

Construction Industry Council

Committee on Productivity

Meeting No. 003/20 of the Committee on Productivity (Com-PRO) was held on 23 September 2020 (Wednesday) at 2:30 pm at the Board Room, 38/F, COS Centre, 56 Tsun Yip Street, Kwun Tong, Kowloon.

Summary Notes of the Com-PRO Meeting No. 003/20:

Agenda Item	Paper	Major Resolutions / Progress Highlights
3.1	CIC/PRO/M/002/20	Confirmation of Minutes of the Previous Meeting Members confirmed the minutes of the Com-PRO Meeting No. 002/20 without any amendment.
3.2	-	Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting Item 2.2: The Secretariat circulated 4 reports submitted under the research study on “MiC for High-rise Buildings in Hong Kong: Supply Chain Identification, Analyses and Establishment” for Members’ comment and consideration for endorsement. Members commented that the contents of these reports were not sufficiently comprehensive, informative nor technical enough to address the specificity of MiC for the industry’s reference. Some critical considerations, such as constraints and requirements in local construction practices, have not been taken into account by the researchers. Members opined that, taking into account the critical comments expressed by Members in writing and at the meetings, as well as the need to ensure value for money in research funding expenditure, these reports shall not be endorsed for remaining payments and also should not be published due to the inadequate quality of the reports. Item 2.3: A half-day forum on the DfMA Roadmap in Hong Kong (the Forum) was held on 7 September 2020 with the Development Bureau and Com-PRO Members. Participants agreed to focus on “MiC”, “MEP Prefabrication”, and promoting a “Holistic Integrated Design Approach”, taking into account available resources. Possible follow-up actions would include (i) providing training on DfMA;

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		<p>(ii) preparing a proposal on supporting DfMA in MEP (Mechanical, electrical and plumbing) works using the CITF; and (iii) conducting data analysis on project adoption and performance.</p> <p>Item 2.4: The meeting noted that Ir Prof. Joseph MAK had responded to Members’ comments by revising the report on the research study on the DfMA Scoring Scheme (DSS). The revised report would be circulated to Members for further comments and endorsement. Subject to endorsement of the report, Members agreed to further refine the DSS if necessary, and to engage industry stakeholders to provide project information to build up a DSS database for analysis. With adequate support from the industry, a news release could be arranged to launch the DSS targeting in early 2021.</p> <p>Item 2.6: The research study on “Application of Maturity Method for Determination of Early-age Concrete Strength in Hong Kong Construction Industry” was expected to commence in early October 2020. It was suggested to establish an expert group to steer this research project (see agenda item 3.5 below).</p> <p>Update on Webinars: Four webinars were held in the Q3 of 2020, on topics of DfMA and research, with over 2,500 attendees.</p>
3.3	-	<p>Preliminary Strategies on Improving Time, Cost and Quality (TCQ) Performance of the Hong Kong Construction Industry</p> <p>Arcadis, the Consultant, presented 7 selected high priority strategies on the 4 proposed focus areas on improving the TCQ performance, viz. “Industrialisation”, “Innovation”, “Streamlining Approval Process” and “Enhancing Project Management & Procurement”. Members noted that the Consultant proposed to establish a number of boards / panels and recommended to combine these proposed boards / panels to achieve synergy effects. In addition, collecting project data would involve privacy and IP right issues. Arcadis took note of Members’ views and comments.</p>

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3.4	CIC/PRO/P/009/20 (for approval)	<p>Proposed DfMA x MEP Tradeshow 2021</p> <p>The Secretariat presented the details and budget, and the tentative work programme and supporting organisations for the 5-day DfMA X MEP Tradeshow (the Tradeshow), proposed to be held in March 2021 at the indoor exhibition area of the CIC-Zero Carbon Park (ZCP). Members were concerned about the budget on funding exhibitors. Ir Rocky POON explained that some exhibits were custom-made for the Tradeshow and some of the exhibits would be free of charge. Ir POON also supplemented that these exhibits may be transferred to the HKIC and the CITAC for training on DfMA and exhibition purposes respectively after the Tradeshow. Workshops on adopting DfMA in MEP projects and group visits for relevant works departments and client bodies would also be organised.</p> <p>The Secretariat took note of Members’ comments on sourcing appropriate exhibits and would explore the possibility of extending the Tradeshow’s duration to 2 weeks or more, with consideration of not adversely affecting the programme of relocation of CITAC to the ZCP. After deliberation, Members approved the plan and budget for the Tradeshow.</p>
3.5	CIC/PRO/P/010/20 (for approval)	<p>Proposed Expert Group for the Research Project on Application of Maturity Method for Determination of Early-age Concrete Strength</p> <p>The Secretariat presented the background on establishing an expert group for the captioned research project, and the draft terms of reference and membership for the proposed expert group (the Expert Group). Members advised to include some technical experts on concrete (e.g. from the academia, the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers Materials Division and/or the Hong Kong Concrete Institute) in the Expert Group. Members also suggested that the authority for approval of progress reports and corresponding interim payments under this research project can be delegated to the CIC Secretariat, who could seek advice from the Expert Group on difficult technical issues. Members approved the establishment of the Expert Group and the Secretariat would revise the Terms of Reference accordingly and follow up on inviting Members to join the Expert Group.</p>

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3.6	-	Proposed International Symposium on “Unlocking Innovation in Construction through 5G Technology” The Secretariat presented the proposed rundown and speakers for the conference, the list of potential companies for the business matching session, and the budget for the proposed Symposium. Members suggested that the application of 5G technology in construction would be more interesting than the explanation of 5G technology, and requested for provision of relevant background information on the business and capabilities of potential companies prior to the business matching session for better arrangement. The Secretariat would follow up on the budget for the virtual platform setup and ensure best value in the procurement process to address Members’ concern. After deliberation, Members approved the timeline and budget for the proposed Symposium.
3.7	-	Any Other Business Sr Eddie LAM enquired about updates on the product certification scheme for reinforcing steel products (the Rebar Scheme) proposed by CARES previously. Mr. Thomas CHAN replied that a suitable scheme owner to develop the Rebar Scheme would be engaged through an open tender process. It is hoped that the current purchaser’s tests for reinforcing steel products could ultimately be eliminated after adequate trial implementation of the Rebar Scheme when it is established.
3.8	-	Next Meeting 004/20 The next meeting would be held in December 2020. The Secretariat would inform Members once the meeting details were confirmed.

Remarks: The mentioned papers discussed at the Com-PRO and/or the full meeting minutes can be made available to Council Members by the CIC Secretariat upon request.