

**45<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner of  
The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers  
Speech by Mr Chan Kwok-ki,  
Acting Chief Executive  
17 March 2023 (Friday)**

**Aaron** (President, The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers, Ir Aaron Bok), **distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,**

Good evening. It gives me great pleasure to join you all for the 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner of The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers.

2. This long-awaited anniversary dinner, a gala event meant to be held some three years ago, celebrates the engineering profession in Hong Kong. And, of course, it puts a much deserved spotlight on the Institution. Over the past few decades, the Institution has made tremendous contributions to the engineering development in Hong Kong.

3. The staging of this high-profile industry event, together with the highly successful “Hong Kong Engineers Week” earlier this month, show that Hong Kong is truly back onstage – back in business, and back in the business of engineering.

4. With the pandemic now largely behind us, the current-term Government is determined to look for high-quality development, for our economy and our community. No doubt, infrastructure is a key component of this mission.

5. In the next few years, the Government’s annual expenditure on capital works will exceed HK\$100 billion. Taking together the projects to be implemented in both public

and private sectors, the annual total construction volume will reach HK\$300 billion a year. The Northern Metropolis and the Kau Yi Chau Artificial Islands are surely two of our mega projects.

6. All these mean that the construction industry in Hong Kong is entering a new golden era. I'm sure that you, our engineers, will continue to lead the way to a promising future for us.

7. Addressing Hong Kong's pressing needs for housing is also a top policy priority of the current-term Government. Thanks to your contributions and commitment, we are making good progress – providing more housing options, and producing faster and smarter results.

8. Your adoption of innovation and technology, under a cross-sectoral approach in particular, will speed up our progress. I fully support your efforts to work with related disciplines, including environmental engineering, design, testing and certification, as well as technology and manufacturing.

9. As a matter of fact, by its very nature, construction is a collaborative endeavour. The Government is determined to provide the support you need to develop innovative technologies and approaches.

10. Our goal is to build an ecosystem to facilitate adoption of Modular Integrated Construction, better known as MiC, and other high-productivity construction methods. It will cover a wide range of areas, from planning and design, testing and research, to processing and advanced manufacturing, and the related supply chain and logistics.

11. To this end, a cross-departmental steering committee, set up by the Development Bureau, will co-ordinate the efforts. It will seek to remove industry barriers, and strengthen Hong Kong's regional leadership role in adopting MiC.

12. As the Financial Secretary noted in his latest Budget Speech, the Government will conduct a study on the manufacturing, transportation, storage and accreditation of MiC. We'll also explore the provision of manufacturing and storage sites in the Northern Metropolis, and consider ways to strengthen collaboration with other cities in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area and optimise the MiC supply chain.

13. Hardware-wise, the Budget has earmarked HK\$30 million for the Development Bureau to conduct a study on establishing a Building Testing and Research Institute. The purpose of this institute is to drive innovation in the industry, and help align our country's construction standards and related products with those in the international market.

14. I'm confident that all those initiatives I've mentioned, and many others, will attract R&D professionals and investment to Hong Kong from around the world.

15. Speaking of our country, the Government is driving Hong Kong's better integration into the national development at full steam. We encourage our construction and engineering sector to continue looking to the Mainland for prospects and opportunities. We also encourage you to contribute your expertise and experience in areas like design and project management, as well as applied R&D, to support our country's economic progress.

16. Ladies and gentlemen, I'm grateful for all the work The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers has done for Hong Kong. I know that "Proud to be Engineers" is Aaron's theme as President for his current session. May I add that Hong Kong is proud of you all, our engineers! I look forward to the Institution's continuing contributions to Hong Kong, our built environment, and our diversified economy.

17. I wish you all an enjoyable evening, and the best of business and engineering. Thank you very much.