

Ombudsman meets with Chief Secretary for Administration (with photo)

The following is issued on behalf of the Office of The Ombudsman:

The Ombudsman, Mr Jack Chan, was invited to meet with the Chief Secretary for Administration, Mr Chan Kwok-ki; the Secretary for the Civil Service, Mrs Ingrid Yeung; and relevant senior officials, today (May 9) to deliberate on the findings and analyses of the investigation by the Office of The Ombudsman into the Government's regulation of occupational safety and health in the construction industry and exchange views on strengthening departmental management systems and reinforcing performance accountability.

The Ombudsman said, "I must, once again, express my gratitude to the Chief Executive for his recognition of our work. I am also very grateful that he has announced earlier that the Chief Secretary for Administration will lead a working group to conduct in-depth reviews of recommendations in the direct investigation operation reports issued by the Office of The Ombudsman to ensure that government departments will actively follow up on the recommendations from these investigations. I am also grateful for the Chief Secretary for Administration's invitation to this meeting. During our meeting today, we had an in-depth and focused deliberation on my Office's investigation findings as regards the Government's regulation of occupational safety and health in the construction industry, and a candid discussion on the bottlenecks and challenges. We also had a thorough exchange of views on ways to strengthen departmental management systems and reinforce performance accountability. I am pleased to learn that the working group led by the Chief Secretary for Administration will monitor relevant departments' follow-up actions to ensure full implementation of our recommendations. I am also pleased to note that the Labour Department and the Buildings Department have been actively following up the recommendations of our report and commenced various work including enhancing effectiveness of enforcement and expediting the processing of cases omitted earlier. The current-term Government is committed and determined to strengthen departmental management systems, reinforce performance accountability among departmental managerial staff, and enhance public service management and efficiency, demonstrating its devotion and dedication to fostering good governance. My Office will give full support and co-operation in enhancing the effectiveness of public administration to ensure high-quality and efficient public services."

