

Opening Remark at the International Workshop on the Prospect of Information Technology

國際資訊技術前瞻研習會開幕致詞

Distinguished invited speakers, honorable guests, my colleagues and students, ladies and gentlemen:

Good morning!

I am delighted to be invited to open this International Workshop on the Perspectives of Information Technology. On behalf of National Tsing Hua University (NTHU), I would first like to welcome all the distinguished guests to our campus in Hsinchu. I am very impressed with the fact that you are all working so hard and willing to hold this workshop on a Sunday!

Information Technology (IT) is ubiquitous in modern society. Thanks to IT, we can now access information at any time in anywhere for almost anyone who has a handheld device. The World Wide Web and wireless mobile networks have connected us together regardless where we are. I have noticed that the workshop will cover many advanced and important topics including helping people in disaster situation to use IT, machine learning and data mining, cyber security in smart grids, inferring data and human social relations, and the evolving relationship between human and technology. Undoubtedly, Information Technology will penetrate deeper into our daily life in the future. I am glad that the Institute of Information Systems and Applications is holding such an event and bring many international and domestic scholars together to discuss these topics in depth. I'm grateful to all distinguished invited speakers coming from Japan, US, and UK to share your insight and visions with our faculty and students.

I am somewhat relieved to know that the workshop is scheduled to close at 3:00pm this afternoon so that you will have an opportunity to tour our beautiful campus. National Tsing Hua University has just celebrated her 101th anniversary. The University was founded in 1911 in Beijing with the returned indemnity from the US Government. It became a leading

university in China in about 20 years. As the Nationalist Government moved to Taiwan, the former President of the University, Dr. Mei Yi-Chi, came to Taiwan and re-established the NTHU on this site in 1956. NTHU since then has become one of the leading research universities in Taiwan. In all the world-wide university ranking in recent years, we came out either No. 1 or No. 2 in Taiwan. This year is particularly good for our faculties in terms of publishing in the prestigious journals such as *Science*, *Nature*, and *Cell*. As it stands now, in less than half of a year, five papers have been published or scheduled to be published; comparing to a total of seven papers published in similar outlets in the past 5 years. Our students have also performed superbly as well. In the computer field, for example, our students won World Champion in Clustering Computing in two consecutive Super Computer Conferences organized by IEEE and ACM (2010 and 2011). In 2011, our students won the Championship in the Creative Cup Competition among 424 competitors from 70 countries organized by Microsoft. It is my hope that in the future we can further strengthen our programs through cooperation with international top experts like you.

Finally, I wish you have a very successful and fruitful workshop and enjoy your stay in Hsinchu and Taiwan. Have a nice day!