

International experts attend Fire Asia 2018 (with photo)

About 300 experts in emergency response, pre-hospital medical care and fire engineering from 15 countries and regions are taking part in the Fire Asia 2018 international conference being held at the Hong Kong Fire and Ambulance Services Academy from May 7 to 9.

The three-day conference is a key event to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Hong Kong Fire Services Department (FSD). Themed "Join Hands Towards a New Era of Safety" this year, the triennial conference offers a highly esteemed platform for participants to exchange views and keep abreast of the latest developments in the fields of firefighting and rescue, fire engineering and paramedics.

The Secretary for Security, Mr John Lee, and the Director of Fire Services, Mr Li Kin-yat, officiated at the opening ceremony this morning (May 7).

Addressing the ceremony, Mr Lee said, "While Hong Kong is one of the safest cities in the world, we never rest on our laurels. We must be alert to the threats we face. In recent years, for example, one looming threat that troubles many governments is the rapid spread of terrorism. The Hong Kong Government has recently established an Inter-departmental Counter-Terrorism Unit to enhance our counter-terrorism capability and preparedness. As a member of the unit and the frontline emergency responder to terrorist attacks, the FSD plays a pivotal role in counter-terrorism. The prevalence of risks in our daily life underlines the importance for us to join hands with our local, regional and global counterparts and learn from one another."

Fire Asia 2018 is jointly organised by the FSD, the Institution of Fire Engineers (Hong Kong Branch), the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers (Building Services Division and Fire Division), the Ambulance Service Institute (Hong Kong Branch) and the China Hong Kong Fire Protection Association.

The conference covers various topics including new fire-fighting and disaster recovery strategies as well as the latest research in fire engineering and paramedic services.

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The Secretary for Security, Mr John Lee, speaks at the opening ceremony of the Fire Asia 2018 international conference today (May 7).