

Construction Industry Council
3rd Progress Report of the
Construction Industry Training Board

Purpose

This paper sets out the main points discussed at the 3rd Meeting of the Construction Industry Training Board held on 16 June 2008. The record of attendance is given at Annex A.

Progress on Matters Arising from 2nd Meeting on 28 March 2008

2. Members noted the following –
 - (a) the three sub-committees on Training, Trade Testing and Employers Subsidy Scheme had convened their first meetings and elected Chairmen among themselves, with summary reports of their first meeting submitted; and
 - (b) the revision of full-time courses, the re-tender for a new hydraulic rough crane, and the holding of the 2008 Hong Kong Youth Skills Competition (Construction) cum Construction Industry Careers Expo would be discussed under separate agenda items.

Issues Discussed

3. Members discussed the following items –

1st Summary Report of Sub-committee on Training

4. The Board considered the report and made the following suggestions:
 - i) the six training courses as accepted by the Sub-committee

were endorsed; minor amendments were made to some of the proposed course names, and the Sub-committee was requested to consider to set the validity period of the certificate of a course. The six course proposals included Basic Landscape Theory Training Course for Landscape Workers; Labour Relation Officer Training Course; Confined Space Safety Training Course for Competent Persons Engaged in DSD's Works; Confined Space Safety Training Course for Certified Workers Engaged in DSD's Works; Course for Signalman for Hoisting Operations at Construction Sites; and Course for Tower Crane Competent Person (Erecting, Dismantling, Telescoping & Climbing); and

- ii) the proposed training capacities and trainee allowance of the full-time Adult Short Courses, Basic Craft Courses and Construction Supervisor/Technician Programme as well as the training capacity and schedule of the part-time courses in the 2008/09 training year were endorsed. The CICTA should, in anticipation of the huge demand for certain training courses, flexibly re-deploy its resources to provide the needed training courses to meet the demand of the industry.

5. The Board requested the Sub-committee to consider proactively the new training mode and directions.

1st Summary Report of Sub-committee on Trade Testing

6. The Board noted the observation of the Sub-committee on Trade Testing that about half of the craftsmen having passed the trade test were of the age between 50 and 60 or above. Concern was expressed over the shortage of manpower likely caused by the retiring of this group of craftsmen. The Sub-committee also proposed to look into strategies to encourage holders of intermediate trade test certificates aged between 20 and 39 to acquire the trade test certificates. In addition, the Sub-committee proposed to review the trade testing content of those trades with relatively lower passing rate.

7. The Board opined that the passing threshold should not be lowered for individual trades with relatively lower passing rate, and that the trade testing contents should be reviewed and outdated parts be revised. The Board proposed to attach the related data on trade testing activities to the summary reports of the subsequent meetings. The testing mode of the Tower Crane Erector, which had to be introduced soon, was discussed too.

1st Summary Report of Sub-committee on Employers Subsidy Scheme

8. The Board noted the resolutions made by the Sub-committee:

- i) the guideline on recommended salary levels for apprentices would be reviewed to ensure that apprentices would receive reasonable salary; employers would be encouraged to duly adjust upwards the monthly salary of those apprentices who successfully complete the first year apprenticeship training to encourage them to stay in the industry and complete the training;
- ii) to collect the data and study the causes of the drop-outs during the apprenticeship contract period; and
- iii) a total of eight applications from employers of apprentices were approved.

Progress Report on forming the Audit Sub-committee

9. The paper would be discussed by the Audit Sub-committee.

Purchase of a brand new hydraulic rough terrain crane

10. The Board endorsed the proposal to purchase a brand new Tadano GR-3000EX hydraulic rough terrain crane and the quoted price was slightly above the approved budget of HK\$2.2 million.

Any Other Business

Functions to celebrate Lu Pan Birthday

11. The Board agreed that the CICTA could continue the practice of holding functions to celebrate the Lu Pan Birthday and accepted the proposed functions and budget for the said event in the year 2008.

2008 Hong Kong Youth Skills Competition (Construction) cum Construction Industry Careers Expo

12. The Board agreed to hold the above event on 9 and 10 August 2008 in the open area next to the Wang Yat Square in Tin Shui Wai and accepted the revised budget. The Board also proposed to invite the Secretary for Development and the Secretary for Labour & Welfare as the officiating guests.

Further actions

13. The following further actions were agreed –
- (a) the CICTA should flexibly re-deploy resources to provide or increase the number of the training courses much needed by the industry;
 - (b) the Sub-committee on Training would look into the new training mode and directions like conducting courses in collaboration with the industry;
 - (c) the Sub-committee on Trade Testing would review the trade testing content of those trades with relatively lower passing rates and revise the outdated parts;
 - (d) the Sub-committee on Employers Subsidy Scheme would review the guidelines on recommended salary levels for apprentices and find out the data and causes of the drop-outs during the apprenticeship contract period;

- (e) the CICTA would resume the practice of holding functions to celebrate the Lu Pan Birthday and carry out the proposed functions for the year 2008;
- (f) the 2008 Hong Kong Youth Skills Competition (Construction) cum Construction Industry Careers Expo would be held in the open area next to the Wang Yat Square in Tin Shui Wai and accepted the revised budget. The Board also proposed to invite the Secretary for Development and the Secretary for Labour & Welfare as the officiating guests.

CITB Secretariat
June 2008

Construction Industry Training Board
3rd Meeting held on 16 June 2008 at 3:30 p.m.
in Conference Room, 7/F, Management Training & Trade Testing Centre

Record of attendance

Present

Ir Billy W.H. Wong	Chairman
Mr. Cheung Tak-hing	
Ir Paul Chong	
Mr. Chow Luen-kiu	
Ir Thomas Ho	
Ir Helen Kwan	
Ir Jimmy Tse	
Ir Yu Sai-yen	
Ir Jimmy Chan	(representing Mr. Tong Sek-por, David)
Mr. Wan Koon-sun	

Absent with apologies

Ir Dr. Lawrence Chan
Mr. Donald Choi
Mr. S.H. Tso

In Attendance

Mr. Charles Wong	Executive Director (Acting) Construction Industry Council
Mr. Wong Chi-lap	Senior Manager (ST & TT) Construction Industry Council Training Academy
Mr. Chu Yin-lin	Senior Manager (CT) Construction Industry Council Training Academy
Mrs. Sophie Leung	Secretary Construction Industry Training Board
Mrs. Shirley Lam	Assistant Secretary Construction Industry Training Board