

**Inauguration Ceremony of the HKIE Student Chapter – Hong Kong University
of Science and Technology, Session 2022/2023
Sunday, 6 November 2022
Opening Speech by Ir Aaron BOK, President of the HKIE**

Prof ZHANG, Michael, Isabel, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good afternoon! It gives me great pleasure to join you here at the Inauguration Ceremony of the HKIE Student Chapter - the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Session 2022-2023.

First of all, I would like to extend a warm welcome to everyone present here. Your staunch support is vital to the growth and success of the HKIE Student Chapters. I would also like to express my heartiest congratulations to the members of the Student Chapter of the HKUST, a finely-selected team of 10 outstanding students in one of the most distinguished universities in Hong Kong, who aspire to bridge students to engineering and maintain a strong tie between the HKIE and HKUST. It is wonderful that we can have this event face-to-face on campus today as it has been cancelled in the previous two years due to the pandemic. It is very gratifying to see the commitment and devotion of the Student Chapters made to continue organising events for our student members despite all the challenges posed by the pandemic and now endeavour to restore their operations to the pre-COVID level.

For all of the committee members of the Student Chapter, I sincerely hope that you could convey the theme of my presidency in this Session - “We Are Proud to Be Engineers” to all of the prospective engineers at this university for the year ahead. As you all know, there was a saying that “Scientists investigate that which already is; engineers create that which has never been.” As engineers, we invented and resolved unprecedented solutions to tackle the world’s problems. We provide clean water supplies, reliable energy, safe transport, clothing, mobile phones, even refrigerators,

rice cookers and many many more for the advancement of our society and the betterment of human civilisation, so there is no reason for us not to feel proud and not to appreciate the uniqueness of our profession. To help nurture our talented successors as I advocated in my President theme, one crucial step is to enhance the visibility and recognition of our profession in society. So doing could help building the confidence and passion of engineering students here at the university where the future engineers of the city are nurtured.

To start with, I produce this tiny pin; a “Proud to be Engineer” pin that symbolise our engineering pride. Although this is designed and prepared for our corporate members mainly, I have decided lately to make this as a special gift for the committees of the various Student Chapters, YMC and Div young committees who are yet corporate members since this would represent the profession pride that all engineering students and graduates should be aspiring for. With this small pin, I hope that this could give momentum for you and other students to think about and better understand the roles and responsibilities of our professions and recognise the greatness of engineering. Hope you all like it.

In fact, for you engineering students, I could boldly tell you that “there is no reason for you not to feel proud of being an engineering student”. This is because you have chosen the most correct decision to have joined the career path for a most noble profession with promising future. In years ahead, Hong Kong will implement a new roadmap. The society has determined in accelerating the launch of mega-projects like the Northern metropolis, Harbour metropolis and new housing and land developments, together with supporting infrastructures, roads and rails, etc. As per our estimates, construction expenditures may increase by 40 to 50% from their regular levels for the next 20 years to reach some HK\$350 billion per year. Furthermore, re-industrialisation and innovation-driven manufacturing are seen as new drivers of growth as part of our new role as Technology & Innovations Hub. All these offer huge opportunities across all engineering disciplines, from manufacturing and automotive to aviation and Artificial Intelligence. All these translate into a strong call from the

community for a better and more timely delivery of professional services from the engineering profession. So, there is no reason for us not to be proud. There is no reason for our students not to feel proud.

As I mentioned in my inauguration speech “what Engineers do is right at the heart of our society’s advancement”. May I appeal our young engineering students to keep equipping yourselves with the knowledge, confidence and capability by studying hard in your University time and staying on top of the latest technological developments in your future career for the continuous improvement of the society, which is one of the core values of engineers. The Institution will keep on putting every effort in providing the best environment to nurture Student Members and young engineers to develop their potentials to the fullest and to fulfill their role as engineers in devoting to the betterment of Hong Kong.

The Inauguration Ceremony today is a milestone which marks your unique role of linking up the most prestigious engineering institution and one of the most remarkable universities here in Hong Kong. I trust that your experiences in your service in this Student Chapter in the upcoming year will brighten up your future life, broaden your horizons, and create many unforgettable memories in your life’s journey. I am very confident that you will have a fruitful learning experience and can become the bridge between HKIE and HKUST/HKUST students, and fostering the interactions between both sides. I wish you every success in the events you will organise in the year ahead.

Thank you and have an enjoyable afternoon!

Ir Aaron BOK Kwok-ming
President
The HKIE