



World Business Council for
Sustainable Development

Welcome Speech at Business Leaders Luncheon
at the Hong Kong Club on 2 November 2004 by
Ms Katy Lam, Deputy Chair, The Business Environment Council

Good afternoon, Mr President, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Business Environment Council (BEC), it gives me great pleasure and honour to welcome Mr Bjorn Stigson, President of World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) as our guest speaker at this Business Leaders Luncheon. Equally, I am very delighted and grateful that you have taken the time to join us here today to hear Mr Stigson's views on the global challenge and role of the business community in pursuing sustainable development.

Allow me to give a brief introduction of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development. It is a coalition of 175 international companies united by a shared commitment to sustainable development via the three pillars of economic growth, ecological balance and social progress. Under Mr Stigson's leadership, the Council has expanded into a global network across 50 countries through regional partners including the Business Environment Council in Hong Kong, involving over 1,000 business leaders globally.

Mr Stigson also serves on the board of a variety of international companies. Currently, he is a member of advisory councils to, among others, Unilever, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and the Government of the People's Republic of China. He is also a member of the newly established board of the Global Reporting Initiative and the International Risk Governance Council.

We are particularly pleased to have Mr Stigson here today since both WBCSD and BEC share a vision and commitment to promote sustainable development. Both endeavor to



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engage their members and the wider business community to encourage the uptake of environmentally and socially responsible practices. Both believe that achieving a triple bottom line - one that satisfies profits, people and planet is a mission possible - one that ensures business competitiveness and sustainability.

Sustainable development is often seen as a global challenge remote from Hong Kong businesses, but I can assure you that the role of Hong Kong's businesses in regional air pollution, energy and water consumption, building and development, transport and in the pursuit of sound corporate governance in Asia, to name but a few of the pressing issues, is substantial.

Without further ado, may I hand over to Mr Stigson.
Mr Stigson, please.

About Business Environment Council (www.bec.org.hk)

The Business Environment Council is a leading partner for sustainable development for business and industry in Hong Kong. Since 1989, it has engaged its members and the wider business community to encourage the uptake of environmentally and socially responsible practices through work groups, skills development, publications, benchmarking and advisory services.