

**Speech by the Secretary for Economic Development and Labour
Mr Stephen IP, GBS, JP
at the Launch Ceremony of “A Symphony of Lights” Phase II
at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre
Friday, 23 December 2005**

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you for joining us for the launch of “A Symphony of Lights” Phase II. I have great pleasure in welcoming all of you to this ceremony. Your presence signifies your support for this worthwhile project. Thank you.

Last month, “A Symphony of Lights” was awarded the world’s largest light and sound show by Guinness World Records, accredited on the basis of 20 buildings jointly performing in a synchronized show every night. In less than half an hour’s time, we will witness Hong Kong achieving a new world record, when Phase II of the show extends from Hong Kong Island to Kowloon, covering a total of 33 buildings on both sides of the Victoria Harbour.

We take great pride in “A Symphony of Lights”. It is a successful joint venture of the public and private sectors, demonstrating the participating organisations’ commitment to Hong Kong and contribution to tourism. It is also a remarkable tourism project that enhances the night vista of the Victoria Harbour and has been well received by Hong Kong people and our visitors.

“A Symphony of Lights” is a unique combination of creativity, state-of-the-art technology and the Hong Kong spirit. My special thanks go to all of you for making this project a great success. Next year, we will see the completion of more new tourism projects. I am sure that, with your continuous support, the tourism industry will continue to grow from strength to strength.

In a moment, we will be enjoying the brand new show out in the balcony. I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you a merry Christmas and a successful New Year. Thank you.