

## Quality Building Award 2014

Ir CHAN Fan, Frank JP --- Jury Panel Chairman

Good Evening Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

Of all the species on this planet Earth, humanity has overcome all odds and proliferated. Despite the lack of sharp claws and powerful jaws, humanity survives and thrives with nothing but creativity and innovation over time. Instead of leaving things to chance, humanity takes control of its destiny. Instead of living at the mercy of nature, humanity plants and farms. Instead of dwelling in the wild, humanity builds shelters that we call home. Over time, humanity has created buildings of all kinds; from where children are born to where people exit this world.

As of today, over half of the World's population lives in cities where people dwell and spend their lifetime. Asia is home to 4.3B people and its urban population is expected to increase by about 700 million over the next 16 years by 2030. To accommodate these additional 700 million people, Asia would need to construct tens of thousands of buildings every year.

Being Asia's World City, Hong Kong is no exception. On this small stretch of land, a mere 1,100 square kilometres, the challenge to provide quality built environment for seven million people is indeed a mission only made possible by all of you here tonight, architects, construction managers, developers, facility managers, engineers, housing managers and surveyors.

Since the launch of the Quality Building Award back in 2002, building quality has taken on new dimensions. Functionality, innovation and technology, integration with the community, heritage and cultural

conservation, life cycle analysis and sustainability all become part and parcel of the quality equation. Over the years, we have witnessed the completion of many quality buildings, both local and overseas.

This year, the number of nominations received reaches record high. The quality of entries is amazing and many of them are exemplary of their own kind. We are humbled by the many outstanding projects. The competition was so close that the judging process turned out to be an intellectual torture for the jury panel. In some instances, the forerunners could only be differentiated by the third digit after the decimal point of the final score. It was indeed a very very tough call.

On behalf of the jury panel, I must congratulate all the project teams for their dedication and commitment towards the quality building movement. Through multi-disciplinary collaboration, you have set the benchmark and serve as living testimony of quality excellence. I must also extend our heartfelt appreciation to the Quality Building Award 2014 Organising Committee, for taking the lead and making the Quality Building Award a most sought after recognition in the region.

Tonight is a time to celebrate, to celebrate the success of your own as well as everybody here in this room. And on that note, thank you once again for your participation. I wish you all an enjoyable and memorable evening. Thank you.

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