

For discussion on
17 March 2005

LegCo Panel on Manpower

Proposal to Designate 28 April as the Commemoration Day for Dead and Injured Workers in Hong Kong

Purpose

This paper sets out the Administration's position on the proposal to designate 28 April as the Commemoration Day for Dead and Injured Workers in Hong Kong.

Background

2. Safety and health at work has always been one of the Administration's major areas of concern. Indeed, over the years, the Labour Department has been striving to enhance the standards of occupational safety and health in Hong Kong through legislation and enforcement, education and training as well as promotion and publicity. We have also 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 inculcate a positive safety culture 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.

The Administration's Proposed Promotional Activities on the World Day for Safety and Health at Work

3. The International Labour Organisation ("ILO") has designated 28 April as the "World Day for Safety and Health at Work" to focus international attention on promoting and creating a safety and health culture at work. The ILO's thinking behind such a designation is that the Day should stress what could be done proactively to prevent occupational accidents and diseases. The Administration subscribes fully to the ILO's thinking. In support of the ILO's initiative, we plan to organise a series of promotional activities on this year's "World Day for Safety and Health at Work". The activities planned include an occupational safety and health seminar on 28 April and various exhibitions.

4. In addition, we also plan to organise a ceremony to unveil a memorial plaque at the Occupational Safety and Health Gallery at the Hong Kong Science Museum. 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彰
本港勞工多年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工人致敬謹刻此銘牌為記

二零零五年四月二十八日

The International Labour Organisation has designated 28th 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 erected 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.

28th April 2005 ”

The Administration's Position on the proposal to designate 28 April as the Commemoration Day for Dead and Injured Workers in Hong Kong

5. The Administration fully supports the spirit of the "World Day for Safety and Health at Work". We consider that it is more meaningful and positive for us to follow the ILO's lead and observe the "World Day for Safety and Health at Work" on 28 April, rather than designating the day as the "Commemoration Day for Dead and Injured Workers in Hong Kong". After all, the proposed plaque to be unveiled on 28 April this year will be a clear mark of the tribute paid to workers killed or injured in work-related accidents over the years.

The Way Forward

6. The Administration will organise exhibitions and a safety seminar in collaboration with the Occupational Safety and Health Council to mark this year's "World Day for Safety and Health at Work". Similar promotional events will be held on 28 April in future years. Subject to Members' views, we will also hold a ceremony on 28 April this year to unveil a memorial plaque at the Occupational Safety and Health Gallery at the Hong Kong Science Museum to pay tribute to those who lost their lives or were injured in work accidents in Hong Kong over the years.

Labour Department
Economic Development and Labour Bureau
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