

**Hong Kong Electronics Symposium 2013**  
**Enlightening Hong Kong as a World Class City**  
**Keynote Speech by Ir CHAN Fan, Frank, JP**

Good morning Chairman Victor, distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Hong Kong was once described as a barren rock with not even a house upon it. Today, Hong Kong turns out to be one of the world's top ten cities according to Bloomberg Rankings. Hong Kong came fifth following New York, London, Paris and Tokyo in terms of attracting, retaining and generating global capital, people and ideas. Hong Kong is renowned for its economic and infrastructural accomplishments, cultural diversity, rule of law and freedom of all kinds. It has been ranked the world's freest economy by the Heritage Foundation consecutively since 1995.

Hong Kong's stock market is the second largest in Asia and the sixth largest in the world in terms of market capitalization. Last year, our stock market processed on average 800,000 trades per day with a turnover of 53.7 billion dollars. To effectively handle such a huge volume of transactions and potential surge in trades, Hong Kong's trading system is capable of processing 30,000 orders per second, with 99.999% availability. This could not have been accomplished without the empowerment of electronics and information communication technologies.

According to the International Telecommunication Union, ICT access in Hong Kong is ranked first in the world. Hong Kong's ICT infrastructure is regarded as one of the world's most advanced and sophisticated system. It serves as the regional telecommunications and Internet hub of the Asia Pacific Region, enabling free and instant flow of information and even capital to every corner of the world. As at today, 87% of our households are using fixed broadband internet service which is far above the average 25.7% for developed countries. We are now virtually connected anywhere anytime. Our ICT network is among the best but our service charges are only one-tenth of those of London, New York, and Tokyo.

Apart from financial and ICT infrastructures, Hong Kong has also the best transport systems. Hong Kong is ranked first in Ground Transport according to the World Economic Forum. Our efficient and intelligent ground transport networks effectively

handle 12 million passenger journeys every day. Moving millions of people together in such a small stretch of land is a mission very difficult if not impossible. But we accomplished with the support of intelligent transport systems, including traffic signaling, surveillance, monitoring and control which are again part and parcel of electronics engineering.

For visitors coming over to Hong Kong, airport and port are where they are first received and greeted. While most of you would be aware that the Hong Kong International Airport has been named the "Best Airport" by TTG since 2002, I would like to highlight two electronic masterpieces installed over there. The e-channel is designed and built to enable immigration clearance of 6 passengers per minute upon arrival or departure. The baggage handling system deploys barcode and RFID technologies combined to yield a 97% accuracy. With such a high level of efficiency and accuracy, many visitors are amazed to find their baggage awaiting them at the arrival hall.

According to the World Economic Forum, Hong Kong came 2nd in terms of business and innovation environment. If you are not convinced, please have a look at your wallet. Most if not all of us would have an Octopus card in the wallet, an innovation made in Hong Kong that changes the way we pay here in Hong Kong and in many other parts of the world. Later this year, a new generation of Octopus SIM card would become available and it would enable smartphones to pay like a wireless cash machine. With it, you will not run out of cash any more.

Hong Kong has little natural resources but we survive and thrive with nothing but creativity and innovation. All these are made possible with the people and technological advancement that underpin our economic, transport, information and communication infrastructures. Among all these critical success factors, electronics is instrumental in enlightening Hong Kong as a world class city.

The world is not what used to be, and cities in future will not be the same. If we look at cities from a different perspective, there are concrete jungles where people live and spend their lifetime. Cities are in effect mega size living organisms of another kind. We have to keep it not only alive, but also vibrant, healthy and sustainable. According to the Hong Kong Ecological Footprint Report released by WWF in 2011, Hong Kong's ecological footprint is 2.2. That means, if everyone on this planet Earth lived a lifestyle

similar to us, humanity would need the equivalent resources of 2.2 Earths. This is clearly not sustainable and we have to act before ecological bankruptcy.

In Hong Kong, buildings account for 60% of the total carbon emission. Transportation, on the other hand, accounts for another 20%. It is therefore apparent that energy efficiency for buildings and transportation systems are paramount in making Hong Kong a low carbon city. As a matter of fact, all our infrastructures, systems, processes and even commodities must be made greener, smarter and sustainable. But even with our best endeavours, we have to appreciate that technology alone would not be the answer. There must be paradigm shift in mind set and behavioural change as well. This is a challenge for humanity and I look upon all of you here today to continue to explore, innovate and help enlighten Hong Kong as a world class city of the future.

With that, I conclude my address and wish you all a fruitful symposium today.

Thank you.

22 April 2013