

By Hand

4 February 2014

The Honourable LEUNG Chung Ying GBM GBS JP
The Chief Executive
Office of the Chief Executive
Tamar
Hong Kong

Dear Mr Leung

Views on the 2014 Policy Address

The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers welcomes the measures set out in the 2014 Policy Address to develop Hong Kong and enhance the livelihood of the citizens. We would like to submit herewith our further opinions and suggestions on the relevant issues for your consideration.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely



Ir Raymond CHAN Kin Sek
President
The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers

Enc

RC/WC

Enclosure

**Views from the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers
on the 2014 Policy Address**

General

The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers (HKIE) welcomes the Administration's policies and measures set out in the 2014 Policy Address to promote development and improve the livelihood of the people in Hong Kong. Further to our views submitted in December 2013 for the formulation of the 2014 Policy Address, we would like to express our further opinions and suggestions to the Administration for consideration.

Infrastructural Development

2. The HKIE is pleased to note that the Administration has considered our views for sustaining development in infrastructures. We support the initiatives in the 2014 Policy Address in developing new town in East Lantau and artificial islands in the central waters between Hong Kong Island and Lantau Island, enhancing mid- and long-term land supply, and putting forward the long-term housing strategy.

3. With regard to enhancing land and housing supply, we agree to identify additional feasible measures, such as the proposed development of urban underground space and to increase the plot ratio. However, we suggest that the proposed increase of plot ratio should only be adopted as a short-term measure in selected districts, and supplemented with adequate infrastructures and supporting facilities to accommodate the increased development density.

4. To ensure that these mid- to long-term infrastructural development initiatives can be implemented with high quality, the HKIE urges the Administration to devise concrete plans on fostering more skilled workforce, especially those in the construction industry and professionals in engineering, in carrying out the projects. We also welcome to see better coordination in the overall planning and implementation of future large-scale projects in Hong Kong, so that these projects can be well scheduled and put forward in an orderly pace and will not cause excessive fluctuations in resources and manpower demand. Certainly, the Administration should also put more endeavours in better engaging the stakeholders in the community at all stages of the project design and implementation in order to optimise the benefits of these projects to the economic development as well as the livelihood of the public and to address their concerns.

Long-Term Development of Hong Kong Economy

5. The HKIE agrees that Hong Kong should have a framework of balanced development in multiple clusters to contribute to the healthy development of our economy and to strive for further opportunities. As a professional body representing the voices of the professional engineers in Hong Kong, the HKIE welcomes the Administration's initiatives in the 2014 Policy Address to help the professionals in Hong Kong to enhance our competitiveness and opportunities both in the local and Mainland/overseas arenas. In line with our view that Hong Kong should pursue

development and excellence in innovation, creativity, and research & development (R&D), the HKIE supports setting up of an Innovation and Technology Bureau. In addition, we eagerly invite the Administration to consider putting more long-term resources in supporting and subsidising applied researches and commercialisation of research outcomes as well as nurturing other clusters with high potential such as testing and certification services.

6. The HKIE also supports the Administration in seeking feasible ways to enhance the capacity of Hong Kong to develop tourism and welcomes the construction of more facilities for tourists at the immigration ports. To help soothing over-concentration of tourists in particular central regions, we further suggest liaising with the tourism practitioners and community in creating more tourists' attractions in various locations in the territory, as well as enhancing the infrastructures to receive the expanding number of tourists.

Manpower Development

7. The HKIE is delighted to note the new initiative to set up a Task Force on Vocational Education to map out strategy for promoting vocational education in the community. We opine that the Task Force should also actively study the vocational migration among the three tiers of the workforce, i.e. skilled labour, the supervisory staff and professionals. This would in long term foster professionals/ supervisors with diverse background, provide upward mobility in society and be an incentive to attract more youngsters to participate in the construction/ service industries at the entry level.

8. We are also pleased to observe the new initiatives which aim at enhancing upward mobility by providing subsidies for full time, overseas or exchange study opportunities. Also, considering that many part-time studies that are suitable for employed people are on self-financed basis, we suggest that more assistance should be provided for part-time continuing studies at certificate, diploma, associate degree and degree levels to achieve overall enhancement of the workforce quality of Hong Kong and facilitate people, especially those in the lower class, to upgrade their employability.

Environment

9. The HKIE attaches great importance to our environment and is pleased to see that the 2014 Policy Address has provided much coverage on environment protection and conservation measures. Out of all the waste reduction and management initiatives as mentioned, the HKIE suggests the Administration to place more efforts in driving the cultural shift in the community for 4R (i.e. reduce, reuse, recycle and recover), and would like to restate our support to the Administration to devise effective ways to realise the construction of high-tech incinerators as soon as practicable and pushing ahead the use of smart utility meter.

Enhancing Livelihood and Well-being

10. We believe that the ultimate objective of the optimal public policy is to ensure the well-being of the people in our society. While the HKIE is pleased to note the

initiatives in the 2014 Policy Address to support the needy, we are of the view that more concern should also be placed over the wishes of the middle class. We suggest the Administration to study the situation of the middle class in Hong Kong and devise more measures that would soothe their burden. In particular, the Administration is recommended to identify further means to assist on the pressing issues such as housing, medical services and education of the children, which are some of the recent major concerns on their livelihood.

11. With Hong Kong now already being a developed economy, the HKIE believes that we should take a step further to enhance the overall well-being and livelihood of all people in our society. We therefore suggest the Administration to review ways to generate values and harmony for our society, such as driving the whole-person development from youngsters to mature, breeding more social coherence among people with different background, and enriching creativity and cultural richness of our society.