HSBC BELTAND ROAD BELTAND ROAD INITIATIVE MARKETING SOCIETY EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2018 E2B CATEGORY HELPING THE WORLD'S BUSINESSES KNOW THE WAY TO THE GREATEST BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY OF THE 21ST CENTURY

SUPPORTING AGENCIES GREY LONDON MINDSHARE

300 WORD SUMMARY

The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is possibly the greatest business opportunity of the 21st century – presaging as it does, the rise of China to the world stage. It is the project to build the infrastructure that will connect China with the rest of the world, and thus stimulate global growth. With over USD8TRN of investment anticipated in Asia alone, it is also a vital opportunity for HSBC and its customers.

But it's also one that few had heard of and fewer understood.

We set out to illuminate the opportunity for growth so that our customers and prospects could seize the opportunity. We created awareness and relevance on a global scale to C-Suite decision makers in a broad range of businesses.

We set out to make ourselves The Oracle of BRI – the first port of call for everything BRI. This was (and continues to be) and huge and complex task. To engage a broad business audience across multiple countries; on a layered journey through awareness, to education, to sparking conversations that turn into action (and business for HSBC).

The "We know the way" campaign has successfully risen to this challenge – just 6 months into a long-term campaign we can already demonstrate high impact, both globally and locally, with not just increases in awareness and knowledge but also good ROI in terms of incremental BRI revenues.

THE GREATEST BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY OF THE 21ST CENTURY?

Laid out by President Xi Jinping in 2013, China's "Belt and Road Initiative" (abbreviated hereafter to "BRI") is an ambitious, multidecade strategy to connect China with the world and fuel global economic growth. It is, in effect, the 21st century 'Silk Road', connecting China directly with over 65 countries and indirectly with most others.

It will create or enhance the **physical** (transport, communications and other infrastructure), **financial** (lending, capital-raising) and **policy** (customs, taxation coordination, trade and investment).



A NATURAL OPPORTUNITY FOR HSBC

The BRI requires vast investment – Asia alone estimated USD 8TRN by 2020.

Helping to finance this is a huge opportunity.

Revenues from cross-border RMB flows (RMB is China's currency) – are important to HSBC. Leading BRI would help grow these, as BRI activity creates RMB funding flows in and out of China.

In addition, BRI represents an important new business stream from advisory and raising capital and lending from all over the world, to fund infrastructure projects.

HSBC's capabilities make it the lead candidate for businesses wanting to do this:

- Bank network along the Belt and Road, offering RMB (Renminbi, China's currency) solutions in 50 markets
- 24 dedicated China desks (Chinese advisors to foreign businesses) in individual countries
- Leading international bank inside China, 170+ outlets across 50+ cities
- The leading bank in Hong Kong, a vital BRI hub
- Unrivalled financial scale to support BRI's huge financial requirements

While initially greatest in China and Asia Pacific, the BRI opportunity extends globally.



OBJECTIVES: BECOMING THE ORACLE OF BRI

Businesses needed someone to inform and inspire them, and more importantly to help them navigate BRI to realise the opportunities it presents – a knowledgeable partner, authoritative and capable, with global reach and strong local presence.

The response to this insight was for HSBC to become 'the oracle of BRI'

Communications/ Perceptual Objectives

- Build awareness and knowledge of BRI
- Project HSBC as the global leader of BRI, the 'oracle' and natural first port of call for everything BRI

Marketing/ Behavioural Objectives

- Provide and drive engagement with HSBC BRI Content, to help customers prepare for BRI-related opportunities
- Demonstrate HSBC's BRI capabilities and thus help to create front line conversations and leads

Business/ Commercial Objectives

• Grow HSBC's BRI-related revenues (increasing cross-sell opportunities for other China-related business, including RMB transaction revenues)

With knowledge low and the BRI market at an early stage of development everywhere, these objectives applied to all markets.

TARGET AUDIENCES

External: Businesses' C-suite decision makers

Multiple businesses are building infrastructure such as ports, railways and roads. As building projects progress, more types of businesses get involved.



Primary players are key but not our main communications target – they are few, and contacted directly by very senior HSBC staff. Our focus was leaders of secondary and tertiary businesses – still large but too many to contact personally, with the need to raise awareness of the opportunities through media and get them in touch with local HSBC staff.

The smaller the company, and the further from China they are, the lower their awareness of BRI, and the more they needed educating and prompting to seize the business opportunities. E.g. in areas where primary companies are just beginning to tender for major infrastructure projects, secondary businesses that are prepared early are more likely to win subcontracts. HSBC's aim was to position themselves as a partner to help them do that, starting with building knowledge from a very low base.

Internal: Staff

At this scale of business, all commercial contact is face to face by skilled RMs (Relationship Managers). They also needed educating about BRI.

We needed a 'mirror image' internal campaign across the world.



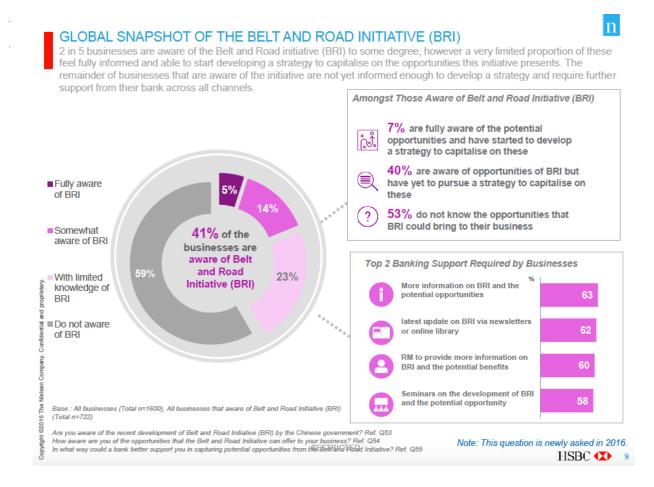
Sources RMB Internationalisation Survey 2016; 1600 businesses globally with a turnover of USD 3M+; fieldwork June 2016; Nielsen also RMB Internationalisation Survey 2016; 1600 businesses globally with a turnover of USD 3M+; fieldwork June 2016; Nielsen

CUSTOMER INSIGHT

The opportunity for effective marketing communications intervention was informed by several factors:

- Awareness of BRI was low
- There were misconceptions to dispel and barriers to overcome perceived challenges in regulatory, cultural and economic environments along the BRI, many saw it as a Chinese government-driven initiative of limited relevance to non-Chinese owned businesses
- Businesses who were becoming aware of BRI were asking for information and guidance

Business people were aware that the world was changing in major ways and knew that they needed to be part of these changes if they were to prosper – but they didn't know how this related to them and might be scared/ intimidated. They needed someone to help and show them their opportunity for growth.



THE CHALLENGE FOR MARKETING

Awareness

Despite the scale of the BRI opportunity, in 2016 only 41% of large businesses globally had any awareness of BRI, and a mere 5% felt that they were 'fully aware' – the role for effective communications to make a difference was clear. Fewer had plans in place.

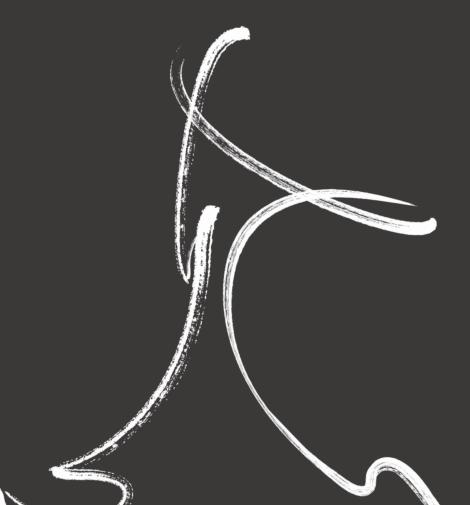
If HSBC was to build its BRI business, it needed to raise awareness and interest from the world's businesses.

As a global initiative, BRI demands a global marketing solution. The breadth brings complexity: broad business audiences across multiple countries;

a journey through awareness, to education, to sparking conversations with HSBC staff that turn into action - and business for HSBC.

This is conceived as an evolving, long-term campaign and here we report on just the first 6 months, up to the 31 October 2017.

Data source as above, RMB survey.



THE COMMUNICATION IDEA

"When it comes to the Belt and Road Initiative, at HSBC We know the Way": to become the oracle of BRI, making HSBC the first port of call for everything BRI, the key to the next stage of global growth.



We created a complete suite of templated communications which could cover any needs around the world. Local markets had the ability to adapt and rewrite core global creative in local languages, with local case studies.

E.g. Hong Kong, with higher BRI awareness used a fuller suite of materials - drilling right down into HSBC's credentials in RMB (Chinese currency transactions).

E.g. UK, with lower awareness focused on the awareness raising activity (launch ad in FT and Economist).

Sources

As already referred to, and expanded on in the chart in section 2A, in 2016 only 5% of businesses globally were fully aware of BRI. RMB Internationalisation Survey 2016; 1600 businesses globally with a turnover of USD 3M+; fieldwork June 2016; Nielsen

THE WORK

The campaign line was 'At HSBC, we know the way', combined with a strong visual anchor (the 'brush stroke' represents the actual route of the BRI).

Creative Assets (locally customized within clear rules where needed) covered:

- Thematic ads (press & digital) click-through to content/ hub
- Global BRI digital hub (wealth of content)
- Content
- Video case studies (and CNBC documentary launched Jan 2018)
- Proprietary/ thought leadership content
- Licensed content for media partnerships, e.g. The Economist, Quartz
- Content from China/BRI events hosted globally
- Global BRI projects data visualization/ interactive tool
- Social content, e.g. for LinkedIn

An intensive internal programme to educate staff, enable them to speak to their customers knowledgeably, and the creation of customer relationship building events, where conversations could be initiated, e.g.

- Owned events & sponsorship of 3rd party ones
- Event materials, e.g. virtual reality BRI experience, interactive map
- Relationship Manager (RM) toolkit, key facts, webinars, conversation topic guides



Press Launch: We Know the Way

CHINA'S BELT AND ROAD WILL RESHAPE THE 21ST CENTURY ECONOMY. WE KNOW THE WAY.

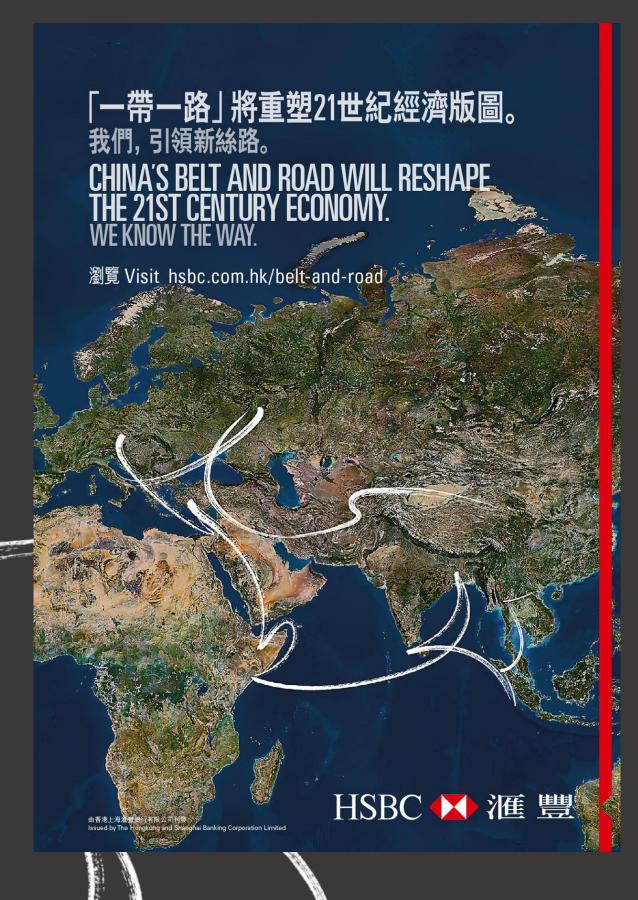
Forecast to boost trade to \$2.5tn per year in the next decade and reaching 63% of the world's population*, China's Belt & Road Initiative will change the face of global trade. HSBC's vast experience of doing business with China, alongside our strong global footprint, can help your business navigate the opportunities.

Find out how at business.hsbc.com/belt-and-road

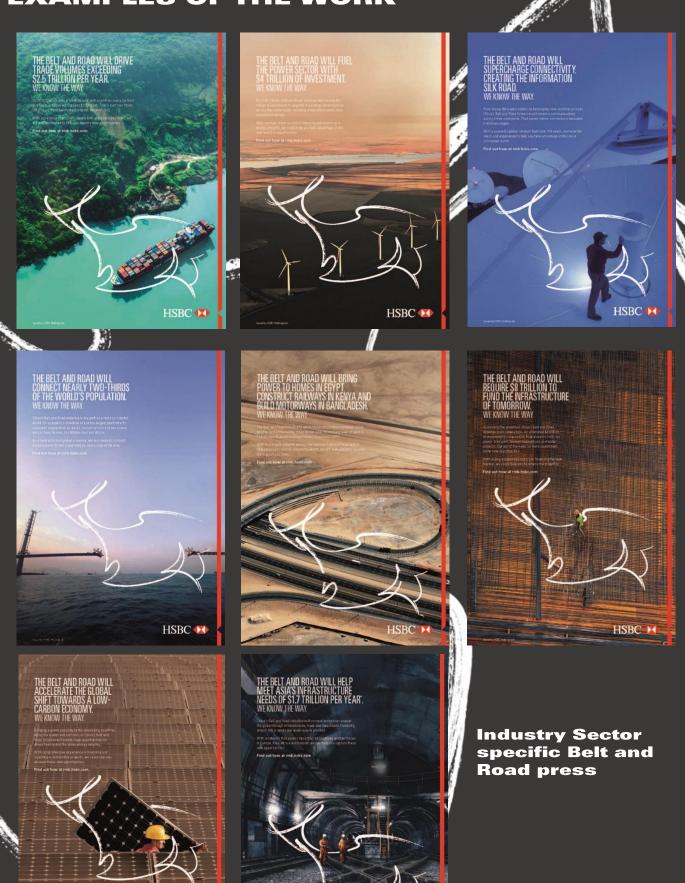
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EXAMPLES OF WORK

Chinese Press Launch: We Know the Way







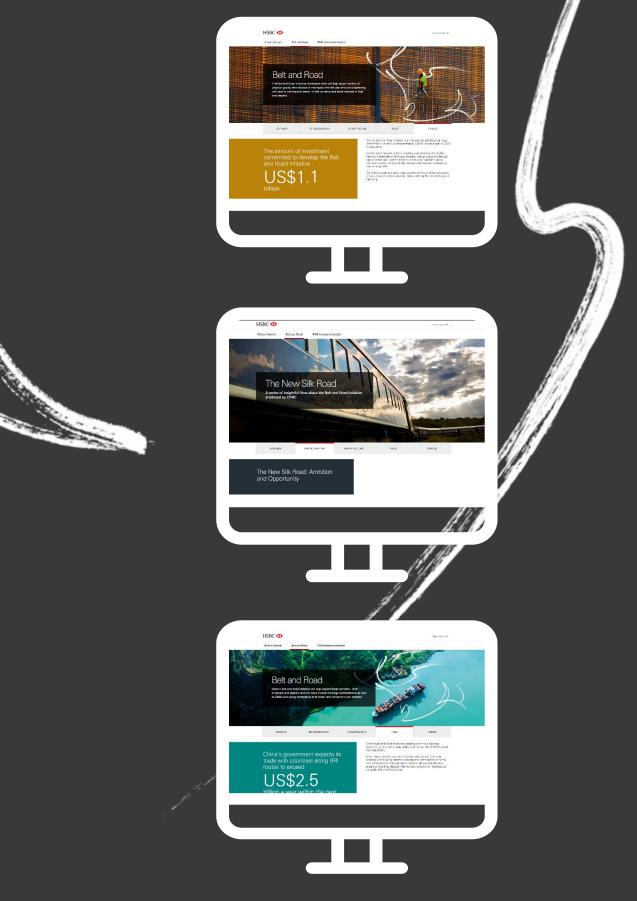
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China vs. UK sector ads



HSBC BRI Website



Customer case studies (on website)



1001-010040-0004

Imagination: Connecting globally and locally to power business growth

As a global business, Imagination is constantly exploring new opportunities around the world. Seamless business processes, particularly in the area of international banking, is of high importance for Imaginistic and its clients.

In searching for a new global banking partner Imagination wanted to find an organisation which shared is business values and ambitions – one focused on building long term relationships within a global network. HSBC provided that answer.

About Imagination

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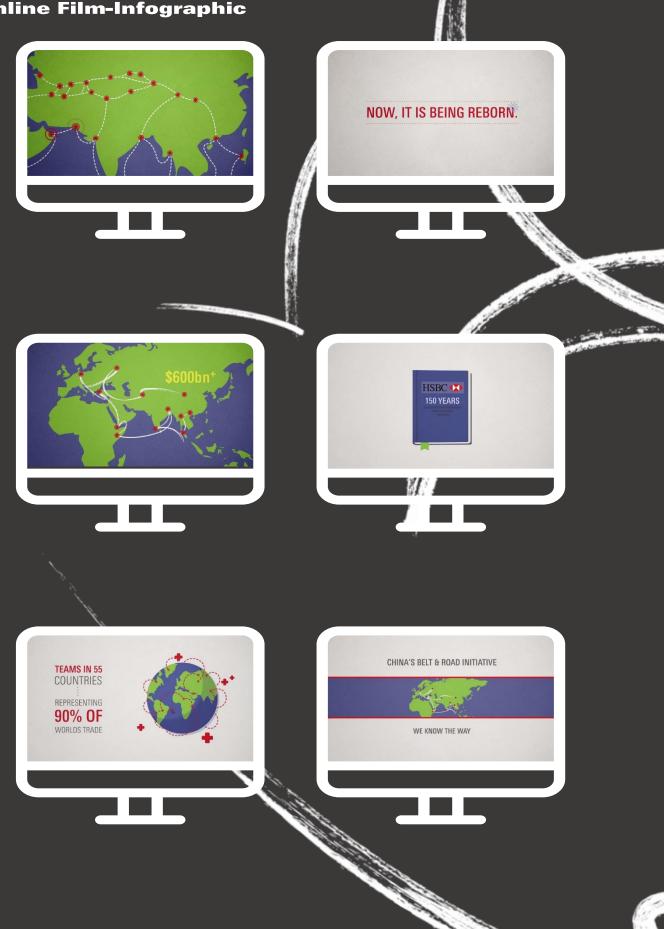
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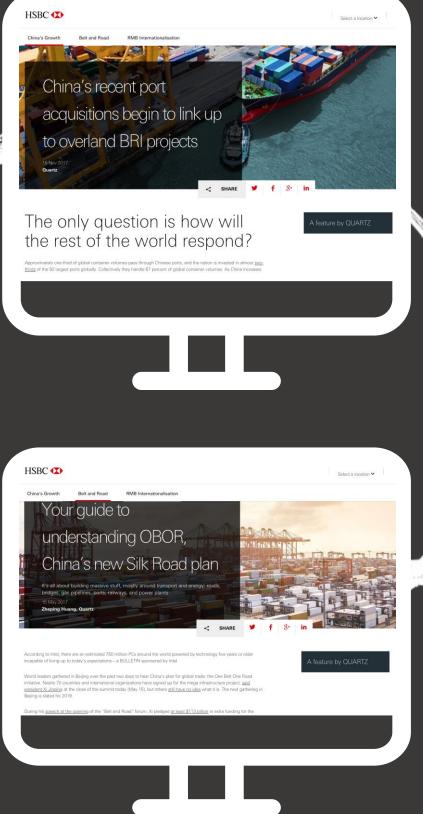
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Online Film-Infographic

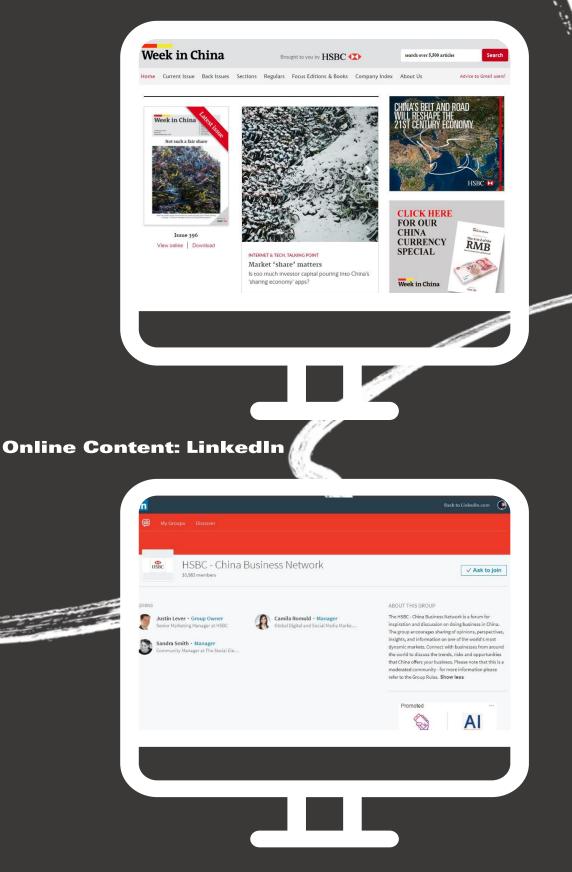


Online Quartz partnership

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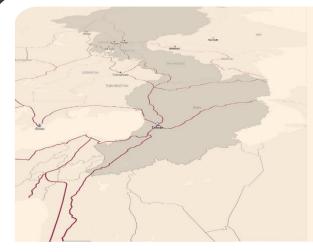


Content partnership: Week In China



FT Online: Interactive Map





Rail connection to Tehran



The first freight train from China arrived in Tehran in February 2016 in the value of China's One Bell One Road project which has seen engoing investment in overhead ral across central value. This, the list main kolmarka macher argement with the west in 2015, has payed the vas for deals with France and Germany for a numb-assellar indensitisation of the contralyrallway network and provided a boost to Chinese-Iranian trade.

China-Pakistan highway

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Relationship Manager Discussion Guide



Fact Sheet



OPPORTUNITIES FOR BUSINESSES ON AND OFF THE BELT AND ROAD

vide range of BRI projects offer significant global exits for businesses, both on and off the Belt and by boosting local GDP growth along the BRI routs neorarging the files of stude, capital and services ear China and the rest of the world. Prospects Road, by I

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THE ROAD TO OPPORTUNITY, WE KNOW THE WAY Why HSBC?

Competitive global network with covarage of over 90% of global trade and capital flows: Uniquely positioned product expertise including cross bords and bespote product solutions across investment banking and radional banking, from sourcing targets to providing one-stop watch and three. nal bank in China with the largest onshore neging the highest inbound and outbound

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Leading international bank for RMB offering a range of RMB products, services and expertise across from then 50 markets globally. Leading bank in sus tainable finance wi

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Please contact your HSBC relationship manager to discuss the opportunities for your business and how the initiative can help your business prospet. Visit: business.hebc.com/belt-and-mad business.hsbc.com/belt-and-road ther we can help shape the global aconomy



Events

China Connections 2017



Virtual Reality 2017

MEDIA CHANNEL STRATEGY

Businesses needed authoritative information and advice. We focused on 'oracle media' that our audience of C-Suite business leaders both use and importantly respect.

Media flexed to cover both awareness & inspiration and education.

- Outdoor awareness posters in business districts of key BRI markets, e.g. Hong Kong, Singapore, Sri Lanka
- Sector-specific print in key trade vertical publications, e.g. infrastructure, technology, transport
- Global/ regional media partners and test scalable programmatic partners to impact, exposure and interest amongst C-suites, e.g. Financial Times, The Economist
- Collaboration with EIU and Quartz delivered indepth analysis and editorial quality with real-time curation of compelling content to drive engagement and enhance stickiness of our BRI hub
- Amplified content via distribution platforms e.g. Smartology, Flipboard to enhance contextual relevancy and drive qualitative traffic
- Always on Google Search always captured needs from the target audience and drove quality traffic to our BRI hub
- Social presence on the most used platforms amongst C-suites to build momentum and fuel interest, e.g. LinkedIn
- Geo-targeting in key markets where merited and needed, use of local 'oracle media' to supplement the global/ regional spine



STRONG SUPPORT FOR CUSTOMER RELATIONSHIP ACTIVITIES

As above, interest becomes action and business only when actual conversations with HSBC occur. The campaign seamlessly pulled through to these activities.

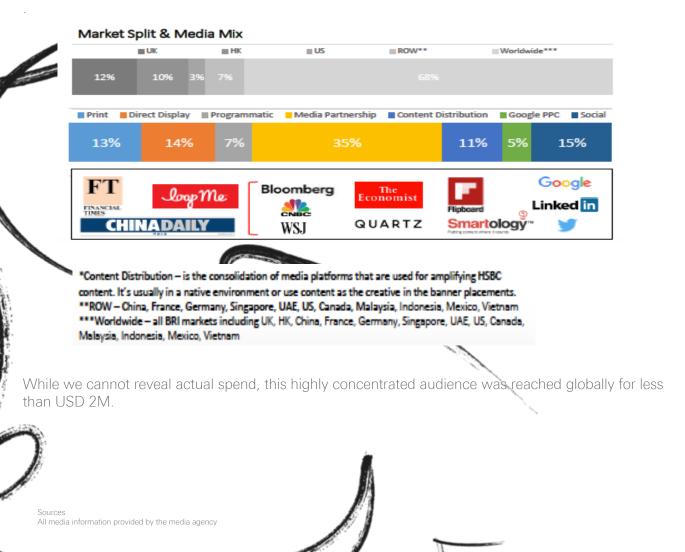
Staff were educated with a toolkit, webinars, fact packs and shareable content.

Events are a key point for conversations. and a suite of tools was developed to enhance our owned and sponsored events, including stands, and a Virtual Reality BRI experience..

The programme of local HSBC-created webinars and hosted events culminating in the 3 day 'China Connections' event in October, an innovative, interactive event to explore the opportunities and challenges of BRI and expanding into China more broadly, whilst also offering support and expert advice:

- 75 clients from 15 countries (all regions represented)
- 12 HSBC regional hosts
- Strong media coverage supported by onsite Bloomberg content journalist
- Highly rated by attendees ('outstanding event that will have lasting impact on my strategic thinking')

FINAL MEDIA SPLIT

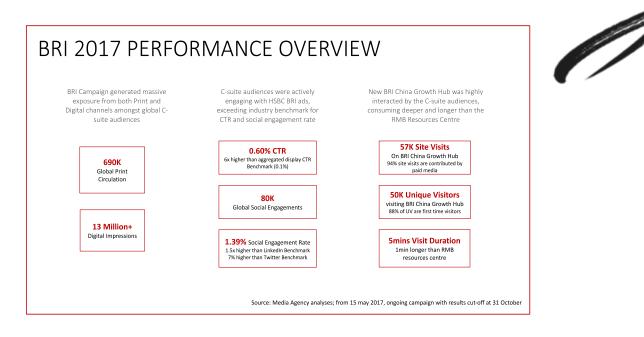


RESULTS

As a global campaign, results are most meaningful at the global level. We focus on these, and then performance in 4 example markets.

The campaign has delivered high levels of impact and engagement globally

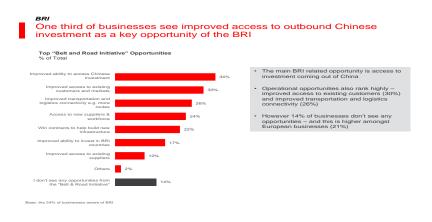
(For benchmarking, the target audience was estimated by HSBC as 161,000 business across the top 15 markets)



As a global campaign, results are most meaningful at the global level. We focus on these, and then performance in 4 example markets.

RESULTS

BRI awareness has risen alongside growing understanding of BRI business benefits



Just 3-4 months into the campaign (survey fieldwork – July/August 2017) global awareness has risen to 54% (cf. 41% in 2016).

Understanding was also growing, with 86% of those BRI are able to mention BRI business opportunities'.

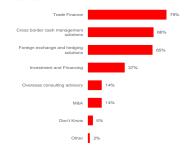
BRI dividend - a strong financial services revenue halo

32% of global businesses now use RMB for cross-border transactions, a further 29% expecting to do so in the future (cf. 24% and 19% respectively in 2016).

70% of global businesses expect BRI to have a positive impact on their RMB usage.

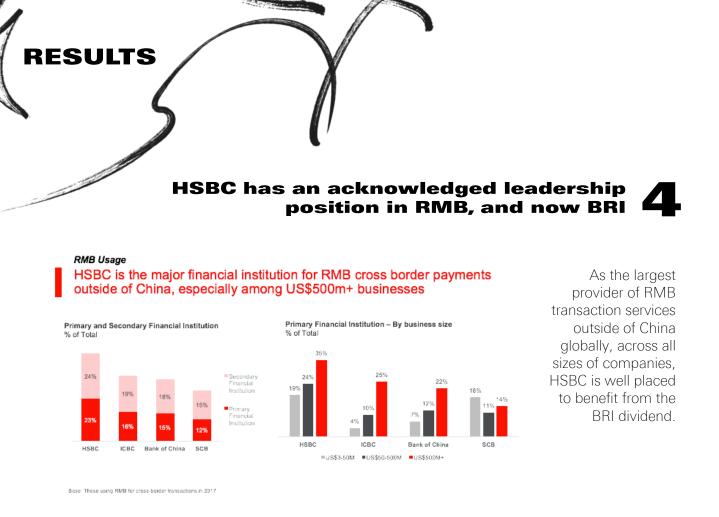
The growing numbers aware of BRI expect a full range of financial solutions from their bank, most notably involving RMB transactions. BRI Businesses expect a full spectrum of financial solutions from their bank in order to support them with their BRI projects

Expected Financial Solutions/Services for BRI Project Support



 Trade finance, cross-border cash management and foreign exchange & risk management followed by investment and financing are the lead financial services solutions that businesses expect from their bank(s) in supporting any BRI engagement





HSBC's leadership in BRI acknowledged in the inaugural AsiaMoney New Silk Road Finance Awards:



5 Immediate business impact and ROI, just 6 months in to a long-term campaign

Globally HSBC's directly BRI-related 2017 revenues show double-digit growth (May – October, year-on-year), representing a global media ROI also well into double digits.

This is based on internal HSBC data and relates only to incremental revenues (fees, commissions) for directly BRI-related services; related to business booked in the period plus 10% of the BRI 'pipeline' (BRI leads where there is active engagement but at an earlier stage – based on previous levels of conversion, 10% is the standard factor applied by HSBC for planning purposes). The ROI is based on incremental global revenues thus calculated, divided by global campaign spend for the same period. NB. It is not meaningful to calculate individual market-level ROIs as much of the media spend was global and regional.

RESULTS

Strong performance across a range of markets

We have seen good results in line with objectives, both in the Asia Pacific region and beyond, as witnessed by our 4 example markets.

KEY MARKET BRI EFFECTIVENESS INDICATORS

	Global	China	Hong Kong	Singapore	UK
% aware of BRI* - July/ Aug 2017 (2016 in brackets where available)	54(41)	86(85)	63(n/a)	70(47)	66(21)
% expect BRI to have a positive impact on their own RMB usage* - July/ Aug 2017	70	85	84	84	73
% for whom HSBC is their primary financial institution for RMB cross- border payments* – July/ Aug 2017, base only RMB users	23	12	33	27	35
Incremental HSBC BRI revenues** – % increase May-Oct 2017 vs. May-Oct 2016	Double-digit growth	Double-digit growth	Double-digit growth	Double-digit growth	Double-digit growth

* Source is RMB Internationalisation Survey 2017, conducted by Nielsen for HSBC, fieldwork July/ August 2017, 2531 interviews with businesses with annual turnover \$3USD+ and existing business with and/or in China; a similar survey has been conducted since 2012 but was substantially revised in 2017 to include additional markets and new questions on BRI so trend data is limited and indicative only.

** This is based on internal HSBC data and relates only to incremental revenues (fees, commissions) for directly BRI-related services; related to business booked in the period plus 10% of the BRI 'pipeline' (BRI leads where there is active engagement but at an earlier stage - based on previous levels of conversion, 10% is the standard factor applied by HSBC for planning purposes). As already indicated, we can only show directional changes here as all revenue data is embargoed prior to HSBC's 2017 Results Announcement.

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WHAT OTHER FACTORS MIGHT HAVE IMPACTED?

All HSBC BRI engagement, external and internal, was delivered within 'We know the way'.

There was no similar global BRI activity by competitors.

While there has been support from the China government and news media, in our view:

- The campaign is greatly accelerating business global awareness and knowledge
- Puts HSBC at the heart of everything BRI, globally
- Delivers immediate benefit/ ROI to HSBC's BRI revenues, ahead of its natural banking share
- HSBC is now in a better place to reap the long-term opportunity for BRI growth
- This is an ongoing campaign investment that in a growing BRI market will pay off more every year, both in BRI revenues and related RMB revenues and we are confident is already delivering a positive ROI



