

Opening Ceremony of VTC
Building Information Modelling Innovation Hub (BIMiHub)
Speech by Ir Alfred Sit JP, Director of Electrical & Mechanical Services

Good Morning, Dr Yau, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt congratulations to VTC on the opening of BIMiHub.

Keeping pace with the technology trend is our goal in maintaining Hong Kong's competitiveness. Innovation and technology would be a game-changing tool to deal with the challenges of labour shortage and ageing workforce in construction industry. That's why the Government now advocates "Construction 2.0", smart movement towards automation, industrialisation and digitalisation for a better and smarter future.

To accelerate I&T development, the Government would continue to allocate substantial resources in supporting the industry to harness innovative technology. Last month, the Construction Innovation and Technology Fund (CITF) with budget up to \$1 billion was launched that aims to support tertiary students and industry practitioner to receive training on innovative construction technologies, and professionals to receive continuing education in innovation and technology. In the 2018 policy address of our Chief Executive, funding for three R&D schemes under the I&T fund will be doubled in order to unleash the full strengths in scientific research and promote technology application.

VTC has been making significant contribution to technology application by nurturing talents for the industry. Being the leading vocational and professional education and training provider in Hong Kong, VTC provides a comprehensive range of pre-employment and in-service programmes with internationally recognized qualifications for more than 200,000 students a year.

To align the ever-changing needs of the industry, VTC enhanced teaching facilities, such as the established Data Studio for improving data analytic skills, the STEM Education Center for providing interdisciplinary collaboration, and the BIMiHub today. These facilities not only create better teaching and learning experience, but also empower our talents in support of the I&T development of Hong Kong.

In addition, VTC and its partners provide precious learning opportunities to our next generations by means of industry internships and corporate assistance programs, as well as local or international public competitions. My heartfelt gratitude goes to VTC for its continuous support in promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all. The hard work you have devoted in the past 35 years has laid a solid foundation for Hong Kong's present and future prosperity.

Today, the BIMiHub's opening reveals that VTC continuously connects with the Government to use I&T in construction industry. However, the cultural change of using I&T or even Building Information Modeling (BIM) for construction remains a challenge at this moment. We, EMSD, as an innovation facilitator and promoter for the development of smart city, will continue to make every endeavor to keep pace with the technology trend. Our development of using BIM for asset management in existing buildings reflects our commitment.

To ensure the sustainable development on I&T, the effort from the government and VTC's important but is still not enough. We look forward to extend our collaborations with different stakeholders as we all share the same creative and collaborative spirit to unlock new ideas and expand opportunities in creating positive social impact.

Finally, my thanks to all those who have contributed to the development of this marvellous BIMiHub! I wish VTC and its students every success in the years to come. Thank you very much.

24 November 2018