

**Inauguration Ceremony of the Electrical & Electronic Engineering Association,
University of Hong Kong
Keynote Speech by Ir Alfred Sit JP, Director of Electrical & Mechanical Services**

Good evening, Prof Lau, Prof Chao, Prof Chau, Chairman Luk, members of cabinet “Elecfinity”, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to thank the Electrical and Electronic Engineering Association of the Engineering Society for inviting me to join the Inauguration ceremony of the official commencement of the 13th Cabinet “Elecfinity” Session 2018 to 2019. In front of the three renowned professors in the engineering field, I dare not to say anything about the electrical and electronic engineering field although I myself am an electrical engineer by profession. Instead, I would like to share with you, from the perspective of a humble civil servant, the experience that I gained in my last thirty five years of civil services and what I see the future of our electrical and electronic engineers.

“Elecfinity” is the new cabinet name of the Association. To what I understand from the Association member, the name “Elecfinity” is a combination of the words “Electricity” and “Infinity”, and it symbolizes that with minds of engineers, everything is possible. I can see the young members here are exactly what the new cabinet’s name suggests: full of passion, vision and innovation. In the Digital Age where breakthroughs are prospering at an unprecedented pace, these elements are of particular significance. To me, innovation and creativity are the most critical success factors for all of us.

In fact, the Hong Kong government is already taking the lead to drive innovation in our city. The Policy Address 2017 and the recent release of the Smart City Blueprint have promulgated a new governance philosophy on Innovation and Technology, followed by the principles of being “Innovative, Interactive and Collaborate” to bring new economic drive as well as to improve people’s daily lives. An investment of HK\$50 billion has been allocated in the Hong Kong Budget 2018 to developing innovations and smart technologies. We are sure developments in innovation and technology would promote economic diversity and at the same time give young people more opportunities to build their careers.

However, my experience told me that the most critical element which drives us for innovation is not on technologies. It is on our eagerness to create something new or find some new ways to suit the need of the people. It can happen anywhere, anytime

and by anyone. This university itself has nurtured countless inspirations. As an example, a biomedical startup company founded by the professors and students of HKU had successfully developed a new cartilage regeneration technology to grow cartilage tissues from one's own cells for cartilage repairs. The existing treatments like artificial joint replacement or tissue transplant can cause unfavorable complication to the patients. This new technology can greatly reduce the surgical risk and patients worldwide can benefit from rapid healing without medical complications. Innovation does not take place only in the most sophisticated laboratories or the largest enterprises. Nine years ago, three of your seniors developed a mobile application called "iClass" as their final year project to promote interactive learning in lectures. The young men continued to work on the project upon graduation and today, the small application has grown into a fully-fledged e-learning platform with about 600 schools worldwide registered for the services. Innovation does not necessarily come from the state-of-the-art technologies; instead, I strongly believe that innovation starts from our care and concern to others, our sensitivity to the need of the people, and our drive and commitment to make a difference for the betterment of the community.

Innovation is without limit. You are now in the right place at the right time as there are endless opportunities waiting for you ahead. Do not be afraid to dream beyond infinity, because university is where possibilities flourish. My warmest congratulations to all of you who dare to dream and take up the challenge in serving your fellow students. It is going to be a fruitful experience and a loving memory of life uniquely for you. Please enjoy. Thank you very much for listening.

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