

Construction Industry Council

Committee on Environment and Technology

Meeting No. 003/11 of the Committee on Environment and Technology for 2011 was held on 16 June 2011 (Thursday) at 2:30 pm at 15/F, Allied Kajima Building, 138 Gloucester Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong.

Present:

Conrad WONG	(CW)	Chairman
Andrew CHAN	(AC)	
Hau-wai CHEUNG	(HWC)	
Wai-wah HO	(WWH)	
Jan-ming KO	(JMK)	
Wo-hei LAM	(WHL)	
Joseph LEE	(HWL)	
Kam-hung YU	(KHY)	
Choi-kai AU	(CKA)	Director of Buildings
Jimmy CHAN	(JiCN)	Development Bureau
Tat-tong CHEUNG	(TTC)	Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors
Ping-wai CHOW	(PCH)	Hong Kong Construction Industry Employees General Union
Dan FUNG	(DF)	Environmental Protection Department
Pun-hing HO	(PHH)	Hong Kong Federation of Electrical and Mechanical Contractors
Russell JONES	(RJ)	Hong Kong Construction Association
Peter LEE	(PL)	The University of Hong Kong
Derrick PANG	(DP)	Chun Wo Development Holdings Ltd
Connie YEUNG	(CYG)	Housing Department

In Attendance:

C K MOK		Architectural Services Department (on behalf of Mr. YIU Wai-keung)
Guiyi LI	(GYL)	Senior Manager (Research)
Ivan WONG	(IW)	Senior Manager (Council Services) 2
Ivan KO	(IK)	Manager (Council Services) 2

Apologies:

Siu-hung CHAN	(SHC)	
James KWAN	(YCK)	
Ada FUNG	(AF)	for Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing (Housing)
Long PANG	(LP)	Construction Site Workers General Union

PROGRESS REPORT

Action

3.1 Confirmation of the Progress Report of the Previous Meeting

Members took note of Paper CIC/ENT/R/002/11 and confirmed the progress report of the last meeting held on Thursday, 31 March 2011 at Hong Kong Construction Association, Hong Kong.

3.2 Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting

3.2.1 Research Proposal on Commitment towards Sustainable Urbanization of Construction Industry in Hong Kong

The project proponent had been informed of the decision of the Committee for declining funding support and asked the Secretariat to convey a message of his query on the appropriateness of CIC's policy to put a higher priority to practical research with direct and immediate relevance to the construction industry.

The Secretariat reported that Strategic Planning Steering Committee would consider a better co-ordination with universities on funding research projects.

3.2.2 Incorporate Comments on KPI in the Interim Report

Discussed under Agenda Item 3.3

3.2.3 Study of Green Labels for Construction Materials

The funding request was turned down by Com-ANF which opined that the study should better be conducted by HKGBC. As far as the study could be carried out for the benefit of the industry and the community at large, it was not a concern by whom the project was executed .

3.2.4 Re-tender for Research on River Sand Substitutes

Expression of Interest had been invited and the Secretariat would proceed with the invitation to tender thereafter.

3.2.5 Research on Adhesion Technologies for External Wall Tiles

Action

Discussed under Agenda Item 3.8

3.3 Key Performance Indicators for Construction Industry

Members took note of the Paper CIC/ENT/P/016/11 and the proposed KPIs to be launched in three stages with Stage 1 in January 2012. The Secretariat explained that KPIs in Stage 1 was selected based on their importance and availability of data, and confirmed that important KPIs would be selected even if relevant data were not readily available at present.

In response to “Energy Use for Construction Works”, Members advised that the form GF527 was a form regarding monthly return of site labour deployment and wage rates for construction works but not relating to energy use and currently there was no form to record energy use data. Further consideration on the practicality of collecting such information had to be made including collecting views from contractors through Hong Kong Construction Association.

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Because of the possible difference in the definition and scope of data collected, the indicators might not be directly applicable for comparison with overseas indicators which resembled to the proposed ones, and they might also not necessarily reflect the performance given other inherent factors affecting the values of the indicators. However, the indicators would still be useful in the trend analysis.

Members also raised another concern that careful interpretation of data was needed and the data should be clearly defined with reference to the common practice and usage within the industry. The Secretariat explained that the data definition was based on Census and Statistics Department. Members strongly advised the Secretariat to set out the definition and interpretation of data very clearly to avoid ambiguity in the interpretation of the KPIs.

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Members recommended the KPIs should be presented in a way that would be easier to read and make reference. The Secretariat was requested to carry out necessary formatting amendment with reference to those made by overseas organisations.

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Members also agreed that no target would be set forth for the KPIs at the moment. The necessity would be reviewed after the launch of the KPIs for some times.

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CIC Secretariat would conduct a trial on the proposed KPIs by using 1 to 2 years' industry past data for Members' review and comment at the next Committee meeting.

3.4 Study on the Use of Optical Fibre Sensors for Real Time Monitoring of Ground Movement Due to Adjacent Deep Excavations

Members took note of the Paper CIC/ENT/P/017/11.

It was generally agreed that there was an urgent need of the proposed monitoring technology given there would be a number of tunnelling works ahead and the proposed technology could grab the chance of trying out its practicality at those sites. Hence, the support and permission of MTR for conducting the trial at their tunnelling sites were crucial to the project.

The Secretariat was asked to seek the consent of the project proponent for referring the proposal to MTR for consideration instead of executing the project by the CIC.

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As the use of optical fibre sensors for real time monitoring was already a proven technology, Members suggested that the proponent should be requested to clarify the scope of the proposed study.

Members also suggested that proponent might be invited to present the research proposal and explain the details in the next committee meeting, if needed.

3.5 Setting Up Task Force on Prefabrication and Modularisation

Members took note of the Paper CIC/ENT/P/018/11 and the seminar successfully held on 15th April 2011 with over-subscription.

Members noted that it was proposed to set up a task force to set out the "road map" and strategic direction for the Com-ENT to consider and prioritise actions.

Members noted that a committee had been set up by Buildings Department before, collaborating with some contractors owning prefabricated modules manufacturing plants in Mainland China, to evaluate the use of prefabrication in Hong Kong in terms of regulation and quality control.

TTC raised concern on the limited resources of relevant organisations in participating in different task forces of the CIC of which the number was kept growing. Members agreed to try out a new arrangement by setting up a small technical group to come up with recommendation/ result first and then seeking comments from relevant organisations and stakeholders on the recommendation/ result, instead of setting up a task force with wide participations from all relevant bodies.

3.6 **Infrastructure Cost Review**

Members took note of the Paper CIC/ENT/P/019/11.

The following salient points were considered and discussed at the meeting:

- Majority of the infrastructure cost data was owned by the Government. However, only Government data was not sufficient to have a comprehensive review without the relevant data of private sector which was difficult to obtain. Without the government authority to drive the review, private sector might not be willing to provide the necessary cost data for the review.
- Whether the CIC was in a good position to conduct the review.
- The scale of such review would be huge and whether the CIC was able to do it.
- Whether the issue should be discussed at the Committee on Procurement instead if CIC needed to take the issue further.

After deliberation, Members considered that it was not appropriate for the CIC to take up such kind of review.

3.7 **Proposal for Banning All Forms of Asbestos**

Members took note of the Paper CIC/ENT/P/020/11.

Members noted that EPD was proposing to amend the Air Pollution Control Ordinance within 2012 to further abate the risk of asbestos by extending the ban on import and sales of all forms of asbestos. No particular comment on the proposal was made.

3.8 **Task Force on Adhesion Technologies for External Wall Tiles – Progress Update**

Members took note of the Paper CIC/ENT/P/021/11.

Action

The Task Force had endorsed the Review Report and the consultant proceeded with the laboratory testing and preparation of the Study Report. It was anticipated that the initial finding could be reported to the Task Force at its next meeting in July 2011. The consultant would be asked to present the finding at the Committee at an appropriate time before the report was finalised.

3.9 Research on Establishing a Hong Kong Based Carbon Labelling Framework for Construction Materials – Progress Update

Members took note of the Paper CIC/ENT/P/022/11 and CIC/ENT/P/023/11.

The interim report would be ready by end of July 2011 for comments whereas the draft final report was expected to be available by December 2011.

3.10 Any Other Business

3.10.1 Members have noted the upcoming BIM seminar would be tentatively scheduled for 11 October 2011 pm for about 100 attendees.

3.10.2 Members noted that LegCo invited the CIC to attend its Panel on Environmental Affairs meeting scheduled for 27 June 2011 to discuss the review of EIA mechanism. Members had no particular views about the issue at the early stage without solid information about the revision, if any. Moreover, Some Members wondered if it was CIC's responsibility to express view on EIA mechanism. The Secretariat was asked to attend the meeting and reported the discussion at the next meeting.

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3.10.3 Following the Summary Report on Review of Local Construction Standard issued in October 2009, the Secretariat was requested to work with Development Bureau to prepare an update on the current status of the adoption of Eurocode in Hong Kong.

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3.11 Tentative Date of Next Meeting for 2011

5 September 2011 at 2:30 pm at the CIC Headquarters, 15/F, Allied Kajima Building, 138 Gloucester Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong

All to note

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:30 pm.