

EMSD Symposium 2022

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Good morning, Secretary Mr WONG, Mr NGIAM Shih-chun, Mr SHANG Hai-long, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

Welcome to the EMSD Symposium 2022. I would like to extend my wholehearted gratitude to the Honourable Michael Wong Wai-Lun, Secretary for Development, for speaking to us this morning. My warmest thanks also go to our keynote speakers, Mr NGIAM Shih-chun, Chief Executive of Energy Market Authority of Singapore; and Mr SHANG Hai-long, General Manager of SenseTime Hong Kong and Macau. It is my great honor to welcome all our speakers and panelists for sharing their expert knowledge with us today.

The theme for this year's symposium is C0-Innovinity, a rather creative phrase that integrates 3 concepts into 1. "Co" can be read as "C Zero", referring to the concept of carbon zero, or carbon neutrality. On the other hand, it can also be read as "co", referring to the idea of collaboration and co-operation. The second concept is "Innovation", referring to the idea of thinking out of the box and exploring new ideas or technological advancement. The third concept is "Infinity", suggesting that innovation is boundless and can create infinite possibilities. When all of us co-operate along the common goal, we can co-create infinite number of solutions for a brighter, safer, greener and smarter future.

This Symposium is an important platform for us to collaborate with our client departments and our partners. Throughout the past 2 years, EMSD has been working diligently to serve the community in fighting the COVID-19. On the other hand, EMSD has continued its on-going effort as the innovation facilitator to promote the adoption of I&T for ourselves, the E&M trade and the community. We have been granted and are pending for 28 patents so far for our I&T inventions, and have conducted more than 130 trial projects through

our InnoPortal.

Sustainability and innovation are among the hottest topics in recent decades. Living green and smart will certainly become the new normal. Today, I would like to share with you the four important steps that shall facilitate our transition towards a greener and smarter future.

The first step is **Embrace**. We have to embrace the changes that I&T and sustainability will bring to us. As quoted from Mr. Jack Welch, the ex-Chairman and CEO of General Electric: “When there’s change, there’s opportunity”. We shall not view change as an obstacle or threat, but as opportunities that we should embrace and cherish. While the commons and followers are still concerning about what revolutionary changes that new technologies will bring, such as how A.I. will take over human jobs, or what inconvenience will result in a low carbon lifestyle, we pioneers and leaders have to approach them with a positive mindset. I am confident that you will rise to the occasion and step out of our comfort zones. We are used to face all kinds of changes and challenges. Undoubtedly, it is a tough mission, but also one that we can take pride of in fighting for. Let me reassure you, the opportunities that these changes will bring will pay off one day and reward us in a brave new world.

The second step is **Make it happen**. I am sure all of you have heard of the Chinese proverb: “A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step 千里之行 始於足下”. We shall actively pursue innovation and turn our vision into action. We are very fortunate to have Mr. SHANG Hai-long from SenseTime to speak with us today. I think the growth of SenseTime is a prime example of making things happen. Seeing the potential of Artificial Intelligence, Prof. Tang Xiao’ou (湯曉鷗) from the Chinese University of Hong Kong founded the company with Prof. Xu Li (徐立) in 2014 to bring their AI knowledge and ideas into action. Yesterday with its share closing at HKD 6.88 in the HK Stock Exchange, you may still be wondering of its 58% rise in just about 20 days since its IPO on Dec 30, 2021, commanding a current total market value over 229 billion.

The third step is **Strategies**. To make something happen, we need clear strategies and targets. It paves a clear path for implementing actions and demonstrates our strong commitment towards developing an innovative and sustainable future. As emphasized by the president of the 26th UN Climate Change Conference, Alok Sharma : “1.5°C goal remains in reach, but its pulse is weak.” The window to fight global warming is closing soon and we all need to act now. If we still take a “wait and see” approach, we will eventually pay the price. Many large organizations have already taken actions. Take Huawei as an example. As the leading global provider of ICT infrastructure and smart devices, they have also set out detailed goals, strategies and targets in waste reduction and sustainability. In 2020, they have reduced their CO₂ emission per million of sales revenue by 33% as compared to 2012, surpassing the initial target of 30%. They have also reduced their landfill to consist of 0.8% of ICT products only, surpassing the initial target of 1.5%. I encourage that we all revisit our organization’s innovation and environmental strategies. We have the social responsibility to contribute to a greener and smarter economy, and that starts with a good strategy.

The fourth step is **Diffusion**, a word that describes the natural phenomenon where matters flow from an area with a high concentration to a low concentration. Similarly, the idea of innovation and sustainability should be diffused to our peers in a spontaneous manner. In the case of Huawei, they have encouraged 93 out of their top 100 suppliers to set carbon reduction targets in creating a greener supply chain. It is vital that we diffuse the spirit of innovation and sustainability amongst our colleagues and everyone around us. We shall aim to educate our peers and our partners, and allow them to truly understand the values and benefits that this new normal will bring. Companies have to take a proactive approach to advocate an innovative culture within the organization, establish innovation challenges, conduct visits to innovation hub, etc, to diffuse the desired culture. As professionals, we all have the responsibility and obligation to promote the use of I&T to reduce carbon emission and to transform into a more sustainable way of living.

To conclude, we all can remember these 4 steps readily, using their first letters, E for

Embrace, M for Make it Happen, S for Strategy and D for Diffusion, or E-M-S-D in short. E-M-S-D is the key to achieving sustainability and provoking innovation and technology. And I sincerely promise that, we the EMSD, will always be a part of your journey towards a greener and smarter future.

With that being said, I hope everyone may draw inspiration from today's symposium and embrace the duty bear upon us. Thank you.