



Good evening Financial Secretary, Secretary Hui, Tim, Julia, Ladies and Gentlemen, Members and friends

It is my great pleasure to welcome you all this evening.

As we celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Chamber of Hong Kong Listed Companies, we have also celebrated the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the Hong Kong SAR. With this in mind, I can't help but reflect on how we, as an important stakeholder in Hong Kong's business and financial markets, and dedicated to its continued prosperity, can contribute more.

Hong Kong has been through some very tumultuous years, to say the least. The deep soul searching around the exact role and future of Hong Kong that each of us may have gone through of late also highlights the watershed moment Hong Kong is going through **right now**. If one looks at the history of Hong Kong, however, one cannot help but notice that it has experienced many highs and many lows. However, we come out stronger each time.

This just shows how **special** our city is. It is the **only** city in the world which is a gateway bridging a hinterland of 1.4 billion people and an economy that surpasses US\$17 trillion with the rest of the world. It operates under a unique one-country two systems with a creative and resilient work force. Our city has its own entrepreneurial spirit. Our homegrown fundamental research in the fields of drones, in the early detection of Alzheimer's disease, non-invasive pre-natal testing, and robotics technology, to name but a few, represent some of the most cutting-edge breakthroughs in the world. They could scale to a degree unimaginable before given the size of China. Hong Kong's role in innovation and in financial markets has taken on a new meaning.

As an organisation comprising listed companies of different industries, background and sizes, the Chamber is a congregation of market wisdom and experience. We are the antenna of market changes. As such, we are in a good position to offer ideas on how to take our market forward to develop sustainable competitive advantages and new capabilities.

This is what the Chamber has been doing for the past two decades, **but we too are evolving**. From our humble beginning as a communication channel between listed companies and regulators, we have taken on a broader and more forward-looking role; from defending listed issuers interests, we also proactively voice out what we believe is good for the market. From striving for the optimal listing regime and regulatory environment, admission of WVR stocks, to advocating ESG best practices and our proposition for becoming a listing hub for tech companies, we strive to be at the forefront to address key market issues critical to market quality and competitiveness. And we will continue to do so.

Of course, we cannot do our work without the support of Government bureaus, the SFC and HKEX, and many of you are here with us this evening. Through the years, you have shown continued understanding of our concerns and are willing to listen and work with us to find the best solutions for the market. Tonight, on such a momentous occasion, on behalf of the Chamber, I thank you wholeheartedly for the opportunity for candid dialogue and support. We look forward to working with you closely in the future and together pursue the shared vision of making Hong Kong even stronger and a better home for all.

I wish you all a pleasant evening.

Thank you.