

“Global Market Access through Local TIC Alliance” Seminar

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

Good afternoon Dr. LO, Professor YU, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen

It gives me great pleasure to join you in this seminar on “Global Market Access through Local TIC Alliance”, which as you see, well-organized by CMA, Open University of Hong Kong, JETRO Hong Kong and five world-class overseas TIC organizations.

First of all, I would like to congratulate and thank CMA, and the other five members in the alliance from United Kingdom, Brazil, Japan, United States and Germany respectively, for their joint support to our industries and enterprises. Their support will certainly facilitate our goods and services to reach and access global markets.

Talking about global markets, we should thank for our motherland's far-reaching Belt and Road Initiative and Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area development plan, which will create new impetus for our economic development. In the context of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area, this economic blueprint for the nine cities in Guangdong and the two Special Administrative Regions of Hong Kong and Macao, with a population of 68 million and a combined GDP of US\$1.5 trillion, will provide enormous development opportunities. One of our targets is to develop an international innovation and technology hub in the Bay Area, and Hong Kong will play a key role in it. Besides, Hong Kong has a good communication and relationship with nearby regions. We would not miss any cooperation opportunities with our trading partners. We sign bilateral and multilateral trade agreements with our partners in order to have win-win cooperation. For example, we recently have a free trade and investment agreements with ASEAN which could let our products and services easier to go overseas. These agreements will not only provide much better market access in the trade of goods and services, but will also facilitate the establishment of effective supply chains in the region.

Hong Kong is renowned for its strategic geographical location and connectivity. I am proud to tell you that within five hour's flight time, you can reach half of the world's population from Hong Kong. Moreover, we are also the most open, international, well-connected, vibrant and important financial metropolis in China, making Hong Kong an ideal gateway for overseas businesses to enter the China market as well as the entire Asia

and Asia-Pacific region. In 2018, Hong Kong will commission two major pieces of cross-boundary infrastructure. The first one is the Hong Kong- Zhuhai-Macao Bridge, which will significantly shorten the travelling time between Hong Kong and the western part of Guangdong from the current four hours to only 45 minutes. The other one is the Hong Kong section of the Guangdong-Shenzhen-Hong Kong high-speed rail, by which the travelling time between the West Kowloon Station and Guangzhou is mere 48 minutes. Our strategic geographical location and enhanced connectivity will provide a strong base and infrastructure to support the new economic development of Hong Kong.

We will continue to support our local manufacturing industry. Our latest policy on Innovation, Technology & Re-industrialization is a new potential fuel for Hong Kong's economic growth. To ride on the fast development in information and communication technologies, we would like to build and strengthen connections between technology innovation and the local manufacturing sector. We set up the Committee on Innovation, Technology and Re-industrialization in 2017, which is chaired by our Financial Secretary, to co-ordinate innovation and technology development and re-industrialization in Hong Kong through a high-level and inter-bureau approach. Our support on major infrastructures includes Advanced Manufacturing Centre & Data Technology Hub in the Tseung Kwan O Industrial Estate, as well as expansion of the Science Park. Regarding the training and development of necessary experts and professionals, the Innovation and Technology Bureau launches a \$500 million "Technology Talent Scheme", providing funding support for enterprises to recruit postdoctoral talent for scientific research and product development. We believe that such measures can drive high-end manufacturing industries and attract high value-added industries to be based in Hong Kong. We do recognize an important role played by Hong Kong's testing and certification industry and so we established the Hong Kong Council for Testing and Certification in 2009 to support the development of the TIC industry. I would take this chance to appreciate the effort of the Open University of Hong Kong on offering the first Hong Kong's full-time four-year undergraduate programme dedicated to testing and certification in 2013. The graduates of this programme would bring in more fresh blood in testing and certification profession.

Hong Kong is a well-known open and collaborative society in the world. We are open-minded. We are willing to accept all kinds of goods and services from all over the world, but we request that goods and services in our daily are safe and green. The goods shall be well tested, certificated and in good quality. Our culture of using the testing and certification process is essential for Hong Kong's success. Taking my department,

Electrical and Mechanical Services Department, as an example, we are Hong Kong's regulator on electrical and mechanical products on the safety and energy efficiency aspects. Under the related Ordinances/Regulations, electrical and mechanical products for use in Hong Kong shall be tested and certificated. But we do not bias any new product wherever it comes from. So, we accept various national and international safety standards, and we also accept test reports and certificates under HOKLAS and other accreditation schemes through mutual recognition agreements. This approach has been demonstrated to be effective to protect the public's safety in Hong Kong over the years and also make good progress in promotion of energy efficiency in Hong Kong. We are proud that Hong Kong has such open, collaborative and testing and certification culture. This culture makes "Hong Kong" become a famous brand. It represents open, collaborative and high-quality.

We have said two major national initiatives which Hong Kong will play a significant part in, our strategic geographical location and enhanced connectivity, our Innovation, Technology & Re-industrialization policy as well as the brand of "Hong Kong". All these are our advantages which would certainly facilitate the new economic development for Hong Kong. Given the enormous opportunities, may I wish you all to be able to grasp the opportunities in the new economic development in Hong Kong and have your goods and services with the brand of "Hong Kong" to access the global markets in the very near future.

Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to extend my sincere congratulation again to the CMA and other co-organizers for holding this meaningful seminar. I earnestly look forward to the sharing by many oversea experts on the hints to achieve global market access. Thank you.

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