

Construction Industry Council

Construction Industry Training Board

The 5th Meeting of the Construction Industry Training Board was held on Tuesday, 14 October 2009 at 2:30 pm at Conference Room, CICTA Management Training and Trade Testing Centre, Level 7, No. 95 Yue Kwong Road, Aberdeen, Hong Kong.

Present: Ir Billy W H Wong Chairman
Ir Jimmy Chan (representing Mr Enoch Lam)
Mr Cheung Tak-hing
Mr Donald Choi
Ir Thomas Ho
Mr Lai Yuk-fai, Stephen
Dr Lo Kin-ki
Mr Lok Kwei-sang, Tandy
Ir Poon Lok-to, Otto
Mr Jimmy Tse
Mr S H Tso

In Attendance: Mr Charles Wong Director (Training), CIC
Mr Wong Chi-lap Senior Manager (ST), CICTA
Mr Chu Yin-lin Senior Manager (CT), CICTA
Mrs Sophie Leung Secretary, CITB
Mrs Shirley Lam Assistant Secretary, CITB

Apologies: Mr Chow Luen-kiu
Ir Helen Kwan

PROGRESS REPORT

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1.1 Confirmation of the Progress Report of the 4th meeting and the Summary Report of the Special Meeting held in 2009

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Members took note of Papers CIC/CTB/R/004/09 and CIC/CTB/R/SM1/09, and confirmed the progress report of the 4th meeting held on 18 August 2009 and the summary report of the special meeting held on 22 September 2009.

1.2 Matters arising from the last meeting

1.2.1 Agenda item 1.3 – Full-time Adult Short Course for Tunnel Workers

Members noted that CICTA was exploring the provision of training of ‘tunnel workers’ needed by the industry through the ‘Civil and Building Trades Cooperative Training Scheme’ with the Civil Engineering Committee of the Hong Kong Construction Association and relevant contractors.

1.2.2 Agenda item 1.4 – Top-up Course for Registered Minor Works Contractors

Members noted that the responsibility of contractors to take out insurance had been highlighted in the course content of the above course.

1.2.3 Agenda item 1.6 – Progress on preparation for courses on restoration of heritage buildings

Members noted that CICTA had just been informed by the Guangzhou Municipal Cultural Bureau of the details of the study tour to the Mainland for the above purpose. It was planned that site visits and exchanges would be conducted in Guangzhou from 26 to 28 October 2009. According to CICTA’s estimate, the expenses for each participant of the study tour would be around

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\$3,500. Interested Members were welcome to join the study tour which would comprise 7 to 10 persons.

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All to note**

1.2.4 Agenda item 1.8 – Training Course for Ground Investigation Assistant Operator

Members noted that CICTA had acted on the advice of the CITB and discussed with the Site Investigation Contractors Committee of the Hong Kong Construction Association. Apart from learning that there was great demand in the industry for ground investigation assistant operators, it was also confirmed that there were only a dozen of registered ground investigation assistant operators. Meanwhile, Members noted the class size of the above course would be increased from the originally proposed 8 to 12 so as to reduce the training costs. Members agreed that the CICTA would run the above course.

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1.2.5 Agenda item 1.10 – Research proposal on market and corporate identity of Construction Industry Council Training Academy in 2010

Members noted that CICTA was following up the questionnaire specially designed for the above research and would submit a proposal for Members' consideration in due course.

1.2.6 Agenda item 1.12 – Amendments to intermediate trade test papers for levellers, plasterers, tilers and bar benders

Members noted that CICTA would follow up the above matter with the relevant Course Advisory Panels according to the advice of the CITB.

1.2.7 Agenda item 1.13 – Approval of cooperative

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training scheme submitted by Dragages Hong Kong- Nishimatsu Construction Joint Venture

The above item would be discussed under a separate agenda item below.

- 1.2.8 Agenda item 1.15 – Amendments to the clauses of the short-term tenancy of four outdoor training grounds

Members noted that the amendments to the clauses of the short-term tenancy of four outdoor training grounds had all been approved by the Construction Industry Council.

2.1 Full-time Adult Short Course in Underground Pipe Laying

Members took note of Paper CIC/CTB/P/064/09 and agreed in principle to run the above course. However, it was proposed that the admission requirements be revised to include workers with 2 years' relevant working experience to catch more target trainees. The CICTA was requested to liaise with relevant government departments so that the course contents and the number of classes could be adjusted according to the updated technical requirements involved in the replacement and repair of pipeline works to cope with the practical needs.

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2.2 Proposal on Building Maintenance Worker Training Course

Members noted Paper CIC/CTB/P/065/09 and agreed in principle to offer the above course. However, the management was recommended to consult the relevant associations in the industry. Members also suggested to consider strengthening the content of module 6 “customer service”, as well as increasing the training hours as appropriate so as to enhance the quality of workers. It was

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estimated that around 1,500 people would enroll onto the course. The CICTA was therefore advised to revise the start-up and administration costs required as a whole for CITB's consideration and to solicit funding from the Committee on Administration and Finance if needed.

2.3 Approval of the Revised Civil and Building Cooperative Training Scheme submitted by Dragages Hong Kong – Nishimatsu Construction Joint Venture

Members took note of Paper CIC/CTB/P/066/09 and noted that the above joint venture had recently been awarded another project from MTR Corporation which also required TBM Operators, and that the joint venture accepted CICTA's proposal to increase the training capacity of operators from the original 6 to 12. The amount of subsidy requested was also correspondingly increased from the original \$0.31 million to more than \$0.37 million. After deliberation, Members accepted the revised cooperative training scheme and approved the subsidy of \$372,500.

A government representative expressed concern over the extra number of skilled workers trained for trades in need under the cooperative training scheme. It was hoped that a more comprehensive plan could be drawn up to systematically cover other civil trades having a high demand of trained workers. A member pointed out that subsequent to the successful implementation of the first cooperative training scheme, other contractors would also follow suit and participate in the scheme. Until then, the success of the scheme could be gradually seen.

2.4 Provision of “Off-the-shelf Training Packages” to cope with the 2nd Phase Implementation of the Factories and Industrial Undertakings (Loadshifting Machinery) Regulation

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Members noted Paper CIC/CTB/P/067/09 and opined that the principle of the current implementation of the cooperative training scheme with contractors could be applied to the provision of training for the four remaining types of loadshifting operators. This would ensure that the training provided to the loadshifting operators were properly monitored. Members also agreed that it was necessary to provide training packages to complement the 2nd phase implementation of the above regulation. Regarding the production of the training packages, the CICTA should consult the contractors in the industry and the relevant machinery suppliers. As for the provision of training in the future, the mode of the current cooperative training scheme could be adopted. The CICTA could also submit the production costs of the training packages to the CIC's Committee on Administration and Finance to seek approval of the funding.

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2.5 Approval of the Tender Analysis Report and Recommendation for the Procurement of a New Tower Crane

Members noted Paper CIC/CTB/P/068/09 and enquired about the technical assessment criteria adopted for the above tender. Member opined that the assessment criteria appeared to be inadequate and that the proposed procurement of the tower crane was for training purposes. It was advised that the model of the machinery that was widely used in the industry should be purchased so that the trainees could familiarize themselves with the operation of the machinery before taking up employment. Members also noted that the procurement was a matter of urgency. CICTA was recommended to review the assessment criteria as soon as possible and to submit the procurement proposal to CITB for consideration by circulation of papers if required.

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3.1 Approval of the Tender analysis Report and

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Recommendation on constructing the foundation and Steel Framework for conducting the Tower Crane Erector Test

Members noted Paper CIC/CTB/P/069/09 and the urgency of this tender. Its early completion would facilitate the Construction Workers Registration Authority to expedite the launch of the Tower Crane Erector test. However, it was opined that the quotation of the recommended tender was too high. It was also recommended to invite tender again, or to consider, if possible, designing the structural steel working platform in-house before invitation of tender.

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3.2 Proposal on Trade Test Content for Tiler (Tiles) and Tiler (Mosaic) subsequent to Subdivision of Trade Test for Tilers under Phase One of the Subdivision of Trade Tests

Members noted Paper CIC/CTB/P/070/09 and accepted the proposed contents of the trade tests for Tiler (tiles) and Tiler (mosaic) which were added after the trade test for Tilers had been sub-divided. The two newly-added trade tests were expected to be launched in January 2010.

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4. Any other business

4.1 Subdivision of Trade Test for Marble Workers

Members noted that both the Marble and Granite Merchants Association and the Course Advisory Panel had expressed their opinions on the sub-divided trade test content for Marble Workers. It was suggested that CICTA might consider arranging a joint meeting for trade associations and worker representatives to reach a consensus on the trade test content.

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4.2 Tin Shui Wai Training Centre

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Members noted that Tin Shui Wai Training Centre had started to provide training officially on 30 September 2009. Four courses were being conducted. It was expected that a training capacity of about 300 would be provided in the current training year.

4.3 Speeding up the Training of Supervisors/ Foremen

Members pointed out that with the roll-out of the railway projects, many supervisory jobs relevant to environmental monitoring and wetland restoration would be created. The demand for supervisors would thus be increased. Besides, the job nature of supervisors should be able to attract new entrants. CICTA was requested to grasp the opportunity to review and formulate a blueprint for the training of supervisors as soon as possible. There was also a suggestion that the offering of training course could be specifically based on the type of supervisors in need. In addition, Member pointed out that training for safety supervisors was required to be strengthened in view of the continuous increase in the number of construction projects.

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5. Tentative date of next meeting

To be fixed.

All to note

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm.

CITB Secretariat
November 2009