

Hong Kong & Japan – Opportunities abound for I&T collaboration

Japan has long been renowned for its cutting edge innovation and technology (I&T) capabilities. As Hong Kong continues to develop its own capacities, the city is keen to strengthen links with Japan in this important field.

Hong Kong's I&T push prioritises four major areas for development: healthcare, artificial intelligence, smart city and fintech. Practical measures, designed to develop the city's I&T hardware and software, include boosting resources for research and development (R&D), tax concessions on R&D, nurturing local talent and recruiting overseas talent, support for tech start-ups, and developing technology research infrastructure.

High tech hubs

Hong Kong's universities are recognised for significant contributions in fields spanning biotechnology to robotics. Hong Kong also has centres dedicated to support science and technology innovation.

Institutions such as Cyberport and Science Park offer support in the form of incubation programmes, which include premises, marketing and media exposure, technology support facilities, and more. Presently, there are a number of Japanese companies at Science Park and Cyberport.



Cyberport is a creative digital community of over 900 digital tech companies.

The upcoming Hong Kong-Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Park, which will be the largest I&T platform at the boundary between Hong Kong and Shenzhen, is designed to draw top enterprises, R&D institutions and higher education institutions from around the world.

Hong Kong is also establishing two research clusters, one focusing on healthcare technologies and the other on artificial intelligence and robotics.

In the areas of health and medical services, Japan and Hong Kong share some challenges: our aging populations. So gerontechnology is an area where we can collaboratively explore ways to improve the quality of life of the elderly.

Leading global R&D institutions are also choosing Hong Kong to set up their overseas centres. They include Karolinska Institutet of Sweden, one of the world's foremost medical universities, which opened its first overseas research facility in Hong Kong, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), which established an Innovation Node in Hong Kong. The establishment of such centres endorse Hong Kong's growing stature as an innovation hub.

Meanwhile, the rapidly developing Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area is gearing up to become the international innovation and technology hub of China. The Bay Area offers not just a huge market for technology enterprises, but also a highly efficient manufacturing base for turning research outcomes into prototypes and products. With its sophisticated infrastructure and strong research capabilities, Hong Kong is poised to play an important role in building an international I&T hub in the Bay Area. Hong Kong invites Japanese companies, universities and R&D institutes to tap all these advantages and opportunities.



Hong Kong Science Park aims to transform Hong Kong into the regional hub for innovation and technology development.

Fund raising made easy for tech companies

The Hong Kong Stock Exchange has introduced a new listing regime which allows pre-revenue biotech companies and companies with weighted voting right structures to list on the Main Board. The new listing regime also provides a route for issuers seeking a secondary listing in Hong Kong.

Hong Kong welcomes tech talent

Hong Kong has rolled out a pilot fast-track Technology Talent Admission Scheme to enable technology companies/institutes to attract overseas technology talent in biotechnology, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, robotics, data analytics, financial technologies and material science.

A Technology Talent Scheme launched in August features a postdoctoral hub programme to help companies recruit postdoctoral talent for scientific research and product development.

The importance Japan and Hong Kong place on I&T opens significant new opportunities for both economies.



Sónar Hong Kong 2018 thrilled fans with an exciting array of music and creative technology at Hong Kong Science Park.