

Speech by CE at International Women's Day Reception 2025

Following is the speech by the Chief Executive, Mr John Lee, at the International Women's Day Reception 2025 today (March 8):

[illegible]

a`S@¶a½i¼æ^'á¾é«~è^¨ä»Šæ-¥ā±ºā,-
ç”±ç%¹āŒæ”ìāºœā’Ďā©|ā¥³ăº<â™āš”ā“ïæfè^‰ē¾|çš,,é...’æfî¼Ďē^†ā`S@¶āĎ,€āŒæ...¶ç¥
Œāæ<és>ā©|ā¥³ç^-ã€,

ä>šæ-ŷçš,,é...’æŷfç¾¾èš³è-^èŋfi¾¾æ>†àŋ^âŋ,,ç•çâ^ŷçš,,âŷ³æšçç²¾¾è<±âš,âššèççŋ“
 âš<ææ%âŋŷâŋâŋâŋæ~âšçç¾¾^ç¾¾•æ•’âŷ³i¾¾çâŋ>â-
 ŋâŷ¾¾é‘âšŋi¾¾æ>šæ-ŷæ†æ%è²è-ŷæ~âšçèè<±âššçâ•¾¾â¹-i¾¾æé|™æ±Ÿâŷ¾¾é‘âšŋi¾¾âŋ|âŷ³æ~é
 |™æ¾¾ç™¾¾â±•çš,,é†ŋè|ŋâš>é†ŋi¾¾æ^’âè-æ-
 æâŋ’â...æ¾¾âŷ³âš«è†æ•-i¾¾ççŷŋâšçâŋ|âŷ³ç-çâç«æ”,i¾¾ŋ

ä»Šă¹‘æ~è0-ă0^ăă<ç-ă>>æ-iă-ç•Ŧă0|ăŦ³ăăşæfăă”ăŦ-ă0-ă0-é-<30ă”ă¹’ăŦ,ă
 ,ă¹0ă¹0ă⁰”ă¹’i¼Ŧă¼+è+ăă...”ç0f189ăŦ<ăă<ă0Ŧă”Ŧăă”ă0Ŧçş,,ă»fèi”é½Şè0şăŦ-ă0-i¼Ŧăă...±
 ă0ŦééŦšé0Ză⁰+ăă...ææé+Ŧç”<çŦ‘æ,,0ç¼0çş,,ăŦšăŦ-ă0-ă0fè”ŦăŦ<ă”ŦăŦšéiŦă<•çŦ±é ~ăŦ<i¼
 Ŧăă”æ•™è,²ăŦ0çŦ”æiŦăŦ0è²şçă0ăŦ0é~²æçæş’ăš>ç-
 %12ăŦ<é+0è|0é ~ăŦŦă00ă+0èiŦă<•ç>0æ”™i¼Ŧă^+ă”|æ00é<~ă0|ăŦ³ăă”ă½0ă”Ŧă”|ç0¼ăŦšă^
 Ŧă¹³ç-
 %ăŦ,éŦ™æ-iăşæfăă”ç•Ŧă™,æ~è0-ă0^ăă<ă0²ă,Şè|0æ”iæŦăăşăŦ0ă0ă0æ•,æŦăăşçş,,ç>>æ
 æfi¼Ŧă”+ăă<és>çş¼æfçş,,ăŦšă^Ŧă¹³ç%ă0<æŦă,Ŧă,Şă-ă0^ésZăŦ,

[illegible][illegible]

æ^ 'çš,,ç®iæ²»åð~éššä, -
æøæä, fä½0å¥³å±æé••i¼4æ½²"15å½0å±æé••è¿'å0šæ•, i¼4ææ"ä¾¼æ~æ•å±±å•0è²¬ç0å0ä¹<ä, -
æøæé«~åæ, å¥³æçšæ±æè0•å...-å<™å"i çš,,æ"ä¾¼<å•²é0"ç™¾å^å±±¹<å>å00ä¹0i¼4æèæææ"ååøæå...
¬å<™å"i çš'šå^¥ææé«~çš,,å, ä»»çš~æ>, é••ç•¶ä, i¼4ææ'æøæå...-
æ^0æ~å¥³åf«i¼4æøæä»¥æ^'å¾¼^æ,,ÿè¬0å¥³æçšå...-å<™å"i åæ, é|™æ, -åð~ææææ"ååøææ•^çž±æ
0æž'å00ä, -
å×šå¹'ä¾¼å±¹å^¬å...ç0fä, %ç"²i¼4æå¥³æçšå...-å<™å°0å"i çµ•å°0åšŸä, 0å0-æ²'ææ,

Today, as we celebrate International Women's Day, we also mark the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. Adopted at the United Nations' Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, in 1995, this milestone document became the key global policy agenda on gender equality.

It's been a remarkable 30 years since then, in human development, in economic progress and, most importantly, in promoting women's development.

Today, Hong Kong is home to some 4.1 million female – that's over 54 per cent of our population. Seven of my 15 Directors of Bureau are women – that's almost half of them – and a whopping 60 per cent of our top civil servants are female. Over half of Hong Kong's accountants and lawyers are female, while some 40 per cent of our managers are women.

Yes, women are the backbone of our society – they include leaders, innovators, caregivers, change-makers, and more. From boardrooms to classrooms, from workspaces to marketplaces, the women of Hong Kong continue to break barriers and inspire future generations. Your resilience fuels our progress. Your vision shapes our future. And your leadership drives our success.

The Government is dedicated to promoting gender equality, and empowering women in every facet of life. Since taking office, I have established the Women Empowerment Fund in 2023, turning ideas into action, and aspirations into achievements.

The Government launched the first Family and Women Development Summit last year, igniting discussions that will shape policies for the years to come. We created a one-stop family and women information portal, ensuring easy access to essential resources.

This year, we are proud to introduce "She Inspires" – a mentorship programme led by female leaders, designed to nurture the next generation of female trailblazers and pioneers.

But that's not the half of it. When women rise, society thrives. Together with the Women's Commission, we will foster an inclusive, opportunity-filled Hong Kong, where every woman, every girl can dream big, aim high, and realise her full potential.

I wish you all a joyous, inspiring and empowering International Women's Day. Keep rising. Continue to make history. Thank you!