



**Welcome Address
by
Mr Anthony T Y Wu, GBS, JP
Chairman, Hospital Authority
at the Hospital Authority Convention 2011
on 7 June 2011**

Chief Secretary, Minister Chen, Dr Chow, distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

Welcome, a very warm welcome to the Hospital Authority Convention 2011.

We celebrated our 20th birthday last December. When we reflect on what we have done in the last twenty years, everyone of us should feel very proud of what we have achieved. We have reformed and enhanced Hong Kong's healthcare services from what you have seen in the award winning movie "Echoes of the Rainbow" (歲月神偷) to one of the best in the world. Whilst it seems that medical incidents occur quite frequently, our level of undesirable outcome rate is well below the WHO global indicator. Last year, I was appointed by the Ministry of Health of the PRC as an Advisor for its health care reform. This is a real honour,

not for me but for everyone at the Hospital Authority in recognition of our excellent work and outstanding achievements.

In the last twenty years, we have indeed faced countless challenges, SARS, Bird Flu, Human Swine Flu, anti-WTO rally, Melamine-tainted milk products, Equestrian events for the 2008 Olympics and Paralympics, East Asian Games 2009, the Sichuan Earthquake and the heartbreaking Manila incident, just to name a few. With 60,000 colleagues working selflessly together hand-in-hand, shoulder-to-shoulder, we rose up to the challenges and came out a stronger organization. HA could not have achieved what we have achieved without the dedication, commitment and hard work of our colleagues and the unwavering support of the Administration. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the Government and everyone who has worked for HA in the last twenty years. You have healed patients not only with drugs and medical equipments, but also with compassion and care. THANK YOU.

With an ageing population, increase in chronic diseases and advance in medical technologies, our colleagues are faced with unprecedented heavy workload. You may ask why advance in medical technology has increased workload for our front line staff. Well, let's take a robotic surgery for prostate cancer as an example. This

modern surgery offers more precision, smaller incisions and less blood loss during the operation reducing transfusion from 65% to 5%. The average post operation hospital stay is also reduced from 18 days to 7 days. However, the total operation time is doubled not counting the preparation time and the consumable costs is 10 times that of the conventional method. The patient is receiving services of a much higher quality than before but that means a lot more work for our front line staff.

Whilst we are trying our very best to improve the working conditions for our colleagues, demand is on the rise and it takes time to increase the supply of medical professionals locally. We therefore need to collaborate with the private sector and other institutions to address these issues together for the benefit of the people of Hong Kong. In the short term, we need to recruit medical professionals from the private sector and overseas to help us strengthen our workforce and address the workload problem. I appeal to all professional bodies and authorities to support our various measures which are imperative for us to continue to provide quality services to the people of Hong Kong.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Collaboration is of paramount importance in health care. We need to collaborate with medical professionals, government, our mainland counterparts, patients, educators, legislators and all stakeholders to provide patient

centered care for the people of Hong Kong. The recent German E Coli and Taiwan Plasticisers are excellent examples of global collaborations at all levels. We at the Hospital Authority will try our very best to continue to provide quality services to the people of Hong Kong by collaborating with all stakeholders. Whilst we are the major provider of medical services in Hong Kong accounting for 95% of secondary care and 35% of primary care, we do have an open mind as to collaboration and co-operation with other institutions and as always, we will continue to explore and pilot new avenues and schemes to work with the private sector to address the public-private imbalance to provide the people of Hong Kong with better medical services and more choices.

The Government has identified Medical Services as one of the six priority industries for HK and this has also been reiterated in China's 12th Five Year Plan. Here we are not talking of medical services as a form of welfare but as an economic driver for Hong Kong and the Government will not reduce its expenditure in public health. The supply chain for medical services is indeed very long and it will certainly help Hong Kong to become the medical hub and center of excellence in Asia but the fundamental issue is talent. We do need more medical professionals to be in Hong Kong. We therefore have to work with all stakeholders including medical professionals, private sector, universities,

professional bodies, research centers and other institutions around the world to build our talent pool. Difficult decisions have to be made and leadership, determination and support from the community are necessary to make this work. I am sure when we look back in twenty thirty years time, we will not regret for our vision today to take this forward which will benefit generations to come.

Finally, I'd like to thank the Chief Secretary, Minister Chen, Dr Chow for officiating this morning's ceremony and all our speakers for their invaluable contributions to this Convention. I would also like to thank Dr Jose CARLOS SOUZA ABRAHAO, President of International Hospital Federation and all the Governing Council members from 15 countries for attending this Convention and holding its council meeting in Hong Kong. Most importantly, I want to thank all of you for coming to this Convention. My very best wishes to you all. THANK YOU.