

## Message by Mr YING Yiu-hong, Stanley, JP Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing (Housing)



Mr YING Yiu-hong, Stanley,  
JP

Thank you for joining today's Site Safety Forum for Works Contracts and Property Services Contract.

Embracing the core values of "caring, customer-focused, creative, committed", the Hong Kong Housing Authority (HA) is committed to providing affordable quality housing to people with housing needs. Even in face of the challenge of a tremendous increase in public housing construction at the moment, we remain firm in our stand to maintain a high standard of quality control, safety management and environmental protection. Also, under no circumstances that construction tasks will be performed at the cost of human lives and the natural environment.

As an organisation devoted to caring for society, HA has the responsibility to provide a safe and healthy working environment to ensure the work safety of our staff and frontline workers. For years we have been actively promoting "zero incidents" and "zero fatal accidents" and encouraging our business partners to formulate safety standards for the enhancement of work safety and to work vigorously to prevent accidents. In 2017, the accident rate of HA new works and maintenance works were 6.9 accidents and 4.2 accidents per thousand workers respectively, which are below HA's corporate target of no more than 9 accidents per thousand workers and much lower than the overall accident rate of 32.9 accidents per thousand workers in the construction industry. This showed that the overall safety performance of HA workplaces is good.

However, regrettably two fatal accidents happened at HA new works construction sites in 2017, and another fatal one during lift works in our estates early this year. Apart from feeling sad about the incidents, we are highly concerned about safety at workplace. Even one accident is too many. We must keep vigilant and closely monitor our corporate safety management system and that of our contractors at all times. We have to take steps to enhance safety practices at work and continuously improve the working environment to protect the health and lives of our colleagues and front-line workers as far as possible.

The theme of this year's forum is about a caring culture. We hope that in a spirit of caring like we do, all members of the industry could promote site safety by showing that they value and care for their front-line workers. This caring attitude covers not only employees but also their families, the communities and even the society at large.

Last but not least, I wish to thank the Occupational Safety and Health Council, the supporting organisations, guest speakers and participants from the industry for making this forum a success for the twelfth consecutive year. We firmly believe that with the concerted efforts of both the management and frontline staff, we can no doubt continue to enhance the standards and performance on site safety, and create a safer and healthier working environment for our colleagues and frontline staff. This will help us build quality housing and provide good management and maintenance services for residents in the public housing estates.

Thank you!

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