

For discussion  
22 April 2004

## **Legislative Council Panel on Manpower**

### **Proposal for erecting a memorial plaque to mark the World Day for Safety and Health at Work on 28 April**

#### **Purpose**

This paper briefs Members on the Administration's proposal to erect a memorial plaque to mark the World Day for Safety and Health at Work which falls on 28 April.

#### **Background**

2. For some years, labour unions in a number of countries have paid tribute on 28 April every year to workers killed or injured whilst at work. In 1996, the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions designated the day as the "International Commemoration Day for Dead and Injured Workers". The event is also known as the "Workers' Memorial Day" in USA and the "National Day of Mourning" in Canada. In addition to various commemorative activities, memorial monuments have also been erected in different parts of the world in remembrance of those killed and injured at work.

3. The International Labour Organisation (“ILO”) first officially associated itself with the event in 2001, and joined hands with labour unions in organising commemorative activities. However, ILO considered it more appropriate to focus on prevention instead of solely on mourning victims of occupational accidents and diseases. In 2003, ILO designated 28 April as the “*World Day for Safety and Health at Work*”, stressing the importance of preventing accidents and illness at work. The Day is intended to focus international attention on promoting and creating a safety and health culture at work and help reduce the number of work-related accidents.

### **Erection of a Memorial Plaque in Hong Kong**

4. The Administration supports ILO’s initiative to inculcate a strong safety and health culture at the workplace. Over the years, the Labour Department has been working closely with the Occupational Safety and Health Council, trade associations, labour unions, professional bodies, related organisations and other government departments concerned to launch promotional programmes seeking to enhance safety and health awareness at work and hence the standards of occupational safety and health in Hong Kong. The following are some of the major programmes in recent years :-

- (a) Construction Industry Safety Award Scheme;
- (b) Catering Industry Safety Award Scheme;
- (c) Occupational Safety Charter;

- (d) Customer Service Teams Project;
- (e) Hong Kong Occupational Safety and Health Award;
- (f) Construction Safety Day;
- (g) Good Housekeeping Day;
- (h) Occupational Health Day; and
- (i) Green Cross Day.

5. As a further support to ILO's initiative, the Administration plans to put up a memorial plaque at the Occupational Safety and Health Gallery in the Hong Kong Science Museum to mark the World Day for Safety and Health at Work on 28 April. The proposed inscription on the plaque is as follows :-

「國際勞工組織將每年四月二十八日定為世界工作安全健康日，以期喚起各界對工作安全之關注。為表揚本港勞工多年以來對香港繁榮之貢獻，並向歷年於工作意外中不幸身故或受傷之工人致敬，爰泐銘牌荷蒙  
 .....}  
 .....} 主禮嘉賓待定  
 .....}  
 蒞臨主持揭幕儀式特立此為記  
 二零零五年四月二十八日」

*“The International Labour Organisation has designated 28<sup>th</sup> April as the World Day for Safety and Health at Work. It reminds us all of the vital importance of work safety.*

*This Plaque was unveiled on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2005 by –*

..... }  
..... } *Officiating Guests to be confirmed*  
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*to honour our workforce for its immense contribution towards the success of Hong Kong and to pay tribute to those who unfortunately lost their lives or were injured in work-related accidents over the years.”*

6. We will stage a ceremony to unveil the memorial plaque on the World Day for Safety and Health at Work on 28 April 2005, supported by other promotional activities to be organised in collaboration with the Occupational Safety and Health Council and other organisations concerned to bring home the safety and health messages to our workforce.

## **The Way Forward**

7. Subject to Members' views on paragraphs 5 and 6, the Administration will proceed with the proposal to put up the memorial plaque at the Occupational Safety and Health Gallery in the Hong Kong Science Museum.

Labour Department

Economic Development and Labour Bureau

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