

Construction Industry Council

Committee on Productivity

Meeting No. 004/17 of the Committee on Productivity was held on 13 December 2017 (Wednesday) at 9:30pm at Board Room, 38/F, COS Centre, 56 Tsun Yip Street, Kwun Tong, Kowloon.

Summary Notes of the Committee on Productivity Meeting No. 004/17.

Agenda Item	Paper	Major Resolutions/ Progress Highlights
4.1	CIC/PRO/R/003/17	Confirmation of the Progress Report of the Previous Meeting Members confirmed the Progress Report of the Com-PRO Meeting 003/17 without amendment.
4.2	CIC/PRO/R/003/17	Matters Arising from Previous Meeting Item 3.3: Prof. Thomas NG from HKU has submitted the revised draft final report to the Secretariat for review. The report will be circulated to Members soon after the meeting. Item 3.4: A meeting has been held with Dr. ZHANG. Dr. ZHANG would submit the revised draft final report for circulation to Members soon after the meeting. Item 3.7: The Agreement Addendum has been signed with the Technical University of Munich. Item 3.8: Dr. PAN submitted the responses, draft final report and executive summary on 6 Dec 2017. The proposed additional phase for drawing up a pragmatic and effective productivity roadmap would be considered after Members are satisfied with the provided responses.
4.3	CIC/PRO/P/007/17	Proposed Research Studies in Productivity Discipline - Modular construction for high-rise buildings in Hong Kong: Supply chain identification, analysis and establishment Dr. Wei PAN from Hong Kong University (HKU) delivered a presentation for an 18-month research project proposal on the supply chain identification, analysis and establishment for adopting Modular Integrated Construction (MiC) in Hong Kong. The Secretariat reported that at the meeting of the Task Force on Research on 18 November 2017,

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		<p>the Task Force members recommended to conduct the project in two phases. The first phase should evaluate the opportunity of different types of MiC in Hong Kong, where as the second phase, which would only commence after satisfactory completion of the first phase, would cover the investigation of the remaining supply chain issues including the opportunity of setting up a local supply chain.</p> <p>After deliberation, Com-PRO Members considered that as the project period would only last for 18 months, dividing the study in two phases could have adverse impact on the programme and continuity of the research activities. Members endorsed the proposal to be conducted in one go.</p> <p>The Secretariat would follow up to prepare the Agreement incorporating all the clarification provided by HKU.</p>
4.4	CIC/PRO/P/008/17	<p>Research Proposal on Innovative backfilling materials for pavements in Hong Kong</p> <p>Dr. Ivan SHAM from Nano and Advanced Materials Institute (NAMI) presented the possible funding options for the proposed development of innovative backfilling materials in response to the enquiries raised by Members in the last meeting.</p> <p>For the recommended option, NAMI proposed to implement the project as a “Platform Project” under the Innovation and Technology Support Programme (ITSP) of the ITF administered by the Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC). It is proposed that 70% of the funding will be from ITF and the remaining 30% will be from the Construction Industry Council (CIC),NAMI will own the Intellectual Property (IP) of the new materials.</p> <p>In respect of the industry stakeholders, license fees will be waived and an annual royalty of HK\$50,000 will be applicable for each practitioner supported by CIC. For overseas users, both license fee and annually royalty will be imposed.</p> <p>The annual royalty is subject to review and approval in accordance with NAMI commercialization policy and consideration to support local industries. Subject to the agreement of ITF, it is proposed that provisions will be added in the benefit sharing scheme for the transfer of the IP to CIC or the</p>

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		<p>lowering of the royalty for local industry users to a nominal level when the amount of ITF funding provided is fully recovered.</p> <p>After deliberation, Com-PRO Members supported the research proposal and the recommended funding option. However, Members suggested that endorsement should be sought from the Council on the proposed IP arrangement as it would be a change from the current practice that IP generated from projects with CIC funding shall belong to CIC.</p> <p>The Secretariat would seek Council's approval on the IP arrangement accordingly.</p>
4.5	-	<p>Investigating the Potentials of Implementing Robotics and Automation in the Context of Large-scale Housing Development for Hong Kong in Hong Kong</p> <p>Prof. Thomas BOCK from Technical University of Munich delivered a presentation to update Com-PRO Members of the progress of an on-going study on implementing robotics and automation in housing development projects in Hong Kong. Prof. BOCK advised that his team already finished the relevant survey, on-site case study and co-creation workshops with local practitioners to identify trades suitable for applying robotic technology.</p> <p>Prof. BOCK informed that the research team has developed a prototype for a painting robot. A mock-up will be carried out by the end of the project, tentatively, in second quarter of 2018.</p> <p>The Chairman suggested that a long-term strategy for local robotic application should be established in light of the findings and recommendations from the study. The Secretariat would liaise closely with the research team on the development of the strategy.</p>

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4.6	-	<p>Achieving Productivity Leap through Construction Process Re-engineering</p> <p>Mr. Jeff FUNG from Hong Kong Productivity Council (HKPC) presented the project findings, with highlights on how efficiency could be improved for on-site rebar cutting and bending, formwork fixing and concreting operations.</p> <p>Members requested HKPC to seek and include the comments and advice from the pertinent contractor associations and workers unions in the Draft Final Report.</p> <p>The Secretariat would circulate the Draft Final Report to Members for comments after receiving it from HKPC.</p>
4.7	CIC/PRO/P/009/17	<p>Proposed New Working Group on Flat Inspection</p> <p>The Secretariat reported that as a matter arising item after the Council Meeting on 25.8.2017, CIC members held a brainstorm session on 13.09.2017 to discuss and achieve consensus on the appropriate approach to tackle with the flat inspection problem. A Working Group was proposed to be set up to improve the way of flat inspection in order to provide better service/quality flats to buyers under the Committee on Productivity as improper inspection and defect reporting may have adverse time and cost implications to delivery of new flats. The Working Group would convene meeting on a quarterly basis or at other appropriate times. Mr. Ivan FU, CIC Member, was recommended to be the Chairman of the Working Group.</p> <p>Members supported and endorsed in principle of the establishment of the Working Group. Members remarked that the Working Group should pay attention when developing guidelines for flat inspection and recommending the acceptance criteria, regarding the purpose and scope of their future applications.</p>
4.8	-	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>The Chairman, Prof. Christopher LEUNG, will retire from the Committee and the CIC in January 2018 after his 6 years of service in Council. Members gave their sincere gratitude to the Chairman for his valuable contribution to the Committee on Productivity.</p>

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4.9	-	Tentative Date of Next Meeting 001/18 The next meeting was scheduled in March 2018. The Committee Secretariat will inform Members once the meeting date is confirmed.

Remarks: The mentioned papers discussed at the Committee on Productivity and the full progress report can be made available to Council Members from the CIC Secretariat upon request.