

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



Ir WONG Tin-cheung, Conrad
BBS, JP

Good afternoon! This year marks the eleventh 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.

Over the last decade, we have seen a declining accident rate in the construction industry, reflecting a noticeable increase in the occupational safety and health (OSH) awareness in the industry. As a government body responsible for the construction and maintenance of public housing, the Housing Authority (HA) has to closely monitor the implementation of safety targets in its construction projects, which includes promoting safety culture from the top down and obtaining the pledge of contractors to maintain the highest standards of site safety. Since 1996, HA has partnered with the Occupational Safety and Health Council (OSHC) in carrying out independent safety audits quarterly. These independent safety audits, which aim at evaluating the OSH performance of HA projects, are conducted by competent safety auditors accredited by OSHC. During the safety audits, the good and bad practices, as well as safety measures adopted will be recorded and such information can help us to raise safety standards and promote safety management in the industry. In fact, HA sites exhibit high standards on OSH performance and can set an example for the industry.

I would like to thank HA again for its support to the OSH Star Enterprise Scheme (the Scheme) by specifying the appointment of star enterprises in its contracts. Now, the bamboo scaffolding companies engaged by contractors have to be star enterprises certified by OSHC under the Scheme. The objective of the Scheme is to use market force to encourage more repair, maintenance, alteration and addition (RMAA) enterprises to adopt a safety management system and obtain accreditation under the stringent Hong Kong Safety and Health Certification Scheme introduced by OSHC, with a view to minimising the risk of accidents and safeguarding the safety of workers and the public. It is hoped that with HA taking the lead, more RMAA enterprises will become Star Enterprises to develop a stronger culture of OSH.

The theme of the forum this year is “Prevention through Design – Careful Design can Reduce Accidents and Ensure Smooth and Safe Execution of Works”. Mr Jung-Ya HSIEH, a designer who has won numerous international awards, once said, “Design should be people-oriented. As designers should think about how to solve problems encountered by people, they have to pay close attention to their surroundings in order to come up with products that suit the needs of human beings.” Similarly, all safety measures and procedures should be designed from human point of view. We have to learn from experience, and think and reflect on past incidents, so as to design better safety products or construction sequence to ensure safety. I hope you can get some inspiration from all the innovative safety products displayed by the suppliers who have joined us today. We can then keep on improving our construction sequence and introducing more safety techniques for the development of a safe construction industry.

Over the years, OSHC has been working hand in hand with HA to raise the OSH standard in Hong Kong. By putting people first, we will continue to forge ahead with stakeholders and work together towards the goal of zero incident.

Thank you.



設計免危害 - 設計周詳減事故，施工暢順保平安
Prevention through Design “Careful design can reduce accidents and ensure smooth and safe execution of works”