

Closing remarks at SFC Regional Securities Regulatory Leadership Symposium

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28 February 2024

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, the task falls on me to say a few words to close this event — not an easy one after hearing from the brightest minds of global finance today!

On behalf of the Securities and Futures Commission (SFC), thank you all for joining our regulatory symposium. As Tim mentioned in the opening, the SFC aims to forge ties, share experiences and link up regional markets through this event. I believe, together, we have achieved just that.

In all our discussions today, I was most captivated by the exchange of a wealth of new and diverse perspectives on some of the most pressing issues facing our capital markets today. These include challenges to market stability, and those from technology and climate change. For a well-rounded discussion, we managed to integrate both Asia-Pacific and European points of view to discuss the way forward for regional markets. Also, when we considered how technology transforms wealth management, we were able to blend together both regulatory and market perspectives.

So, a common thread running through our discussions today is that the Asia-Pacific region remains a bright spot and, in fact, the region will continue to supercharge global growth amidst continued challenges. Our coming-of-age economies, financial markets and asset management sector, coupled with our keen embracement of emerging trends and technologies like artificial intelligence and environmental, social and governance (ESG), will ensure the Asian story has legs to go further.

The next major consensus is the importance of collaboration. As I said in the opening remarks of the first panel, there is a lot of room to grow for intra-regional investment. Clearly, the themes we discussed are not peculiar to the Asia-Pacific but are just as relevant to Europe, with which many of us share an interest to better connect. In addition, both the public and private sectors, regulators and corporates must join forces to facilitate cross-border flows and overcome the global market challenges for the years ahead.

I hope this symposium has paved the way for our joint efforts to harmonise regulations and standards, drive cross-regional capital flows, promote responsible innovation, and facilitate a global low-carbon transition. This, in my view, is the best investment in our shared future. So, let us walk the talk and put these great ideas into action together.

Last but not least, my special thanks go to all the guest speakers for a great afternoon of engaging discussions, and for your huge efforts over the past weeks that made this symposium possible.

Thank you all for joining this very first event to mark the SFC's 35th anniversary. I look forward to having you again in our future events.