

The 30th anniversary special event - sharing with the Secretary for Transport and Housing

By Mr Tom K W CHAN

The YMC was honoured to invite Professor Anthony B L Cheung, Secretary for Transport and Housing, to the YMC 30th Anniversary Special event on 27 May 2015 to give an overview of the government's new and on-going initiatives on our city's Transport and Housing.

He first stressed the importance of a comprehensive transportation system in maintaining Hong Kong's competitiveness. He shared with us that the suggestion in the "Study on the Strategic Development Plan for Hong Kong Port 2030" was still under review for strengthening the existing port facilities in order to grasp the opportunity brought by "One Belt, One Road". Four railway projects were still under construction and the government now was preparing the planning work for some recommended railway projects suggested by the "Railway Development Strategy 2014". The government would soon commence the "Public Transport Strategy Study" to review the overall strategic arrangements of public transport services which enhanced the complementarities amongst the various public transport services and their sustainability.

Housing was one of the major concerns for many members. The Long Term Housing Strategy (LTHS) was promulgated by the government, and a public-to-private split of 60:40 set in respect of new housing supply in order to gradually avert the imbalance of the current supply-and-demand market. The government will not hesitate to introduce appropriate measures when necessary in order to maintain a stable property market. As regards the private residential property market, the Government would implement the regular Land Sale Programme and enhance the land administration processes.

Professor Cheung emphasised that the overall interests of Hong Kong must be considered for infrastructure development despite of many controversies such as the three-runway system (3RS) in Hong Kong International Airport. The existing two-runway system would likely reach its maximum practical capacity in 2016 or 2017 and Hong Kong was now facing intensifying competition from airports in neighbouring cities such as Singapore, Seoul. As a result, there was an urgent need for the implementation of the 3RS project to meet Hong Kong's long-term air traffic demand and to maintain our overall competitiveness.

With Ir Dr the Hon W K Lo as the facilitator of the question-and-answer session, participants raised several interesting questions. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to Professor Cheung for his sharing.



(L to R) Ir Ryan Chak, Ir Dr Hon W K Lo, Prof Anthony Cheung, Ir Victor Cheung, Ir C C Chan



Participants enjoyed the sharing from the Secretary for Transport and Housing