

“Ethics – The Core Value of Leadership” – 2007 Directors’ Forum
14 September 2007

Vote of Thanks by Mr Kenneth TING, SBS, JP
Chairman, Hong Kong Ethics Development Advisory Committee, ICAC

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am most delighted to say a few words on behalf of the Hong Kong Ethics Development Centre, the coordinating organisation of the event, to express our sincere gratitude to our distinguished speakers, facilitators, super panel members and guests for sharing and stimulating invaluable insights on today’s important subject – “Ethics – The Core Value of Leadership”. I have thoroughly enjoyed the various morning sessions of this Forum. I trust that you have also found the deliberations inspiring and useful. In particular, I hope that we can all bring home and remember today’s logo which uses the eye-catching letter “E”: -

Some of you have mentioned to me that the letter “E” reminds you of **“Enron”**. For sure, the Enron case and many other corporate failures send one clear and loud message - a corporation running by people without ethics is doomed to fail and all the people involved, be they top corporate leaders, their professional advisers, have to pay for what they do. As corporate leaders, we must guard against history repeating itself; we must learn the lessons from these disasters; and we must take preventive measures. So the letter “E” may serve as an icon of evils but with our efforts “E” or “Ethics” becomes a virtue.

Of course, the letter “E” also signifies **“Ethical Leadership”** which is every corporate leader’s duties. Today’s corporate leaders like you must lead your staff to live up to this core value to ensure sustainable business success.

Allow me to add, as Chairman of the Hong Kong Ethics Development Advisory Committee, the letter “E” also represents **“EDC”** – that is, the Hong Kong Ethics Development Centre. The EDC is a non-profit making organisation established in 1995 under the auspices of the ICAC to promote business ethics as the first line of defence against corruption. You will find

a pamphlet in the folder introducing the full range of free consultancy services provided by the EDC for the business community. Today's Forum is just the beginning of this directors' ethics training programme series. In the months to come, the EDC will consolidate the experience gained from this inaugural event, ride on its momentum and organise subsequent seminars to keep company directors abreast of new developments and requirements. So remember this letter "E" – the EDC will be your best partner in practicing ethics.

Ladies and gentlemen, as the Forum is drawing to close, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the thirteen co-organisers and members of the Organising Committee for their efforts and contribution in planning this first-ever coordinated training programme on directors' ethics. Last but not least, I must also applaud you for your presence today that marks the success of the Forum and demonstrates your support to the promotion of ethical leadership. May I call on you for your staunch commitment to uphold ethics as the core value of your leadership. Let's join hands together to put ethical governance into practice so that we can continue to enjoy an honest market and a level playing field to attract business to Hong Kong. Thank you.