

The HKIE – Building Division 20th Annual Seminar
“Disruptive Innovation for Buildings in Smart Cities”

Thursday, 6 October 2022

Closing Remarks by Ir Aaron BOK, President of the HKIE

Ir Anthony CHIU (Chairman of Building Division),
Ir Anthony KWONG (Immediate Past Chairman of Building Division)
Distinguished Guests, Fellow Members, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good afternoon. It gives me great pleasure to join you here today and give the Closing Remarks at the 20th Annual Seminar of the HKIE Building Division.

First of all, I would like to express my heart-felt gratitude to all distinguished speakers for sharing their professional knowledge and valuable experience at today’s seminar on the theme “*Disruptive Innovation for Buildings in Smart Cities*”.

Since its establishment in 1991, the Building Division has been dedicated to promoting the development of the building engineering profession. The tremendous effort made to provide various platforms to equip members with professional knowledge of building and construction practice is well recognised. The continuous professional development activities organised by the Division are highly remarkable and vital for the betterment of the industry and the community.

Smart city infrastructure is an extension of the digital city and integrates a wide range of technologies developed around IoT. Today’s sharing enable us to gain new insights and stimulations from the speakers on how disruptive innovation and construction technologies integrated with new

building methods, for example MiC, DfMA, BIM, which elevate the efficiency and promote innovation of the industry. In certain overseas or local projects, these technologies have been proven to reduce costs, uplift productivity and enhance construction safety, quality and environmental performance. This is exactly something that our engineering community require; now!

This is because in the next 10 to 20 years, the construction expenditure in HK may increase by 40 to 50% from their regular level to \$350 billion per year. It is thus vital for our building professionals when delivering your oncoming assignments, to adopt more innovative and creative methods or materials in order to **Do More but with Less**; **Less** time, **Less** demand on natural and human resources, **Less** carbon footprint; but at the same time maintaining or even achieving **Higher** Quality, Safety and Environment standards. In simple words, Greener, Smarter and with Higher productivity. The sharing on various advancement of building methods in today's seminar could obviously help enhance the competitiveness of Hong Kong and make us in line with the global development trend.

We deeply appreciate the combined efforts of the Government, industry and practitioners in building our city smarter for better living. Through the enhancement on smart building designs as shared today, we expect more spectacular works to be completed in Hong Kong in a more economical and efficient manner. In order to achieve my pledge on **Do More with Less** above, may I call upon our government colleagues, while discharging your statutory duties on the role of regulators when dealing with statutory submissions to ensure minimum standards of safety and quality of works for the developments, for the benefit of the community at large, please also consider shouldering a facilitator role to provide advice to project proponents on how they can achieve progress, all under the

premises of not foregoing any safety, quality and statutory requirements and in fair and open manner. I also call upon Bureaux and Heads of Department should clearly advise this to their officers to ease their worry on being complained later on offering privilege. As some of you may already know, the HKIE has published and submitted a report on this front, titled “Recommendations on Streamlining Building Works and Infrastructure Development Processes”, focusing on the design and construction stages, to the Administration last Friday. We make some recommendations on how to Do more with Less. It is hoped that the Administration can critically consider our suggestions therein thus enabling the whole construction industry and engineering professionals to get better prepared in tackling the challenges in years ahead.

However, to achieve this, our own engineering professionals must first be dedicated to **Deliver our Own Professional Services to the Community with Heart and Diligence**. On this front, you may also notice that I have appealed in my latest President Message that we engineers, must always refresh and reiterate our fundamental role and responsibility, and uphold our professional ethics whenever we discharge our professional services, under whatever tight programme, budget and resources limitation. This is because what we do is right at the heart of our society’s advancement. There is no reasons for us not to feel proud of ourselves to be engineers.

To conclude, I am glad that the Building Division has organised this annual seminar with a theme that is of relevance to the global trend toward smart buildings and smart cities. It provides an excellent platform for the Government, academics, industry experts and professionals in the field to exchange views, and to discuss technological advancements and future development of the building industry. I am sure that this seminar will

inspire all audiences on the transformation of Hong Kong into a smart city and create a better living environment for our citizens. And I have the confidence that our building engineering professionals will have the unfailing passion and commitment to undertake and deliver the missions vested from our community; all with heart and diligence.

Thank you.

Ir Aaron BOK Kwok-ming

President

The HKIE