

**Message by
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Same as last year, this Forum would be broadcast live online. Many of you attended this Forum at the same time but at different places. Through this platform, all speakers would share latest information on work safety and health, and exchange experiences and insights.

We felt very sad about the recent industrial fatal accidents in the public housing projects at Queen's Hill. Apart from sadness, the unfortunate accidents reminded us that we must always pay attention to site safety. "Safety" is always our first and foremost priority, and it must be achieved through teamwork. This is in line with the theme of the Forum this year, namely "Safe Practice Bolstering Professionalism of Work Personnel". I hope people from different professions in the team, be they designers, contract management personnel, site supervisors or frontline workers, will work closely with contractors, sub-contractors and all partners to continue to implement safe work practices in order to develop a safety culture in various areas.

The Housing Authority (HA) has maintained a low accident rate of its works which is far below the overall accident rate in the construction industry in Hong Kong. However, three fatal incidents occurred up to now in this year at New Works and Maintenance Works sites of HA. Even one accident is considered too many. We immediately raised our vigilance and strengthened our site safety management. Apart from imposing punishment on contractors responsible for the accidents, we repeatedly disseminated safety messages to all our contractors and colleagues, urging them to do their utmost to prevent the recurrence of unfortunate incidents.

Since the beginning of last year, the COVID-19 pandemic has posed a great threat to the health of our frontline staff. Contractors have enhanced their anti-epidemic measures such as checking the body temperature of staff at the entrance of workplaces, requiring workers and staff to provide proof of their negative COVID-19 test results, recording information of visitors, reminding all staff to wear masks, providing suitable anti-epidemic items and setting up partitions within the catering area. With our concerted efforts, the risk of an outbreak of infection at HA sites has been largely reduced. For more effective protection, I encourage all of you, particularly frontline staff and workers, to get vaccinated as early as possible to better protect yourselves and others.

On behalf of HA, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Occupational Safety and Health Council, the Construction Industry Council, all supporting organisations, speakers and participants for your staunch support to this Safety Forum. We will continue our efforts to promote site safety culture and to provide safe workplaces to our frontline workers and staff so that they can “go to work happily and return home safely” every day.