

Construction Industry Council

Meeting No. 007/10 of the Construction Industry Council for 2010 was held on Friday, 17 December 2010 at 2:30 pm at Room 1201, Murray Building, Central, Hong Kong.

Present	:	Shing-see LEE	(SSL)	Chairman
		Andrew CHAN	(AC)	
		Hau-wai CHEUNG	(HWC)	
		Luen-kiu CHOW	(LKC)	
		Thomas HO	(TH)	
		Wai-wah HO	(WWH)	
		Jan-ming KO	(JMK)	
		Peter LAM	(OKL)	
		Wo-hei LAM	(WHL)	
		Tak-ching MAK	(TCM)	
		Koon-sun WAN	(KSW)	
		Billy WONG	(BW)	
		Conrad WONG	(CW)	
		Mike WONG	(MW)	
		Kam-hung YU	(KHY)	
	Chi-sing WAI	(CSW)	Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)	
	Choi-kai AU	(CKA)	Director of Buildings	
	Ada FUNG	(AF)	for Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing (Housing)	
In Attendance	:	Charmaine WONG	(HWW)	Development Bureau
		Christopher TO	(CT)	Executive Director
		Charles WONG	(CWG)	Director (Training)
		Theresa CHAN	(TCN)	Senior Manager (Finance)
		Cheryl IP	(CI)	Senior Manager (Human Resources & Administration)
		Iris LIOU	(ILI)	Human Resources Manager
		Ivan WONG	(IW)	Senior Manager (Council Services) 2
	Phoebe LEUNG	(PLG)	Manager (Council Services) 2	
Apologies	:	Siu-hung CHAN	(SHC)	
		Teresa CHENG	(TC)	
		Tai-chong CHEW	(TCC)	
		Stanley HUI	(SH)	
		James KWAN	(JK)	
		Joseph LEE	(HWL)	
		Wai-wai YU	(WWY)	

MINUTES

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7.1 Confirmation of Minutes of the Previous Meeting (Open-door Session)

Members took note of Paper CIC/CMT/M/006/10 and approved the minutes of the open-door session of the 6th meeting for 2010 held on 5 November 2010 at Murray Building, Central, Hong Kong.

7.2 Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting (Open-door Session)

7.2.1 Article on bamboo scaffolding

Mr Conrad WONG had provided the journalist from the Discovery Magazine, an in-flight magazine published by Cathay Pacific Airways, with some background information for preparing an article on using bamboo scaffolding in Hong Kong.

7.2.2 Defaults in Mandatory Provident Fund (MPF) Contributions

The CIC Secretariat would meet with the Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes Authority (MPFA) to discuss the mechanism of MPF contributions and the associated problems that the construction industry encountered. The issue would be followed up by the Committee on Subcontracting at its meeting to be held on 7 January 2011. A Member also mentioned that the calculation of MPF contributions for temporary workers was complicated and wished to relay this point to the MPFA for exploring the possibility of simplifying it.

Com-SBC

7.2.3 Other matters arising from the previous meeting were covered at the later part of the meeting.

7.3 4th Meeting of Committee on Construction Site Safety for 2010

Members took note of Paper CIC/CMT/P/060/10.

The Committee on Construction Site Safety (Com-CSS) would write to the Hong Kong Construction Association (HKCA), relevant trade associations and professional institutions on the recommended safety precautionary measures for working with material hoistways

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in construction sites. The material hoist platform should preferably be leveled with the landing place to avoid the occurrence of a gap. Otherwise, a kicker plate on the landing place should be installed to seal up the gap.

The Hong Kong Occupational Safety and Health Association wrote to the Com-CSS and made some suggestions on improving construction site safety. The Com-CSS would consider the proposed measures at its next meeting.

For tunneling works, the Com-CSS would coordinate with the MTR Corporation Limited (MTRC) and Drainage Services Department to address relevant safety management issues.

The Com-CSS reviewed the proposed revisions made by the Labour Department (LD) to its Code of Practice (CoP) for Safe Use of Tower Cranes and would pass its comments to the LD for consideration. Members noted that the LD's CoP set out practices pertaining to the statutory requirements under the labour legislation whereas the CIC Guidelines on Safety of Tower Cranes (Guidelines) recommended good practices for enhancing the safety of tower crane operation. The issues relating to the adoption of the CIC guidelines would be reviewed.

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Secretariat**

The MTRC and the Hong Kong Housing Authority shared with the Com-CSS their experience on near-miss case reporting system. It was noted that the HKCA would discuss with relevant trade associations about the feasibility of implementing the system in the private sector. The Com-CSS also received a presentation from the MTRC on induction training for new site staff.

To address the safety of repair, maintenance, alternations and additions (RMAA) works, the Task Force on Work Safety of Repair, Maintenance, Alternations and Additions Sites suggested that part of the subsidies under the Operation Building Bright (OBB) Scheme, implemented by the Government in collaboration with the Urban Renewal Authority (URA) and the Hong Kong Housing Society (HKHS), should be designated for Pay for Safety Scheme (PFSS). The Buildings Department agreed to follow up with the URA and the HKHA on the issue. The Com-CSS also planned to develop a set of CIC guidelines for adoption of PFSS in private sector projects in 2011.

The Com-CSS held the Technical Seminar on Safety of Lift Shaft

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Works on 22 November 2010. Due to over-subscription, the Seminar would be conducted again in 2011. The Chairman reiterated that seminars and forums would be helpful in enhancing interaction with industry stakeholders and noted that the Construction Technology Forum held by the Committee on Environment and Technology (Com-ENT) on 10 December 2010 also received positive feedback.

7.4 **4th Meeting of Committee on Procurement for 2010**

Members took note of Paper CIC/CMT/P/061/10.

The Committee on Procurement (Com-PCM) was contemplating setting up a task force to review issues pertaining to the Competition Bill and work on necessary initiatives such as drafting a set of guidance notes similar to that adopted in the United Kingdom i.e. Construction Industry Competition Law Code of Conduct. Some Members however viewed that the drafting of guidance notes could be started at a later stage as the Bills Committee of the Legislative Council was still scrutinising the Competition Bill. It was also expected that the Bill would be subject to substantial amendments before its enactment.

The Com-PCM was reviewing the current procurement practices of RMAA works, in particular those projects under the OBB, and would continue to deliberate on the subject.

The Com-PCM would review the need to establish the task force to study the adoption of NEC3 forms of contracts in Hong Kong.

The Task Force on Selection of Consultants and Contractors would finalise their recommendations for consideration in 2011.

The draft Guidelines on Contract Price Fluctuation System for Private Sector Construction Contracts were being finalised and would be submitted to the CIC for endorsement in due course.

The Com-PCM endorsed the nomination from the Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors to appoint Mr Thomas KK HO as a co-opted member of the Com-PCM.

A Technical Seminar on Collaborative Contracting Approach would be held on 12 January 2011 at Fo Tan Railway House and Members were encouraged to join.

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7.5 2nd Meeting of Committee on Manpower Training and Development for 2010

Members took note of Paper CIC/CMT/P/062/10.

The Committee on Manpower Training and Development (Com-MTD) deliberated on the findings from the additional studies No.1 and No.2 of the Manpower Research for the Construction Industry of Hong Kong (Manpower Research) presented by the consultant, City University of Hong Kong. The consultant was requested to refine the findings and recommend follow-up actions in more specific terms.

The Com-MTD also deliberated on the revised final report and executive summary of the Manpower Research. Noting that some of the registered construction workers seldom worked on construction sites, the consultant was requested to list out such types of workers and their numbers.

As recommended in the final report, the Com-MTD would set up an advisory sub-committee to oversee the maintenance and enhancement of the Construction Industry Council Manpower Forecast Model and Mr Tai-chong CHEW was invited to take up the chairmanship of the said sub-committee. A Member remarked that similar manpower studies had been conducted by different researchers and somehow some of the study findings were quite different, in particular from the general impression of contractors. It was suggested that more detailed discussion with stakeholders particularly contractors would be required upon completion of the Manpower Research to reach a consolidated view on the issue.

As for KPIs for the construction industry, the Com-MTD considered that the indicators should be clearly defined and comparable to those adopted in other countries in order to give an appropriate basis for comparison.

7.6 Any Other Business

Nil.

There being no further business, the open-door session of the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.