

2 September 2022



**Dear REDAS Members & Friends,**

### **Safety Leadership Matters**

Warmest greetings to everyone.

The Ministry of Manpower (MOM) has highlighted concerning rise in workplace fatalities this year. Based on their statistics, the number of construction fatalities and major injuries in 1H2022 has significantly exceeded the numbers for the same period in recent years. Private developers' projects have also seen more than 2 times the fatality rate per \$100mil contract value compared to public sector projects.

REDAS shares MOM'S concern on the spate of workplace fatal accidents on the back of expansion of construction activities in both public and private sectors.

We appreciate that over the years, developers have stayed committed in their efforts to raise safety and health performance in the construction sector, such as working with the senior management to conduct regular site reviews to identify and address safety issues, working with contractors to drive construction site safety and engaging workers to provide feedback and comply with safety-related measures and procedures.

Developers are also adopting technologies and innovative solutions to enhance the quality of our infrastructure and buildings so that they are not only highly liveable and connected but also sustainable, smarter and safer to build.

The COVID-19 pandemic has indeed affected and challenged many businesses and industries like never before. We recognise that the construction industry is still facing significant manpower issues amidst construction backlogs, cost pressures, supply chain issues and financial challenges. We recognise as well that there is a pressing need to strengthen workplace safety and health (WSH) and improve WSH oversight.

MOM has introduced new measures to prevent accidents, including stepping up enforcements, disqualifying unsafe companies from being awarded contracts and rewarding vendors and contractors with safety bonus for good WSH performance and Mandatory Safety Time-Out (STO) from 1 September to 15 September 2022 for all project sites. Please refer to the [attached Annex A and A1](#) for more details.

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REDAS supports taking a stronger commitment to WSH. Collaborative leadership is the cornerstone of a safe and healthy workplace. It fosters a trusted and transformational environment that increases safety-related behavior among construction workers, and elevates workers' motivation to comply with safety regulations and deliver positive safety outcomes.

**We will like to urge all members to take a stronger leadership role in encouraging good WSH practices and cooperate with MOM to take necessary measures to bring down the fatality rate.**

**Let us continue to collaborate and protect our workers and our businesses.** With the government stepping up support measures to ease manpower crunch, I am hopeful that the built environment and construction sector will recover more quickly.

Taking this opportunity, Members of the REDAS Management Committee will like to express our deep appreciation to all members for your strong support over the years. Your business interests and benefits remain at the forefront of REDAS work as the Association continued to actively engage in discussions with the authorities to put forth our views and suggestions on pertinent matters which impact real estate development and the built environment sector.

Thank you once again. I wish everyone all the best and every success in your endeavours.

Yours sincerely



**Chia Ngiam Hong**  
**President**  
**REDAS**