

Professor Simon S. M. Ho

Welcome Speech at the Opening Ceremony of the Symposium on Sustainability and Bamboo

19 July 2015 Auditorium, 2/F, Lee Quo Wei Academic Building, HSMC

The Honourable Mrs Carrie Lam, Professor Wang Libing, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning and a very warm welcome to the Symposium on Sustainability and Bamboo, jointly organized by Hang Seng Management College (HSMC) and UNESCO-APEID. Today's Symposium is a part of the "HSMC International Sustainability Week", hosted from 19 to 24 July at our College. It is probably the first Symposium on this topic organized by any institution in the region. Through this Symposium we aim to promote public awareness on sustainable development and the values of bamboo.

As one of the foremost advocates for green campus in the region, the Hang Seng Management College always upholds the principle of sustainability and uses bamboo extensively in its campus development and educational activities. We are proud of being the first academic institution in Hong Kong awarded the Hong Kong Green Building Council's BEAM Plus (version 1.1) 'Platinum' rating for one of our new academic buildings, and also provisional 'Platinum' rating for our new Jockey Club Residential Halls. Today, we are here in this bamboo-favoured Auditorium, awaiting anxiously the discussions and exchange of ideas relating to the topics of sustainability and bamboo.

As many of you may know, bamboos have been planted around this campus; bamboo materials instead of wood have also been extensively used for the furniture, floorings, wall panels and the like in this campus. Bamboo is a sustainable and eco-friendly material, which can increase oxygen concentration and absorb more CO₂. This will indeed be healthier, physically and spiritually, for our students.

In Chinese culture, bamboo implies gentlemanship or 'Junzi'. Bamboo combines upright integrity with resilience, and has the perfect balance of grace and strength. It has a hollow trunk and produces neither flowers nor fruit which personifies humility and simplicity. Physically, I hope our students will learn and enjoy studying in an environmentally-friendly surrounding. Spiritually, I hope our students will be as upright, graceful, humble and simple as the bamboo. We also hope our bamboo and green environment will influence their mindset and personal behaviour.

Within our audience today we welcome the students from universities and secondary schools. To further promote the green movement, we hope that the Symposium today will help to pass on the torch of sustainability to the future generations.

Last but not least, let me extend my heartiest thanks to The Honourable Mrs Carrie Lam, Professor Wang Libing, our panelists and distinguished guests who join us today at this remarkable occasion. Special thanks also go to our co-organizer UNESCO-APEID, supporting organizations and the Organizing Committee for making this international event possible.

I trust this will be a very fruitful and rewarding Symposium. Thank you very much!