



Message from Mr LEE Kai-ming, GBS, JP Chairman of the Occupational Safety and Health Council



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For many years, the Hong Kong Housing Authority has been working in partnership with the Occupational Safety and Health Council to promote occupational safety and health. This year, we join hands to organise the “Site Safety Forum for Works Contracts and Property Services Contracts” again and have invited experts in the industry to share with us their valuable views on and experiences in various areas, such as the Safe System of Work, best practices, training and development, and the application of new technologies. Our aim is to further enhance occupational safety and health through concerted efforts.

To take forward the safety management of contractors, the Housing Authority and the Council have jointly introduced the “Safety Climate Index Survey” and “Work Safe Behaviours”, and included these two management tools into the Safety Performance Monitoring Programme as benchmark items. Moreover, with the application of new technologies, the Housing Authority has added new provisions into the works agreements to encourage the industry to make well use of the Building Information Modelling System, through which the whole work cycle and the required safety measures to be taken in a project are detailedly stimulated. All the parties concerned can then appraise the potential risks and improve their safety planning, thus ensuring safety at work.

Refurbishment and maintenance works have always seen quite a number of severe incidents in Hong Kong. As the housing estates under the management of the Housing Authority inevitably involve lots of such works, the Housing Authority spares no effort to promote the application of the Safe System of Work for risk control, which has proved to be most effective in lowering the risk level of work and in the prevention of accidents. For instance, those who are engaged in the construction, refurbishment and maintenance works are heavily committed in manual operations. Very often, however, such operations are carried out in outdoor areas or workplaces without air-conditioning. The site management and the workers concerned should therefore observe the guidelines for working under hot and inclement weather and take appropriate preventive measures to ensure occupational safety and health. On the other hand, employers are also required to provide proper training for their employees. In this regard, the Council has provided for the industry a series of practical and useful information and training courses on the prevention of heat stroke.

I have to express my heartfelt gratitude to all the speakers and stakeholders of the industry for their full support in the promotion of work safety. I trust that you will continue to make every effort to enhance the safety and health standards. Life is precious. The best gift for one's family is to achieve occupational safety for the greatest protection for oneself and one's colleagues.

I wish today's Forum very successful and fruitful to all participants!

