

Construction Industry Council

Meeting No. 006/10 of the Construction Industry Council for 2010 was held on Friday, 5 November 2010 at 2:30 pm at Room 1201, Murray Building, Central, Hong Kong.

MINUTES

Action

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

Members took note of Paper CIC/CMT/M/005/10 and approved the minutes of the 5th meeting for 2010 held on 27 August 2010 at Murray Building, Central, Hong Kong.

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

6.2.1 Matters arising from the previous meeting were covered at the later part of the meeting.

6.3 4th and 5th Meetings of Committee on Environment and Technology for 2010

Members took note of Papers CIC/CMT/P/047/10 and CIC/CMT/P/048/10.

The Government commenced public consultation on Hong Kong's Climate Change Strategy and Action Agenda for charting the way forward for Hong Kong as a low carbon city. The Committee on Environment and Technology (Com-ENT) and the Hong Kong Green Building Council (HKGBC) had arranged a briefing by the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) on the subject on 19 November 2010. The Com-ENT would help formulate CIC's responses to the EPD and the Panel of Environmental Affairs of the Legislative Council on the proposed measures and the recommendations would be submitted to the CIC for approval at the next scheduled meeting. A Member remarked that the climate change strategy and associated carbon reduction measures were of great significance for the construction industry and relevant CIC committees should keep abreast of the development.

Com-ENT

The Construction Technology Forum would be held on 10 December 2010 at the Holiday Inn Golden Mile, Tsim Sha Tsui. The Com-ENT planned to hold two to three forums/ seminars in 2011. The two forums to be arranged were relating to the use of Building Information Modelling (BIM) and the use of standardised and modularised construction components. The Chairman encouraged all CIC committees to organise forums to enhance interaction with industry stakeholders and academics.

Action

For the Research on Establishing a Hong Kong Based Carbon Labelling Framework for Construction Materials, an agreement signing ceremony was held at The University of Hong Kong (HKU) on 26 October 2010 and officiated by HKU Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Vice-President (Research) and the CIC Chairman. The research project commenced on 1 November 2010.

Members acknowledged that setting key performance indicators (KPIs) for the construction industry was a very complicated task. The Com-ENT had started collecting views from other CIC committees while reviewing relevant KPIs set by similar organisations in other countries.

Discovery Magazine, an in-flight magazine published by Cathay Pacific Airways, had sought assistance from the CIC for an article on bamboo scaffolding which was a unique constructions skill in Hong Kong and in the Mainland of China. As agreed by Members, Mr Conrad WONG would provide Discovery Magazine with some background information on using bamboo scaffolding in Hong Kong.

CW

The Com-ENT took note of the inconvenience caused by carrying multiple construction-related cards/ certificates for working on construction sites and would explore ways to resolve the issue.

6.4 3rd Meeting of Committee on Procurement for 2010

Members took note of Paper CIC/CMT/P/049/10.

Following the publication of the Guidelines on Partnering in August 2010, the Committee on Procurement (Com-PCM) would organise a Technical Seminar on Partnering in January 2011 to promote the concept of partnering and collaborative contracting.

Regarding the use of New Engineering Contract (NEC), a task force would be set up to study its applicability to local works projects.

Members expected that the volume of Repair, Maintenance, Alteration and Additions (RMAA) works would continue to grow due to the forthcoming Mandatory Building Inspection Scheme and Mandatory Window Inspection Scheme. As such, the Com-PCM was requested to examine the relevant procurement practices with a view to exploring initiatives to improve the quality and administration of RMAA works while the Committee on

Com-PCM

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Construction Site Safety would focus on measures to improve the safety of RMAA works. Where necessary, the Committee on Subcontracting (Com-SBC) would coordinate with the Com-PCM to implement initiatives relevant to subcontractors.

6.5 3rd Meeting of Committee on Construction Industry Training Board for 2010

Members took note of Paper CIC/CMT/P/050/10.

For the Enhanced Construction Manpower Training Scheme, the number of trainees enrolled for or completed the Scheme amounted to 87 since the launch of Phase I in September 2010. More trades such as Metal Formwork, Site Surveyor and Leveler would be introduced in Phase II.

19 contractors had been identified and would be approached to make joint efforts on trainee recruitment through participation in job fairs in order to achieve the recruitment targets of respective training schemes/ courses and to meet the manpower demand of the construction industry. A Member suggested considering critically the scheme for securing employment first before commencing training, as well as seeking support from subcontractors on recruitment.

6.6 Any Other Business

Inaugural CIC Conference

Members were invited to join the Inaugural CIC Conference “The Construction Industry – Safe and Equitable Approach” to be held on 11 March 2011 at Hong Kong Science Park, Shatin. Keynote speakers of the Conference would be Mr Henry TANG Chief Secretary for Administration, Mrs Carrie LAM Secretary for Development and Mr WONG Yan Lung Secretary for Justice (or his delegate) while leading experts from around the world would also share their experience and knowledge with the audience.

All to note

Registration fee and sponsorship packages would soon be determined. The proceeds of the Conference after deducting direct costs would be donated to “Construction Charity Fund” (“建造業關懷基金”) and no CIC staff costs would be charged to the Conference.

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Buildings Energy Efficiency Bill

It was reported that there were proposals from Legislative Council members to expand the scope of the Buildings Energy Efficiency Bill to regulate the operation of lighting installations such as decorative lighting while the Trade Task Force on the Mandatory Implementation of the Building Energy Codes opined that the Bill should be passed as soon as possible. The Com-ENT would keep abreast of the debate and the enactment issue.

Default Mandatory Provident Fund (MPF) Contributions

A Member pointed out that under the Employment Ordinance, the principal contractors would be liable for the first two months' unpaid wages of an employee who was employed by the subcontractor or nominated subcontractor in case of its failure to pay wages. However, default mandatory provident fund (MPF) contributions by subcontractors were not subject to similar treatments under the MPF Ordinance. Some Members considered that the MPF Ordinance and the corresponding operations were very complicated and there was no simple and direct solution. The Com-SBC would discuss this issue with a view to identifying optimal solutions.

Com-SBC

There being no further business, the open-door session of the meeting was adjourned at 3:20 pm.