

IFTA FinTech Achievement Awards 2019 Presentation Ceremony
Fintech Ecosystem Contribution Honorary Award

Acceptance Speech

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Good afternoon Paul, Wilson, Honourable Guests, ladies and gentlemen,

1. First of all, I would like to thank the Institute of Financial Technologists of Asia (IFTA) for presenting the Fintech Ecosystem Contribution Honorary Award to the Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes Authority (MPFA). This Award means a lot to the MPFA and our staff who have been working on eMPF Platform Project over the past few years. It not only recognizes our commitment and efforts to develop the eMPF Platform, which is expected to be ready by the end of 2022; the Award also encourages the Fintech industry in Hong Kong to continue to develop innovative solutions and services that Hong Kong industry needs to thrive, including business solutions for retirement savings infrastructure and asset management, like the eMPF initiative.
2. The term Fintech may sound remote to most people who are not involved in either financial services or technological solutions. In fact, it is anything but remote when we consider how our daily lives have already been transformed by broad applications of Fintech. Commuters benefit from Fintech every time they use a “stored value card” to pay for transport fares, and bank customers use it every time they log in to their digital bank account using face-recognition technology. In the ecosystem of Mandatory Provident Fund schemes,

our vision is to build an eMPF Platform that connects MPF employers and scheme members so that the administration of contributions, investments, and many other administration functions of MPF accounts can be carried out on one platform.

3. For me, the purpose of technological solutions has to be to serve the people. The eMPF Platform is meant to be a public utility built for about 4.4 million MPF members and 300,000 employers. It will be a people-oriented, technology-driven platform to serve the needs of users of diverse backgrounds, age groups and digital literacy levels. The eMPF Platform will combine all the key attributes of future Fintech solutions – for instance, facilitating a contactless and paperless experience in opening accounts and switching instructions between funds. The Platform will be owned by the MPFA and as a public utility, we are mindful that the Platform’s design must fit its objective to be “financially inclusive”.
4. As at the end of July 2020, the MPF System had assets under management of over HK\$1 trillion. With assets of this size, we believe that by the end of 2022, when the eMPF Platform is launched, replacing the decentralized scheme administration for 10 million accounts across 12 administration and IT systems, members will benefit not just from a better user experience. In fact, this will create a huge opportunity for keener competition amongst MPF providers, not just on service and performance; it will also reduce operational costs for scheme administration.
5. The eMPF Platform project is a multi-billion dollar development of financial infrastructure, which is made up of many key elements. The most important of these is the staunch strategic support of the Government in providing the necessary funding, as well as the policy drive, to lead legislative amendments to make the eMPF Platform workable, and for which we are extremely grateful. We are also grateful to the MPF industry, notably scheme trustees and sponsors who have expressed support and commitment as partners to develop

the eMPF Platform with us.

6. The next few months will be a critical time for the eMPF Platform after the tender was closed in April this year. Towards the end of this year, we will award the contract for the build and development of the Platform, and by the end of 2022, the Platform will be delivered.
7. I envisage that as the eMPF Platform comes closer to fruition, it will have a multiplier effect on the business of the Fintech industry. Employers, trustees and other MPF service providers may seize this opportunity to embark on their own digital transformation journey in order to move in sync with the eMPF Platform. To that end, I am sure the IFTA will continue to play a key role in championing this positive course.
8. The first of December this year will mark the 20th anniversary of the MPF System. We are determined to deliver our strategic vision to create a better ecosystem for MPF members, and public support is of paramount importance to making our transformation a success.
9. On that note, I would like to conclude my speech. Let's move forward shoulder to shoulder to create a brand-new MPF ecosystem for the benefit of all participants through the implementation of the eMPF Platform.
10. Thank you.