



China-Britain  
Business Council  
英中贸易协会

# 2023 UK-CHINA BUSINESS FORUM

SUSTAINABLE TRADE & INVESTMENT  
IN THE DIGITAL AGE

15<sup>th</sup> March 2023, London

**THEMES AND SESSIONS**



# UK-CHINA BUSINESS FORUM:

## SUSTAINABLE TRADE & INVESTMENT IN THE DIGITAL AGE

China is the second largest global economy and the UK's third largest trading partner. Many UK businesses have found huge success in the China market. But the global economic slowdown, the covid pandemic, and geo-political tensions have all had an impact on the environment for international business there.

The prospect of the resumption of China travel connectivity in 2023 offers a timely opportunity to look ahead to the outlook for business, and to the prospects for trade with China supporting post-pandemic economic growth, revitalising UK exports, and stimulating regional investment opportunities.

China and the UK face many of the same challenges: rebuilding economic growth while making the transition to Net Zero, dealing with technological change, and addressing growing disparities in regional economic development.

Business links and trade and investment have a key role in tackling these challenges, though the investment, technology and expertise they mobilise – helping to accelerate the transition to a greener economy, catalyse innovation, and tackle regional inequalities.

The **2023 UK-China Business Forum** is a full day conference focused on the theme of *Sustainable Trade and Investment in the Digital Age*. The forum will examine key macro trends, policy themes, and the practical issues currently facing business.

The conference will provide a balanced analysis of key issues from leading China analysts and senior company executives. It aims to help attendees develop practical strategies for what will soon be the world's largest economy, against the backdrop of a complex and fast-changing global environment



# UK-CHINA BUSINESS FORUM

## PLENARY SESSION THEMES



### **UK-China Relations and Trade Opportunities in the post-Covid Era**

Travel restrictions, an uncertain economic outlook, and a rapidly-shifting geopolitical landscape have created challenges in the UK-China trading relationship. A panel of experts will examine key trends in the UK-China relationship, the implications of recent policy developments – including the 2022 Party Congress, and priority opportunities for businesses in 2023 as travel connectivity resumes.



### **The Climate Emergency and UK-China Net Zero Partnerships**

The UK and China have both set ambitious Net Zero commitments, China aiming to reach peak emissions by 2030 and carbon neutrality by 2060. This session will consider how Net Zero policies are driving business opportunities in both countries, the types of partnerships that currently exist, and how increased trade and investment can help accelerate the push to Net Zero.



### **Seizing New Opportunities in The Greater Bay Area (GBA)**

The Great Bay Area (GBA) has a population of 86 million people with collective GDP of 1.7 trillion USD. As connectivity, infrastructure and investment across the region continues to develop apace, new opportunities are being forged for overseas business across the finance, technology and innovation, and consumer sectors. This session will examine the GBA development strategy and how British businesses can take advantage of this exciting new opportunity.



# UK-CHINA BUSINESS FORUM

## SESSION THEMES



### **UK-China Education Partnerships: Sustainability and Diversity**

UK-China Education partnerships continue to evolve, creating substantial economic and societal benefits. With 144,000 Chinese Students studying at UK universities in the UK, over 60,000 enrolled on 950 TNE programmes in China and 16,267 UK-China co-authored research papers in 2019, the depth and scale of UK-China Education partnerships is significant. The session will explore how institutions can build sustainable and diverse partnerships and overcome challenges.



### **British Brands and China's New Generation of Sustainable Consumers**

As the largest global consumer market, China continues to represent an exciting growth opportunity for British brands. Research shows that China's Millennials and Gen-Z consumers increasingly prioritise sustainability when making purchasing decisions. This session will discuss strategies for engaging China's sustainable consumers and maintaining green and ethical supply chains.



### **UK-China Partnerships in Green Finance and Sustainable Investment**

The UK is a leading global hub for green finance, while China has similarly embraced green finance in its pursuit of net zero, both domestically and across the BRI countries. With ESG an increasingly important consideration for regulators, banks, funds and corporations, this session will explore how the UK and China can work together to further develop the sector.



### **Tech for Global Good: UK-China Collaboration in Science and Technology**

Technology and innovation is a central tenet of China's 14<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan. UK-China science and technology can create significant economic and societal benefits, such as boosting productivity, improving healthcare outcomes, and creating a greener economy. The session will explore how researchers, institutions and entrepreneurs can build tech partnerships and overcome challenges.

*\* Provisional sessions, subject to change*

# UK-CHINA BUSINESS FORUM

## AGENDA

### Opening Plenary

China-UK Relations and Trade Opportunities in the post-Covid Era  
The Climate Emergency and UK-China Net Zero Partnerships  
Seizing New Opportunities in The Greater Bay Area (GBA)

### Panel Sessions

UK-China Education Partnerships: Sustainability  
and Diversity

UK-China Partnerships in Green Finance and  
Sustainable Investment

British Brands and China's New Generation of  
Sustainable Consumers

Tech for Global Good: UK-China Collaboration in  
Science and Technology

**Sponsor Breakout Sessions**  
**Business Networking Reception**

*\* Provisional agenda, subject to change*

# EVENT SPONSORS & PARTNERS

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Please contact [chris.lethbridge@cbbc.org](mailto:chris.lethbridge@cbbc.org) for more details on sponsorship opportunities

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