

Press Release
For Immediate Release
9 September 2017

**Mr Michael Wong, Secretary for Development as Guest of Honour in
The Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors 2017 Annual Conference
Turn the Challenge into an Opportunity**

The Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors (HKIS) Annual Conference 2017, with the theme ‘**Golden Opportunities in the Ageing Community and Built Environment**’, was held today at the JW Marriott Hotel, Hong Kong. The conference, which attracted over 300 participants, provided a platform for professionals from the property sector, government and academia to deliberate the challenges and opportunities for Hong Kong’s ageing community and built environment.

The HKIS was greatly honoured to have **Mr WONG Wai Lun, Michael, JP, Secretary for Development of the Hong Kong SAR Government**, as its Guest of Honour to deliver the opening remarks. “Ageing communities are common challenges for the sustainable development of many major cities. As long as the city’s leaders are prepared for the issues and opportunities an ageing population presents, Hong Kong will be able to create a better lifestyle and built environment for this demographic.”

“After decades of development, buildings are ageing at a time when Hong Kong’s senior population is set for unprecedented growth. We need to enhance our infrastructure in order to adapt and make it more liveable for all ages. Beyond those challenges, these obstacles are also creating golden opportunities for the surveying industry. Our society is being presented an opportunity to create sustainable developments and a more liveable environment for all of Hong Kong.” said **Sr Thomas HO, President of the HKIS**.

The HKIS invited experienced practitioners and experts from the government and private sector to explore topics ranging from government policy to surveying, population development, health care and management. The conference’s speakers included Mr Raymond LEE, JP, Director of Planning; Dr CHEUNG Tin Cheung, JP, Director of Buildings; Dr LAM Ching Choi,

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BBS, JP, Non-official Member, Executive Council, the Government of the HKSAR and Chairman, Elderly Commission; Ir WAI Chi Sing, GBS, JP, Managing Director, Urban Renewal Authority; Dr Jacob KAM, Managing Director – Operations & Mainland Business, MTR Corporation Limited; Prof YEOH Eng Kiong, GBS, OBE, JP, Director, The Jockey Club School of Public Health and Primary Care and Head, Division of Health System, Policy and Management, The Chinese University of Hong Kong; Mr Brian CHUANG, Head of Project and Development, Link Asset Management Limited, and Ms Elaine TAN, Director, Strategic Research (R&D), Urban Redevelopment Authority, Singapore.

In his closing remarks, **Sr Dr Tony LEUNG, Chairman of the HKIS Annual Conference Organising Committee and the HKIS Vice-President** said, “By bringing together speakers from across the industries and region, we were able to collaborate and learn from the policies and strategies in Hong Kong and Singapore. Reviewing previous approaches to ageing populations and buildings will help to create better practices for land development and community renewal in Hong Kong.”

“The HKIS expressed its gratitude towards both the guests and participants and hoped for their continued support in its future events, which, in turn, would lead to an increased level of professionalism in the industry.”

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About the Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors

Established in 1984, The Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors is the only professional organization representing the surveying profession in Hong Kong. As of 30 August 2016, the number of members reached 9,375, of which 6,216 were corporate members. The Institute's work includes setting standards for professional services and performance, establishing codes of ethics, determining requirements for admission as professional surveyors, access and award the professional qualification, and advance members' professional knowledge, technical and services standards through continuing professional development.

The Institute has an important consultative role in government policy making and on issues affecting the profession. We have advised the Government on issues such as unauthorized building works, building safety campaign, problems of property management, town planning and development strategies, construction quality and housing problems. We are working on amendments to standard forms of building contract and have issued guidance notes on floor area measurement methods.

For more details, please visit the HKIS online at <http://www.hkis.org.hk>.

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