

# The 71<sup>st</sup> International Meeting of Technical Authorities for Cableways

17 September 2023

## Welcome Speech

**Ir Eric PANG, JP, Director, EMSD**

*Our Honored Bernadette LINN [SDEV], Ir Dr Hon LO Wai Kwok [LegCo Councillor], Ricky LAU [PS(W)], Delegates [ITTAB], Ivan [Ivan WONG, Chief Executive of Ocean Park], Jeny [Jeny YEUNG, Chairlady of NP360], Samuel [Samuel LEE, Director of Engineering of Peak Tram], ladies and gentlemen!*

2. Good evening. It has been a while since the ITTAB family last met in Switzerland in 2021, and we finally meet each other in person here in Hong Kong after the COVID. This year, we are very honored to host the ITTAB the first time in Hong Kong.

3. Our Government has recently launched the massive campaign, “**Hello Hong Kong**”, to attract and welcome travelers from all over the world to experience the vibrance of the city. I am delighted to say a big “**Hello Hong Kong**” to you at the beginning of the ITTAB, and give the warmest welcome to all of you!

4. This year also marks the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department or EMSD in short. Established in February 1948, we went through a series of transformations, and we are now the regulator of energy efficiency, electricity, gas, lift and escalator, railway, tramway, and of course cableway through 15 pieces of local legislations. Our vision is to enhance the safety and quality of life of our community through our professionalism and innovation to ensure that E&M and energy technologies are harnessed in a safe, reliable, economical and environment-friendly manner, making Hong Kong one of the top-ranking world cities in electrical and mechanical safety and energy efficiency.

5. EMSD joined the esteemed ITTAB family in 2007. ITTAB is our treasured platform, and it has enabled us to keep abreast of the latest technological developments, international standards and lessons learnt in design, commissioning, operation and

maintenance of cableway, thereby enhancing safety and assuring the public a joyful ride on the cableway.

6. We treasure the opportunity to hold the event for the first time in Hong Kong. Hong Kong is an international metropolis where “East meets West”. We have a wonderful world class infrastructure and extensive transportation network, comprising of a number of magnificent bridges and tunnels, and with the mass transit railway reaching all districts in HK. We are proud that the public transit systems in Hong Kong ranks the top in the world<sup>1</sup>. I am sure that you can reach the city centre and our beloved countryside where the cableways are situated within an hour’s travel. You shouldn’t miss the 55-kilometres Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge, the longest sea crossing and the longest open-sea fixed link in the world<sup>2</sup> which puts major cities in the Pearl River Delta within a three hours’ commute from Hong Kong. Ah, you are going to see it when having a ride on the Ngong Ping 360 Cableway on coming Tuesday.

7. Hong Kong is the Asia’s top shopping destination, and is a food paradise with eateries from different countries and local appetizing food like “dim sum”. We also have a number of reputable museums, notably the new M+ Museum and the Hong Kong Palace Museum. So do make use of our convenient transportation system to go around and discover the city.

8. To let you feel our vibrant city life, we have specially arranged a Tram Party for all of you at the end of the programme tomorrow. Tram, or what we usually call it “Ding Ding”, has been running in Hong Kong since 1904, and is one of the oldest forms of public transportation. By shuttling in the antique “Ding Ding” compartment, I hope you would enjoy the charm of our city.

9. In the upcoming few days, we have arranged a variety of conferences and technical visits. I can’t wait bringing you all to visit our prestigious ropeways and funicular systems, and look forward to receiving your feedback and opinions. Beware that you may run out of energy towards the end of this year’s event. So, do relax and recharge tonight before commencing the tight schedule tomorrow.

10. Tonight will be fun, let’s enjoy! Thank you!

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2022-11-21/these-cities-have-the-best-public-transit-systems>

<sup>2</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hong\\_Kong%E2%80%93Zhuhai%E2%80%93Macau\\_Bridge](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hong_Kong%E2%80%93Zhuhai%E2%80%93Macau_Bridge)

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