

**University of South Australia Alumni HK Reunion Dinner 2018**  
**Keynote Speech by Ir Alfred Sit JP, Director of Electrical & Mechanical Services**

**“Connect to Innovate”**

Good evening President Sze, Mr. Mcdougal, Mr. Liu, Mr. Sun, Prof. Lloyd, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

**What is Innovation?**

It is my great honour to join the Alumni Hong Kong Reunion Dinner of University of South Australia. I am particularly delighted to note the theme of this gathering is 改革創新，迎合未來 “Innovation for Future” because it is perfectly in line with the focus of the Hong Kong SAR Government in the coming years. So, please allow me to share with you a few thoughts on how we can apply “innovation and technologies” for the betterment of our community. Innovative ideas could come in different forms, and can make our life easier and more enjoyable.

**I&T in Hong Kong**

In Hong Kong, the growing aging population is a major concern for the future. According to the World Bank, citizens in Hong Kong have been enjoying one of the longest life expectancies in the world at an average of 84 years old. To tackle the problem of ageing population, artificial intelligence robots could be one of the solutions. A Hong Kong based company has developed an artificial and emotional intelligence robot named Sophia. Sophia has a natural-looking facial expression and has even talked to our Chief Executive at a forum in June this year.

With the advancement in artificial intelligence and sophisticated robotic technologies, I opine these robots could complement our workforce, and give a new way out to tackle issues of diminishing workforce, aging population, and growing demand for elderly care services. One day in future, I hope these robots could also provide psycho-social support to the elderly. Perhaps when I grow old, I may need one too!

### **Seizing the Business Opportunities**

Over the years, the Government has been promoting the development of innovation and technology on all fronts to bring new economic drive and to improve people's quality of living. Further to the \$50 billion earmarked in this year's Budget, the Government will also allocate an additional \$28 billion to further promote I&T in Hong Kong. Besides, a Smart Government Innovation Lab will be set up to invite the industry to put forward proposals on I&T applications and product suggestions for various public services.

### **Closing**

Before I put an end to this speech, I hope you all remembered there was once a quote, "If you don't expect to see change, you won't look for it". I hope my sharing tonight will inspire you to integrate innovation to your work, and embrace the business opportunities brought by I&T. Let's join hands to connect and to innovate for future, for the betterment of our society at large!

Thank you.

2 November 2018