

Hong Kong Engineers Week 2023
The HKIE Grand Award Prize Presentation Ceremony
Welcome Speech by President Ir Aaron BOK
9 March 2023

Dear Ms Winnie Ho, Secretary for Housing, honourable guests, ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon. Thank you for joining The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers Grand Award Presentation Ceremony. It is my pleasure to be here today to witness and congratulate all our winning engineers for their hard work and dedication to their craftwork.

Throughout Hong Kong's history, the engineering community, like many other relating professionals such as architects and surveyors, has played a vital and important role in the advancement and development of society, serving it by building practical and high-quality infrastructures and creating daily essentials that have benefited our city and everyone living in it, generation after generation. Our glittering and ever-changing skyline and distinctive infrastructure – instantly recognisable around the world – are the showcases of the tireless efforts of our engineering and architectural sector. We are thankful for their vision and commitment in moulding Hong Kong into the city it is today.

With the ever-changing blueprint for the development of Hong Kong and the continuous demand for new talents especially in engineering, we are fortunate to witness so many inspiring and impressive feats in engineering that should be marked. For this reason, we must pause to recognise these leaders in engineering – both in the public and private sectors, both construction and non-construction related. And because of this, we have introduced our first ever Hong Kong Engineers Week to promote the engineering profession with a series of public engaging events, including the Innovation Competition, public exhibition, the HKIE International Conference, and Hong Kong Engineers Week Carnival that attracted over tens of thousands of members and citizens in last weekend, the fundraising cycling and run, and not to mention today's HKIE Grand Award Ceremony.

As some may be aware, the HKIE Grand Award is a brand-new award scheme aiming to recognise not only the achievements of our finest innovation in the engineering

profession, but also the industrial and infrastructure projects which demonstrate engineering excellence.

Since the HKIE Grand Award opened for submission in October 2022, we have received very positive response from our engineering community, with 60 entries submitted in total, covering different areas including the use of 3D printing techniques in healthcare, innovative construction technology with the use of new materials, application of robotics in sewage sampling and mega-scale infrastructure projects such as the Hong Kong Zhuhai Macao Bridge Hong Kong Port, Cross Bay Link, etc.

Many of the projects have hugely surpassed our initial expectations. After rounds of intensive interviews and critiques from our panel of judges, we've picked the best of the best as Grand Award winners and Merits, and they will be on stage shortly. Together we will celebrate their achievements in engineering and recognise their flair and contributions to society.

Once again, I would like to express my gratitude and appreciation to each and every contestant, who have demonstrated their professionalism and technical excellence in their everyday work, and it makes me confident that our engineering community stands to benefit from the high quality of work exhibited. It also makes me confident that the engineering professionals are ready to shoulder the immense assignment from the community on various land, housing, transport and infrastructure projects as well as the new Innovation and Technology hub in years ahead. The prestige awards today will certainly in turn, help attract bright young minds to join our esteemed engineering community.

So, without further ado, let's dive right in – let the award ceremony commence! Thank you.

Ir Aaron BOK Kwok-ming
President
The HKIE