



Press Release

**Z/Yen Group releases publication:
“The Role of Finance in Addressing Sustainable Development”
as commissioned by the FSDC**

Hong Kong, 12 February 2026 – The Z/Yen Group today released a publication titled “The Role of Finance in Addressing Sustainable Development” as commissioned by the Financial Services Development Council (FSDC).

The global financial system is evolving from a passive allocator of capital to an active force shaping growth pathways that foster resilience and inclusion. Global financing for sustainable development rose by 22% to USD 5.2 trillion between 2015 and 2024.¹ Despite this progress, a persistent funding gap remains in critical sectors such as clean energy, infrastructure, and social resilience, with developing countries alone requiring an additional USD 4 trillion annually to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and other climate targets.²

The publication provides an overview of how instruments such as green bonds, sustainability-linked loans, impact investment funds, blended finance and others are redefining traditional notions of risk, value, and accountability. Advances in disclosure standards and digital measurement tools are further strengthening the credibility and transparency of sustainable finance worldwide.

A central theme of the report is the pivotal role of international financial centres as both governance anchors and innovation platforms for sustainable finance. The publication profiles Hong Kong as a case study, demonstrating how the city has systematically embedded sustainability into its financial architecture, regulatory frameworks, and market practice, while sustaining its competitiveness and credibility as a leading international hub.

Mr Mike Wardle, CEO of the Z/Yen Group, highlighted: “Hong Kong’s ascent as a green and sustainable hub has been propelled by its strategic vision, decisive policy direction, and relentless commitment to international best practices. This is also supported by Hong Kong’s active role in advancing green technology development. This dynamic ecosystem attracts top technology innovators as well as investors eager to finance projects with tangible impact and high visibility.”

¹ OECD. (2025). Global outlook on financing for sustainable development 2025. https://www.oecd.org/content/dam/oecd/en/publications/reports/2025/02/global-outlook-on-financing-for-sustainable-development-2025_6748f647/753d5368-en.pdf

² Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. (2025). Finance for Sustainable Development. <https://www.oecd.org/en/topics/policy-issues/finance-for-sustainable-development.html>.



Mr Benjamin Hung, Chairman of the FSDC, remarked, “As an international financial centre, Hong Kong is uniquely positioned to mobilise both public and private capital to support the transition to a low-carbon, more inclusive economy. Our close connectivity with the Chinese Mainland, the vast opportunities arising from the Greater Bay Area and Belt and Road Initiative, along with our robust strengths in sustainable finance, further reinforce Hong Kong’s role as a leading platform for globally aligned, high-quality sustainable investments.”

The insights and practices shared in this publication provide a valuable blueprint for financial centres committed to advancing sustainable progress with notable impact.

The full version of the report can be downloaded from the FSDC website: www.fsd.org.hk.

About the Financial Services Development Council

The Financial Services Development Council (FSDC) was established in 2013 by the Government of the HKSAR as a high-level advisory body to engage the industry in formulating proposals to promote the further development of the financial services industry of Hong Kong and to map out the strategic direction for the development.

In September 2018, the FSDC was incorporated as a company limited by guarantee. This change allows it to better discharge its functions through research, market promotion, and human capital development with greater flexibility.

Keep up with the latest FSDC news by following our [LinkedIn](#), [X](#) & [YouTube](#).

About Z/Yen Group and Long Finance

Z/Yen is the City of London’s leading commercial think-tank, founded to promote societal advance through better finance and technology. Z/Yen ‘asks, solves, and acts’ on strategy, finance, systems, marketing, science, and intelligence projects in a wide variety of fields. Z/Yen manages the Long Finance initiative.

Long Finance

Z/Yen’s Long Finance initiative undertakes research programmes on Financial Centre Futures, Sustainable Futures, Distributed Futures, Eternal Coin, and Meta-Commerce.

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