

Institute of Management Consultants Hong Kong (IMCHK) - Newsletter

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The Institute of Management Consultants Hong Kong (IMCHK) is the professional chapter and qualifying body for management consultants in Hong Kong. IMCHK was established in 2000, aiming at setting and maintaining high standards of quality, independence, objectivity, and integrity for Certified Management Consultants (CMC) originating in Hong Kong and Macau. IMCHK is representative of Hong Kong in the International Council of Management Consulting Institutes (ICMCI). ICMCI has over 60,000 CMC members worldwide.



President's Message

New beginnings are just around the corner ... Happy New Year!

We are delighted to announce that the preparation for the IMCHK Asia Pacific Conference with the theme "Sustainable Innovation: Connect, Integrate and Drive through Management Consulting" has been well underway. This prestigious event will take place on 8 May 2025 at Hopewell Hotel in Wanchai. The Conference will bring together thought leaders, industry experts, and professionals to explore the latest trends and best practices of sustainable innovation in the areas of environmental, social and economic development.

Subsequent to the Conference, an ICMCI Asia Pacific Hub Meeting will be held on 9 May 2025 and representatives from over 10 Management Consulting Institutes of the Asia Pacific region will be assembled to discuss and determine the implementation plan for the ICMCI 2030 strategy.

We encourage all our members to save the above dates to join both the Asia Pacific Conference and Hub Meeting, and at the same time, to celebrate the IMCHK 25th Anniversary. Your participation will not only enrich the Conference but also contribute to the collective effort to drive sustainable innovation through management consulting practices.

Please stay tuned for further updates on the registration procedures which will be released soon.

Thank you for being a part of our community to create a sustainable and prosperous future for IMCHK.

Best regards,
Daniel Chan
President, IMCHK



ICMCI - Certified Management Consultant

The Certified Management Consultant designation is the preeminent professional designation for management consulting with a variety of specialty areas. It is similar in scope and reliability to Chartered Professional Accountants, Professional Engineers, etc.

Post-nominal initials
Consultants who have been awarded the CMC can put these initials after their name. In some countries, the CMC-Global Member Institute may use the designation FIMC to signify a Fellow of that Institute of Management Consultants – someone who has made a significant contribution to the profession of management consulting. The initial FCMC therefore designates a Certified Management Consultant who is also a Fellow of his or her institute.



IMCHK Activities

IMCHK - Christmas Gathering 2024 20 December 2024 (Friday) 5:00pm to 8:00pm

Venue: Avenue 75, Shop 36-41, G/F, South Seas Centre, 75 Mody Road, Tsimshatsui East, Kowloon

IMCHK Christmas 2023 Happy Hour (*Complimentary drinks for IMCHK Members*)



IMCHK Webinar: Sharing Session on Insights from the International CMC Conference 2024 at Armenia: “Digital Horizons: Bridging Innovations for Sustainable Tomorrow”

23 November 2024 Saturday 10:30 am to 12:00 noon
(via Zoom)

Outline: (1) What are special about Armenia and International CMC Conference? (2) What are the meanings to us for AI agents and humanoid robots? (3) What



ISO 20700:2017

ISO 20700:2017 Guidelines
for Management

Consultancy Services was
developed by CMC-Global
(International Council of
Management Consulting
Institutes, ICMCI) and
International Organization
for Standardization (ISO), to
enhance the level of
competence of the
profession's services.

IMCHK is the trainer on
behalf of ICMCI to provide
training and certification of
ISO 20700 in regional area
(Hong Kong and Macau).

IMCHK conducts and
supports ISO 20700 training
and certification to
management consultants
and service providers in
required industries and
professions.



are the strategy and future of sustainability? (4) What are the implications on the roles of management consultants?

Speaker: Mr. Allan Lee, CMC



2024 Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Dinner Gathering 31 October 2024 Evening

Place: Club ONE, Whampoa

Agenda: (1) To receive from the Council and adopt a report of the activities of the IMCHK for the preceding year; (2) To approve the audited accounts of the IMCHK; (3) To authorize the Council Members to appoint an Auditor and fix the Auditor's remuneration; (4) To elect the Council for October 2024 to September 2026; (5) AOB; (6) Dinner Gathering.



Sustainable Transformation: A New Imperative for IT Leaders



In today's rapidly evolving business landscape, the intersection of environmental sustainability and technology is more critical than ever. [A recent survey by Gartner®](#) highlights this shift: “64 percent of CEOs said they view environmental sustainability as a growth opportunity.”^{*1} I believe this perspective is further bolstered by the inclusion of sustainable technology in [the Gartner Top 10 Strategic Technology Trends for 2024](#)^{*2} report, which, in my opinion, signals a clear readiness among executives to weave sustainability into the fabric of their organizations.

The role of IT in achieving sustainability goals

As organizations across all industries aim to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and achieve carbon neutrality, IT leaders are finding themselves at the forefront of this transformative journey. Digital transformation initiatives that focused on accelerating business outcomes are now being realigned to incorporate sustainability goals, enhancing organizational resilience and setting a foundation for sustainable growth. Around the globe, governments are steering the shift towards sustainability through a mix of initiatives, including the implementation of carbon taxes, voluntary schemes, and rigorous regulations. This shift is further accelerated by the expanding mandate for detailed corporate sustainability disclosures. The evolving regulatory framework, highlighted by new directives from entities like the European Union and the [United States Securities and Exchange Commission \(SEC\)](#), is significantly influencing corporate strategies. In particular, the SEC's pending revision of its climate-related disclosure rules introduces heightened levels of transparency, compelling organizations to meticulously report their direct (scope 1) and indirect (scope 2) GHG emissions in relevant operational areas.

The challenges ahead

Despite the clear mandate, IT leaders face several challenges integrating sustainability into their strategies. These include a scarcity of expertise in sustainable IT implementation, complexities associated with hybrid cloud environments, inefficiencies across IT lifecycles, controlling the energy demands of advanced language models in generative AI, and coordinating myriad supplier relationships.

As the surge in the Internet of Things (IoT) devices and advancements in generative AI exert unprecedented stress on data centers across the globe, research from [McKinsey & Company](#) shows that the connected devices that employees use every day — laptops, tablets, smartphones, and printers — generate 1.5 to 2 times more carbon globally than data centers.

And those devices are expected to reach 55.7 billion by 2025. While the sheer volume alone demands a critical examination of the environmental impact of technology, a [Capgemini](#) report highlights the current disconnect in the perceived responsibility. It found that a staggering 89 percent of companies recycle less than 10 percent of their IT hardware, and globally, only 43 percent of executives are aware of their organization's IT footprint.

Tackling these issues requires a comprehensive strategy that includes concrete actions to address environmental, social, and governance (ESG) principles, energy consumption, and sustainable practices, alongside organization-wide adherence to regulations. With the growing demand for computing resources to support evolving technologies like generative artificial intelligence (AI), the environmental footprint of technological advancements can no longer be overlooked.

While generative AI is credited with [improving process efficiency](#), it also has some GHG concerns of its own. A recent [joint study](#) by Hugging Face AI and Carnegie Mellon found a stark difference in the energy usage of generative AI for imagery and text. [MIT Technology Review](#) explains it this way, “Generating 1,000 images with a powerful AI model... is responsible for roughly as much carbon dioxide as driving ... 4.1 miles in an average gasoline-powered car. [The] least carbon-intensive text generation model ... was responsible for as much CO₂ as driving 0.0006 miles in a similar vehicle.” And yet, [PwC's 2023 Emerging Tech Survey](#) found that just 22 percent of business leaders were concerned about sustainability impact when citing issues with deploying generative AI.

A call to action for IT leaders

IT leaders play a key role in advancing sustainability within their organizations. While there's a gap between aspirations and realization, this presents a unique opportunity rather than a barrier.



[SustainableIT.org](#) highlights that many IT organizations have yet to fully embrace ESG mandates, frequently due to implementation hurdles and the absence of standardized carbon footprint evaluation frameworks. However, this scenario offers IT leaders a chance to step up, utilizing their distinct skills and connections to spearhead meaningful sustainable transformation. Through such proactive leadership, IT departments can transform from being seen as part of the problem to becoming an integral part of the solution, driving forward not only the sustainability agenda but also reinforcing an organization's commitment to social responsibility and ethical governance. In doing so, IT leaders contribute to the global effort to combat climate change while also enhancing their organization's reputation, attracting and retaining talent, and potentially realizing significant cost savings through more efficient resource use.

Five steps towards sustainable IT

(1) Define clear sustainability targets: Start by setting specific, measurable, and ambitious sustainability goals that align with broader standards. Identify critical areas for improvement and commit to ongoing progress in reducing your IT footprint.

(2) Engage with suppliers for sustainability: Work closely with your suppliers to ensure they adopt environmentally responsible practices and materials. This collaborative approach amplifies your sustainability impact and encourages a shift towards greener industry practices.

(3) Leverage technology for efficiency: Use automation and other technological innovations to streamline operations, reducing energy use and waste. Optimizing processes and embracing cloud solutions can also help significantly reduce your energy consumption.

(4) Advocate for sustainable policies: Actively support policies and regulations that encourage sustainability in the tech industry. Engage in dialogues, participate in forums, and advocate for green practices to help shape a more sustainable regulatory environment.

(5) Cultivate a culture of sustainability: Educate and inspire your team to adopt sustainable practices. Offer training, encourage innovative ideas for sustainability, and recognize efforts to meet your environmental goals, fostering a workplace that values green initiatives.

BMC: Our sustainable IT journey

At BMC, we're on a path towards [sustainability](#), aiming to become a net-zero enterprise by 2030. Through a holistic approach that addresses emission inefficiencies across the business, BMC is advancing its own [sustainability agenda](#) and empowering our customers to do the same. By offering expertise in sustainable transformation, operational efficiency solutions, and visibility into workload optimization, BMC is at the forefront of driving [sustainable change](#) in the IT sector and beyond.

Conclusion

For IT leaders, the call to action is clear: sustainability must be integrated into the heart of IT strategy and operations. By setting clear goals, adopting green practices, collaborating with suppliers, optimizing operations, and advocating for supportive policies, IT leaders can drive their organizations towards a more sustainable and prosperous future. The path forward requires a collective effort and a transformative approach, but the rewards are immense - for the planet, for people, and for prosperity.

*1 Gartner Podcast, Why All Executives Should Focus on Sustainable Technology to Drive Growth, October 17, 2023. GARTNER is a registered trademark and service mark of Gartner, Inc. and/or its affiliates in the U.S. and internationally and is used herein with permission. All rights reserved. *2 Gartner Article, Gartner Top 10 Strategic Technology Trends for 2024, Ava McCartney, October 16, 2023.



Wendy Rentschler
April 10, 2024

<https://www.bmc.com/blogs/sustainable-transformation/>



What is an AI Consultant?



Definition of an AI Consultant

An AI Consultant is a specialized advisor who bridges the gap between the technical world of artificial intelligence and the strategic needs of a business. They possess a deep understanding of AI technologies and methodologies, coupled with the acumen to discern their practical applications within various industry sectors. These professionals not only guide organizations in identifying opportunities for AI integration but also aid in designing and implementing solutions that drive innovation, efficiency, and competitive advantage. As architects of transformation, AI Consultants play a pivotal role in steering companies through the complexities of AI adoption, ensuring that investments align with business objectives and deliver tangible value.

What does an AI Consultant do?

AI Consultants are pivotal in bridging the gap between the potential of artificial intelligence and its practical application within a business context. They analyze a company's processes, identify areas where AI can add value, and design tailored AI solutions that align with the client's strategic objectives. Their role encompasses a blend of technical expertise, business acumen, and project management, ensuring that AI initiatives are successfully integrated and deliver measurable results.

Key Responsibilities of an AI Consultant:

- ❖ Evaluating a client's business processes to identify opportunities for AI integration and enhancement
- ❖ Conducting feasibility studies and cost-benefit analyses for proposed AI solutions
- ❖ Designing AI strategies and solutions that align with the client's business objectives and capabilities
- ❖ Leading cross-functional teams to develop and implement AI systems, ensuring they meet quality standards and project specifications
- ❖ Collaborating with data scientists and engineers to create effective machine learning models and algorithms
- ❖ Providing guidance on data governance, ethical AI practices, and compliance with relevant regulations
- ❖ Staying abreast of the latest AI trends, tools, and technologies to provide cutting-edge solutions
- ❖ Facilitating training and change management initiatives to promote AI adoption among client staff
- ❖ Monitoring the performance of AI systems and making recommendations for improvements
- ❖ Communicating complex AI concepts to non-technical stakeholders in a clear and understandable manner
- ❖ Building and maintaining relationships with clients to understand ongoing needs and provide continuous support
- ❖ Assessing the risks associated with AI projects and developing mitigation strategies

teal

<https://www.tealhq.com/career-paths/ai-consultant>

How do I become an AI Consultant?



Becoming an AI Consultant is a multifaceted journey that merges deep technical expertise with strategic business acumen. It involves mastering the intricacies of artificial intelligence, machine learning, and data analytics, while also understanding how to apply these technologies to solve real-world business problems. As an AI Consultant, you will need to be adept at translating complex technical concepts into actionable business strategies, and possess the ability to lead and communicate effectively with diverse teams. If you are committed to pursuing a career in AI consulting, be prepared to engage in continuous learning, develop a robust skill set, and gain practical experience in a rapidly evolving field.



Acquire a Strong Educational Background

Begin with a solid educational foundation, typically a bachelor's degree in computer science, data science, mathematics, or a related technical field. This will provide you with the fundamental knowledge of algorithms, programming, and statistical methods. To specialize further, consider pursuing a master's degree or PhD that focuses on AI and machine learning. Additionally, certifications in AI, data science, and cloud computing platforms can enhance your qualifications and showcase your dedication to the field.

Develop Technical AI Skills

AI consulting demands a comprehensive skill set that includes proficiency in programming languages such as Python or R, experience with AI frameworks (e.g. TensorFlow, PyTorch), and a strong understanding of machine learning algorithms. You should also be skilled in data preprocessing, visualization, and interpretation. Work on developing problem-solving abilities and staying current with emerging AI technologies and methodologies.

Gain Practical Experience

Hands-on experience is crucial. Seek opportunities in roles such as data analyst, machine learning engineer, or AI researcher to build your expertise. Participate in internships, contribute to open-source projects, or work on personal AI projects to apply your skills in real-world scenarios. This practical experience will not only improve your technical capabilities but also help you understand the nuances of implementing AI solutions in a business context.

Build Your Professional Network

Networking is essential in the AI field. Connect with AI professionals, attend industry conferences, and join AI and data science groups both online and offline. Engage with the community through forums, social media, and professional associations. Networking can lead to mentorship, collaboration opportunities, and insights into industry needs and trends, which are invaluable for an AI Consultant.

Create a Portfolio of Your AI Projects

Document your work and build a portfolio that highlights your AI projects, including any successful implementations, research papers, or contributions to open-source initiatives. Your portfolio should showcase your technical skills, problem-solving abilities, and understanding of how AI can drive business value. A well-crafted portfolio is a powerful tool when engaging with potential clients or employers.

Stay Informed and Continue Professional Development

The AI field is dynamic and fast-paced. Stay informed about the latest advancements, tools, and best practices by reading research papers, attending workshops, and completing online courses. Continuous learning is key to maintaining your edge as an AI Consultant. Consider joining professional organizations, obtaining advanced certifications, and attending relevant training sessions to keep your knowledge and skills up-to-date.

Each step is critical to forging a successful career as an AI Consultant. The path demands a commitment to excellence, a passion for innovation, and a willingness to adapt to the ever-changing landscape of AI technology. For those who are eager to bridge the gap between artificial intelligence and business strategy, a career as an AI Consultant can be exceptionally rewarding.



<https://www.tealhq.com/how-to-become/ai-consultant>



ICMCI

The International Council of Management Consulting Institutes (ICMCI) has since 1987 been the professional body worldwide for management consultants. ICMCI since 2013 is called CMC-Global.

CMC-Global (ICMCI) is the international Management Consulting professional body, comprised of individual country-based, member Institutes of Management Consulting (IMCs). ICMCI works with many industry leaders, with academia, with consulting firms of all shapes and sizes, and have built a common standard for the individual certification of professional management consultants.

When you join a member IMC, you are also joining a global community of trusted, ethical, and committed colleagues. When you become a "Certified Management Consultant" (CMC) through IMCHK, you have shown that you possess the knowledge, competence, commitment and peer acceptance, that you are a true professional.



ACADEMIC FELLOW

Nomination of ICMCI Academic Fellow

Academic Fellows of CMC-Global are professors (also assistant / associate / adjunct professors) whose research and/or teaching of internal or external management consulting at a publicly accredited university is deemed by peer reviews to be of a particularly worthy level of excellence. The ICMCI Academic Fellow designation is intended to be a mark of distinction which recognizes academic practitioners from around the world who have contributed to the study and teaching of management consultancy. It will be awarded by ICMCI to suitably qualified individuals based upon the recommendation of the local IMC.

This outreach initiative by CMC-Global and its country Institutes of Management Consulting is designed to build a closer link between Academia and the professional body, enhance exposure of the CMC designation to students, and to develop the intellectual capital of the global CMC community.

Benefits to the Academic Fellows include:

- Academic and professional profile arising from the appointment along with international peer recognition.
- Publication opportunities for their research via ICMCI channels.
- Invitations to conferences and meetings with the opportunity to showcase their applied research and publications.
- Support for appropriate research projects within the management consulting field, in terms of providing industry contacts and primary research respondents, along with endorsement of funding applications.
- Support for major student projects through CMC client introductions or directly for CMC practitioners.
- Once recognized, the ability to use the post-nominal designation CMC-AF.

IMCHK would like to represent Hong Kong to nominate the candidate of Academic Fellows with the following eligibility criteria:

- The candidate must hold a position at a recognized academic institution, specifically a publicly accredited university within his/her country.
- The candidate must be engaged in research and/or teaching within the external or internal management consulting field.
- The candidate can also be a practicing CMC who holds a part-time teaching or research role at a recognized publicly accredited university within his/her country. Such a teaching appointment would be on an adjunct, instructor or associate faculty basis with such a position.

IMCHK members may suggest potential candidates of Academic Fellows to IMCHK Council. IMCHK Council will identify the suitable candidates and process the nomination of Academic Fellows in January of each year.



IMCHK Council Members
(2025 ~ 2026)

President:
Mr. Daniel Chan

Executive Vice President:
Mr. Allan Lee

Honorary Secretary:
Mr. Eric Lo

Honorary Treasurer:
Ms. Ridy Suen

Council Members:
Mr. Philip Wai
Mr. Share Tai Ki
Mr. Amana Wong
Dr. Michael Kwong
Dr. Hannah Koo
Ms. Jenny Tse



Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) Study for CMCs



IMCHK signed agreement with University of Sunderland in HK (UoS HK) to offer discount or scholarship (10% of tuition) on DBA program as well as MBA, MSc, BA and BSc studies to IMCHK members. IMCHK members have the opportunity to join the DBA study from UK's university in Hong Kong. IMCHK would like to support members to take the DBA study to enrich their education qualification, and take on research in management consultancy. IMCHK as the collaborating organization will provide support to the program. If necessary, some Academic Fellows of IMCHK may join the co-supervisor team to help IMCHK members on their research work. The next DBA recruitment will be arranged in June 2025. Interested members may contact IMCHK administration or Dr. Samson CW Ma.

University of Sunderland ranks #72 in UK on The Complete University Guide 'University Ranking' category in 2025. The 1st year of the program consists of three taught elements. These are designed to prepare DBA candidates for the subsequent research work and critical thinking at a doctoral level. The 2nd to 4th years of the program are research-based, where DBA candidates will work with a supervisory team (the research phase).

Teaching quality is guaranteed – the DBA's curriculum offered at the HK Campus is the same as that offered by Sunderland in the UK. DBA candidates will be able to study and complete the whole program in Hong Kong with the teaching quality assured by UK headquarters.

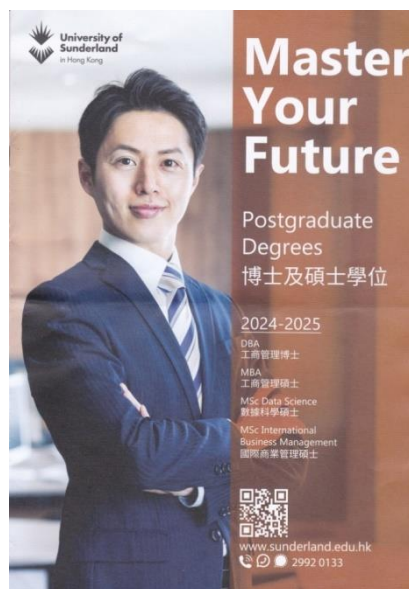
PDC511 - Planning and Contextualization (60 credits)

PDC512 - Critical Debate in Professional Practice (30 credits)

PDC513 - Practice-Based Research 2 (30 credits)

DBA research and thesis submission (420 credits)

<https://www.sunderland.edu.hk/product/dba/>



Institute of Management Consultants Hong Kong

Visit IMCHK's website at www.imchk.com.hk

