

HKIS Annual Dinner 2016
Welcome Speech by the HKIS President

Distinguished Guests, Sponsors, Members, Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to the Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors Annual Dinner 2016(twenty sixteen). On behalf of the HKIS and the Annual Dinner Organising Committee, I would like to thank you for joining our Annual Dinner. Your presence means a lot to our Institute.

Many of our members have spent considerable amount of time to contribute to growth of our Institute, Hong Kong and various other organisations in the region and across the globe.

I have selected three areas of work of the Institute which I would like to share with you tonight. These include (1) Promoting business friendly environment in Hong Kong; (2) Facilitating HKIS Development in Greater China and (3) Promoting the Surveyors' Brand.

Promoting Business Friendly Environment

The Institute has come up with four themes this year which we believe would contribute to the business efficiency and success of Hong Kong. They are: (1) better use of private land resources through lease modifications and land exchange; (2) better cost control in Government Projects, (3) promote best practice and culture for building repair and maintenance and (4) the development of Spatial Data Infrastructure. Members have published four articles explaining our thoughts and detailed suggestions in the Hong Kong Economic Journal and we engage both the government and the general public relating to such ideas. We have also submitted our views to the Government on various government initiatives and proposed legislations.

The good use of talents and workforce of the construction industry is important to Hong Kong and government projects employ a lot of these resources. Regular and steady supply of government projects is thus very important which in turn rely upon the timely funding approval by the Legislative Council. The Institute participated in various functions of the Construction Industry Alliance this year with an aim to promote the healthy growth of the construction industry and Hong Kong.

Facilitating HKIS Development in Greater China

The Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA) and the Belt and Road Initiative have opened up many opportunities for surveyors. The Institute aims to increase our interaction with relevant stakeholders within the Mainland. We sent various delegations to meet with government officials and professional bodies in major cities and participated in different activities organised by professional bodies. The Institute has got three Forums in China to serve our members staying in Mainland and they are located in Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou. The three Forums have been active and organised various activities within the year.

Many of our members have made use of their professional qualifications obtained through the reciprocal arrangements with different professional organizations in Hong Kong including China Engineering Cost Association, China Institute of Real Estate Appraisers and Agents and China Association of Engineering Consultants to promote and expand their business in Greater China.

Promoting the Surveyors' Brand

The Institute proactively responded to various issues which have aroused public concern and are related to our profession. Examples included the collapse of rooftop at the City University of Hong Kong and 2047 land lease renewal. Members from our six divisions have contributed more than 20 articles in prominent local newspapers to share our thoughts on different professional subjects so as to enhance the awareness of the expertise of surveyors.

As part of the "Appreciate Hong Kong" Campaign, the Institute hosted the community campaign, "Touring Central with Surveyors" for the second year. This event allowed participants to better understand the roles of surveyors in the city's development cycle. Our professional tour guides share their insights with participants by looking at various developments along the route including their historical and economic significance. We have organised a total of 23 (twenty-three) guided tours and have attracted substantial public interest with 270 (two hundred and seventy) participants including general public, teachers and students. Riding on the success of the campaign, the Institute has published a booklet "Surveyors Serve Hong Kong," and a

copy is with you. I would like to thank the many government officials, our members and other contributions who make the publication of this booklet possible. In particular, Mr Paul Chan, the Secretary for Development who have provided strong support to our work.

Closing

It has been a great honour for me to serve as the President of the HKIS this year.

I recalled the considerable amount of time spent in building up the trust amongst different teams and the challenges met in obtaining consensus for our objectives and work plan for the year. The support and dedication of the Office Bearers, members of the General Council, members of Divisional Councils, various Boards, Committees and Panels and the Secretariat Office are crucial for the smooth implementation of the work of the Institute within this year. Together we have accomplished the many tasks which we set for ourselves at the beginning of the year.

The Annual Dinner Organising Committee has spent big efforts in making this Annual Dinner a success. I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the Sr Dick Kwok our Vice President and other members of the Organising Committee. A special thank you go to all the sponsors who generously gave us the support.

I am confident that the HKIS will continue to devote its efforts in making beneficial influences and contributions to both the profession and the community as a whole. Tonight, let us relax and enjoy each other's company. Thank you again and enjoy the food, drinks and entertainment.