

For immediate release:

Nearly 20 Start-ups to Showcase Business Concepts at AFF Mentor Hours and Investor Meetups for Start-ups at Inaugural InnoVenture Salon

10 January 2018 – The new **InnoVenture Salon** will debut at the upcoming 11th **Asian Financial Forum (AFF)** to foster start-up development. The Salon will leverage the AFF platform to connect start-ups with more than 2,500 business leaders and investors, offering an ideal stage for start-ups to present innovative business concepts and take part in mentorship sessions and connect with potential investors and partners. Organised by the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government and the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC), this year's AFF will be held on 15-16 January (Monday and Tuesday) at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre (HKCEC).

Helping start-ups to enhance competitiveness and attract investors

The inaugural InnoVenture Salon is supported by several start-up incubators and venture capital funds, including the Alibaba Entrepreneurs Fund, Nest Ventures, Hong Kong Startup Council, Hong Kong X-Tech Startup, SuperCharger, Cyberport Hong Kong and the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks. To showcase their innovations, close to 20 local and overseas start-ups, which have been shortlisted from the nominations submitted by these organisations, will set up booths at the **Start-up zone** under the InnoVenture Salon, on the second day of AFF.

In addition, seasoned experts in the start-up field will feature at **Mentor Hours**, offering practical advice on setting up and operations, fundraising, marketing strategies for the Chinese and wider Asian markets, and pitching. (Please refer to the attached for more details and for the speakers list)

AFF gathers accomplished investors from around the world, including those in venture capital and private equity, as well as high-net-worth individuals. To help start-ups reach potential investors, AFF will arrange one-on-one **Investor Meetups** for companies to introduce their projects in greater depth and answer questions from potential investors. Start-ups can also pitch their projects to a larger group of investors at the **AFF Deal Flow Project Presentation session**.

A diverse range of start-ups – from Fintech, HealthTech to Modern Agriculture

All of the participating start-ups have developed unique businesses that combine technology and new business models. **Kami**, a start-up nominated by the **Hong Kong X-Tech Startup**, specialises in artificial intelligence applications for the financial and banking sector. The company's chatbot technology remembers and understands the context of past customer conversations and extracts relevant information to formulate the most appropriate response for ongoing conversations. The company aims to leverage automated reasoning to enable the chatbot to understand the nuances of different conversations. The company has raised US\$1.7 million in funding from SoftBank Corp's ARM Innovation Ecosystem Accelerator, the Tin Fu Fund, and the Hong Kong X Technology Fund.

For **Kuaiwear**, a start-up nominated by the **Hong Kong Startup Council**, its KuaiFit smart sport headphones offers real-time voice coaching based on data collected from a clinically validated heart-rate monitor and a speed tracker. Coaching content is provided by renowned coaches, including Olympic athletes. Apart from running, the KuaiFit Marketplace mobile app offers training plans for different sports, such as athletics, swimming and cycling. In addition, coaches can upload their own training plan for users to purchase. The product has already won awards at multiple start-up competitions, including the TiE Hong Kong Startup Competition, AIA Accelerator, and the Hong Kong Startup Council's STARS Pitch.

Nominated by the **Alibaba Entrepreneurs Fund**, **Farm66** is a local indoor agricultural factory that specialises in high-quality eco-organic agricultural products, using aquaponics and patented greenhouse technologies, such as energy-efficient LED wavelength farming and cloud-based farming parameters monitoring. Using a specific light spectrum, the company says it can enhance the efficiency of photosynthesis, raising the quality and yield of crops. Growing vegetables in a closed environment also greatly reduces insect and bacterial infection, obviating the use of pesticides and minimising carbon footprint. The company has already garnered attention from Dubai-based Eternal Global, which is considering introducing the agricultural factory to grow crops in Dubai's desert environments. It is also considering using Hong Kong as a financing platform for the project. Farm66 recently won the Jumpstarter 2017 competition and received US\$1 million in funding from the Alibaba Entrepreneurs Fund.

Project matching to foster cooperation

For the 10th consecutive year, the HKTDC will co-organise the **AFF Deal Flow Matchmaking Session** with the Hong Kong Venture Capital and Private Equity Association, to provide pre-arranged one-on-one deal-sourcing and matchmaking meetings for investors and project owners. More than 350 projects have already been submitted, in the areas of Fintech, manufacturing and clean technology, education, infrastructure, energy and agriculture. AFF will also organise several **Industry Presentations** focusing on start-ups, clean technology, healthcare technology and Fintech, featuring industry experts discussing the latest industry trends, as well as investment project presentations. The **Financial and Professional Advisory Services Zone** features representatives of financial institutions, accounting firms, legal firms and business consultation companies, providing free on-site consultation services.

The **Global Investment Zone** returns to AFF, with representatives of governments and investment promotion agencies from 11 countries, including Australia, Germany, as well as first-time participants Mexico and Bangladesh, who will introduce their local markets, investment opportunities and regulations.

The Start-up Zone, Mentor Hours and Industry Presentation sessions are open to the press. Members of the media interested in interviewing participating start-ups or speakers of the Mentor Hours can contact Billy Ng (billy.km.ng@hktdc.org).

Start-ups Zone Exhibitors

Company	Major Business	
Farm66	Indoor agricultural factory practices aquaponic system	Nominated by Alibaba Entrepreneurs Fund
En-trak	Smart energy-saving system	Nominated by Alibaba Entrepreneurs Fund
Mad Gaze	Smart glasses	Nominated by Startup Council
Contact Store	Multi-disciplinary design consultancy specialising in innovative products	Nominated by Startup Council
Kuaiwear	Smart sports coaching headset	Nominated by Startup Council
Kami	A chatbot with the capability to remember and understand past conversations	Nominated by the Hong Kong X-Tech Startup
AA pay	A payment system for brick and mortar stores	Nominated by the Hong Kong X-Tech Startup
Netki	An identity-verifying system for blockchain and tokens etc	Nominated by Nest Venture
Altitude labs	Digital transformation, web and mobile application development agency	Nominated by Nest Venture
FinChat	Enabling compliance monitoring, archival and analytics for popular messaging apps in regulated enterprises	Nominated by Supercharger
Gatecoin	A Bitcoin and Ethereum token exchange platform based in Hong Kong	Nominated by Supercharger
Velotrade	A receivables invoice financing platform for immediate SME funding	Nominated by Cyberport
Wesurance Limited	Insurance mobile app	Nominated by Cyberport
Spire	Software-based crypto wallets for blockchain	
LA Blockchain accelerator	A venture fund focus on start-ups that use blockchain as underlying technology	
Zero-One Capital	An investment fund focus on blockchain-digital currency space	
ConnectAR Limited	Mobile app developer centred on AR	

Mentor hours (16 January)

Time	Topic	Speakers
10:00-11:00	Setting Up a Startup	Nick Chan , Council Member, The Law Society of Hong Kong Edmund Wong , Practising Director, Patrick Wong CPA Ltd Louisa Zhang , VP growth, Vectr Ventures
11:15-12:15	Fundraising in Asia for Startups	Lap Man , Managing Partner, Beyond Ventures Dennis Plomp , Principal, Nest Ventures
14:15-15:15	Scaling your business: Selling into China and Asian Markets	Toa Charm , Chief Public Mission Officer, Hong Kong Cyberport Alex Cheung , founder and CEO, Kami Intelligence Elton Huang , PwC HK China Entrepreneurial and Private Business Leader, PwC Central China Markets Leader Teddy Lui , Operations Director, Alibaba Entrepreneurs Fund
15:30-16:30	Effective Ways of Pitching	Wayne Chu , Principal, Mindworks Ventures Roland Yau , Managing Partner, Cocoon Ignite Ventures

Asian Financial Forum website: www.asianfinancialforum.com/

Media Enquiries

Please contact the HKTDC's Communications & Public Affairs Department:

Billy Ng Tel: (852) 2584 4393 Email: billy.km.ng@hktdc.org

About the HKTDC

Established in 1966, the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC) is a statutory body dedicated to creating opportunities for Hong Kong's businesses. With more than 40 offices globally, including 13 on the Chinese mainland, the HKTDC promotes Hong Kong as a platform for doing business with China, Asia and the world. With 50 years of experience, the HKTDC organises [international exhibitions, conferences](#) and business missions to provide companies, particularly SMEs, with business opportunities on the mainland and in international markets, while providing business insights and information via [trade publications](#), [research reports](#) and [digital channels](#) including the media room. For more information, please visit: www.hktdc.com/aboutus. Follow us on

 Google+  Twitter @hktdc  LinkedIn