



一帶一路總商會

Belt & Road General Chamber of Commerce

香江連世界：
100個
香港一帶一路故事

向「一帶一路高峰論壇」十周年獻禮

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Connecting the World from Hong Kong:
100 Belt and Road Stories



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(阿斯塔納國際金融中心主席 雷納特·別科圖爾沃夫)

'If the AIFC represents the "heart of Eurasia", then Hong Kong stands as Asia's financial gateway to the world. The two centres are natural partners under the Belt and Road Initiative, complementing each other's strengths.'

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AIFC and Hong Kong:

Building a Financial Bridge for the Belt and Road

In today's increasingly complex global economy, the Belt and Road Initiative continues to stand out as one of the most ambitious frameworks for cross-border connectivity and cooperation. At the heart of this initiative lies finance, meaning the ability to mobilize capital efficiently, ensure trust across jurisdictions, and provide platforms where East and West meet on equal terms.

The Astana International Financial Centre (AIFC) was established precisely to serve this purpose: to act as a neutral, trusted and forward-looking platform for investment, trade, and financial integration across Eurasia.

AIFC's Unique Value

Since its official launch in 2018, the AIFC has rapidly emerged as a leading financial hub in the region. According to the Global Financial Centres Index, it is ranked as the number one financial centre in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. More than 4,300 companies from 85 countries have already registered at the Centre, collectively attracting over \$17.2 billion in investment.



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▲ The AIFC is the #1 Financial Centre in Eastern Europe and Central Asian Region, and a dynamic hub for innovation and growth.

Built on the principles of English common law, the Centre hosts its own independent Court and International Arbitration Centre, ensuring transparency, neutrality and strong protection of investors' rights. The AIFC provides a "one-stop shop" for financial and professional services, covering conventional finance, Islamic finance, green finance, and an active fintech sandbox that supports innovation across industries.

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Located at the crossroads of Eurasia, the Centre offers strategic access both westward to Europe and eastward to Asia, making it an ideal gateway for projects that require transcontinental reach.

For international investors, and especially Chinese enterprises, the AIFC offers a platform that combines security with opportunity. Today, almost 900 Chinese companies, including 15 from Hong Kong, are registered within our framework. These businesses span critical sectors such as ICT, finance, logistics, insurance, manufacturing, and mining.



▲ The AIFC combines international best practices with innovative approaches to create a world-class platform for investment, business, and financial services.

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Some of China's largest financial institutions are already active within the Centre. The China Development Bank and the China Construction Bank have collectively invested \$2.7 billion through AIFC-based structures. Energy and infrastructure companies like CNPC Central Asia Ltd. have also chosen the AIFC as their jurisdiction of choice for structuring cross-border projects.

In practice, the AIFC serves as an ideal platform for Belt and Road projects, enabling joint ventures, investment structuring, and risk mitigation through its Court and Arbitration Centre.

Strengthening Cooperation with Hong Kong

If the AIFC represents the "heart of Eurasia", then Hong Kong stands as Asia's financial gateway to the world. The two centres are natural partners under the Belt and Road Initiative, complementing each other's strengths.

Recent years have seen concrete examples of this cooperation. The dual listing of Jiaxin International Resources Investment Limited on both the Astana International Exchange (AIX) and the Hong Kong Stock Exchange (HKEX) demonstrated how capital-raising can be diversified across different jurisdictions. Fintech innovation also provides opportunities, as highlighted by the AnchorX stablecoin (AxCNH), which connects regional markets to RMB liquidity.



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Another key area of collaboration is the use of the Chinese renminbi (RMB) in cross-border trade and investment. Kazakhstan and its regional partners are increasingly turning to the RMB as a settlement and financing currency. In a landmark development, the Development Bank of Kazakhstan successfully issued an offshore RMB bond worth 2 billion yuan on HKEX, a milestone not only for Kazakhstan but for the entire region.

The AIFC is well-positioned to facilitate further RMB-denominated transactions, including syndicated loans and bond issuances through its Astana International Exchange. With several Chinese trading members already active on the exchange, this trend is expected to accelerate, aligning Kazakhstan more closely with financial flows under the Belt and Road Initiative.

The development of green finance is another promising area: the AIFC's Green Finance Centre has already verified 70% of Kazakhstan's green bonds and loans, and has supported issuances in neighbouring countries such as Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, and Azerbaijan. Equally significant is the effort to establish a domestic carbon market in Kazakhstan, which will open new opportunities for trading carbon credits and financing low-carbon projects.

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The joint focus areas are clear: energy, green infrastructure, digital technologies, and sustainability. The more than 200 new Chinese companies that registered at the AIFC in only 2025 are a testament to the strong interest in using Astana as a hub for Central Asian operations, while looking to Hong Kong for global expansion.



▲ The EXPO business site

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China's Role in Central Asia

One of the most important corridors under development is the Middle Corridor, a multimodal route connecting China to Europe through Central Asia and the Caspian Sea. According to the EBRD, container traffic along this corridor could reach 865,000 TEUs by 2040, underscoring its potential as a major artery of trade. The AIFC plays a central role in financing and structuring the infrastructure projects that make this vision possible.

At the institutional level, the presence of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Office at the AIFC creates additional avenues for regional coordination. Discussions around the potential establishment of an SCO Development Bank further highlight Astana's role as a facilitator of multilateral financial cooperation.

The Belt and Road Initiative is not only about roads, ports, and pipelines. It is also about trust, financial innovation, and the ability to connect capital with opportunity. The AIFC, in close cooperation with Hong Kong, is uniquely positioned to advance this agenda.

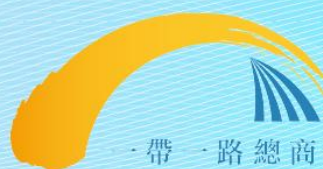
Together, the two centres can provide investors with the tools, protections, and access they need to support sustainable development across Eurasia. Whether through green finance, RMB-denominated instruments, digital innovation, or large-scale

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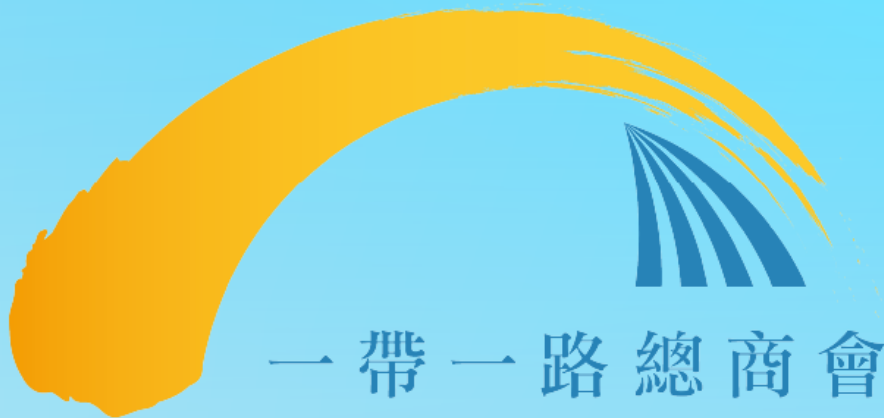
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infrastructure projects, the opportunities are vast.

As we look to the next decade, Kazakhstan will continue to play a crucial role as a bridge between East and West. The AIFC will remain committed to strengthening its partnership with Hong Kong, ensuring that the Belt and Road Initiative delivers lasting economic and social benefits for all participants. *(End)*



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