Hang Seng Indexes Company and Cyberport Launch "ThemeFinder Challenge" to Accelerate AI-Driven Index Innovation

Second cohort of Index Innovation Lab co-create AI solutions with innovators to facilitate thematic index development

(Hong Kong, 2 July 2026) – **Hang Seng Indexes Company** and **Cyberport** announced on 30 June the launch of the **"ThemeFinder Challenge"** (the 'Challenge'), co-creating Artificial Intelligence (AI) solutions with innovators that streamline the design of thematic indexes.

The Challenge marks the second cohort of the Index Innovation Lab (the 'Lab'), established in 2024 by Hang Seng Indexes Company and Cyberport. The Lab explores how new technologies, particularly AI, can support Hang Seng Indexes Company's index operations and help bring more relevant index solutions to the market.

In the first cohort, completed in 2025, a scalable GenAI solution co-developed with an AI innovator from Cyberport's community was successfully integrated into the calculation of the Hang Seng Family of Indexes. Building on that success, the second cohort focuses on thematic investing, a fast growing segment gaining momentum across the Chinese Mainland and Hong Kong. As investors increasingly seek targeted exposure to emerging growth areas, demand for thematic indexes is rising, creating a need to develop more thematic indexes faster and at greater scale.

To meet this growing demand, the Challenge aims to develop AI solutions that support thematic index design operations by reducing the end-to-end cycle from theme identification to index launch. With a faster turnaround, Hang Seng Indexes Company can help investors capture new opportunities earlier, while maintaining robust and consistent index operating standards.

Lillian Cheong, Under Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government, said, "The ThemeFinder Challenge is not only a platform that brings together innovation and technology talent with financial professionals, but also marks an important step forward for Hong Kong in advancing the integrated development of "Finance + Technology" and "Artificial Intelligence + Industry. It focuses on AI technology, using more refined and evidence-based classification models to more effectively identify emerging industry trends, accurately map listed companies to the Hang Seng Industry Classification System and various thematic categories, and uncover promising enterprises, thereby supporting the development of thematic indices and investment decisions. This is not only a technical challenge but also an important exploration for advancing innovation in financial data applications. In recent years, the HKSAR government has been advancing "AI+" across infrastructure, regulatory frameworks, data assets, and talent development. We are also accelerating the deployment of AI in finance, healthcare and other sectors, and actively improving related data governance and ethical frameworks to promote safe, reliable, and responsible AI development. At the same time, through various I&T parks including Cyberport, we continue to nurture the local startup ecosystem, leveraging domestic technology to drive 'industries for AI' and 'AI for industries'."

Gilbert Lee, Executive Chairman of Hang Seng Indexes Company, said, "The GenAI solution developed from the first cohort of the Index Innovation Lab has been used to calculate the percentage of publicly tradable shares for more than 2,600 Hong Kong-listed companies across the entire Hong Kong market. The lead time required for these calculations has been reduced by two-thirds. Building on the strong results from the first cohort, we look forward to seeing how the ThemeFinder Challenge can further enhance our index operations and the solutions we bring to the market. Hang Seng Indexes Company will continue to work closely with its long-standing partner, Cyberport, and the wider innovation community to accelerate innovation in financial services and contribute to Hong Kong's position as both an international financial centre and innovation & technology hub."

Simon Chan, Chairman of Cyberport, said, "Cyberport is delighted to once again partner with Hang Seng Indexes Company to drive the practical application of AI in the financial markets through the ThemeFinder Challenge. By leveraging the power of AI to accelerate the development of thematic indexes, the Challenge aims to shorten the end-to-end cycle from theme identification to index launch, enabling investors to capture emerging opportunities at an earlier stage. By combining Hang Seng Indexes Company's strengths in data and index expertise with Cyberport's vibrant AI ecosystem, we look forward to identifying more innovative solutions with strong market potential, accelerating the development of thematic investing, and supporting start-ups in transforming proof-of-concept projects into commercial applications. Together, these efforts will further reinforce Hong Kong's position as an international financial centre and I&T hub."

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Photo Captions

Please click here to download high-resolution photos, and here to download Cyberport campus photos and video footage.

Photo 1

(From left to right) Rocky Cheng, CEO of Cyberport; Simon Chan, Chairman of Cyberport; Lillian Cheong, Under Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government; Gilbert Lee, Executive Chairman of Hang Seng Indexes Company and Anita Mo, Director, Chief Executive Officer and Head of Client Management of Hang Seng Indexes Company officiated the "ThemeFinder Challenge" launch ceremony.

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Photo 2

Rocky Cheng, CEO of Cyberport (forth left); Simon Chan, Chairman of Cyberport (fifth left); Lillian Cheong, Under Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government (sixth left); Gilbert Lee, Executive Chairman of Hang Seng Indexes Company (sixth right); Anita Mo, Director, Chief Executive Officer and Head of Client Management of Hang Seng Indexes Company (fifth right), and senior management from both companies celebrate the successful launch of the "ThemeFinder Challenge".

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About Hang Seng Indexes Company

Hang Seng Indexes Company manages and compiles the Hang Seng Family of Indexes, which cover stocks listed in Hong Kong and Chinese Mainland. Our index series includes the Hang Seng Index, the Hang Seng China Enterprises Index and the Hang Seng TECH Index, as well as Stock Connect, Greater Bay Area, Sustainability and sector-related indexes. As at the end of March 2026, assets under management in products passively tracking indexes in the Hang Seng Family of Indexes had reached a total of about USD122.4 billion. Hang Seng Indexes Company is a wholly owned subsidiary of Hang Seng Bank. For further information on the Hang Seng Family of Indexes, please visit www.hsi.com.hk.

About Hong Kong Cyberport

Wholly owned by the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government, Cyberport is Hong Kong's digital tech hub and AI accelerator, with a vision to empower industry digitalisation and intelligent transformation, to promote digital economy and AI development, and to foster Hong Kong to be an international AI, innovation and technology (I&T) hub. Cyberport gathers over 2,300 companies, including 25 listed companies and 9 unicorns. One-third of onsite companies' founders come from 27 countries and regions, while Cyberport companies have expanded to over 35 global markets.

Cyberport, with Hong Kong's largest AI Supercomputing Centre and AI Lab as the engine, has been building the AI ecosystem with industry-leading AI companies and over 500 AI and data science start-ups. Through development of tech clusters, namely AI, data science, blockchain and cybersecurity, Cyberport empowers industries across smart city and government, banking and finance, digital entertainment, culture and tourism, healthcare, education and training, property management, construction, transportation and logistics, green environment and more, while hosting Hong Kong's largest FinTech community. Commissioned by the HKSAR Government, Cyberport has implemented proof-of-concept and sandbox schemes, subsidisation for digital tech adoption, industry tech training and start-up incubation, to drive technology R&D, translation and commercialisation, thus propelling digital transformation and intelligent upgrade across industry and society.

Also as "State-level Scientific and Technological Enterprise Incubator" and Hong Kong's key incubator, Cyberport supports entrepreneurs with funding and office space, extensive networks of enterprises, investors, technology corporations and professional services for business growth and expansion to Chinese Mainland and overseas markets, all-round facilitation for landing in Hong Kong, talent attraction and cultivation, ready as a launchpad to take start-ups in any stages of development to the next level.

For more information, please visit https://www.cyberport.hk/en.