

Build4Asia Conference 2018
Climate Change – Problems and Sustainable Solutions

Closing remarks by Ir Alfred Sit JP, Director of Electrical & Mechanical Services

Good afternoon, FC, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the conference organiser for making possible this diversified and interactive platform for fellow professionals to exchange knowledge and share insights.

The theme of the conference this year is “climate change – problems and sustainable solutions”. From the perspectives of analysis of the climate change phenomenon itself and setting carbon intensity reduction target, to performance tracking and green technologies such as oil-free chillers, EC motor plug fan] and vacuum and clean air technology for switchgear, to the vision of the future smart cities, our fellow guest speakers have contributed their valuable knowledge and experience, all in pursuit of one simple but important cause – to save the planet from the otherwise certain grim future due to the climate change effect. b.

Government commitment

The Government of the Hong Kong SAR is also determined and devoted to fight against the climate change together with you all. To demonstrate its commitment in combating climate change, the Government has been proposing various green initiatives at different levels, ranging from city planning, community collaboration to building innovation and digitalization. I would like to take this opportunity to share some of these initiatives with you.

Initiatives at city planning level

Energy Saving Plan and Climate Action Plan

At city planning level, in addition to those initiatives proposed in the Energy Saving Plan issued in 2015, the Government also launched the Climate Action Plan in 2017 which outlined the Government's longer-term actions to combat climate change. The Government has set a target to reduce carbon intensity by 65% to 70% by 2030 using that in 2005 as the base.

Wider use of clean fuel and renewable energy

To achieve this ambitious target, Hong Kong will continue to phase down coal for electricity generation and replace it with natural gas and non-fossil fuel sources by 2030.

In parallel, the Government has been driving the adoption of renewable energy on a wider and larger scale. The Government has also been creating favourable conditions to facilitate the private sector in adopting renewable energy, such as launching Feed-in Tariff and renewable energy certificate systems with our two electricity utilities.

Moreover, the Government also leads by example, following the allocation of \$200 million last year for implementing RE projects in government facilities, the Government will set aside another \$800 million this year to further promote the installation of more renewable energy facilities at government premises. The Government will also enhance tax concessions for capital expenditure incurred by enterprises in procuring renewable energy devices.

Initiatives at community collaboration level

Green bond and green finance

On community collaboration, in the recent Budget, the Government proposes to launch a green bond issuance programme with a ceiling of \$100 billion for financing green public works projects. This measure will encourage more issuers to arrange financing for their green projects through our capital markets.

4T partnership

The Government knows very well that we need to work together in our battle combatign climate change. For this purpose , the Government has developed the operational framework for 4 T's , namely, timeline, targets, together and transparency, to promote our major stakeholders working together to achieve a energy saving target in a predetermined timeline, and make open their energy saving plan and performance .

Behaviour change

Certainly you all agree that behaviour change is also a key aspect of energy saving. To promote public awareness of energy saving and the choice of energy efficient products, the Government introduced Mandatory Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme since 2008, which requires energy efficient grading to be provided on major electrical

appliances. The Government continues to tighten the standards and expand the coverage of the scheme.

Retro-commissioning

At building level, while the Government will continue to improve energy saving for new buildings, the importance of energy saving opportunity for existing buildings should not be overlooked. The Government is promoting retro-commissioning of existing buildings, which is a systematic process to periodically check and improve the energy performance of existing buildings. Last year, EMSD launched the first Technical Guidelines on Retro-commissioning to facilitate building owners to arrange their commissioning programme.

Initiatives at building innovation and digitalization level

Digitalization

In the near future, digital technologies are poised to make energy systems around the world more connected, intelligent, efficient, reliable and sustainable. Stunning advances in data, analytics and connectivity are enabling a range of exciting applications such as smart appliance and shared mobility. Digitalization is a new tool for combating climate change. Beyond retro-commissioning, higher energy efficiency and lower carbon emission of buildings can be achieved by changing technology and it may be the long-term solution.

In the coming years, EMSD will provide digitalization solutions for the E&M installations in major government buildings and infrastructures. Through setting up back-end databases for analyses, we will be able to determine ways for enhancing the energy performance of the installations.

Innovation and Technology

While we have been continuously enhancing energy efficiency by various means, such as legislation, incentive schemes and public education, we will keep in mind the enormous potential of Innovation & Technology which help us live greener. The Budget this year earmarks a considerable sum of funding into the Innovation and Technology sector. It is an opportune moment for us to explore and identify more building energy saving opportunities by leveraging the advanced and emerging technologies.

Concluding remarks

It is crystal clear that all sectors in the community can contribute to developing Hong Kong into a sustainable city in many different ways. All the initiatives at different levels, from city planning, community collaboration to building innovation and digitalization, require close partnership between the public and private sectors.

Riding on technological breakthrough and adoption of innovative technologies, such as Big Data in building analytics, intelligent building solutions and smart city applications using internet of things and artificial intelligence, we together have to build more with less – less natural resources, less energy and less pollution.

This is the end of the conference, but this is also the beginning of another new journey to combating climate change. Let us all work hand in hand to co-create a greener Hong Kong, a greener Asia and a greener Earth!

Thank you!

10 May 2018