

Young Professionals Exhibition and Competition 2025

2 November 2025

Closing Speech by Ir Raymond POON, JP,

Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Opening

Good evening everyone – distinguished guests, students, teachers, and future innovators!

I'm truly honored to be here with you today. The Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET), one of EMSD's close partners, has hosted many great events including the IET Wireless and Management Symposium and the IET Management Symposium this year. They've created amazing opportunities for experts to learn and share. And this year, we're teaming up with IET for the very first time to co-host the Young Professionals Exhibition and Competition (YPEC) 2025. Huge thanks to IET Hong Kong for organizing this exciting event to support Hong Kong's future inventors.

What is an engineer?

I'm excited to be surrounded by such smart, curious, and creative young people. Seeing you reminds me of my own younger days—about 30 years ago—when I was joining competitions and asking myself, “What's next?”. I didn't always know I'd become an engineer. But it all started with a simple question: “How can I make things better?” - That's the core of engineering.

So, what is an engineer? It's not just someone who's good at math or builds machines. An engineer is someone who spots a challenge in the world and says, “I can solve this.” It's all about thinking creatively, staying curious, and turning ideas into something useful.

EMSD: Turning Ideas Into Real Solutions

EMSD is an engineering department with about 5,000 staff serving two key roles: first, as a regulator for electrical and mechanical safety and energy efficiency; and second, as an E&M engineering service provider to other government departments. Our

footprint covers a wide range of sectors in your daily life, from electricity and gas supply in your home, to lifts and escalators in the buildings, to the railways on your commute. We ensure reliable hospital engineering services when you are unwell, maintain systems at the airport to enhance your travel experiences, and oversee equipment in public sports centres and swimming pools where you enjoy your leisure time. So, you see? We are always by your side—whatever you need, we’ve almost got it covered.

Moreover, we took up a role as Innovation Facilitator for the whole government in 2018 where we started the E&M InnoPortal. It’s a bit like a dating app—but for innovation. It connects students, start-ups, and researchers with government teams who need new ideas to fix everyday problems. Over 230 great projects have come out of it!

Some ideas came from EMSD staff who saw a problem and thought, “There must be a better way!” One standout invention? A cleaning and inspection robot for airport runways. Planes leave melted rubber behind that can block the lights pilots use to take off and land. If those lights are dirty, it’s dangerous. So our robot—with GPS, self-driving tech, and a robotic arm—cleans those lights using dry ice. No human needs to step on the runway!

Earlier this year, we put forward 10 inventions to the International Exhibition of Inventions in Geneva to compete with over 1,000 inventions from 35 countries — guess what? We won 12 awards including 6 Gold Awards and one Special Award of top seven, a first for any government department in Hong Kong. That shows what happens when creativity meets opportunity.

Empowering the Next Generation

At EMSD, we set up the E&M Youth Development Committee to help young engineers grow. We want them to take part in shaping the future of our department. Through fun and meaningful activities, we help build confidence and skills—and we hope to inspire young people like you to join this exciting field.

Some of our young team members are here today. Don’t hesitate to talk to them! You’ll get a great look at what engineering’s really like.

And even if you think you're too young to be an engineer—I'm here to tell you, you're not. You already are!!

Real Inspiration: Emma Yang

Let me introduce you to Emma Yang, a 14-year-old from Hong Kong. Her grandma had Alzheimer's, which makes it hard for people to remember things and recognize their loved ones. Emma wanted to help—so she made an app called “Timeless” that helps Alzheimer's patients recognize faces and stay organized.

Her app got noticed by international tech leaders—all because she asked, “How can I help my grandma?”

Is Emma an engineer? Definitely.

Final Thoughts

To everyone taking part today, my message is simple:

- Keep asking questions.
- Keep thinking outside the box.
- Don't be afraid to say, “What if?”

You don't need a special job title or fancy tools to make a difference. You just need passion and the drive to try.

Finally, congratulations to all participants no matter you won a prize or not as you've already achieved something incredible. You've dared to imagine, to create, and to push the boundaries of what's possible. Thank you for your energy, your passion, and your ideas. We're proud to support the next generation of engineers, innovators, and changemakers.

Thank you!

(Around 808 words, about 7.5 minutes)