



**VTC 35th Anniversary kick-off Ceremony cum
Grand Opening of VTC Halls of Residence (Tsing Yi)
17 January 2017**

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

Andrew (Dr the Hon Andrew Leung, President of the Legislative Council),
WK (Ir Dr the Hon Lo Wai-kwok, Member of the Legislative Council),
Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, Good afternoon!

It is my great pleasure to welcome you here today. Good things always come in pairs. Today we are celebrating the 35th Anniversary of the establishment of the Vocational Training Council (VTC) and also our new Halls of Residence. May I first take this opportunity to thank our good friend the Honourable Andrew Leung, President of the Legislative Council, who witnessed the transformation of the VTC, for joining us as Guest of Honour in today's celebrations. We are also very honoured to have amongst our guests today, friends from the Consulates, VTC Honorary Fellows and many our long-standing partners from the Government, industry, academia, and NGOs to share our joy and happiness.

Today marks a significant milestone in the history of the Vocational Training Council (VTC). Thirty-five years ago, the Council was established with 5 technical institutes of 35,000 students. Today, the VTC as a leading vocational and professional education and training (VPET) provider, has 13 member institutions with a quarter of million learners every year, including 50,000 full-time students.

Since its establishment, the VTC has committed itself to offering a dynamic environment for learners to grow and excel beyond four walls. We started this New Year with students reaping five Fur Design Competition awards out of the 7 awards. It is not the awards that count. It is the spirit to excel and learn from other competitors that counts. It is

learning outside the classroom that makes vocational education unique. With this in mind, the VTC has been developing a through-train VPET articulation pathway from Diploma to Degree. Students can pursue further studies and professional training to acquire higher qualifications, and work out the best career path for themselves. We also create ample opportunities for students to engage in real-world learning and unleash their full potentials.

With the staunch support of the Government and industry partners, the VTC successfully introduced dual track VPET in Hong Kong on par with international standards. The dual track system enables us to produce more high-calibre professionals for Hong Kong and the Region. We are proud that many of our students and graduates have made valuable contribution to society with their professional skills and knowledge.

Without doubt, the impressive achievements we made are the result of the support of the government, industry partners and the collaboration among our Council Members, staff, alumni, teachers and students and different sectors of the community. Each and every one of us here today have played a part in the development of the VTC.

As we celebrate the 35th Anniversary of the VTC, we mark yet an important milestone in the growth of VTC. It was here, in 1998 that the Fok Ying Tung Hall of Residence first opened its door to overseas scholars thanks to the generous donation by the former Dr Fok. In 2013, we got the green light from the Government to redevelop Fok Ying Tung Halls of Residence - to construct a new purpose-built student Halls of Residence. We then knocked down the 3-storey building to build this 12-storey one.

This new VTC Tsing Yi Halls of Residence is indeed part of our ongoing commitment to provide students with the best possible environment for learning and personal growth. The residence halls which opens to VTC full-time degree and higher diploma students, will create dynamic communities. It will also help promote learning with fun and imagination. We hope that the new halls will become a lovely second home for students, where they can participate in various hall activities, meet new friends and reach out to peers from different parts of the world. Providing students with an enriching cultural exchange experiences is always our top priority. In this regard, I must thank members of the Consular Corps here in Hong Kong for their unwavering support all along, helping us to realise this goal. Thank you!

I also wish to thank our colleagues and students for organising today's "dual-purpose" Ceremony.

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職業訓練局 35 周年啟動禮暨職業訓練局青衣學生舍堂開幕禮。我們亦很高興我們的好朋友立法會主席梁君彥議員擔任主禮嘉賓，與我們一同見證這個重要里程。

過去 35 年來，VTC 與時並進，憑藉政府及業界的 support、VTC 榮譽院士、理事會及委員會各成員的寶貴意見，以及各同事的努力，我們為不同行業培育無數的專業人才，對本地經濟及社會發展作出貢獻。在未來，我們衷心希望大家能繼續給予我們支持及意見，讓我們能傳承卓越，成就更多專才，續創佳績。

農曆新年將至，我藉此機會祝願各位新年進步，身心健康，萬事如意，多謝大家。