

Joint efforts to foster occupational safety and health in catering industry (with photos)

The Labour Department has called on the catering industry to work together to establish a safe and healthy work environment to give employees and their family members peace of mind.

Speaking at the Catering Industry Safety Award Scheme (2018/2019) award presentation ceremony, the Commissioner for Labour, Mr Carlson Chan, today (November 27) said, "The Labour Department attaches great importance to the occupational safety and health (OSH) performance of the catering industry. With joint efforts of the industry, workers' unions, trade associations, the Government and the Occupational Safety and Health Council (OSHC), there has been continuous improvement in the OSH performance of the industry in recent years. Over the past decade, the accident toll in the industry decreased by 38 per cent from about 8 000 in 2008 to less than 5 000 last year, and the accident rate per 1 000 workers also dropped by about 50 per cent, from 38.7 to 20.5. Though there has been a visible improvement, every stakeholder still has to continue his effort to improve the OSH performance of the industry.

"The Labour Department has revised the competition criteria for the Group Safety Performance Award and the Safety Awareness Award this year to encourage more participation from small and medium-scale catering establishments so as to enhance their OSH awareness. The Safe Use of Personal Protective Equipment Award has also been introduced to recognise the workers with proper use of personal protective equipment."

Launched in 1999, the Catering Industry Safety Award Scheme is jointly organised by the Labour Department and the OSHC, with the Occupational Deafness Compensation Board and related organisations, trade associations, workers' unions as co-organising bodies. Entering its 20th year, the award scheme this year has drawn participation from a total of 324 catering establishments with 366 workers nominated to compete for different categories of awards.

The scheme aims to reinforce awareness of OSH among employers, employees and stakeholders in the industry as well as the public. It also aims to inculcate a good OSH culture in the catering industry and to recognise catering establishments, supervisors and workers with good performance in OSH.

Also officiating at the award presentation ceremony today were Executive Council and Legislative Council member Mr Tommy Cheung; the Chairman of the OSHC, Dr Alan Chan; the Chairman of the Occupational Deafness Compensation Board, Dr Albert Luk; and representatives of the co-organisers.

