



**VTC 35th Anniversary Tribute Dinner
8 December 2017**

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

Chief Executive, Secretary Yeung, Secretary Lau, Secretary Chan,
Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good evening! On behalf of the VTC I would like to welcome you all to the VTC 35th Anniversary Tribute Dinner.

We are greatly honoured by the presence of our Acting Chief Executive, distinguished members of the Government, dear partners and friends from near and afar. The Dinner tonight celebrates the 35th birthday of the VTC, and also offers us an opportunity to pay tribute to our friends and partners who have all along rendered their full support to the VTC.

Throughout the 35-year history, the VTC has gathered extensive experience in providing vocational and professional training and education (VPET). Since 1982, when its doors first opened to students, the VTC has remained faithful to our mission of nurturing talents and bringing out the best in people. With 13 member institutions and over a quarter of a million students every year, the VTC today plays a crucial role in Hong Kong's education system and makes positive impacts for the betterment of the community at large. And we are delighted that the accomplishments of the VTC are well recognised by the community.

On this special occasion, I would like to thank our many partners throughout the world who make it possible for us to achieve our mission. Through your collaboration and support, we are impacting

the lives of numerous people by providing valuable learning opportunity and empowerment. Allow me to take a couple of minutes to acknowledge the immeasurable help and support that we have received from everyone, in one way or another.

I want to start by thanking the HKSAR Government for relentless support from the setup of the VTC, the opening of various campuses and training facilities, to a series of VPET initiatives. This indeed is a great encouragement to the VTC and recognition of the VTC's effort and dedication in providing quality vocational and professional education and training.

While the VTC has continued to grow with the help from folks like our good friends at ITE Singapore who have been closely working with us in the past 20 years, our shared commitment to VPET, interdisciplinary curriculum, vibrant campus life and immersive international exposure has built a wonderfully rich international collaboration for our students and colleagues. And partnering with overseas universities like WMG, The University of Warwick, we are offering top up degree and master's degree programmes in Hong Kong which provide our students with enhanced exposure and an edge hotly sought after by employers.

I also want to thank many industry partners, philanthropists, foundations and donors here with us tonight, for their generosity and unstinting support to the VTC. Your contributions enable us to fund student scholarships, building updates, field trips, training facilities enhancement and more. All these could not happen without your help. In particular, I would like to say a big thank you to the Trust Protector for The Alistair Harvey Foundation Scholarship Mr John Ruddy who have travelled far to be with us tonight. Your whole-hearted support, loving care and mentorship for our scholars enable them to spread their wings and shine.

With all your support, many of our students have lived up to our high expectations, turning in excellent performances not only in the academic side but display of skills excellence at different local and international competitions. Recently, five HKDI graduates have

emerged with flying colours in the prestige DFA Hong Kong Young Design Talent Awards 2017 where they clinched the CreateSmart Young Design Talent Special Award, the HKDI Young Design Talent Award and the Young Design Talent Special Mention Award. It is a great encouragement for our students to go even further and strive for excellence.

Many of you may know that, I am going to bid farewell to my six-year chairmanship in the VTC. Looking back, I am really proud of what we built together. And, I am indebted to all our current and outgoing council and training board members. Their unwavering support and collective wisdom have helped us go from strength to strength.

Big event like this don't come together easily or by themselves and I am grateful for the hard work of our VTC staff members and all talented students for putting together the event and performances – as you will see – is truly remarkable and representative of everything that VTC stands for.

Tonight's dinner is meaningful as it will also raise funds for VTC Student Foundation which supports the development needs of over 50,000 full time students of VTC. I wish to express special thanks to all sponsors and donors for their support. I am heartened also that many guests had also contributed in various means. Every dollar from the heart is appreciated!

May I appeal to your continued support to help groom our younger generations and make them shine! With our concerted efforts, I am sure that the VTC will scale new heights, creating more value for stakeholders and empowering people with skills!

VTC 在過 35 年能長足發展，肩負使命，為本港以至區內培育一代又一代的優秀人才，實有賴政府、業界及所有合作伙伴一直以來的支持及協助。在此，我謹代表 VTC 再次衷心感謝大家，並希望各位合作伙伴、員工、學生和校友繼續支持我們。我深信有你們與我們並肩而行，定能一同更進高峰。多謝各位。