

The HKIE Environmental Division Annual Forum 2023
“Climate Governance Towards Net-zero Energy and Mobility in Hong Kong: Engineering Challenges and Innovation Opportunities”
Opening Address by President Ir Aaron BOK Kwok Ming
Thursday, 20 April 2023

Mr TSE Chin Wan (Secretary for Environment and Ecology),
Ir Dr Shelley ZHOU (Chairman of the HKIE Environmental Division),
Ir Alex WONG (Chairman of the Organising Committee),
Distinguished Guests, Fellow Members, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning. I am very delighted to join you this morning and give the Opening Address at the Environmental Division Annual Forum. First of all, I would like to thank you for the contribution and participation of the distinguished speakers and guests from the Government and the industry, for taking part in this important event. It is my pleasure to welcome all of you to this annual highlighted event of the HKIE Environmental Division.

At the 27th Conference of Parties (COP27) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Egypt, nations launched the Adaption Agenda and Implementation Plan, aiming to accelerate global climate action through emissions reduction, enhanced adaption efforts and flows of green and sustainable finance. The engineering sector, especially the environmental professional expertise is directly invested in the outcome of COP27, not only because engineering solutions are crucial for achieving net-zero goals but boosting green engineering innovation momentum is also imperative for ensuring a sustainable future. As we all know, climate change is a global challenge that requires urgent action from various sectors of society, including governments, business and individuals. Hong Kong, therefore, plays a significant role in addressing this challenge as a leading international financial centre with high population density.

To echo the COP27, the theme of this Annual Forum *“Climate Governance Towards Net-zero Energy and Mobility in Hong Kong: Engineering Challenges and Innovation Opportunities”* would address the roles of engineers in a new eco-system which could facilitate net-zero transition

roadmap in Hong Kong. The Annual Forum will focus on Engineering Challenges and Innovation Opportunities in three Sessions:

- I) Driving New-Zero Transition in Energy Generation Sector;
- II) Scaling-up Actions for Building Energy Consumption towards Net-zero; and
- III) Roadmap for Net-zero Mobility/Road Transport System.

The transition towards net-zero energy generation is a critical step towards a more sustainable future for Hong Kong. Firstly, it requires a comprehensive and integrated approach that involves the deployment of renewable energy sources, then enhancement of energy efficiency and the development of innovation technologies.

Secondly, with the development and delivery of mega infrastructures and projects in Hong Kong in the coming years, which the annual construction expenditures set to reach about HK\$350 billion for the coming 20 years, the shares of energy consumption in buildings would be much more significant. In view of this new growth phase, contribution and opportunities of net-zero transition on the building energy consumption would be the second aspect to examine.

Thirdly, we need to address the emissions from road transport. This could be achieved by promoting the use of electric vehicles, improving public transport infrastructure and implementing measures to reduce traffic congestion. By reducing emissions from road transport, the air quality would be improved significantly.

As we look towards a post-pandemic world, we must take this opportunity to accelerate our contributions toward achieving net-zero energy generation in Hong Kong. I am confident that the insights and recommendations shared by the distinguished speakers today will furnish valuable guidance for our transition towards a more sustainable future.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to the Environmental Division for hosting today's Annual Forum. It provides a great opportunity for the Government, academics, industry experts and professionals in the field to explore the opportunities and challenges in engineering net zero transition.

Once again, I would like to thank you all for joining us today and I wish you a fruitful and engaging discussion.

Thank you!

Ir Aaron BOK Kwok-ming
President
The HKIE