

## **Fireside Chat – The Future of Fintech: AI · Data · Impact**

Moderator Mr Henri Arslanian kicked off this Fireside Chat with the question “How can AI be used in finance?”

Mr Jason Tu, Co-Founder and CEO of Hong Kong-based MioTech, explained how his company focuses on using AI to collect marketing data such as traditional financial statements as well as “alternative” information which is derived from everything from social media to satellite imagery.

The latter source is of particular importance when it comes to the growing trend of mapping ESG [Environmental, Social, and Governance], seen now as three central factors in measuring the sustainability and societal impact of an investment in a company or business.

“When you evaluate the impact of a company, you cannot judge it via financial statements; you have to take a third party or more objective view,” he said, stressing AI can now provide just that.

Ms Susanne Chishti, CEO of the global FINTECH Circle platform, said AI can now be used in all aspects of asset and client management, from profiling a customer to checking for money laundering. Ms Chishti cited the example of a company that had taken AI technology used to test for the risk of heart attacks and adapted it to predict stock market fluctuations.

Mr Arslanian then turned to the situation in Mainland China in terms of data collection, and asked Mr Tu to share his insights into how accessible data is on the Mainland.

“There are misconceptions,” said Mr Tu. “But there’s 1.4 billion people transacting every day, and more than one billion companies as well. The Central Government mandates various levels of government to put data online. But at the moment it is hard to access intelligence from that data and that’s where AI comes in. We use things like image recognition from jpegs on websites and then extract the data to create a bit of information that leads to intelligence.”

Ms Chishti then talked about the rise of “fintech bridges”, which have been established between China, the United Kingdom and Hong Kong and allow for soft launches in these territories. “It gives more chances for long-term success,” she said. “It helps you to be recognised in the other countries, and it’s a real opportunity.”

Mr Arslanian came back to the rise of ESG and wondered how much is real and how much simply “window dressing” for public relations purposes given its positive image.

“It’s a little bit of both,” said Mr Tu. “But it’s getting more mature. The rise of the younger generation will drive the rise of ESG to a much more mature state. They are very environmentally and socially aware. It’s like what Jeff Bezos said last summer. Companies are no longer about creating shareholder value. They are about social value.”

Mr Arslanian then asked how much the recent trend in banks toward innovation driven by AI is real and how much is positive PR spin.

“We’ve seen a lot of window dressing,” said Ms Chishti. “But technology is an advantage nowadays. We advise banks to innovate.”