

**Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors
Quantity Surveying Division
International QS BIM Conference 2013
9 November 2013 (Saturday) 9:00 AM
Chiang Chen Studio Theatre,
The Hong Kong Polytechnic University**

**Opening Speech by Mr Paul MP Chan
Secretary for Development
(10 Minutes)**

President Stephen Lai, Chairman Keith Yim, Professor Geoffrey Shen, ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning. I am honoured to address the distinguished audience today at this international conference organised by the Quantity Surveying (QS) Division of the Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors.

2. The conference's theme is on the application of Building Information Modelling, or BIM, in the quantity surveying area of the construction industry. BIM is a modern technology that is being put to use worldwide and, as you know, helps to enhance productivity and promote collaboration amongst all relevant disciplines in the construction project life cycle.

3. Advanced technologies always fascinate me, particularly in regard to how they change our life and work. An example of technology that has changed our life is a card in our wallets,

Octopus. It has become part of our daily life. It can be a nightmare if we forget to carry the card! This pre-paid smart card facilitates commuting and shopping without the hassle of coins. Even more, it also supports access control for premises, schools and leisure facilities. There are more than 20 million cards in circulation, nearly three times the population of Hong Kong. The chip has been built into watches, and this technology is also branching out to smartphones. Octopus is undoubtedly a breakthrough in technology that has transformed our way of living and modes of business enormously.

4. Similarly, the construction industry has also been benefiting from the rapid development of technology. Drawings are essential in engineering - for design, construction, operation and maintenance. When computer-aided drafting (CAD) was first introduced to the engineering industry in the 1980s, many draftsmen were sceptical of its application. Many of them insisted on using drawing pens to prepare drawings. But the entire industry reinvented itself when the benefits of CAD were recognised. Today, I believe all of our engineering drawings are prepared by CAD. Drafting with drawing pens has become an ancient skill.

5. CAD systems can only produce drawings in two dimensions or at most the isometric view. It is, however, difficult for designers to fully communicate their ideas, particularly with

laymen who are not trained to read technical drawings. To address this question, BIM is the answer.

6. BIM is not only a 3D drafting tool. It also has the potential to bring about a productivity leap in our industry. In addition to producing 3D drawings, it can integrate a fourth dimension, a fifth dimension and so on to cover time, cost, maintenance records and more. It also has built-in intelligence to provide technical support across different disciplines of a project team. By removing boundaries, it can facilitate cross-border collaboration on projects. BIM therefore has the potential to improve project delivery efficiency, enhance building quality, shorten the construction programme, reduce construction waste and enhance site safety.

7. The Government adopted BIM technology in public works projects as early as 2009. Highways Department pioneered the application of BIM technology in the Improvement to Tuen Mun Road project and later put it to use in the Central-Wan Chai Bypass project. Riding on the experience of using BIM gained from these and other pilot projects, we have developed a specific strategy to adopt BIM in public works. Firstly, we have extended the trial to include more public works projects such as bridges, tunnels, buildings and electrical and mechanical works for using BIM at different stages. Secondly, we have engaged and collaborated with various stakeholders including the Construction Industry Council (CIC), software specialist consultants and

contractors to explore the full potential of BIM in Hong Kong's construction industry. And finally, we have launched a comprehensive staff training plan on BIM. By the end of 2014, over 1,000 engineering staff in the Government will have received various levels of BIM training.

8. In addition, BIM has a key role in the management of assets. We will earmark some projects for exploring the use of BIM for asset management in various project stages. Hopefully, we can acquire more experience to unleash the full potential of this technology within a short time.

9. We believe BIM will benefit the QS profession in a number of ways. With the establishment of methods and standards for model development and a sufficient level of detail, the technology will help surveyors speed up measurement, cost estimate and taking off, and eliminate inaccuracies and errors. It will also enable surveyors to offer value-added and creative services like whole life cycle costing and value management.

10. Today's conference is on BIM in QS. I am pleased to see that colleagues from the Housing Authority and some local contractors have been pioneering the application of BIM for taking off quantities for their projects. I have been happy to learn that it has already yielded very positive results.

11. The QS Division of the Institute formed a BIM Sub-Committee in January 2012 to promote the use of BIM. It actively collaborates with the CIC Task Force on the Roadmap for BIM Implementation and participates in the Hong Kong Institute of Building Information Modelling.

12. Given that there are more than 3,700 members of the Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors who are responsible for cost control in construction projects, I would like to make use of this opportunity to appeal to the QS profession to actively apply BIM in your projects and provide training to your staff, so that you may reap the benefits of this advanced engineering tool.

13. Thank you, and may I wish you all an inspirational discussion today.

Ends

(About 920 words, approximately 6 minutes)