



**Groundbreaking Ceremony of the International Culinary Institute
25 February 2014**

**Mr Clement CHEN Cheng-jen, SBS, JP
Chairman of VTC**

Mrs Lam, Andrew, Distinguished Guests, Media Friends, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Good morning and a warm welcome to all of you. May I take this opportunity to thank the Chief Secretary for Administration, Mrs Carrie Lam for taking time out of her busy schedule to grace this occasion.

Today marks a significant milestone in the history of Vocational Training Council (VTC) – the groundbreaking ceremony of our new training institute, International Culinary Institute (ICI), and most importantly a demonstration of strong commitment to nurture future professionals for the growing catering industry and uplift the image of Hong Kong as a paradise of international gourmet.

Over the years, we have trained up a large pool of culinary professionals supporting the growth of industry through our two member institutions, the Chinese Cuisine Training Institute (CCTI) and the Hospitality Industry Training and Development Centre (HITDC). In support of our mission of nurturing talented young chefs to achieve their full potential, we have actively forged strategic alliances with prestigious and like-minded local and overseas partners in France, Germany, Italy Japan, etc. Last year, we have signed two important Memoranda of Understanding with Hong Kong Jockey Club and Gambero Rosso Holding S.p.A., a reputable publishing and training leader in the field of Italian food, to foster strategic partnership on inviting master chefs to

Hong Kong for exchanges and culinary education respectively. Thanks to the network of our partners, we are able to provide students with plenty of opportunities to learn from experts and sharpen their culinary techniques.

The chosen site for the new purpose-built complex – Pokfulam -- is especially appropriate and uniquely suited to offering professional training of international culinary art as it is just adjacent to CCTI and HITDC. Building on our solid foundation and expertise, we firmly believe that the ICI complex to be completed in 2016 would help build Pokfulam a centre of excellence for culinary arts in the Region. Meanwhile, it is also our intention to build ICI as a natural magnet, bringing together celebrity chefs around the globe under the same roof to share experience and ideas, ultimately facilitate the growth and development of the world's culinary industry.

This new chapter of development will lead us to a long journey ahead in our pursuit of a world class culinary art education. We hope that the impact of this centre of excellence we are inaugurating today will extend beyond Hong Kong and reach many generations to come.

Now please allow me to say a few words in Cantonese to our distinguished guests.

大家好，我謹代表 VTC 多謝各位業界好友和伙伴撥冗出席國際廚藝學院動土儀式。我們亦很高興政務司司長林鄭月娥女士擔任我們的主禮嘉賓。多年來，憑藉政府及業界的支持，VTC 為餐飲及旅遊款接業培訓一代又一代具專業資格人才，對本地經濟及社會發展作出貢獻。我們期望在 2016 年建成的國際廚藝學院，能與中華廚藝學院及旅遊服務業培訓發展中心發揮更大的協同效應，將薄扶林打造成為區內餐飲及旅遊業培訓卓越中心，為香港培訓更多優秀人才，進一步促進香港的旅遊、餐飲、零售、葡萄酒等行業的發展，鞏固香港美食天堂的地位，提升香港的競爭力。

今天的動土儀式，背後有賴多方的努力及支持，當中包括我們的伙伴 - 建築署、利安顧問有限公司、太平洋建設有限公司，我們的鄰居 - 南區區議會、演藝學院及薄扶林村居民，以及國際廚藝學院督導委員會、VTC 訓練委員會、顧問及同事等，我謹在此向各位致以由衷的謝意。

最後，祝大家工作愉快，身體健康，多謝大家。