



**Welcome address by Mr Anthony Wu, JP,
Chairman, Hospital Authority
at the Hospital Authority Convention 2007
on 7 May 2007**

Dr Ma, Dr Chow, Mr Solomon, distinguished guests, delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning. On behalf of the Hospital Authority, I would like to extend a very warm welcome to all of you to the opening of this year's Hospital Authority Convention. We are greatly honoured by the presence of Dr Ma Xiao-wei, Vice Minister of Health of the People's Republic of China, and Dr York Chow, Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

It is also our great pleasure to bring together eminent experts from many corners of the world to share their experiences, expertise and the latest advances with our Convention delegates. I would also like to extend our welcome to the President of the Asian Hospital Federation, Dr Yamamoto, and other member countries' presidents and representatives of the Asian Hospital Federation. And I must thank our speakers, sponsors and colleagues for making this annual event possible.

This year's theme is "Innovating for Health". I am sure the exchanges and discussions will provide plenty of food for thought for healthcare professionals, managers and policymakers here and overseas who are with us at this Convention. Innovation is what makes a healthcare system tick. With Hong Kong's clearly at a crossroad, the Hospital Authority must keep modernising and innovating to contribute to a sustainable way forward.

Our doctors, nurses, allied health professionals and other staff are the most valuable asset of the Hospital Authority. Improvement and modernisation of public healthcare are not possible without their collective wisdom, enormous dedication and professionalism. I firmly believe that a key part of our "people first" culture is the continuous and effective communication between management and staff, notably through the "walk the talk"

practice by management to enhance mutual understanding. Staff needs are close to our heart; staff well-being is at the forefront of our mind.

At the Hospital Authority, we deliver quality healthcare through teamwork. Staff partner at all levels of work and together play a vital and much appreciated role in guarding our population's health. With the assistance of the Health and Medical Development Advisory Committee, the HKSAR Government has put forward a shared vision — to ensure that the community will continue to enjoy a high quality healthcare service which is sustainable, affordable and accessible to all. To this end, the Hospital Authority very much hopes to work more closely and innovatively with patients, the private healthcare sector, non-governmental organisations and other stakeholders. Future initiatives may point the way to a system which offers patients a range of choices with part-subsidies.

Finally I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude to the Government for its able leadership and increased funding for the Hospital Authority and to pay tribute to our 52,000-strong team for their contributions. No doubt there is much to be done within the Hospital Authority and, even more so, in Hong Kong's healthcare arena. I am confident that with the staunch support from all our partners, we will be able to rise to the challenge and continue to provide excellent care to the people of Hong Kong.

I hope you all have a stimulating and rewarding time at our Convention. For those from outside Hong Kong, I also wish you an enjoyable stay here.

Thank you very much.

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