

Background Brief: Charles Li



Biography

Charles Li is founder and Chairman of Micro Connect, an investment platform connecting global capital with quality small businesses in China.

Mr. Li was most recently Chief Executive of Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Ltd. (HKEX) from January 2010 to December 2020. During his tenure at HKEX, Mr. Li orchestrated some of the most significant strategic initiatives in HKEX's history, including the acquisition of the London Metal Exchange in 2012, the launch of OTC Clear in 2013, the implementation of the Shanghai-Hong Kong Stock Connect cross-border trading scheme in 2014, the establishment of the Shenzhen-Hong Kong Stock Connect in 2016, the rollout of Bond Connect in 2017, and the deployment of listing reforms in 2018. Prior to joining HKEX in 2009, Mr. Li served as Chairman of J.P. Morgan China from 2003 to 2009 and worked at Merrill Lynch from 1994 to 2003, where he served as President of Merrill Lynch China from 1999 to 2003. Earlier in his career, Mr. Li practiced law with Brown & Wood and Davis Polk & Wardwell in New York.

Mr. Li currently serves on the Board of MarketAxess Holdings Inc., the Council of the University of Hong Kong, and the Board of Trustees of the Asia Business Council.

Mr. Li received a B.A. in English literature from Xiamen University, an M.A. in journalism from the University of Alabama, and a J.D. from Columbia Law School

Background Materials: Highlights

Opportunities and challenges of incorporating blockchain and digitalization of payment systems in China: [Charles Li Fireside Chat with Forkast.News](#) [December 2019] (30-min. video)

Additional Background Reading/ Videos

[China 'needs Hong Kong' in race for global financial leadership, former stock exchange chief says](#) [July 2021] (4-min. read)

[Former HKEX boss Charles Li's new platform aims to provide finance to 10,000 small companies in mainland China](#) [August 2021] (4-min. read)

Former HKEX Head on Tech Crackdown, 'Micro Connect' Venture

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/videos/2021-08-06/former-hkex-head-on-tech-crackdown-micro-connect-venture-video> [August 2021] (7-min. video)

Charles Li reflects on his tenure as Chief Executive of HKEX: [A Conversation With Hong Kong Exchange's Charles Li](#) [January 2021] (24-min. video)