

**35th Meeting of APEC Expert Group on Energy Data and Analysis (EGEDA35)
Welcome Dinner Opening Speech**

17 January 2024

Ir Eric PANG, JP, Director, EMSD

1. Mr. Sweetnam (Mr. Glen Sweetnam, Chairman of EGEDA), distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,
2. Good evening. Thank you for joining us here at the Welcome Dinner of the 35th Meeting of the APEC Expert Group on Energy Data and Analysis (EGEDA 35). First of all, may I convey the apology from our Secretary for Environment and Ecology, Mr. TSE Chin-wan to you for missing you in the dinner due to an urgent and sudden engagement. He asked me to deliver this Dinner Opening Speech to you instead.
3. I am so very excited to welcome those who have been our friends for a long time and those who are new to Hong Kong, China. Hong Kong, China, a vibrant and dynamic city with something for everyone, is a place where east meets west, and where tradition blends with modernity. I hope our overseas delegates enjoy your stay here.
4. 2023 was a remarkable year for us. We have resumed seamless connection to the world without restrictions and masks. Apart from the many international events to be taken place here, it is our great honour and privilege to be able to host the EGEDA 35 in Hong Kong, China at the beginning of 2024. Let me express, on behalf of the Hong Kong Government, our appreciation for all the tremendous support from every one of you.
5. Hong Kong, China has been participating actively in the APEC Energy Working Groups and sub-fora as well as hosting different related projects, such as the APEC Workshop on Energy Intensity Reduction in the APEC Regions' Urbanised Cities, Promoting Energy Efficient and Resilient Data Centres in the APEC Region, Promoting Energy Modelling in APEC Region, and the Capacity Building

Workshop on APEC's Goals of Doubling the Renewable Energy Share in the Energy Mix and Reducing Energy Intensity.

6. I would also like to take this opportunity to express my profound gratitude to the APEC fora and fellow APEC member economies. You all are our remarkable stakeholders in the success of APEC projects that Hong Kong, China hosted, and we are more than thankful for your continuous support to the Energy Working Groups and sub-fora led by our representatives.
7. Over the past years, through close collaboration and sharing of the best practices among the APEC region and international organisations, member economies are constantly progressing towards the APEC goals against climate challenges. Building on this solid foundation, I am confident that this longstanding cooperation and partnership will continue to thrive and strengthen. I am also sure that there would be fruitful takeaways from this event for every one of you with the even stronger ties than that we have been establishing among ourselves over the years.
8. After a long day, I hope you are ready to enjoy this wonderful evening with good food and excellent company of fellow guests around you. For our overseas delegates, please take your time to savour the delicious cuisines, immerse yourself in our rich culture, and explore the stunning natural beauty of Hong Kong, China during your stay.
9. Without further ado, I wish you all an enjoyable evening to meet old friends and make new ones. Thank you!