

Welcoming Speech
Mr. Eddie Tan
Regional President of ACI Asia

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

Welcome to today's ACI Asian Inauguration Ceremony. ACI Asia has been tasked to promote ACI's mission in Asia, which is to contribute to the market development through education, promoting market practices, technical advice, and organizing of networking events for the financial practitioners of the world. We are extremely pleased that this gathering tonight has brought together a large number of prominent and prestigious guests from all over Asia, including Mainland China.

ACI has over the last two years worked on this initiative to decentralize the day-to-day interaction, the responsibilities of duties and the execution of her global strategic intent to the regions, namely Europe, Americas, Middle East and Africa, and Asia. Therefore, today marks the beginning of a new chapter for all of us in Asia with the formation of ACI Asia with her secretariat in Hong Kong.

The goals of ACI Asia are to promote regional cooperation and to strengthen the education programmes for market practitioners in Asia's financial markets. We hope to bring all financial market practitioners under one umbrella, establish common professional standards and work closely with the regulators throughout the region. In this area, ACI Asia is blessed with having the support of many regulators, such as our good host, the Hong Kong Monetary Authority and we continue to look to them for guidance and support. Amongst ACI Asia's many challenges are how to continue to be relevant to our profession and how to invest and motivate the next generation of leaders in our market place. ACI Asia will not take these challenges lightly.

Asia with an average growth of 7.6%, can boast of having 2 of the fastest growing economies in the world, China at 11.2% and India at 8.5%. This speaks well for the opportunity for growth in the financial market of Asia. I am sure you share my optimism of the financial market prospect when I say "the best is yet to be".

I hope that the ceremony today marks a good beginning and that ACI Asia would become the platform for financial professionals, financial institutions and regulators to come together to collaborate and bring about a truly efficient and growing market place.

It leaves me to thank you all for joining us this evening, and I hope that this event provides you with some information and color of what ACI Asia hopes to accomplish. Welcome to Hong Kong again and I hope you enjoy your stay in this beautiful city. Thank you!