

The 10th Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area Webinar Conference
18 September 2020

Congratulation Speech by Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Opening

Good afternoon. Ir TING¹, Ir LAU², Ir Dr. CHAN³, Hon TSE⁴, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

I am delighted to speak at this webinar conference hosted by the BSOMES to exchange ideas and strategies with experienced practitioners from the trade in HK and in the Greater Bay Area on operation and maintenance of buildings.

Let me first congratulate the BSOMES for your twentieth anniversary. Over the years, BSOMES has built up strong strategic partnership with the government and various organizations to nurture the O&M elites in the region.

Survival of the Fittest

We all know Sir Charles Darwin's famous theory of evolution. Evolution is the key to sustained survival, be it for a species or a business, allowing speedy adaption to incremental changes or even step changes in the environment. Today, the latest evolution of a virus, that we call it COVID-19, is impacting on virtually every aspect of our lives around the world. Our business and our lives have been reshaped and would never be the same as before, with many of us working from home, and offices and commercial centres partially closed to stop the spread of the virus.

Post-COVID new norm

In fact, even without the game changing COVID-19, the operation and maintenance of buildings in GBA have already been facing several critical challenges, including the aging

¹ Ir Chris TING, President of BSOMES

² Ir Johnson LAU, Chairman of Conference Organization Committee

³ Ir Dr. Cary CHAN, Executive Director of HKGBC

⁴ Tony TSE, Chairperson of Property Management Services Authority

workforce, aging assets and climate change. The COVID-19 has brought further challenge to us with the safety and well-being of occupants and visitors inside buildings elevated to a completely new level.

That's why evolution is imperative to meet the post COVID-19 new norm. We, building O&M practitioners, should "evolve" to the new generation of smart building technologies to meet the incremental change brought about by the above critical challenges and the step change of the virus for survival of ourselves and our customers. The holistic integration of smart technologies such as asset management system, building management system, building information system, Internet of Things, etc. are not just "nice to have", but necessary for our sustained survival against the evolutionary threat.

I&T Strategic Partnership

COVID-19 sparks technology innovation and evolution. According to the latest Global Innovation Index published by the INSEAD, Cornell University and the World Intellectual Property Organization, Mainland China and Hong Kong are both ranked among the top 15 economies in innovation in the world. I believe that riding on the national policy of developing the GBA as an international I&T Hub, all of us can better collaborate and partner with each other in our journey to ever smarter building technologies.

Closing

Finally, I would like to thank the BSOMES again for organizing today's webinar. Ladies and gentlemen, the virus has evolved, but we are confident that in the not too far future, with various smart building technologies, we will evolve to be the final winner. Survival is, ever since the first day that our plant is blessed with life, for the fittest. Thank you.

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