

# Speech by CS at Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors Annual Dinner 2018 (English only)

Following is the speech by the Chief Secretary for Administration, Mr Matthew Cheung Kin-chung, at the Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors Annual Dinner 2018 this evening (November 13):

Dick (President of the Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors, Mr Dick Kwok), Winnie (Vice-President of the Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors and Chairlady of the Annual Dinner Organising Committee, Ms Winnie Shiu), distinguished guests, government colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

Good evening. It gives me great pleasure to join you all at this annual event of the Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors (HKIS) to celebrate the achievements made by professionals and practitioners in the surveying field year after year. This is the second HKIS event that I attended within the past two weeks. I am most pleased to be the Guest of Honour of the "Create Your District" Competition 2018 award presentation ceremony on October 27 and of this landmark event of the Institute tonight.

First of all, I would like to express my warmest appreciation to the HKIS and the surveying profession for your sterling support and contribution to the continuous development of Hong Kong.

"Connect and Excel" is the new tagline that we have just adopted for our Brand Hong Kong campaign overseas. It defines how Hong Kong's high degree of connectivity, globally and with the Mainland of China, helps propel people and businesses to excellence in their chosen fields.

The tagline "connect and excel" also applied to the surveying industry. Thanks to the rigorous professional standards set by the HKIS and industry players in Hong Kong, we are proud to enjoy high quality services provided by our pool of surveyors renowned for their determination to drive the sector to continue to "excel" by setting high-quality standards, establishing codes of ethics and promoting continuous professional development.

Our surveying practitioners are well "connected" with their counterparts around the globe. In particular, the HKIS has an established presence in the international arena and has entered into reciprocal agreements with professional surveying and valuation institutes in the United Kingdom, Australia and Singapore recognising the counterpart's member's qualifications. In addition, the HKIS is a member of various leading international surveying organisations.

Our surveyors not only excel in their professional practice, but are equally passionate about public policies and the well-being of the Hong Kong community. Over the years, we have benefited from the insightful advice of

the profession on a wide spectrum of issues including town planning, housing policies, building quality, and land management. The surveying profession also join hands with the local community such as offering commendable professional support to NGOs on the Community Housing Movement to help develop Hong Kong into a more liveable, competitive and sustainable place.

To this end, we look forward to the continuous support of the building industry including the HKIS and the wider community at large. As the Chief Executive announced in her second Policy Address last month, the improvement of livelihood and the development of the economy and transport infrastructure of our society hinge on land resources, without which all strategies or plans will end up in empty talk. Meeting the demand for land and housing has always been one of our greatest challenges, and continues to top the agenda of the Government. This is a daunting task but we need to join hands with all quarters of society to build a housing ladder to rekindle the hope of families in different income brackets to have adequate housing to enjoy life in this city.

Ladies and gentlemen, the Government will continue to spare no effort in building a better and brighter Hong Kong and continue to work with all sectors including the HKIS in charting the way forward.

On this note, I wish you all a very enjoyable evening. Thank you very much.

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## **0x spleen sample detected with excessive Clostridium perfringens**

The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department today (November 13) announced that an ox spleen sample was found to contain excessive *Clostridium perfringens*, a pathogen. The CFS is following up on the case.

"The CFS collected the abovementioned sample from a restaurant in Sai Wan for testing under its routine Food Surveillance Programme. The test result showed that the sample contained *Clostridium perfringens* at a level of 90 000 per gram. According to the Microbiological Guidelines for Food, ready-to-eat food that contains more than 10 000 *Clostridium perfringens* per gram is considered unsatisfactory," a CFS spokesman said.

*Clostridium perfringens* is widely distributed in the environment. Foods prepared in bulk, especially cooked meat and poultry dishes, and stored at ambient temperatures with a long cooling period after cooking are at high risk. Consuming food contaminated with excessive *Clostridium perfringens* may cause symptoms such as abdominal pain and diarrhoea.

The spokesman said that the CFS had informed the restaurant concerned of the test result. The vendor has already stopped selling the affected kind of food according to the CFS' advice and will carry out thorough cleaning of the premises. The CFS has also provided health education on food safety and hygiene for the person-in-charge and staff of the restaurant.

The CFS will continue to follow up on the incident and take appropriate action to safeguard food safety and public health.

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## Speech by FS at Hong Kong Construction Materials Association Annual Dinner (English only)

Following is the speech by the Financial Secretary, Mr Paul Chan, at the Hong Kong Construction Materials Association Annual Dinner today (November 13):

Joseph (Chairman of the Hong Kong Construction Materials Association (HKCMA), Mr Joseph Chee), Ambrose (Chief Executive of the HKCMA, Mr Ambrose Linn), distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

Good evening.

I am delighted to be here with you tonight for the inaugural annual dinner of the Hong Kong Construction Materials Association.

In fact, I am no stranger to the Association. Two years ago, as the then Secretary for Development, I joined you for your anniversary cocktail reception.

I keep coming back for good reason. We all know what "materials" mean to you and your industry. And there's another dictionary definition of "material", which is, "having real importance or great consequences". Your association, comprising industry players who provide the materials for the construction industry, is indeed critically important to the future of Hong Kong.

The numbers certainly underline that. The construction industry contributes more than 5 per cent to Hong Kong's GDP, while employing about 9 per cent of our workforce.

The results are visible, and visibly impressive. The Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge, now the world's longest sea crossing, was commissioned only last month. The previous month, the Express Rail Link, connecting Hong Kong

to the national high speed railway network, opened for business – and pleasure as well. Next year, the Liangtang/ Heung Yuen Wai Boundary Crossing Facility will be up and running.

From a regional perspective, these links enhance our overall connectivity with the Mainland. In particular, they deepen our integration with the Greater Bay Area, while strengthening our singular position as Asia's world city.

During the construction stage, these infrastructure projects expand employment opportunities. And, upon completion, they boost economic prospects and improve our overall living environment.

It's not surprising, then, that the Government's annual infrastructural investment has soared from about HK\$20 billion to more than HK\$80 billion over the past decade. In the coming five years, the contract value of public and private construction works in Hong Kong altogether is estimated to reach HK\$250 billion to HK\$300 billion per year.

One of the upcoming major infrastructure projects we have in our plan is of course the Lantau Tomorrow Vision.

The plan will see artificial islands developed in stages. These could provide about 260 000 to 400 000 housing units, with about 70 per cent as public housing, accommodating a population ranging from about 700 000 to as much as 1.1 million.

We will also build Hong Kong's third core business district on the artificial islands, creating some 340 000 employment opportunities.

We therefore need your help, to be sure. A stable supply of quality construction materials is essential for the upcoming reclamation projects – and for the many other infrastructure projects in the planning stage or on the horizon that will give shape and substance to Hong Kong in this 21st century.

The future must be built on productivity, on quality, safety and environmental performance. This demands innovation – from you, and from the construction industry as a whole.

That's why the Government now advocates "Construction 2.0", smart movement towards automation, industrialisation and digitalisation.

I'm pleased to hear that your industry has been developing, and promoting, the use of environmental and sustainable construction materials.

The adoption of manufactured sand to replace natural sand in cement plastering and reclamation work is a good case in point. M-sand, a by-product of aggregate production, is an environmentally friendly material in comparison with natural sand.

Since last month, the Development Bureau mandated the use of M-sand for plastering, rendering and screeding in new public works contracts. Working with the materials industry, the Government is exploring a wider application of M-sand and other green materials, including recycled glass and bitumen, in Hong Kong construction.

I understand that your Association, working with a Rebar Processing Solution Committee, is promoting the use of off-site steel prefabrication. That's a step in the right direction. And the recently launched HK\$1 billion Construction Innovation and Technology Fund will support the wider application of innovative construction methods and technology. Indeed, the use of prefabricated steel products is a designated item under the Fund.

Ladies and gentlemen, I value very much our partnership with the Hong Kong Construction Materials Association and with you all. I look forward to a stable supply of quality materials for the benefit of the Hong Kong construction industry, and the continuing prosperity of Hong Kong. Together, we will excel.

I know you will enjoy this very special evening. And I wish you the best of business in the coming year.

Thank you.

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## **Yau Sang Galvanizing (Hot-Dip) Company Limited fined \$50,000 for illegal wastewater discharge again**

The factory of Yau Sang Galvanizing (Hot-Dip) Company Limited at Yuen Long Industrial Estate was again prosecuted for illegal discharge of industrial wastewater into the communal sewer. It was fined \$50,000 by Fanling Magistrates' Courts today (November 13) for contravening the Water Pollution Control Ordinance (WPCO) for the third time. The factory committed the same offence this June and August and was convicted and fined a total of \$55,000.

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) staff conducted an inspection this June and found that the factory concerned did not operate its sewage treatment facility properly, resulting in the discharge of industrial wastewater into the communal sewer. The EPD staff then collected wastewater samples for analysis and the results showed that the concentrations of iron and zinc were both 93 milligrams/litre, which exceeded the upper limits of the WPCO licence by three and 18 times respectively. After investigation and evidence gathering, the EPD initiated prosecution against the company.

Following a series of law enforcement actions, no illegal discharge of excessive wastewater by the factory was found at present. The EPD will continue to seriously follow up on the repeated illegal discharge of the factory. The department will also step up inspections and strengthen enforcement actions, in order to combat persistent violations.

An EPD spokesman said that members of the industry should properly collect and treat industrial wastewater to ensure that the effluent discharge meets the standards as set out in the WPCO licence before being discharged into communal sewers. Discharging industrial wastewater with high heavy metal concentration will affect the operation of the Government's sewage treatment works. Under the WPCO, anyone who discharges commercial or industrial wastewater without proper treatment commits an offence. Offenders are liable to a maximum fine of \$200,000 and six months' imprisonment. A maximum fine of \$400,000 and six months' imprisonment may be imposed on subsequent convictions.

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## CHP investigates suspected food poisoning outbreak

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health is today (November 13) investigating a suspected outbreak of food poisoning affecting 10 persons, and reminded the public to maintain personal, food and environmental hygiene to prevent food-borne diseases.

The patients, comprising seven men and three women aged 30 to 53, developed abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea and fever about nine to 13 hours after having a dinner banquet at a food premises in Kowloon Bay on November 9.

Six of them sought medical attention. Among them, one required hospitalisation but has been discharged. All affected persons are in a stable condition.

"We have alerted the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department to the incident and investigations are ongoing," a spokesman for the CHP said.

To prevent food-borne diseases, members of the public are reminded to maintain personal, food and environmental hygiene at all times. When dining out:

- Patronise only reliable and licensed restaurants;
- Avoid eating raw seafood;
- Be a discerning consumer in choosing cold dishes, including sashimi, sushi and raw oysters, at a buffet;

- Ensure food is thoroughly cooked before eating during a hot pot or barbecue meal;
- Handle raw and cooked foods carefully and separate them completely during the cooking process;
- Use two sets of chopsticks and utensils to handle raw and cooked food;
- Do not patronise illegal food hawkers;
- Drink boiled water;
- Do not try to use salt, vinegar, wine and wasabi to kill bacteria as they are not effective; and
- Always wash hands before eating and after going to the toilet.