

**Inaugural Speech
Hong Kong Institute of Facility Management**

**C Y Leung
23 September 2000**

Dr Chan, Ladies and Gentleman

Hong Kong is often described as a compact and highly sophisticated piece of machinery. Every part of it works and has to work in a reliable and predictable fashion.

We have the highest population density in the urban areas. But at the same time, we have one of the highest living standards in the world. We also have one of the most efficient urban settings. The whole of our urban fabric, from public assets such as roads, water supply system, to public utilities, homes factories and offices have to be managed so that they perform to exacting standards. The orderliness and reliability of our urban life may be taken for granted by Hong Kong residents, but behind the scene, tens of thousands of professionals are out there to ensure that everything is worthy of the name of Hong Kong.

The task of managing our built environment has many aspects. Recently in Hong Kong, the integration of a number of specialist expertise to provide facility management services have caught the imagination of both the public and private sectors.

It is timely for Hong Kong to place more emphasis on the quality of managing its built assets. Hong Kong is no longer the so-called "borrowed place on borrowed time". There is no longer any expiry date on Hong Kong, and there should not be any expiry date on our built assets. All buildings and facilities are now built to last and they should be managed to last as well.

Buildings in the private sector alone in Hong Kong are estimated to have a total value of over \$6,000 billion. Any marginal enhancement of the effectiveness of these most important assets of Hong Kong, or marginal extension of their physical or economic life would mean a huge benefit to the community as a whole. In addition to economic benefits, proper management of our facilities would also ensure better health and safety for their uses.

I am therefore delighted to see and I commend the founders for the formation of the Hong Kong Institute of Facility Management, as a non-profit making organization to promote facility management as one of the professions in Hong Kong.

Professionals and professional bodies in Hong Kong have a long standing and have worked extremely hard to contribute to both the Hong Kong and international communities. In the last 20 years, Hong Kong professionals have contributed, very often as a voluntary service, to the modernization of China. In these 20 years since reform began on the mainland, Hong Kong has developed itself into the most important hub of professional expertise for application on the mainland, benefiting the Hong Kong, the mainland as well as overseas economies. I expect the Hong Kong Institute of Facility Management to soon find themselves in the same position as other professional bodies.

Lastly, I would like to congratulate all founders and members of the Institute on this auspicious occasion.

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