

Welcome Remarks at the HSUHK Forum on Sustainability and Bamboo 2019: Architecture and Building Materials

1 June 2019 Auditorium, 2/F, Lee Quo Wei Academic Building

The Honourable Tony Tse Wai-chuen, Mr Martin Tam, Ms Li Xiao-hua, Professor Lu Wen-ming, distinguished speakers and guests, ladies and gentlemen,

Good Morning.

It is my great pleasure to welcome you all to the Forum on Sustainability and Bamboo 2019: Architecture and Building Materials, which aims at bringing together experts, academia, industrialists, practitioners from around the world to share knowledge and experience about the roles of green buildings in sustainability and the significance of bamboo applications. We also hope the Forum today will help pass the baton of sustainability to the next generation.

Sustainability or sustainable development is not a new concept. To me, it means caring not only for ourselves, but also for our future generations. In Hong Kong, it is the long-term goal of the HKSAR Government to achieve sustainability by making Hong Kong a clean, comfortable and pleasant home, and this direction would require not just more green rules and measures, but a fundamental change of all stakeholders' mindset and behaviour. Different sectors, including the government, education, business, NGOs etc. have to work together in partnership to improve the quality of life while reducing the environmental burdens to be borne by our neighbours and tomorrow's generations.

As a liberal-arts-oriented university and one of the foremost advocates for green campus in the region, the Hang Seng University of Hong Kong (HSUHK) always upholds the principle of sustainability in its educational activities and campus development. The University established The Institute for Youth Sustainability Leadership in 2018 with an aim to empower youths to identify solutions to attain the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals through a broad range of educational projects.

To most of you, bamboo is a familiar material as it is commonly used as scaffolding in building works. Bamboo is also used to build temporary theatres for hosting Chinese opera performances. As you may also be aware, bamboos have been widely planted around this campus and bamboo material is used extensively in all our new buildings such as bamboo floorings, wall panels, handrails and furniture. Bamboo is a sustainable and eco-friendly material which can increase oxygen concentration and absorb more carbon dioxide.

HSUHK is proud to be the first higher education institution in Hong Kong having received the “Platinum” rating of BEAM Plus certification from the Hong Kong Green Building Council, and all our 4 new buildings have received such recognition. We hope our bamboo and green environment will be beneficial to our students’ physical and mental health, and to their learning of the importance of sustainability.

In traditional Chinese culture, bamboo signifies "Junzi" or gentlemanship, combines upright integrity with resilience and has a perfect balance of grace & strength. Bamboo has a hollow trunk without flowers or fruit which personifies humility and simplicity. HSUHK aspires to become a “Junzi university”, nurturing students to embody the characters represented by bamboo.

Lastly, our heartiest thanks to the Honourable Tony Tse Wai-chuen, Professor Lu Wen-ming, our speakers and distinguished guests who join us today. Their sharing will surely bring us new insights on our theme. Thanks should also go to our co-organisers: The International Bamboo and Rattan Organisation and The Federation of Hong Kong Industries, supporting organisations, sponsors, and the Organising Committee for making this Forum possible.

I trust you will find this Forum fruitful and inspiring.

Thank you.