



Institute for Climate and Carbon Neutrality
THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

HONG KONG CLIMATE WEEK 2026 IMPACT REPORT



HONG KONG CLIMATE WEEK OVERVIEW

From 26 March to 2 April 2026

Hong Kong Climate Week 2026 was initiated and organised by the Institute for Climate and Carbon Neutrality, The University of Hong Kong.

Under the theme **“From Mitigation to Adaptation: Focusing on the Turning Point, Taking Concrete Actions,”** the eight-day programme brought together more than **5,000** policymakers, leading scholars, business executives, financial professionals, and young innovators from around the world through over **20** thematic forums, closed-door roundtables, youth dialogues, and industry–academia engagement activities.

The programme addressed key climate priorities spanning **energy transition, transport decarbonisation, industrial emissions reduction, climate governance and legal frameworks, climate resilience, green finance, low-carbon urban development, and adaptation strategies.** Through a global lens, Hong Kong Climate Week positioned Hong Kong at the forefront of international climate dialogue, addressed critical cross-sector challenges, and advanced climate governance from high-level commitments to practical implementation.

Looking ahead, Hong Kong Climate Week serves not only as a platform for dialogue and partnership-building, but also as the foundation of a long-term international collaboration ecosystem. By linking global climate ambition with local action, the platform seeks to accelerate a fair, inclusive, and resilient net-zero transition while contributing scalable Hong Kong solutions and Asian perspectives to global climate governance.

IMPACT DATA

EVENT SCALE

8 DAYS

20+
SESSIONS

Official Forums
and Events

ATTENDEES

5000+

Global leaders and
professionals
participating online

ACADEMICIANS PARTICIPATION

15+

Chinese Academy of
Sciences,
Chinese Academy of
Engineering,
French Academy of
Sciences,
Royal Society of
Canada

INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPATION & REACH

40%+

International guests from
multiple countries and
regions worldwide

United States, Sweden, Malaysia,
Denmark, Thailand, India,
Singapore, Canada, Germany,
France, etc.

International partners include:
UNFCCC, UNEP, Verra,
Lancet, Sequoia Climate
Foundation, AVPN,
Bangkok Climate Action Week,
Center for Net Zero

CORPORATE PARTICIPATION

80+

Global Top 500, industry
leaders, and climate tech
startups



YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

- Macau–Hong Kong Climate Change Assessment Youth Forum
- Venus forum
- Academic Report



MEDIA COVERAGE

25+

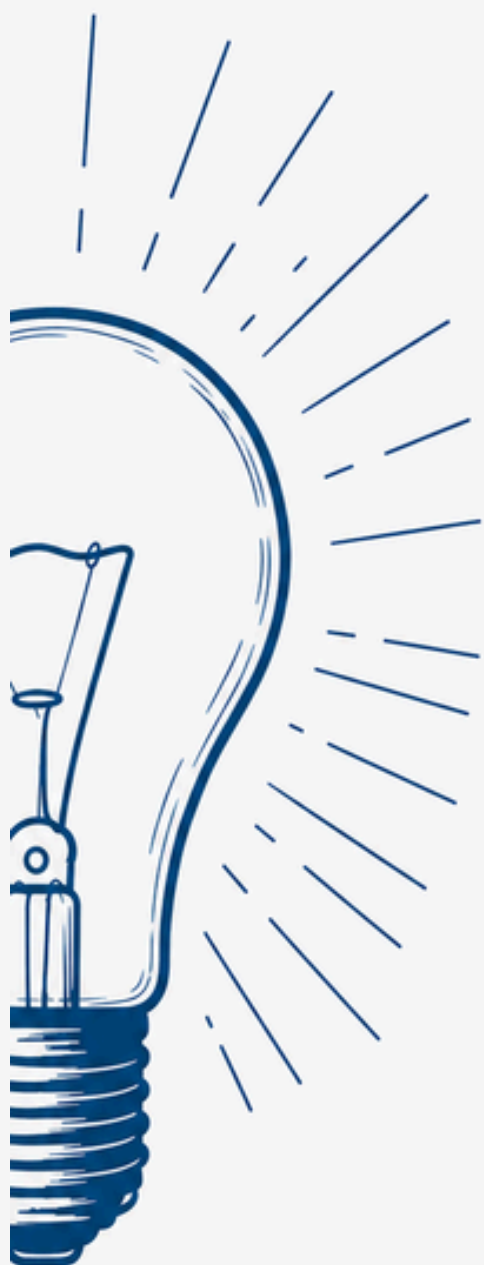
Live reports, interviews, and
in-depth features

- Chinese and English bilingual reporting
- Coverage by mainstream media in Hong Kong, China, and international outlets
- Corporate media matrix



The Core Value of the Hong Kong Climate Week Platform

— Multi-stakeholder Collaboration to Advance “Mitigation → Adaptation” Action



Government

Provide policy timelines, regulatory frameworks, and green finance standards to support emission reduction and adaptation through domestic and international policy linkages.



Businesses

Provide technology, capital, and industry expertise to scale mitigation technologies and adapt solutions commercially, achieving dual wins for business growth and climate value.



Research Institutions

Provide research breakthroughs, data tools, and talent development to support strategic decision-making, technology advancement, and risk assessment.



Non-governmental Organizations

Promote public participation, standard setting, and global network connections to mobilize climate action from all sectors toward nationwide practice.

Phased Approach — From “Mitigation” to “Adaptation” in a Full Process



Stage 1

Opening · Cross-Border Consensus (3.26)

— Setting the direction for collaboration and anchoring the foundations of mitigation

- Governments, academia, and enterprises establish a shared understanding and recognition of goals: ensuring sustained and balanced progress, laying the foundation for policy–research synergy in climate mitigation.



Stage 2

Diagnosis · Unresolved Challenges (3.27–3.28)

— Identifying key mitigation barriers and focusing on sector-specific bottlenecks for solutions.

- Focus on key sectors such as power, transport, industry, and law to jointly identify mitigation pain points (“bottlenecks”).
- Accurately pinpoint mitigation challenges across sectors, and build breakthrough pathways through technology–industry–policy–law linkages.



Stage 3

Turning Point · Urgent Action (3.29–3.30)

— Shifting from Mitigation to Adaptation

- Complete the strategic pivot from mitigation-first to mitigation+adaptation, building an Asia–global collaborative action framework.
- Reach consensus: climate governance must shift from “controlling mitigation” to “risk adaptation”, and launch emergency joint action.



Stage 4

Implementation · Adaptation in Practice (3.31–4.2)

— Focusing on Implemented Climate Adaptation Practices and Future Directions

- Focus on urban development, youth innovation, planetary science, and climate health—transform strategies into actionable practice at the local level.
- Co-create adaptation policy–technology–project–public action solutions across sectors, forming scalable Hong Kong models for wider application.

OPENING · CROSS-BORDER CONSENSUS

— Setting the direction for collaboration and anchoring the foundations of mitigation

01. Government Commitment

The Hong Kong SAR Government reaffirmed its commitment to reducing carbon emissions by 50% by 2035 and achieving carbon neutrality by 2050. Hong Kong has remained Asia's leading green bond issuance hub for seven consecutive years, demonstrating strong policy commitment and market confidence.



02. Academic Positioning

Professor Gong Peng, Vice-President of The University of Hong Kong, emphasised that climate governance must pursue a dual-track strategy of mitigation and adaptation. He also introduced the iEarth AI Earth Observation Platform, which leverages advanced technologies to support emissions monitoring, climate risk assessment, and disaster early-warning systems.



03. Corporate Alliances

Representatives from EQT, Google, Tencent, and Hang Seng Bank aligned around Hong Kong's role as a trusted intermediary between Mainland China's cleantech innovation ecosystem and global capital markets, strengthening pathways for technology commercialisation and industrial decarbonisation.



HKCW Platform Value:
Demonstrating that sustainability and profitability can be mutually reinforcing while establishing a collaborative foundation for climate mitigation across government, industry, academia, and research institutions.



KEY HIGHLIGHTS

1. Strategic Platform Upgrade: From a One-Day Forum to an International Climate Week

2026 marked the official transformation of the Hong Kong Climate Forum into Hong Kong Climate Week. Expanding from a single flagship event into an eight-day programme of forums, roundtables, youth dialogues, exhibitions, and networking activities, the platform reinforced Hong Kong's role as a gateway linking Mainland China, Asia, and the global climate community.

2. High-Level Participation Reinforced Hong Kong's Hub Position

The opening ceremony convened senior leaders from government, academia, and industry, including representatives from the Hong Kong SAR Government, The University of Hong Kong, the Chinese Academy of Sciences, and CATL. Officials from China's Ministry of Ecology and Environment and the Hong Kong SAR Government reaffirmed Hong Kong's strategic position as an international green finance centre, an Asian climate innovation hub, and a global super-connector for climate collaboration.



3. Benchmarking Net-Zero Practice: Industry Leaders Shared Decarbonisation Pathways

CATL announced for the first time that its global operations had achieved carbon neutrality in 2025. The company revealed that ten battery manufacturing facilities worldwide had obtained zero-carbon certification and that all electricity used in its core operations now comes from zero-carbon sources. CATL also introduced its latest grid-forming energy storage technologies and Zero-Carbon Island solution. During the event, the CATL-HKU Joint Laboratory was officially launched.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

4. Scientific Support for China's Dual-Carbon Goals

Academician Fu Bojie of the Chinese Academy of Sciences presented research demonstrating a 50% increase in China's carbon sink capacity between 2000 and 2020. The study also quantified the mitigation potential of sixteen Nature-based Climate Solutions (NCS), which could contribute an additional 1.0 Pg CO₂e of annual emissions reduction by 2060.



5. International Policy Synergy: California Experience Connected with Hong Kong

Professor Ethan Elkind from the University of California, Berkeley shared California's experience in climate legislation, including Low Carbon Fuel Standards (LCFS), Zero-Emission Vehicle (ZEV) mandates, and battery circularity policies. Discussions explored how Hong Kong could develop a climate governance framework that combines regulatory leadership with market-based incentives.

6. Hard-Tech Breakthroughs Took Centre Stage

- i2Cool – Electricity-free radiative cooling technology deployed across more than 200 projects in over 20 countries.
- Green Vigor – Building-integrated hydropower systems that generate renewable electricity from water infrastructure.
- Formwork IO – Digital solutions supporting construction technology and smart building management.
- Luquos Energy – Sulfur-based flow battery systems offering significantly lower costs than conventional lithium-ion technologies.



DIAGNOSIS • UNRESOLVED CHALLENGES

—IDENTIFYING KEY MITIGATION BARRIERS AND FOCUSING ON SECTOR-SPECIFIC BOTTLENECKS FOR SOLUTIONS.

01. Academia + Industry

The Energy Foundation China, CATL, CLP, and research teams from the Chinese Academy of Sciences examined key barriers to energy transition, highlighted a turning point in energy storage economics, and explored advanced storage technologies to support renewable energy integration.



02. Industry + NGO

Geely Automobile and CLP Group discussed pathways for transport electrification, while the Business Environment Council (BEC) introduced Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) solutions to accelerate decarbonisation across the aviation sector.

03. Industrial Enterprises + Think Tanks

Nanjing Iron & Steel, Mengniu Group, and Tiangong International shared full value-chain decarbonisation strategies, while Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI) proposed three priorities for industrial transition: harmonised standards, cost-reduction pathways, and cross-sector collaboration.



04. Academia + Legal Sector

Co-organised with the HKU Faculty of Law, the forum explored climate disclosure requirements, carbon market governance, and accountability mechanisms, strengthening the legal foundations for climate action.



HKCW Platform Value

Identifying sector-specific barriers to mitigation and advancing integrated solutions that connect technology, industry, policy, finance, and legal frameworks.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

1. China's New Power System Transition Reached Global Scale

The Energy Foundation China reported that non-fossil fuel energy accounted for 58.2% of China's installed power capacity in 2024. Total energy storage capacity surpassed 144.7 GW, representing an 85% year-on-year increase. Supported by long operational lifetimes and abundant domestic resources, vanadium redox flow batteries are expected to capture a significant share of the future energy storage market.

2. AI Competition as a "Power Structure Competition"

Discussions highlighted that competition in artificial intelligence increasingly depends on access to reliable and sustainable energy systems. While the United States continues to rely heavily on natural gas-powered data centres, China is rapidly expanding renewable-powered digital infrastructure and is projected to achieve 50% renewable electricity supply for data centres by 2030.

4. Hong Kong as a Showcase for China's Smart EV Globalisation

As the official partner of Hong Kong Climate Week 2026, ZEEKR showcased its international market expansion strategy, highlighting strong performance in Hong Kong and overseas markets, alongside innovations in intelligent mobility and charging infrastructure.



3. A Decarbonisation Roadmap from Hong Kong's Century-Old Utility

CLP Holdings shared progress on its Climate Vision 2050 roadmap. By 2025, Hong Kong's fuel mix had shifted to 51% natural gas, 35% non-carbon energy, and 13% coal. CLP also commissioned the highly efficient 600 MW D2 unit at Black Point Power Station and retired three coal-fired generating units at Castle Peak Power Station.



KEY HIGHLIGHTS



5. Heavy Industry Decarbonisation Entered a “System Competition” Era

Representatives from Nanjing Iron & Steel, Mengniu Group, Tiangong International, and RMI outlined emerging approaches to industrial decarbonisation spanning technology innovation, green supply chains, manufacturing globalisation, and demand-side collaboration.



6. Hong Kong’s Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) Roadmap Released

Merlin Lao, Head of Policy and Research at the Business Environment Council (BEC), shared the latest developments in Hong Kong’s Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) policies. The Hong Kong Sustainable Aviation Fuel Coalition (HKSAFC), bringing together partners across the entire SAF value chain — including Chevron, Shell Aviation, Sinopec, EcoCeres, Cathay Pacific, Airbus, Hong Kong International Airport, PwC, and Standard Chartered — released the first Hong Kong Sustainable Aviation Fuel Strategy white paper.



John Cockerill Group presented low-carbon technologies including iron electrolysis, hydrogen-based steelmaking, and concentrated solar power molten-salt systems, supported by extensive global deployment experience.



TURNING POINT • URGENT ACTION

—SHIFTING FROM MITIGATION TO ADAPTATION

01. Government + International Organisations

Representatives from the UNFCCC, China's Ministry of Ecology and Environment, and the Hong Kong SAR Government identified climate adaptation as a strategic priority, noting that every US\$1 invested in resilience can generate US\$7–30 in avoided losses.



02. Academic Leadership

Academician He Kebin of Tsinghua University called for climate governance to evolve beyond mitigation alone and embrace adaptation as an equally critical pillar of climate action.

03. Strategic Partnership Agreements

- **HKU ICCN × PwC:** Signed a strategic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen the integration of academic research and practical implementation.
- **CATL × HKU ICCN:** Launched a joint laboratory to accelerate the translation of new energy technologies from research to industrial application.



04. Asian Collaboration / Industry Collaboration

Drawing on policy leadership, industry action from Swire and CLP, community-driven momentum from Bangkok Climate Action Week, and strategic insights from RMI, the discussion underscored the importance of breaking down silos and aligning policy, business, and knowledge to transform individual climate initiatives into systemic change.

HKCW Platform Value

Building consensus that climate adaptation must stand alongside mitigation as a core pillar of climate governance and coordinated action.

IMPLEMENTATION • ADAPTATION IN PRACTICE

—FOCUSING ON IMPLEMENTED CLIMATE ADAPTATION PRACTICES AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

01. Government + Industry + Academia

Representatives from Beijing and Shenzhen shared experiences in low-carbon urban development, while Envision Group, Shenzhen Institute of Building Research, and Zijin Insurance demonstrated innovative approaches to AI-enabled carbon management, green buildings, and climate risk insurance.



02. Academia + Youth

The Hong Kong–Macao Youth Forum showcased emerging research on renewable energy resilience, sea-level rise, and climate risk assessment, fostering intergenerational collaboration and cultivating the next generation of climate leaders.

03. NGOs + Public

Friends of Nature, TNC, and other organisations highlighted the critical role of public participation in climate resilience. Bangkok Climate Action Week provided practical examples of large-scale citizen engagement and community-driven climate action.



04. Cutting-Edge Scientific Research

The Venus Forum brought together leading Chinese and international academicians to explore planetary science perspectives, broadening discussions on climate resilience beyond Earth systems.

HKCW Platform Value:

Enabling end-to-end climate adaptation through collaboration across policy, technology, finance, implementation, and public engagement—creating a scalable Hong Kong model for resilience.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS



1. Diverse Climate Action Models Across Asia

The “Climate Action in Asia” session showcased emerging models of regional collaboration, including the launch of the Climate Lighthouse Asia Network and new partnerships connecting Bangkok Climate Action Week and Shanghai Climate Week.

2. The “Beijing Model” for Mega-City Climate Governance

The Beijing Municipal Ecology and Environment Bureau presented achievements under the Green Beijing strategy, including significant reductions in coal consumption and PM2.5 concentrations, expanded green electricity use, and twelve years of carbon market development covering approximately 60% of the city’s emissions.

3. Buildings Reimagined: From Energy Consumers to Ecological Systems

Qing Ye, Chairman of the Shenzhen Institute of Building Research, introduced the concept of “Three Transformative Mindsets,” demonstrating how buildings can evolve from energy consumers into regenerative ecosystems. Envision Group also showcased AI-enabled carbon management solutions developed in collaboration with HKU.



KEY HIGHLIGHTS

4. Earth Big Data Addressed the SDG 13 Data Gap

Academician Guo Huadong highlighted the severe data gap surrounding SDG 13 (Climate Action). He presented achievements from SDGSAT-1, the world's first satellite dedicated to sustainable development, which has shared more than 420,000 images with 113 countries. He also introduced the "LingXi SDGs" large model for automated literature review and report generation.



5. Young Scientists Advanced Regional Climate Assessment



The Youth Salon and Workshop on Climate Change Assessment in Hong Kong and Macao gathered young researchers from leading universities including Tsinghua University, Peking University, HKU, and HKUST. Topics included renewable power resilience, climate policy modelling, and compound climate-pollution risks in the Greater Bay Area, with discussions led by academicians and senior experts.

6. Venus Forum Expanded the Scientific Scope of Climate Week

Jointly organised by the Chinese Academy of Sciences and HKU, the Venus Forum convened leading academicians and international experts to explore planetary science and space physics, extending Climate Week's scientific perspective beyond Earth systems and enriching long-term climate resilience research.

INSIGHTS AND ACTION DIRECTIONS

Climate change presents both severe challenges and significant opportunities. Hong Kong should leverage its strengths as an international financial centre and emerging innovation hub to provide capital, green technology, and market connectivity, thereby contributing to scalable climate solutions.

— Paul Chan (Financial Secretary, HKSAR Government)

Nature-based Climate Solutions (NCS) in China could offset a portion of industrial emissions over the next 10–40 years. He recommended integrating NCS into the national carbon neutrality strategy, shifting from expanding ecosystem area to improving ecosystem efficiency.

— Fu Bojie (Academician, Chinese Academy of Sciences)

The traditional view of choosing between sustainability and business profitability is becoming obsolete.

— Jean Salata (Chairman, EQT Asia)

Hong Kong Climate Week serves as a strategic platform linking science, industry, and governance, accelerating actionable climate solutions across China, Asia, and the world.

— Gong Peng (Vice-President, The University of Hong Kong)

China will continue to advance climate action and international cooperation, shifting from ambition-led narratives toward action-oriented, bottom-up approaches.

— Wang Yi, (Institutes of Science and Development (CASISD), Chinese Academy of Sciences)

Hong Kong is a laboratory that provides solutions—where science, technology, capital and regional connectivity converge

— Youssef Nassef (UNFCCC Director, Adaptation Division)

It was a privilege to contribute to the inaugural Hong Kong Climate Week — a vital space where East and West meet, where major powers can engage in open dialogue to shape a shared climate future with Hong Kong's role as a bridge across regions and perspectives — bringing together the innovation, pragmatism, and empathy needed for global climate cooperation.

— Leo Horn-Phathanothai (Founder, Bangkok Climate Action Week)

China's national carbon trading system regulates approximately 8 billion tonnes of CO₂ emissions, covering around 60% of steel production capacity, and is developing methodologies for over 100 additional sectors.

— Zhang Xiliang (Director, Institute of Energy, Environment and Economy, Tsinghua University)

Low-carbon action should be understood not only as a technological pathway for emissions reduction, but also as a fundamental shift in values.

— Qing Ye (Chairman, Shenzhen Institute of Building Research)

PARTNERS AND MEDIA COVERAGE

Government Support

Environment and Ecology Bureau, HKSAR Government, Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau, HKSAR Government, InvestHK, Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation (HKSTP), Business Environment Council (BEC), Beijing Municipal Ecology and Environment Bureau

Strategic Partners

CATL, Envision Group, PwC, Geely Auto Group, Nanjing Iron & Steel, Mengniu Dairy, Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI), Audacy Ventures, Ta Kung Pao, and TN Partner.

Industry and Platform Partners

UNFCCC, CSEP, Sequoia Climate Foundation, Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing (HKEX), Hang Seng Bank, CLP Holdings, Cathay Pacific, Zijin Insurance, John Cockerill, EcoCeres, Shenzhen Institute of Building Research (IBR), Allied Environmental Consultants (AEC), Tiangong International, Centre for Net Zero, Hong Kong International ESG Alliance, Bangkok Climate Action Week (BKKCAW), Administrative Center for China's Agenda 21, Friends of Nature, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), and Tencent Research Institute.

Academic and Research Partners

Tsinghua University, Peking University, the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Fudan University, Southeast University, Wuhan University, South China Agricultural University, Jiangsu University, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong Baptist University, City University of Hong Kong, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, National University of Singapore (NUS), and the University of California, Berkeley.

Media Impact Highlights

National Media:

- **Xinhua News Agency:** Published both preview and feature coverage, highlighting industry-academia collaboration, climate innovation, and green finance. Reporting spanned from pre-event communications in February 2025 through post-event coverage in April 2026.

Hong Kong Mainstream Media:

- **RTHK:** Provided bilingual Chinese and English coverage.
- **Ta Kung Wen Wei Media Group, Wen Wei Po, and Hong Kong Commercial Daily:** Covered the Action for Earth Summit, Green Finance Forum, and key policy announcements.
- **TVB News, Commercial Radio Hong Kong, and now News:** Reported on energy security, AI and climate, and climate governance.
- **Bastille Post:** Exclusively published the Financial Secretary's full English speech.

Financial Media:

- **FINET.HK:** Focused on green finance and carbon markets.
- **Metro Broadcast:** Covered energy diversification and energy transition topics.

Corporate Channels:

- **PwC:** Published a post-event recap via its official WeChat account.
- **Geely Auto Group:** Shared Climate Week highlights through its corporate communication channels.



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JOIN US TO ACCELERATE THE GLOBAL NET-ZERO TRANSITION



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