

Message by Mr D W PESCOD, JP, Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing (Housing)



Mr D W PESCOD, JP

The mission of Hong Kong Housing Authority (HA) is to build quality subsidised homes for those in need. The HA currently provides just under 50% of Hong Kong people with public rental or subsidised home ownership housing. We also provide property management and maintenance services to public rental units in more than 200 public housing estates and Tenancy Purchasing Scheme estates.

We work with capable business partners, from a wide range of industries to ensure the cost-effective provision of quality services to our tenants. Adhering to the core value of the 'four Cs', especially the C which stands for 'caring', we constantly promote site safety and health among our own staff and contractors.

Properly formulated and fully implemented safety systems are the key to safety at work. With this in mind and with a people-oriented approach, industry stakeholders have adopted as a site-safety motto: 'care for people, care for life and care for work safety'. The industry is thriving with the development of major infrastructure and building renovation projects. But this has put pressure on staff and other resources. In response to increasing pressure and challenges, we must strengthen our work ethos, solidify teamwork and develop good site management to ensure safe work practices that help prevent accidents and incidents.

The HA's safety record is well above the average in the industry. The accident rate per 1 000 workers on HA sites has been significantly reduced from about 55.8 in 2001 to 9.0 in 2011 (down by 84%) for new works and from about 56.7 in 2001 to 7.3 in 2011 (down by 87%) for maintenance works. These figures are far below those of the local construction industry. There were no industrial fatalities in HA sites in 2011 against the backdrop of 23 fatal accidents recorded in the industry in the same year.

As Aristotle had said, "We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit.". I know that our colleagues and stakeholders do a lot to fostering site safety, through performance monitoring, list management, contractual enhancement, and promotion. We strive to avoid the occurrence of serious or fatal accident on our works sites. To this end, last year over 70 interviews were held by our Procurement Review and List Management Board and Contractor Review Committee with our active works contractors. These interviews allow us to review in detail each incident involving accidents on any work site in Hong Kong. Coupled with a system of quarantine for contractors which have accidents on their work sites and vigorous tender assessments, we give a very clear message about the importance of site safety.

Through this annual event: *Site Safety Forum for Works Contracts and Property Services Contracts*, organised by the HA and the *Occupational Safety & Health Council (OSHC)*, we hope to bring together contractors, service providers and frontline workers to share experience and opinions, so as to cooperatively improve safety awareness and forge a safety culture, continually working towards the goal of 'safe work' and 'zero incidents'.

I extend my sincerest thanks to the OSHC, the speakers and the industry stakeholders for helping us to organise and for participating in this forum. To business partners including the related government departments, public organisations, contractors, service providers and trade unions, I also wish to thank you for your ongoing support. In promoting a safety culture, we will continue to work with all parties to provide safe, healthy and harmonious environments for both workers on site and for our tenants living in HA housing estates. We are expecting intense pressure to deliver more public rental housing units in the years ahead. Nevertheless, I must stress that we will never compromise on the quality and safety of our projects and we will continue to uphold the high standards of development which the HA has worked so hard to achieve in the past years.



incident

職安守則齊遵守 家人無憂樂悠悠

Compliance with occupational health and safety assures you of a happy family