



**International Conference on Healthcare Reform  
17 January 2009  
Welcoming Remarks by Mr Anthony Wu,  
Chairman of the Bauhinia Foundation Research Centre**

Honorable guests, distinguished speakers, ladies and gentlemen,

My warmest welcome to all of you for joining this International Conference on Healthcare Reform organized by the Bauhinia Foundation Research Centre.

As you may know, the Bauhinia Foundation Research Centre is an independent policy think tank set up in Hong Kong almost three years ago. As a think tank, we attach a lot of importance to Hong Kong's long-term competitiveness and socioeconomic well-being. And that's why we did a study into Hong Kong's healthcare reform last year, which had aroused a great deal of public interest into the important subject.

Today's Conference is opportune as it is organized at a time when Hong Kong has just entered a new phase in healthcare reform. According to the first-stage public consultation conducted by the Food and Health Bureau, there is broad support and recognition in the community on the imminent need for healthcare reform.

We very much hope this Conference will provide a platform for top healthcare officials, experts and stakeholders, both local and overseas, to exchange views and share their experiences in healthcare reforms. I believe the diverse reforms experiences of the Mainland, the UK, New Zealand and the perspectives of WHO and Wonca will offer us new perspectives and shed light on our way forward.

Thank you once again for taking part in this Conference. I look forward to a lively and stimulating exchange of views later today.

ENDS