

Construction Industry Council

Committee on Environment and Technology

The 3rd Meeting of the Committee on Environment and Technology for 2009 was held on Wednesday, 27 May 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)
Jan-ming KO (JMK)
Wo-hei LAM (WHL)
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
Wing-wah CHUI (WWC) Development Bureau
Anthony FOK (AF) Environmental Protection
Department
Hon-kwok WONG (HKW) Architectural Services Department

In Attendance: Clifford CHENG (CC) Housing Department
Jonathan LEUNG (MHL) Development Bureau
Ivan WONG (IW) Senior Manager (Council Services) 2
Phoebe LEUNG (PLG) Manager (Council Services) 2

Apologies: Tat-tong CHEUNG (TTC)
Peter LEE (PL)
Wai-wai YU (WWY)
Shiu-ming NG (SMN) Association of Plastering
Sub-contractors
Long PANG (LP) Construction Site Workers General
Union
Connie YEUNG (CYG) Housing Department
Kwok-keung LI (KKL) Electrical and Mechanical Services
Department

PROGRESS REPORT

Action

3.1 Confirmation of the Progress Report of the Previous Meeting

Members took note of Paper CIC/ENT/R/002/09 and confirmed the progress report of the 2nd meeting held on Thursday, 26 March 2009 at Hong Kong Construction Association.

3.2 Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting

3.2.1 Circulation of the draft agreement in relation to the HKGBC

The draft agreement was circulated to Members for comment on 27 March 2009 and subsequently submitted to the CIC for consideration.

3.2.2 Guidelines on the Trip Ticket System

Discussed under Agenda item 3.4.

3.2.3 Carbon reduction activities

Summary of the carbon reduction activities carried out by the CICTA was posted on the website of the Environmental Protection Department (EPD).

3.2.4 Terms of reference of Task Force on Research Activities

Discussed under Agenda item 3.6.

3.2.5 Membership and terms of reference of Task Force on Adhesion Technologies for External Wall Tiles

Invitation letters were sent to the Hong Kong Institute of Architects and the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers in April 2009. Task Force membership would be finalised after receiving their replies. The Secretariat had also requested the Housing Authority and the Buildings Department to provide information about the preparatory work they previously carried out on this subject to speed up the process before the formation of the Task Force.

Action

3.2.6 Brief note on pertinent concepts about construction standards

Discussed under Agenda item 3.3.

3.3 **Construction Standards**

Members took note of the revised report from the Task Group on Architectural Works (Paper CIC/ENT/P/013/09) and the key concepts of construction standards pertinent to the concern of the Hong Kong construction industry (Paper CIC/ENT/P/014/09).

In respect of the consolidated report on review of construction standards, Members deliberated on the possible roles to be played by the CIC on construction standards and agreed that the CIC could perform as a monitoring agent to keep track of changes in the construction standards through making enquiries to the organizations looking after the respective standards on an annual basis and conduct search on the development of construction standards in overseas countries.

As the Task Forces/Groups had conducted substantial studies on the construction standards, the CIC Secretariat was advised to record the relevant papers and reports in the CD-ROM for distribution to the CIC members for reference.

**CIC
Secretariat**

The CIC Secretariat was also directed to revise the consolidated report and the recommendation on the role of the CIC in the construction standards. The revised report should be circulated to Members for further review and submitted to the CIC for endorsement at its meeting on 15 June 2009.

**CIC
Secretariat**

[Post-meeting notes: the consolidated report on review of construction standards was revised as Paper CIC/ENT/P/019/09 and circulated to Members on 29 May 2009 for further review.]

3.4 **Mandatory System for the Management of Construction & Demolition Materials**

Members took note of the Paper CIC/ENT/P/015/09 and the letter of 19 May 2009 from the Environment Bureau to the CIC. The latter conveyed the proposals from the Subcommittee under the Legislative Council on measures to combat fly-tipping and land filing activities.

Action

Members deliberated on the aforesaid proposals and had different opinions about introducing the trip ticket system as a mandatory requirement. While the implementation of the trip ticket system would not create much difficulty for large-scale works, some Members were concerned that it might make adverse impacts on small-scale demolition and renovation works in view of the additional administrative and financial burdens imposed on those contractors. On the other hand, some Members doubted whether the current contractors could afford the installation of Global Positioning System (GPS) on their dump trucks for monitoring the movement of the construction and demolition materials. The Hong Kong Construction Association would help consult the contractors with regard to the concerns raised by Members.

RJ

As the proposed mandatory measures could not be implemented imminently, Members considered that at this stage, the CIC could first prepare and help promulgate the guidelines on the trip ticket system for voluntary adoption by the industry with a view to reducing the problems of fly-tipping.

**CIC
Secretariat**

3.5 Carbon Neutral Buildings

Members took note of the Paper CIC/ENT/P/016/09 and the measures relating to building energy saving and efficiency as reported by the EPD.

Members considered that carbon neutral buildings should be a policy issue for the Government to set out the framework and timeline for its implementation. It might be a bit early for the CIC to deliberate on the implementation at this moment. Compared with carbon neutral buildings, a Member suggested that the development of sustainable buildings would deserve more attention in the context of the local construction industry. After deliberations, Members agreed that research on sustainable buildings would be a key task for the Hong Kong Green Building Council which should be requested to make regular report to the CIC on this subject. On the other hand, the Task Force on Research Activities under the Committee should be advised to place a higher priority to the studies of sustainable buildings.

**CIC
Secretariat**

A Member mentioned that the Environmental Resources Management (ERM) would publish a report on climate change and recommend Members to take note of it.

Action

3.6 Task Force on Research Activities

Members took note of the Paper CIC/ENT/P/017/09.

After deliberations, Members agreed that the Terms of Reference should include “to identify ways to avoid duplication of research efforts”. In response to a query if the Task Force would become a standing committee for vetting research proposals and monitoring research efforts, Members felt that the Task Force should help identify the way forward for the CIC in respect of construction research and development before moving to other related issues.

The CIC Secretariat was requested to revise the Terms of Reference accordingly.

**CIC
Secretariat**

3.7 Status Update on Work Plan

Members took note of the Paper CIC/ENT/P/018/09.

A Member requested to expedite the research on adhesion technologies for external wall tiles. The CIC Secretariat was requested to circulate the revised work plan for Members’ review before submitting it to the CIC at its meeting on 15 June 2009.

**CIC
Secretariat**

[Post-meeting notes: the revised work plan at Annex A was circulated to Members on 29 May 2009 for further review.]

Chairman also requested Members to suggest some worthwhile initiatives for consideration and discussion at the next Committee meeting.

All

3.8 Any Other Business

The "Green Hong Kong • Carbon Audit" Campaign organised by the EPD would hold an event to celebrate its first anniversary on 3 July 2009 at Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre. Interested Members were invited to attend.

A Summary Report of the CII-HK Research Project titled “Costs and Financial Benefits of Undertaking Green Building Assessments” was tabled for Members’ reference.

Action

The EPD published in the Gazette the Air Pollution Control (Volatile Organic Compounds) Regulation 2009 on 22 May 2009 which would extend the existing control to newly regulated products like adhesives and sealants. The Committee received a presentation from the EPD on this subject at its meeting held on 21 November 2008.

3.9 Proposed Tentative Date of the Next Scheduled Meeting

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

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:15 pm.