



**Welcome address by Mr Anthony T Y Wu, GBS, JP  
Chairman, Hospital Authority  
at the Hospital Authority Convention 2010  
on 10 May 2010**

Chief Executive, Vice Minister Zhang, Dr Chow, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

Welcome, a very warm welcome to the 2010 Hospital Authority Convention. It is our great honour to have with us this morning Mr Donald Tsang, Dr Zhang Mao and Dr York Chow. Thank you.

This Convention is a major conference for healthcare professionals in the Asia Pacific region. It has become a wonderful tradition of HA to bring together distinguished experts from around the world to share their experiences and the latest advances with our Convention delegates. This would not have been possible without the valuable support of numerous speakers, sponsors and colleagues. A special thank you to you all.

We have indeed had a very challenging two years since our last Convention in 2008. Shortly after that, it was the Sichuan earthquake and we quickly dispatched a team of over 60 people to Chengdu to help with the rescue operation and to provide rehabilitation services thereafter. Our staff did an excellent job and both the Central and Provincial Governments sang to our praises. We have with us today five victims from the Earthquake who with the help of Stand Tall and our medical professionals have so bravely stood up again after losing their limbs and we salute them.

Then it was the medical coverage for the 2008 Olympic and Paralympic Equestrian Events. All staff involved worked very long hours during that period showing professionalism, commitment and passion. Their performance won ample local and international recognition and praises.

What followed was the melamine-tainted milk product crisis and we set up the necessary structure and protocols within days and have successfully provided screening, assessment and medical services to 57,000 children. I am truly impressed with the performance of our people in handling these very difficult tasks.

Just when we had our sigh of relief on melamine and were getting ready for our 2009 Convention, we had our very first confirmed case of human swine flu on 1 May 2009 in Hong Kong, the weekend before our Convention which we then had to cancel. We swiftly put in contingency measures including the opening of Designated Flu Clinics. Front-line colleagues and others in the HA community worked quietly and selflessly supporting our response to this pandemic. The timely and decisive move by the Government has successfully managed the outbreak of H1N1 in Hong Kong and I truly believe that Hong Kong has done exceptionally well in this regard.

HK hosted the East Asian Games in December, 2009 and we provided medical support to the Games. Our staff brought their professionalism into full play and made HA part of the legend.

We have an extremely challenging two years since our last Convention but with everyone of us working together as a team to serve the people of Hong Kong with love and care, we have risen to the challenges, sailed through some very rough water and have grown from strength to strength. I am confident that our commitment to high quality patient care will always be appreciated by the people of Hong Kong. I do want to take this opportunity to thank all my colleagues who are our most important assets for their invaluable contributions.

The Administration has named healthcare as one of the six economic drivers for Hong Kong and I cannot agree more. We have top professionals here in Hong Kong delivering world class services to our patients and there is no reason why we cannot unite our medical professionals both from the private and public sector to work together to create Asia's Medical Centre right here in Hong Kong focusing on state-of-the-art medical services. This will attract top talents from the world to come here which will further enhance our services and

deliverables. The supply chain for healthcare is indeed unlimited and together with the integration with the Pearl River Delta, this is certainly an avenue that Hong Kong should not forego easily and I am sure with every one of us working together, we will be there.

We will be celebrating our 20th birthday this winter. We will reflect on what we have achieved in the last 20 years and will continue to find ways to serve the community the best we can, to make our staff happy and the people of HK healthy.

Finally I would like to thank the Chief Executive for his pledge to increase Government expenditure on healthcare to 17 percent of recurrent Government expenditure by 2012 and to Dr York Chow for his unwavering support.

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