

Construction Industry Council

Committee on Environment and Technology

Meeting No. 004/11 of the Committee on Environment and Technology for 2011 was held on 5 September 2011 (Monday) at 2:30 pm at 15/F, Allied Kajima Building, 138 Gloucester Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong.

Summary notes of the Committee on Environment and Technology (Com-ENT) Meeting No.003/11:

Agenda Item	Paper	Major Resolutions/ Progress Highlights
4.1	CIC/ENT/R/003/11	Confirmation of the Progress Report – Members of the Com-ENT confirmed the Progress Report CIC/ENT/R/003/11 of the meeting held on 16 June 2011.
4.2	---	Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting: (i) The trial run of KPIs would be submitted to Com-ENT for review at the next meeting. (ii) The Secretariat was awaiting the response from MTRC to identify a suitable contact point with a view to introducing the research proposal for the study on the use of Optical Fibre Sensors. (iii) The membership of the Working Group on Strategic Implementation of Prefabrication and Modular Construction is listed as below: - <i>Mr. Derrick PANG, Co-opted Member of Com-ENT as the Chair</i> - <i>Prof Albert Kwan of HKU</i> - <i>Mr. Simon Sun, Representative from Hong Kong Precast Concrete Manufacturers Association</i> - <i>Mr. Joseph Mak, Representative from Housing Authority</i>

Agenda Item	Paper	Major Resolutions/ Progress Highlights
		<p style="text-align: center;">- Ms Karen Cheung, Representative from Buildings Department - a representative from Civil Engineering and Development Department</p> <p>(iv) The Secretariat attended the meeting regarding LegCo Panel on Environmental Affairs – EIA Mechanism on 27 June 2011 which focused on possible amendments to EIAO</p> <p>(v) The Secretariat would conduct the review on the latest update relating to British Standards and report to Com-ENT in due course.</p>
4.3	CIC/ENT/P/024/11	<p>The highlights in the Discussion Session amongst the members of the Task Force on Adhesion Technologies for External Wall Tiles on 18th August 2011 were as below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. during the preparation of the Outline Brief for the study with representative from HKCA, having considered the time and scope (and thus the budget) of the study, any previous study findings would form the basis of the present study. However, HKCA expressed that all the data should come up with scientific data from AECOM’s laboratory tests instead of shared experience; 2. Buildings Department issued general guidelines on the design and construction of wet-fixed tiles for building external finishes in its practices notes. The industry stakeholders would quest for more detailed and specific guidelines or technical standards resulting from this consultancy study; 3. HKCA requested a solution to totally eliminate the risk to endanger general public from debonding. Task Force members consented that a continuous improvement solution should be targeted to gauge the problems;

Agenda Item	Paper	Major Resolutions/ Progress Highlights
		<p>Chairman expressed that according to the working scope of the consultancy study, AECOM did address the requirement as stipulated in the study brief in general. However, the level of details that HKCA expected was out of the study scope.</p> <p>After deliberated, Chairman and Members set out the following directives for the Task Force:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the study should be kept proceeding in view of the importance of this study; 2. the purpose of the study was NOT to seek for a solution which could totally eliminate the risk of debonding but a set of improvement measures to reduce the risk of debonding; 3. being an important document, the guideline should be back with scientific substantiation; in case there was not sufficient scientific substantiation but only experience elaboration, the document of this study could still be issued as a “reference document” instead of “guidelines” or even not to issue to public at this stage; 4. a further study might be necessary to fully address the concern of HKCA; for the next phase of the study/ variation of the study, HKCA was requested to work with AECOM to come up with a proposal on further study which should explicitly spell out their expected approach of studies, scope of the study and laboratory testing, requirements on the deliverables for AECOM’s estimation of additional time and cost of such further study for the consideration of the Committee.
4.4	CIC/ENT/P/025/11	The Assessment Panel recommended commissioning HKU to conduct the research on river sand substitutes after assessing the tenders from five tenderers. Members endorsed the tender recommendation.

Agenda Item	Paper	Major Resolutions/ Progress Highlights
		<p>The current chairman of the Task Force - Mr. Peter Lee resigned his chairmanship of the Task Force to avoid any possible conflict of interest in future. Mr HO Wai-wah accepted to be the chairman of the Task Force.</p>
4.5	CIC/ENT/P/026/11	<p>Members expressed their views on the strengths and weaknesses of the Hong Kong construction industry which were as follows:</p> <p><u>Strengths</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Valuable human capital, i.e. high working efficiency and productivity, professionalism, personal integrity, international exposure in terms of design standards and practices, business ethics, mindset of safety and anti-corruption;2. Strong at management practice especially quality assurance, safety management, contract management and dispute resolution;3. Hong Kong could play an important role in bridging the Mainland and international participants who would like to enter the China market;4. High work efficiency at corporate level and Industry-wide; <p><u>Weaknesses</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Lack of innovation on character building design and sustainable development for the society.2. Low mobility of manpower in recent years because of the large job opportunities in Hong Kong;3. Little support provided by the Hong Kong Government to lower the entry barrier to work in the Mainland though CEPA had been implemented for years;4. Higher construction cost and manpower cost than that of the Mainland. However, the higher cost in Hong Kong might be compensated by the higher efficiency and better management control.

Agenda Item	Paper	Major Resolutions/ Progress Highlights
		<p><u>Way Forward</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Collaborate with the Mainland to seek for business opportunities outside Greater China;2. Further develop Hong Kong's strength and leverage her strength which is weak in the Mainland e.g. Dispute Resolution, Workers' Wages Protection, etc, and export her strength to the Mainland;3. Compete by quality instead of price.
4.6	CIC/ENT/P/027/11	Members were requested for their co-operation and support to the Development Bureau's project on Baseline Carbon Assessment for the Construction Process of Public and Private Projects if they were approached by its consultant.
4.7	CIC/ENT/P/028/11	The progress of the research on Establishing a Hong Kong Based Carbon Labelling Framework for Construction Materials was on schedule and it was expected to complete on time in April 2012. Members would like to have a briefing session conducted by the researcher at the coming Com-ENT meeting so as to ensure the deliverables would be in the right track.
4.8	---	<p>Any Other Business</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">(i) Upcoming BIM seminar would be held on 11 October 2011 pm and Members were requested to extend the invitation to their respective organisations/ companies.