

Construction Industry Council
Committee on Construction Safety

Meeting No. 004/20 of the Committee on Construction Safety (Com-CSY) was held on 3 December 2020 (Thursday) at 2:30pm by video conferencing (Microsoft Teams).

Present:

Derrick PANG	(DP)	Chairperson
CHAN Kim-kwong	(KCCN)	
CHAN Pat-kan	(CPK)	
Thomas HUI	(HT)	
LEE Sau-king	(LSK)	
LI Tat-wai	(LTW)	
LO Hong-kam	(LHK)	
Kenneth MO	(KM)	
YU Sai-yen	(SYYu)	
Collin CHAN	(CnC)	Airport Authority Hong Kong (AAHK)
Dennis IP	(DI)	MTR Corporation Limited (MTRC)
Alcohol MOK	(AMO)	The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers (HKIE)
Jesse WONG	(JsW)	Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors (HKIS)
WONG Kwok-keung	(KKW)	Hong Kong Federation of Electrical and Mechanical Contractors (HKFEMC)
Rex WONG	(RWg)	Hong Kong Construction Association
WU Wai-hung	(WHWu)	Labour Department (LD)

In

Attendance :

CHAN Ka-kui	(KKCh)	Chairman
Albert CHENG	(CTN)	Executive Director
Stephen HO	(SnH)	Assistant Director - Industry Development & Estates Office
CHU Yin-lin	(YLC)	Assistant Director – Training
Angela YUEN	(AaY)	Senior Manager - Construction Safety
Tony LAM	(TLam)	Manager - Construction Safety
LEE Man-yiu	(LMY)	Development Bureau (DEVB)
Timothy LAU	(TyL)	Hong Kong Housing Authority (HKHA)

Apologies: Connie YEUNG (CYG)

MINUTES

Action

4.1 Code of Conduct of Members and Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Members of the Com-CSY took note of the code of conduct of Members and Members had declared no conflict of interest in relation to the matters discussed in this meeting.

4.2 Confirmation of the Minutes of the Com-CSY Meeting No. 003/20

Members took note of Meeting Minutes CIC/CSY/M/003/20 and confirmed the Meeting Minutes of the last meeting held on 17 September 2020.

4.3 Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting

There were no matters arising from the previous meeting.

4.4 Summary on Fatalities of Construction Industry in 2019

WHWu briefed Members on the paper CIC/CSY/P/024/20 regarding summary on industrial fatalities of construction industry in 2019.

WHWu expressed that there were 16 industrial fatal accidents in the construction industry in 2019, and presented briefly information related to the accidents. The types of accidents were as follows:

- a) Fall of person from height – 7 cases;
- b) Striking against or struck by moving object – 2 cases;
- c) Trapped by collapsing or overturning object – 2 cases;
- d) Struck by falling object – 2 cases;
- e) Trapped in or between objects – 1 case;
- f) Struck by moving vehicle – 1 case; and
- g) Drowning – 1 case.

Participants discussed the accidents in recent years and some participants stated that the safety performance of the construction industry in Hong Kong had been improving, regarding the accident rate per 1,000 workers, fatality rate per 1,000 workers or the number of fatal industrial accidents each year. In recent years, the CIC and different stakeholders in the industry had put more focus on handling high-risk processes and strengthening workers' safety awareness and

training. However, in recent years, ten odd workers died in work accidents every year. When examining the causes of these accidents, it was found that many accidents were attributed to the discrepancies between the method statements and the actual construction site conditions and environment or/and the failure of the teams in charge in implementing the work processes according to the method statements. DP stated that the number of industrial fatal accidents had not improved significantly and suggested holding a brainstorming meeting in January 2021. Members of the Com-CSY would be cordially invited to participate to discuss the more effective ways to improve site safety.

CIC
Secretariat

Members of the Com-CSY took note of summary on fatalities of Construction Industry in 2019.

4.5 Progress of the Subcommittee on Safety Promotion (SSP)

RWg briefed Members on the paper CIC/CSY/P/025/20 regarding the progress of the SSP.

The progress of the SSP was given as follows:

- a) For VR safety training, VR download platform had been launched on 16 October 2020. The participated contractors of “Site Safety Gathering 2020” could download the VR training software from the platform and workers could receive online safety training directly at their sites. Besides, the download platform would also support 3 mainstream VR Goggles on the market to solve the problem of compatibility between software and hardware, and to meet the needs of different construction sites.
- b) For the first phase of the development of new Safety Apps with digital wallet function, it would use the three card issuing departments of the CIC as 3 independent entities to test whether the adoption of block chain technology could be cooperated with different institutions in the future. The first phase of new safety Apps was expected to be launched in June 2021.
- c) The Construction Safety Week (CSW) 2020 awards ceremony was held at different sites of the Government Departments and the Zero Carbon Park on 27 October 2020 for the 26th CCSAS, Lifting Safety Awards, Site Safety Gathering and CISVP related awards. The list of awardees was uploaded onto the CSW website.
- d) To encourage the use of innovation and technology to improve site safety, an online sharing session would be held on 22 January

2021. Leaflet for the “Construction Innovation and Technology Fund” would also be produced for industry reference.

DP suggested exploring the feasibility of organising the “Life First” campaign every year to remind the industry to regularly review site safety and attach importance to the safety of frontline workers. In addition, the SSP might consider making a list of fatalities in the construction industry each year for reference by clients, the Government Departments, contractors, etc., in order to learn lessons.

SSP

Members of the Com-CSY approved the summary notes of the meeting of the SSP held on 10 November 2020 and took note of the work progress of various tasks.

4.6 Progress of the Subcommittee on Safety Training (SST)

SY Yu briefed Members on the paper CIC/CSY/P/026/20 regarding the progress of the SST.

The progress of the SST was given as follows:

- a) Up to 3 December 2020, there had been 14 industrial fatal accidents in the construction industry in 2020.
- b) For the new course relating to lifting operation, the “A12S Silver Card Course on Construction Materials Rigger and Signalman” had been rolled out in June 2020. The course was very popular by the industry and there was 691 people on the waiting list.
- c) The CIC Secretariat would discuss the feasibility of setting up a “Silver Card Course on Concreter” with the industry so as to remind the concrete workers to alert to the hold points in the relevant working process. Moreover, the CIC Secretariat would discuss the feasibility of running relevant courses with stakeholders who had silver card requirements in contract projects (for example: Development Bureau, Housing Department, MTR Corporation Limited, Airport Authority Hong Kong, etc.).
- d) In order to strengthen the training of professional bodies on construction safety, the CIC Secretariat would send letters to them and request for including the requirement of “not less than 3 hours of safety training per year” in their continuing professional development (CPD) programmes.
- e) The Kick-off Ceremony of the “Experiential Learning on Site Safety Training Scheme 2020-2021” was held on 18 November

2020. A total of 15 faculties from 10 tertiary institutions would participate in the Scheme this year.

Members of the Com-CSY approved the summary notes of the meeting of the SST held on 12 November 2020 and took note of the work progress of various tasks.

4.7 Progress of revamp of the HKIC - Kwai Chung Campus Safety Training Centre

YLC gave a presentation on the progress of revamp of the HKIC - Kwai Chung Campus Safety Training Centre.

The progress was given as follows:

- a) The website of the HKIC had been revamped to make it easier for users to browse information about safety training courses, and therefore the number of visitors had increased significantly.
- b) The procedures for the enquiry hotline of safety training courses was simplified and a direct line was established.
- c) In 2021, it was planned to add online registration and payment for safety training courses.

CTN stated that the HKIC's current fees for green card courses were lower than that of other institutions and its quality had been recognised by different industry stakeholders. The green card courses organised by the HKIC were very popular by the industry and the waiting time for classes was long. It was recommended that the HKIC only accept applications from those who could attend classes within two months to avoid complaints.

Members of the Com-CSY took note of the progress of revamp of the HKIC - Kwai Chung Campus Safety Training Centre.

4.8 Progress of the Subcommittee on Safety Technical Issues (STI)

CnC briefed Members on the paper CIC/CSY/P/027/20 regarding the progress of the STI.

The progress of the STI was given as follows:

- a) Regarding the issue on the "safety performance assessment" of contractors and workers, interested Members of the STI had been invited to participate in the discussion, and companies that had participated in similar projects in the past had been invited to share

their experience and discuss work direction and roadmap.

- b) The progress of the research project, “Optimal Use of Internet of Things Technology (IoT) to Prevent Failure of Temporary Support System in Construction” had been affected by the epidemic. The STI agreed to postpone the completion date by 4 months, i.e.30 April 2021.
- c) For the research project “New Generation Green and Healthy Jackhammers with Integrated Bio-Inspired Anti-Vibration Handles”, the STI agreed to pay the first phase of the research grant.

Members of the Com-CSY approved the summary notes of the meeting of the STI held on 11 November 2020 and took note of the work progress of various tasks.

4.8.1 Progress of the Task Force on Truss-out Bamboo Scaffolds (TF-TOB)

TLam briefed Members on the paper CIC/CSY/P/028/20 regarding the progress of the TF-TOB.

The progress of the TF-TOB was given as follows:

- a) Regarding the load tests on the 5 typical designs of truss-out bamboo scaffolds, one of which had been confirmed by the Buildings Department that it met the requirements of relevant regulations. The consultant would continue to calculate the other two designs and complete the load test by December 2020. The final draft of the guidelines was expected to be completed in the first quarter of 2021.
- b) For insurance matter, scaffolders expressed their current problems in scaffolding insurance issue. After discussion, the TF-TOB agreed to carry out insurance-related work after the completion of the guidelines.

Members of the Com-CSY approved the summary notes of the meeting of the TF-TOB held on 6 November 2020 and took note of the work progress of various tasks.

4.8.2 Progress of the Task Force on Design for Safety (TF-DfS)

DP gave a presentation on the progress of the TF-DfS.

The progress of the TF-DfS was given as follows::

- a) Regarding the appointment of consultants to conduct a research, the CIC Secretariat introduced the contents of the assignment brief to Members. The study was divided into two phases and would last for two years. The first phase was to develop a “Design for Safety” management system and draft reference materials, and the second phase was to develop a professional “Design for Safety” training programme.

Members of the Com-CSY took note of the work progress of the TF-DfS and approved the contents of the assignment brief of the research and tendering issue.

4.9 Progress of the Study of Safety Roles and Responsibilities of Key Stakeholders in the Hong Kong Construction Industry

DP gave a presentation on the progress of the Study.

The progress of the Study was given as follows:

- a) 5 consultation sessions were held for different stakeholders in October 2020 and more than 120 people joined the sessions.
- b) For the follow-up work, 5 “Practical Reference Guidance” would be published one after another. The first publication was the “Practical Reference Guidance - General Reference” and it was expected to be published in the first quarter of 2021. The drafting of the other 4 “Practical Reference Guidance” would begin immediately.
- c) The Working Group on Safety Roles and Responsibilities of Key Stakeholders in the Hong Kong Construction Industry endorsed the final draft of the research report and settlement of the balance.

Members of the Com-CSY took note of the progress of the Study, and approved the final draft of the research report and settlement of balance of the Study.

4.10 Review of 2020 and 2021 Business Plans

AaY briefed Members on the paper CIC/CSY/P/029/20 regarding the review of 2020 and 2021 business plans.

AaY reported the progress of 2020 business plan and, revised 2021 business plan and budget as follows:

- a) 2020 business plan items were almost completed but some items were slightly delayed and changed the format of the activities due to the epidemic.
- b) Regarding the 2021 business plan, the CIC Secretariat had collected opinions from Members and conducted budget adjustments after reviewing with the management. The Council approved the revised business plan and budget on 23 October 2020.

Members of the Com-CSY took note of the progress of 2020 business plan and, revised 2021 business plan and budget.

4.11 Tentative Meeting Schedule for Year 2021

AaY briefed Members on the paper CIC/CSY/P/030/20 regarding the Tentative Meeting Schedule for Year 2021.

Members took note of the tentative meeting schedule for Year 2021.

4.12 Any Other Business

4.12.1 AaY informed Members that, as the “Life First” campaign logo had been widely recognised by the industry and the management of the CIC decided to use it as the logo of the Department of Construction Safety of the CIC for future publicity materials on 3 November 2020. Members of the Com-CSY took note of it and had no other suggestions.

4.12.2 WHWu stated that the LD had consulted the industry regarding the preliminary proposal on “Raising Penalties of the Occupational Safety and Health Legislation” in 2019. After careful consideration of the comments received, the LD has adjusted the amendment proposal and would soon issue another consultation paper. Comments from the industry were welcome.

4.12.3 DP stated that AaY would leave the CIC shortly and this was her last time to attend the Com-CSY meeting. He expressed his gratitude to AaY for her contribution to the Com-CSY in the past 10 years.

4.13 Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on 25 March 2021 (Thursday) at 2:30 pm at the Board Room, 38/F, COS Centre, 56 Tsun Yip Street, Kwun Tong, Kowloon.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:10pm.

CIC Secretariat
December 2020