

Diverging Pathways toward Silicon Future:
Geopolitics and the Development of the Semiconductor Industry
Hong Kong Baptist University
15-16 June 2026

The Conference and Social Impact Workshop “Diverging Pathways toward Silicon Future: Geopolitics and the Development of the Semiconductor Industry”, organised by the David C. Lam Institute for East-West Studies (LEWI), Hong Kong Baptist University, is set to take place on 15–16 June 2026. This event, the first transdisciplinary initiative of its kind in Hong Kong, aims to bring together scholars, industry experts, policymakers, and community stakeholders to explore the semiconductor’s role as a technological foundation, geopolitical and socio-economic force. This two-day event will bridge the technological aspects of chip architectures with global politics, human creativity, and digital transformation, linking STEM fields with social sciences and humanities, and cultivating innovative research clusters that intersect technology, society, and geopolitics.

The first day will feature an academic conference, focusing on the structural dynamics that shape the semiconductor ecosystem within and beyond Hong Kong. Sessions will examine the city’s evolving role in global chip networks, the geopolitical competition surrounding semiconductor production and strategies to build chip competence across research, education and industry. Through dialogues that connect AI research, digital humanities, geopolitics, and political economy, the conference aims to map out how semiconductors underpin not only digital infrastructure but new ways of thinking and working across different fields in technology.

The second day, designed as a social impact workshop, will merge academic insight with societal reflection and engagement. Thematic sessions will explore how semiconductor advancements transform everyday life: impacting youth employment, exploring the environmental impact of data centres, and reshaping the future of labour through robotics and artificial intelligence. Overall, the workshop aims to serve as a vital platform for exchanging knowledge and fostering partnerships to investigate the role of the semiconductor industry in a global context.

Tentative Program:

| Day 1 | Day 2 |
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| Morning: Panel session with 4 presentations | Morning: Panel sessions with 6 presentations |
| Afternoon: Panel sessions with 9 presentations | |

Invitation:

We would like to invite you to consider joining the forum as a presenter. We will cover your airfare, accommodation cost, and organize several collective meals. Should you be interested and able to join, please confirm your attendance to Dr. Martin Sebena at sebena@hkbu.edu.hk before 25 May 2026.

Semiconductors Conference 2026

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| <p>June 15, 2026 (Mon) Hong Kong Baptist University, SCM 012</p> | 8:45 AM | Please assemble in the hotel lobby |
| | 9:00 AM - 9:30 AM | Registration |
| | 9:30 AM - 9:45 AM | Welcome Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speaker: Prof. Lyu Aiping, Vice-President (Research & Development) • Institution: Hong Kong Baptist University |
| | 9:45 AM - 9:50 AM | Photo Taking |
| | 9:50 AM - 10:05 AM | Conference Introduction and Opening Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speaker: Prof. Daniel Lai, Fung Hon Chu Endowed Professor in Humanics and Dean of Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences • Institution: Hong Kong Baptist University |
| | 10:05 AM - 11:00 AM | Keynote Address <i>Topic: Hong Kong's Tech Future in the Age of Chips and Geopolitics</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speaker: Prof. Alicia Garcia-Herrero, Chief Economist for Asia-Pacific • Institution: Natixis |
| | | Discussion and Q&A <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderator: Dr. Martin Sebens, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, LEWI • Institution: Hong Kong Baptist University |
| | 11:00 AM – 11:30 AM | Break |
| | 11:30 AM – 12:45 PM | Panel 1: Hong Kong's Role in Semiconductor Production Networks <i>What roles does Hong Kong currently play and what is its potential? Can government initiatives, such as attracting local production or developing an aviation superhub, help cement Hong Kong's position in semiconductor production networks?</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speaker 1: Prof. Xu Jianbin, Professor of Electronic Engineering • Institution: Chinese University of Hong Kong • Speaker 2: Prof. Mark Greeven, Professor of Innovation and Strategy, Dean of Asia • Institution: IMD Business School • Speaker 3: Dr. Teng Gao, Chief Executive Officer • Institution: Hong Kong Microelectronics Research and Development Institute • Speaker 4: Mr. Gary Ng, Senior Economist • Institution: Natixis Hong Kong |
| | | Discussion and Q&A <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderator: Prof. Yiran Li, Assistant Professor of Public Administration • Institution: Hong Kong Baptist University |
| 12:45 PM – 2:00 PM | Lunch and Informal Networking <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lunch to be served at Nan Yuan Chinese Restaurant, HKBU | |

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| <p>June 15, 2026 (Mon) Hong Kong Baptist University, SCM 012</p> | <p>2:00 PM – 3:15 PM</p> | <p>Panel 2: Geopolitics of semiconductors: rising tensions, divergent trajectories</p> <p><i>How far can the current tensions around semiconductors grow? What tools do governments use to secure domestic production and supply of inputs? What other sectors are impacted by the semiconductor tensions?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speaker 1: Prof. Douglas Fuller, Associate Professor • Institution: Copenhagen Business School • Speaker 2: Prof. Ming-chin Monique Chu, Lecturer • Institution: University of Southampton • Speaker 3: Prof. Tian He, Assistant Professor • Institution: Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University • Speaker 4: Mr. Robin Harding, Asia Editor • Institution: Financial Times |
| | | <p>Discussion and Q&A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderator: Dr. Martin Sebena, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, LEWI • Institution: Hong Kong Baptist University |
| | <p>3:15 PM – 4:05 PM</p> | <p>Break</p> |
| | <p>4:05 PM – 4:40 PM</p> | <p>Fireside Chat</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speaker: Mr. Olivier Klein, Chief Technologist for Asia Pacific • Institution: Amazon Web Services • Moderator: Mr. Zhou Xin, Director, AI Newsroom Innovation • Institution: South China Morning Post |
| | <p>4:45 PM – 6:00 PM</p> | <p>Panel 3: Cultivating Regional Ecosystems and Innovation</p> <p><i>How to secure engineering talent for the semiconductor industry? How to develop and expand manufacturing clusters? How to facilitate spillovers to and from other industries, such as materials or electrical engineering?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speaker 1: Prof. Erik Baark, Visiting Senior Research Fellow • Institution: Max Planck Institute for the History of Science • Speaker 2: Prof. Liu Ning, Associate Professor • Institution: City University of Hong Kong • Speaker 3: Dr. Meikei Ieong, Distinguished Guest Professor • Institution: Macau University of Science and Technology • Speaker 4: Dr. Zhou Xiaojing, Deputy Director • Institution: Zhejiang Development and Planning Institute |
| | <p>Discussion and Q&A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderator: Prof. Kaxton Siu, Associate Professor of Sociology • Institution: Hong Kong Baptist University | |
| <p>6:00 PM</p> | <p>Dinner for Workshop Presenters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dinner to be served at Yue Cha Yuan | |

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| <p>June 16, 2026 (Tue) Hong Kong Baptist University, AAB301-302</p> | 8:45 AM - 9:00 AM | Registration and Plan for Day 2 |
| | 9:00 AM – 9:05 AM | Welcoming Remarks for Day 2 |
| | 9:00 AM – 10:15 AM | <p>Panel 4: Navigating the STEM–Creativity Nexus for Hong Kong’s Youth Employment</p> <p><i>Hong Kong-focused panel demystifying youth employment at the STEM–creativity nexus. We link interdisciplinary education to the school-to-work transition and outline practical pathways, such as holistic curriculum design and industry-aligned mentorship, while facilitating cross-sector collaboration and community intervention to bridge the gap between classroom innovation and the demands of the local workforce.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speaker 1: Prof. William Cheung, Associate Vice-President (Transdisciplinary Education) • Institution: Hong Kong Baptist University • Speaker 2: Mr. Cheung Yiu-Kei, Senior Manager, Youth Employment Service • Institution: St. James Settlements • Speaker 3: Ms. Yiu Po King, Principal • Institution: Tseung Kwan O Government Secondary School |
| | | <p>Discussion and Q&A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderator: Prof. Kaxton Siu, Associate Professor of Sociology • Institution: Hong Kong Baptist University |
| | 10:15 AM – 11:50 AM | <p>Panel 5: Semiconductors, data centres, and the environment</p> <p><i>This workshop session will debate the benefits as well as the environmental impact of data centres, which are powered by advanced semiconductors. While the advancements in AI bring economic benefits, the energy use associated with data centres has adversely affected the environment and communities around the world.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speaker 1: Prof. Samson Tai, Professor of Practice, Department of Accountancy, Economics and Finance • Institution: Hong Kong Baptist University • Speaker 2: Mr. Justin Wu, Head of Sustainability and Climate Change, Asia and Middle East • Institution: HSBC • Speaker 3: Dr. Kenny Siu, Training Director • Institution: ESG Academy |
| | | <p>Discussion and Q&A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderator: Prof. Xiao Huijuan, Assistant Professor of Geography • Institution: Hong Kong Baptist University |
| | 11:50 AM – 12:00 PM | Closing Remarks |
| 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM | <p>Lunch for Participants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lunch to be served at Room 301-302, Dr. Wu Yee Sun Building | |