



Chairman's Welcome Remark at Award Dinner

Christopher, Kelvin, Members and friends, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Hong Kong is going through some very dark moments. My heart goes to the victims, their families and friends. May the deceased rest in peace; may the survivors stay strong.

The tragic fire has thrown us into deep sorrow. But in the darkness, we see light. Light from the selfless sacrifices of the firefighters and front-line rescuers, from the self-initiated relief work from volunteers, from the swift actions from different government departments. Monetary donations come from all sides. The spirit of Hong Kong of looking out for each other has shone through the darkness.

There is a lot to be looked at in order to prevent the same from happening again. Lessons will be learned. And I have faith that Hong Kong will emerge from this tragedy stronger and more united.

Tonight's theme is Corporate Governance and ESG. Their importance cannot be more obvious than now. Corporate governance is about putting the proper strategy, policies and measures in place to steer growth and avoid risks, and demands transparency and accountability; ESG requires companies to not only look at profit but also their responsibilities to the society at large. These have resounding relevance like never before.

By honouring listed companies who have excelled in corporate governance and ESG, tonight serves as a timely reminder of companies' responsibilities and their need to take care of public interests by heart. Tonight's winners have all gone out of their way to strive for the interests of shareholders, employees, the community they operate in, the underprivileged and the environment. They are the best role model for us to remember no one should be left behind if we wish to achieve common and sustainable prosperity.

Back to our dinner tonight, it is a great pleasure to see so many friends and esteemed colleagues this evening. Standing before you in my new capacity as Chairman of the Chamber of Hong Kong Listed Companies—the very organisation that has championed listing issues for over two decades—fills me with both pride and gratitude.

As we count down to year-end, it is a good time to look back on 2025. If there is one word I would use to describe the past year, it is -- Surge.

Our market has surged to new heights – The bounce back in both index level and fund-raising volume is nothing short of phenomenal. Once again, Hong Kong has proven to the world its resilience. Under the supportive central government’s policy, Hong Kong welcomed a strong line of A plus H listings including the largest global IPO of 2025 from the world’s largest EV battery manufacturer. Demonstrating great market depths, Hong Kong has ascertained its status as the foremost capital formation hub of China and will continue to play a pivotal role in helping Chinese enterprises which seek international capital and business expansion.

We have also seen the surge in the progress of AI technology. Without a doubt, China has become a powerhouse in AI. Not only will Hong Kong benefit from this wave, we will also contribute to it. With our open markets, international connectivity and research rigor, Hong Kong will be an important conduit of both intellectual and financial capital to fuel the growth of AI applications across industries. Later on in the evening you will hear from one of the most influential figures in AI in this part of the world, Dr. Lee Kai-Fu. Kai-Fu is a pioneer in computing science. As the former President of Google China, he was part of China’s great technological march. Named to TIME’s 2023 list of the 100 most influential people in AI, Kai-Fu is now based in Hong Kong undertaking AI research and investments. I look forward to hearing his personal journey in AI and the role he sees Hong Kong can play.

Success, as we know, never comes easily. It demands inherent strengths, unwavering resolve, and the right timing—along with the steadfast support of the Central Government. Hong Kong has consistently demonstrated the first two, and fortunately, timing is now on our side. The recent dialogue between President Xi and President Trump has eased trade tensions. Premier Li Qiang also pledged to further open the country’s vast consumer market to international businesses, supporting globalisation. Vice Premier He Lifeng, in his recent address at the Global Financial Leaders’ Investment Summit held in Hong Kong recently, urged Hong Kong to play a role in improving the global financial governance system. This is both a challenge and an opportunity—and we should redouble our efforts and consolidate our gains.

As an organisation representing listed companies, the Chamber is always doing our part in promoting governance and transparency in order to address regulatory needs and earn investors' trust. At the same time, we advocate for balanced and practical regulations that foster market growth and development.

In pursuing these goals, the Chamber strives to be a trusted partner to the Government and regulators. I am deeply grateful for the support of the Financial Secretary, FSTB, SFC, and HKEX—many of whom are here with us tonight. Thank you for your collaboration and commitment.

I am grateful to inherit a Chamber that is in excellent standing and at a time when the market is turning the corner. I hope that the Chamber of Hong Kong Listed Companies will continue to thrive under my watch, and together with all of you take Hong Kong to new heights of success.

Thank you.