

**ENTERPRISE ASIA LINCHPIN OF ASIA AWARDS 2023
OPENING SPEECH BY DR. KELVIN WONG, SBS, JP
CHAIRMAN, ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL REPORTING
COUNCIL (AFRC)**

[SALUTATIONS]

Dr. Fong Chan Onn,
Chairman of Enterprise Asia

Mr. Richard Tsang,
President of Enterprise Asia

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen:

It is my honor and privilege to stand before you today as we gather to celebrate the remarkable achievements of our industry leaders at the prestigious Enterprise Asia Linchpin of Asia Awards 2023. This evening, we come together to honor the visionaries who have shaped our region's business landscape and propelled it to unprecedented heights.

The Linchpin of Asia Awards is not just a ceremonial affair; it holds a profound significance in recognizing the remarkable contributions made by industry leaders who have not only excelled in their respective markets but have also become beacons of inspiration, guiding others with their unwavering determination, passion, and the embodiment of integrity.

Tonight, as we applaud their accomplishments, we must also reflect on the profound importance of leadership in our ever-evolving world. Each one of us present here has the power to influence, inspire, and drive positive change within our spheres of influence. As leaders, we bear the responsibility of upholding corporate governance, embedding sustainability in our business strategies, nurturing the talents of tomorrow, and transforming traditional models to ignite innovation. We are accountable to not only our business and our staff but also to the public. Every decision we make may create ripple effects, good or bad. To quote from *The Analects of Confucius* “We’d better reflect on ourselves three times a day” 《論語·學而》吾日三省吾身 and do something even better the next day.

As we embark on this remarkable evening, let us also reflect on the immense potential of Hong Kong's economic landscape. With strong fundamentals including the free flow of capital, robust legal and regulatory framework, and most important of all,

seamless connectivity with the Mainland and international markets, it has been playing the pivotal role as the super-connector, connecting diverse cultures, industries, and nations. Together, we can leverage this platform for cross-country collaborations that will impel us to fulfill our responsibilities as leaders as well as drive us towards our shared goal of a thriving and resilient Asia.

I extend my heartfelt congratulations to all the esteemed recipients of the Linchpin of Asia Awards 2023. Your leadership, passion, and unwavering commitment have set you apart as true catalysts for change. May this recognition serve as a reminder of the responsibility we all bear as leaders, and may it inspire us to strive to achieve even greater impact and significance.

Thank you, and let the celebration begin!