

Construction Industry Council
Committee on Construction Safety

Meeting No. 004/18 of the Committee on Construction Safety (Com-CSY) was held on Thursday, 29 November 2018 at 2:30pm at the Board Room, CIC Headquarters, 38/F, COS Centre, 56 Tsun Yip Street, Kwun Tong, Kowloon.

Present:	Derrick PANG	(DP)	Chairperson
	CHAN Kim-kwong	(KKCN)	
	CHAN Pat-kan	(CPK)	
	CHOW Luen-kiu	(LKC)	
	Thomas HUI	(HT)	
	LAI Chi-wah	(CWL <i>i</i>)	
	Connie YEUNG	(CYG)	
	YU Sai-yen	(SYY <i>u</i>)	
	Collin CHAN	(Cn <i>C</i>)	Airport Authority Hong Kong (AAHK)
	Dennis IP	(DI)	MTR Corporation Limited (MTRC)
	Jesse WONG	(Js <i>W</i>)	Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors (HKIS)
	WONG Kwok-keung	(KK <i>W</i>)	Hong Kong Federation of Electrical and Mechanical Contractors (HKFEMC)
	Rex WONG	(RW <i>g</i>)	Hong Kong Construction Association
In Attendance :	Richard PANG	(RP <i>g</i>)	Director – Industry Development
	Angela YUEN	(Aa <i>Y</i>)	Senior Manager - Construction Safety
	Serina LAU	(SL <i>au</i>)	Manager - Construction Safety
	CHAN Ka-lai	(KL <i>iC</i>)	Labour Department (LD)
	LAW Yat-sun	(KL)	Labour Department (LD)
	Vera CHOI	(VC <i>i</i>)	Hong Kong Housing Authority (HKHA)
	Timothy LAU	(Ty <i>L</i>)	Hong Kong Housing Authority (HKHA)
Apologies:	Kenneth MO	(KM)	
	WONG Sze-chun	(SC <i>W</i>)	
	LIU Yuk-shing	(Ys <i>Lu</i>)	Hong Kong Institution of Engineers
	WU Wai-hung	(WH <i>Wu</i>)	Labour Department (LD)

MINUTES

Action

4.1 Confirmation of the Minutes of the Com-CSY Meeting No. 003/18

Members took note of Meeting Minutes CIC/CSY/M/003/18 and confirmed the Meeting Minutes of the last meeting held on 27 September 2018.

4.2 Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting

Agenda item 3.4 - Details were reported under Agenda items 4.6 and 4.7 (Follow-up on suggested Initiatives to Improve Site Safety under Worker Registration).

Agenda item 3.5 - Members' views on the types of safety material to be translated into languages of ethnic minorities were sought by email on 4 October 2018. Based on this, the Committee agreed to translate the Safety Posters first, and then review their effectiveness before considering translating other publications.

Agenda item 3.6 - Details were reported under Agenda item 4.7 (Safety promotion plan in 2019).

Agenda item 3.7 - A visit was arranged on 26 November 2018 to the relevant laboratory in Chu Hai College of Higher Education for Members of the Subcommittee on Safety Technical Issues (STI).

Agenda item 3.8 - Special meeting for the discussion for the owner's part was held on 26 October 2018. Details were reported under Agenda item 4.9.

Agenda item 3.11 - An email of recent accident cases was sent to Members on 31 October 2018. Details were reported under Agenda item 4.4 and 4.5.

4.3 Temporary Works Forum

Representatives from the Hong Kong Temporary Works Forum (HK-TWf) gave a presentation on the TWf.

HK-TWf was formed by a group of enthusiastic engineers, made a presentation to Com-CSY. The meeting noted that TWf and HK-TWf was established in the UK in 2009 and in HK in 2017 respectively. HK-TWf has formed 7 working groups and published 2 guidance notes so far. HK-TWf planned to organise a forum on 7 December 2018 to raise awareness of the importance of consideration of safety in temporary works.

The representative from HK-TWf noted that they would like to seek CIC's support to their activities, and to endorse and promote the guidance notes they produced.

The Chairperson introduced the work of Com-CSY and its 3 Subcommittees and welcomed proposals from HK-TWf on areas of co-operation between HK-TWf and CIC's Subcommittees.

4.4 Study on Serious Accidents in the Construction Industry in the Past 5 Years

HT, representative from the Development Bureau (DEVB), gave a presentation on the study on serious accidents in the Construction Industry in the past 5 years.

HT reported that while the overall accident frequency rate had dropped, the number of fatalities per year remained high. The most common types of accidents causing fatality were fall of person from height and striking against or struck by moving/ falling object, which made up 60 to 70% of the total number of cases. In terms of trades, the highest number of fatalities involved scaffolder, RMAA worker and welder. Workers' behaviour and working on temporary works were the main reasons of accidents or death.

4.5 Summary on Fatalities in the Construction Industry in 2017

KL, representative from the Labour Department (LD), briefed Members on the paper CIC/CSY/P/015/18 regarding the summary on fatalities in the construction industry in 2017.

KL reported that there were 22 fatal accidents in the construction industry in 2017. A breakdown, in terms of type of accident, is given below:

- fall of person from height - 9;
- drowning - 3;

- trapped by collapsing or overturning object - 3;
- trapped between objects - 3;
- striking against or struck by moving object - 3; and
- struck by falling object - 1.

A Member of the Hong Kong Construction Association (HKCA) said that HKCA supported the CIC study on safety roles and responsibilities of key stakeholders in the construction industry. He noted that unreasonable construction period and low tender price were some reasons why some safety measures were not implemented on site. He suggested using the approach in Macau by awarding contracts based on the average tender price (excluding both the lowest and highest tender price) and including contract provisions to ensure that sufficient resources would be allocated to supervise and manage safety.

A Member suggested that the Government and LD should pay more audit visits to those construction sites which had high accident frequency rates in order to prevent/reduce fatal accidents.

A Member suggested that the construction company should give incentives (e.g. gift vouchers) to both the complainants and offenders, to encourage the former to propose ideas, and the latter to attend training courses.

Another Member suggested that all main contractors should adopt MTRC's approach of coordinating and providing working platforms to workers working at height.

The Chairperson said he would work with the Subcommittee chairpersons to work on the issues of working at height first, followed by lifting and heavy machinery operations, to reduce fatal accidents.

Three Sub-
committees
Chairpersons

4.6 **Progress of the Subcommittee on Safety Training (SST)**

SY Yu briefed Members on the paper CIC/CSY/P/016/18 regarding the progress of the SST.

Some of the progress of the SST were as follows:

- HKCA was updating the training content of their Tool-Box Talk package.
- The Hong Kong Institute of Construction (HKIC) provided at least one Mandatory Basic Safety Training Course in English each month to meet the needs of ethnic minorities.
- Members of SST were working with HKIC to enhance the HKIC's

- silver card training.
- HKIC were discussing with the KCC renovation project architect on how to incorporate the requirements of industry stakeholders to enhance the confined space training course.
- Labour Department would follow up with the approved training provider to give sufficient training places to spider crane operators.

The Chairperson of Com-CSY quoted the views from the CIC Chairman that the quality of the Green Card Course varied. He recommended that the Green Card Course, as well as the Safety Supervisor Training Course should be enhanced. He further suggested that a new Lifting Supervisor Training Course should be provided.

SST

Members took note of the progress of the SST.

4.7 **Progress of the Subcommittee on Safety Promotion (SSP)**

RWg briefed Members on the paper CIC/CSY/P/017/18 regarding the progress of the SSP.

The CIC Secretariat presented the safety promotion plans 2019 discussed at the SSP. The work would include the following:

- “Construction Safety Week 2019”;
- “Develop a new smartphone application”;
- “Improve safety promotion materials for frontline workers and ethnic minorities”, and
- “Review the demarcation of work between CIC and the Occupational Safety and Health Council (OSHC) on construction safety promotion”.

Concerning the key performance indicators (KPI) on achieving an increment in the total number of participants and the number of participating workers by 30% in the Construction Safety Week 2019, Members of the SSP agreed to use the data in 2018 as baseline, but to exclude the number of participants in the carnival in the calculation, since the carnival would not be held in 2019.

Regarding CWRB’s suggested initiatives to improve site safety, Members of the SSP agreed to consider giving souvenirs to new/renewal workers to convey safety message.

For the nomination of registered construction workers as Safety Stars and Safety Ambassadors, the Committee noted that the “Construction

Site Safety Champions” scheme funded by the HKCA had been launched. The training courses run by the CIC and OSHC started in November 2018.

The Chairperson of Com-CSY indicated that there were many educational videos and promotion materials on fatal construction accidents. He suggested the CIC Secretariat to take stock of all CIC safety promotion materials for review/enhancement of safety promotion.

CIC
Secretariat

Members took note of the progress of the SSP.

(CYG arrived the meeting at 4:25pm)

4.8 **Progress of the Subcommittee on Safety Technical Issues (STI)**

CnC gave a verbal report on the progress of the STI.

Members of the STI agreed to combine the second phase of the consultancy services for “Study of Safety Roles and Responsibilities of Key Stakeholders in the Hong Kong Construction Industry” with their proposed research study on fall prevention - systematic approach.

To review CIC’s existing mechanism of releasing safety messages (in terms of content, time of release and target audience), Members of the STI agreed that emails and mobile messages (WhatsApp) were efficient and effective ways of relaying safety messages to workers and other stakeholders, and suggested to continue using such channel to release safety messages and to review/replace it until alternative channel proposed.

The Committee noted that the two-year research project “Optimal Use of Internet of Things Technology (IoT) to Prevent Failure of Temporary Support System in Construction” by the Chu Hai College of Higher Education (the College) would commence on 2 January 2019. The CIC Secretariat arranged a visit to the relevant laboratory of the College for Members of the STI on 26 November 2016 to let them know more about the laboratory and details of the research.

A meeting of the Working Group on Site Safety of Working in Lift Shafts was held on 8 November 2018. A revised draft of the “Guidelines on Safety on Lift Shaft Works: Volume 3” had been prepared and comments were being sought from the Members of the Task Force on Site Safety of Working in Lift Shafts.

Members took note of the progress of the STI.

4.9 Progress of the Task Force on Reviewing the Safety Responsibilities and Roles of Key Stakeholders (TF-SRR)

DP briefed Members on the paper CIC/CSY/P/018/18 regarding the progress of the TF-SRR.

TF-SRR discussed the following suggestions and the possible approach to take them forward:

- Consideration of construction safety at the design stage;
- Consideration of construction safety proposal in tender assessment;
- PFSS and other safety-related award schemes;
- Proposed establishment of a safety performance assessment system;
- Construction stage modification and compensation by the client;
- Introduction of safety training and safety supervision personnel requirements in works contracts - this would be discussed together with the items of PFSS; and
- Mechanisms to reflect the safety performance of construction sites owned by private developers (not their subsidiaries under different names) - this would be discussed together with the item “Proposed establishment of a safety performance assessment system”.

Members took note of the progress of the TF-SRR.

4.10 Consultancy Services for Study of Safety Roles and Responsibilities of Key stakeholders in the Hong Kong Construction Industry

Representative from the consultant gave a presentation on the consultancy services for Study of Safety Roles and Responsibilities of Key stakeholders in the Hong Kong Construction Industry.

The Committee agreed with the consultant’s recommendation to select London, Singapore and Sydney as cities for comparison with Hong Kong under this study. The consultant briefed Members on his approach, noting that the first phase of the study would involve a review of past fatal accidents, comparison of the legal framework amongst the three selected cities and Hong Kong and a gap analysis. The second phase of the study would focus on the fall from height fatal

accidents with the aim of developing a systematic risk management approach to reduce such accidents.

The Chairperson said that the term “key stakeholders” was too broad and suggested the consultant to review the personnel categories to be included under “key stakeholders”. A Member noted that most stakeholders in the construction industry were of the view that they had fulfilled their safety responsibilities already. He suggested the consultant to consider reviewing what they had overlooked in the past.

4.11 Progress of the SETC

AaY briefed Members on the paper CIC/CSY/P/019/18 regarding the progress of the SETC.

The Committee noted the physical and installation works had been substantially completed and that there would be eight training zones, including Personal Protective Equipment, Machinery & Trapping Hazard, Fire Safety, Good Housekeeping, Chemical & Electrical Safety, Working at Height, Lifting & Rigging Plant and Virtual Reality (VR) Cave. The opening ceremony was planned to be held on 18 February 2019 tentatively.

The Chairpersons of Com-CSY and its Subcommittees were invited to visit the KCC on 5 December 2018, to give suggestions on the set-up of the CIC Centre for Construction Safety. The CIC Secretariat noted that representatives from CLP Power Hong Kong Limited, Hong Kong Electric Limited, Hong Kong and China Gas Company Limited, relevant Government departments and contractors were also invited to visit KCC on the same day to give advice in relation to confined space practical training.

Members took note of the progress of the SETC.

4.12 Any Other Business

The terms of appointment of Mr LAI Chi-wah and Ir Prof WONG Sze-chun as Member of the CIC and the Com-CSY would end in January 2019. The Chairperson expressed sincere gratitude to them for their contributions.

4.13 Next Meeting

28 March 2019 (Thursday) at 2:30 pm at the Board Room, 38/F, COS Centre, 56 Tsun Yip Street, Kwun Tong, Kowloon.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:36pm.

CIC Secretariat
December 2018