

Conference on Construction of World Top-Tier Energy Enterprises and Launch Ceremony of the Ranking Report of Energy Enterprises' Global Competitiveness

Welcome Speech by Ir Alfred Sit JP, Director of Electrical & Mechanical Services

Prof. Xu, Mr. Kim, Mr. Fredriksson, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, Good morning!

First of all, I would like to congratulate Prof. Xu, Mr. Kim and their team for the successful launch of the Ranking Report of Energy Enterprises' Global Competitiveness this year. We are very honoured that you have chosen Hong Kong as the place for hosting this significant event and launching the Report.

The Ranking Report provides new dimensions and perspectives for us to understand the different competitive edges of the energy enterprises in the world. This invaluable Report will certainly serve as our very important reference for creating a sustainable global environment together. The great effort of the Center for International Energy and Environment Strategy Studies of the Renmin University of China and the Belt and Road Energy Cooperation Network of National Energy Administration of China is very much appreciated.

Today, representatives from many energy enterprises of Mainland China, Hong Kong and from overseas come here to share their experiences. This conference cum ceremony does provide a great platform for all these enterprises to learn from others!

Energy Enterprises of Hong Kong

I am so glad to learn that many energy enterprises in Hong Kong, including The Hong Kong and China Gas Company Limited, CLP Holdings Limited and HK Electric Investments Limited, have achieved very good performance in the ranking. May I take this opportunity to convey my heartfelt congratulations to all of our Hong Kong companies and, of course, also to all energy enterprises ranked in the Report!

Sustainable development of key energy enterprises in Hong Kong

For the key energy enterprises in Hong Kong, their major developments in sustainable energy supply include carbon reduction in electricity generation, adopting renewable

energy on a wider and larger scale and implementing green initiatives in gas production. Our carbon reduction plan includes phasing down coal for electricity generation and gradually replacing it with natural gas and non-fossil resources. Meanwhile, we are working to create more favourable conditions to facilitate adoption of more renewable energy such as launching a feed-in tariff and renewable energy certification system. As for gas production, we have been turning landfill gas into usable energy. Hong Kong's target is to reduce our carbon intensity 65 to 70% by the year 2030 using 2005 as the base.

The 40th anniversary of Mainland China's reform and opening up

This year marks the 40th anniversary of Mainland China's reform and opening up, which has profoundly changed the country and the lives of people and helped changed the world. Mainland China has become an economic powerhouse, a key stabiliser and driving engine for global economic growth. Over the past four decades, we have witnessed our country's tremendous achievements in economic, social and other developments. Hong Kong has been playing the role of a "contributor" as well as a "beneficiary" in our country's reform and opening up.

Hong Kong's role, unique advantages and contribution

During the rapid modernisation of our country, Hong Kong has shared our experience with the Mainland in many different aspects. Having been our country's window to the world for the past 40 years, Hong Kong has been well recognized as international commercial, logistics, shipping, financial and professional service centre. Backed by our motherland and open to the world, Hong Kong will continue to leverage our unique advantage under "one country, two systems" to contribute to the development of our country.

On connectivity and inter-connected development, one key area that Hong Kong seeks to contribute to our country's development will be the context of the Belt and Road Initiative announced by President XI Jinping five years ago. The Belt and Road Initiative is built on multilateral co-operation in infrastructure, trade, investment, culture and people-to-people bonds. It will rise as a global economic force deep into the 21st century, bringing benefits to the countries along the Belt and Road as well as other countries that embrace the Initiative. The Government of the Hong Kong SAR will be happy to perform the roles of a "facilitator" and "promoter" in helping our enterprises to seize the many opportunities available to us.

Green finance development in Hong Kong

One example of our contributing works is that we wish to make Hong Kong a fund-raising hub for green projects, and encourage more Belt and Road investors and issuers to participate in the Hong Kong bond market. The Government of the Hong Kong SAR will soon launch a green bond issuance programme with a borrowing ceiling of about \$13 billion US dollars, making it among the largest sovereign green bond issuance programmes in the world.

In this couple of years, at least 17 green bonds were issued in Hong Kong, including those issued by two major local energy enterprises, with an aggregate size of \$8 billion US dollars. The Asian Development Bank, the World Bank and the European Investment Bank were among the issuers. Hong Kong, being the world's largest offshore Renminbi business hub, will provide a good platform for international investors to raise fund for their green projects.

Concluding remarks

Ladies and gentleman, Hong Kong will continue to make good use of our strength, contributing our capital and talent to serve the country's needs, with an objective to attain growth jointly with our country and sharing prosperity with all people. Hong Kong is eager to play an even bigger role than before and make contributions to our country and the world.

Once again, I would like to thank all the energy enterprises here today for working very hard together to contribute to the sustainable development of our world. For friends from the Mainland and overseas, please don't forget Hong Kong is proud of being Pearl of the Orient with lots of attractions. Please enjoy your stay in Hong Kong in this festive seasons! Thank you very much for your attention!

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