Supporting organisations:

Supported by the BHKS, a fascinating webinar entitled «European technology for a greener and carbon neutral Hong Kong - electric vehicles and waste management» was held on 19 March 2021.

Mr Wong Kam-sing, Secretary for the Environment of the HKSAR Government, introduced the first road map of Hong Kong on the popularisation of electric vehicles, as well as the Waste Blueprint for Hong Kong 2035. Two European entrepreneurs, including our corporate member, Mr Ivan Christiaens (General Manager of Keppel Seghers Belgium NV), also joined the webinar to share their experiences in taking part in the set-up of state-of-the-art waste-to-energy/resources facilities in Hong Kong.



The webinar was attended by over 170 entrepreneurs and business executives from different European countries. Our Chairman, Mr Alexander De Beir, was the moderator of the webinar.



BHKS FinTech Webinar

March 30, 2021

The Financial services sector accounts for over 20% of Hong Kong's GDP. The HKSAR Government has made FinTech a priority, with impressive results. The BHKS FinTech Webinar on 30 March 2021 discussed in detail the rapid rise of Hong Kong as a welcoming and increasingly diverse FinTech hub, by our panel of leading figures in the industry.

Moderated by Mr Jame DiBiasio (Founder & Editor of DigFin, HK), speakers at the webinar were Mr King Leung (Head of FinTech, InvestHK), Mr Benjamin Quinlan (Chairman, FinTech Association of Hong Kong) and Ms Virginie Van der Donckt (Director of Credit, Velotrade, HK).

BHKS FinTech Webinar

Presented by the Belgium-Hong Kong Society

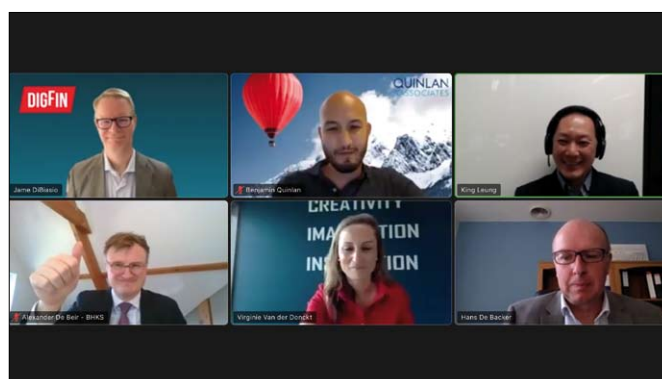
Register Now!

Speakers:

- King Leung, Head of FinTech, InvestHK
- Virginie Van der Donckt, Director of Credit, Velotrade, HK
- Benjamin Quinlan, Chairman, FinTech Association of HK

Moderated by: Jame DiBiasio, Founder & Editor, DigFin

March 30, 2021
9:30 - 10:30 am CET / 3:30 - 4:30 pm HKT



“End of Summer” Business Seminar - Hong Kong, Gateway for Venture Capital in Biotech

September 28, 2021



The flagship event of the year, and by good fortune an in-person event at The Hotel in Brussels, was held on September 28, 2021. A lavish and much appreciated occasion, the event was co-organised by HKETO, Brussels, HKTDC and InvestHK. Mr Luc Lammens, Managing Director of Innofocus, shared his insight on why Hong Kong, in just three years, has become the second largest listing venue for biotech pioneers. Ms Paula Kant, the Senior Investment Promotion Executive at InvestHK, introduced business opportunities in Hong Kong in various cutting-edge sectors. Over 50 guests joined the seminar, including many non-members who have since joined the BHKs.



The business seminar has become an important annual event in the BHKs calendar in which speakers update Belgian companies on the latest developments and business opportunities in Hong Kong.



Hong Kong, Gateway for Venture Capital in Biotech

Interview with Mr Luc Lammens, CEO and Founder of Innofocus

Through its offices in Antwerp and Hong Kong, Innofocus provides financial services to help European innovative, start-ups and early stage biotech and pharmaceutical companies tap venture capital funding from Hong Kong and/or penetrate Asian markets.

Mr Luc Lammens, CEO and founder of Innofocus, delivered a very inspiring presentation at the annual BHKS business seminar on 28 September 2021 at The Hotel Brussels. We visited his office to ask him why Hong Kong is the gateway for venture capital in biotech.

Q Can you describe why Hong Kong is so important for venture capital funding in biotech ?

A *Hong Kong is the second largest capital market in the world for biotech. Compared to Shanghai, Shenzhen or Singapore, Hong Kong brings a much wider combination of venture capital funds, institutional investors, family offices and Hong Kong Stock Exchange (HKSE)-listed companies which together seek investment opportunities – not only in tangible assets such as medical devices – but also in pure biotech and pharmaceutical development pipelines initiated by European start-ups and early stage companies.*

Also for Chinese investors, Hong Kong offers not only tax advantages but also easier access to European companies for historical reasons. Funds which seek to invest in Europe have advantages to go via Hong Kong due to its credibility.

Also, the HKSAR government is very supportive of the biotech and pharmaceutical sector in different ways. Concretely, the HKSE wants to ensure that newly listed biotech companies attract diversified funding from Europe, USA as well as from Asia. The Hong Kong Science Park was created with a goal to co-locate several biotech and pharmaceutical companies, such as AstraZeneca.



Q Why do you recommend our biotech startups to enter the Asian market ?

A *European biotech firms should first and foremost enter the Asian market for commercial reasons. While well-established companies – such as Biocartis, Ablynx and Celyad – have entered the Asian market since quite some time, since two years early stage companies also set their eyes on the Asian market. The Asian regulatory environment is however different from the FDA and EMA drug approval processes in the USA and EU, thus requiring specific expertise and focus.*

The second reason is the availability of huge funding resources. The challenge is to establish the link between commercial penetration on the one hand and funding opportunities on the other hand.

While most EU biotech firms still see a Nasdaq-listing as the ultimate goal, such listing process is far from obvious and Hong Kong may bring a commercial and funding advantage.

Q What are some of the business models for EU companies to enter the Mainland China-Hong Kong market ?

A *The classic business model is that a Chinese company acquires the license on technology from a European company specifically for the Chinese market. When funding is required, an alternative is to close an asset deal whereby certain assets – sometimes including exclusive rights to the Chinese market – are sold to a Chinese company.*

European biotech firms should however consider a two-pronged strategy with a goal to (i) build a common commercial platform with a Chinese partner; and (ii) preserve its intellectual property (IP) rights.

When negotiating a business model to enter the Mainland China-Hong Kong market, European biotech firms can consider to open up their capital for a Chinese investor at some point thereby taking into account that the Chinese investor has a long term strategy to obtain visibility in the EU in order to gain access to other EU biotech companies.

As an example, Sensorion – a French listed biotech firm active in hearing disorders – initially negotiated commercial rights and later on opened its capital for 2 HKSE-listed companies (i.e. Wuxi and 3S Bio).

Q Finally, can you give a funding example and/or lessons learned ?

A Innofocus works closely with eTherRNA (Niel, Belgium), which took the time to study the Chinese market and thereby learned that China Grand Pharma had an interest in its mRNA technology.

As a result of the COVID-19 outbreak and the rapid development of immunotherapy, this process was accelerated and resulted in a joint-venture specifically for the Chinese market. eTherRNA took a minority stake in this JV but secured equal say at the level of decision making process for clinical development and production.

eTherRNA also negotiated a clawback clause to ensure that its market access rights would return in case its JV partner – which gained exclusivity - would not achieve its commercial objectives in China.

Meanwhile, China Grand Pharma invested directly in eTherRNA and was thereby followed by two other investors which identified this investment opportunity after China Grand Pharma's entry.

Finally, Innofocus facilitated the set-up of a eTherRNA subsidiary in Hong Kong with a goal to (i) communicate easier with its Chinese JV; and (ii) further develop the Asian markets.

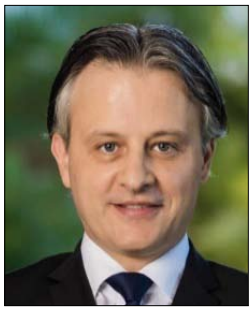
Lessons learned: eTherRNA managed to enter the Chinese and Asian markets without being blocked from further fundraising in the USA and other investment markets.

Q Short-term versus long-term

A EU companies tend to look to Hong Kong and Asia for solving short term cash needs but should know that their counterpart has a long term strategy. Therefore, EU companies should create a long term perspective for the Asian investor, elaborate a structured collaboration while preserving their IP rights and create a win-win for both parties in the long run.

Hans De Backer
Treasurer, Belgium-Hong Kong Society





Hong Kong families leading the way in philanthropy and impact investing

Geoffroy Dedieu

Head of Family Office, Europe, InvestHK

Producing measurable societal impact is a key component of family values in Hong Kong. This has been the case for decades as Hong Kong's wealthy families have been practicing philanthropy and impact investing long before the themes became fashionable. In this article, we will review current trends in Hong Kong and Asia and look at a few case studies.

But first, let us define the terms: philanthropy and impact investing.

Philanthropy includes a dimension of "gifting" or "granting". Therefore, part of the payment made is altruistic and does not follow investment targets. But family foundations in Hong Kong are nonetheless professionally set up and follow a business process map, which includes governance, accounting, reporting, decision making, evaluation and monitoring.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Impact Investing is part of investment management, or asset management, but it is a step towards philanthropy and some philanthropic organisations have included Impact Investing in their remit. Impact investing consists of investments made into companies, organizations, and funds with the intention to generate measurable social and environmental impact alongside a financial return. Most programmes follow standard goals such as the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Asian Families act as stewards on a large part of the Sustainable Investment Spectrum

Hong Kong is the Asian regional centre for philanthropy with more than 15 000 charitable organisations. Many NGOs that operate in Mainland China are based in Hong Kong because of the relative flexibility of government regulations. Philanthropic institutions use different models to operate in Hong Kong, including independent foundation, family foundation, corporate foundation, community foundation and government-linked foundation.

Wealthy families rely on philanthropy as part of their long-term succession plans in order to accomplish the following:

- instilling and driving family values;
- strengthening family bonds;
- providing opportunities for family members to embrace meaningful responsibilities; and
- transmitting knowledge and building capabilities among family members.

This is not unique to Asia, as 36% of families globally see social entrepreneurship as the most important trend for the future (source: UBS Family Advisory Study APAC 2020). Globally, the generations driving ESG investments are Millennials 55%, NextGen 30% and Founders 15% (The Hubbis 2021). NextGen Asians, the upcoming generation, are actively involved in philanthropy. They seek increased personal engagement in grant decisions. They also emphasise better measurement of results, so-called impact, and demonstrate more openness to talking publicly about philanthropy.

The rise of impact investing

Impact investing is defined as “Generating a measurable social and environmental impact alongside a financial return”.

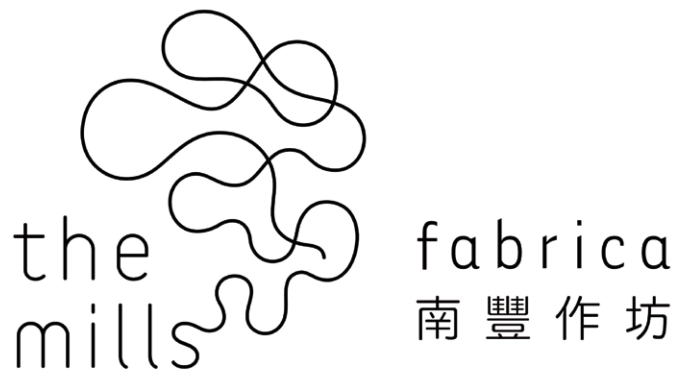
The social investment ecosystem in Asia is made up of a variety of players including fund managers, family offices, foundations, banks, pension funds and development finance institutions. With almost a third of global impact investors investing in Asia and with 44% planning to grow their impact investing allocation in the region in the year ahead, this space is in a constant state of flux (Source: UBS 2020). The key trend in family impact investment in Asia is blended financing. Local mega-grant makers are leading the trend toward long-term impact investment. Funders combine grants from foundations or corporations, debt from funds or banks and equity from family offices and funds. Family offices, incubator funds and foundations share converging projects.

For example, let us have a look at the blended approach for impact adopted by various part of the Nan Fung group.

Nan Fung is a Hong Kong privately held group of companies carrying on the business of property development as its core business in Greater China, including shipping, textiles, and financial services. It is also one of the leading property developers and largest privately held developers in Hong Kong. Nan Fung Textiles Limited was founded by Dr D.H. Chen as a small textile company in Hong Kong.

The D. H. Chen Foundation is a private philanthropic organization founded in 1970 by Dr Din Hwa Chen. Over the past decades, the Foundation has been supporting community philanthropic initiatives to promote compassion-based values.

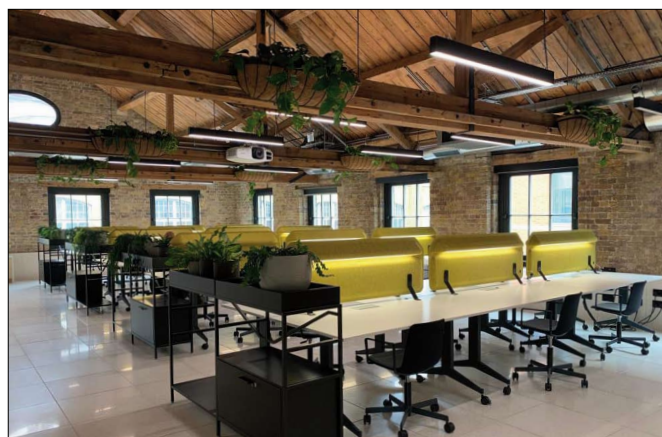
Nan Fung also redeveloped The Mills as a social impact project. The Mills is a landmark revitalization project in Hong Kong from Nan Fung Group completed in 2018. A destination consisting of a business incubator, experiential retail, and a non-profit cultural institution.



The Mills also operates an incubator: The Mills Fabrica is an incubator looking to improve sustainability in the agriculture & food and textiles & apparel industries. The incubator is currently present in Hong Kong and London. It connects startups to Nan Fung’s community of partners within the fashion industry.

In turn, The Mills Fabrica is part of the Fashion for Good Initiative, an initiative of several fashion-industry players, including some with strong family stewardship, to transition to a circular fashion system. The Good Fashion Fund was initiated by Fashion for Good in 2019 and is a collaboration between Laudes Foundation, The Mills Fabrica and FOUNT to help manufacturers invest and reinvest in innovations that deliver both economic growth and good fashion practices.

Individually, all these initiatives are remarkable, but considered as a whole, blended approach, consisting of combined efforts to produce societal impact, they are a very powerful system driven by core family values. In Hong Kong, family offices and foundations have the experience and long track record to steward this trend. As the ESG (Environment, Social, Governance) principles start to permeate the entire global financial system, Hong Kong is taking a leading role in Asia, with prominent families leading the way.



Places to regather your strength with unlimited opportunities



Mr Didier Denayer

*Economic and Commercial Counsellor
of Wallonia Export and Investment
Agency in Hong Kong*

Being the most international city in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA), Hong Kong has a business-friendly environment, good tradition of the rule of law, free economic system, and well-established information technology infrastructure and financial system, as well as a wealth of high-end talents and professional services with extensive knowledge on global markets.

Hong Kong is a place that embodies openness and transcends borders. Despite its size, it is the world's 7th largest trading economy. The Hong Kong Dollar is the 13th most traded currency. It is one of the most significant financial centers and trade ports in the world.

Hong Kong will proactively become a participant in domestic circulation and a facilitator in international circulation amidst the "dual circulation" development strategy of Mainland China with the support of the 14th Five-Year Plan. Hong Kong will take the GBA development as the best entry point to better integrate into the overall development of Mainland China, which will bring continuous impetus to Hong Kong's economy.

Bilateral relations and co-operation between Wallonia and Hong Kong continue to develop and strengthen. Hong Kong remains an important economic player for Wallonia and a key conduit for two-way trade and investment flows between the Wallonia and Mainland China. In 2020, with 0.11% of exports in Wallonia, Hong Kong would be our 52nd customer, between the Philippines and Bulgaria. With 2.27% Walloon exports in Asia Pacific, Hong Kong would be our 13th customer, between the Philippines and Malaysia.

The EU retained its position as Hong Kong's second largest trading partner after Mainland China in 2019. EU businesses are active in a wide variety of sectors, mainly financial services, trading, logistics, construction and retailing. The EU business community prizes Hong Kong's respect for the rule of law, high standards of transparency, freedom of information and of media, preferential access to the mainland China market and the availability of high-quality service providers.

Besides, Hong Kong has a powerful pull for exhibitions and trade fairs that stretches globally, the city hits the nail on the head in every area that appeals to exhibitors looking to showcase products to a business-savvy audience – world-leading facilities and infrastructure, valuable proximity to Mainland China and Asia's dynamic markets. Wallonia companies have established very interesting contacts with distributors and importers in Hongkong, but also in Mainland China and other Asian countries during HOFEX. Various Walloon companies were also in attendance to promote their expertise in the world of equestrianism during the Longines Hong Kong Masters. Wallonia-Brussels Design Mode (WBDM) exhibited at Business of Design Week in Hong Kong in order to increase networking and business opportunities for Belgian design and fashion talent in the international market. Belgian Spirit was set up in 2011 to promote Belgium's tradition of creativity, design, technology and innate talent. It aspires to internationalize Belgian creativity even more than it already is, and it is focused on creating and developing a long-term collaboration platform with business of Design Week in Hong Kong and partners throughout China.

On the other hand, the EU is the world's biggest trader and its currency, the Euro, comes second only to the US dollar in international financial markets. Thanks to its central location, Wallonia is a gateway to Europe. A highly integrated



infrastructure explains why numerous distribution centers are located in Wallonia. Wallonia offers a unique combination of ports, airports, railways and roads. Moreover, an investor-friendly tax regime and particularly transparent business regulations especially in employment matters, explain Wallonia's attractiveness for foreign investors. R&D companies are also well represented because they can benefit from a long-established co-operation between enterprises and scientific research institutions, biotech and biopharma companies are booming in Wallonia, as part of the Belgium recovery plan, Wallonia with EUR 25 million investment will create by 2025 a European biotechnology school and a health hub at the heart of the Biopark ecosystem in Gosselies which aims to overcome the workforce shortage faced by this rapidly expanding sector by adapting the education and training dedicated to these professions. The Gosselies area is in fact at the heart of an existing biotechnology ecosystem, close to Brussels South Charleroi Airport, which allows international connections.

Since 2018, the Federal Government of Belgium and Alibaba Group Holding Limited have collaborated to promote inclusive trade under the Electronic World Trade Platform (eWTP) initiative. A major element of the eWTP agreement signed in Belgium is the establishment of a logistics infrastructure to support cross-border trade. Cainiao Smart Logistics Network Ltd., the logistics arm of Alibaba Group, and Liege Airport also signed a contract to lease a total area of 220 000m² to build a world-class smart logistics hub at Liege Airport. Alibaba and Belgian Trade Investment Agencies have collaborated to increase the sales opportunity of quality Belgian products on e-commerce platforms within Alibaba's ecosystem.

With regional and national fiscal incentives and a strongly performing education system, Wallonia provides soft landing platforms including all necessary facilities and services for overseas SMEs, in order to help SMEs to start their business in Europe.

Flanders - Innovation Leader on the EU Regional Innovation Scoreboard



Mr Peter Tanghe

*Science and Technology Counselor
for China
Flanders Investment & Trade*

Flanders, Belgium's largest region responsible for 82% of Belgium's export, is home to a thriving eco-system of universities, research centres and tech companies at the heart of Europe.

Flanders has established 10 Science & Technology Offices globally to bring technology-driven companies from Flanders in touch with the right partners, to attract technology-driven players from abroad to Flanders and to connect Flanders-based companies, research centers, innovation clusters, entrepreneurial organizations and accelerators with foreign players.

Peter is responsible for the **Science & Technology Office in Guangzhou, Greater Bay Area**, and supports tech collaboration opportunities across Mainland China, Hong Kong and Taiwan.

The Science & Technology Office covers 3 different technology domains. Each of these technological themes contributes to solutions for today's social and socio-economic challenges:

Digital Tech

Flanders is home to the world-leading nanotechnology research centre Imec, and a semiconductor and photonics company eco-system as well as to a rising generation of digital and AI scale-ups that have been built on the entrepreneurship and talent coming from the excellent universities.

Health Tech

Flanders is leading in life science as a global export hub for COVID-19 vaccines, has hundreds of pioneering biotech and life science companies, ranks no. 1 in Europe in clinical trials per capita and the excellent healthcare system is being transformed by leading digital health and Medtech companies.

Climate Tech

Technology developed at Flanders universities, research centres and companies supports the offshore wind, solar and geothermal energy capabilities as well as advancements in battery and hydrogen technology, carbon neutral buildings and industrial decarbonization.

Peter has Master's Degrees in Engineering and Management from KU Leuven and Solvay Business School. After having worked in the USA and Europe in the technology industry, he lived and worked in Beijing and Shenzhen from 2008 until 2017, as a managing director for Accenture China, where he led digital transformation and market collaboration projects with leading Chinese tech companies.

From 2018 until 2020, he was based in Ghent, Flanders, and supported European tech scale-ups to internationalize and grow in China and Asia.

To get in touch with the Flanders Science & Technology office for China, please contact guangzhou@fitagency.com.



Chrysoline Monnier

New Board Member



Ms Chrysoline Monnier

*Area Manager Export
hub.brussels*

Chrysoline Monnier is the Area Manager Export at hub.brussels, the trade agency for business support.

Ms Monnier holds a master degree in law obtained at the Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB). She went abroad for an internship in the USA, Brazil and Mozambique so gained work experience in the private sector before starting at hub.brussels. Ms Monnier started in hub.brussels four years ago and was initially responsible for the South Asian market. She was recently given responsibility for the whole Asian continent.

Ms Monnier's role is to help Brussels companies export their goods and services in Asia. The priorities of hub.brussels regarding export promotion to the Hong Kong market are:

- Fintech & IT
- Smart city & infrastructure
- Renewable energy
- EU market access

Message for BHKS members

The BHKS is the perfect organization to create bridges that will facilitate trade exchanges between Brussels and Hong Kong. I am pleased to be part of the BHKS and to contribute to the benefit of both our economies.



BHKS Education Fund

The BHKS is delighted to announce the successful sponsorship by the BHKS Education Fund of a student exchange and exchange of staff expertise in 2022 in collaboration with the Thomas More University of Applied Sciences. The sponsorship is the first since the last urban farming project in Hong Kong back in 2016. See the story of Thomas More University of Applied Sciences below –

Speech-Language Pathology & Audiology in Belgium and Hong Kong

Thomas More, Flanders' largest University of Applied Sciences, offers more than 30 degrees and postgraduates, taught in Dutch and/or English, in the province of Antwerp. In close co-operation with the professional field, the institution prepares students for the labour market and the world of tomorrow. Its education, practice-oriented scientific research and services are an engine for regional development and innovation. Next to that, Thomas More has an international reputation and participates actively in international networks and projects corresponding to its different curricula and research fields. It also offers exchange programmes in English, for students from partner universities.

The department of **Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology (SLP&A)** offers a Bachelor degree programme, which covers a whole range

of communication domains, such as voice, speech, fluency, language, learning, swallowing, hearing and balance. In line with the institutional vision on internationalisation, the SLP&A department seeks to permanently strengthen the international character of its curriculum, both at the level of education and research, to the benefit of students and staff. To achieve this, the department closely works together with an extensive network of international partner institutions and organisations, both inside and outside Europe.

Since many years, the SLP&A department co-ordinates the Speech-Language Pathology International Network (<https://www.thomasmore.be/slp>), a network of 19 SLP departments, representing 14 countries and three continents. Student and staff exchanges are organised each year. In addition, the department co-ordinates various international education and research projects, such as in the USA, Rwanda, Suriname, Lebanon, etc., which are co-funded through various channels.



One valuable partner of the SLP&A department is the **Education University of Hong Kong (EdUHK)**, more specifically, the department of Special Education and Counselling (SEC), which hosts the **Master of Science Programme in Educational Speech-Language Pathology and Learning Disabilities (MSc E-SLP & LD)**. At the staff level, both departments share several curriculum and research interests, e.g. in the domain of bilingualism, acquired language disorders and learning disorders. At the student level, both departments offer high quality study and internship opportunities. Apart from the valuable international experience for individual students and staff, this collaboration also positively influences the departmental as well as institutional level of both partner institutions.

So far, the focus of this collaboration has been on exchange of staff expertise, bidirectional student exchange and community research projects. In 2020, a community project for Belgian expat families in Hong Kong was prepared in collaboration with the Consulate General of Belgium in Hong Kong. The objectives of the community project were to promote public awareness on speech-language disorders in children and adults as well as to provide speech-language services in Dutch and French to Belgian families in Hong Kong.

Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the execution of the project had to be cancelled. The re-launch of this project is foreseen for Mid-2022.



Miss Sam Vleminx, a final year SLP student at Thomas More, selected for clinical internship in Hong Kong in October 2022, will be financially supported by the BHKS Education Fund. She was officially introduced at the BHKS “End of Summer” Business Seminar on 28 September 2021 in Brussels. In addition, the BHKS will support one staff from the EdUHK for a work visit to Belgium in 2022.

The story of Thomas More and EdUHK is a shining example of a valuable and sustainable global collaboration, also resulting in a positive lasting impact on global higher education.

BHKS Education Fund

Invitation for Applications

The BHKS Education Fund was established in 2010 to sponsor exchange activities of young people aged 18 to 30 between Belgium and Hong Kong with a view of promoting stronger and more sustainable ties. The BHKS Education Fund aims to support the following projects :

- a** Short-term academic, cultural, technology or sports exchange programmes between Belgium and Hong Kong
- b** Other projects to enhance and promote intercultural activities related to Belgium and Hong Kong
- c** Work or study experience that connects Belgium and Hong Kong

The proposed projects can be either “tangible” or web-based, and must be non-profit making.

Application is open throughout the year. Interested applicants may submit the application through their college / university / tertiary institution (including student’s association), or individually if no longer in full-time education. The completed application form (which can be found on BHKS’ website), together with the supporting documents, should be submitted to the BHKS Secretariat.

Application will be vetted by the Board of the BHKS and applicants will be informed of the outcome within three months after the submission of the application. Interested applicants may visit our website at <https://www.bhks.be> or contact the Secretariat for more information.

Structural Partners



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