

Closing Remarks

Mr Bernard CHAN, GBS, JP

Chairman of Organising Committee of the “i-Relay” Youth Integrity Project 2013/14

Ladies and gentlemen – and especially all our younger participants – I would like to thank you all for supporting the Youth Integrity Project. I would especially like to say how good it has been to see you all here today taking part in this summit.

I hope that this event has given you all something to take away. Our friends at the ICAC quite rightly feel it is very important that the younger members of our community understand the importance of fair play, honesty and trust. But even more than that, and all of us, feel that it is essential to give the younger generation ownership of the promotion of ethical values.

Even in the last 10 years, the world has changed amazingly. Facebook was launched just 10 years ago – and it was only available to students at one university in America. Nowadays, some people are saying Facebook is old fashioned. YouTube was launched just nine years ago. Twitter was launched only eight years ago. It is only in the last five years or so that these new communication channels have become commonly used.

For the older among us, these new channels are amazing. Yet for young people, these methods of communicating with each other and forming networks are completely normal. This new technology gives the younger generation new ways to discuss and exchange ideas, and to influence and encourage each other. And even more new tools of this sort are coming all the time. And it is the young who learn to use them first

This is a big change. In the past, the young mostly got their information and opinions from older people – whether in the traditional media or at home and at school. Today, they get a lot more of their ideas from each other.

That gives those of you here today a very special responsibility.

Some things in the world do not change. One is the way our society sometimes measures a person's success simply by the amount of wealth he or she has. There is a danger that people value money and material possessions more than they value their happiness, or their family and friends, or the well-being of the community. That leads to the danger that they will be tempted to cheat, and to damage the interests of all the rest of us.

You are in a very important position as young people today. It is up to you – not just the older generation – to help to inform other young people about the subjects you have been discussing today at this summit. You have a responsibility to help shape the future by putting into practice ethical values in your families, schools and your future workplaces. You will have a vital role to play in creating a society that values fair play, honesty and trust.

I would like to give my warm congratulations to all of you who took part, and especially to the winning teams. You did very well.

I would also like to express gratitude to the members of the Organising Committee, the speakers, the adjudicators and all the others who have helped to make this event such a great success.

This has been a very impressive and worthwhile event, and I wish all of you success in all you do in the future. Thank you all very much.