

# 2015 LSCM Logistics Summit shows the way ahead



More than 800 guests participated in the 2015 LSCM Summit.

Iconic industry leaders offered interesting insights into the future of the logistics business when they addressed an excellent turnout of eager attendees at the annual LSCM Logistics Summit, hosted by the LSCM R&D Centre.

Regarded as a not-to-be-missed trade event, the 2015 edition of the Summit explored the potential of eCommerce, eLogistics and Location-Based Services (LBS) over two days at the Hong Kong Science Park, on October 19 and 20. The number of visitors reached a new high with more than 800 guests participating in the Summit.

This year the keynote speakers provided delegates with plenty of discussion points from a busy Summit that on day one focused on the development of eCommerce and eLogistics in Hong Kong, while day two centred on the latest LBS technology, its development and prospects for the future.

Dr Sunny Chai, Chairman of the Board of Directors, LSCM R&D Centre, made the welcome remarks, followed by opening remarks by Annie Choi, Commissioner for Innovation and Technology, The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

That was followed by the first two keynote speakers, Fred Lam, Chief Executive Officer, Airport Authority Hong Kong, and Jessie Ting, Postmaster General, Hongkong Post, whose talks were entitled *HKIA-Powering the Development of Hong Kong's Air Cargo Industry* and *Hongkong Post: Responding to a Changing Landscape of Delivery Needs* respectively. Other keynote speeches were presented by logistics industry leaders on a range of topics focused on eCommerce and the opportunities presented "One Belt One Road".

On day two the attention turned to

LBS as academia and industry experts presented keynote speeches providing an insight into innovation in the field, what the future holds, smartphone sensing and LBS development in Hong Kong. The speakers also joined a plenary session on the *Trends, Opportunities and Challenges of LBS Technologies* chaired by Simon Wong, Chief Executive Officer, LSCM R&D Centre, to share their views and experiences. This lively discussion was particularly well-received by guests, as were the varied interesting keynote speeches.

One of the highlights of the event was LSCM's Technology Showcase on the opening day, with displays of the latest research deliverables. One of the many innovative offerings at the showcase panel was the SMe-Plug software. Developed by the LSCM R&D Centre, it's a low-cost tool for SME logistics services providers, enabling them to connect with multiple eLogistics



The Summit was a tremendous success for which it has staged in a bigger scale with extension from one-day previously to two-day this year.

services in a short timeframe. It's a comprehensive solution that ultimately increases eFreight capability.

More encouraging is the launching of the SMe-Plug JumpStart Program, which subsidises local SME logistics services providers to adopt eLogistics in data processing with the use of SMe-Plug, thus improving their operation efficiency and increasing the competitiveness of the Hong Kong logistics sector. It runs in association with Hong Kong Productivity Council and is funded by the Transport and Housing Bureau under Hong Kong Logistics Development Council's support.

Other innovative technology developments showcased included a smart RFID guiding cane to help the visually impaired. As RFID technologies are deployed in the development of "smart guiding cane" with the application of smartphone, voice instructions will be provided once it contacts the RFID tags installed inside the tactile paving. This not only allows the user to recognise directions outdoors, it can also be used inside a large indoor facility like an airport.

The LSCM R&D Centre is also undertaking a number of industrial robotic research projects ranging from an Autonomous Guided Vehicles

(AGV) for warehousing and stock-taking to a low-cost exoskeleton for use in the caregiving industry. The latest technology of AGV allows guided warehouse vehicles to navigate their way around by following RFID tags embedded in the ground. This massively decreases the risk of a collision and allows the robot to scan the goods on the shelves quickly and accurately, thus saving manpower. Moreover, the robotic frame will be developed to allow the lifting of heavy objects using air muscle and a high torque motor. While it has been designed to help elderly people, this research deliverable can also be applied for industrial use to increase productivity and prevent workplace accidents.

A smart safety technique has also been designed to protect workers and ultimately save lives. This innovation aims to eliminate falls from height in the construction industry by providing a failsafe method of reminding workers to lock their safety belt before climbing.

Many of LSCM's project partners and technology associates set up booths on both days to demonstrate their services and the latest eCommerce and LBS products. On the first day of the



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The Summit featured LSCM's latest research deliverables.

event, 3 government booths were set up by the Customs and Excise Department, Hongkong Post and the Lands Department respectively. They were also joined by a total of 17 partner booths for the duration of the event.

Looking ahead the future certainly looks bright. Advanced robotic technology continues to flourish and LSCM R&D Centre is well placed at the heart of development. The centre is undertaking a number of exciting robotic research projects that bode well for its long-term involvement at the forefront of technological innovation.

The presentations by prominent speakers can be seen by visiting the Summit website at <http://www.lscm.hk/sites/summit2015/eng/index.php>