

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Construction Industry Council Supports **“Anti-Filibuster Rally”**

Hong Kong · 8 March 2014 – The Construction Industry Council (CIC) supports the “Anti-Filibuster Rally” organised by the Construction Industry Alliance, which was formed by various local construction organisations including trade associations, trade unions and professional associations to call upon legislative councilors to immediately stop filibustering and their non-cooperation movement in the Legislative Council.

The filibustering and non-cooperation movement concerned are causing serious delays in the budget approval for public works projects in the Legislative Council. Ir LEE Shing-see, Chairman of the CIC stressed, "If the current situation continues, the construction industry will be hampered by a series of issues. These could include adverse impact on the livelihood of construction practitioners, the recruitment of young people to join the industry and on the long-term development of the construction industry."

Given that there could be a time gap of over a year between funding approval and the actual on-site execution of work for some projects, it is envisaged that the adverse impact caused to the construction industry as a result of such delay in budget approval would emerge in a stretch of few years in the future. If the amount of projects drops significantly over the next few years, the livelihood of the local construction practitioners would be seriously affected.

At present, about half of the industry's workers are aged over 50. As it takes time for apprentices to become skilled workers, the uncertain prospect of the industry would certainly drive away youngsters who are interested in joining the industry. The concerted effort put in training by the CIC and the industry over the years would be undermined, and a huge loss of manpower coupled with the lack of new entrants would possibly lead to damage to a long-term development of the construction industry. The economy of Hong Kong will in turn be affected.

If filibustering and the non-cooperation movement in the Legislative Council continues, the society as a whole will be hampered. Chairman LEE said, "On behalf of the CIC, I hereby urge all members of the Legislative Council to play their part with a positive, active and pragmatic attitude in dealing with various issues. I hope we can all work as one for the future development of Hong Kong."

About the Construction Industry Council

The Construction Industry Council (CIC) was formed on 1 February 2007 under the Construction Industry Council Ordinance (Cap. 587). The CIC consists of a chairman and 24 members representing various sectors of the industry including employers, professionals, academics, contractors, workers, independent persons and Government officials.

The main functions of the CIC are to forge consensus on long-term strategic issues, convey the industry's needs and aspirations to Government, provide training and registration for the construction workforce and serve as a communication channel for Government to solicit advice on all construction-related matters.

Please visit www.hkcic.org for further details.

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