ULI – WEF Symposium on Innovation in Real Estate

The second Symposium on Innovation in Real Estate, jointly organized by the Urban Land Institute (ULI) and the World Economic Forum (WEF) with the theme "The Future is Now", took place on Tuesday, November 15 at the Bank of America Merrill Lynch Asia headquarters in Hong Kong.

The Symposium is a by-invitation-only event for senior leaders across the real estate industry, and it is held under Chatham House Rules. It provides a thought platform for discussions on how we build, design, connect and invest in buildings, cities and communities in the most innovative way.

More than 70 senior executives from Asia Pacific, Europe and the Middle East, and the United States attended the Symposium. We explored how technology is enabling the real estate industry to overcome some of the current challenges that the industry is facing, and discussed various topics including artificial intelligence and robotics, virtual reality, innovative construction materials and techniques, and how innovation in real estate is financed. We also looked into the challenges and opportunities in the retail and logistics space that is affected by e-commerce and m-commerce, and ideas on developing more sustainable and resilient communities.

A White Paper summarizing the key themes will be produced, and presented at WEF at Davos.

Nicholas Brooke, ULI Global Trustee and Chairman of Professional Property Services chaired the symposium. We had the honor to host the following speakers and provocateurs:

Opening and Closing Remarks:

Dr Seek Ngee Huat, Chairman of ULI Asia Pacific and Chairman of Global Logistic Properties
Dr Michael Buehler, Head of Infrastructure and Urban Development, WEF
Karl Choi, Head of Research Asia, Bank of America Merrill Lynch
Patrick Philips, Global CEO, ULI

Speakers:

"The Future is Now" – David Malott, Principal, KPF / Chairman, CTBUH


“Financing Real Estate Innovation” - Pathum Dissanayake, COO, Taronga Group

“Retail, Logistics and the 30-minutes Delivery Supply Chain” - Max Ryerson, Digital Consultant, Top Ryde City

“The Future of Work in the Digital Age” - Dr. Felix Reinshagen, Co-Founder and CEO, Navvis

“Resilience, Flexibility and Livability of the Urban Space” - Ron Bakker, Founder, PLP Architecture