

Construction Industry Council

Committee on Environment and Technology

The 5th Meeting of the Committee on Environment and Technology for 2009 was held on Thursday, 24 September 2009 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)	
Wo-hei LAM	(WHL)	
Wai-wai YU	(WWY)	
Choi-kai AU	(CKA)	Director of Buildings
Hau-wai CHEUNG	(HWC)	
Pun-hing HO	(PHH)	Hong Kong Federation of Electrical and Mechanical Contractors
Russell JONES	(RJ)	Hong Kong Construction Association
Connie YEUNG	(CYG)	Housing Department
Anthony FOK	(AF)	Environmental Protection Department
Kwok-keung LI	(KKL)	Electrical and Mechanical Services Department
Hon-kwok WONG	(HKW)	Architectural Services Department

In Attendance:

Jonathan LEUNG	(MHL)	Development Bureau
Christopher TO	(CT)	Executive Director
Ivan WONG	(IW)	Senior Manager (Council Services) 2
Phoebe LEUNG	(PLG)	Manager (Council Services) 2

Apologies:

Tat-tong CHEUNG	(TTC)	
Jan-ming KO	(JMK)	
Peter LEE	(PL)	
Shiu-ming NG	(SMN)	Association of Plastering Sub-contractors
Long PANG	(LP)	Construction Site Workers General Union
Wing-wah CHUI	(WWC)	Development Bureau

PROGRESS REPORT

Action

5.1 Confirmation of the Progress Report of the Previous Meeting

Members took note of Paper CIC/ENT/R/004/09 and confirmed the progress report of the 4th meeting held on Thursday, 30 July 2009 at Hong Kong Construction Association.

5.2 Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting

5.2.1 Management of construction and demolition (C&D) materials

RJ reported that the small and medium contractors and truck drivers as well as large developers were receptive to the implementation of trip-ticket system (TTS). Developers of smaller scale had reservations about voluntary implementation of the TTS. Members were briefed that the Buildings Department had issued a Practice Note on Construction and Demolition Waste recommending the adoption of the TTS in private works projects as a measure to control the C&D material disposal but the response was average. To widen the scope of implementation, the Government should consider imposing a requirement for implementing TTS on subvented projects. NGOs, property management companies and owners' corporations could also be encouraged to adopt the TTS in particular for their small-scale renovation works. Members also shared the view that more efforts should be made to promulgate the TTS in particular towards property owners instead of introducing legislative measure at this moment.

Members noted that contractors in general supported the installation of Global Positioning System (GPS) to combat fly-tipping and land filling activities. However, some pilot projects would be required to ascertain the effectiveness of the system.

5.2.2 Task Force on Research Activities – initial recommendation

Discussed under Agenda item 5.4

Action

5.2.3 Guidelines on Trip-ticket System

The Development Bureau would provide their comments on the draft Guidelines in due course and the Secretariat would prepare the revised draft for Members' further discussion.

DEVB
CIC
Secretariat

5.2.4 Non-financial sponsor of First International Conference on Sustainable Urbanization

The CIC at its meeting held on 28 August 2009 accepted the invitation to be the non-financial sponsor of the Conference.

5.3 Publication of Position Paper on Review of Local Construction Standards

Members took note of Paper CIC/ENT/P/025/09.

As advised by Members, the Secretariat would elaborate the following points in the summary report:

- (a) the types of developments included in the review; and
- (b) the co-ordination work of the CIC with regard to the changes of construction standards.

The revised summary report would be circulated for Members' further comments before submission to the CIC.

CIC
Secretariat

5.4 Update on Task Force on Research Activities

Members took note of Paper CIC/ENT/P/026/09. In the absence of some Task Force members, the Chairman decided to defer the deliberation of the CIC research strategies to the next Committee meeting. Meanwhile, the Secretariat would arrange a Task Force meeting to discuss the concerns on research funding.

CIC
Secretariat

5.5 Update on Task Force on Adhesion Technologies for External Wall Tiles

Members took note of Paper CIC/ENT/P/027/09.

Action

As the consultant study would produce a practice guide on adhesion technologies for external wall tiles, the CIC might be subject to liability for damages caused by such use by the industry. Members agreed that the CIC should seek legal advice to assess its liability arising from publishing recommended technologies or measures for the use by the construction industry. Where appropriate, the CIC should take out insurance policies to mitigate the associated risks. Alternatively, the research results could be passed to the Buildings Department for promulgation in practice note should the research results be acceptable to the Buildings Department for adoption as regulatory guidelines and/or advice on good practice.

For the assignment brief, a Member opined that it might not be necessary to limit the study to high-rise buildings as the same technologies might also be applicable to low-rise buildings. Moreover, it would be inflexible to request the consultant to set out a cap on building height for the use of external wall tiles. Instead, the consultant should be allowed to propose adhesion technologies and fixing methods for external wall tiles, with or without a height limit. Members also expected the consultancy to be led by a research team with substantial practical experience in the local construction industry and hence pre-qualification of consultants might be required.

A Member commented that the term “qualification” in the assignment brief should be more specific when requesting members of the research team to possess “at least 5-year post-qualification experience”.

5.6 Task Force on River Sand Substitutes Research

Members took note of the Paper CIC/ENT/P/028/09 and supported to set up the Task Force on River Sand Substitutes Research.

Although some Members advised that the proposed substitutes should be compliant with the prevailing ordinances, regulations and design codes used in Hong Kong, Members were of a general view that some new products might deserve consideration. If the new products were found to be feasible for

Action

adoption, corresponding compliance standards or regulations could then be derived.

5.7 Status Update on Work Plan

Members took note of the Paper CIC/ENT/P/029/09.

[AC left the meeting at this juncture.]

The Secretariat reported that Development Bureau (DEVB) had put forward a request to the CIC to promote sustainable construction through a number of areas:

- (a) Promotion of Waste Management Plans to minimize the generation of C&D materials at different stages of construction, on-site sorting and trip-ticket system;
- (b) Promoting installation of mechanical truck covers;
- (c) Promoting the use of green/ recycled materials and products; and
- (d) Promoting site cleanliness and hygiene.

A Member pointed out that “promoting green construction process” would be a good initiative to cover the above items (a) and (d). Members also exchanged views on the work of the Committee in other areas for 2010 and identified the following possible tasks:

- (a) Conducting feasibility studies on the use of Radio-frequency identification (RFID) tags on construction materials for inventory control and management;
- (b) Conducting feasibility studies on harmonising the numbering system for construction materials;
- (c) Collaborative use of RFID and GPS for tracking the movements of C&D dump trucks; and
- (d) Conducting a study on methodology for auditing the carbon emissions of construction materials.

The Secretariat would prepare a work plan for Members’ further discussion at the next meeting.

CIC
Secretariat

Action

5.8 Any Other Business

Nil.

5.9 Tentative Date of Next Meeting for 2009

26 November 2009 (Thursday) at 2:30 pm at Hong Kong **All to note**
Construction Association, 16/F, 180 – 182 Hennessy Road,
Wanchai, Hong Kong

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:05 pm.