

Message by Ms FUNG Yin Suen, Ada, JP Deputy Director (Development & Construction) of Housing Department/ Chairman of Housing Department's Site Safety Sub-committee



Ms Ada FUNG, JP

Embracing the four core values of "Caring", "Committed", "Customer-focused" and "Creative", the Hong Kong Housing Authority (HA) has been promoting a safety culture at works site through our business partners in the supply chain, which forms an integral part of the corporate social responsibility of the HA and its business partners to foster a quality culture in the construction industry.

The working environment and work safety of frontline works have always been our prime concerns. Hence, we have been paying great attention to the safety performance in the HA's works sites and have actively encouraged the cooperation between project teams and contractors to achieve the highest health and safety standards. In addition, we strive for "zero incident" by encouraging our business partners to aspire to the "5-zero" target, namely "zero incident", "zero accident", "zero conviction", "zero complaint" and "zero dispute". Safety first has always been our motto.

Our endeavour and the combined efforts made by the sector and the HA's business partners have borne fruit. The accident rate for our new works sites has dropped from 32.8 accidents per 1 000 workers in 2003 to 7.4 accidents per 1 000 workers in 2013, representing a drastic decrease of 77% in the past ten years.

Risk management is an important factor in raising the safety standards at works sites. To this end, we have adopted a three-pronged approach. Firstly, we have introduced a procurement strategy and performance monitoring mechanisms with incentives and sanctions to ensure good performance in safety management before accepting the contractors concerned as business partners of the HA. Secondly, we have strengthened contract requirements to make sure that contractors will conduct proper risk assessments, adopt safe working methods and proactively eliminate common risks at works sites. Thirdly, we have made continuous efforts to encourage research studies, develop new technologies on risk management, and organise safety training and various types of activities to promote safety awareness in the construction industry.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Occupational Safety and Health Council, various supporting organisations, speakers and practitioners in the industry for their tremendous support and active participation in promoting site safety. The theme of the Forum this year is: "Risk Assessment is the Key to Site Safety". We hope that through actively identifying the hazards and their potential risks in construction works by the sector, exploring ways to manage such risks by proper risk assessment, and lastly implementing safe working systems and methods for risks that cannot be eliminated, we are able to effectively raise the standards of site safety in Hong Kong.

