

Construction Industry Council

Committee on Environment and Technology

Meeting No. 001/10 of the Committee on Environment and Technology for 2009 was held on 7 January 2010 (Thursday) at 2:30 pm at Hong Kong Construction Association, 16/F, 180 – 182 Hennessy Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong.

Present:	Conrad WONG	(CW)	Chairman
	Andrew CHAN	(AC)	
	Jan-ming KO	(JMK)	
	Wo-hei LAM	(WHL)	
	Peter LEE	(PL)	
	Hau-wai CHEUNG	(HWC)	
	Russell JONES	(RJ)	Hong Kong Construction Association
	Wing-wah CHUI	(WWC)	Development Bureau
	Anthony FOK	(AF)	Environmental Protection Department
	Kwok-keung LI	(KKL)	Electrical and Mechanical Services Department
Hon-kwok WONG	(HKW)	Architectural Services Department	
In Attendance:	Clifford CHENG	(CC)	Housing Department
	Siu-tong LAM	(STL)	Buildings Department
	Christopher TO	(CT)	Executive Director
	Ivan WONG	(IW)	Senior Manager (Council Services) 2
	Phoebe LEUNG	(PLG)	Manager (Council Services) 2
	<u>For Agenda Item 1.3 only</u>		
	Shermann FONG	(SMF)	Environmental Protection Department
	Thomas NG	(THN)	The University of Hong Kong
	James WONG	(JAW)	The University of Hong Kong
	<u>For Agenda Item 1.4 only</u>		
Chin-tiong TAN	(CTT)	Envac Far East Ltd	
Jeffrey SIU	(JES)	Envac Far East Ltd	
Augustine YUEN	(AUY)	Envac Far East Ltd	
Apologies:	Tat-tong CHEUNG	(TTC)	
	Wai-wai YU	(WWY)	
	Choi-kai AU	(CKA)	Director of Buildings
	Pun-hing HO	(PHH)	Hong Kong Federation of Electrical and Mechanical Contractors
	Shiu-ming NG	(SMN)	Association of Plastering

Long PANG	(LP)	Sub-contractors Construction Site Workers General Union
Connie YEUNG	(CYG)	Housing Department

PROGRESS REPORT

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1.1 Confirmation of the Progress Report of the Previous Meeting

Members took note of Paper CIC/ENT/R/006/09 and confirmed the progress report of the 6th meeting for 2009 held on Thursday, 26 November 2009 at Hong Kong Construction Association.

1.2 Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting

1.2.1 Summary Report on Review of Local Construction Standards

The Summary Report was endorsed by the CIC at its 5th meeting for 2009 on 30 October 2009. As directed by the CIC, the CIC publications should be consistent in language style and format and the Secretariat would arrange copywriter to touch up the Summary Report before issue.

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1.2.2 Proposal on Research Administration and Funding

Discussed under Agenda Item 1.7

1.2.3 Consultancy Study on Adhesion Technologies for External Wall Tiles and Rendering

Discussed under Agenda Item 1.8

1.2.4 Research on River Sand Substitutes

The Hong Kong Construction Association was invited to nominate a representative to participate in the Task Force on River Sand Substitutes Research. The Secretariat would follow up on the nomination.

1.2.5 Work plan for 2010

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- a) Revised Work Plan for 2010
- b) Communication between the HKGBC and the CIC

The work plan was discussed by the CIC at its 6th meeting held on 9 December 2009. The proposal on communication between the HKGBC and the CIC was discussed under Agenda Item 1.5.

- 1.2.6 Participation in the task force on accreditation of construction products certification body of the Hong Kong Accreditation Service

Discussed under Agenda Item 1.9.

1.3 Research on Establishing a Hong Kong Based Carbon Labelling Standard for Construction Materials

Members took note of the Paper CIC/ENT/P/034/09 and received a presentation from Dr Thomas NG of the HKU on the proposed research project.

Members considered the research proposal and provided the following comments:

- (a) The practical value of establishing a Hong Kong based carbon labeling standard (Carbon Label Standard) should be ascertained as many construction materials used in Hong Kong were imported from other countries.
- (b) The rationale for establishing the local Carbon Label Standard should be explained should there exist relevant international standards.
- (c) The proposal should elaborate on the framework of the Carbon Label Standard in relation to the three phases of the life cycle performance namely product manufacturing, construction and fitting out, and operation and use.
- (d) There would be numerous factors affecting the calculation of carbon footprint during the production stage and the transportation process and a sophisticated system would be required for the proposed Carbon Label Standard.
- (e) The development and maintenance costs of the inventory data could be high should the proposed Carbon Label Standard be product specific.

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- (f) Strategies would be required to convince the stakeholders to adopt the local Carbon Label Standard instead of other international standards
- (g) The proposed Carbon Label Standard should take account of the possible impacts on the existing building environmental assessment tools.

[THN and JAW left the meeting at this juncture.]

[During the discussion of the research proposal from Dr Thomas NG, Mr Peter LEE noted that members of the research team included staff of the University of Hong Kong and declared that he was also a teaching staff member of the Department of Civil Engineering of the Faculty of Engineering of the University of Hong Kong.]

After much deliberation, Members agreed that there was a growing trend towards low-carbon technologies and carbon labelling mechanism was on the right track. However, Members agreed that it should be made clear the purpose of having the carbon labeling standard and how it could be applied, e.g. whether it was used for the selection of materials, calculating the amount of carbon emissions from a particular material or defining the constituents of construction materials in terms of carbon emissions. It could be one of the focus areas subject to further exploration over the subject. As the proposed research could be within the ambit of the Hong Kong Green Building Council (HKGBC). The Chairman, Dr Andrew CHAN, Mr Hau-wai CHEUNG and Mr Christopher TO would further review the proposal before recommending the way forward.

**CW/ AC/
HWC/ CT**

[SMF left the meeting at this juncture.]

1.4 Presentation on Pneumatic Waster Collection System

Members received a presentation from Mr Chin-tiong TAN on the vacuum waster collection system.

[CTT, JES and AUY left the meeting at this juncture.]

Members then exchanged their views on the practicality of the vacuum waste collection system in Hong Kong.

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1.5 Communication between the HKGBC and the CIC

Members took note of Paper CIC/ENT/P/001/10 and supported the proposed communication channels between the HKGBC and the CIC as detailed in the Paper. The proposal would be submitted to the Committee on Administration and Finance for further discussion and to the CIC for endorsement.

In response to a question raised by Mr Wing-wah CHUI, Members agreed that if necessary, it would be more efficient for the Development Bureau to communicate directly with HKGBC on green building practices instead of routing through the CIC.

1.6 Guidelines on Trip Ticket System for Disposal of Construction & Demolition Materials in Private Sector Works

Members took note of Paper CIC/ENT/P/002/10 and the second draft of the Guidelines on Trip Ticket System for Disposal of Construction & Demolition Materials in Private Sector Works (Guidelines) as set out at Annex A thereof.

Members recalled that the Committee discussed the possible extension of the trip ticket system adopted by public works projects to private sector projects at its meeting held on 26 March 2009. During that meeting, Members concluded that it would be more appropriate to encourage voluntary adoption of the trip ticket system by subvented projects and private sector projects instead of imposing it by statutory regulations at that stage. The first draft of the Guidelines was submitted to Members for comment at the meeting held on 21 July 2009. As the Development Bureau (DEVB) was reviewing their circular on the trip ticket system for disposal of construction & demolition materials, the Secretariat was directed to defer the drafting of the Guidelines in order to incorporate the latest practices in public works. The second draft of the Guidelines had incorporated the previous comments from Members and the relevant measures contained in the revised circular issued by the DEVB.

A Member had reservations about the insertion of a disclaimer in the Guidelines since contractors had to meet the potential liabilities arising from the implementation of the practice recommended by the CIC. Members were informed that the CIC had some discussion about the position of the CIC in publishing guidelines and suggested the CIC to provide a clearer

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stance on it.

After much deliberation, Members agreed that the second draft of the Guidelines should be circulated to relevant professional bodies for comment before submission to the CIC for endorsement. In addition, pilot scheme to assess the applicability of the Guidelines could be explored.

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1.7 Recommendation to Committee on Administration and Finance on Research Administration and Funding

Members took note of Paper CIC/ENT/P/003/10 and agreed that an implementation plan would be required after obtaining approval from the CIC to set aside a rolling research budget. A Member reiterated that the CIC should make efforts to identify research needs through research mapping and planning.

1.8 Consultancy Study on Adhesion Technologies for External Wall Tiles and Rendering

Members took note of Paper CIC/ENT/P/004/10. Having considered the number of institutes expressing their interest in conducting the consultancy study, Members agreed to proceed to the tender exercise directly without the need to conduct the pre-qualification exercise. Members also noted that a two-envelope approach would be adopted for tender submission and the technical assessment and fee evaluation would carry the weighting of 70% and 30% respectively.

A Member noted that the proposed interim payment schedules should be revised to be consistent with the milestones and hence the expected works done of the study programme. The Secretariat was requested to relay the comment to the Task Force on Adhesion Technologies for External Wall Tiles for consideration.

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1.9 Update on Activities of Task Force on Accreditation of Construction Products Certification Body of Hong Kong Accreditation Service

As advised by Members at the meeting held on 26 November 2009, the Secretariat had represented the CIC to participate in the Task Force on Accreditation of Construction Products Certification Body and attended the first Task Force meeting held

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on 16 December 2009. The meeting minutes would be submitted to Members for information at the next scheduled meeting.

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1.10 Any Other Business

A Member suggested incorporating some environmental training into the Mandatory Basic Safety Training Courses (commonly known as 'Green Card'). As the Training Courses were operated under a number of safety-related regulations administered by the Labour Department, the idea would need further consideration.

A letter from Hong Kong Council for Testing and Certification (HKCTC) addressing to the Hong Kong Institute of Engineers was tabled for Members' information. Where appropriate, individual Members might give their own views on the development of the testing and certification industry to the HKCTC directly.

Members noted that the terms of office of the current Members would expire on 31 January 2010. On behalf of the Council, the Chairman thanked all Members for their strong support for the committee and their valuable contributions to the betterment of the construction industry. Members also expressed their appreciation to the Chairman for his effective leadership and guidance on the development of various industry initiatives.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:30 pm.