

**Note of Welcome of
The HKIE President Ir Aaron BOK at
The HKIE New Members' Reception
3 June 2023**

Fellow Members, Ladies and Gentlemen, good afternoon.

Thank you for attending today's HKIE New Members' Reception. May I extend my warmest welcome to our newly admitted Fellow Members and Members.

It gives me the greatest pleasure to be here on this special day, to witness a new generation of engineers reaching a momentous milestone in their careers. What's more, for the first time since 2019, I am able to take photos with new members unimpeded by masks and social distancing.

For you, our new Members, this joyous occasion not only symbolises a new chapter in your professional career, but also reaffirms that the city we all love is back in action and You, as members of our engineering family, will be taking center stage in contributing to the betterment of our society.

With mega-projects like the Lantau Tomorrow Vision, the Northern metropolis, new housing like Light Public Housing, many other infrastructures and construction projects in the pipeline, as well as the establishment of a new Innovation & Technology Hub, the engineering profession in Hong Kong is entering a new golden era as forecast in our report "Augmenting Engineer Manpower to meet foreseeable surge in demand" published in April last year, and authenticated by the CIC report in February. The message is clear. We will be lacking more than 3000 engineers on average in the next 5 years if we do nothing.

In order to cope with this increase in the construction and I&T fields, additional manpower of corresponding magnitude will surely be required. Although some of the supply gaps must be overcome by adopting new technology and materials; streamlining administrative processes and promoting a facilitating culture among government vetting authorities; and broadening our engineer base, we will put particular emphasis on our biggest challenge: attracting more talented successors.

This is why I am particularly glad to recognise our new generation of engineers today. Young Members, although this may still be an early stage in your professional careers, where one should remain humble, you should always be proud of your profession and your unique abilities to enhance people's lives and make our community a better place for all. As I repeatedly emphasise, "Engineers' work is right at the heart of advancement of every city and even human civilisation. It is a diversified and vibrant job, full of challenges and satisfaction."

I am also honoured to present membership certificates to our newly admitted Fellow Members who are senior members of the engineering profession and who have already made great contributions to our industry and our society.

In recognition of this session's "Proud to be Engineers (以工程師為傲)" theme, we have created a unique electronic badge which our new members can download from the members' login area of our official website. With this badge, you can celebrate your achievement in gaining this level of membership in the Institution with your friends and peers via social media or by email. I believe you have already received an email on this earlier.

To enhance the visibility of engineers in society and warmly welcome our newly admitted Fellow Members and Members, we will publish their names in the Ming Pao (明報) today along with photos of some of our new Fellows. Copies of the newspaper are available at the reception desk; please feel free to get one.

To help attract and nurture future generations of new talent to the profession to deliver on the vision and commitments we outlined in our development blueprint, we held the "Hong Kong Engineers Week 2023" under the theme of "Our Future • We Engineer 未來•一同創造" in March. The week included a series of activities, ranging from exhibition, awards and competitions, to carnival, international conference, and fundraising cycle ride and run. Altogether, the week attracted more than 20,000 visitors and participants. By organising activities like this, we hope to create a positive dynamic for the engineering industry with the wider public, and especially with younger people and build a lasting and positive impression of engineers among the community.

Although you became our members only just now, I wish to appeal to all of you to pitch

in and contribute to the nurturing of young future successors by spreading positive messages in the community. Again, I wish to emphasise that our effort is targeted at the non-engineering community, especially youngsters, parents, teachers and even the media; the activities I just mentioned are not meant to create the impression of 圍爐取暖, staying within the comfort zone of engineers.

As a learned society, the Institution continues to make every effort to provide on-going learning opportunities to ensure members always have the opportunity to enhance their skills for their professional advancement. In the coming year, the Institution will organise a wide variety of conference activities with our international counterparts to help advance our members' professional development. These will include the International Council on Electrical Engineering Conference in early July and the Hong Kong and Shanghai Symposium on Science and Technology in October.

There will be other new initiatives on these fronts in our next session under the leadership of our President-elect, Ir Dr Barry Lee. Although I cannot disclose too much at this juncture, I hope you will all be supporting the Institution by actively participating in these and other upcoming events. I can assure you that all of them are very meaningful.

Finally, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to all the new Fellow Members and Members and your families, colleagues and friends who have supported you along your path to achieving this notable professional status.

(以廣東話讀出)我好高興喺呢個特別日子見到新嘅資深會員同會員，攜同你哋嘅家人同朋友出席，藉此機會，我為一直喺背後給予你哋無限量支持同鼓勵嘅家人、同事同朋友表示衷心嘅感謝。我相信佢哋今日必定為你哋嘅成就，並以你哋成為工程師而感到無比驕傲！

So now, without further ado, let's start the presentation ceremony. Thank you.

Ir Aaron BOK Kwok-ming
President
The HKIE