

Message by Mr WONG Tin-cheung, Conrad, BBS, JP
Chairman of the Occupational Safety and Health Council



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BBS, JP

This year marks the tenth anniversary of the “Site Safety Forum for Works Contracts and Property Services Contracts”. I am glad to join the occasion and share the experience in enhancing safety on site and property management with our friends in the industry.

The Housing Department (HD) is an important working partner of the Occupational Safety and Health Council (OSHC). Nowadays, there are two million people living in public housing in Hong Kong, and HD bears the heavy responsibilities of not only building new homes, but also maintaining its properties and facilities. How to effectively manage different sites, safeguard the construction crews and ensure public safety pose a great challenge. We are happy to see that HD has been upholding the principle of ensuring safety in all these years and has been a pioneer of the industry in introducing various safety management systems and technologies.

HD and OSHC collaborated to launch an independent safety auditing system to assess the occupational safety and health performance of HD’s new works 20 years ago. Today, OSHC has taken a further step to carry out site safety audits for HD’s building maintenance and improvement works contracts and surprise safety inspections on new works projects. All these policies and measures aim to enhancing the quality of safety management for the protection of the safety of construction operatives. During a recent visit to a HD site, a colleague of mine heard a safety officer saying to the workers that “implementation of safety measures is not just for show, it can protect our lives so that we can go home safe every day”. I believe that HD has, by words and deeds, disseminated the safety values and culture to its working partners and contractors over the years.

Being our invaluable partner, HD has been regularly encouraging its working partners or contractors to acquire knowledge and technologies on safety and make good use of them. Today’s forum is one of the good examples, giving us an opportunity to get together to explore work-above-ground safety. As you know, the hazards of working at height should not be underestimated even though it is just two or three metres above the ground. Inadequate safe precautions can also cause serious incidents. Because of this, we have encouraged the industry to use ladder platforms or working platforms with toe-boards or fence. I would also like to take this opportunity to express special gratitude to HD for its support of the “OSH Star Enterprise” Scheme by incorporating the employment of star enterprises in the specifications of its new works contracts. Under the new specifications, contractors are required to employ star enterprises accredited by OSHC in scaffolding works. Having passed the safety audits, the star enterprises adopt good safety management systems to reduce the risk of accidents and ensure work progress. Therefore, employing star enterprises in fact brings about a win-win situation. We are going to hold the Charter’s Kick-off Ceremony next month. We hope that friends from the industry present today will join us so that we can work together to improve safety standards in the industry.

Ensuring safety is a shared responsibility. Owners, contractors, sub-contractors, site safety officers, works supervisors and frontline staff all have a role to play. By controlling risks at source, we can achieve the goal of “Safe Work and Zero Incident” for protecting the safety of construction team and the general public.



風險源頭控制好 高空工作成效高
Control the risk at source effectively
will improve work performance at height