

# PRESS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# <u>Construction Industry Jointly Organised a Webinar on</u> <u>Safety of Gondola Operations to Encourage</u> <u>Review on Safety of Working at Height in Construction Site</u>

**Hong Kong** • **21 June 2022** – The construction industry is concerned about the recent accidents in the construction industry, especially two fatal accidents involving persons working on gondola . In view of this, the Development Bureau, the Construction Industry Council (CIC), the Labour Department, the Architectural Services Department, the Housing Authority, the Hong Kong Professional Gondola Association Limited and the Hong Kong Association of Property Management Companies jointly organised a webinar yesterday to raise the safety awareness of stakeholders on gondola operation.

Ir Dr. PANG Yat-pong, Chairperson of the Committee on Construction Safety of CIC recalled that there were 9 fatal accidents already in the first half of 2022. Almost 70% involves falling from height, which reveals there is inadequate protection for workers working at height in the industry. He said that it is everyone's responsibility to perform their own duties of ensuring construction safety.

During the seminar, requirements and management of gondola operation were highlighted from different points of view by representatives from the government, professional bodies and contractors. Audience were briefed on the regulations and requirements of gondola operation, policies and procedures on management of contractors, management and key points of gondola work, points to note throughout project timespan and the role of management companies and suggestions to improve safety of gondola operations.

The CIC hopes the seminar can raise the industry's awareness of the safety requirements and management related to gondola operation and learn from the accidents to improve site safety performance. During his opening speech, Ir LAM Tat-ming, Principal Assistant Secretary of the Development Bureau requested the safety message to be delivered to the frontline so that safety measures can be effectively implemented to prevent accidents.



Mr. CHAN Ka-lai, Assistant Commissioner of Labour, expressed his condolences to the family of the deceased. He also reiterated that the owners of gondolas must ensure that the gondola is in good condition and complies with the legal requirements on maintenance and operation. Sr LAM Kin-wing, Eddie, President of the Hong Kong Construction Association, said accidents continued to happen after the unfortunate incidents and he hopes that the industry can establish a safety culture across all stakeholders.

The CIC hopes the industry would put "Life First, Say No To Danger" into practice instead of a slogan. Safety awareness should be cascaded to all frontline workers by the management and workers should be encouraged to stop work immediately and report to the management if they encounter any unsafe situations. Everyone has their role to play to ensure "Zero Accidents" at site.

Webinar Replay: <u>https://youtu.be/g4KTGs8IH0A</u>



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Opening speech by Ir LAM Tat-ming, Principal Assistant Secretary of the Development Bureau

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## Opening speech by Ir Dr. PANG Yat-pong, Chairperson of Com-CSY, Construction Industry Council



Group photo with invited speakers

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#### About the Construction Industry Council

The Construction Industry Council (CIC) was formed in 2007 under the Construction Industry Council Ordinance (Cap. 587). The CIC consists of a chairman and 24 members representing various sectors of the industry including employers, professionals, academics, contractors, workers, independent persons and Government officials.

The main functions of the CIC are to forge consensus on long-term strategic issues, convey the industry's needs and aspirations to the Government, provide professional training and registration services, and serve as a communication channel between the Government and the construction industry.

Please visit www.cic.hk for further details.