



Mr Conrad WONG, JP

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen! It is a great honour to the Occupational Safety and Health Council (OSHC) to jointly organise the "Site Safety Forum for Works Contracts and Property Services Contracts" with the Hong Kong Housing Authority (HA) for eight consecutive years. The Chief Executive has announced in the Policy Address to increase the housing supply by 470 000 units in the coming ten years, with public housing accounting for 60%. And added with the task to redevelop the aged housing estates, HA is shouldering heavy responsibilities. At present, Hong Kong is enjoying her golden period of infrastructure and new projects. However, with the substantial increases in the number of work projects while the supply of manpower falls short of the demand, the construction industry is facing great challenges in safety performance. In the first quarter of this year, there were already quite a number of fatal accidents occurred in the industry, mainly involving working at height and lifting operations. Therefore, it is important that all the stakeholders should work closely together in the quest to enhance site safety and safeguard occupational safety and health (OSH) of the construction workers.

As the largest home builder in Hong Kong, HA has been putting in tremendous resources to continuously upgrade the safety standards for safeguarding all the workers on works sites. The Independent Safety Audit Scheme launched by the OSHC for HA since 1996 has proven to be very effective. From then on, the safety performance of HA sites is far better than the other sites. As such, we have extended the Scheme from new works projects to maintenance and improvement works projects of HA since 2011. Moreover, we have introduced the Surprise Safety Inspection Programme for new works projects to evaluate the safety performance of various contractors. All these show that HA is very committed and pays great attention to raising the site safety standards.

OSHC will continue to strive for excellence in promoting OSH, and ensure the standards keep pace with the times. We launched the Hong Kong Safety and Health Certification Scheme last month with the aim of providing accreditation services for OSH practitioners, competent persons, and safety and health management systems by adopting the certification and accreditation standards recognised by the International Organisation for Standardisation and the International Electrotechnical Commission. Through this Scheme, we hope to encourage OSH practitioners and organisations to continuously aspire to a higher OSH standard and enhance the OSH culture in related industries and Hong Kong.

I really appreciate that HA adopts "Risk Assessment is the Key to Site Safety" as the theme of the Forum this year. As George Santayana, the philosopher, said, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." We should learn from the experiences in various incidents, conduct risk assessment properly before the commencement of works, and remind the contractors and frontline staff to take appropriate safety precautions, in order to prevent accidents from happening again.

Work safety is everyone's responsibility. I hope that all parties, including the contractors, OSH professionals and frontline staff, can join hands to promote work safety, and set your heart and mind on achieving "Zero Incident" in every project.



零事故
INCIDENT

