

### Message by **Mr. CHAN Ka-kui, SBS, JP**

The Safety Forum for Works Contracts and Property Management Services Contracts is an important annual event on occupational safety and health in Hong Kong. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, most of the participants are unable to attend the forum in person this year. That said, moving it online has enabled more participants, especially frontline practitioners, to join. As far as I know, over 700 people have signed up for the forum today. Crisis brings opportunity, we should look on the bright side, think and stay positive.

I believe you still remember that many serious accidents occurred in the construction industry this June and July, in which six workers lost their lives. We were all deeply concerned about it. In late July, the Construction Industry Council immediately held discussions with industry stakeholders, including, of course, our partners Housing Department (HD), the Hong Kong Construction Association, labour unions and major construction companies, to see what we could do to prevent the situation from worsening. Our focus is to take swift and effective actions. We decided to hold a large-scale, industry-wide event in major construction sites in Hong Kong in August and September, namely the “Life First” safety awareness campaign. This is not merely a publicity campaign, it also aims to identify and eliminate the potential hazards on the sites through concrete actions.

We also hope to convey a message to all – “Site safety is a shared responsibility”. Site safety is an issue involving not only the construction companies but also the developers, professionals involved in the projects, top management of contractors, site management, sub- contractors and frontline workers. Each and every one of us has a responsibility for it. We should stay vigilant, give reminder to and look out for each other to ensure site safety. “Life First” is a five-day “1+4” campaign. On the first day, we asked the employers and the management to conduct site walk with site personnel to identify any potential hazards and safety deficiencies on site. We also, like today, organised some activities to stimulate reflection among participants to raise their safety awareness. For the remaining four days, relevant construction personnel reviewed the forthcoming procedures of individual sites in the next two to three months, identified the ones with potential hazards and discussed with each other the necessary safety measures to avoid accidents. Though arranged in less than a week, the campaign has received enthusiastic support from the industry with over 200 participating contractors, involving more than 450 active sites. My special thanks go to HD, which involved 51 sites. Connie, the Deputy Director of Housing, has even officiated the “Life First” Launching Ceremonies of several HD’s projects.

The theme of today’s forum is “Risk Management to Safeguard Safety and Health of Workplace”. HD’s decision to launch this event online today is a well demonstration of risk management. The “1+4” programme of “Life First” also covers risk management. First, we have to identify the risks and hazards. Then, address and eliminate them. Later, some experts will share with us the ways to identify risks and eliminate hazards. Knowledge and technology are important. That is why the construction management system of Hong Kong comprises many different professionals and regulatory procedures. Nevertheless, the key to achieve industrial safety is your dedication, especially the dedication of decision makers and those at management levels who are responsible for supervision and resources allocation. For those of you joining us in person or online today, you are all persons-in-charge of HD’s projects and property management contracts. Your attitude determines the safety performance of the projects under your charge as well as the lives of workers engaged.

I have mentioned earlier that “Life First” will only take place in August and September. What I was referring to was the “Life First” campaign and slogan. However, “risk management” is a continuous and on-going process. As long as there are workers working on the site, it requires “risk management” and your “dedication to safety”. For all workers and for yourself, you should never lose your dedication.

Thank you and may I wish you all good health.

