

Press Release

For immediate release

Cyberport signs Memorandum of Understanding with Mizuho Financial Group to enhance cross-boundary incubation support and springboard local start-ups to Japanese market

Hong Kong – 1 Nov 2018 – Cyberport and Mizuho Financial Group (Mizuho), one of the largest financial services companies in Japan, signed in Tokyo today a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance investment and promote market expansion for start-ups in both regions. This long-term partnership signifies the extension of **Cyberport's international** network. Cyberport and Mizuho extend the relationship to further step up cross-boundary incubation initiatives. While attracting potential Japanese start-ups to Hong Kong through **Mizuho's** accelerator programme, Cyberport's start-ups aiming to infiltrate the Japanese market will receive assistance in forming partnerships with local enterprises or even tapping into the Southeast Asian and global markets.

The Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC) holds its **annual trade showcase “Think Global Think HK”** in Tokyo, Japan this year. Cyberport leads a delegation, joined by six incubatees, to Tokyo for this high-level event. Mr Peter Yan, CEO of Cyberport, signed a MoU with Mr Tatsufumi Sakai, President & CEO of Mizuho Financial Group, Inc, which was witnessed by Mrs Carrie Lam, Chief Executive and Mr Nicholas Yang, Secretary for Innovation and Technology, of the HKSAR Government, together with Dr Lee George Lam, Chairman of Cyberport, on 1 November.

According to the MoU, both parties will strengthen cooperation in the five innovative technology clusters that Cyberport focuses on building, including three application clusters - FinTech, Smart Living, e-Sports/Digital Entertainment - and two technology clusters - AI/Big Data and Blockchain.

Mizuho will join the Cyberport Investors Network (CIN) to actively participate in the Cyberport investors community and further explore opportunities to solely invest or co-invest in the companies from **Cyberport's** community. The CIN now comprises more than 80 leading private equity and venture capital funds, corporate investors, family offices and angel investors.

On top of investment opportunities, Mizuho will also help Cyberport's start-ups enter the Japanese market, facilitate business cooperation and bridge them with investors in Japan to capture opportunities for growth.

FinTech Accelerator Programme

Housing the largest FinTech community in Hong Kong with over 300 FinTech companies and start-ups, Cyberport will recommend potential FinTech start-ups from our community for **Mizuho's** accelerator programme which is now recognised as partner of Cyberport Accelerator Support Programme under the collaboration. Through participating in the programme, start-ups will be entitled to a funding support of HK\$300,000 to further develop their business. Meanwhile, start-ups referred by Mizuho will be able to land in Hong Kong at Cyberport to enter the Greater Bay Area and Mainland Chinese **market through Cyberport's** network.

Dr Lee George Lam, Chairman of Cyberport, said, "I am thrilled to see Cyberport unveil another gateway for entrepreneurs to seize new business opportunities between Japan and Hong Kong. Not only will this long-term partnership help local start-ups enter the Japanese, Southeast Asian and global markets, it will also attract high-potential Japanese start-ups to Hong Kong. Such cross-border collaboration will further strengthen Hong Kong's digital economy and Cyberport's role as a key digital technology hub, facilitate the innovation and economic development of Japan and the Greater Bay Area, and contribute to the rapid economic growth of the region."

Mr Peter Yan, CEO of Cyberport, added, "Mizuho has a long-established relationship with Cyberport, and I am glad that we take a major step further to collaborate in specific areas in start-up investment, business development and cultivation of entrepreneurs. Cyberport shall continue to actively cultivate development opportunities for our start-ups, on top of providing funding, investment matching support and incubation. Cyberport's advantage lies in our ecosystem which comprises numerous parties including new economy companies, our strong incubatee community, overseas start-ups, investor partners like Mizuho, other members of the CIN, digital technology partners, university partners, and established enterprise partners in our Cyberport Enterprise Network (CEN). Together they have formed a complete value chain to let innovation prosper with strategic funding, latest digital technology, talent supply and an ecosystem for practical application."

Cyberport's delegation to Tokyo includes six successful start-ups from our community, which showcased their innovative solutions in a session under the theme **"Empowering Asia with Smart Finance and Smart Living"**. These six start-ups specialise in different areas of Smart City. We have Heycoins, Gini, and Ultifin Limited whose expertise lies in Smart Coin, Smart Personal Finance, and Smart Wealth Management respectively; for Smart Living, we have Find Solution.AI, Farm66, and Origami Labs which aim to improve education, food, and communication with the application of digital technology.

Please download photos at [here](#).



Chief Executive Carrie Lam (back row, centre) and Consulate-General of Japan in Hong Kong Kuninori MATSUDA (back row, 2nd from right) witness the signing of a memorandum of understanding on FinTech co-operation signed by Peter Yan, Chief Executive Officer of Cyberport (front row, 1st from left), Albert Wong, Chief Executive Officer of Hong Kong Science & Technology Parks (front row, 1st from right) and Tatsufumi Sakai, President & CEO of Mizuho Financial Group, Inc. (front row, centre) in Tokyo on November 1. Nicholas Yang, Secretary for Innovation and Technology of the HKSAR Government (back row, 2nd from left), Dr Lee George Lam, Chairman of Cyberport (back row, 1st from left) and Dr Sunny Chai, Chairman of Hong Kong Science & Technology Parks (back row, 1st from right) also attended.



Dr Lee George Lam, Chairman of Cyberport (centre), Duncan Chiu, Director of Cyberport (4th from left) and Peter Yan, Chief Executive Officer of Cyberport (4th from right) led a delegation to Tokyo with six Cyberport incubatees, whom presented their innovative Smart Living and Smart Finance solutions.

About Cyberport

Cyberport is an innovative digital community with over 1,100 technology companies. It is managed by Hong Kong Cyberport Management Company Limited, which is wholly owned by the Hong Kong SAR Government. With the vision to become a main force in developing the digital tech industry as a key economic driver of Hong Kong, Cyberport is committed to nurturing youth, start-ups and entrepreneurs to grow in the digital industry by connecting them to strategic partners and investors, driving collaboration with local and international business partners to create new opportunities, and accelerating digital adoption amongst corporates and SMEs.

Cyberport focuses on building five key clusters of digital tech, namely e-sports/digital entertainment, FinTech, AI/big data, smart city/smart living, and blockchain solutions, to foster the development of Hong Kong into a “Smart City”. With a committed team of professionals providing all-rounded value-added services to support our digital community and an array of state-of-the-art tech facilities, Cyberport is the flagship for Hong Kong’s digital tech industry.

For more information, please visit www.cyberport.hk

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