

## **Welcome Remarks at The HSUHK Outstanding SME ESG and Business Performance Award 2025 Presentation Ceremony**

21 November 2025

Auditorium, Lee Quo Wei Academic Building, Yuen Campus, HSUHK

Under Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development Dr Chan Pak Li, distinguished guests, awardees, colleagues, students, ladies and gentlemen,

Good afternoon.

It is my great pleasure to welcome you all to *The HSUHK Outstanding SME ESG and Business Performance Award 2025* Presentation Ceremony, organized by the School of Business and the Start-up and SME Resource Centre (SSRC) of The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong.

We are delighted to gather here this afternoon to celebrate the achievements of Hong Kong's outstanding small and medium-sized enterprises that have demonstrated both business excellence and strong commitment to Environmental, Social, and Governance — or ESG — values.

First, please allow me to express our deep gratitude to Dr. Bernard Chan, Under Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development of the HKSAR Government, for serving as our Guest of Honour.

Our sincere appreciation also goes to Dr. Lian Chan, Chairman of this Award Ceremony, for her significant contribution and leadership in guiding this meaningful event.

We are also thankful to our supporting organizations, including different statutory bodies, professional associations, and partners for their steadfast support of this initiative.

*The HSUHK Outstanding SME ESG and Business Performance Award* was first launched last year and has quickly become a remarkable platform to recognize SMEs that combine strong business performance with a commitment to sustainable development. The award exemplifies HSUHK's mission to foster responsible entrepreneurship and to contribute to Hong Kong's long-term economic and social well-being.

At HSUHK, we are dedicated to nurturing socially responsible, visionary, and ethical leaders. Through initiatives such as the SSRC, we bring together academic expertise and industry experience to help SMEs and start-ups grow and thrive sustainably. SMEs form a core component of economies worldwide. Unlike listed companies or large corporations, SMEs are generally not subject to the same level of ESG regulation or disclosure requirements. With controlling shareholders directly involved in management, SMEs often enjoy greater autonomy and flexibility in deciding how to implement and report on ESG practices. At the same time, because SMEs tend to have limited expertise and fewer resources, they should adopt ESG strategies and measures that are appropriate for their own stage of development and operating environment, so as to optimise and balance sustainable value creation for different stakeholders, including the environment and the community.

My warmest congratulations to all awardees. Your achievements represent excellence — not only in business performance, but in making a positive impact on society and the environment.

Let us continue to work together — academia, industry, and the community — to promote responsible business and create a greener, more resilient future for Hong Kong.

Thank you, and I wish everyone an inspiring and enjoyable afternoon.