

**Minutes of the 4th Meeting of the
Construction Industry Council
held on 26 July 2007 at 2:30 p.m.
in Room 1201, Murray Building, Garden Road, Central**

Present

Mr Keith Kerr	Chairman
Mr James Blake	
Mr Francis Bong	
Dr Andrew Chan	
Ms Teresa Cheng	
Mr T T Cheung	
Mr James Chiu	
Mr C W Choi	
Mr Michael Green	
Mr Thomas Ho	
Prof J M Ko	
Mr Edgar Kwan	
Mr W H Lam	
Mr S S Lee	
Mr M H Poon	
Mr Eric Tse	
Mr K S Wan	
Mr Conrad Wong	
Mr Billy Wong	
Mr C K Mak	Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (PSW)
Mr H W Cheung	Director of Buildings, Buildings Department
Ms Ada YS Fung	Deputy Director (Development & Construction), Housing Department
Miss Janet Wong	Deputy Secretary for Development (Works) 1
Mr Enoch Lam	Deputy Secretary for Development (Works) 2
Mr Jack Chan	Principal Assistant Secretary for Development (Works) 1
Mr K H Tao	Chief Assistant Secretary for Development (Works) 1
Mr Solomon Wong	Assistant Secretary for Development (Public Works Systems Administration) 1
Ms Cindy Kwan	Assistant Secretary for Development (Policy and Development)

Agenda item 2

Dr Kong Hing-kei	Occupational Health Officer (Occupational Medicine Division) (Health Promotion), Labour Department
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Absent with Apologies

Mr Russell Black
Mr Thomas Kwok
Mr Peter Lee

**Agenda Item 1: Confirmation of Minutes of the 3rd Meeting
held on 11 June 2007**

As Members had no further comments, the minutes were taken as read and endorsed.

Agenda Item 2: Matters Arising from Minutes of Last Meeting

Paragraphs 9 to 11 – Amalgamation with CITA

2. A formal request was issued on 29 June 2007 to CITA for drawing up detailed action plans for key functional areas. With the assistance of CITA management, three focus groups sessions would be organized in Summer 2007 for different groups of CITA staff of common operational functions and background, namely levy, finance and administration; training; and trade testing.

Paragraphs 12 to 15 – Administrative and Financial Arrangements

3. CITA agreed to transfer the Town Office in Sheung Wan for use by CIC on 1 August 2007. Members noted that although the premises would be suitable for the initial purpose of providing office accommodation for ED/CIC and his key supporting staff, CIC might review the need for larger premises after setting up its permanent secretariat and having decided on its future scope of work.

4. Members noted that, with the endorsement of the Committee on Administration and Finance, Combined Directors & Officers (D&O) Liability and Professional Indemnity (PI) Insurance had been taken out with HSBC Insurance; and Tony Kwok Tung Ng & Co. and Lovells had been appointed as the auditor and legal advisor respectively.

Guideline for Prevention of Heat Stroke and other Heat-induced Accidents on Construction Site [Paper No. CIC/023]

5. Members noted the risk factors and symptoms of heat stroke and guidelines on measures on preventing heat stroke and other heat-induced accidents on construction sites.

6. Members noted that workers had mixed views on HKCA's proposal of extending the lunch break by an extra hour and the end of the working day by the same duration so as to minimize exposure of workers to summer heat. Some workers had reservation on returning home late. Members also expressed concerns about having to seek relaxation of the strict regulatory control on noise nuisance in the early morning and evening hours and the possible financial impact of the proposal on construction schedules.

7. Other improvement measures suggested by Members included improving the design of safety helmets to provide better ventilation, providing heat shelters and supply of fluid replenishments at construction sites. It was also suggested that reference could be made to the experience of Middle East countries in dealing with problems arising from hot weather.

8. Members noted that HKCA would request their Members to make reference to LD's guidelines and modify it to suit site conditions.

9. The meeting concluded that, to promote further adoption of the guidelines, CIC should circulate them to specified bodies listed under Schedule 2 of the Construction Industry Council Ordinance (Cap. 587) for dissemination to their respective members. Measures that could be implemented through administrative arrangements should be adopted as soon as possible. The Committee on Construction Site Safety would identify measures that had to be implemented through contractual or statutory provisions and make recommendations on the way forward. Secretariat

Agenda Item 3: Preparation for Amalgamation with CITA [Paper No. CIC/024]

10. The LegCo Panel on Planning, Lands and Works was briefed at its meeting held on 24 July 2007 on the progress made by CIC since its formation and preparatory work for the amalgamation of CIC and CITA scheduled tentatively for 1 January 2008. On the

preparatory work for the amalgamation, the LegCo Panel noted that the liaison mechanism between CIC and CITA at the board and working levels had been established; a “minimalistic” approach would be adopted under which only essential changes would be made; and that close communication would be maintained between CIC and CITA staff through the briefing held in April 2007 and focus group sessions to be held in summer 2007. The LegCo Panel had not made any adverse comments on the amalgamation plan and Government’s intention to publish in the Gazette a commencement notice to bring into operation the provisions of the CIC Ordinance which were not yet in effect so as to implement the amalgamation on 1 January 2008.

[Post-meeting note: The first session was held on 13 and the other two on 16 August 2007 at CITA’s premises in Kowloon Bay and Aberdeen respectively.]

**Agenda Item 4: 2nd Progress Report for Committee on
Environment and Technology
[Paper No. CIC/025]**

11. Members noted the progress made by HK-BEAM Society in taking forward the improvement measures set out by former PCICB as conditions for recommending HK-BEAM as the building environmental performance assessment method for the local construction industry. Regarding the Society’s concern about availability of funding for implementing the agreed improvements, a Member thought that the assessment of existing buildings could be a source of additional income for the HK-BEAM Society. In this regard, the public-sector clients could help by undertaking assessments on their existing building stock. The Chairman requested the Committee to put forward proposals on way forward for building environmental performance assessment scheme.

12. On construction standards, Committee Members wished to improve the current approach whereby BD and public sector client organizations made reference to their own standards. As such, CIC should play a proactive role in co-ordinating the adoption of standards by the local construction industry; adapting the standards of other economies for local application; identifying appropriate standards for new building material; and identifying alternative material standards that would be suitable for local application so as to create greater flexibility in the choice of building materials.

13. The Chairman asked the Committee to put forward the general principles for dealing with construction standards to the CIC for consideration before committing to detailed deliberations.

**Agenda Item 5: 2nd Progress Report for Committee on
Administration and Finance
[Paper No. CIC/026]**

14. Apart from the latest position on administrative matters relating to accommodation, insurance and legal services etc. which was already discussed under “Matters Arising”, other confidential matters would be discussed in the closed-door session.

**Agenda Item 6: 2nd Progress Report for Committee on
Construction Site Safety
[Paper No. CIC/027]**

15. Members noted the salient issues discussed by the Committee and the further actions to be taken. A Member enquired if BD would exercise tighter control on tower cranes given that they were sophisticated structures. BD responded that while the Department was controlling building operations through method statements and supervision plans, tower cranes were considered construction plant. As such, the safety of their operation was within the purview of LD instead of BD.

16. The meeting noted that HKCA would discuss with CITA, LD and crane operators associations etc. on the launching of refresher training courses for tower crane operators and workers engaged in heavy lifting operations. Consideration would also be given to introducing Silver Card courses for erection and dismantling of tower cranes and HKCA members would be asked to allow only workers who had completed such courses to undertake erection and dismantling operations.

[Post-meeting note: The first 2-day “Tower Crane Worker (Erecting, Dismantling, Telescoping and Climbing) Silver Card Course” would be organized by CITA on 30 and 31 August 2007.]

Agenda Item 7: Any Other Business

17. There being no other business, the public portion of the meeting was declared closed.

[End of the first part of the meeting which was open to the public.]