

AGM cum Annual Dinner of Energy Institute Hong Kong Branch (EIHK)
Speech by Ir Alfred Sit JP, Director of Electrical & Mechanical Services

Dear Paul, KF, Edmund, members of the Energy Institute Hong Kong Branch, government colleagues and distinguished guest, good evening.

First of all, my warmest congratulations to KF (Ir K F Yee) for successfully elected as the new chairman of EIHK, and I would also like to express my gratitude towards Paul (Ir Paul Lee) for his great contributions in the energy field over the past two years as the Chairman of the EIHK.

Today is 18 January 2019, in Cantonese, it is 2019118, 2019 一一發, It carries the meaning that in 2019, everything and everyone will be at prosperity. May I take this opportunity to wish you all, at the beginning of the New Year, a happy, healthy and prosperous 2019 and many years to come. However, looking back in the history, 118 is not always a good day. Eleven years ago on the same date of the 18th of January in 2007, a violent windstorm “Kyrill” was sweeping over Europe, causing a catastrophe over 10 countries including England, Germany and Poland. The storm caused 49 fatalities and an economic loss of 10 billion US Dollar. Thousands of buildings damaged and millions of households lost electricity.

Years after years, we feel bigger threat from climate change and on the other side of the globe, Hong Kong is no exception to extreme weather. In the last year from the exceptionally hot and dry May, to the super typhoon “Mangkhut” in September, and then the last hot Winter Solstice and Christmas, the extreme weather is affecting everyone in Hong Kong. The super typhoon has also caused quite severe damage to our infrastructures and power suspension in some areas. Fortunately Hong Kong has very good infrastructure and excellent emergency support teams and so the damage caused by the super-typhoon was under control. However, it is a very clear indication to us that climate change is no longer a topic for discussion but an imminent problem to everybody and a challenge which we need to take immediate action and work together to tackle.

With this in mind, the Government have published “Energy Saving Plan for Hong Kong’s Built Environment 2015-2025+” and the “Hong Kong’s Climate Action Plan 2030+” to plan, lead and coordinate the efforts of the whole Hong Kong community

in tackling climate change. As one of the measures to mitigate impact of climate change, we need to reduce our energy and carbon intensity. Here, I would like to express my deep gratitude to the EIHK for its great support to us in promoting energy efficiency and conservation.

Since the launch of the Buildings Energy Efficiency Ordinance in 2012, EIHK has been a technical taskforce member for preparing the Code of Practice. Over the years, EIHK and the trade provided invaluable professional advice for us to the successful revisions of the Code of Practice in 2015 and 2018. With the close collaboration among different parties, Technical Guidelines were also formulated for the trade' to make reference and to ensure compliance. I am very pleased to report here that this new statutory requirement has already helped Hong Kong to achieve an accumulated energy saving of 2,300 million kWh from 2012 to 2017.

Apart from mandating minimum energy performance, the Government also leads by examples and gives recognition to those Energy Saving Champions who perform better than the statutory requirements. In this aspect, EIHK is also our close partner. Since 2016, Paul has been serving at our judge panel for the Energy Saving Championship Scheme. Sincere gratitude is given to Paul, EIHK and many friends here for your very kind support to our many energy saving initiatives before. As you all may know, Hong Kong performs very well in energy saving, we are among the economies in APEC region having the lowest energy intensity and our energy intensity reduction trend also outperforms the APEC average. All these achievements are attributed to the concerted effort of our stakeholders in Hong Kong in particular our energy professionals.

However, there is no room for complacency, climate change is still one of the most severe threats to all mankind and the recent special report on 1.5 degree C published by IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) has clearly told us that the whole world need to do more in our war against climate change. Tonight I would like to invite you all to do more in 3 specific aspects to co-create our sustainable future, the three aspects are Nurturing Young Talents, Innovation and Technology (I&T), and collaboration with neighboring areas.

There is one old saying, what we now have is not given to us by our predecessors, but what we borrow from our future generations. The young generation are our future and it is our important mission to nurture young talents and unleash their potentials, and

prepare them well in taking the lead in the journey to combat climate change because the journey will be a long one and may last for generations.

In this regard, I must acknowledge EIHK's great effort on nurturing young talents, by setting up of the Young Professional Network (YPN) which substantially helped the promotion of energy conservation and encouraged young engineers to develop their profession in the energy field.

EMSD is also advocating programmes for the young generation including our E&M Young Ambassador (EMYA) Programme which was launched since 2009 and now has 6000 registered young ambassadors. We conduct various development programmes to equip them with solid E&M safety, engineering and energy efficiency knowledge. With the common goal to raise the young generation to co-create our sustainable future, we look forward to more collaborations with EIHK and other energy institutions and stakeholders.

As shown in the IPCC report that I just mentioned, the whole world need to take a bolder and stronger response to the threat of the climate change. Innovation and technology are certainly important element which can help.

As you may also be aware of, EMSD, as a facilitator, has set up an Inno-Office last year to coordinate our support for start-up projects. An E&M InnoPortal, which is a platform for matching I&T supply and demand, was set up in March last year. Within just 10 months, up to now the E&M InnoPortal has accumulated 136* technological development needs and 83* R&D solutions. EMSD has also successfully matched 24* pilot projects with potential users. Many of these I & T solutions are linked to energy saving and sustainable development. I recall that one of the products which was developed by our City U graduates, have been proved capable of saving energy demand of our fan coil units by more than 20 %.

We fully understand that development of innovation and technology cannot be done without the co-creation with the engineering industry, professional institute and academia. The academia and professional institute are key contributors to this field.

In the coming future, I hope we can work more closely with EIHK and other stakeholders to nurture more innovation and technology development in Hong Kong, especially for energy efficiency & conservation and renewable energy.

As for the third aspect, it is about the synergy from collaboration with neighboring areas. Let me tell you an example first, in California of the United States, nine neighboring counties formed a region that is commonly known as the “San Francisco Bay Area”. With that, local governments of the nine counties joined together and launched a program called “Bay Area Regional Energy Network” (BayREN) in 2012 that provides a wide range of energy efficiency services, such as providing technical advices in energy saving projects, trainings to local officials & private sector building owners and hosting regional forums around the Bay Area for knowledge and experience sharing. With the facilitation for joint efforts by the program, about 6.5 million tons of carbon emission has been reduced since the launch of the Energy Network.

In China, we possess even better geographical and inherited advantages as the area of the Greater Bay Area is nearly triple that of San Francisco Bay Area, and the Greater Bay Area can also boost the development of a wide range of policy areas such as innovation & technology, financial services, logistics and etc. while the San Francisco Bay Area is mainly focus on innovation & technology. So our energy sector should explore more opportunities of collaboration with our neighboring areas in the Greater Bay Area. Indeed, EMSD has just joined HKGBC and BSOMES to sign a memorandum of co-operation with our mainland and Macau counterparts to strengthen our collaboration on promoting retro-commissioning. With that, I see lots of opportunity Hong Kong’s connection with our motherland will be further strengthened for contribution to the development of our country.

Once again, thanks EIHK for the invitation tonight. I am looking forward to our closer partnership with EIHK in particular at the three new areas Nurturing Young Talents, Innovation & Technology, and Collaboration with Neighboring Areas. Thank you very much for your attention.

18 January 2019