

## Message by Mr. CHAN Ka-kui, SBS, JP Chairman of the Construction Industry Council



**Mr. CHAN Ka-kui**  
**SBS, JP**

The theme of this Safety Forum is the caring culture - “We bolster caring culture for safety and health of our workers”. I am very impressed that many government officials, management level of construction companies, subcontractors and property companies can participate and support the seminar and exchange safety experience on the culture of caring in the construction industry.

Most of the workers engaged in construction or repair, maintenance, alteration and addition (RMAA) are now employed on a daily wage relation, and this form of employment is often not based on a long-term labour relationship. Owing to the lack of a healthy employment relationship and welfare for workers, workers usually have low sense of belonging in the construction industry and their work.

Nevertheless, in the past 20 or 30 years, the Hong Kong Government, including the Housing Authority, the Labour Department, the Construction Industry Council, the Occupational Safety and Health Council and stakeholder of the construction industry, had made efforts to improve the safety and welfare of the construction industry. However in recent year, there were around 10 to 20 fatal accidents happened in the construction industry including new works and RMAA works.

The Construction Industry Council launched the “Registered Specialist Trade Contractors Scheme” on 1st April 2019. The Scheme aims to build up a pool of professional and responsible trade contractors with specialised skills through recognised registration system for development of the construction industry.

“Registered Specialist Trade Contractors Scheme” are applicable for the seven designated trades of demolition, scaffolding, concreting formwork, reinforcement bar fixing, concreting, erection of concrete precast component and curtain wall. Core elements for registration including safety, management, job experience, executive and finance. In addition, we require the Registered Specialist Trade Contractors to employ portion of workers in monthly wage relation. We hope that through changing the employment mode of workers, we can improve the sense of belonging of workers to the construction industry, enhance the safety of construction industry and minimize the multi-layers of subcontracting.



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We hope that the industry can support the “Registered Specialist Trade Contractors Scheme” and jointly promote the long-term employment policy, and to further extend this employment mode to other different types works, for example: RMAA companies, property management companies, subcontractors level etc. We believe that providing a stable employment relationship and working environment for workers are the foundation of caring culture.



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