

**The HKIE - Electrical Division 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium**

***Title: “Co-Innovation 40”***

Thursday, 20 October 2022

**Closing Address by Ir Aaron BOK, President of the HKIE**

Ir Mandy LEUNG (Chairman of the Electrical Division),

Ir Y H LEUNG (Symposium Chairman),

Distinguished Guests, Fellow Members, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good afternoon. It gives me great pleasure to join you here today and give the Closing Address at the HKIE Electrical Division Annual Symposium. 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 Annual Symposium on the theme “Co-Innovation 40 (for Zero)”.

As in previous years, the HKIE Electrical Division Annual Symposium is a flagship event of the Division. This year marks the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the event. The Symposium focuses on new initiatives and applications of electrical engineering targeting for carbon neutrality, in response to the Climate Action Plan 2050 of Hong Kong with the vision of Zero-carbon Emissions and the aim for combating climate change.

In Hong Kong, about two-thirds of carbon emissions come from electricity generation, followed by 18% from the transport sector and 7% from waste. To achieve “net-zero carbon emissions for electricity generation” before 2050, I believe our Electrical Division colleagues are spending tremendous effort to change the fuel mix of local power plants and replace the use of coal with other alternatives such as natural gas and renewable energy for electricity generation. Mandy may perhaps tell me privately whether the recent war at Ukraine will have any impact to the current plan for more use of natural gas

in Hong Kong. But surely, she won't tell me on National Security reasons.

Among the carbon contribution from electricity generation, the major stakeholder is the building works and operation. Buildings account for 90% of the electricity consumption in Hong Kong. Thus, promoting smart buildings for enhancing operational and energy efficiency will definitely reduce the demand for power consumption. On this front, our engineers in Building and Building Services Disciplines are also shifting their building design with a view to achieving greater energy saving in the upfront. It is always more effective to achieve this goal through the design and construction rather than relying on the users in the downstream since that would need a shift in living habits; which is sometime not quite easy. Apart from building, development of green transport is also vital to achieving zero carbon emissions in the transport sector. As such, we are aware that the Government is pursuing the railway as backbone of HK's transport system for years. The Institution has also been suggesting government to help various residential buildings in HK to retrofit electric car charging system in their premises with a view to boost the shift from fossil fuel car to E car. As the President of the HKIE, I have also indulged myself to join the family of E-car thus shift away from fossil fuel. But this is not enough, to reduce my consumption on electricity, I have attempted to use the public mass transit more by using the park and ride facility.

As mentioned above, for a normal citizen to shift his or her living habit is not easy. But as you might appreciate that the Chung Yeung this year recorded a 35.9 degree in Sheung Shui which breaks all record. This call for Carbon Zero is thus a real threat to the community and already requires imminent actions for all engineers and in fact all citizens. As such, we engineer in this room shall on one hand adopt various design means to help achieve this carbon zero target with our professional knowhow in this field, and on the other hand perform a role model to live in a green way. To me, and also for easier understanding by the public, all these initiatives boil down to a simple message – Reduce. Reduce the consumption of natural resources, reduce the consumption of electricity, reduce the wasting of food, reduce the use of take away lunch boxes, etc. etc., In fact,

all these are old sayings. But not easy to practice in real life. I thus appeal my fellow engineer colleagues, apart from being Proud to be engineers, we shall take lead and live in a green way as role models.

In today's symposium, we gain new insights and stimulations from the speakers on various decarbonisation strategies. We have interesting topics on effective approach for decarbonizing buildings; innovative ways to achieve zero harm in construction site; sustainable wastewater treatment works; etc. These provide much insight for us to contribute on the upfront design.

To conclude, I am glad that the Electrical Division has organised this Annual Symposium with a theme that is of relevance to the global trend of advancing Net Zero. It provides an excellent platform for the Government, academics, industry experts and professionals in the electrical fields to exchange views and to discuss technological advancements and future development of the electrical industry. To combat climate change, I have the confidence that our electrical 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