

**PLENARY SPEAKER 1**

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**Attitudes and Risks  
Technological Convergence for a Sustainable Future:**

**BIOGRAPHY**

Professor Edwin K. P. Chong was born in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. He received the B.E. (Hons.) degree with First Class Honors from the University of Adelaide, South Australia, in 1987, graduating top of his class in the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering; and the M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in 1989 and 1991, respectively, both from Princeton University in the Department of Electrical Engineering, where he held an IBM Graduate Fellowship. From August 1991 to August 2001, he was on the faculty in the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana, where he was promoted to Professor in 2001. He is currently a Professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering and a Professor in the Department of Mathematics at Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado. Professor Chong's research interests are primarily in the areas of control, optimization, and modeling, with applications to computer/communication networks, sensor networks, and wireless systems. He received a National Science Foundation Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) Award in 1995. Professor Chong is a Fellow of IEEE. He has served as the faculty advisor and branch counselor for the Purdue University IEEE student branch. He received the Outstanding IEEE Branch Counselor and Advisor Award in 1993, and the IEEE Section Recognition Award (IEEE Central Indiana Section) in 1994.

Professor Chong is a Senior Editor of the IEEE Transactions on Automatic Control. He is also on the editorial board of Computer Networks, Journal of Control Science and Engineering, and, previously, IEEE Expert Now. He was the founding chairman of the IEEE Technical Committee on Discrete Event Systems (under the IEEE Control Systems Society). He has served on the IEEE Control Systems Society Conference Editorial Board, and on program/organizing committees for several conferences, including the IEEE Conference on Decision and Control (CDC), American Control Conference (ACC), IEEE International Symposium on

**ABSTRACT**

It is widely accepted, especially by technologists, that technology can be harnessed to create a sustainable future. This optimism serves as a powerful driver for further technological advances. At the same time, prevailing attitudes among technologists are sometimes misaligned with what is needed for sustainability. In this talk, I will highlight some contrasting features of technology and sustainability, explore the risks of unscrupulous optimism in technology for delivering a sustainable future, and consider some directions for better aligning our attitudes toward technology and sustainability.

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