

Construction Industry Council

Committee on Repair, Maintenance, Alteration and Additional Works

Meeting No. 001/22 of the Committee on Repair, Maintenance, Alteration and Additional Works was held on Thursday, 4 August 2022 at 9:30am at Board Room, 29/F, Tower 2, Enterprise Square Five (MegaBox), 38 Wang Chiu Road, Kowloon Bay, Kowloon, Hong Kong.

Present	:	Eddie LAM	(ELM)	Chairperson
		Susanne WONG *	(PAS1)	Principal Assistant Secretary (Works) 1, Development Bureau
		WONG Ka-chung *	(KCWg)	Deputy Chief Occupational Safety Officer (Operations Division) (Hong Kong and Islands Region), Labour Department
		Sammy YEUNG	(SSKY)	Chief Engineer / General Engineering Services, Electrical & Mechanical Services Department
		CHAN Kim-kwong	(KCCN)	
		Tom CHAN	(TmC)	
		Henry CHAU	(BCC)	
		CHEUNG Wing-ho	(WhC)	
		Christopher CHUNG	(CCG)	
		Ellis YIP *	(EIp)	
		Kevin LAI	(KLI)	
		Lewis LAM	(LLM)	
		Andrew LEE *	(ALEE)	
		Diana PANG	(DiP)	
		Daniel PONG	(DPG)	
		Ringo SHEA	(RSh)	
		SIU Kin-ching	(KCS)	
		Alfred TANG	(AdT)	
		YU Kam-hung	(KHY)	
In Attendance :		Marjory LEUNG	(MLG)	Assistant Secretary (Works Policies 1) 1, Development Bureau
		Daniel SUEN	(DSn)	Director – Industry Development
		Winnie SHIU	(WWS)	Director - Hong Kong Institute of Construction
		LEE Oi-yen	(OYL)	Assistant Director – Registration Services

Thomas TONG	(ThT)	Assistant Director – Industry Development
Ivan KO	(IK)	Senior Manager – Industry Development
Tony LAM	(TLam)	Senior Manager – Industry Development
Timothy LEUNG	(TLG)	Senior Manager – Industry Development
Kevin WONG	(KeW)	Principal – Kwai Chung Campus, HKIC (Acting)
Hilda Wong	(HiW)	Manager – Industry Development
Helena Lau	(HLU)	Assistant Manager – Industry Development
David Leung	(DdLg)	Assistant Manager – Collaboration Scheme

* attended the meeting online via Microsoft Teams

MINUTES

Action

Prior to commencement of the Meeting, the Chairperson reminded Members to declare any potential or actual conflict of interest with item(s) to be discussed at the meeting. No declaration was received during the meeting.

1.1 Background, Terms of Reference and Member List of the Committee on Repair, Maintenance, Alteration and Additional Works

The Chairperson welcomed Members to join the Committee on Repair, Maintenance, Alteration and Additional Works (Com-RMAA), and invited TLG to brief Members on the background, terms of reference and member list of Com-RMAA.

The terms of reference of Com-RMAA are listed as follows:

- (a) to comprehensively review and determine the development direction of the repair, maintenance (including electrical and mechanical engineering), decoration, alteration and additional works (RMAA);
- (b) to coordinate the work of various committees and task forces under the CIC and matters related to the RMAA sector, including but not limited to training and safety matters, and to provide overall advice on the CIC's supports for the sector;

MINUTES

Action

- (c) to enhance the techniques, management and safety knowledge of the sector by providing and optimising the existing related courses;
- (d) to implement the recommendations of the Task Force on RMAA as approved by the CIC; and
- (e) to consider issues and initiatives that can support the development of the RMAA sector and the need for an industry standard for implementing these initiatives in the long run.

Members took note of Paper CIC/RMAA/P/001/22 and the terms of office for Members would be from 1 August 2022 to 31 July 2024.

The Chairperson supplemented that Com-RMAA was formerly known as Task Force on RMAA. After a year of their hard work, they came up with the above-mentioned recommendations. Meanwhile, some members of Task Force on RMAA were also the members of Com-RMAA. It was hoped that Com-RMAA could focus more on the training and safety and further develop the RMAA sector.

AdT reminded that the recognition of the RMAA courses should cover all the relevant maintenance works contracts of all government departments. It is necessary to promote and recognise the graduates of the RMAA courses more in order to enhance their pathways and the attractiveness of the courses.

1.2 Overview of Repair, Maintenance, Alteration and Additional Works Sector

TLG briefed Members on Paper CIC/RMAA/P/002/22 regarding the overview of the RMAA Sector.

The Chairperson added that the volume of RMAA works exceeded HK\$60 billion every year, attributing 25-30% of the construction industry's turnover. With such a large volume, the relatively high accident rate was also noteworthy.

At present, RMAA works were not covered by the "Designated workers for designated skills" Provision as RMAA works involved working across various trades. It was hoped that the RMAA sector could be optimised from different directions to

MINUTES

Action

facilitate the future works.

In addition, only construction operations with a value exceeding HK\$3 million were required to declare under the existing “Construction Industry Levy” system. Since many RMAA works were valued below the threshold, it was unable to obtain the data of relevant works and practitioners which was the current state of the construction industry.

KKCN proposed that all construction works regardless of their scale should be declared under the Ordinance, even just replacing the air-conditioners.

Members took note of the Paper.

1.3 Deliberation on Work Directions of Committee on Repair, Maintenance, Alteration and Additional Works in the Future

The Chairperson briefed Members on the work directions of Com-RMAA in the future, and proposed to establish four sub-committees to discuss and review, as well as formulate proposals for areas on worker training, promotion and education, supervision and standardisation respectively.

Sub-committee on Worker Training

The Chairperson expressed that HKIC had implemented the recommendations by Task Force on RMAA, to optimise the RMAA course of Civil and Building Construction to 90 days to better meet the needs of the industry. Another 95-day RMAA course of Electrical & Mechanical Engineering was also added.

AdT hoped that the content coverage and recognition of the RMAA courses could be improved.

The Chairperson stated that HKIC could only offer 200 training places each year, while 20,000 workers were required for the entire RMAA sector. In addition to the full-time courses, training places of the Intermediate Tradesman Collaborative Training Scheme could be increased as well. It was expected that students could be trained as professional workers, so that they could be recognised and recruited by the

MINUTES

Action

Government, organisations or private companies. It was particularly hoped that the Buildings Department could recognise RMAA tradesmen as eligible qualification under the Class III Minor Works.

KeW supplemented that promotion for the RMAA course of Electrical & Mechanical Engineering had been commenced. With 10 applications received for the time being, the first class was planning to commence by this month. While the first two classes of the RMAA course of Civil and Building Construction had been commenced on 23 June and 15 July with 13 and 11 students respectively, there were 23 applicants on the waiting list for the time being.

RSh opined that it was of equal importance to incorporate experienced workers in the market into the RMAA sector.

For the needs mentioned by member above to formulate “Designated workers for designated skills” training and standard for the RMAA sector, PAS1 expressed her support for improving RMAA training. She pointed out that, knowing from the RMAA representatives, RMAA works involved working across various trades, and many trades had their corresponding registration requirements under the "Construction Workers Registration Ordinance", and many RMAA practitioners had already registered according to this. Some RMAA works which required multi-skills might need for a new trade as proposed by the RMAA sector. If new measures including regulation or registration were introduced for the RMAA sector, the above-mentioned characteristics of RMAA that different jobs had different requirements for workers should be taken into account.

She pointed out that the Paper CIC/RMAA/P/002/22 was worth our reference. The Paper mentioned that apart from specifying safety-related regulations, there was no mandatory regulation for general workers of private renovation to meet specified technical requirements outside Hong Kong. On the other hand, she strongly agreed with the importance of safety on RMAA works raised by members. The Government had been concerned about safety issues in the construction industry and had relevant regulations to ensure the safety of workers. Taking truss-out bamboo scaffolds as an example, the industry was enhancing the training of relevant bamboo scaffolds, and

MINUTES

Action

discussing with the Labour Department about adding relevant training and competence requirements to the code of practice in accordance with the Factories and Industrial Undertakings Ordinance to improve their safety performance.

For the proposal on the recognition of RMAA courses for government maintenance works contracts, the Development Bureau might ask the CIC to understand the industry's demand for workers' qualifications for different maintenance works, as well as the skills and qualifications targeted by the courses, so as to follow up with the departments.

The Chairperson invited AdT to be the chairperson of Sub-committee on Worker Training, and hoped RSh to provide assistance jointly.

Sub-committee on Promotion and Education

The Chairperson was concerned that many of the public ignored the owners' liability which should bear in case of any accident happened during private renovation. Taking truss-out bamboo scaffolds as an example, employers could only purchase open policy. Most of the insurance companies refused to underwrite policies or required excessively high insurance premiums as the scope of work, time and qualifications of workers were not clear. Insurance professionals opined that it would be easier to purchase insurance if the qualifications of the workers were well known. On the other hand, insurance purchasers or front-line practitioners showed a lack of awareness on insurance itself. Therefore, education and promotion to the public and owners would be very important. A joint discussion would be required with the Insurance Authority and Hong Kong Federation of Insurers.

The Chairperson hoped that a large-scale promotion on RMAA could be held at the end of this year or the beginning of 2023, raising the public's understanding on RMAA.

KKCN was concerned about the coverage of insurance, and agreed the need to enhance the education to owners, especially on the importance of recruiting quality workers.

MINUTES

Action

AdT recommended EIp to be the chairperson of Sub-committee on Promotion and Education, and hoped ALEE to provide assistance jointly.

Sub-committee on Supervision

The Chairperson hoped that the Sub-committee on Supervision could communicate with the Property Management Services Authority (PMSA) and formulate proposals, requiring contractors to submit the number of workers and their qualifications, as well as whether the company was registered under the CIC to the property management companies. Regarding the safety during renovation works, it was hoped that the Sub-committee would closely work with the Committee on Construction Safety under the CIC.

AdT recommended BCC to be the chairperson of Sub-committee on Supervision, while KKC� also invited DiP to join the Sub-committee.

DiP shared that the PMSA mainly monitored property management companies and practitioners, which had certain relevance with publicity and education. However, the understanding of monitoring the quality of workers should be enhanced, and she was willing to support and participate in the work of the Sub-committee.

AdT also recommended LLM to participate in the work of the Sub-committee.

Sub-committee on Standardisation

The Chairperson hoped that there would be standards established for RMAA skill and contractor registration.

Regarding members queried of the current registration requirements for RMAA contractors, OYL stated that there was “Registered Specialist Trade Contractors Scheme” under the CIC. For contractor registration, there were six core elements required including finance, management, safety, job experience, execution and integrity management.

AdT recommended CCG to be the chairperson of Sub-committee on Standardisation, while KHY and DPG to jointly provide assistance to the Sub-committee.

MINUTES

The Chairperson expected the four above-mentioned Sub-committees could tackle the difficulties that faced by the RMAA sector, and asked the chairperson of each Sub-committee to submit lists of member and meeting arrangements within 1 to 2 weeks.

Action
**Chairperson
of each Sub-
committee**

DSn stated that the CIC would fully cooperate, and all Sub-committees could raise and discuss questions at any time.

1.4 Any Other Business

Regular Meetings for Com-RMAA

TLG briefed Members that the regular meetings for Com-RMAA would be held quarterly, which were scheduled in February, May, August and November respectively. Regarding the regular meetings of each Sub-committee, the CIC Secretariat would liaise with the corresponding chairpersons on the related arrangements.

1.5 Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for 10 November 2022 (Thursday) at 9:30am at Board Room, 29/F, Tower 2, Enterprise Square Five (MegaBox), 38 Wang Chiu Road, Kowloon Bay.

All to Note

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:00am.

**CIC Secretariat
August 2022**