

Welcoming Remarks by Mr Simon Y.L. Peh
Commissioner of ICAC, HKSAR
at the Sixth ICAC Symposium
11 May 2015

1. Good morning, Chief Executive, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

2. We gather here today for a very meaningful cause, one that many people say will continually be taken on as long as there remains the human nature of greed. History does tell us that corruption – and all corrupt behaviours associated with it – is the root of injustices. This is the very reason that, for a brighter future, corruption needs to be eradicated at all cost and with effective strategies.

3. Riding on this goal, this year the theme of the Symposium is “A Future Without Corruption – One Vision, Multiple Strategies”. For the Hong Kong ICAC, the foundation for our anti-corruption efforts has always been the three-pronged approach: that is effective enforcement, systemic prevention, and comprehensive education.

4. On our celebration of the 40th anniversary last year, we thought that the Symposium would present an excellent opportunity for graft-fighters and other stakeholders from around the world to gather together to share, evaluate, and enhance their strategies in the three arenas that have been proven to be very effective in the fight against the corrupt in “the ICAC experience”. I am extremely delighted that this thought has come to fruition today.

5. Furthermore, let me take this opportunity to emphasise, ladies and gentlemen, that we now face with a rapid-changing world. The development of the financial sector vis-à-vis modus operandi of the criminals is fuelled by cross-jurisdictional transactions and new information technology. The transfer and disposal of ill-gotten gains has never been easier, and it will not be the same from one day to the next. The need for graft fighters and other stakeholders to remain vigilant may be an understatement. Perhaps more to the point, we need to be a united front against the corrupt.

6. To this end, we must constantly review and refine our perspectives and approaches. Only through concerted efforts can we effectively keep our societies free from the evils that corruption breeds.

7. I am delighted to welcome so many distinguished speakers from all over the world to share with us their experience, strategies and visions. I am sure the exchanges and deliberations in the next few days will be very focused and energetic, and these exchanges and deliberations are made possible by the efforts of my colleagues here at the ICAC who have been working whole-heartedly in organising this event.

8. Let us fortify existing partnership and build new alliances as we hone our strategies against our common enemy. Thank you.