

Welcome Remarks at the Opening Ceremony of Asia-Pacific ASEAN Green Deal Centre (APAGDC)

26 March 2024

Fung Yiu King Hall, 4/F, S H Ho Academic Building, North Campus, HSUHK

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning and welcome to the opening of the Asia-Pacific ASEAN Green Deal Centre (APAGDC) of The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong. It is my honor to address you today as we embark on a transformative journey toward a greener and more sustainable future for generations to come.

APAGDC is more than just a centre for learning and development; it stands as a beacon of hope, innovation, and collaboration. Our mission is to foster a sustainable and environmentally conscious society, and we firmly believe that education is the key to achieving this vision. Today, as we inaugurate this remarkable green initiative, we also eagerly anticipate forging strong partnerships with the Asia-Pacific and ASEAN regions, working together to shape a greener future.

Our Hang Seng University green campus stands as a testament to our commitment to environmental stewardship. Here we cultivate knowledge, inspire creativity, and instil a deep understanding of sustainable practices. By adopting extensive bamboo material and features, incorporating green technologies, harnessing renewable energy sources, and implementing eco-friendly infrastructure, we aim to establish a model that will inspire campuses worldwide. Hang Seng University will serve as a living laboratory, showcasing the possibilities of sustainable living and nurturing the next generation to become true custodians of our planet.

At APAGDC, we recognize the pressing urgency of the global climate crisis. Through interdisciplinary collaborations, we will explore sustainable solutions, develop green technologies, and provide evidence-based insights to policymakers, businesses, and communities at large.

However, we understand that our efforts extend far beyond the confines of APAGDC. Collaboration and synergy are at the heart of our approach. That is why we are wholeheartedly committed to joining forces with other centres of the University, such as the Institute for Youth Sustainability Leadership, the Research Centre on ESG, the Centre for Management as a Liberal Art and the Chinese Family Succession Research Centre, to promote green and sustainability education. By pooling our resources, expertise, and experiences, we can amplify our impact and drive meaningful change across borders.

The challenges we face are indeed monumental, but within them lie tremendous opportunities. The Asia-Pacific and ASEAN regions boast diverse cultures, rich traditions, and vast knowledge. By harnessing this collective wisdom, we can create innovative solutions that address the unique environmental challenges we encounter. APAGDC is here to foster dialogue, exchange ideas, and build bridges of cooperation, paving the way for a sustainable and prosperous future.

I would also like to take a moment to express our gratitude and honour for the gracious presence of His Highness Sheikh Ali Al Maktoum, Member of the Ruling Family of Dubai, and his commitment to join hands with APAGDC in promoting Green Deal activities.

As President of Hang Seng University, I stand before you today with a profound sense of responsibility and hope. I call upon governments, businesses, academic institutions, and individuals across the Asia-Pacific and ASEAN regions to unite in our shared mission. Let us work hand in hand, transcending boundaries and differences, to protect our planet for the sake of future generations.

In conclusion, I express my deepest gratitude to each and every one of you who have contributed to the establishment of APAGDC. Your support and dedication have transformed our vision into a tangible reality.

Thank you, and with great excitement, let us embark on this remarkable journey toward a sustainable and prosperous future together.