

Welcoming Address by Mr Simon PEH, SDS, IDSM

Commissioner, Independent Commission Against Corruption, HKSAR

The Honourable Mr Justice Patrick CHAN, Mr Bernard CHAN, Dr Kelvin WONG, Professor Stephen CHEUNG, Mr Dick LEE, ladies and gentlemen, young friends,

On behalf of the Hong Kong SAR Independent Commission Against Corruption, I would like to extend our warmest welcome to the delegates and students coming from the Mainland China, Macau, Indonesia, Korea, Thailand, Australia, Turkey, Mexico and of course our partners and students in Hong Kong.

Educating young people about the importance of upholding integrity, which is the first line of defence against corruption, has always been on ICAC's priority. The "i-Relay" Youth Integrity Project aims at enhancing young people's awareness of probity and integrity, and encouraging them to live out ethical values in their daily life. It also provides a platform for international exchanges on integrity issues among young people from different countries. This event is particularly special this year as we celebrate our 40th Anniversary. The Project consists of six programmes namely the Personal Ethics Talks, an ICAC Ambassador Programme, an Input Session cum Training Camp, a Team Competition, a four-day Exchange Programme and the Youth Summit, today. And we are delighted to see young people's vitality and passions in their participation.

From many of your young faces, I can see your dreams of a bright future. Especially those who will enter into the work force soon, I would like to remind you that there are always challenges ahead. Among these challenges, you should be

especially alert to the corruption temptations and malpractices around you. Let me share with you how corruption ruined the promising career of a young football player. On the eve of an international friendly match, a 20-year old football player bribed his two team-mates with several tens of thousands of dollars to induce them to fix the match by deliberately losing a few more goals. The team-mates flatly refused the offer and alerted the ICAC. The unscrupulous young man was arrested after the international match which was attended by 5,000 spectators. While praising the two team-mates' resistance to temptation, the magistrate sentenced this young offender to detention centre. He lamented the possible end of this young man's promising football career. "By making a big mistake, you have fallen from grace. The blow for you must be enormous. The case is very serious. You recruited members for the syndicate and put temptation in front of your mates. You bring Hong Kong into disrepute." The magistrate added, "We can afford to lose as long as the boys show sportsmanship. However, if it is a match played without integrity or dignity, it is not a match we can afford." Young friends, be vigilant at all times. Do not compromise when tempted, show zero tolerance to corruption or any malpractice.

You may be familiar with our slogan "Hong Kong Our Advantage is always you and the ICAC". The ICAC is never alone to continue our missions. We are very honoured today to have The Honourable Mr Justice Patrick CHAN, as Keynote Speaker and share his insight into "Integrity and Justice". I am also grateful to Dr Kelvin WONG, Prof. Stephen CHEUNG, Mr Dick LEE and three youth representatives of i-League and ICAC Ambassadors Jacqueline, Mark and Winnie who will share on ethical challenges, money management and a fruitful life at the Panel Discussion.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our co-organisers the Commission on Youth, the Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education, assisting organisations the 17 local tertiary education institutions, supporting organisations the Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups, Hong Kong United Youth Association, AIESEC and Junior Achievement Hong Kong, the Chairman and Members of the Organising Committee, speakers and trainers of the Input Session cum Training Camp, adjudicators of the Team Competition for their staunch support which contribute to the success of the Project.

The name of the Project “i-Relay”, the “i” stands for “i-myself” and also “integrity”. Each and every one of us plays an important role in this “integrity-Relay”. Let us all shoulder this responsibility together, to perpetuate the good values of integrity from our generation to our future generations.

The mission continues. I am sure in today’s Summit, you will get inspired, encouraged and energized for the integrity relay. I wish all of you every success during the Youth Summit and long into the future.

Thank you.