

Background Information of the Construction Charity Fund

The construction industry is committed to raising the public's awareness of industrial safety. Statistics have shown that the number of industrial accidents in the construction industry has been declining in recent years. With the high-risk nature of construction activities, however, accidents could not be totally eliminated.

To show our concern and recognition for colleagues who suffered injuries or died in fatal industrial accidents, the construction industry has joined hands to organize a compassionate charity fund named the "Construction Charity Fund" (the Fund) to provide immediate financial assistance and condolences to families of colleagues who died in construction related accidents, initially.

The Construction Charity Fund was co-founded by Legislative Councillor the Hon Mr Abraham SHEK Lai-him, SBS, JP, Hong Kong Construction Association (HKCA), Hong Kong Federation of Electrical & Mechanical Contractors (HKFEMC), Hong Kong Construction Sub-Contractors Association (HKCSA) and Hong Kong Construction Industry Employees General Union (HKCIEGU). Since it started operating on 1 October 2009, the Fund has given out HK\$6.28 million to 68 families as condolence payments as at 20 February 2012. The Fund was formally launched on 26 February 2010, officiated by Mrs Carrie Lam, GBS, JP, Secretary for Development.

In addition to financial support, the Fund arranged a social worker to provide counseling service for individual family members of the deceased. If it were deemed appropriate, the Fund would also refer the families to other charitable organisations, e.g. the Lighthouse Club to apply for education subsidy for their school-age children. By doing so, we hope to reduce stress caused by financial and psychological burden to the affected families so that they can get back to a normal life quickly.