

**Speech by President Lester Huang**  
**on the occasion of the Law Society's Spring Reception 2009**

Honorable guests, ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the Members of the Law Society Council, I would like to welcome all of you to the Spring Reception and celebrate the beginning of the Year of the Ox with us.

Today is the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the Lunar New Year which is also the Chinese Valentine's Day. We are indeed thankful for your presence on this very special day.

Last year, the legal profession had experienced a steady growth. As a member of the legal profession, the Law Society of Hong Kong had been working closely with our partners at the Judiciary, the Department of Justice, other government offices and professional bodies in upholding and promoting the rule of law in Hong Kong throughout the year. We value the good relationship we have cultivated with our partners and are thankful for everyone's support towards our work.

We are also grateful to members of the Executive Council, Legislative Council and District Councils for hearing and supporting us on various causes the Law Society had pursued. Likewise, the Central People's Government Liaison Office in Hong Kong has also been very supportive to the Law Society in the past year and we really appreciate that.

As the Year of the Ox begins, the outlook of the overall development of Hong Kong's economy is not encouraging amid the global financial tsunami. The legal profession is likely to face a tough time ahead too. However, we promise to do our best to develop new market opportunities for our members, locally and internationally. We will also continue with our effort to uphold the rule of law, promote legal education and contribute to Hong Kong's economic development.

Last but not the least, I thank you all for joining us tonight and wish you happiness, prosperity and good times to last all year!