

Message by Ms FUNG Yin-suen, Ada, JP
Deputy Director of Housing (Development & Construction) cum
Chairperson of Housing Department Site Safety Sub-committee



Ms FUNG Yin-suen, Ada
JP

Being an organisation devoted to caring for the community, the Hong Kong Housing Authority (the Authority) is committed to the promotion of a safety culture at all work aspects so as to provide a safe and healthy working environment for our staff and various frontline personnel. The Housing Department Site Safety Sub-committee, which is chaired by me, comprises different stakeholders of the trade, with members from the Development Bureau, Occupational Safety and Health Council (OSHC), Construction Industry Council (CIC), Vocational Training Council, other government departments, various business associations and trade unions etc. Its main duties are to review and assess the site safety management measures in the Housing Department's new works and maintenance contracts and to give advice in this respect.

We encourage our business partners to aspire to the "5-zero" target, namely "zero incident", "zero accident", "zero conviction", "zero complaint" and "zero dispute". To implement a safe and healthy management system, we have adopted a "three-pronged" strategy which includes a procurement strategy and performance monitoring mechanism with incentives and sanctions, strengthened contract requirements, as well as research, training and promotion. With the cooperation of the stakeholders on the supply chain, these measures can help foster a safe and healthy work culture. We strongly believe in "prevention is better than cure". That's why we take steps at design stage to ensure the safety of frontline staff of property management and maintenance services in the future.

We firmly believe that developing safe working practices and behaviour is essential for fostering a safety culture. Therefore, we attach great importance to process control, especially on high risk operations including lifting operations in new works projects. This year, we specially arranged the Competition on "Pointing and Calling" for new works projects to commend those contractors who have made remarkable achievements in heightening safety awareness of staff and reducing human errors. The award ceremony held for the competition will provide a good opportunity for us to share our experience in and exchange views on the implementation of process control. I hope that the oral commands used in the "Pointing and Calling" can be widely adopted on local construction sites to ensure work safety on all fronts.

To capture the opportunities provided by advancements in science and technology, we are now developing mobile apps on smart phones and mobile devices to facilitate site inspection and reporting for enhancement of site safety management. In line with the development trends in the industry, we have been constantly upgrading the safety standards with the help of the new technologies. For example, we have worked with the CIC to explore the feasibility of using radio frequency identification and electronic alarm system to detect the distance between vehicles and workers for protecting the workers. Furthermore, the Authority plans to introduce the Building Information Modelling technique in all new works projects in 2015 for effective management of construction process. On the safe use of vertical transportation on construction sites, we are actively looking into the advantages of using builder's lift. Some contractors have implemented quite a number of innovative measures to improve site safety. We will discuss their detailed implementation with the industry for general application in the HA contracts.

incident
零事故

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to Prevent Accident

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Here I wish to extend my sincere thanks to the OSHC, as well as all of the supporting organisations, speakers and representatives from the industry for their support and participation in the promotion of site safety, which has helped make this year's forum a success for the ninth consecutive year.

All along, the HA has been preaching people-oriented, environmental protection, a caring and safety culture, partnership and innovation. We will continue to practise as we preach and set a role model of safety culture in order to spread this fine culture to the industry. We will make every endeavour to consolidate the partnership for collaboration and foster the concepts and working culture of Early Planning, Early Design, Early Management in a bid to heighten the awareness on all fronts for creating a safe and healthy working environment.



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