

Welcome Speech

By Mr Andrew Long, Chairman of Business Environment Council

Distinguished Guests, Ladies & Gentlemen – Good Morning.

I have what is the easiest, and you will be delighted to hear, the shortest speech to make today. I am the Appetiser before the Main courses and today you will receive an absolute feast of speakers.

On behalf of the Business Environment Council and the Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management Hong Kong, I am delighted and privileged to welcome you all to the first conference in EnviroSeries 2005 – Living Under Blue Skies – Power and Transport Infrastructure in the Pearl River Delta.

I myself have been involved with the Business Environment Council for around three years and some 12 or so months ago, recognising the danger in becoming sucked into too many environmental issues given our relatively small secretariat, we agreed at the BEC Board level to focus on three CORE issues, addressing other environmental topics on an ad hoc basis as necessary. These three included the Harbour, about which you will be hearing more in weeks to come, sustainable buildings and today's topic, Air Pollution.

Today, we are going to put Air Pollution, Sustainable Development and Cross-Boundary Cooperation into focus. Speakers will highlight the key challenges in achieving emission control targets in the Pearl River Delta whilst delivering a secure, reliable and affordable power supply and a comprehensive transport network that facilitates free trade and economic development on both sides of the HKSAR boundary.

We are honored to have Mr. K.K. Kwok, Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works Bureau (Environment), HKSAR Government as our keynote speaker, and to have him supported by a strong program of speakers including experts from government, academia, industry and the business community.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our sponsors for their valuable contribution:

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We would also like to thank our 17 supporting organizations whose names are listed in our Programme.

Last but not the least, our warmest thanks go to CIWEM HK for co-organizing this conference with the Business Environment Council.

Now may I wish you a most enjoyable conference and I would ask Mr KK Kwok to give the Keynote speech. Thank you.