

**Message from Dr York YN Chow, SBS, JP**  
**Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food**

I like this year's Forum cum Expo logo— a “box” that shows more splendours, depth and possibilities when it is opened than when it is just closed.

The opening of the “box” is a most appropriate representation of where the CIIF stands after three years of operation, and where it is heading in the future. The first and simplest layer of meaning of the box opening is that the CIIF is a fund with a difference. It has been encouraging itself and all participants and partners to think out and break out of the confine of the box, to see what seem to be old problems in different lights, to develop new partnerships, to work out different solutions with our new partners, and to look for new opportunities where none seem to exist before.

Thinking out and breaking out of the box is of course easier said than done. It involves moving out of our comfort zones to face a few unknowns. It involves putting aside some of the solutions with which we are familiar to take on new risks. It involves creating space from our overcrowded routine to accept new possibilities. The exhibition and sharing by the project teams shows that the mission is achievable.

The second layer of meaning of the box opening is to widely share our experience and knowledge so that we can see more blue sky, gather more momentum, try further innovation and create more possibilities within the confine of finite resources and ever increasing social needs. I believe this is where the CIIF, our social organizations and collaborators should be heading. This takes much courage.

I would like to take this opportunity to salute the 60 plus project teams that were amongst the first to implement a social capital building project, and that have chosen to open up their experience, of success as well as failures, for public scrutiny and to do it whilst memories are still so fresh. I would also like to commend the 16 Consortium academics, from across five universities, who have generously offered their expertise and time, and who have collectively enriched the evaluation insight through their multi-disciplinary perspectives and collaborative efforts. Lastly, my congratulations go to Members of the CIIF Committee under the leadership of Dr Raymond Wu. As recognized by our Chief Executive in his 2005-06 Policy Address, the CIIF, along with other Government initiatives, has helped create the conditions of social harmony. This is no easy task, and could only be made possible with the foresight, leadership and courage of the Committee.

This round of doing, reflecting, sharing experience and transferring knowledge as demonstrated at this Expo cum Forum is vital to the continual development of a harmonious society. I earnestly hope that our fellow organizations could really “think and act out of the box” and meet new challenges ahead. I wish the Expo cum Forum a success.