

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



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GBS, JP

The Hong Kong Housing Authority (HA) and the Occupational Safety and Health Council (OSHC) have been co-organising this Safety Forum for 13 years since 2007. We are delighted to see that the Construction Industry Council (CIC) has become one of the co-organisers of this year's Forum. With CIC's professional status and influence in the industry, I am very confident that this Forum will achieve even greater success than the previous ones.

The theme of the Forum this year is "Caring Culture for Safe Work Practice". In fact, "caring" has always been one of the core values of HA. Through the achievements in our work, we wish to convey the message that we care about the health and well-being of front-line workers and that we will apply all our efforts to achieve the goal of zero fatal industrial accident.

Construction industry involves high risk activities. However, with the concerted effort of OSHC, CIC and stakeholders in the industry over the years, the number of industrial accidents in the construction industry has been declining. In order to fully support the industry in reducing construction accidents, HA has been taking steps in years to strengthen the safety standards in workplace and employ competent and qualified contractors with satisfactory safety performance to undertake works contracts. Through stringent supervision and enhancement of safety awareness across the industry, we are able to maintain the accident rate of HA works contracts at a single-digit over the past seven years. Since 2016, our targeted accident rate has been revised from 12 accidents per 1,000 workers to 9 accidents per 1,000 workers.

We have adopted a three-pronged approach to reduce industrial accidents. Firstly, we will continue to enhance our contract requirements and management approaches, requiring the contractors and service providers to improve their safety management for providing a safer and healthier working environment for workers. Secondly, we will further improve our procurement strategies and performance monitoring mechanism for encouraging our business partners to aspire to higher safety and health standards. Thirdly, we will actively invite our business partners to take part in the promotion activities and training programmes on work safety in support of fostering a safety culture.



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In view of the ageing labour force, we call for our contractors and service providers to pro-actively look out for their workers' well-being. To underline our care for the workers, HA together with the co-organisers and supporting organisations of this Forum stage a Safety Charter Signing Ceremony today to make a pledge to promote a caring culture and to show our determination to protect the health and life of our workers.

Last but not least, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all the guests of honour, speakers and friends from the industry present today for your support to this event. Your participation gives us a great encouragement in our efforts to provide a safe workplace for our workers.

