Message by Mr Albert LEE Kwok-wing, JP

Deputy Director (Estate Management), Housing Department



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The Hong Kong Housing Authority (HA) is committed to providing the residents of public housing estates with a healthy, safe and harmonious living environment. To ensure the sustainability of quality estate facilities, we improve the existing equipment and set up additional installations in the estates through the Comprehensive Structural Investigation Programme, the Estate Improvement Programme and the Total Maintenance Scheme. In respect of interior fittings, we provide Responsive In-flat Maintenance Services to ensure home safety, which are well received with positive feedback from the residents on the effectiveness and efficiency of the services provided.

With further increase in the project items of estate maintenance and improvement, it is vital for us to enhance the operational safety of the relevant works, with the aim to safeguard the workers, local residents and pedestrians. In this connection, the HA has put in place stringent standards in health and safety for work concerning estate maintenance and property management. We fully implemented the Safety Auditing System in the fourth quarter of 2012, covering five categories of maintenance and improvement contracts to strengthen the monitoring of safety performance in maintenance and improvement works. The scores achieved through the auditing are counted towards the respective contractors' site safety performance item under the Maintenance Assessment Scoring System. Moreover, we are now examining the inclusion of the contractors' performance in site safety as one of the criteria for the evaluation of the district maintenance contracts in the future.

We have been actively fostering the culture of safe and healthy estates at different levels. The estates under the HA will continue to participate in the Hong Kong Safe and Healthy Estate Accreditation Scheme launched by the Occupational Safety and Health Council (OSHC). We have also held a thematic Safety Awareness Seminar for about 6 000 estate management staff and contractors to raise their awareness of occupational safety and health. Recently, the HA has organised the Occupational Safety Forum for Cleansing Service 2013 as well, in a bid to boost safety awareness and promote a safety culture in the cleansing service industry by conveying the relevant message to all frontline workers.

This year, we once again join hands with the OSHC to co-organise the Site Safety Forum for Works Contracts and Property Services Contracts, with the theme "Learning from Safety Incidents". Participants are invited to exchange views and share experiences with a view to preventing accidents and incidents on sites in a more effective manner. We look to the Management of the Housing Department, contractors and frontline staff to work in close collaboration on fostering a safety culture, as well as maintaining safe and harmonious estates.





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