



Welcome Speech **By Mr Andrew Long, Chairman of Business Environment Council**

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen – Good Morning.

On behalf of the Business Environment Council, I am delighted to welcome you to the second conference in EnviroSeries 2005 - Sustainable Waste Management: Policies, Partnerships and Prospects. It is good to see so many of you here and I hope that we haven't disrupted you too much by having this early start today.

On to the topic of the day, landfill exhaustion is a reality we will face within the next decade, making waste management a pressing technical, social and political issue in Hong Kong. In order to provide a sustainable waste management solution, it is important to educate the community to accept the realities that we must all take greater responsibility and stronger measures to avoid waste. We must accept that we must pay for waste and that by not doing so we are not avoiding cost. That we must trust the experts in delivering practical, cost-effective, safe, reliable and environmentally sound solutions.

In short, we must all play our part. In planning this conference the sense of urgency has been clear. Today you will hear from a collection of renowned speakers who will outline and share their views on the future solid waste management policy, and will provide an overview of the technologies, practices and public-private partnerships required to deliver sustainable waste management. I encourage you to not only listen to their views, but to share them across those partners that need to know, from Legco to the District Councils, among business and the broader community.

We are honoured to have Mr. K. K. Kwok, Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transportation and Works (Environment) and Director of Environmental Protection, HKSAR Government as our honourable guest, and closing speaker to share his insights from the government perspective. He is at this time preparing a critically important White Paper on Municipal Solid Waste. A roadmap that will need support from all sectors.

We are all important actors in the required waste management transformation, and I hope that today's discussions will provide an opportunity for you to express your support, and your concerns in a manner that helps Hong Kong move plans forward.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our speakers, sponsors and supporting organizations for their valuable contribution.

Now may I wish you a most enjoyable conference.

Thank you.