

Professor Simon S. M. Ho

Remarks at the Dinner of the Symposium on Sustainability and Bamboo

19 July 2015 Restaurant, 1 /F, Sports and Amenities Centre, HSMC

Good evening, The Honourable Mr Wong Kam Sing, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

Thank you all for joining us at the Symposium Dinner and let me extend a very warm welcome to Mr Wong Kam-sing, Secretary for the Environment of the Hong Kong SAR Government, who joins us to commemorate this remarkable occasion.

Today indeed has been a very fulfilling day. From our speakers' sharing in our Symposium held earlier on, we learnt that bamboo holds features such as tenacity and hollow heart and therefore people associate bamboo with strength, upright integrity, humbleness, elegance and plainness. Just as a bamboo, a person should try to attain these characters.

In today's Symposium, we have been updated about the cutting-edge sustainability and bamboo research and technology. We have heard about the programmes that EU and UN are implementing for the development of sustainable industries in emerging countries. We have also learnt about how the industries explore and use bamboo in various projects and the experience they encountered.

We discussed to what extent bamboo cultivation and utilization is green and sustainable, especially on changing the learning environment. Furthermore, among others, we explored the use and appropriation of bamboo in the current daily spatial practices and the way it affects a built landscape. We also learnt from some of the previous projects of the International Network for Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR).

Hong Kong is at the moment undergoing major changes in its approach to the topic of sustainability. As we have seen on the banners at the opening ceremony of the Symposium this morning, sustainable development requires collaborative work from different sectors – government, business, education, NGOs and the youth, and literally everybody's efforts.

We hope our youngsters will not rely too much on modern green buildings and measures to reduce energy/resources use, but more to change their own values and

daily habits. Through organizing this Symposium and incorporating bamboo and green concepts in our campus, we hope we can do something for this movement. I hope that everyone has found this day as inspiring as I did. Of course, the highlight of this Symposium is our honorable speaker tonight: The Honourable Mr. Wong Kam Sing, Secretary for the Environment of the HKSAR Government.

Let me briefly introduce Mr. K S Wong. Mr. Wong is an architect by profession. He has been promoting environmental protections, green building and energy efficiency over the past 25 years, even before he joined the Government in 2012. He had served as the Vice-Chairman of the Hong Kong Green Building Council and the Chairman of the Professional Green Building Council. He has contributed significantly to the development of local green building standards and taken part in a number of pioneering green building projects.

Tonight, he is going to share his insights with us on the subject of sustainability. And let us give a very warm welcome to him.

Thank you.