

Message by Dr CHAN Hoi-shou, Alan, JP Chairman of the Occupational Safety and Health Council



Dr CHAN Hoi-shou, Alan
JP

This year marks the 13th anniversary of the “Safety Forum for Works Contracts and Property Services Contracts”. I am glad to join the occasion and share with our friends in the industry the experience of adopting good practices that can enhance safety at workplace and in property management work.

The Occupational Safety and Health Council (OSHC) has all along been working closely with the Housing Authority (HA) in a joint effort to promote occupational safety and health. We are delighted to see that HA has become a signatory of the pledge of Global Vision Zero initiated by the International Social Security Association (ISSA) to promote a prevention culture. By taking this step, HA has demonstrated its firm commitment to achieve “zero fatality”. The global campaign to promote the concept of Vision Zero for accident prevention is based on the belief that accidents at work and occupational diseases are not unavoidable and that we can eliminate harm and prevent accidents and occupational diseases through the development of a prevention culture. The prevention approach integrates three core values: Safety, Health and Well-being. ISSA has formulated clear guidelines to help companies set up a systematic safety management mechanism of their own.

OSHC has been providing various types of professional consultancy services for HA projects since 1996 such as carrying out surprise safety inspections for high-risk activities. With reference to the updates to the law and the best practices and safety innovations implemented in the industry, we have regularly enhanced the safety auditing system and the safety standards imposed on HA projects to ensure construction safety. These measures have proved effective in improving the safety performance in HA sites and enable us to maintain an accident rate far below the overall average in the construction industry of Hong Kong. This sets a good example for the industry to follow.

The fostering of a caring culture is especially important for enhancing work safety performance. The theme of this year’s forum is “We Bolster Caring Culture for Safety and Health of Our Workers”. I wish to take this opportunity to call for all contractors, employers, supervisors and workers to actively foster a caring culture through activities like providing fruit for workers and arranging body checks for them. More importantly, apart from meeting the standards laid down in HA’s safety auditing system, we should encourage employees at all levels to make it a habit to care for the wellbeing of their fellow workers, and give friendly reminder to and look out for each other at work. In this way, the risk of accidents can surely be reduced.



Message by Dr CHAN Hoi-shou, Alan, JP Chairman of the Occupational Safety and Health Council

In view of the persistence of very hot weather during summer in recent years, OSHC reminds everyone to take all necessary precautions to prevent heatstroke when engaging in outdoor work. The latest TV Announcements in the Public Interest (API) jointly launched by OSHC and the Labour Department has already given people a safety tip that when feeling unwell, don't keep on working. Workers are advised to drink more water and take regular breaks to reduce the risk of heatstroke.

Last but not least, we hope that today's forum provides us with a platform for experience sharing and exchanging good practices which can help raise the occupational safety and health standards and achieve the goal of "safe work, zero incident".

